

Stepping Stones



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Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Volume 23 No. 3 May 2011

Struttin' Our Stuff

Even though the Maryland General Assembly session is over, our advocacy work continues. Take advantage of end-of-school activities and invite your elected officials to graduations, honor ceremonies and school fairs so that they can see what we are accomplishing and how important our schools are for our students and families.

Building MANSEF's profile with our federal representatives

Diann Butler, principal of The Forbush Therapeutic Preschool at Towson, had a productive meeting with Congressman John Sarbanes in early May. Though Congressman Sarbanes was already familiar with Forbush, he still had plenty of questions about the program, referrals, services and return rates for students to public schools.

Diann said, "Congressman Sarbanes understands the importance of early intervention and said that it can be a tough sell, convincing people that it's better to spend money on students in the early years to prevent issues rather than later on." Sarbanes also wanted more information about how we are spreading the word about the needs and value of MANSEF schools.

Advocating for nonpublic schools in Washington, DC Laura Russell, an Ivymount parent, participated in the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC)'s legislative day on May 5.

Attending as a MANSEF representative, Laura met with legislative staffers from Maryland delegation members



L to R: Mrs. Lewis, Delegate McIntosh, Kamal Williams, Jacob Fraley (Photograph by Mr. Parsley)

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Sen. Barbara Mikulski and Sen. Ben Cardin's offices and had a brief conversation with Sen. Cardin himself. She says that everyone she met with was attentive and supportive of NAPSEC's legislative agenda and goals.

NAPSEC advocacy is focused on three federal bills: the IDEA Fairness Restoration Act, sponsored by Sen. Mikulski and Rep. Van Hollen,

among others, which is intended to make due process hearings more equitable and affordable for parents of children with disabilities; a measure regarding the use of and monitoring of restraints for special education students; and advocating for a \$200 million increase in funding for IDEA.

Laura said that it was a great day, and she enjoyed being part of a strong group advocating for nonpublic special education. "I had a sense of unity with people who have the same feeling and was pleased to see that our concerns are well represented across the country."

Packets given to members of congress by NAPSEC contained a letter that Laura wrote to Arne Duncan, the US Secretary of Education, about her experiences with her son Adam. Titled "Inclusion: One Parent's Perspective," the letter speaks to the concerns of all special education parents. Though Laura lives just outside Washington, DC, going to Capitol Hill to influence our leaders remains powerful for her. "We are the people and we have access to our representatives. We can make a difference."



Greetings!

All of us have been, I am sure, reflecting on the recent announcement that Dr. Nancy Grasmick, our long time State Superintendent, is retiring in June. Dr. Grasmick has been a tireless advocate for children and public education but, most notably to us, a true champion of children with special needs and their access to the full continuum of service. She started her career in special education and was always a great supporter of MANSEF, of non-public schools, but, most significantly, of quality, caring services to kids and families who need something "special." MANSEF will be joining the chorus of tributes that will be directed to Dr. Grasmick in the months ahead, but please join me now, in thanking her for a very distinguished career of selfless service.

MANSEF has some big events coming up!

The Michael Cardin Scholarship Committee has announced this year's winners who will be recognized at our annual Awards Luncheon on June 6th at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville. I would like to acknowledge Mark Greenberg, Director of Child and Family Services of Catholic Charities, who has served as chairperson of the Scholarship Committee since its inception. Mark has opted to step down this year and I know I speak for all of us when I offer my most sincere thanks to him for his work on this committee which has resulted in over 205 scholarships being awarded to MANSEF students. Thanks, Mark! I am pleased to announce that Alan

Kantor, a retired lawyer and long time friend of the Cardin family, will serve as the new chairperson of the committee.

Our annual Golf Tournament, proceeds of which benefit the scholarship fund, will be held on June 20th at Renditions. There is still time for players and sponsors to register for the tournament. Your support of this event is critical to the continued work of the Scholarship Committee.

I am pleased to tell you of the continuing work of the newly formed Friends of MANSEF which will be serving in an advisory capacity to the Board. The "Friends", a group of parents - past and present - have been meeting to define a mission that involves advocacy to help educate government leaders and members of the general public about the educational needs of children with disabilities. We will keep you posted on their progress.

Finally, I offer compliments to MSDE for including us in their Technical Assistance trainings hosted by Jodi King. Thanks also to MSDE for including the nonpublic special education schools in the IDEA workshops by national presenters Melinda Jacobs and Art Cernosia. The MANSEF members are appreciative of the MSDE for their support in ensuring that the nonpublic special education schools receive the same training as our public school partners.

