

From the Administration

Patrick J. Saunderson, *Principal*

"We all may have come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

We look back in amazement on what has been accomplished over the past six months. Students, families, and staff have worked hard to begin building a strong community.

Our **students** continue to learn and accomplish so many things in their classes, participate in over 30 clubs, perform in plays, recitals, and concerts, play a variety of sports, and sponsor special activities such as our fundraiser to purchase holiday gifts for foster children. As we finish Second Quarter, congratulations to all students who have achieved academic success and are actively involved in the extracurricular programs offered at Marriotts Ridge. At the same time, we want other students to know that there is still time to make this a great year – talk

to your friends, advisor, teachers, counselor, or one of us about the possibilities.

Our **families** continue to support their students' academic growth through active participation in the learning process, raise funds to support our activities, volunteer to man the concession stand, organize Drivers' Ed, plan Mustang Madness, set up the Teen Drivers Program, sponsor PTA Reflections, facilitate parent support/information nights, and many other initiatives. It is hard to express in words how much our Mustang families mean to us – we cannot thank you enough for your selflessness, your time, your cooperation, and expertise. Please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Our **staff** continues to do great things in the classroom – it is a joy to visit classrooms where

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Calendar

End of marking period	Jan 20
School closed	Jan 23
New student orientation	Jan 24
PSAT Information Night	Jan 26
Howard County Indoor Track Championships	Jan 27
Teens Behind the Wheel!	Jan 31
Reflections Awards Night Atholton High School	Jan 31
PTSA General Meeting Guest Speaker Josh Kaufman	Feb 15
Howard County Wrestling Tournament	Feb 17-18
FBLA Coffee House	Feb 24
Mustang Madness Bull Roast	March 24

PTSA News

Bill Eikenberg, *President*

Welcome to the second edition of the PTSA Newsletter — The Ridge. As discussed in the first edition, we will be providing all future newsletters electronically. This allows us to reduce costs, but also allows for a more user-friendly product. We can now provide links to other useful information as well as linking to forms and other web sites. However, we understand that not everyone in the MRHS community has access to e-mail or the Internet. Therefore, we will continue to offer printed copies of The Ridge newsletter upon request. Simply contact the school office and we will get a copy to you.

I often comment on how important the community is to a school. Likewise, the school is very important to a community. Our school has some of the finest facilities and programs in the county, and many of them are available to you in the community. You can walk or jog around a brand new rubberized track, or play basketball

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Happy New Year from the Mustang Boosters!

Our fundraising efforts and the generosity of the community have enabled us to support our Mustangs in many ways so far this school year. We have supplied funding for Cheerleading competition fees, a huge start for the Band sheet music library, It's Academic supplies, Wrestling tournament fees, pocket sports schedules, Computer Science Club competition fees, Cross Country invitational fees, Dance Team needs, Drama's fabulous production of *Our Miss Brooks*, hospitality events for our staff, and much more.

At our Boosters meeting in December, we discussed additional needs that we, as a new school, are facing. The Athletic Department would very much like to purchase a scorer's table with the Mustang logo on the front panel—very official looking, like we see at all the other high schools — along with Mustang logo folding chairs for our off-court teammates to sit on during the games. Our Poms Team is in need of funds for competition fees. We can't have a Table Tennis Club without tables, paddles, and

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Boosters' Update

Sue Tompkins, *President*

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active learning is taking place and technology is truly integrated. In addition, staff members go the extra mile, organizing Midterm Madness review sessions before semester exams, tutoring students as part of our evening Academic Intervention programs, and mentoring students as part of our "Billy Hawkins" program.

Even though so many good things are going on, the winter months between the holidays and spring break can be very long and trying. As we head towards the end of the year, let's try to remember that there will be ups and downs, successes and disappointments, blending of old and new. We have so much potential to build on the past and lead into the future. Paraphrasing Mychal Wynn's *Dare* as I did at our Grand Opening:

- Dare** to seek new and greater challenges when others are procrastinating and relying on the old.
 - Dare** to have faith when others are doubting.
 - Dare** to be strong when others are weakening.
 - Dare** to see possibilities when others see only the impossible.
- And always ... **Dare** to dream.

Together, let's continue to breathe life into this center of learning and community. It has been our pleasure to be part of all that has gone on this year ... Go Mustangs!

