

Poolesville High School
17501 Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2006
301-972-7900



May/June 2009

Dear Poolesville High School Families:

The month of May and June promise to be outstanding at Poolesville High School. We have our Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 19; Prom on Friday, May 22; Post Prom, Saturday, May 23; our Spring Concert and Whole School Showcase on Tuesday, May 26; Senior Banquet on Thursday, May 28; Midnight Players on Tuesday, June 2; Graduation at Strathmore Music Hall on Thursday, June 4, as well as many athletic competitions scheduled. We offer something for all students' interests and talents.

Spectacular is the only word to describe last night's performance of "Beauty and the Beast"! The performances, music, costumes, choreography, set, and special effects were of the same caliber of any Broadway musical. Ms. Howard transforms our students into such elaborate characters with various accents, attitudes, and affects. Because we have so much talent at PHS, Ms. Howard double casts many of the characters. As far as I know, we are the only high school that does that;

The orchestration by Mr. Daryl Clark and the choreography by Ms. Michelle Howard were absolutely stunning. We are fortunate to have these three huge talents in our building. Many parents had told me in advance that the sets and costumes were original and breathtaking. They were right---the set and costumes were characters in the production as well. Our technical crew handled the many set changes, sound effects, and intricate lighting with the utmost polish and care. "Beauty and the Beast" was a breathtaking evening of student talent presented at its best.

News from, Ms. Bradshaw, Magnet Coordinator

PHS will hold its first Whole School Showcase on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Come to PHS to be part of an extravaganza where students highlight what they have learned during the year. Expect contributions from every department. Mr. Clark will begin the evening at 7:00 p.m. with a fabulous hour of entertainment from our choir and band. Starting at 8:00 p.m. there will be many venues to visit throughout the school. Look forward to art displays from Foundations of Art, Studio Art, Photography, Ceramics and Sculpture. Particularly seek out the podcasts from the "AP Art Attack!" There will be displays from history classes, sociology, forensics, anatomy and physiology and more. In addition, there will be displays from all four magnet houses: Global Ecology House, Humanities House, Independent Studies Program and the Science, Math, Computer Science House. Project Lead the Way, our engineering program, will be represented as well. Come out for a fabulous evening where the students become the teachers!

News from: Mr. La Rocca, Assistant Principal

The Class of 2011 has already begun preparations and planning for putting on the prom next year by scouting potential locations. After doubling their bank account with class dues and a couple of successful fundraisers, the sophomores are now looking forward to Poolesville Day and Homecoming for next year. Soon they will be getting information out about class rings and how to order them. Much closer on the horizon, however, loom the HSA's which are slated for the week of May 18th. These exams are now a state mandated graduation requirement covering the disciplines of Algebra, Biology, Government, and English 10, and teachers have been integrating instructional materials related to them through out the year. We wish the sophomores the best of luck as they approach these assessments.

Not to be outdone in the assessment category, the Class of 2009 will soon be facing Advanced Placement examinations and their own final exams. With end of the year activities clearly within sight, the senior class is now having a fundraiser at Glory Days. Anyone who dines at a Glory Days Restaurant can bring in an itemized receipt to Ms. Grubb or any class officer and the class will receive a percentage of the check. This fundraiser runs through May 5th. Also, on Tuesday, May 5th, and Wednesday, May 6th, the Class of 2009 will be having auditions for any senior who would like to speak or sing at the graduation or the senior banquet. All students need to schedule an appointment with Ms. Grubb. With graduation a little more than a month away, the excitement is mounting as each senior comes face to face with the reality of life beyond Poolesville High School and the important life choices that she or he will have to make.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, Maryland Assistant State's Attorney Stephen D. Chaikin will be coming to Poolesville High School to address the staff and student body about internet safety and the current state of the law with regard to concerns surrounding appropriate and inappropriate uses of the internet. Part of his presentation will focus on cyber-bullying and the rights of individuals who are being harassed via the internet as well as the dangers and risks posed by sharing and posting personal information on web pages and by developing on-line relationships. The purpose of this presentation is to heighten student awareness of the ethical and legal issues raised by interacting on-line and to caution listeners about how personal information posted on the web can follow them years later into college and into the work place.

News from, Dr. Brenda Eisenhauer, Assistant Principal

The following students participated in the Montgomery County ACT-SO competition on Sunday, April 19th, 2009, held at Montgomery College.

Tariq Bedileman, son of Justin and Denise Bedileman, Computer Science and Humanities-Original Essay; Karissa Harris, daughter of Timothy and Joscelyn Harris, Original Essay and Photography; Michael-Ann Henry, daughter of Michael and Constance Henry, Music-Instrumental and Visual Arts-Photography; Preston Lloyd Henry III, son of Lloyd and Deborah Preston Jr., Music Vocal-Contemporary and Music-Vocal-Classical; Natalie Henry, daughter of Lloyd and Deborah Henry Jr., Photography and Vocal Contemporary; Anna Howard, daughter of Richard and Sarah Howard, Poetry, Drawing and Oratory-poem; Nanna Onyewuchi, daughter of Ozuo and Adanna Onyewuchi, Photography and Poetry; Sarah Saasta, daughter of Timothy and Mary Saasta, poetry and Photography; Justin Singleton, son of Robert and Paula Singleton, Film Making; Tishina Tilley, daughter of William and Ding Qi, Tilley, Original Essay Music-Instrument-Classical and Music-Vocal Contemporary.

