

# THE STALLION

April 30, 2007

Marriotts Ridge High School

Volume II, Issue V

## Sophomores come out on top in a battle of the classes



Sarah Massuda  
Staff Writer

The battle of the classes is on! Thursday, April 12, 2007 marked the very first Class Acts talent show competition in which only the very best represent their class in a battle for \$1000 and bragging rights as the best class in MRHS.

A night full of fun and excitement, the show started off with a bang. After Shana Rusonis and Ellen Woodcock welcomed the audience to the first, and hopefully annual, Class Acts Talent Show, the show started off with the freshman class. Introducing the acts of the class of 2010 were Brooke Scott and Jesse Schwartz. "Feedback" rocked the house with a medley of popular tunes including The White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army." After, Katie McFarlene and Kelly Saunders delighted the crowd with an enchanting Irish step dance. To end the night, the freshman's emcees along with the assistance of Mr. Malt, put on a skit based off the popular TV show "Are you smarter than a fifth grader" entitled "Are you smarter than a freshman."

The emcees faced two of the night's judges, Ms. Witanowski and Principal Saunderson, to see who was smarter: the staff or the freshman. After a tight race, the freshman came out on top.

The sophomore class started their portion of the night with the lovely Maddie Whiting and Tara McVey as their emcees. Throughout the night they kept the audience in fits of laughter with their remarkable improvisation and costumes. But their emcees weren't the only talented people. Every single act that came out on stage for the class of 2009 was simply amazing. Starting off was Erica Fedor, who sang and played the piano to Vanessa Carlton's "1000 miles." Another notable act from the class of 2009 was Josh Tilles on the piano. He enlightened the crowd performing the popular ragtime piece "Maple Leaf Rag." The biggest highlight of 2009, and the entire show, was the powerful drum off between Kevin Eikenburg and Evan Chapman. "The drum off



Sophomore emcee Maddie Whiting (left) kept the audience laughing as she introduced an act with a dramatic poem, saying "Class of '09... is sublime!"

between Kevin and Evan was my favorite! It was so cool, so intense, and so much fun! I loved it!" exclaimed Junior Allison Frost.

Before the class of 2008 a surprise guest made his first appearance to Marriotts Ridge: The Marriotts Ridge Mascot. The junior class of 2008 started off with the gifted Barbershop Quartet, featuring David Todd, Tommy Zepp, Antwoine Johnson, and Eric Kircher. Abbey Marvanko impressed the crowd with her beautiful lyrical dance

to "Breathe Me" by SiA. The night ended with the entertaining and amusing "Backstreet Boys." Stephen Blucher, John Cruz, Kyle Feldman, Jon Lim, and Kevin Seker brought the crowd to its feet as they lip-synced and danced their hearts out with their rendition of "I Want It That Way." "We had a lot of fun on stage performing and being a goofball. We were really pleased with the turn out of the crowd and loved how they all stood up and clapped with us," recalled Kevin Seker.

"It was the biggest adrenaline rush of my life!" exclaimed Kyle Feldman.

After all the fun was over, it was time for the announcement of the winners, who were... the class of 2009!

While the juniors did not win this year, the battle is on for next. "We thought it would be cute if we let them [the sophomores] win this time. This was just a 'sneak peak.' Plus, we wanted the money for our senior prom," admits junior Colleen Clancy.

## Ms. Grey named MRHS teacher of the year



Matt Mathews  
Staff Writer

In the middle of March, the students of Marriotts Ridge High school voted again for the teacher of the year. The students spoke, and, this year, Ms. Robin Grey was elected as the teacher of the year.

Ms. Grey was very happy to receive the prestigious award: "Teacher of the Year" is an award given out by the students, which means that it is even more of an honor because I see these students every day."

According to students, it is Ms.

Grey's personality and classroom conduct that won her the award.

"I voted for her [Ms. Grey] because I like the mood in her classrooms and how she treats us like equals," says Jayde Chang, a junior. "She makes learning easy and fun and

*"...I like the mood in her classrooms and how she treats us like equals."  
- Jayde Chang, junior*

helps her students when they need it. She's extremely easy to talk to and makes her students comfortable while learning."

Other students are of the same opinion.

"I voted for Ms. Grey because she's a wonderful teacher," says Kyle Henline, a junior, "She makes

English interesting, no mildly entertaining (which is very hard to do). In [the book] *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, I would have died if it wasn't for Ms. Grey's funny anecdotes and my hope that Janie [the main character] would die."

Other students who did not vote for Ms. Grey extol her teaching traits.

"I like Ms. Grey because of her professional demeanor," says Jeremy Arminger, a junior, who did not vote for Ms. Grey, but says she

is still a good teacher.

Voting took place in English classes in mid march. They were asked to choose the teacher, mark some qualities about them, and then write a brief paragraph why this teacher should be elected.



Ms. Grey was selected by the junior class as the 2006-2007 teacher of the year.

The teacher of the year is an award given out yearly here at Marriotts Ridge. The teacher is usually chosen by the senior class, but since the school has no senior class, the juniors were the ones who made the decision this year.

# FIRST MRHS PROM

## Girls' Boys' Side



Ellen Woodcock  
Guest Writer

As Saturday, May 12 approaches, the anticipation grows among Marriotts Ridge junior girls, and one can find him or herself walking down the hallway hearing endless talk about dresses, dates, tickets, limos, pictures, dinner, and after parties—without doubt, Marriotts Ridge girls just want to have fun when it comes to prom.

