

- **A Message from the Administration ....**

- The last month has been very busy at Marriotts Ridge. Looking back, we have experienced great successes, some tough challenges, and everything in between.

- Academically, hundreds of our students participated in **AP (Advanced Placement)** testing. In talking with many of these students afterwards, we are sure that they did very well. We will share our school results when we receive scores in July. As soon as AP testing ended, **HSA (High School Assessment)** testing in English 10, American Government, Biology, and Algebra began. We appreciate how hard our students and teachers worked to prepare for these tests. We really enjoyed the Algebra Math Madness contest that took place between our Algebra 1 classes ... congratulations to Ms. Mariah Zielinski and her Period 5 class for taking first place in the competition.

- Athletically, our teams did very well during the **Spring Season**. Every one of our teams played well into the playoffs. Congratulations to our **Co-County and Regional Champion Girls Lacrosse Team** and their coaches ... Mrs. Natalie Gaieski, Mrs. Robin Grey, and Ms. Amanda Tack. Mr. Scott Dingman's Girls Doubles Tennis Team of Taylor Klein and Brianna Leaf won a very exciting match to take the County Championship. Several of our student-athletes were named to All-County and All-Metro teams. Congratulations to all ... very well done!

- As soon as testing concluded and the spring athletic season was coming to an end, we went right into **Senior Activities Week and Graduation**. The Senior Evening of Excellence, Class Night, Farewell Assembly, and Senior Picnic were all wonderful. The Graduation Ceremony was very special. The Class of 2010 was accepted into 214 post high school programs, highlighted by such universities as Yale, MIT, and Johns Hopkins. Our graduates were offered almost \$8.5 million in scholarships ... that is outstanding. As we told the seniors during Graduation, we hope that life brings them great success and happiness and they find a way to make the world a little better place for all of us.

- Highlighting some other school news ... Mrs. Sarah Palm's Culinary Science Team won this year's **Howard County Healthy Lunch Menu Competition**. Their whole wheat BBQ Chicken Quesadilla edged out the team from River Hill. The county tries to incorporate the winning meal into next year's cafeteria menus. Mr. Reg Hahne and the MRHS Computer Science Club competed very admirably in the **Regional ACSL Meet**. Several of our teams finished in the Top 10 overall and Senior Alex Alberg was one of the few students who received a perfect score. **Artwork from MRHS students** will be on display at the Board of Education Art Gallery until August 27 ... we always enjoy seeing our students' creative displays. The MRHS Fine Arts Team was also represented at the **First Annual STARS Competition** where drama students performed scenes from *Oklahoma!* Ms. Andrea Orndorff's Business Education students, Daniel Raithel and Troy Bannon, participated in the **Spring 2010 Stock Market Game** and finished second in the high school division in Central Maryland.

- Finally, **SGA (Student Government Association) elections for 2010-11** were held recently ... we applaud the students who ran for schoolwide office. We look forward to working with the following officers next year:

- President Amanda Grote
- First Vice President Kevin Yu
- Second Vice President Rachael Follmer
- Historian Mary Kate Leitch
- Publicity Secretary Amanda Brown
- Parliamentarian Liz Bargamian
- HCASC Representative Lexi Griffith
- Treasurer Elliott Jones
- Recording Secretary Kelly Burgy

- Class Council elections occurred last week. Congratulations to Class Officers also!

- The last two major events of the year take place this week. The **Class Ring Ceremony** on Tuesday, June 15 at 6 PM in the Commons is a fun event where students who ordered school rings this year receive their rings and learn about the traditions associated with school rings. Students will get a chance to celebrate with each other and participate in the “ring turning” ritual.

- The **Marriotts Ridge High Underclass Evening of Excellence** will also be held on June 15 at 7 PM in the Auditorium. Students who achieved 4.0 GPA status during the 2009-10 school year will be recognized. In addition, each department presents Academic Excellence awards to its top students and Rising Star awards to students who have exhibited exemplary advancement during the school year. Families of students receiving 4.0, Academic Excellence, and Rising Star awards have been personally invited to this special event. With this email, we want to invite Academic Honor Roll students and their families to this ceremony. Honor Roll students will be asked to stand during the program when called and then will be presented with a certificate at the reception afterwards in the Commons. Performances by Dance, Choir, and Orchestra groups will also be highlighted. The reception following awards ceremony will be catered by the MRHS Culinary Science class. We encourage all families and friends to come out to help us celebrate all of these students’ accomplishments, ending the year on a high note. Thanks to PTSA and Boosters for their financial support of this program.

- As we are already planning for next year, we are excited to tell you about two new partnerships that we are in the process of finalizing at this time. First, we are entering into a **partnership with NASA**. This partnership will help us as we continue to integrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives into our daily lesson plans. Second, we are very pleased to announce the **partnership that we will be signing in the upcoming weeks with a high school in Shanghai, China**. On behalf of Marriotts Ridge, I will travel to China on June 24 and return on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Our partner school will be Xinzhuang High School. Part of a school system of 76 schools (very similar to Howard County), this school was established in 1957 and became a high school in 1990. In 1997, Xinzhuang was named a key school in the District of Minhang. Xinzhuang High School currently has a total of 102 staff and 1200 students. Over 90% of its students pursue a higher education immediately after graduating from high school. We look forward to possible student and staff exchanges in future years ... we hosted a group of over 20 principals from across China last fall .. very exciting opportunity!

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- With all of these positive notes to share, we also have some challenging news in our community. **Several MRHS staff members have endured very serious health issues** this spring and we ask for your thoughts and prayers on their behalf. Instructional Assistant Jan Carbary slipped on the ice at school right after the February blizzard, fracturing her elbow. She has undergone one surgery, countless hours of physical therapy, and now will undergo another surgery. Another assistant, Mr. George Hruneni, has had major surgery on both knees. Mrs. Carbary and Mr. Hruneni have missed quite a bit of time but hope to return in tip-top shape in the fall. Even more seriously, Custodian Rusty Beatty is awaiting a liver transplant and Government Teacher and Football Coach Ken Hovet is battling cancer through chemotherapy and other treatment methods. “Mister Rusty” retired this past week ... his smile and helpful nature will be missed. We were very pleased to see Mr. Hovet at our Information Night for Incoming Fall Athletes and their parents last week. We wish all of them the best and hope for full recovery ... thanks to so many community members who have expressed their concerns ... all of these fine folks appreciate the cards and emails that they have received.

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- We conclude this message with a final note. Many students, families, and I attended the funeral of a former MRHS student on Saturday. As I listened to the various speakers, I was struck by the outstanding potential exhibited by this young person and how tragic this loss is to our community. Our hearts go out to the family and friends. Their love for each other was truly evident. We must not let this terrible loss fade away without realizing some lesson. We encourage families to spend quality time together building strong bonds and open lines of communication. Don't waste a minute ... we always think that there will be another day to catch up ... cherish every crazy moment. Our children are looking to us for guidance, support, and love. Nothing is more important than the time we spend with our families. Today is the day ... let's set the example.

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- Thanks for another great year ... enjoy your summer ... Go Mustangs!  
Pat Saunderson, James LeMon, Cara Moulds, Rosalie Bowen, and Gene Brown