

# STEPPING Stones

November 2015

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

## THE SWING FOR EDUCATION GOLF CLASSIC HELD AT GREYSTONE GOLF COURSE

### *Fundraiser supports scholarship opportunities*

The 2015 Swing for Education Golf Classic held this year at Greystone Golf Course, in White Hall, Maryland was a huge success. The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF), and the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, Inc., joined together to host a spectacular event. The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley and The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger were the distinguished honorary chairs for the October 23rd event.

For golfers and non-golfers alike, the *Swing for Education Golf Classic* was a perfect way to end a busy work week by participating in a tournament filled with camaraderie and memorable moments while supporting a great cause.

Monies raised will support scholarship opportunities for students with a variety of needs and will enhance the lives of deserving students in our community by helping to provide them with resources to further their education and obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be globally competitive.

Special thanks goes to our school supporters, most notably, The Baltimore Academy, The Benedictine School, The Chimes School, The Delrey School, The Gateway School, The Frost School, The Ivymount School, Katherine Thomas School, Kennedy Krieger School, New Visions Academy, The Phillips School, Sheppard Pratt Health System and Villa Maria School.

*Clockwise from top: Tricia Thomas, Education Foundation Board Member, Debbie Phelps, Director, Education Foundation and Aggie Callahan, MANSEF Board Member; golfer registration, golfers on the course at Greystone; MANSEF President Jodi King*





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Inside This Issue...

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Greetings Colleagues:

It is a great honor to serve as the current MANSEF President. I am humbled by the support that all of you provide each and every day to the initiatives of the MANSEF association. We are a vital organization designed to serve and advocate for the State's most vulnerable children. I am reaching out to each of you to support MANSEF in any way you can. Each and every one of us has a valuable gift to offer the organization.

The legislative session in Annapolis will soon be upon us. Our legislators need to regularly be informed of our noble cause and to understand the valuable resources we provide the special needs children in the State of Maryland. Legislators are under pressure by many groups who also have important needs. So our voices need to be loud and clear. Please take every opportunity to invite legislators to events at your individual schools.

As the 2015-2016 school year moves forward I wish each of you the peace of the upcoming holidays. I hope to see many of you at the MANSEF conference on December 11th.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jodi L. King, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi L. King

MANSEF President



# MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



## *The Benedictine School*

Six students earned participation in an annual camping trip – but the outdoor fun was a learning experience as well as a reward. Students hiked, studied the environment, participated in food prep, and practiced positive interaction with peers.

**Jules S.**, one of the participants, described the trip, “I really liked making dream catchers. It was very fun to me and it was a learning experience how to make a dream catcher. I also liked how I got to spend time with some of my friends and some of my favorite staff. This was a good chance to learn more about each other. I really liked how we hiked all the way around Killen’s Pond and we had walkie-talkies. Killen’s Pond was an exciting trip for me.”

## *Cedar Ridge*

Second grader, **Carl Burnside** wrote this story about our therapy dog helping him deal with his frustration at school. “Once upon a time Carl got frustrated. He asked to take a walk. He took a walk. Then Carl saw Bella and he went to her and gave her a hug. Then Carl was calm. Bella was happy because she helped Carl. She checked on Carl later to see if he was ok.”

## *Chelsea School*

Chelsea sophomore **Sidhant Sawant** finished the half-marathon in Baltimore on October 17th, raising money for tuition assistance. Thirty sponsors pledged \$1,200 in just 4 days. This was Sidhant’s first marathon. He posted his thanks to all his supporters, stating on his GoFundMe page: “At Chelsea school, we all embrace our differences and celebrate our achievements as part of a community. There are a lot of children who