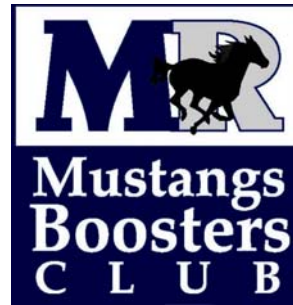
Pat Saunderson Lisa Veslany James LeMon

Announcement from Howard County Public School System

It has come to the attention of the Howard County Public Schools that in certain Howard County High School newsletters and websites, information was published prior to December 16, 2005 regarding Ski Travel Unlimited (or "Ski Trip Unlimited"), including that the company had not provided adequate adult supervision for Howard County High School students participating in ski trips organized by that company.

HCPS is pleased to provide clarity on this subject. Although originally concerns were brought to our attention and, in keeping with our practice of open communication with parents regarding programs that parents might associate with the school system, we communicated those concerns, Ski Travel has assured us that it has always provided, and continues to provide, proper adult supervision at all times on the ski trips that it sponsors. Ski Travel has satisfied Howard County Public Schools that cautioning parents in this regard is not necessary.

As always, HCPS continues its policy of not endorsing any outside organization, including Ski Travel Unlimited and urges students and parents to exercise independent judgment regarding choices as to students' participation in activities sponsored by outside organizations. However, nothing in this communication should be interpreted as an endorsement or a disparagement of any such outside organization.



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- Cater2U by Mangia Italian Grill
- Dermatology & Advanced Skin Care, Dr. Paul A. Rusonis & Associates
- Drs. Berger, Taylor, and Kungle Optometrists
- Howard County Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation
- Jolles Insurance Agency
- New Millennium Systems, Inc.
- Paradise Animal Hospital
- Waverly Woods Merchants Association

Future Business Leaders of America

The Marriotts Ridge High School Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has now been chartered and the door is open for new members interested in joining our ranks. FBLA gives students a great opportunity to participate in school-related activities, travel to competitions, and attend seminars and lectures. We meet on the first Thursday of each month. We have committed to several activities this winter and coming spring. Our first activity will be occurring February 24th, when we will conduct our first Marriotts Ridge Coffee House. This will be an opportunity for FBLA students to demonstrate their ability to coordinate and administer an involved event. This event will be repeated on May 5th. Another activity that the FBLA students will be supporting is the creation and deployment of an electronic match-making service. Students will be developing a questionnaire, writing a computer program and selling the results on February 14th in association with Valentine's Day.

Associated with FBLA are our weekly Technology Club activities. This group meets every Thursday, 2:15 – 3:00 pm in Room 350. Thursday technology afternoons are open to any student interested in learning basic programming or web design skills. At the present time students have been learning the basics of C++ programming; while in web design students have been developing Flash animations. As the school year progresses Java will be the featured language and the use of PHP in web design will be explored.

Remember these Thursday afternoons are open to any Marriotts Ridge student who is interested in learning technology-related concepts. All that the student needs to do is see Mr. Hahne to register.

Mustang Stampede 5K



On a sunny, mild fall morning, local runners warmed up on the track at MRHS and prepared for a fast run through Howard County's beautiful country landscape. The "herd" of 5K runners left the track at 9:00 am and the 1 mile fun run start soon followed. The start line was quickly converted to finish as we eagerly awaited the 1 mile winners Joseph Marsico and Kristy Cruz.

It was quite a thrill to see Sherry Stick, an at-large runner (non-MRHS), win the 5K race in a time of 18:38:01. First place male was won by Thomas Vaxmonskey in a time of 19:06:14. The crowd erupted in cheer when 6 year old Noah Pollack crossed the 5K finish line in 42:25:43: At that moment, a "youngest runner" award was added to the post-race ceremony.

Janet Gilbert provided color commentary as the runners entered the stadium and once around the track to the finish line. The volunteer list included MRHS parents, faculty, and friends of The Ridge. The Howard County Police department provided the much appreciated traffic control on the course.

Thanks to all from the Mustang 5K committee!



Fall Sports

The fall sports teams helped our school get off to a great start. Almost half the students in the school participated on one of our teams and the support shown by students and parents was truly outstanding. We were particularly proud of the exemplary sportsmanship exhibited by our teams and fans wherever and whenever the Mustangs played.

Our varsity teams included cross country and golf. The cross country team completed a memorable first season by participating in the State meet. Our golf team recorded several victories including a decisive win over Reservoir at Cattail Creek Country Club.

