

Stepping Stones



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Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Volume 23 No. 2 May 2010

SPOTLIGHT

on The High Road Schools

The High Road Schools have proudly served students with disabilities throughout the state of Maryland since 1998. Since opening our first school in Baltimore County, we are now providing educational and related services for our students throughout the state in 7 different counties (Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Howard, Prince George's and Charles). Our mission is to build the confidence and competence of children facing learning, language, and social challenges through personalized, academic interventions.

Throughout our 12 years in Maryland, we have continuously improved and expanded upon the services we provide to the students and their families. It is our objective to provide avenues and opportunities for our students to grow outside the classroom. Through an array of extra-curricular activities and programs, students are exposed to situations that provide opportunities to demonstrate their talents, commitment and desire in areas such as athletics and the fine arts. The Annual Fine Arts Festival represents the perfect arena for our students to break out of the box and let their creativity shine.

This year, the 5th Annual Fine Arts Festival took place on April 29, 2010 at the Columbia Meeting House in Columbia, Maryland. This showcase event of the year was an opportunity for all 10 Maryland schools to unite for a single event. Under the leadership of Carrie Spies (Chief School Director - Northern Maryland) and Greg Marancik (Chief School Director - Southern Maryland), this program signifies so much of what our schools stand for including vision, hard-work, unity, citizenship and passion.

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on St. Elizabeth's



In recent years the St. Elizabeth School clinical team has explored the use of video as an art medium and tool in therapeutic work with students. Students respond positively, with excitement and enthusiasm, to the use of video in their therapy sessions. In addition to the fun, students end up learning a great deal about themselves and each other.

Students incorporate different art media (drawing, painting, clay sculpture, puppets, mask-making, etc.) in creating videos, including stop-motion and cut-paper animations, mini-documentaries, and music videos. These projects have not only allowed therapists to gain valuable clinical insight, but have also empowered students to find alternative forms of self-expression, gain awareness of current behaviors, develop age-appropriate social skills, and engage in psycho-educational activities that benefit themselves, their peers, and SES staff.

Individual students have produced music videos

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Greetings and
Happy Spring,
finally!

There is much good news going on in our MANSEF world.

I am most pleased and proud to announce that our Michael Cardin Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships to 40 students representing 24 of our member schools.

We should all feel very fortunate that we are able to provide these opportunities (summer camps, art classes, college courses, etc.) to students who would not otherwise have those chances.

Of course our Scholarship program is only made possible by the continuous funding that comes from the MANSEF Golf Tournament. This year's event will again be at Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville, Md. on June 21st. The Tournament Chair, Jenny Caddell, from Forbush School, and a host of volunteers are planning a great event. We continue to need sponsors,

golfers, volunteers and donations for giveaways. Please contact Jenny to help.

As most of you know, we have launched "Parent Connections" our new electronic MANSEF newsletter designed for our parents. Many of our schools have assisted in providing us with email addresses of your parents so that the newsletters can be sent directly. Please keep those "connections" going! We are also soon going to help found the "Friends of MANSEF" which will be comprised of a small group of parent volunteers who will serve as advocates and consultants for and to our association.

Finally, I hope you will all join Dorie Flynn and me in welcoming Lori Phelan, our new Administrative Assistant in the MANSEF office. You will, in the months ahead, be able to greet and get to know Lori as she works to assist Dorie and you, our membership.

Thanks....and Happy Spring!

Jack Pumphrey

12th Annual MANSEF Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, June 21, 2010

Benefiting the Michael Cardin Scholarship Fund

MANSEF would like to thank the following Sponsors who have signed on to support our Golf Tournament to date:

Arrow, Benedictine, Children's Guild, Chimes,
Kennedy Krieger, Pathways, Sheppard Pratt Health System/Forbush Schools,
Villa Maria Continuum, UCP/Delrey

IT IS NOT TOO LATE! SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!!

For a brochure to be a player or for Sponsorship opportunities, see our website at
www.mansef.org under "Events."

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1 - column 1 - The High Road Schools

The Fine Arts Festival is truly a showcase of High Road's best. As a result of the committee leadership, the event was AMAZING. With over 300 people in attendance (including several school district representatives from Baltimore City, Prince George's County and MSDE), the students showed their creativity on the canvas and on the stage.

The art show featured student displays from each of the schools. Students and other distinguished guests enjoyed an artistic tribute to Michael Jackson from High Road School of Prince George's County, art inspired by endangered species from High Road School of Cecil County and a nature themed collection from High Road School of Southern Maryland.

The performances were kicked off by Junot Joyner, who had served as the keynote speaker at the 2009 MANSEF Conference. On this day, he was able to speak directly to the students about how it is possible to defy the odds with commitment, hard work and desire. It was clear that Junot related to what many of the students in the audience experience on a daily basis and impressed upon them that anything is possible.