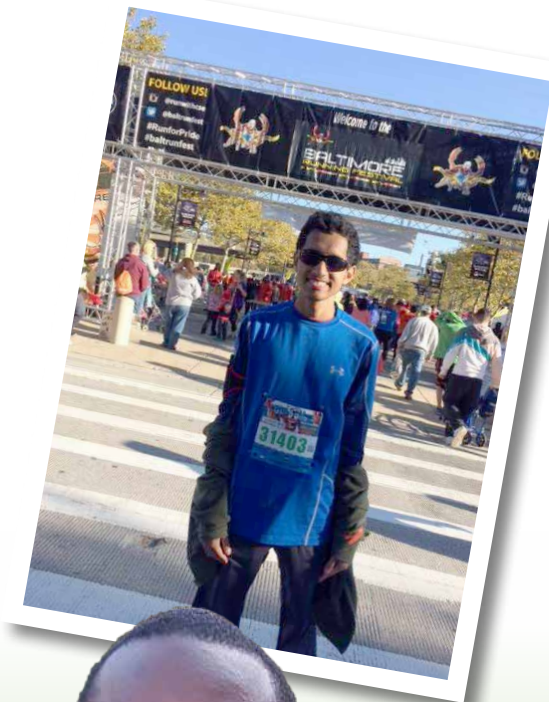
need the tuition assistance fund to attend the school. Thank you everyone for your encouragement and generous support!”

## *Children’s Guild*

**Bruce** started in the school to work program at our Prince George’s County Campus less than 2 years ago. He had behavioral and academic challenges upon entering and has since transformed into a bright hard working, 10th grader who has made great academic progress.

## *High Road Academy*

**Siddiq Abdullahi** describes his time at High Road Academy as amazing. He has also amazed the school by becoming the resident Computer Technician. The entire staff has been impressed with his ability. In the year that he has been attending this school, he has been able to show progress on his IEP testing in word identification and listening comprehension. Siddiq states that these gains will help him achieve his main goal which is to work for the National Security Agency.



*Clockwise from top: Sidhant Sawant at the Baltimore Half Marathon; Carl Burnside and therapy dog Bella; Siddiq Abdullahi*



MORE!

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## Ivymount School

Ivymount School student **Bobby Whalen** received an award through The HSC Foundation's Life Enrichment Awards Program (LEAP). The program enriches the lives of youth and young adults with disabilities by providing goods and services that are directly linked to youth transitions. Bobby received an iPad through the program to help him draw the illustrations for the series of books he has created. Bobby hopes to make a career in art, movies and graphic design. At the awards ceremony on November 5, 2015, Bobby gave a PowerPoint presentation about the books that he created using the new iPad.

*Bobby Whalen at the HSC Foundation's Life Enrichment Awards Program*



*Spencer Green*

## St. Elizabeth School

SES Student **Spencer Green** started off his school year with a desire to help others in need. Now, he is spearheading a yard sale to raise money for Operation Smile, an organization that has provided thousands of free surgical procedures in over 60 countries for children and young adults with facial deformities.

Parents and staff have donated a huge amount of items to sell, and now Spencer is looking forward to the sale which will take place at the annual SES Family Thanksgiving Dinner. Spencer's spirit of giving has inspired all of us here at SES, and we can't wait to support his cause!

When **Kamal Williams** graduated from SES in 2014, he jumped right into his career by enrolling in the Office Technology program at the Workforce and Technology Center (WTC).

After successfully completing an Administrative Professional internship at the WTC, he was offered a paid position at St. Joseph's Medical Center! Kamal now does data entry and administrative work for the hospital's Food Service and Integrated Services departments. When Kamal stopped in at SES wearing his suit to tell us his good news, the excitement was contagious. We are so proud of Kamal for being the independent and confident professional he is today.

*Kamal Williams*

*David*

## The Foundation School

In 2011, **David** arrived at The Foundation School with an endless amount of pride and impatience. David would "put up a front," as he says, when challenged by his peers and teachers. With time and guidance from the staff, he learned to spend more time focusing on his potential, rather than his pride. David graduated in June 2015 as an honor roll student and continues to pursue his passions of IT and computer technology at a four-year college and is thriving.





# SCHOOL News



## The Benedictine School

In early October, 100 trees were planted around the Benedictine School's campus in Ridgely, Maryland with help from students, staff members and volunteers. As part of this project, all students received a lesson plan that included tree identification, watershed and environmental issues and how each of us can help keep the Chesapeake Bay clean.

This special project was made possible by a grant from the Trees for Sacred Places Program; a joint program of the Alliance for the Bay and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. Since the beginning of this year, 8,000 trees have been planted throughout the state of Maryland through this program.