Whereas for guys, the first thought in reference to prom is usually finding a date, girls almost *always* begin to get excited—or worried—about what they will wear. Prom dresses are far from inexpensive, but many of the girls at Marriotts Ridge are willing to pay the price.

So what do girls plan on wearing? “Not a big dress, long. Not too fancy,” said junior Stephanie Jones. Others are concerned with maintaining their originality when buying a dress. Junior Abby Schwarz was no exception. “I didn’t want to wear a dress that everyone else would have. I was

lucky to come across an exotic find in downtown Frederick.”

Brittany Seltzer also plans on wearing a different dress. “I got mine at a custom boutique in Florida. It’s a two-piece dress that looks like one-piece, it has a corset-style top, and it’s beaded.”

The next big question is whether or not the guys will dress the part to match their dates. “It will be interesting to see all the guys in tuxes for once,” commented junior Gina Alagna, excited to see guys out of their normal shorts and t-shirts.

Tickets to Marriotts Ridge’s first prom include the cost of dinner at the Hyatt in downtown Baltimore, which will leave some guys broke and many girls willing to help cover the cost.

“Unfortunately, prom tickets are expensive this year due to our school’s situation, and because of this I don’t think that the guys should have to buy their dates’

tickets; it’s just too expensive,” said junior Haley Katsman.

In general, many girls feel comfortable paying for their ticket with or without the added expense of dinner included. “It depends on if you’re dating or if you’re just going as friends,” commented junior Liza Freint, saying that the expectation for the guy to pay is usually greater if the couple is actually dating.

“I’m paying for half of my ticket,” said junior Melissa Navarro, “because I feel it’s the right thing to do.”

Yet the tradition of the guy paying still prevails in many instances. “He’s making himself [pay], but I offered to help,” said junior Abbey Marvenko of her boyfriend.

A pre-paid dinner at the Hyatt, included in the ticket price, is helpful to many when planning prom night agenda. “I think it’s cool [that dinner is included] because it’s one less thing you have to worry about, and in the long run it will be less expensive,” said junior Michelle Morstein.

However some girls share their concern that having a large dinner with the entire class loses time to be intimate with close friends. “It depends on where [prom] is, because since we’re in Baltimore we have so many nice restaurants, like in Little Italy, where we could go with our friends. I think that would work out better this year,” said junior Alyssa Leonhardt.

Luckily, the MRHS PTSA has been working on providing an after-prom party which won’t eat at students’ pockets, complete with a huge list of prizes, games, and activities, all for approximately \$10. “I like how unlike at other schools, our after prom is inexpensive. I feel like that’s nice since the prom ticket is so expensive,” commented Melissa Navarro.

In all, as junior girls get ready for Marriotts Ridge’s first prom, they are dispelling traditional standards in looking for unique dresses and relieving their dates of some of the financial responsibility.



John Cruz  
Staff Writer

With prom right around the corner it seems like excitement has filled the air. With the girls freaking out about what dress they’ll wear and what shoes to buy and what time to get their nails or hair done, most guys think that all they have to do is sit back and laugh. However, save the “boys rule girls drool” saying, because guys have some issues to take care of.

“I’m so excited for prom that I’m practically jumping out of my flip flops,” exclaims John Lim. But remember guys, no flip flops for prom.

Many guys don’t realize that the average cost right now could be around \$500.00? That’s about 70 hours of work guys. We have to buy our tux, the flowers, the tickets, the limo rental, the after prom festivities; the list seems to go on and on. However, guys so far feel that it isn’t too bad.

Looking into this prom season, it seems like most guys are having trouble

breaking down the so called “prom shopping list.” There’s only a few things to buy for the key to success during prom, however guys must start early to make sure everything happens according to plan.

First on the list is definitely the most important of all: the tickets. If the guy has the heart of a bottomless pit than he might be able to get away easy on the price of tickets, but here’s a word to the wise; be a gentlemen and buy the lady a ticket. With tickets costing only a measly \$85, students will in fact save money. Guests will be served a four course dinner to go along with the dance held at the spectacular Baltimore Inner Harbor Hyatt. To think that if guests were to attend a dinner for two at M & S Grill in the Inner Harbor for example would cost \$60.00 each person for a four course meal, making the total over \$120.00 with tax and tip. So in retrospect, students will be saving

money with the dinner included. Plus if students don’t want the night to end at midnight, purchase an after prom ticket for only \$10!

The second most important necessity for prom would have to be the tuxedo. With so many places to go, it seems like this can be the hardest decision to make. However, if guys are looking to save money, Men’s Warehouse is definitely the place to go. Prices are being advertised to start only at \$59.99, but to go the extra mile, spend the extra \$79.99 and look “oh so flashy.”

“I plan on wearing a tux that will be soothing to the eyes and show off my feminine side but also express my masculine side for the ladies,”

says junior Shaun Kravitz.

The final essential towards prom success is a beautiful, sophisticated and dress-matching corsage. This can add the final touch or the exclamation point to the beginning to an extraordinary night. Corsages can be bought for as little as \$15 but can reach as high as \$25 at any local

grocery store. However, it’s been suggested to check out Gemini in West Friendship or even K-Florist off of route 40.