Junot Joyner was followed with a heart pounding performance by the student drummers and pep squad of New Hope Academy. The beat of the drums reverberated throughout the Columbia Meeting House and energized the crowd instantly. For the next 90 minutes, our students rocked the stage with fabulous poetry presentations, singing and dancing performances including a heartfelt original poem by Dalton B (High Road School of Cecil County) entitled Pretty Raven, a modern day rendition of Kyo Sakamoto's SUKIYAKI by Joey P (High Road School of Baltimore County) and a hip dance routine from the students of the High Road Academy of Prince George's County.



The show concluded with three acts that left the audience

wanting much more. The Bulldogs Band from the High Road Upper School of Prince George's County kicked off the last set with a medley which included 2 original songs.

The blended sounds of the drums, guitar, keyboard and soprano recorders brought the audience to their feet. The students of High Road School of Prince George's County then took the stage for a Michael Jackson Tribute that really brought back memories.

The 2010 participants sure set the standard high for next year! Our students shined brightly on and off the stage. Although you may have missed the live show, the DVD of the 2010 Fine Arts Festival is coming soon.



SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1 - column 2 - St. Elizabeth's

that incorporated software-generated music and students' personal lyrics. Such videos are aimed at increasing a student's sense of identity and self-esteem. Groups of students have produced mini-documentaries in which they educated themselves and others about various topics. They have created videos using puppets or masks to tell a story or role-play real-life situations. One student used modeling clay to create characters that he uses in stop-motion animations. His videos illustrate his challenges with peer interaction and offer a starting point for discussing and developing more appropriate ways of interacting.

In a girls' counseling group, students made masks representing themselves and then worked collaboratively in generating brief narratives illustrating appropriate social interactions (e.g., how to start a conversation, how to make friends). Not only did the students explore and practice these fundamental social skills during the video-making process, the skills were then reinforced when the students watched their video together. They invited the whole school to view their video which had multiple benefits for its authors and the SES community.

Therapy groups have entered videos in the annual Wide Angle Youth Media Festival, held for schools in Baltimore City, and have won awards while competing with "typical" students. Participation in the Festival is another extension of the whole therapy process.

At St. Elizabeth School, students and therapists are discovering many therapeutic uses of this fun yet powerful video medium. Parents appreciate the work that goes into the productions as well as the progress they see in their children.



★ Introducing the 2010 Michael

The **Michael Cardin Scholarship** Committee of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) is pleased to announce its 2010 Scholarship recipients. Student scholarship recipients will be honored June 7, 2010 during a luncheon at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville. The scholarship fund was established in memory of Michael Cardin, son of **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and his wife Myrna**, former MANSEF Executive Director. Michael Cardin Scholarships are awarded to allow students at MANSEF member schools to pursue educationally enriching experiences. Since its inception in 1999, the scholarship fund has grown annually and has awarded more than \$134,000 to over 183 special education scholars. **Mrs. Cardin** will be on hand at the June 7th luncheon to present the awards.

The following 40 individuals were selected for exemplifying perseverance in the face of adversity and embodying the spirit of Michael Cardin

that everyone can succeed with hard work and support.

★ **Matthew Anderson**, is a Harford County student attending **Arrow Center For Education School** and has received a scholarship to attend the Mark Clayton

cial child who loves art and reveals her personality through her drawings.

★ **Monte Austin**, is an Anne Arundel County student attending **Children's Guild Anne Arundel**. Monte has received a scholarship to attend Summer Specialty Camps at AA County Parks & Recreation. Monte is a straight A student who has demonstrated immense talent in Math, Science, and Art.

★ **Alexander Bantner**, a Carroll County student and graduate of **Jefferson School** has received a scholarship to attend Carroll Community College. Alexander is a demonstrated leader in his school and a previous winner of the Michael Cardin Scholarship.

★ **Stefan Becton** is a Washington, DC student attending **Chelsea School** and has received a scholarship to attend The Catholic University of America. Stefan is an honor roll student and Vice President of his Senior Class. He hopes to become an architect one day.



Overnight Football Camp. Matthew is a motivated student and a member of the Student Council.

★ **Jennifer Antezana** is a Baltimore City student attending **Gateway School** and has received a scholarship to attend the Summer Art Camp 2010 at Towson University. Jennifer is described as a rare and spe-

Cardin Scholarship Recipients

★ *Latoya Blake* is a Baltimore City student attending **Strawbridge School** and has received a scholarship to attend Baltimore City Community College. Latoya has made great strides academically and has shown a great skill in the area of creative writing. She has become a dedicated, hard-working individual.

★ *Romell Bowers*, a Baltimore City student attending **The Children's Guild**, has received a scholarship to attend MICA-Young People's Studio. Romell has a passion for art, a creative mind, and loves to build.