Best wishes to everyone as we bring the 2010-11 school year to a close.

Jack Pumphrey

Struttin' Our Stuff

Continued from page 1

Students advocating for schools and getting involved in the community

St. Elizabeth School, Baltimore (SES) students Jacob Fraley and Kamal Williams met with Del. Maggie McIntosh in January, just prior to the legislative session. Del. McIntosh asked Kamal and Jacob about their future plans and told them about her career in politics and her past as a teacher. The students and principal Andy Parsley presented Del. McIntosh with a birthday gift, an SES arti-

san trivet. One of SES's focuses is student success in the community with students becoming more involved and aware of politics in our area. Principal Parsley writes, "For Kamal and Jacob, meeting Del. McIntosh was a special opportunity and we're proud of them for representing SES."

Our needs don't take a summer break so take time to set up school visits or appointments with our state and federal representatives. Off session is a perfect time to meet with legislators, share our concerns and successes and build our relationships with those who represent us in Annapolis and Washington.



MANSEF is pleased to announce that the following have been re-elected to the Board:

- *Jill Berie - Gateway School*
- *Michael Plummer - Maryland School for the Blind*
- *Jennifer McGlothlin-Renaut - Arrow Center for Education*
- *Tania DuBeau - Pathways Schools*
- *Yolanda Brown - New Visions Academy*

In addition MANSEF welcomes *David Stone from Kennedy Krieger Schools* to the Board effective July 1, 2011. These directors will continue to advance the mission of MANSEF as we begin preparations for the 2012 legislative season.

13th Annual MANSEF Charity Golf Tournament Monday, June 20, 2011 Benefiting the Michael Cardin Scholarship Fund

MANSEF would like to thank our golf sponsors as of May 15, 2011:

*Brooklane/Laurel Hall School,
Board of Child Care/Strawbridge School,
Gateway School, High Road Academy,
Ivymount, Sheppard Pratt and
St. Elizabeth School*

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."

An Award AND a Red Carpet!



Pathways was awarded this statue, modeled after the Oscars

Pathways was nominated for an "Educators Serving the Community" award given by EduSerc, a national organization with the goal of channeling resources and expertise from a range of technical and engineering industries to provide career development and workforce training to youth and adults in the community. More than 2,800 votes were tallied in selecting the recipients of the awards. Dr. Helen C. Williams was honored to accept the award on behalf of the staff and students of The Pathways Schools.

The black-tie award ceremony took place at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, MD and included a walk down the red carpet for the Pathways representatives: Dr. Williams, Dr. Tania DuBeau, Laurie Mical, principal of Pathways-Northwood at Hyattsville and Carol Frank, clinical co-coordinator.

A number of area school superintendents were present, including Dr. William Hite of Prince George's County. Also present was Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker and a host of other dignitaries and industry leaders.

In her acceptance remarks Dr. Williams emphasized that in our work with students with emotional disabilities we are inspired and guided by our belief that all children can learn, change, and grow to trust others and themselves.



Introducing the 2011 Michael

The **Michael Cardin Scholarship** Committee of the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF) is pleased to announce its 2011 Scholarship recipients. All winners will be honored on June 6, 2011 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 \$145,000 to over 200 special education scholars. **Mrs. Cardin** will be on hand at the June 6th luncheon to present the awards.

The following 35 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.



★ **Kiante Adams** is a Baltimore City Public School student attending the **Villa Maria** School who will use his scholarship for cooking classes at Pierpoint Restaurant Cooking Camp.

★ **Christian Allis** is a Howard County Public School student attending the **Chimes School** who will use his scholarship to attend the MarTar Swim Camp.

★ **Douglas Argueta** is a student from the District of Columbia Public Schools attending the **High Road Academy** of Prince George's County and will use his scholarship for C.A.S. Driving School.

★ **Brandon Bennett** is a Baltimore City Public School student attending **New Foundations** who will use his scholarship for cooking classes at Pierpoint Restaurant Cooking Camp.

★ **Joshua Berry** is a Baltimore City Public School student attending **Villa Maria School at St. Vincent's** who will use his scholarship to enroll in the Boy Scouts of America.

1 Cardin Scholarship Winners



★ *Latoya Blake*, a previous Cardin winner and former Baltimore City Public School student will continue to use her scholarship for tuition at Baltimore City Community College.