Junior Kyle Marvin understands what the corsage is all about. “The corsage in essence is really a symbol. In retrospect, the corsage shows who is going to the dance as a couple.”

Now guys, with a little effort and a little creativity, prom will truly be a night to remember. If this advice is taken to heart guys will have their dates wishing she had a rewind button. After guys have completed these three simple steps, they will have nothing else to do. The girls now have the rest of the month to plan an itinerary of times with events that come down to the second. They can decide the group we are going with, the limo we ride in, even the pose for the picture. All we have to do is sit back and relax. Oh, and have a great prom!





# The Scallion

## April Fools Day

### Four Page Insert



April 2007

Marriotts Ridge High School

## Juniors outraged about sophomores attending Prom



John Cruz  
Staff Writer

May 12, 2007 will be the most extravagant night of the year for all juniors at Marriotts Ridge High School. To add to the decadent night for the students, the juniors at Marriotts Ridge will be the first to experience prom, which is being held at the Hyatt in the Inner Harbor. However, due to the current situation of our school not having a senior class this year, the SGA teacher advisors thought it would be wise to try and make this year's prom as normal as possible. In doing so, the common agreement was made to invite the sophomore class for a one year exception.

"Although we would be the only school in the county to invite sophomores to our prom, I believe this action would bring normalcy to the night with having two grades attending," articulates Mr. Dubbs.

The ordinary, typical, and classic prom night usually consists of 600



*Sophomore Lowell Safren has trouble controlling his excitement about attending prom.*

or so people, holding mostly seniors and juniors with the occasional fortunate sophomore or possibly the freshmen who was asked by the senior only because he lost a friendly school-wide bet at lunch five months ago. Anyway, prom is all about the seniors whom this is one of their last nights to spend with

each other. Prom is an American Pastime, which our parents tell us painful stories about doing the hand jive, and our grandparents can give us three different versions of how their prom night went due to the fact that they can never remember the story completely.

"Prom at the other schools we taught at always had at least to grades there; prom with just one grade just wouldn't be the same. I can't see it!" exclaims Mrs. Grey with passion.

From the general consensus, it seems that sophomores are ecstatic about this great opportunity, juniors seem to be quite disappointed and as for the freshmen; well who really cares. But with this sudden change in allowing the sophomores to attend this year's prom, puts this year's sophomore class in a very

peculiar situation. They become the only class in Howard County Public School System's history to be eligible to attend prom for three years in a row. And it seems like every sophomore is talking about it, with jittery excitement.

"It's every girl's dream to go to prom and it's so lucky for us sophomores to go a whole year early!" exclaims sophomore Sara Olson.

However, as the juniors have been waiting for this extravagant night all year and probably all their lives, it seems to feel like what they had thought would be their "Marriotts Ridge First" has left them with a big fat sike by the administration. It leaves them saying, "Where's the doughnuts?"

"I think its ridiculous first of all how they're inviting sophomores to prom which is an upper class tradition and now they're breaking it. Their cockiness and attitude seem to be ruining my high school experience," says the Junior Class President Lydia Tucker.

## Students required to accept administrative friend requests on Facebook



Ellen Woodcock  
Guest Writer

After witnessing the sudden Facebook craze amongst the Marriotts Ridge student body, the administration, with the help of Mr. McDonald, created their own popular Facebooks earlier this week and initiated a requirement for all students to accept their friend requests so that they can monitor student activity outside of school.

The MRHS administration decided to follow the Facebook trend after receiving numerous complaints from teachers and parents about the distractions the online networking site causes. Mr. McDonald, the media and technical specialist at MRHS, was asked to assist them in creating Facebook profiles.

"Mr. Saunderson, Ms. Veslany, Ms. Moulds and I decided to get Facebooks because we wanted to be more in touch with our student body," commented Mr. Le Mon. "We think it's important for each

student to accept our friend request to ensure clear communication between students, staff, and administrators."

Facebook allows high school and college students and alumni to communicate and stay connected online through school networks, and seems to have replaced the notorious Myspace as the most popular social website.

Mr. McDonald commented, "Mr. Saunderson and the other administrators approached me about getting Facebook accounts so they could monitor Marriotts Ridge students' activities outside school."

He continued, "Working with the administrators to set up their MRHS network accounts wasn't that bad. Mr. LeMon and Mr. Saunderson, on the other hand, couldn't wait to start searching to see what students were up to."

Mr. Saunderson, Ms. Veslany, Mr. LeMon, and Ms. Moulds agreed on Tuesday that MRHS students would be required to accept their friend requests. A student who denies the

friend request of an administrator will receive an office referral and a phone call to notify the student's parents of the situation. If a student denies a request a second time, the

deleted.

"We decided that having strict regulations would help us to know what's going on within the student body," Mr. Saunderson said. "We understand that some students may be against these policies, but there is an importance in us making sure everyone stays out of trouble on the web."

Bill Williams, a Facebook technician, commented, "It's a big trend we've been seeing. It's tough for us because we want to win the support of students and the administrators, but both are coming from different interests."

Student popularity over Facebook's newest Marriotts Ridge administrative users is bleak. "I just think it's sketchy with all these teachers all up in my photo albums," commented sophomore Lowell Danscho.