★ *Dennis Brown* is a Baltimore City student attending **Children's Guild Baltimore** and has received a scholarship to attend Camp Hidden Meadows. Dennis lives in the Children's Guild therapeutic group home and has shown tremendous strides educationally and behaviorally. Attending the summer camp will help build confidence and self esteem.

★ *Krismir Brown*, a Prince Georges County student

attending **Foundation School**, has received a scholarship to attend Cheerleading Camp. Krismir is an honor roll student who loves to dance and cheerlead. Cheerleading has proven to benefit Krismir in her peer relations.



★ *Blaine Carson* is an Anne Arundel County student attending **Children's Guild Anne Arundel** and has received a scholarship to attend CSI and Skateboard Camp. Blaine is described as kind, friendly and has a good sense of humor. The positive interaction with his peers at

camp would greatly benefit Blaine.

★ *Lauren DeSha*, a Baltimore County student, graduate of **Hannah More School**, and a previous winner of the Michael Cardin Scholarship, has received a scholarship to attend Stevenson University. Lauren is currently on the Dean's List, is a member of the Social Club at Stevenson, and has been invited to join the National Honor Society.

★ *Bryan Eggers* is an Anne Arundel County student attending **Kennedy Krieger** and has received a scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee Manor. Bryan has been in the LEAP program since 2006 and has made strides academically and socially. He is known to be charming with a lot of personality and impeccable attendance.

★ *Nicholas Folkard* is a Prince Georges County student attending Pathways School and has received a scholarship for private voice lessons. Nicholas works diligently to maintain good

★ Introducing the 2010 Michael

grades, he has a passion for singing and voice lessons will help build his confidence.

★ **David Galloway**, a Prince Georges County student attending **Chelsea School**, has received a scholarship to attend Johnson State College. An honor roll student, David also has over 100 hours of community service and is a leader in the student government.

★ **Chase Hailey**, is a Baltimore City student attending **Villa Maria School @ Dr. Lillie M. Jackson** and has received a scholarship to join the Boy Scouts. Chase is highly motivated by outdoor activities and is often a leader in biological activities. Becoming a Boy Scout will provide him with a great opportunity to further his leadership skills.

★ **Lynsie Harrison** is a Baltimore City student attending **Forbush School** and has received a scholarship that will enable her to participate in Family Yoga Classes. Lynsie has made great progress with her social skills, she is described as a thoughtful and hard working

student. Yoga classes will help her gain self-discipline and relaxation skills.

★ **Andrew Heath** is a Baltimore County student who attends **Hannah More School**. He has received a scholarship to attend The



Community College of Baltimore. Described as having awesome analytical skills, Andrew is an A student who currently takes college classes, works at an off campus elementary school and is President of the Leo Club, a service organization to help those in need.

★ **Bradley Holland, II** is a Prince Georges County

student who attends **Chelsea School**. He has received a scholarship to attend West Virginia Wesleyan College. Bradley is an honor roll student, a leader in student government and has over 60 hours of community service.

★ **Deon Howard** is a Baltimore City student attending **Arrow Center For Education School** and has received a scholarship to attend Drivers Education School. Deon is described as a leader who comes to school every day with a great attitude and a smile on his face. He has a strong work ethic, volunteers, and works part-time.

★ **Terrence Lee** is a Washington DC student attending **Pathways School** and has received a scholarship to attend the Maryland College of Art and Design. Terrence has shown exceptional improvement in grades and behavior, and will go beyond what is required. He works part-time and has a passion for art.

★ **Bradley MacPherson** is a Prince George's County student, graduate of **Chelsea**

Cardin Scholarship Recipients

School, and a previous winner of the Michael Cardin Scholarship. He has received a scholarship to attend Salisbury University. Bradley is currently on the Dean's List, the university sailing team, and is a member of the Student Geographical Society.

★ *Alexander Meranski* is a graduate of **Kennedy Krieger**, a previous winner of the Michael Cardin Scholarship, and has received a scholarship to attend Towson University. Alexander is a hard working student who has overcome many obstacles. Last year he completed his Associates Degree from Harford Community College.

★ *Brandan Moore*, a Prince Georges County student attending **Children's Guild Prince Georges**, has received a scholarship to attend an Explorers Camp. Brandan is an honor roll student who received the citizenship award in the fall of 2009 for displaying positive social skills. He has a compassion for nature and is eager to volunteer.

★ *Joshua Morgan* is a Baltimore County student attending **Villa Maria School @ St. Vincent's** and has received a scholarship to attend MICA-Young Peoples Studio. Joshua enjoys math, has a passion for art, and can process information into



detailed drawings and 3D contraptions.