★ *Tyler Brodsky* is a Baltimore County Public School student attending the **Maryland School for the Blind** who will use his scholarship for piano lessons.

★ *Dwain Brown* is a Harford County Public School student attending the Arrow Center for Education who will use his scholarship to attend the YMCA Camp Aberdeen.

★ *Jacob Campbell* is an Anne Arundel County Public School student attending the **Children's Guild** who will use his scholarship to attend Robotics Classes at the Lego store.

★ *Jacob Cochran* is a Harford County student attending The **Arrow Center for Education** and will use his scholarship to attend the Harford County 4-H Camp at the Rocks.



★ *Lois Cooksey* is a Prince George's County Public School student attending the **Maryland School for the Blind** and will use her scholarship to attend SCIVIS Space Camp.

★ *Samantha Davis* is an Allegany County Public School student attending the **Jefferson School at Finan** and will use her scholarship to attend CAMP Bright Star - Cumberland YMCA.

★ *Lauren DeSha*, a previous Cardin Scholar, will continue to use her scholarship for tuition at Stevenson University.

★ *Bradley Holland*, a previous Cardin scholar who attended the Chelsea School, will continue to use his scholarship for tuition at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

★ *Catheil Jackson* is a District of Columbia Public School student attending the **High Road Upper School** who will use her scholarship to attend Child Care Certification Training Class for Daycare Assistant.

★ Introducing the 2010 Michael

★ *Devin Jaureqi* is a Harford County Public School student attending the **Arrow Center for Education** who will use his scholarship to attend the Leg-Up Therapeutic Riding Camp.

★ *Eugene Kasey* is a Baltimore City Public School student attending the **St. Elizabeth School** who will use his scholarship to attend the Green Top Overnight Therapeutic Recreation Program.

★ *Virginia Licon* is a Howard County Public School student attending the **High Road Academy** who will use her scholarship to attend Howard Community College.

★ *Michelle Lucke* is a Baltimore City Public School student attending the **Gateway School** who will use her scholarship to attend Mayo Beach Day Camp.

★ *Bradley MacPherson*, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George's County, will continue to use his scholarship for tuition at Salisbury University.

★ *Alexander Meranski*, a previous Cardin Scholar, will continue to use his scholarship for tuition at Towson University.

★ *Ashley Pannell*, a previous Cardin Scholar, will continue to use her scholarship for

tuition at Washington Adventist University.

★ *DeAnna Paul* is a District of Columbia Public School student attending the **Ivymount School** who will use her scholarship to attend Kamp A-Kom-Plish.

★ *Sequan Richardson* is a student from Baltimore City Public Schools attending **New Foundations** who will use his scholarship to attend Rising Star Boys Basketball Camp.

★ *Treana Robertson* is a District of Columbia Public School student attending the **Chelsea School** and will use her scholarship for tuition at Barry University in Florida.

★ *Aaron Robinson* is a District of Columbia Public School attending the **High Road School** who will use his scholarship to attend Salisbury University.



Cardin Scholarship Recipients

★ *Joshua Russell* is a previous Cardin Scholar and will continue to use his scholarship towards tuition at the College of Southern Maryland.

★ *Makaile Stanley* is a Prince George's County Public School student attending **Kennedy Krieger High School** who will use his scholarship to attend ID Tech Camp at American University.

★ *Joshua Taylor* is a Baltimore County Public School student attending **St. Elizabeth School** who will use his scholarship to attend Single Step Warehouse Program - Forklift Certification.

★ *Dwight Tennyson* is a Prince George's County Public School student attending **Kennedy Krieger LEAP School** who will use his scholarship to attend Camp Fairlee Manor.

★ *Charlie Thomas* is a Baltimore City Public School student attending **Villa Maria at St. Vincent's** who will use his scholarship to attend Kids Cook Camp.

★ *Jacob Wade* is a Washington County Public School student attending the **Strawbridge School** who will use his scholarship to attend the Community College of Baltimore County.

★ *Kamla Williams*, is a Baltimore City Public School student attending **St. Elizabeth School** who will use his scholarship to attend A Step Ahead Dance Camp.

★ *Domenic Wilson* is a Prince George's County Public School student attending **High Road School of Prince George's County** who will use her scholarship to attend Prince George's Community College.

Please join us in congratulating all our winners.