Junior Ibn Battuta agreed, saying "It makes me wonder where my 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights are."



*Ms. Moulds and Mr. LeMon (whose default photo is shown above) are ecstatic about having their own facebook account.*

student will receive five Saturday school detentions and face possible suspension from all extra-curricular activities. In the event a friend request from an administrator is denied a third time, the student will be suspended and possibly expelled, and the student's Facebook will be

# Harry Potter Revealed



Sara Olson  
News Editor



Nicole Lacey  
Staff Writer

Students waiting anxiously to discover the fate of Harry Potter in the seventh installment, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, can hold their breath until July 21, or they can read on. As Dumbledore once wisely put it, “we have reached a parting of the ways.” Some of you will choose to uncover the mysteries of Harry Potter’s future; others will choose to throw this newspaper aside and remain in the dark.

The Marriotts Ridge Book Club recently obtained a manuscript of the top secret narrative in order to provide feedback for the publishers. 2,396.8 pages of nonstop, action packed adventure were disclosed to a few select MRHS students, and those students now have the opportunity to reveal *everything*.

The novel begins with the wedding of Bill Weasley and Fleur Delacour. However, it is unexpectedly called off on account of the unforeseen murder of Rubeus Hagrid. In the turmoil following the death of their giant friend, Harry, Ron and Hermione commence their search for Voldemort’s horcruxes. They receive some astonishing assistance in the form of previous nemesis, Draco Malfoy, who in a flurry of guilty feelings about the death of Albus Dumbledore, comes over to the good side.

With the help of Ron, Hermione, and Draco, Harry embarks on his mission to obliterate Voldemort’s four remaining horcruxes, pieces of his soul that keep him from being destroyed, for those who are not up to date on their Harry Potter fundamentals. They are successful in demolishing two of the four; but for a long time, they remain perplexed as to the location of the locket, which Dumbledore had tried to procure the night he died. In the 6<sup>th</sup> book, Harry finds out that this

horcrux was taken by an unknown character, R.A.B.

After great mental strain, Harry and his friends decipher the identity of R.A.B.: Regulus Arnaldo Black, Sirius Black’s younger brother, who was presumed to be dead. Regulus Black, who was once a Death Eater, has since devoted his life to abolishing any remaining pieces of

Voldemort’s soul. Aware of the Dark Lord’s vengeful wrath, he has been

behind the Veil in the Department of Mysteries – the very location of his brother’s death. He also passes on his suspicion that Sirius is still alive: trapped in the deathly realm beyond the Veil. This leads Harry and his friends to further investigate the Department of Mysteries, where Sirius was thought to have “died.”

As she is the smartest witch of her age, Hermione discovers the way to pass beyond the Veil. To the dismay

*slow motion: the curtain fluttering indifferently; his own feet moving treacherously toward the platform; his breathing coming steadily, despite the erratic pounding of his heart. Thoughts fluttered through his mind, unconnected and inconsequential. A mist seemed to materialize before his eyes, clouding his vision to the surreal scene before him.*

*Harry knew that this was his destiny. This is what had been foretold by the prophecy before he was even born. He could not turn back now.*

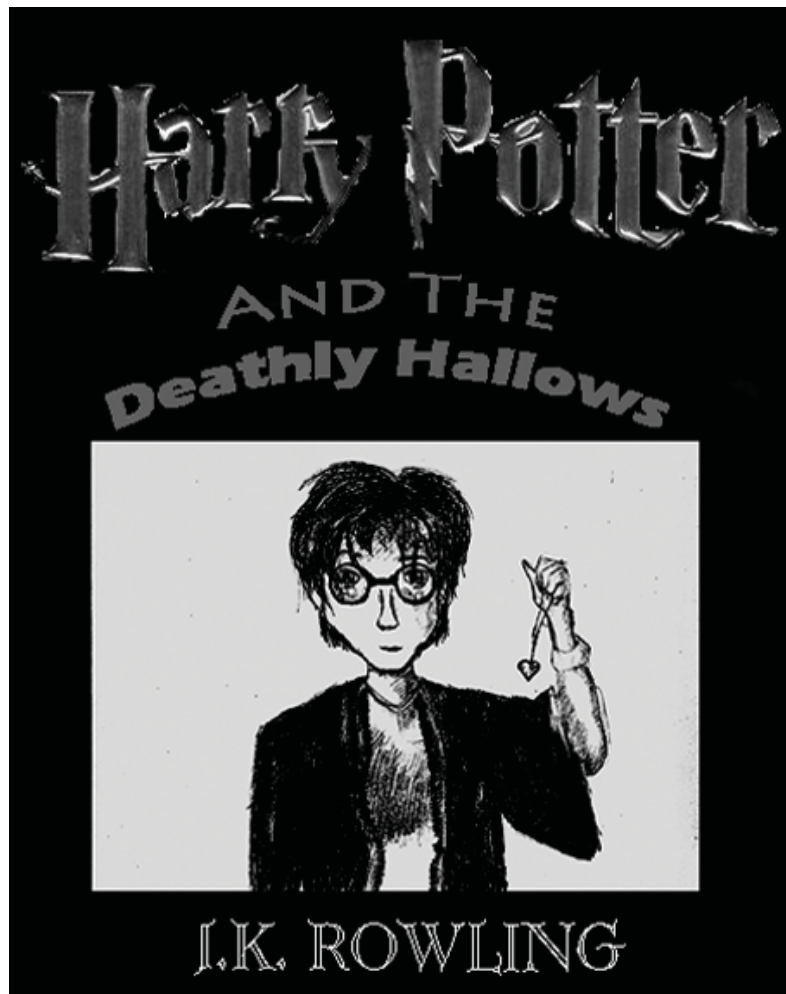
*Harry’s thoughts were interrupted by a petrified, barely controlled whimper. Hermione’s voice broke through the haze that seemed to be overtaking his mind.*