On the JV level, our soccer teams were among the best in the county. Our girls scored goals at an amazing pace and provided our fans with an exciting brand of play. Our boy's games were extremely competitive and the season highlight was a hard-fought win at night over Wilde Lake. The 9th grade and JV volleyball teams were also very successful. The JV team finished second in the county standings and both teams were able to play their last games in our newly finished gym. The field hockey team was our "road warrior." They played all of their games away and had to maneuver around construction traffic on their practice field. Our JV football team finished the season with a winning record and a season-opening win over Mt. Hebron was among the highlights for the season.



Is Your Son or Daughter a Future Teacher, Counselor, Social Worker, Pediatrician?

Your high school student does not have to wait until college to start exploring the many rewarding careers available to individuals who enjoy working with children and adolescents. At Marriotts Ridge, students interested in a career working with children can gain knowledge and valuable experience by enrolling in either the Early Childhood Development or Teacher Academy programs. Early Childhood and Teacher Academy students have the opportunity to observe, read to, interact with, and teach young children enrolled in the onsite preschool opening at Marriotts Ridge in August. Academy students also participate in special events and activities with other future educators. Early Childhood and Teacher Academy students are assured a promising future: Maryland has identified Early Childhood (Pre-kindergarten through third grade) as a critical shortage area for teaching and predicts this need will continue to expand as every school system implements full-day kindergarten as well as high-quality preschool programs. Statewide, school systems expect to hire almost 11,000 new teachers – Maryland's colleges currently graduate only 2,600. There has never been a better time to consider a teaching career. In addition to teaching, many careers require a sound knowledge of children's social, physical, intellectual and emotional development. Students who are considering careers in counseling/psychology, social work, pediatrics, or recreation would also benefit tremendously from taking Early Childhood Development I (ECD I), the first course in both the academy programs.

How does my son or daughter become an Early Childhood or Teacher Academy student? Enrolling couldn't be easier. The first course required for both academies is ECD I. Working with a guidance counselor, students include ECD I in next year's schedule, complete an Academy declaration form, and develop a four-year plan to complete either the Early Childhood or Teacher Academy while also satisfying all graduation requirements. As an added "bonus," students who successfully complete all four courses for either academy and begin their college study in Early Childhood or Teacher Education at Howard Community College are eligible to receive advanced standing credit from the college – **at no charge!**

If you have questions about the Early Childhood and Teacher Academy programs or would like additional information, please contact Ms. Patricia Brodian, the Early Childhood/Teacher Academy instructor, by phone, 410-313-5568, or by email: pbrodian@hccps.org



(PTSA from page 1)

or tennis on the new outdoor courts. You can take in a great sports game outdoors with your friends and family, or come inside and watch a game of basketball or volleyball in our first class gymnasium. There are several great cultural arts programs available for your enjoyment. You can attend a great performance by our drama department, which recently presented "Our Ms. Brooks,"

or listen to a wonderful performance by our choirs, orchestra, band, and jazz band. Although our new school has only freshman & sophomore classes, the performances to date have been excellent. MRHS has already established great traditions in all of their programs.

I want to thank everyone in the community who have signed up as members of the PTSA. Your support is appreciated. However, if you neglected to send in your membership payment, it is never too late to do so. Simply go to the school's website and download the membership application form.

As another means of supporting the PTSA, please sign up through the e-scrip and A-Plus programs with Safeway and Giant, respectively. The links for these programs can be found in this newsletter.

Several up coming events are being planned by your PTSA for the MRHS community.

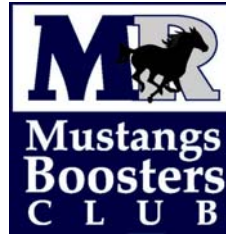
We will be co-hosting a meeting with the staff on January 31, for teen driving. The staff will meet with anyone requesting a student parking permit to drive to school for the spring semester. This is a county designed program and is mandatory for receiving a parking permit. Afterwards, the PTSA will be offering information from representatives from the MVA and insurance industry on the wonderful world of teen driving. Parents from the community will also share personal experiences with their teen drivers. Watch for additional information through the e-school newsletters.

A General Membership Meeting is being planned for Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 7:00 (February 22 is snow date). Mr. Josh Kaufman, the new chairman of the Howard County School Board, will be our guest speaker. We hope he can provide some insight into the programs the county is considering as well as answer any question the community may have from the floor. Afterwards, we will have a short business meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and let us know how we can help you become an active member of your MRHS community.