★ *Maxwell Vausse* is a Prince George's County Public School student attending **Kennedy Krieger High School** who will use his scholarship towards tuition at Howard Community College.

MANSEF STUDENT

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THE FORBUSH SCHOOL AT GLYNDON



The Forbush School at Glyndon Micah, a third grade student, recently won the American School Bus Council's "Love the Bus" poster contest held this past February. He will celebrate with his class and bus staff with his prize money.

GATEWAY SCHOOL



Connor Martin: The Martin family shared their experience at Gateway School in the January issue of Baltimore's *Urbanite* magazine. Conner, a kindergarten student, was diag-

nosed with Autism at the age of three and received speech-language therapy at The Hearing and Speech Agency before attending Gateway School. His mother, Ebony Martin, spoke to the importance of early intervention services for her son, and reported that Connor has shown tremendous growth in his language and social interaction skills both in school, and at home.

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The *Urbanite* article included insights from Amanda Dougherty and Ritika Kochar, two of Connor's Gateway teachers - as well as a question and answer section with MANSEF's executive director, Dorie Flynn, which helps to demystify the IEP process for readers.

HARBOUR SCHOOL

Senior Mindy McDaniels won a \$500 scholarship to Harford Community College as the result of an essay contest. She is a Harbour School at Annapolis graduating senior.

Alumni Seminar: The Harbour School at Annapolis recently hosted a seminar with 5 recent alumni. Four of the five students were attending college and the 5th student had a good job. The alumni spoke to the students who will graduate in June about what college is like and how The Harbour School prepared them for post-secondary education. Seniors asked very careful questions and learned a great deal about what they need to do now to get ready.

School Bus Poster Contest

Danny Simon, a lower school student at The Harbour School at Baltimore, won 3rd place in the national school transportation poster contest. He was awarded a \$50 prize. Danny received his certificate at a ceremony attended by his parents, sister and grandparents. As part of Danny's celebration, all of the school bus drivers and aides were treated to coffee, bagels and sweet treats. The *Owings Mills Times* covered Danny's award.

KENNEDY KRIEGER SCHOOLS

Southern High School Seniors Success Stories

On Friday, June 3, Kennedy Krieger at Southern High School will graduate its 7th class of seniors. Our Type II program offers students the individual attention

GRLEB RATES

and assistance of a private separate day school while still affording them the opportunities associated with a vibrant public high school.

Amanda, Shane, Tyler, and Keira have worked hard to reach this point, and we are very proud of all of them. Amanda has received scholarships from West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV and will start there in the fall. Shane, Tyler, and Keira plan to attend Anne Arundel Community College in the fall. Shane plans to study cyber crime, Tyler plans to study Homeland Security, and Keira is trying to decide between training as a Cosmetologist or a Surgical Technician. Please join us in saluting these four for their hard work and accomplishments.

Please also join us in saluting Evan. During the three years Evan has been with us, he has lettered in three sports and joined the rigorous training of a cadet in the Naval JROTC program at Annapolis High School. Evan's family will be moving to Florida this summer, where Evan will complete his senior year of high school. After high school, Evan plans to follow his father's footsteps into the Air Force, where he hopes to become a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Specialist.

During the month of April, Kennedy Krieger at Southern High School students participated in a highly successful and thought-provoking science fair conducted by science and mathematics teacher, Lisa Scarborough. Joy won the top honors for her experiment testing the quality and brightness of two different recipes for homemade glow sticks. Thanks to her hard work and creativity, Joy earned the prestige of First Place and a gift card as her prize. Anthony and Matthew tied for Second Place. Anthony issued a student survey to discern the leading stressor for today's teens; it came as no surprise to learn

that teens' leading stressor was school. Matthew initiated a battle of the sexes competition to see who was the more skillful video gamer; the females outdid the males in Matthew's test group. Sam, Nick, and Amanda received Honorable Mention. The science fair was such an overall success that students are already brainstorming ideas for next year!

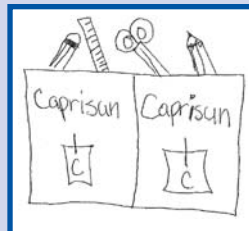


PHILLIPS SCHOOL

Anna Churchman is an 11th grade student at Phillips School Laurel. When she began 3 years

ago, Anna was reluctant to interact with others or take leadership responsibility in any way.