*“Please...” she was moaning. “Please... Don’t go. Don’t go.”*

*Harry shook away the fog behind his eyes. He saw Ron, paler than usual, his face twisted, his expression unreadable. Neither of them said a word, there was a clear understanding of what had to happen.*

*Harry tried to muster up some kind of reassurance, but his throat was too dry to speak. Instead, with a miserable gesture, Harry moved towards the Veil, leaving Ron and Hermione to wait – perhaps for an hour, perhaps for a day, perhaps forever – for his questionable return.*

To reveal the dramatic ending would be beyond our journalistic privileges. For now, we’ll leave you with this; and the promise that when the day comes for you to read *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, you will not be disappointed.



*The Book Club gets a sneak preview of the final Harry Potter book before it hits the shelves this July.*

in hiding for more than a decade.

Upon finding Regulus, Harry is informed of the whereabouts of the hidden locket; Regulus concealed it many years previously in the Black’s house at Number 12, Grimmauld Place.

Regulus also reveals his speculation as to the location of the final horcrux. He believes it to be

of both her and Ron, Harry decides to follow his godfather into the unknown to retrieve the last horcrux and (hopefully) rescue Sirius.

The following is a confidential excerpt from the novel itself. Be warned: this may terrify and distress you. If you dare, read on...

*Everything seemed to happen in*

## New school starting date shortens summer



Molly Conley  
Staff Writer

Students at Marriotts Ridge High School are shocked to hear that because of the sudden influx in snow days, next year school will be starting on August 1, 2007 instead of August 27, 2007.

At the beginning of this winter it seemed as though snow was never going to make an appearance in the state of Maryland. "We thought that we would finally not have to worry about making up snow days," recalls John Precipitate, the president of the weather section of the Maryland Board for School Scheduling. That was until February 26, 2007. On this fateful day, Howard County came close to having their fourth snow day this year. Mr. Precipitate knew that Howard County could spare no more snow days, so he settled with a two hour delay. While Marriotts Ridge students were feeling bright, awake, and happy about at least getting a two hour delay, the Board commenced a serious meeting that would only end when a solution to the problem at hand could be found.

"Once that [a fourth snow day] almost happened, I knew something had to be done! It is a danger to the minds of the future leaders of America to be missing so much

school yearly. That is why I called an emergency meeting," informs Precipitate. Members of the Board of School Scheduling found that seeking a solution to snow days was not a painless task.

"I suggested supporting global warming so that not as much snow would occur, but of course, they [members of the board] did not listen to me. They never listen to me," whines Mark Dim, a new member of the board.

After hours of collaborating and brain storming, Regina Sharp, the oldest member, came up with a motion. "I spent almost the whole meeting thinking of ridiculous ways to end our problem, some almost as stupid as Mr. Dims. Then, like a ray of sunshine breaking through a cloud, it hit me! The best solution had been right in front of our eyes the whole time. All we have to do is start school a little bit earlier in the year than usual. This will not only help us to make up all

the snow days, but to have some built in as well," rejoices Sharp. Besides now being able to make up all the snow days and even

children have somewhere safe to spend the hot days of summer. "In August, my husband and I are going on a cruise to the Bahamas

for one whole month. One whole month without my rambunctious son! Alleluia," screams Betty Bliss.

Noteveryone is as ecstatic as parents about this change. The victims of this oppression are not pleased at all. Teachers across the county are full of anxiety. "I don't know if I can

take anymore of my students. Another twenty eight days of this torture is causing me to consider quitting my job," relays Marriotts Ridge teacher, Mrs. Revulsion Student's thoughts on the recent change concur with that of teachers. "Ew more school work! I am going to drop out! I don't care what my parents say! Education is not worth spending any more days of my life in this torture facility," exclaims junior Katie Odium.

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Student's first day back after summer vacation	2	3	4	5	6
Teacher Plan Day	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Because of the recent increase in snow days, the Maryland Board of School Scheduling has changed the starting date of the 2007-2008 school year, significantly shortening summer vacation for students and teachers.

having some built in, beginning school in early August has many advantages that have adults everywhere jumping with joy. "Having a rebellious teenager in such close quarters for seventy one days of summer is torture. I don't know what I can do for Howard County teachers to express how blissful I am feeling right now," Elena Dread cries to the heavens.

Parents everywhere are planning cruises now that they know their

## Clocks to be removed from MRHS class-



Stacey Vigiotti  
Guest Writer

When teenagers return from summer break, and the 2007-2008 school year begins at Marriotts Ridge High School, the administration will have already removed the clocks from all classrooms, after they came to the conclusion that action must be taken against the disruption that clocks cause during the average class period.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 it was decided that the janitorial staff would climb up their ladders on June 20<sup>th</sup>, stretch up their arms, and seize each and every timepiece in the school. The administration has been debating the controversy over clocks since Marriotts Ridge first opened in 2005. Principal and Vice Principals, students, and teachers all have different views on the matter.