MRHS PTSA General Meeting, Guest Speaker, Josh Kaufman

The MRHS PTSA general meeting will include Josh Kaufman, Chairman, Howard County Board of Education, **February 15 at 7:00 pm** in the commons area (snow date: February 22).



(Boosters from page 1)

balls. The Chess Club needs chess sets. The Latin Club needs fees for dues and materials. MESA needs funds for competition fees. The Spirit Club needs spirited funding. And the list goes on and on.

Boosters wants to be able to help fund all the clubs, organizations, and athletic needs that we are facing, and we need your continued support

to do so. By financially helping these extracurricular activities, we are also helping to create a high school culture that our Mustangs will enjoy — a high school culture that will give them a complete high school experience. So please continue to help us support the building of this culture by attending our first Mustang Madness Silent Auction and Dinner. We hope you have set aside Friday, March 24 to enjoy an evening of Triple Crown food, fun, and fighting — over silent auction items, that is! Your support of The Madness, our BIG fundraiser (and fun raiser!), will help to support all the extras at MRHS. Please watch the eschool newsletters for details and ticket sale information — and corral your friends and neighbors and bring them to The Madness!

MRHS POMS Update

Take a walk by the dance studio on any given day after school and you will probably see our fabulous MRHS Poms team hard at work.

On December 10, the team traveled to Gwynn Park High School for our very first competition. This exhibition event, sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Poms and Dance Association (MAPDA), offered many opportunities for our Poms to enhance their performance in pom and dance as well as grow as a team.

The Poms will continue to perform at half-time at both girls and boys home basketball games. Additionally, we would love to have your support at our upcoming competitions – bring your MRHS spirit out to cheer on the team!

Upcoming Performances:

- MAPDA Competition – February 11, 2006, Liberty SRCS
- MAPDA Competition – March 11, 2006, Laurel High



Join the Chess Club

Enjoy socializing, sharing strategy, and matches? Come join the MRHS Chess Club, on various Wednesdays from 2:10 - 3:00 pm.

Contact Linda Davis for more information.

Advertising Deadline Extended

Yearbook Theme

The 2006 yearbook theme is **From Blueprints to Hoofprints**. This theme reflects our students' first year here at the new Marriotts Ridge High School.

Ads

We are opening up ad sales to MRHS parents for the inaugural edition of the MRHS yearbook. We are able to make the first edition of the book an all-color version. Due to an increasing page total each year, future editions may not allow an all-color book, so don't get left out!! You can make your child a unique part of the first ever MRHS yearbook and the **first all-color high school yearbook**. Since our school is in its infancy, we are asking you to try to center your ad around a baby picture if possible. The pictures can be returned to you next fall at your request. You may design the ad yourself or we can do that for you. The deadline has been extended to **January 31, 2006**.

The prices for the FULL-COLOR ads are as follows:

◆ full page	\$360
◆ ½ page	\$200
◆ ¼ page	\$75
◆ business card	\$50

Yearbook Ordering

The 2006 yearbook will be the county's first all-color high school yearbook! The cost will be \$45 and Herff-Jones, our publishing company, will be sending order forms home in the mail in January. The deadline for ordering will be the end of March. Don't miss out on this inaugural keepsake!!

Please direct any yearbook questions to Mr. Eckert at peckert@hcpss.org or call 410-313-5568.



Future Educators of America News

The MRHS chapter of the FEA has approximately a dozen members and we are planning on doing various activities including:

- educational scholarship information sessions
- teacher appreciation gestures
- an Adopt-a-Teacher program
- Shadowing-a-Teacher activities
- field trip to a preschool/elementary school
- community service projects

If your son or daughter is interested in the field of education, please have them visit Mr. Eckert in Room 207 or call 410-313-5568.

Mustang Madness

A plea and reminder for donations — from your Mustang Madness Committee:

Did you realize that many "frequent flyer" programs offer a selection of gifts in lieu of redeeming miles? This is another great way to contribute something to the auction at the **Mustang Madness Bull Roast, Friday, March 24, 2006, 7:00 pm!** Also, check with your company's Public Relations officer, to see if they are willing to donate promotional products, such as tote bags, logo apparel, thermal mugs, etc. We can create baskets with these items!

The race is on, to sell tickets and amass donations for a fabulous evening in support of Marriotts Ridge High School!

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 pm in the Counseling Center — come join the Madness!

Email Co-Chairs Wendy Vlahos or Mindi Lawton with questions or information at MRHSMustangMadness@yahoo.com.