Recently, Anna has demonstrated how much she has learned about herself and her interest in helping others. Anna read about a school in another state where students were collecting Capri Sun pouches for Haiti. She then decided to begin this effort at Phillips. After a meeting with the program director Anna was given the approval to proceed with this project. To



date Anna has collected 200 Capri Sun pouches, providing monthly updates to the program director. Each pouch is worth fifty cents and Anna's goal is to raise \$1000.00. The Haitian citizens use Capri Sun pouches to create a variety of products such as handbags. They are then able to sell these items. Anna says it has been amazing to her to see how her peers at Phillips are supporting this effort.

Phillips is very proud of Anna's growth.



Forbush School



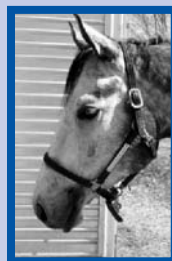
The Forbush School at Glyndon is excited about the new interactive technology recently purchased with money from a generous donation and a grant. Ten classrooms are outfitted with interactive whiteboards that can be used for instruction in all subjects. The board is a touch sensitive screen that works in conjunction with a computer.



Other classrooms are equipped with wireless interactive tablets. If a teacher wants to model the steps for solving a problem, he/she can use an interactive tablet. With this, he/she can stand anywhere in the classroom, write on the tablet, and have his/her work projected on the front board.

This interactive technology engages students and offers teachers a wealth of resources to support teaching and learning as well as provides accommodations for our special populations.

Due to another very generous grant from the "Care for Kids" fund through the Sheppard Pratt Health



System, several students have begun to participate in a therapeutic horseback riding program at the ROSES Farm in Glen Arm, Md.

Hannah More School

Chesapeake Area Aquaculture Research Project (CAARP)

The science classes, under the direction of Science Instructor Scott Derby, are learning about aquaculture, or the farming of aquatic organisms, such as fish, shellfish, or plants. Using a \$500 start-up grant from the Hannah More School Foundation, students have created an aquaculture system in the science classroom and are monitoring its results. The primary goals of CAARP are to stimulate interest in science and technology; demonstrate practical applications of biology, math, and chemistry; and equip students with marketable skills. The project will continue through the summer and the 2011-2012 school year.

Three Hannah More School Students Selected as Winners in Woman's Club of Glyndon Youth Art Exhibition

Three Hannah More School students were selected as winners in the recent Woman's Club of Glyndon Youth Art Exhibition and Contest. First prize went to Louis Tokoly (mixed media/collage); second prize went to Ben Gillingham (pencil drawing), and third prize was awarded to Chris Lewis (pencil drawing). Congratulations to these talented students and their instructor, Ms. Maria Wilson, Art Teacher and Mr. Kofi Simmons, Teacher Assistant. Students will receive their prizes at a luncheon in May.

Students Visit The White House

On March 1st, a group of students from Mr. Douglas's Government class toured the White House. Students visited the Blue Room, the State Dining Room and other areas open to visitors. Mr. Douglas and his students began planning the trip last September as a class project, and received confirmation for the tour from Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger's office in February of this year. Through planning their tour of the White House, students learned the importance of knowing and exercising their rights as citizens, as well as how to work through a local Congressperson's office to accomplish a goal.

Culinary Students Take Field Trip to Convention Center

On March 1 our Culinary Arts students visited the Baltimore Convention Center to watch a culinary competition first hand. The competition was part of the Maryland ProStart Student

Invitational Competition. ProStart is a two-year program that prepares students for careers in the food service industry. Hannah More adopted the ProStart curriculum and has been using it for the last several years.

Horticulture Students Grow Vegetables for Baltimore Humane Society

Students in our Horticulture program recently delivered over 60 leaf lettuce plants to the Baltimore Humane Society. The plants will be consumed by the rabbits, gerbils and other veggie-loving creatures at the facility.

Students Participate in Service Day

On April 29 students participated in the second Hannah More School Service Day. Students volunteered at the local animal rescue shelter, cleaned up the community playground, worked on a community garden, helped out at the local senior center, read to students at a nearby elementary school, and picked up recycling from local businesses among other activities.

Harbour School

Sea Perch Project: The Harbour School at Annapolis students are participating in the Sea Perch project. The Sea Perch is a simple, remotely operated underwater vehicle, or ROV, made from PVC pipe and other inexpensive, easily available materials.