Supporters for the removal of clocks argue that students who

are constantly counting down to the end of class are an incessant distraction to fellow classmates. Mr. Lemon states, "Students would focus more on academics and less on how much time they have left in class." With the disappearance of time on the walls at Marriotts Ridge High School, some clearly feel that grades will improve.

Ms. Reigel, an Algebra II teacher, proclaims, "The clocks are a total distraction. Every student packs up ten minutes before the bell rings and before my class is even close to being over. A couple years ago when I was teaching at another High School, a young man packed up all his belongings and stared at the clock, waiting for the last 'five minutes' to pass. When actually, there was thirty minutes left and we were in the middle of a test."

On the other hand, isn't it a student's prerogative to know how much longer they have to suffer through a class? "I can't imagine not having a clock in the room! They

have no right to do that," complains junior Hannah Collins.

When an anonymous mother was asked about the removal of the clocks, she immediately became flustered saying, "If my student is forced to learn in a classroom without a clock, I will complain! If my child wants to know what time is it, then they should know. Where does the administration get off taking away my child's constitutional rights, given to them by our founding fathers?"

Other schools took on the transformation before Marriotts Ridge. Ancient Pendulum High School in Watchtown, WV has addressed the dilemma of sidetracked students with an identical technique. When contacted by phone, Principal Arnold Alarm, dubbed by the

students "Alarmin' Arnold" states, "When we were first building the school, we decided straight away that there would be no clocks. This allowed no room for distraction at the very beginning. And, as a result, our students are doing very well academically."

Instead of hastily removing the clocks, should the administration take a second look at the situation? Clocks aid students who have early dismissal, helping a child know when its

time for them to leave. Would there be more distraction during a lesson if students are constantly raising their hands and orally disrupting class with an annoying, "What time is it?" Is it more infuriating for a teacher to be interrupted by a student's shrieking voice, or to witness a casual head turn?

**"Students would focus more on academics and less on how much time they have left in class"**  
 -Mr. Lemon

# Varsity lacrosse: canceled!?!



Lowell Safren  
Guest Witer

Due to a large number of academically ineligible students on the Marriotts Ridge boys lacrosse team, the entire program will be dropped for the 2008 season according to Jean Jones, a high ranking board of education member.

"When it came down to it, there was great evidence to suggest that the students' grades dropped significantly once lacrosse season started, and there is evidence to suggest that there is a strong correlation."

Steven Mikaluskous, a junior at MRHS, who has played lacrosse since the age of 7 called the decision, "shocking, appalling, and most of all insane."

Mikaluskous, who was the third leading scorer on the team, believes that it is a conspiracy by the parents of River Hill, Mount Hebron, and Atholton because of Marriotts Ridge's dominance as a JV team last year. Last season they went undefeated, and are expected to dominate the county as a varsity.

"Parents from those other schools are just jealous of us and are looking for anything to try to bring our program down. Every school has ineligible players, not just MRHS," added Mikaluskous.

According to Jones, five players, who are all starters, had GPAs

below 1.3.

One of the players, Kevin McCoy, said, "I can't believe this. I was eligible based on my second quarter grades. I got a two point three grade point average. So what if on my interims my GPA was a point eight? Lacrosse takes a lot of focus. It is a very intense sport."

This argument, according to Jones, is the exact reason lacrosse is being dropped. Jones, while not willing to give a quote for this portion of the article thought that the reason students like McCoy were receiving such low GPAs was because lacrosse took up too much of student's time that they were unable to spend on school work.

Mrs. Vesslany, the assistant principal at Marriotts Ridge was in disbelief, saying, "Frankly I am shocked by this decision. While I respect the school board and the people that serve on it, I really don't see how they can

formulate this bizarre ruling. I have to say, I do think that the conspiracy theory [referring to the fact that the deletion of the program was caused by River Hill and Mount Hebron parents] does have some merit."

Mr. Sageman, the Varsity Lacrosse Coach at MRHS added, "I would certainly disagree with the board's decision that lacrosse should be banned. I have to keep lacrosse at this school so I can keep Dan Schonfeld [Varsity Goalie] off

the streets."

A report, released by the U.S Department of Health stated, "Lacrosse is clearly more inhibitive on the academic status of youth more than any other physical activity due to how physically demanding it is."

Unlike other sports, lacrosse

also requires physical contact and running. Why don't they drop the football program? I frankly can't see how the Board of Education can possibly be allowed to drop our lacrosse program. I look at it as a personal cheap shot to our school, as lacrosse is probably our strongest

sport. This is just another one of the board's ridiculous excuses. I mean why did they only drop our program?"

According to the Jones, just MRHS' program was dropped because, "students at other schools showed an ability to



Dan Schonfeld attempts to evade the police. With Lacrosse canceled for the season, the HCPD is at his mercy.

cope with the stresses of lacrosse better, unlike MRHS, where a significant number of players' grades dropped below the passing line of two point zero."

Marriotts Ridge lacrosse teams have been very competitive even without seniors, which adds to the theory of a conspiracy by other high schools according to Mikaluskous.