MRHS Reflections Program

is excited to announce there were 67 kids that entered this year! The judges selected the winners to go on to the County level and possibly the State level of the PTA Reflections Program.

Congratulations to the students that will be representing MRHS: Hilary Brewer, Jayde Chang, Erica Fedor, Felicia Kulp, Abbey Marvenko, Elinor Oziel, Jennifer Pak, and Shirley Weng.

Le Club Français (French Club)

This club meets monthly to explore French culture around the world. Activities we have done so far include:

- sampled authentic French foods
- played board games like Boggle, Monopoly, Clue, Scrabble and Life in French
- listened to French music from Africa, Canada and Caribbean
- made puppets for Mardi Gras

All students are welcome to join the club.

Ms. Brower, Room 327

Counseling Center News

Office Hours: 7:00 – 2:45 Monday – Friday
Voice: 410-313-5446 u Fax: 410-313-5447

Ms. Jodi Robinson
 Mr. Will Schwarz
 Mrs. Jenn Lage
 Mrs. Sissy Plank
 Mrs. Susan Bradley

Grade 9 and 10
 Grade 9 and 10
 Psychologist
 Registrar
 Guidance Secretary

A-K jrobinson@hcpss.org
 L-Z wschwarz@hcpss.org
 jlage@hcpss.org
 mplank@hcpss.org
 sbradley@hcpss.org

Parent Teacher Conferences

If you desire a **group** conference with the counselor and **all** of your child's teachers, please call Mrs. Bradley at 410-313-5446 to make the arrangements. Call to schedule conferences as soon as possible so as to give teachers proper notice regarding the meeting day. Conferences are usually scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and are limited to 30 minutes and run from 2:15 to 2:45 pm.

Choices: <http://www.access.bridges.com>



Choices is a wonderful computer program that the counselors and teachers at Marriotts Ridge High School use to help inform your students about careers, technical schools, and colleges. This program is available on the web. Please use the following password to access this site:

Access ID: **0106589**
 Password: **choices**
(case sensitive use lower case letters)

Regional PSAT Parent Information Nights

Reservoir High School, January 26, 7:00 pm

Parents are encouraged to select an evening that is most convenient to attend. The purpose of the presentation will be to help parents better

understand their student's PSAT scores and to support them in planning college test taking strategies.

Dr. Martha Gagnon, formally with the College Board and currently a college educational consultant will be the workshop presenter.

All students received their actual test books on December 22, 2005.

Scheduling

Counselors began meeting with students in English classes starting January 4th to cover material for course scheduling for the 2006-2007 school year and to distribute course selection sheets.

College Visions – Big Decisions
 sponsored by Hammond High School

Attention all 9th and 10th grade students and parents, the time is here to explore what every college-bound student and parent should know about college. The various workshops include "A Parent's Perspective," "The College Visit," "Alternative to the 4 Year College," "Black Students Guide to College," and many others. Please join us on Monday, March 7, 2005 at Hammond High School from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Parents will have the option of choosing three sessions out of more than 15 or more workshops. To be able to attend as many sessions as possible and cover all interested topic areas; consider bringing family members to cover the most sessions. For further information call 410-313-7620.

From the Information Center...

As research projects and assignments become more plentiful, the Information Center staff wants to make the community aware of a variety of resources.

Online Databases

The Howard County Public School System subscribes to a number of online databases that can assist students with research sources both at school and at home. In September, students were given a sticker with a list of the databases including the logon information and passwords. In addition, the Howard County Public Library maintains a wealth of databases and resources which can be accessed from home using your library card and pin number.

Information Center Hours

The Information Center is generally open from 7:00 am-3:15 pm daily. Students may also sign up to use the Information Center during lunch, provided they obtain a pass before third period.

Print Resources

The Information Center has a variety of new and current reference books, periodicals, fiction titles and audio books. New titles are arriving continuously!

MESA

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a club designed to provide opportunities for students interested in math, engineering, and science related careers. Students participate in activities that develop and enhance their skills and abilities in these areas and are given opportunities to compete on a regional and state level, demonstrating to other students, parents, and educational leaders what they have learned.

There are about six students participating in MESA this year. They are currently learning about the program and are planning what events they might desire to participate in. Plans are also being devised to work closely with the middle school students at Mount View in hopes of encouraging these students to join MESA next year.