★ *Joseph Morison* is a Frederick County student attending **Hannah More School** and has received a scholarship to attend Project Access @ Howard Community College. Joseph is an A student, with over 39

hours of volunteer service with the Youth Action Corps. He is a conscientious student who strives to excel at everything he does.

★ *Nicklas Newhouse* is an Anne Arundel County student attending **Hannah More School** and has received a scholarship to attend Project Access @ Howard Community College. Described as a positive role model, Nicklas is on the honor roll, volunteers, and is on the yearbook and newspaper club.

★ *Ashley Pannell* is a Prince Georges County student attending **High Road Academy** and has received a scholarship to attend The Art Institute of Washington. Ashley is on the honor roll, and volunteers at outreach events and homeless shelters. She has a passion for art and has participated in the Fine Arts Festival.

★ *Anita Powell* is a Harford County student who attends **Foundation High School** and has received a scholarship to attend Montgomery College. Described as a team

★ Introducing the 2010 Michael

leader, Anita wants to major in Criminal Justice and work with troubled children.

★ *Nicholas Price* is an Anne Arundel County student who attends **Chimes School**. He has received a scholarship to attend Anne Arundel County Adaptive Camp. Nicholas has shown great progress on his progress reports, he loves challenges and following the news. He has also held various student government positions.

★ *Whitney Ramsey* is a Baltimore County student who attends **Chimes School** and has received a scholarship to attend Performing Arts Camp. Whitney has been described as positive, kind, and loves to volunteer for morning announcements. She has conquered her fear of public speaking and a performing arts camp would also boost her self confidence.

★ *James Richardson* is a Harford County student attending **Arrow Center For Education School** and has received a scholarship to attend the Mark Clayton Overnight Football Camp. James has shown tremen-

dous improvement in grades and behavior as well as leadership skills. He has a passion for mechanics; he helps his grandfather rebuild old lawn mowers and car motors.

★ *Christopher Robinson* is a Prince Georges County student who attends

School. He has received a scholarship to attend Coach Wooten's Basketball Camp. Despite Steven's battle with a severe kidney condition, requiring weekly dialysis treatments, he is an honor roll student, a peer role model, and volunteers as a student tutor. He also participates on the basketball and football team.

★ *Joshua Russell* is a St. Mary's County student attending **Chelsea School** and has received a scholarship to attend Southern Maryland Community College. Joshua is on the honor roll and volunteers at his church. He is hoping for a career in TV or movie production and is already working diligently toward his goal taking courses in TV production.

★ *Devin Sherman*, a Washington DC student attending **Children's Guild Baltimore**, has received a scholarship to attend Point Guard College. Devin has made a complete turnaround in behavior and academics. He is a leader, hard worker, needs little supervision, and enjoys playing basketball.



Foundation School and has received a scholarship to attend Basketball and Cops Camp. Christopher is an A student who has improved his social interaction goals. Camp will help enhance his team building and social skills.

★ *Steven Rozier* is a Prince Georges County student who attends **High Road Upper**

Cardin Scholarship Recipients

★ *Kiona Spencer* is a Baltimore City student attending **Arrow Center For Education School**. She has received a scholarship to attend the Towson University's High School Parallel Program. Kiona has worked hard to turn her grades around and is now an A student. Her goal is to finish college with an interest in forensic science.

★ *Samuel Vega* is an Anne Arundel County student who attends **High Road School of Baltimore County** and has received a scholarship to attend Kids in College Camp. Samuel is a straight A student who volunteers, and is considered a peer role model. He was awarded the Unsung Hero MVP award for his participation in the sports program.

★ *Jacob Williams*, a Washington DC student attending **Cedar Ridge School**, has received a scholarship to attend the Bar Construction Institute. Jacob has a compassion for animals and volunteers at the Humane Society. He is hard working and has a strong

desire to achieve something in his life. BCI will give him the tools for electrical skills training.

★ *Jerrell Williams*, a Washington DC student attending **High Road Academy**, has received a scholarship to attend Drivers



Education School. Jerrell is an honor roll student who has perfect attendance. He is a leader, volunteers, and plays on the football team.

★ *Darius Wilson* is a Washington DC student attending **High Road Academy** and has received a scholarship to attend Nothing But Net Basketball Camp. Darius is an excellent

student who is organized, task oriented and volunteers for any task. He is described as a generous student who is deeply concerned with helping others. He participates on the basketball team and the Fine Arts Festival.

At the luncheon, MANSEF will also present its *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives Award* and *Distinguished Citizen Award*.

The 2010 MANSEF *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives* Award winner is Michael Myers of the Harbour School. This award is presented to an employee or a volunteer of a MANSEF school, who through consistent, ongoing service and dedication to children and youth with special needs, has demonstrated a commitment to *"Inspiring Dreams and Changing Lives."*

MANSEF would also like to congratulate the 2010 **MANSEF Distinguished Citizen Award** winner, Cynthia Amirault. MANSEF is pleased and proud to honor Cynthia with this award.