Sageman agrees with this theory, saying, "Lacrosse is just like any other sport. Football

combines the aspects of physical contact, running, goals, non-stop action, and the use of sticks, which highly overtakes the control of one's mental state according to a study released by the U.S Department of Health, more than any other sport.

This adds to the reason for dropping the program according to the high ranking board member.

Junior, Chris Milon, another ineligible player, said, "Lacrosse is just like any other sport. Football

# Baltimore Ravens move to Los Angeles



Mike Sinner  
Staff Writer

To the dismay of many fans, the Baltimore Ravens are moving once again, this time to the city of Los Angeles on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 because of Owner Steve Bisciotti.

During a press conference, Bisciotti shared, "There is just too much violence in Baltimore, I mean with Ray Lewis beating women, then there is Reed and his drugs, and don't forget the drunk fans during the games...Moving to L.A. is a much better idea, there's absolutely no violence there," says Bisciotti while giving a weak smile.

Originally, the Cincinnati Bengals were supposed to move to L.A. because of the constant arrests each month, but the Ravens were

deemed more violent with Ray Lewis beating women and Ed Reed involved in underground mobs.

New NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodel spoke up, "I think this move to L.A. is a good one, and that the Ravens should keep their name with the move, there's a lot more money to make in L.A. then in Baltimore,

besides, the fans can't feel any more pain than what the Orioles have



Ravens helmet logo had an added "B" so the team could not be stolen.

been giving them every year."

The Orioles have not had a winning season in the past decade.

Peter Angelos, owner of the Orioles cries, "It's true, the Orioles are pathetic and I can't

will have nothing to watch but the Orioles!"

After hearing this, sophomore Richard Chappelle laughed, "I'd rather watch Canadian football than watch the Orioles lose pathetically."

When told of this news, Mr. Dubbs went into a corner and rolled around in the fetal position. "The Orioles are pathetic, every year they let me down. Two years ago when they started off great, I was filled with joy, but then they dropped from number one to ground zero as if mocking me, destroying my hope and slapping me in the face."

Los Angeles has not had a team since 1994, when the Rams left for St. Louis. They won an NFL championship in 1951, before there was the Super Bowl, and an appearance in 1979's Super Bowl XIV.

do anything about it. Now that the Ravens are gone, Baltimore fans

# opinions

## Juniors prepare for college visits



Nicole Lacey  
Staff Writer

As many of the MRHS junior class have already discovered, college is much closer than most high school students want to accept; in fact, as being accepted into a respectable school gets more and more difficult, students need to start the college application process earlier, leading many students to take college visits over spring break.

“Over break I went to Maryland, Dickenson, John’s Hopkins, Georgetown, and Gettysburg,” says Alec Vlahos, a junior who has already begun looking at colleges

close to the area. “I took different tours and met the students, and I got to see how the different student

bodies interacted. I got to really look at students, how they act, and if they are friendly. This really helped to get together my initial perception of the school. You want to see the facilities that they have- athletics, equipment, and recreation, especially.”

According to Ms. Robinson, one of the guidance counselors, students at MRHS are on the right track in looking at colleges early. “I would start in tenth grade or the summer after,” she says of college visits.

“The advantages [of looking at colleges early] are that you can see more colleges, you can get a better perspective of the majors, and you can spread your visits out over a longer span of time,

which puts less pressure on you,” recommends guidance counselor, Mr. Schwarz. “If you are going to

She continues, “Definitely make an appointment with the admissions office [and] jot down some notes

afterward so you can remember each visit.”

Mrs. Evans, another guidance counselor at MRHS, also emphasizes the importance of college visits: “You don’t want to choose a college based on its brochure value... On paper it can be presented differently.



Students at Marriotts Ridge got a head start on college visits, stopping at schools like Georgetown University over spring break.

You want to see it in actuality to see if it is a good match for you.”

Not all college visits need to be stressful, however. Junior Nick Miesner, who visited Clemson, says, “It made me look forward to college. We met some students and tour guides that went there.”

**“I would start [looking for colleges] in tenth grade or the summer after.”**

**-Ms. Robinson**



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## Loss of Arenas and Butler cripple Wiz



Lowell Safren  
Guest Witer

In a span of less than a week, the Wizards' hopes of a playoff run all but ended with the significant injuries to leading scorers and team leaders Gilbert Arenas and Caron Butler, sidelining them for at least the first round of the playoffs.

Sophomore Richard Chappelle summed up the state of affairs saying, "They [the Wizards] lost both their leaders and it will be very difficult to emulate the skills that Gilbert Arenas and Caron Butler have."

Butler, the teams' third leading scorer, steals leader, and NBA All-Star broke his hand, in a game against the Milwaukee Bucks on April 1st, attempting to block a lay-up attempt by Bucks forward Ruben Patterson.

Gilbert Arenas, only three days after Butler's crippling injury, tore his meniscus in his left knee, after less than two minutes of being in the game, causing him to miss the

remainder of the season, and most of the playoffs.

This leaves the Wizards in a major predicament, with two of their "Big Three" going down in a short span of time.

Officer Thompson, who has been involved with basketball much of his life said, "Losing Caron Butler and Gilbert for the Wizards is like the Miami Heat losing Shaquille O'Neal."