Sponsors: Mrs. Showers and Mr. Marquart
 Meeting dates: Every other Wednesday
 Next meeting: January 25, 2006, 2:20 – 3:00 p.m.
 Location: Room 246

Mustang Minds Shine

The MRHS *It's Academic* team is busy preparing for its debut in the 2006-2007 Baltimore area tournament. Biweekly gatherings during the fall have served as organizational and training opportunities for a dozen or so interested students. The new year will see the team continuing its preparation with weekly Monday afternoon meetings in the school's Information Center. Interested students should stop by and talk to Mr. McDonald, Media Specialist.

Thanks to the generous support of the Marriotts Ridge Boosters, upcoming training sessions will benefit from the use of a buzzer system to more closely duplicate the atmosphere of the on-air competition.

Next **RIDGE** deadline
 Friday, **March 10**
 e-mail files/artwork to:
 obrienx4@aol.com



Parent Teacher Student Association

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Bill Eikenberg	President PTSA / Executive Board	410-465-1832	billandmaryann@comcast.net
Pat Saunderson	Principal MRHS / Executive Board	410-313-5568	pat_saunderson@hcpss.org
Lisa Veslany	Vice Principal MRHS / Executive Board	410-313-5568	lisa_veslany@hcpss.org
James R. LeMon	Vice Principal MRHS / Executive Board	410-313-5568	James_LeMon@hcpss.org
Tim Ferrell	1st Vice President PTSA / Executive Board	410-465-9424	timferrell@comcast.net
Jen Burgy	2nd Vice President PTSA / Executive Board	410-531-0033	WCBurgy@aol.com
Lynn Schenning	Treasurer PTSA / Executive Board	410-465-3096	lschenning@comcast.net
Mollie Shea	Recording Secretary PTSA / Executive Board	410-531-3658	mshea@niaid.nih.gov
Mary Brindisi	Corresponding Secretary PTSA / Executive Board	410-442-5099	TBrindisi@aol.com
Barbara Soscia	PTACHC Rep PTSA / Executive Board & PTSA Booster Rep.	410-750-2257	bgs2@comcast.net
Susie Cruz	Chair Membership PTSA	410-750-8629	secruz81@aol.com
Wendy Singer	Chair Student/Family PTSA	410-465-3234	wssinger@comcast.net
Cheryl Shafer	Chair Reflections PTSA	410-480-0967	CherylShafer@msn.com
Angie Fairchild	Chair Publicity PTSA	410-442-5687	DABLJ@aol.com
Cindy O'Brien	Chair Newsletter PTSA	410-489-4414	obrienx4@aol.com
Barbara Wrobel	Chair E-Scrip/Giant PTSA	410-489-7071	bwrobel54@aol.com
Cindy Fedor	Co-chair Staff Appreciation PTSA	410-531-8586	cfedor@comcast.net
Jodie Bargamian	Chair Hospitality PTSA	410-750-9548	gtb1000@comcast.net
Gay Burdick	Principal's Secretary MRHS	410-313-5568	Gay_Burdick@hcpss.org

Career Technology Education

The Career Technology Education (CTE) cluster is continuing to make inroads into their curricula. Congratulations need to be extended to all 206 students who participated in the Cyber Ethics/Cyber Safety Poster Competition. Results will be available in late January.

Meanwhile, within the computer sciences, selected students participated in their first programming competition. This event was held at Hood College where 20 teams from around the state of Maryland competed. Marriotts Ridge entered four teams and was represented by Laura Gilbert, Corey Hebert, Willis Khang, Igor Khurstalev, Rohit Ramesh, Nima Sarfaraz, Patrick Talcott, and Kevin Tran. We placed 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th. This was a very fine effort given that other teams had junior and senior participants. During the week of December 12 – 16, all computer science students participated in the first round of the American Computer Science League (ACSL) computer programming competition. We had many perfect scores placing us in contention to participate in the finals held in May 2006. The following students obtained perfect scores:

Junior Division	Intermediate Division	Senior Division
Mark Brindisi	Matt Hynson	Kevin Tran
Sarah Brown	Greg Mitchell	Brendan Wray
Tyler Dunn	Minh Pho	Dean Yang
Stephen Kahl	Ethan Trageser	Willis Zhang
Josh Tilles	Lauren Won	

We will be participating in many programming competitions in the New Year. In fact the next competition will be held on January 28th at Loyola College.

In Software Applications (SA) students are either coming to the end of their word processing unit or have started spreadsheets using Excel. This year SA students will be required to take seven online tests to demonstrate their mastery of techniques and skills acquired through classroom instruction. All students will become familiar with test fundamentals through trial online simulations.