M A N S E F STUDENT

CHELSEA

Chelsea School offers a two-year sequence of courses in information technology as part of its graduation completer pathways program. Students determined an authentic assessment that challenged them to provide a technology to enhance teaching and learning for students with language-based learning differences. Second-year students built a hardware server from found items. First-year students installed and configured software servers on the new machine that stream recorded audio and video to computers on the network or the Internet. Students saw the opportunity for innovation in building virtual appliances that could be distributed to other schools and easily provide the same enhancements to teaching and learning at other sites.

FOUNDATION

Aubrey enrolled at The Foundation Elementary and Middle School (FSEM) in July 2002. He arrived with a history of behaviora and learning difficulties.



As Aubrey transitioned through FSEM and into The Foundation High School (FSHS), he learned to utilize staff support and build healthy, positive relationships with peers and school staff. His ability to be open to support and maintain healthy relationships contributed to his growth and success as a student. Aubrey was a member of the FSHS band, which often provided musical selections for the school's academic assemblies, graduation ceremonies and the annual benefit. Aubrey graduated from FSHS in June 2009 and began attending Allegany College in the fall. Currently, he is majoring in Business and has a 4.0 G.P.A. Aubrey has grown into a mature and responsible young man. He credits his success to the relationships and support he received at The Foundation Schools.

HARBOUR



Henry Guth, high school student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, won the grand championship for the DC Maxcuters. Participants construct planes that may only weigh up to 14 grams (not ounces!). Henry builds and flies these planes in competition with others in the Maryland, DC and Virginia region.

CELEBRATES

STUDENT ESSAYS

Brent Olson, June 2009 graduate, won an essay writing contest and \$100 for his essay on his experiences as a person with Asperger's Syndrome in the public schools and at The Harbour School. He characterized himself as an "emotional refugee" in public school. He was recommended for the contest by his college professor.

Christian Mosby, a high school student at The Harbour School of Annapolis, has been accepted to the Maryland Institute of Art Pre-College Student Residency Program in Baltimore for the 2010 summer session. He also received a scholarship for a portion of the tuition cost.

Ira Sterling Thompson II, a 2006 graduate of The Harbour School of Annapolis, will receive his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Airway Science from Delaware State University on May 23, 2010.

The unveiling of his poster took place in Annapolis on May 6th.

The Jefferson School at Finan Center would like to thank those who attended our Open House on April 28th, 2010 in support of our new Autism Program. Tours of the new program were given by students from our Emotional Disabilities program. Special music was performed by one of our graduating seniors. The Autism program opened in January 2010. The facility has elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, for academic and behavioral programming, an independent living classroom, kitchen, laundry room for life skills training, a sensory integration room, library, and resource area. The program can accommodate 24 students, kindergarten through age 21.



JEFFERSON SCHOOL AT FINAN

The staff at The Jefferson School at Finan Center would like to recognize one of our students, Jonathan S. He is a senior, receiving straight As, and will be attending college in the fall. He has also begun to shine as an artist as well. He has recently been selected to represent the MD Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health. His poster was selected to be the commemorative poster for the Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign of 2010.



Benedictine

The Benedictine School participated in the Annual Mutt Strut and Earth Day Festival on April 24th in Chestertown, Maryland.



School students and adults from our adult services program had a table with materials and products including general information about our School as well as how we participate in earth friendly activities. In addition to highlighting these activities, we passed out nature theme magnets from our Photography Club and had staff available to discuss our school.

Diener School

Something's Fizzy at the Diener School. What happens when you put an egg in a soda bottle?

What happens in the life cycle of a mosquito or a moth? Why do some bean seedlings or grasses grow and others don't? Can a ball roll uphill? On March 25th, parents joined their



kids at the Diener School for its Second Annual Science Fair to enjoy exhibits on living things and lifecycles, gravity, states of matter and balls and ramps. Growing Gummy Beans? Groovy Lava Lamps? Goopy Goop? An Egg-cel-lent time was had by all.

The Diener School had its second annual science fair to culminate our thematic unit on observations and investigations. Parents were invited to join as the Diener students shared their observations, hypotheses, experiments and conclusions.



Specific exhibits--some kids showed their plantings of grass and different beans which they measured. Some things grew faster than others; some predicted that would happen. Some didn't grow at all. One exhibit was to see what happens when you pour soda in a bottle and put an egg in it. What will happen to the soda and the egg? Some thought the egg would disintegrate but it didn't. It

fizzed up. The same experiment was tried with a memento candy. That really fizzed up; kids thought it fizzed due to the acid in the soda and the candy. They were right. One class learned about producers and consumers, displaying what they look like in the sea and on the land.