Since the Caron Butler injury, the Wizards went 2-8 to finish the regular season, not including the game in which Butler was injured. Two of the most disappointing losses included back to back losses against the Charlotte Bobcats, a perennial NBA doormat, along with an abysmal 33 point spanking at home on national television courtesy of the Chicago Bulls. In another loss against the Orlando Magic, Antawn Jamison scored a season high 48 points only for the Wizards to lose and score only 89.

Despite their current struggles, the Wizards did clinch a playoff birth April 10<sup>th</sup>, due to a loss by 9<sup>th</sup> placed Indiana to Philadelphia.

Chappelle stated, "Antawn [Jamison] needs 30 points and 10 rebounds [a game] for them to even have a chance in the playoffs."

With the fall of their two stars, the offense has transitioned from more of a fast-paced fast break offense to a slow down half-court offense. With open spots now in the lineup 2<sup>nd</sup> year player Andray Blatche, Roger Mason Jr., Donell Taylor, and Darius Songaila, who recently came off of a serious back injury on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, will have to fill-in.

Freshman Nick Koutrelakos commented, "For some of the younger players, they don't know what the playoffs are like; the pressure is a whole lot bigger than it is in college."

The Wizards are currently 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Eastern Conference, and trailing 1-0 in a seven game playoff series against 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Cleveland Cavaliers which started on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Cleveland.

Officer Thompson said of the Wizard's playoff chances, "I think they will be lucky if they win one game."

Varsity basketball player Stephen

Blucher added, "I think they [the Wizards] are going to be horrible in the playoffs."

The Wizards would have to win at least their first round series, and maybe even more before having any chance of a Caron Butler return, who is expected back a couple of weeks before Arenas.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Butler did say he thinks he would be able to return by the second round, but that is far from a certainty.

The circumstances of Arenas' injury are also disappointing.

Chappelle said, "It is ironic that after Gilbert showed up late for a shoot around, got benched, then plays less than two minutes and get injured. What makes it even worse was that it was a home game."

The Wizards finished the regular season posting a record of 41-41, and they were at 40-41, which was their worst record this season since they were 12-12 back in December.

Officer Thompson said, "It's a little sad because they were at the top of the conference and since they lost Butler and Arenas, they can't win."

## Track makes strides at recent meets



Marie Mandleberg  
Guest Writer

After an impressive indoor season, outdoor track has some pretty big shoes to fill. After having the third best boys and girls teams in the region, and a state champion pole-vaulter Jocelyn Henline, Coach Bohlayer still has even more he would like to accomplish in the outdoor season.

As Coach Bohlayer says, "Indoor really is just a warm-up for outdoor season. The spring season is the real show."

Even after the intimidation of indoor, outdoor athletes have started to come through. At the Duckworth Relays, a meet where all the teams in the country come to show off their talent, several relay teams and runners seemed to shine through.

At a recent invitational, with schools from all around the state, Derek Coleman proved to be a bigger threat than expected. He placed fourth in both the triple jump and the 100 meter dash. "Doing well in the invitational was hard since there were so many good teams there and runners/jumpers. I'm just glad to be among seniors and juniors since

I'm just a sophomore," comments sophomore Derek. The boy's 4x100-meter relay team, consisting of Derek Coleman, Dan Grady, Andrew Hughes, and Mike Paddy,



Junior Michael Paddy runs the hurdles for MRHS at a county tri-meet on April 18th.

placed sixth place out of sixteen different teams.

No matter what dreams Coach Bohlayer sets for the athletes, they plan to achieve them. Every practice is filled with a mile warm-up, an intense workout, core, and for a large part of the team, either working out in the weight room or in the training room with Fred, taking ice

baths. Track is not just something to do; it is a way of life with most of the team. Many run all year round, much to Coach Bohlayer's delight.

"If you want to be successful, you have to be dedicated. And once you are dedicated, the results are obvious," freshman Bri Kenerson believes.

However, track does not just consist of runners, or sprinters. A large part of the team includes jumpers, throwers, and distance

runners. Jumps include high jump, triple jump and long jump. Throws include both shot-put and discus, which prove to be just as difficult. Sophomore thrower Dan Theisen says, "Us throwers put time, devotion, and heart into this and we usually get the results we want to see. Throwing is hard, but it sure is fun!" And distance runners?

They run about four miles every practice. These other groups are just as important to a track team as the sprinters are.

Top performers in all of the categories include Andrew Hughes and Derek Coleman for the boy sprinters, and Marissa Goon and Bri Kenerson for the girls. Distance runners are Matt Hynson and Stephanie Buckner. Derek Coleman and Dan Grady are good jumpers. For the throwers, Dan Theisen, Julius Rotimi, Emily Killian, and Sarah Hamilton seem to stand out.

Many other students and athletes of Marriotts Ridge see track as a sport just meant for keeping in shape, or to hang out with friends. Coach Bohlayer is on a mission to change that, and yet still keep athletes coming back next year. Freshman sprinter Marissa Goon shares, "At first I wanted to take track to stay in shape for the off-season of soccer, but you learn to love it because of the people and the time you spend together."

No matter if the track team gets all the way to States, or if all they get to go to is tri-meets, the track athletes still shine through. Most of the sport is about breaking personal records, and the team works everyday, very hard, to do just that.