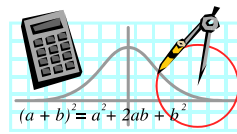
In Technology Education students have been exposed to various engineering principles. In Tech Systems students have been building their own remote controlled robots, learning basic circuitry, and small electric motor concepts. In Engineering Design students have been experimenting with various prototypes in their design of airplane wings and cargo ships. The latter construction will be entered in a competition to be held at the Inner Harbor in late spring. Students have also been building and testing motors and electric circuits that will be used to power a walking robot, while others students have been building trusses for bridge construction. Meanwhile in Mechanical Drawing students are sketching 3D objects while developing their appreciation for the myriad number of careers that this skill supports. In Architecture Design students are using CAD to develop modules for model house construction.

In Career Research and Development (CRD) students are evaluating their own intelligence and exploring their strengths based on such assessments as Myers-Briggs Inventory. The knowledge of these personal assets will help with career selection.

In Early Childhood Development (ECD) students have been learning child cognitive development by studying the work of Piaget. This knowledge will have practical applications when the students interact with the Goddard School, a preschool learning institution.

In Food and Nutrition emphasis is placed on the students learning good culinary skills by focusing attention on the selection of fresh products, such as fruits and vegetables. The use of the Internet in selecting exciting recipes that will enhance the student's culinary experience is highlighted.

Math Department



All math classes have been reviewing concepts from the entire first semester. Remember, the mid-term exams count for ten percent of the total grade for the course!

The Introduction to Algebra and Algebra I/Data Analysis classes are also busy preparing students for the High School Assessment in May. As you know, in order to graduate from high school in Maryland, all students in the Class of 2009 or later must pass the High School Assessment after completing the Algebra I/Data Analysis course. We were extremely happy with the results on the first quarter of the HCPSS local exam and are looking forward to a high pass rate in May. An evening academic intervention program for students who are in need of additional support in Algebra I/Data Analysis will begin on January 25th. All Introduction to Algebra and Algebra I/Data Analysis students will get practice taking an actual High School Assessment during the morning of April 6th.

The MRHS Math Team is having a great first year. They have a lot of students participating who are excited about math. After four meets, they are in fifth place in their division, but looking to move up.



Giant / Safeway

If you haven't done so already, it's not too late! Please register or renew your Safeway and/or Giant card today. You have to renew your card with both Safeway and Giant each year. There can be more than one school designated with each card. If you have registered or renewed with a school other than Marriotts Ridge, you can still go to the links below and add Marriotts Ridge High School.

Giant/A+ Bonus Bucks: www.giantfood.com/aplus
Group ID = 04912

Safeway/escrip: www.escrip.com
Group ID = 500002175

RECYLING PRINTER CARTRIDGES & CELL PHONES

Don't throw those old cartridges and cell phones away. Marriotts Ridge will be collecting **inkjet cartridges, laser toner cartridges, and old cell phones**. The school will receive money for each cartridge and/or cell phone that is collected. There will be an "Escrip Recycle Bin" at school for the cartridges and cell phones.