Parents were amazed- it was a fabulous day filled with curious minds!

Forbush



For nearly ten years, The Falcon's Nest, a student-run café, offered a daily lunch alternative for The Forbush School in Towson. When the school moved to its new Glyndon campus last June, The Falcon's Nest became the school cafeteria, providing lunch service for the entire school. It has also catered breakfast and luncheon meetings for various school and community groups. This visionary change has provided a rare opportunity for special education students to learn and practice industry standard, Culinary Arts work skills and habits in a therapeutic, learning environment. An article last August in The Baltimore Sun championed the school's extraordinary approach to teaching Culinary Arts.

Forbush School at Anne Arundel County

In August 2009, The Forbush School at Anne Arundel opened its doors to children ages 10 to 21 with Autism or Intellectual Disabilities. The Forbush School at Anne Arundel is located in Millersville, Maryland inside The Ruth Parker Eason School. Students are exposed to enriched educational resources and utilize therapeutic swimming, physical education in the gymnasium, art, and music.



Upon transitioning to The Forbush School at Anne Arundel, Jake, experienced difficulty in working with new staff and students and would often withdraw from activities. During his time at The Forbush School at Anne Arundel, Jake has matured socially, academically, and emotionally. As a result of such tremendous progress, Jake partici



pates in on-campus vocational opportunities that include: cafeteria set-up, recycle paper collection, and horticulture.

Foundation

The Foundation School of Montgomery County located in Gaithersburg, Maryland is pleased to announce the opening of an elementary classroom as the school is now approved by MSDE to serve students in grades 3 through 12. This is an extension of their previous MSDE approval to serve students in grades 7 through 12. We look forward to having elementary aged students as part of our school community.

Harbour

On March 9, 2010, Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot visited The Harbour School at Baltimore.



Mr. Franchot has been championing the inclusion of financial literacy in schools. He wanted to see The

Harbour School program first hand. Students described their work in the village, how the village bank operates and the inclusion of financial literacy in their other academic programs.

High Road Academy



On March 20, 2010, High Road Academy and Historic Savage Mill vendors hosted the Cesar Vallecillo Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser. Cesar was a very promising young man who attended High Road Academy. Sadly, Cesar's life was cut short in a fatal car accident just a few weeks after his 2006 graduation. In his memory, High Road Academy established a yearly scholarship fund in his name. Scholarships are awarded to students with learning disabilities who have successfully completed all Maryland graduation requirements. Students enjoyed crafts at Bead Soup and The Clayground, and lunch at the *Whatchamacallit Restaurant*. Our scholarship fund received 10% of each purchase made at participating stores.

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Ivymount

In mid March students from the Ivymount Schools' Post High School program learned about a Bill in which Ivymount School requested financial support from the state of Maryland to make capital improvements. One of the businesses in the Post High School, The Ivy Barkery, was asked to supply their very own homemade dog biscuits to be presented to the members of the Maryland General Assembly. Jan Wintrol, Ivymount's Director and Lee Oppenheim, Ivymount's Director of Finance, personally delivered the dog biscuits to Annapolis and it was a big hit! Many of the members asked for more dog biscuits and the students decided to deliver them personally.



On March 25th the students and staff traveled to Annapolis with an itinerary organized by Senator Lisa Gladden's office. The students met with a tour guide and watched a video about the legislative process. This was meaningful to our students as we had been talking about the Ivymount Bill. At one point the students and staff from Ivymount were introduced to the entire Maryland General Assembly. They all stood up and waved. For many of our students and staff it was the high



light of the day. Afterwards they took a tour of the historic rooms and the chambers of the Maryland State House.

The last stop was Senator Gladden's office where the students delivered twenty bags of dog biscuits. They met two delegates from the area surrounding Ivymount and last but certainly not least, the students met Chloe. Chloe is Senator Gladden's seven pound Shih Tzu. Chloe was thrilled to get more dog biscuits and the students were thrilled to deliver.

First Lady of Malaysia Visits Ivymount School

In mid-April, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, the First Lady of Malaysia, toured Ivymount as part of an official visit to the United States. Special education is a central concern to the First Lady Rosmah who hopes to start a school for students with special needs in Malaysia.

Because the First Lady is particularly interested in arts education for students with special needs, she and her delegation— which included the wives of Malaysian cabinet ministers, embassy officials, an representatives of Malaysian non-governmental educational organizations – enjoyed a perform



ance by Ivymount Middle and High School students. The group also toured the music and art facilities, participated in a demonstration of assistive technologies, and learned about one of the Asperger Program's community service projects. Rosmah told journalists that she was particularly impressed with how the school inculcated independence and social responsibility in the students.