The MIT Sea Grant College Program created the Sea Perch Program in 2003. The hands-on Sea Perch experience is a gateway to further study and to investigate careers in robotics, engineering, and marine sciences. There are 5 middle school and 5 high school students working in pairs to build it. They have assembled the body and are going to start work on the propulsion motors and control box. They are learning how to saw, solder, measure and use tools of the trade.

Professor Moran from the Naval Academy donated the kits and the project is in conjunction with the Naval Academy. It is a kick-off to The Harbour School's STEM program.

Decorating the Giant: Art students from The Harbour School at Baltimore have been displaying their artwork at the Owings Mills Giant for over a year. As part of the 75th anniversary of the Giant Food chain, students constructed a giant chandelier recognizing the store's 75th anniversary. The chandelier hangs from the ceiling of the store in front of the bulletin board with THS art.

CCBC/Harbour Horizon: CCBC/Harbour Horizon, a cooperative certificate program between the

Community College of Baltimore County and The Harbour School will be graduating its second class of students this May. The program is now operational at the Essex and Catonsville campuses of the community college.

Council for Exceptional Children

Visit: As part of its international conference at National Harbor in Prince George's County, the Council for Exceptional Children brought a group of visitors to see the competency based program at The Harbour School at Annapolis. Visitors were from several states, including the West Coast and from Singapore and India. They were very impressed with the program and with the Village concept.

Harbour House: Harbour House, a group home for young adults with learning disabilities and autism, will be opening in Catonsville in early August. Potential residents are currently being interviewed. There will be 5 residents in the home.

Ivymount School

Ivymount was very pleased to host New York Times bestselling author John Elder Robison on Tuesday, April 5th. John spent the school day at Ivymount meeting with several classes and gave a special lecture for nearly 100 Ivymount staff in the afternoon - providing an intriguing perspective of Asperger



Author John Elder Robison with Ivymount Director Jan Wintrol, Monica Adler Werner, Ivymount MAP Director

Syndrome to our teachers and therapists. We welcomed over 200 community members for an evening lecture where he shared insights from his new book, BE DIFFERENT.

Dana Eisman, a student in Ivymount's Post High School program who will be graduating this June, appeared on the cover of the April 3rd issue of PARADE magazine. The article focused on Dana and her family's journey with Autism, the significant impact Ivymount has had on her life and the new challenges ahead. <http://www.parade.com/health/autism/index.html>

Kennedy Krieger Schools

Staff Honored at National Conference

The National Association for Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) is the organization that advocates for programs like the Kennedy Krieger Schools (KKSP). Each year, at their annual conference, NAPSEC awards four outstanding performances in the field. At this year's conference, two KKSP staff received recognition: Bernice Bowen and Susan Schaffer.



Bernice Bowen: Bernice Bowen organizes our food services and meal program as well as being the coordinator of all of the special events and little observances that make the Fairmount school a warm, personal, loving and generous place for our very complicated students. Her relationship with our school began



when her son was placed at our school in the early 1980s. Her son is now serving our country in the Army and is ready to be deployed wherever our government needs him.

Over the nearly 25 years that Bernice has worked at Kennedy Krieger School, she has grown the meal program from heated up mediocre food to a nutritious, delicious, socially inviting program that encourages children to engage in socialization and language development while sharing breakfast, lunch and snacks. Every day, she shows her love for the students, her respect

for the staff, and her tireless loyalty to all things related to Kennedy Krieger.

Susan Schaffer: As Kennedy Krieger School Programs have grown over the last several years,

we have found a need to systematize our processes across campuses and programs. No area needed greater attention than that of state education and medical assistance documentation requirements. We needed to meet our compliance demands but still create documentation that was useful for the work being done by our clinicians, including meeting their discipline-specific requirements. Susan, our Occupational Therapy Manager, was promoted to Associate Director of Operations, Related Services. Since assuming this role a year ago, Susan's performance has far exceeded expectations. She has streamlined processes, provided extensive guidance and training to staff, and helped us achieve nearly perfect audits from both the Maryland State Department of Education and our state's Medical Assistance reviewers.

Life for related service providers at KKI has improved since Susan started. Not only do they have less paperwork to complete, it is more useful for its multiple purposes and, most importantly, it leaves much more time for the important work-direct services to our students.

We congratulate these two employees on their national recognition.