## Cedar Ridge

Fifteen students enjoyed a cookout with campfire, 4wheeler rides, archery, smashing pumpkins, making fun snacks, and lots of interesting games.

## Chelsea School

**Chelsea School** will be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year. Chelsea's 40th is a milestone for our school, and we have big things planned, including a spectacular anniversary event. Set to coincide with Chelsea's yearly PTO auction on May 15th, this event will include indoor/outdoor activities, food, drink and special guests from Chelsea's past. We invite all Chelsea family, friends and supporters to join us in celebration of 40 years educating students with learning differences.



Manuel West, Tammy Coulson, Eric Moats, Dana Gonzalas, Curtis Nokes, Deonte White, Joel Manges

## The Foundation School

As **The Foundation Schools** celebrates its 40th year, we welcome our new CEO, **Dr. Gale Naquin** who brings more than 40 years of special education teaching, leadership and research experience. Most recently she was the Executive Director of Insight Educational Center and Research Professor at Tulane University's Psychology Department. She holds Ph.D. in Educational Leadership/Administration from the University of New Orleans (UNO), a M.Ed. in Special Education from UNO and a B.S. in Special Education from Vanderbilt University. She has co-authored several books and has written numerous journal articles on topics within her expertise.



Dr. Gale Naquin





## High Road School of Prince George's County - Largo Campus

### Work Experience at Last Chance Animal Rescue

Through Transitional Services, the students of High Road School of Prince George's County (Largo Campus) volunteer at Last Chance Animal Rescue located in Upper Marlboro, MD. Students primarily interact with cats. They gain experience caring for the animals, feeding them, and ensuring that the cats get their mandatory play time. The shelter allows students who are interested in a career in the Veterinary field after graduation, the opportunity to gain experience in a specific work environment. Students are also able to interact with the animals and customers who would like to adopt a pet.

# MORE! SCHOOL News

## 10th Annual Festival of Scarecrows

Sponsored by Charles Co. Chamber of Commerce



## High Road School of Southern Maryland

**Festival of Scarecrows** - The High Road School of Southern Maryland has been a long standing member of and partner with the Charles County Chamber of Commerce. For the past two years, our school has participated in the Chamber's annual Festival of Scarecrows. Local businesses and organizations were invited to enter scarecrows into one of 4 categories with proceeds supporting the Chamber. This year, High Road School were able to secure first place. Trina Vagell, Director, proudly shared "...this is simply a reflection of how seriously our students

and staff take this friendly competition as well as a great representation of the talent amongst our school community".

## The Katherine Thomas School

As always, students at The Katherine Thomas School had a great time with their monthly PBIS Choice Activity! Choices included rollerblading, basketball, air hockey, foosball, Wii, art or quiet room. The Katherine Thomas School recently earned PBIS's highest level of recognition, the GOLD award, for outstanding implementation of PBIS in the lower/middle school. In order to be eligible for any recognition, staff had to create a presentation as well as host a site visit. The Katherine Thomas School received an overall School-wide Evaluation Tool score of 98% and a Benchmark of Quality score of 91%. We are very proud of this GOLD Award!



Katherine Thomas students roller blading

## Forbush School at Glyndon

The Hannah More School and The Forbush Therapeutic Preschool became part of The Forbush School at Glyndon on July 1, 2015. The Forbush School at Glyndon now has two campuses. The Glyndon campus for nursery, elementary and middle school students and the autism program. The Hannah More campus is for the high school students. We are proud to announce that we have 8 complete pathways for diploma bound high school students.



## Kennedy Krieger High School

The Kennedy Krieger High School program received a \$24,000 grant to install a state of the art Multi-Sensory Environment for their students with behavioral and sensory challenges that interfere with self-regulation and participation in school work. The aim of the dedicated space is to tailor multiple sensory inputs to the individual student's needs and thus promote a calm and focused state that could support learning and communication in the educational environment. A multi-disciplinary committee that included administrative, behavioral, mental health and occupational therapy staff was formed to develop selection criteria, sensory assessments, staff training, room protocols and progress monitoring systems for utilization of the room. Staff and students have reported a very positive impact overall of the multi-sensory room on student function. One KKSH student has said that the room makes him "feel wonderful" and he "feels relaxed" when in the room. He gives a huge "thumbs up" to all folks who ask him about the multi-sensory room.