Any problems or questions contact bwrobel54@aol.com



Booster Club Roster

Officers			
President	Sue Tompkins**	410-461-7710	suetompkins@comcast.net
Executive Vice President	Karyn Littlejohn**	410-442-5440	littlejohnkr@yahoo.com
First Vice President	Ed Hartman*	410-489-0749	ehartman@imss.com
Treasurer	Phyllis McWilliams**	410-461-3810	redlion42@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Karen Kreh**	410-750-8817	kreh@comcast.net
Corresponding Secretary	Barb Soccia*	410-750-2257	bgs2@comcast.net
MRHS Administration			
Principal	Pat Saunderson*	410-313-5568	patrick_saunderson@hcpss.org
Asst Principal	Lisa Veslany	410-313-5568	lisa_veslany@hcpss.org
Asst Principal	James LeMon	410-313-5568	jlemon@hcpss.org
Athletic Director	Ken Hovet*	410-313-5568	kenneth_hovet@hcpss.org
Principal's Secretary	Gay Burdick	410-313-5568	gay_burdick@hcpss.org
Standing Committees			
Athletics/IAAC Rep	Rob Littlejohn	410-442-5440	littlejohnkr@yahoo.com
Scholar Athlete Awards	Ginni Morani	410-461-7611	ginmorani1@comcast.net
Band Liaison			
Orchestra Liaison	Ginny Patzer	410-461-6395	Ginpatzer@aol.com
Choir Liaison	Susan Zepp	410-781-0177	zeppstt@aol.com
Drama Liaison	Edna Martin	410-309-0135	ednamm@verizon.net
Hospitality (shared w/PTSA)			
Membership	Sue Geckle*	410-489-5620	suegeckle@yahoo.com
	Edna Martin*	410-309-0135	ednamm@verizon.net
Publicity	Deveron Mathews*	410-465-3183	deveron@comcast.net
PTSA Liaison	Barb Soccia*	410-750-2257	bgs2@comcast.net
Sports Schedules	Tim Tress	410-489-9059	ttress@kronos.com
Webmaster	Greg Seker	410-750-2223	seker@comcast.net
			info@MRHS-Boosters.com
Ways & Means Committees			
Basket Bingo			
Corporate Sponsorships	Ed Hartman	410-489-0749	ehartman@imss.com
	Donna Jameson**	410-442-9923	jimeson1288@comcast.net
Concessions Start-Up^	Karyn Littlejohn	410-442-5440	littlejohnkr@yahoo.com
Concessions Sales	Rob Littlejohn	410-442-5440	littlejohnra@yahoo.com
Golf Tournament	Carol Grady*	410-461-2660	uclagrady@comcast.net
Mustang Madness - Dinner	Wendy Vlahos	410-313-9193	wmarumoto@earthlink.net
Silent Auction	Mindi Lawton	410-489-4497	mindiredtailcreek.com
Mustang 5K Stampede	Jay Czarnecki	410-480-0033	jczarnecki@comcast.net
Original Mustang Brick Garden	Carol Grady	410-461-2660	uclagrady@comcast.net
Spirit Wear/Under Armour	Dave Kromer**	410-203-9110	mndkromer@comcast.net
	Faith Kromer	410-203-9110	mndkromer@comcast.net
Sports Programs			
Fall	Gayle Seker	410-750-2223	gmseker@comcast.net
Winter			
Spring			
Summer Physicals	Barb Soccia	410-750-2257	bgs2@comcast.net

* Board of Director — 1 year term

** Board of Director — 2 year term

^ Temporary committee

Teens Behind the Wheel!

MRHS Teen Driving & Student Parking Permit Program

January 31, 7:00 – 9:00 pm



- What are the new DMV driving laws & requirements for obtaining a Maryland driver's license?
- Get the scoop on available discounts & various rating scenarios for Maryland teen driving insurance!
- Find out who qualifies for a MRHS Student Parking Permit.
- Hear experiences & insights from a few Howard County parents of teen drivers.

7:00 – 8:00 pm *Officer Darryl Thompson and the administration of MRHS will present information & answer questions concerning the MRHS Student Parking Program*

8:00 – 9:00 pm *Jamie Coyle, Allstate Insurance, will present information & answer questions regarding teen driving insurance*

Cheron Wicker, Maryland Department of Transportation, will present information & answer questions related to Maryland's new teen driving laws & regulations

Howard County Parents — a panel of seasoned parents of teen drivers will share their experiences & give insights on what it means to be the parent of a teen driver

A parent informational evening sponsored by HCPSS & MRHS PTSA Student/Parent Program Committee 2006



Driver's Education

The MRHS Mustang Boosters Club is sponsoring a second driver's education program.

The program is the 36 hour **MVA approved** course offered by Greg's Driving School. The course is comprised of 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of in-car training. The classroom portion of the course will be held at MRHS and will consist of 10 sessions (Monday thru Friday for two weeks) starting at 2:30 pm and ending at 5:45 pm. The in-car training will consist of three two-hour sessions. Driving times are made by appointment.

The session will begin on **January 30 and run through February 10, 2006**. The cost is \$289.00. Interested students/parents should e-mail mrhsdriversed@verizon.net or contact parent coordinators Carl Miller, 410-309-0135 or Paul Claffy 410-442-5526. Depending on need, additional classes will be scheduled next year.

The Ridge
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THANK YOU!!

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- And, last but not least, everyone who has contributed articles and advice!

Cindy O'Brien, Newsletter Chair

PTSA Membership



For a list of Marriotts Ridge High School's PTSA members (as of January 18, 2006), click on the icon or follow the link below:

http://www.howard.k12.md.us/mrhs/ptsa/MRHS_Membership.pdf