Bear Givers Come to the Kennedy Krieger Schools: Joseph B. Sprung, Chairman and Founder of Bear Givers along with Diane Lempert, the President of Bear Givers traveled to Baltimore to meet the students and staff of the Kennedy Krieger School. The Bear Givers organiza-

tion determined that the Kennedy Krieger School had all the ingredients necessary to forge a strong, mutually beneficial relationship and partnered with them in helping to distribute hundreds of adorable, stuffed Bears to children with disabilities. The Bear Givers organization is founded on the following simple but compelling principal: by giving a bear to someone in need, both the giver and the receiver have a joyful and uplifting experience.

Students at the Fairmount Campus made beautiful, thoughtfully composed cards for children who had been in serious accidents and who had lost some or most of their mobility as a result. On a pre-arranged day, these students personally presented their cards and bears to these very special children. High School students at the Greenspring Campus, wrote letters to the children receiving the bears. Two groups participated in the delivery of the Bears. Students read "We are going on a Bear Hunt" to the pre-school students in the CARD program. Students also did a reading and delivered notes and bears to the students at Lois T. Murray, one of KKS partnership schools.



To date the Bear Givers organization has given away 265,539 bears. The Kennedy Krieger School was honored to have been a part of this very unique and gratifying project.

Broadcast Media Class tours WLOY-AM: Have you ever wanted to visit a radio station? Kennedy Krieger's High School broadcast media stu-

dents recently visited WLOY-AM located on the campus of Loyola University for a special field trip tour of the radio station's operations. The students discussed project ideas with college students from WLOY-AM and John Devecka the radio station operations manager. Students were even given the opportunity to record their voices in one of WLOY's broadcast studios for a future high school podcast. After their visit to the radio station, the students ate lunch in Loyola's Boulder Café where they were able to experience a college dining hall.

Mann Residential School

For the past month, students at the Mann Residential School have been involved in a project to heighten the awareness of "Bullying" and its effect on the climate and culture in schools. The theme was "One Less Bully - One More Friend." Students from each of Ms. Shah and Ms. Cox's high school English classes did research and presented their findings in a culminating assembly for the entire student body, faculty and invited guests. Their presentations included: original skits, poems, songs and power point presentations. Students produced T-shirts with the school logo on the front and "One Less Bully - One More Friend" on the back which they wore during their presentation. A panel consisting of school administration and support staff judged the presentations and presented awards based on originality, creativity, subject/knowledge, presentation and team cooperation. All five classes joined together in designing a hallway display. Pre and post tests were given to the students to assess their knowledge on bullying and its effect on the climate of the school.

Continued on page 14



St. Elizabeth School



St. Elizabeth School students often give support to one another. Recently, Eric Mason and Nick McFarlane helped their fellow student, Curtis Matthews, by changing the tires on his wheelchair. They properly helped him transfer out of the chair while they changed the tires, and completed the job perfect-

ly! Nick and Eric both have vocational training from SES that helped them with this task-Nick worked at

Joe's Bicycle Shop and Eric worked as part of the SES maintenance staff two days a week during a winter quarter. Curtis looks especially sharp in his new wheels around the SES halls. Nice teamwork!!!

Youth in Transition School

News from NCIA/Youth In

Transition School: On February 16 - 17, 2011, The NCIA/Youth In Transition School had its on-site evaluation, the first in five years by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The Monitoring Team, which was comprised of a group of representatives from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Charles County, Prince George's County, Frederick County, and Ms. Chezia A. Calloway from Maryland State

Department of Education (MSDE), performed a comprehensive and exhaustive audit of all possible aspects of the school. NCIA/YIT staff members displayed teamwork to successfully deliver a positive audit, and we are happy to announce that our hard work and collaborative efforts paid off. We did very well, as the auditors were also quite impressed by our professionalism, courteousness, and timely responsiveness to their needs during the audit. Thanks again to ALL our staff members, as we continue to provide a quality educational experience that makes a difference in the lives of our students.

The lessons of teamwork and collaboration continue throughout NCIA/YIT, as we congratulate our basketball team, the YIT Blue Devils, who had an extraordinary season, and got all the way to the playoffs this year. Well done team, and coaches!



iPads Upload Enthusiasm for "3 R's"

Erase those blackboards. Put aside those pencils. Apple iPads are the latest cutting-edge instructional tools for special needs students at the High Road Academy in Laurel, Md., where teachers say they are generating a greater interest in learning.

Teachers say the tablet computers - introduced into the curriculum at High Road in September - offer a broad range of educational uses in one, easy-to-use device and have quickly become a learning incentive for students with learning disabilities.