Katherine Thomas School



Students in Katherine Hartley's and Virginia Senft's 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes at TLC's Katherine Thomas School were excited to learn about local government first-hand when City of Rockville Mayor

Phyllis Marcuccio came to visit on March 25. After a tour led by lower school director Thomas Sweet and TLC Board of Trustees member Bruce Hunter, Mayor Marcuccio was treated to a special welcome song with musical accompaniment from the students, led by music teacher Amy Gardiner and teacher assistants Joan Rutter and Jason Thibeault. Students then enjoyed an opportunity to ask the mayor questions.

Kennedy Krieger

The USDA has taken steps against children obesity by providing programs, nutritional requirements for schools meals and support to schools. At Kennedy Krieger School, the Administration, Food Service Department and staff are dedicated and committed to join in the fight against childhood obesity by providing nutrition education, service of nutritious foods, and sports and exercise programs that together promote a healthier lifestyle.

Kennedy Krieger High School, serving food prepared on-site at its Greenspring Campus to over 200 students daily, updated its food service program to incorporate new USDA requirements. To increase higher fiber foods, whole wheat breads and bean dishes have been added to the menu. Each day there are salads and fresh fruit available for students. Some vegetables have been changed to supply more vitamins and minerals; one of these



changes was spinach salad. Fresh vegetables are purchased and steamed for better nutrient retention. Salt packages have been eliminated from the cafeteria, ala carte items have lower sodium content. Foods are baked, steamed, or cooked in steam jack kettle lowering the amount of fat added to a food product in the cooking process. Other changes we have made include purchasing smaller sized condiments and designated amounts given to the students; milk choices were changed to 1% and skim, instead of 2% and 1%.

Chocolate milk can now be purchased made with skim milk instead of 1% milk and changing the selection of a la carte items from high calorie, high fat to healthier products. A la carte items now include three kinds of 100% juice, lower sodium pretzels, Fig Newton's cookies, raisins, granola bars, popcorn and three kinds of 100 calorie cookies. Students are allowed to purchase one a la carte item at meals.

Serving more nutritious meals at schools is an important part of the plan to address the problem with our ever rising obesity rate in children.

Phillips



The Phillips School~Laurel chorus will perform once again at the Phillips Program's annual gala to be held at the Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner. The theme this year is "Superhero Spectacular". The chorus members will perform three songs;

"Hero" from the Shrek 2 soundtrack, "Waiting for the World to Change", and "The Prayer". To add a bit of a twist to this year's performance the group will incorporate a dance routine to compliment the instrumental breaks.

The students have practiced and performed together for two years, led by Ms. Amanda Gore. Ms. Gore shared how she has seen tremendous growth and maturity in each student, but more importantly they are working together and improving their social skills. They work daily during their 4th period class on a variety of performance strategies. These strategies include maintaining correct posture, proper breathing for optimal sound, and blending their voices.

The group has also performed in the community, singing for the residents

Continued on page 16



at the Summit Park Nursing and Rehabilitative Center.

The students in the chorus are excited about their repeat performance.

Villa Maria

25th Anniversary Friends of Villa Maria Golf Tournament -Join the Friends of Villa Maria as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary FOV Golf Tournament on Monday, June 14, 2010 at Towson Golf & Country Club in Phoenix, Maryland.

Registration begins at 11:00 am, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The \$250 entry fee includes greens fees, cart, on-course refreshments, lunch, open bar and steak dinner. Prizes and recognition gifts will be awarded. Proceeds benefit the Villa Maria Continuum, program of Catholic Charities' Child & Family Services Division and a leading provider of special education and behavioral health services for children, families, and individuals throughout Maryland. Villa Maria is dedicated to serving children, adults, and families regardless of financial barriers, race or religious beliefs. For more information on registration or sponsorships, call 410-252-4700 ext. 134 or e-mail ngorski@cc-md.org.

Villa Maria Professional Education Series "Trauma Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy" Kay Connors, M.S.W., LCSW-C University of Maryland Department of Psychiatry

Sponsored by Department of Community Resources
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
9:30 am – 12:45 pm

Villa Maria Residence
In Service Training Room
2300 Dulany Valley Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Course Objective:

- *Working in a clinical setting to treat traumatized children and their families within a variety of settings, including hospital, residential treatment, private practice and clinic, home, school-based programs*
- *Focus on the impact and recovery from trauma and family violence*
- *Evidenced based trauma treatments for children and preschoolers*

Training IS PENDING APPROVAL FOR 3 Category I CEU's. Lecture is free to Catholic Charities employees and families. Guest may attend \$50 non-CEU, \$60 CEU (includes continental breakfast)

To register contact Christy Kulacki, 410-252-4700, ext. 301

MSB SUMMER PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE JULY 27-29, 2010

Who should attend:

Educators, OTs, PTs, SLP, Rehab Specialists, Psychologists, Adult Service Providers, Social Workers, and Para-Professionals who work with blind/visually impaired children or adults.