ACT-SO – Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics is in its 31st year, was designed by journalist and activist Vernon Jarrett to stimulate and promote academic achievement among African American high schools students. NAACP chapters across the country conduct contests in which students compete in twenty-six categories in the sciences, humanities and visual and performing arts, after working with mentors to prepare their entries and performances. Tishina Tittley won a silver award in Music Instrumental/Classical, Preston Henry, won a bronze in music vocal, Michael-Ann Henry won a bronze in Musical Instrumental, and Justin Singleton won a bronze in film making. By participating in this competition, the students are able to showcase their talents, vying for scholarships and national recognition. We are excited to note that this year Poolesville High School had more students compete that at anytime in the past. We are looking for even more students to participate next year.

News from Global Ecology Studies Program, Ms. Joyce Bailey, Head of House

Three Global Ecology seniors won the Environmental Film Festival for Montgomery County Public Schools. Kelsey Montgomery, Emily Stubbs and Elaine Wang took first place in the film festival with their documentary on Green Businesses. The Global House senior projects are complete and students did a wonderful job of completing projects that helped the environment in a variety of ways from recycling initiatives to education. Students will be

presenting their senior projects in the media center on May 15 and at the PHS Showcase on May 26. A panel of judges from the Isaac Walton League of America (IWLA), BCC Chapter, will review the projects on May 15. The winners will be notified and invited to a special meeting of (IWLA) at 7:00 p.m., May 18 to present students with \$4,500 worth of scholarship money.

Earth Day, April 23, was celebrated with a joint project with global students and the Town of Poolesville. Over three thousand pounds of trash were collected and properly disposed. Mr. Savino spearheaded the "Clean Up Poolesville" campaign. Mr. Savino was recently honored with the Coulter Award from the Maryland Department of the Environment recognizing his excellence in teaching environmental topics.

There have been two spring cross-grade trips. The Appalachian Trail Field Study occurred on April 2-3 with 20 global students braving wind and rain to learn about the natural and geological history of the area as well as plant identification and land use. Students were introduced to "Leave No Trace" principles and had the opportunity to hear testimony from "through hikers". Working with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Conservancy, students were able to see science come alive in the natural world. The second cross-grade trip had students go to Wallops Island on April 29 for a three day trip to study various marine ecosystems around the island. Dr. Drew Ferrier, Hood College, accompanied the students on the trip to provide college level lab experience in marine science. Students study five different ecosystems in a hands-on setting.

News from Science, Math, Computer Science House, Mr. Mark Curran, Head of House

Ninth Grade: Freshmen are currently teamed for their first complete research project, the Chem/R&E project. In this interdisciplinary effort, teams of students selected a specific chemistry objective and developed a testable hypothesis. Currently, each team is researching its topic and designing an experiment.

The students recently attended Physics Day at Busch Gardens. Sponsored by Dr. Mallow & Ms. Weber, the trip allowed the students to collect real-time data and test various laws of physics. In a joint program with the Montgomery Blair Magnet, our SMCS students will continue investigating in the field at an Interdisciplinary Problem Solving Day at Lake Needwood on May 7th.

Tenth Grade: In preparation for training in coastal ecology at the Wallops Island Marine Science Consortium, students were challenged to develop devices for water collection that would meet both engineering and biological criteria for this equipment. At Wallops Island, the sophomores investigated five different ecosystems through short lectures, field work, and intensive organism laboratories. Students immediately noticed the similarity between their devices and the van Dorn bottle used aboard the research vessel to collect water samples for physical and chemical studies of water and appreciated the engineering of the professional quality equipment. The Wallops Island trip wove together many of the threads begun in earth science and biology classes throughout the year as they learned about coastal habitats and the adaptations required of the organisms which resided there.

The majority of the SMCS sophomores competed in the Montgomery County Envirothon on April 23, 2009. Seven teams from PHS vied with ten teams from Montgomery Blair, three teams from Wootton High School and one team from Sherwood. Although beaten by more experienced teams, our students are already talking about next year.

In other competition news, a team of SMCS sophomores won first place in the Montgomery College Computing Contest. Our sophomores continue to hone their programming skills by designing computer programs to meet expectations of their in-house clients; the programs range from an inventory system for the science department to differential scheduling of accommodations for various final exams for special education students and a schedule that minimizes requirements for substitutes when multiple teachers chaperone field trips.

Eleventh Grade: SMCS juniors will descend upon many of the area's research facilities this summer as they begin

their senior research projects. Many students have already been accepted at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institutes of Health, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, University of Maryland-College Park, and John Hopkins University. In the next few weeks, these students will finalize their research proposals while others seek to find strong mentors. In addition, several juniors will participate in the Bioreactor Project with Dr. Mallow. The SMCS staff is very proud of these students as they pursue the culminating Research Project of our program!