Ellen Gaske, director of the 4th-through-12th grade school, explained students at High Road Academy have learning disabilities that range from dyslexia to severe reading, writing and math deficiencies, "but they are all tuned-in to the newest technologies."

"So, one of the greatest benefits of the iPads is that our students are enthusiastic about using them," said Gaske. "It has made them more enthusiastic about learning."

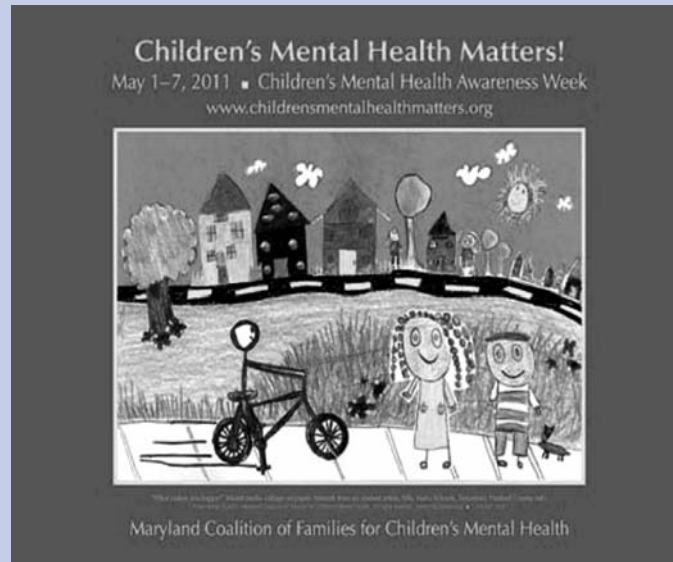
The tablet computers "are really a terrific motivational device for students with learning disabilities," said teacher Dana Krauss, a reading specialist, whose classroom houses the five tablet computers. "Besides the educational applications, the iPads themselves are something our kids look forward to using."

Krauss and other teachers at High Road Academy say the tablet computers are also a success because of their mobility, their instant access to the Web, and the volume of affordable educational "apps" or applications.

"We can find apps tailored to the specific needs of our students and the subjects we teach," said Krauss, who explained the devices are used to reinforce traditional classroom instruction in English, reading, math and earth science.

To learn more about High Road Academy in Laurel, Md., and about Specialized Education Services Inc., please visit: www.sesi-schools.com.

Catholic Charities Child and Family Services Participates in Children's Mental Health Awareness Week May 1-7



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week kicked off at a reception on April 28 at Catholic Charities' My Sisters' Place Women's Center. There, the First Lady of Maryland, Katie O'Malley, and leaders of the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, and the State Mental Hygiene Administration spoke of the importance as well as the difficulty of recognizing mental and behavioral health symptoms and obtaining information and treatment for the youngest members of our community.

Part of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is the annual creation of artwork to support the Campaign in advertising and other promotions. This year, children from Catholic Charities Child and Family Services created a beautiful poster (above) of children playing in a park-like setting that will be used widely across the state. The five students—Latisse, Dominic, Blaine, Greg, and Phillip – attend Villa Maria Schools at St. Vincent's, Timonium, and Harford County. The students were assisted by Art Teachers, Noel Alexander and Melissa Sugar.

Catholic Charities Child and Family Services encourages parents of children who have questions about their child's behavioral or mental health to visit <http://childrensmentalhealthmatters.org> for comprehensive children's mental health resources. Child and Family Services provides a wide array of mental and behavioral health and special education services to over 7,600 children, adults, and families annually.

MANSEF Network - Development Directors

The next meeting for the Development Directors Network will be July 14th, 11:30am at Ivymount School.

To RSVP – please contact Molly Whalen, Director of Development at Ivymount, mwhalen@ivymount.org.

MANSEF Job Opportunities

Did you know, that MANSEF member schools are posting their job opportunities on the MANSEF web site: www.mansef.org



2011 Conference
Friday, November 4, 2011
Baltimore Convention Center



6501 North Charles Street
P.O. Box 6815
Baltimore, Maryland 21285-6815
410-938-4413 / fax: 410-938-5130
e-mail: mansef@aol.com
website: www.mansef.org
Jack Pumphrey, President
Stephanie deSibour, Vice President
Mary Schaefer, Secretary
Jim Truscello, Treasurer
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*



6501 North Charles Street
P.O. Box 6815
Baltimore, Maryland 21285-6815