What will be presented:

Various topics related to working with individuals with visual impairments will be presented across this 3-day institute. Participants will develop a knowledge base regarding vision loss that will make your work with this population more effective. Participants will also gain a wide variety of new skills and strategies.

Topics will include: Low Vision and accommodations; impact of vision loss on development, learning, and social emotional functioning; concomitant disabilities; assistive technology; orientation and mobility; transition and career education.

Cost: \$100 per day (Save \$25 when you sign up for all 3). Certificates of attendance (contact hours) will be given at the conclusion of each day.

For additional information:

Contact **Ruth Ann Hynson** at 410-444-5000 ext: 1726 or email: ruthh@mdschblind.org

Updated Transition Guide

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has updated its Transition Guide. This planning booklet, newly updated by the MSDE Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, is designed to help parents and guardians of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 24) with disabilities guide their children into appropriate life choices after school ends.

It explains entitlement and eligibility programs and the differences between them, the core Maryland adult service agencies and the roles of both parent/caregiver and child in transition planning.

You can access the guide online by visiting the following web site: www.marylandpublicschools.org.

Community Happenings - Calendar of Events

Eastern Shore—Family Leadership Institute, June 4–5 and June 11–12, Friday evening sessions and Saturday daytime sessions. Holiday Inn & Conference Center of Salisbury, 300 S. Salisbury Blvd. Maryland Coalition of Families program to help families gain information and develop leadership and advocacy skills. For more information and to register, contact Carol Allenza at 410.730.8267, 888.607.3637 or callenza@mdcoalition.org

Across Maryland—High Noon Web Café Webinar, Gang Awareness, June 17, 12 noon–1 p.m. Web-based workshop sponsored by the Maryland Coalition of Families featuring Frank L. Clark Jr., assistant director, Gang Intelligence/Intervention Unit, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, who will provide an overview of gang problems and give a basic understanding of gang culture and why youth join gangs, as well as the signs of gangs in communities. Pre-registration is required; participation is limited to 20. Telephone conference call is available. For more information, contact Carol at callenza@mdcoalition.org.

***** July *****

Howard County—Howard Community College Project Access Summer Institute, July 6–30, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia. For additional information, contact Linda Schnapp, assistant director, at 410-772-4625 or lschnapp@howardcc.edu.

Prince George's County—Youth Leadership Forum, July 20–23, Bowie State University. For students with all types of disabilities entering one of their last two years of high school in September 2010 who have demonstrated leadership potential in their communities and schools.

Grants for Assistive Technology

A variety of grants are available to help pay for assistive technology, intervention and other services for children with special needs. Here's just a few of the many offered by a variety of programs and to access each one you will need to Google the title:

Association of Blind Citizens Assistive Technology Matching Grants: Provides funds to cover 50 percent of the retail price of adaptive devices or software up to a maximum of \$6,000. There are income and asset restrictions. Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States to qualify for this program.

Disabled Children's Relief Fund: Grant applications may be used for modest awards for assistive devices, rehabilitative services, arts and humanities projects and for efforts to bolster compliance with existing laws.

Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment (HIKE Fund Inc.): Any hearing-impaired person up to age 20 with financial need can apply for a hearing aid or other hearing devices.

Kya's Crusade: Offers financial assistance to families of children younger than 18 with arthrogryposis or a less publicized physical disability for additional physical and occupation therapy sessions and equipment that are not covered by insurance.

Maggie's Light: Provides funding for Maryland children between the ages of 3 and 12 with developmental disabilities, mental health and medical diagnoses for camps, therapeutic horseback riding, swimming lessons, etc. M.O.R.G.A.N. Project, Inc. – Quality-of-Life (QOL) Grant Program: Grants for families of medically fragile children younger than 18 with lifetime physical special needs for up to \$1,000 for a variety of supports such as an adaptive shower chair or car seat or travel expenses to attend a medical conference.

Travis Roy Foundation: Provides grants to modify vans and purchase wheelchairs, computers, ramps, shower chairs and other adaptive equipment to help paraplegics and quadriplegics paralyzed due to spinal cord injury live their lives. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.

DID YOU KNOW?

- MANSEF has an electronic newsletter "*Family Connections*" for parents. Contact your school director for details.
- MANSEF employment opportunities are posted on its website, www.mansef.org.
- Loyola University Maryland has established a cohort opportunity for employees at MANSEF schools. Students enrolling in Loyola's Master of Education in Special Education program through the MANSEF cohort enjoy customizable schedules and a 25 percent tuition discount.



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Dorie Flynn, Executive Director

MANSEF is committed to creating optimum educational opportunities in the least restrictive environment for all Maryland children with disabilities through: *ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, COLLABORATION, AND INFORMATION/RESOURCES*



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