News from Humanities House, Ms. Emily Sigman, Head of House

Exciting things continue to happen in the Humanities House as we approach the school year's end. The freshmen are putting the finishing touches on their memoir-based documentaries. Students studied key events with Mr. Terry Turner, read memoirs and wrote scripts with Ms. Emily Sigman, and created their films with Ms. Lisa Kellert. The documentaries will be screened at the PHS Showcase from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on May 26. As the freshmen get ready to say "It's a wrap" with their films, the sophomores are diving into their own filmmaking unit. They have written the scripts in the first step towards producing 5-7 minute documentaries on contemporary public policy issues. Many connect directly with the public policy issues raised in *Grapes of Wrath*, including social welfare, environmental protection, and the economy. This past Sunday, Mrs. Solomon took the sophomores to see the Tony-winning musical "Ragtime" at the Kennedy Center. The performance complemented their study of the theme "I" to "we" in *Grapes of Wrath*. The juniors recently completed a film unit of their own. They created "Idea of a Nation" short films to introduce and analyze a key idea of a particular nation ("introverted individualism" in Germany, "equality" in France, "Carnival" in Brazil, the ambiguous feelings of Japan toward the West, a rigid view of women in Nepal, the ancestral traditions of New Zealand, to name a few). A few weeks ago, they created and recorded radio plays (or a different, independently imagined option like a collage or a proposal to a film company) depicting a future meeting between two characters from the South African masterpiece, *Master Harold and the Boys*. More recently, the students handed in proposals to change school policy (locally or nationally) and wrote columns refuting, qualifying, or exploring common misconceptions and stereotypes. Last week, they survived their practice AP exams in Art History and English and will spend the next three weeks continuing to prepare for the tests.

News from Independent Studies Program (ISP) Mr. David Gysberts, Head of ISP House

In March, the Biology students took a field trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Thanks to Ms. Gum, the other biology teachers, and all the parents who helped out by chaperoning the trip!

As the school year draws to a close, members of the ISP Committee are working on rubrics for ISP Certificate Requirements. Rubrics for Journal Reflections, Field Experience, and Senior Presentations will be finalized and available on the web for students by summer.

We are looking forward to the Whole-School Showcase coming up at the end of May. Already there are many submissions of exemplary work from students in the Independent Studies Program.

If you are a member of the business community and you are interested in partnering with the Independent Studies Program to provide field experience opportunities for students, please contact David Gysberts at david_s_gysberts@mcpsmd.org.

Construction News, Ms. Benie King, Business Manager

The opening of the new science addition is ahead of schedule. The remainder of the windows will be installed by the first week of May. The classroom case work was delivered on April 27 and will be installed soon. The outside brickwork is finished and the final touches are being completed. All HVAC and electrical work has been installed. The first floor is almost finished. The walls are painted; the ceiling and floor tiles are ready to be installed in May.

Congratulations to our MCCPTA Annual Reflections Competition winners. The highest possible award for the County is Award of Excellence. Each of the students on the school and county competition, and several students (*) went on to win Awards of Merit at the state level. On April, 29th these students were presented their trophies at the county award ceremony.

Poolesville High School was well represented in five of the six categories:

***Music Composition:** Sandow Sinai (9th grade) – the his creation “The Circus”

***Film and Video Production:** Cameron MacKail (10th grade) – for her production of “PHS Volleyball Wins State”

***Photography:** Aaron Bernstein * (11th grade) – for his original image of “Something Fishy”

***Dance:** Hillary Templeton * (11th grade) – for her performance in Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”

Visual Arts: Chen Dou * (10th grade) – for her original work of art “Mother”

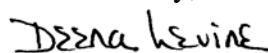
Congratulations to six Poolesville High School students whose work was selected by a juried panel for the 28th Annual Congressional Art Competition. Photographs by Erin Auel, Aaron Bernstein, Dylan Haas, Dee Miller, and Emily Stubbs and a drawing by Sabrina Richter were chosen for inclusion in this prestigious art exhibit at the Strathmore Mansion in Bethesda from May 4—30, 2009. An Arts Celebration and Awards Reception will be held at the Mansion on May 4 to showcase the exhibit, honor all participants and announce awards. The winning entry will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol together with work from every congressional district across the county. In addition, six runners-up, who include Aaron Bernstein (second place overall winner) and Emily Stubbs (merit winner), will have their work displayed in the congressional offices of Congressman Chris Van Hollen.

Graduation for the Class of 2009 will take place at Strathmore Music Hall on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. School will be closed Thursday, June 4, 2009, and reconvenes on Friday, June 5, 2009.

We have had an extremely successful year at Poolesville High School. We continue to win top academic awards, provide a world class athletic program, and offer a myriad of extracurricular activities. Poolesville High School is such an excellent school because of the top instruction, motivated students, and committed parents. I am quite privileged to be a part of this community.

Have a wonderful summer with your children.....and remind them of their summer reading!

Sincerely,



Deena Levine

Principal