Our Young Marine unit was one of only four units that assisted with the National Convention of the American Legion on August 31st at the Baltimore Convention center. The veterans were impressed with our Young Marines; several shook their hand and thanked them for their service! KKHS is the only Young Marines unit in the nation that is within a special education school. We are extremely proud of the students in our Young Marines program. The Young Marines program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.



*Kennedy Krieger Young Marines*

## The Mann Residential Treatment Center



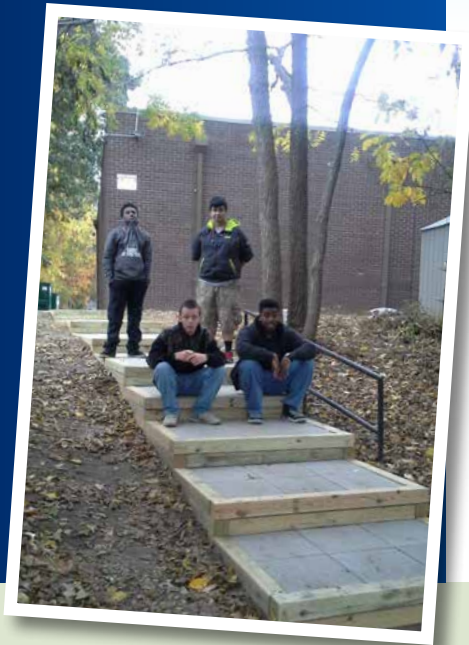
The Mann Residential Treatment Center (Mann RTC), part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System, offers needed interventions for change through a DBT (Dialectic Behavior Therapy) Substance Abuse Prevention Program spearheaded by Duane Haley, LGSW and Yolanda Robinson, LGSW. This program, for adolescents at Mann RTC who are engaged in or are at-risk for substance abuse, combines DBT skills with emphasis on mindfulness and emotional regulation coupled with facts about substance use and addiction. Through this program, youth take a hard look at all aspects of substance abuse.

Participants of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program, with the assistance of Ms. Lisa Miller, our Mann School Librarian, hosted an assembly for the Sheppard Pratt community entitled, Hope Not Dope. The audience hung on every word as they shared powerful testimony about their personal journeys that led them from hopelessness, to darkness, to light. Their knowledge, their insightfulness, and most of all their recovery to a world of hope proved incredibly heartfelt and inspiring. As our young adolescents have moved away from the shadows of addiction to a brighter future, they now exude a sense of freedom, they feel healthier, present to be happier, and much more confident and accomplished.



## Students Design and Build Pathway

Students at The Harbour School at Annapolis designed and built a walkway between the Annapolis campus and the adjacent public library. The students removed the old pathway and used software to design the new pathway. The completed pathway is both safe and beautiful. The students learned a great deal and were proud of their work.



# MORE! SCHOOL News

## Harbour School

### Largest Graduating Class Ever!

In June 2015, The Harbour School graduated its largest class ever. Eighty-seven percent of the graduates earned a high school diploma. Graduates were accepted to attend Prince Georges Community College, Anne Arundel County Community College, Baltimore County Community College, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Montgomery College among other institutions of higher education.



Harbour School Class of 2014

## HARBOUR SCHOOL WINS ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Harbour School at Annapolis won the top award for private schools in Anne Arundel County for its use of the public library system. The Director of Public Libraries for Anne Arundel County came to the campus and presented the students with the winning trophy and a certificate recognizing their achievement.





## Harbour School Continued

### 3-D printer is put to work

Students at The Harbour School at Baltimore created water filters using the 3-D printer. The filters were used to filter stream water into potable water. The water cleansed by the filter was good tasting and absolutely clear. Students used software to design the filter after they did research on what a good filter would be able to do.

### Students Learn to become Gentlemen

Students at The Harbour School at Annapolis have the opportunity to learn to become gentlemen. The club meets 2-3 times per month. Boys learn how to use the proper flatware at a dinner, how to set a table, how to host a girl. They also learn how to tie a man's tie, both long tie and bow tie. On Gentlemen's Club days boys wear dress shirts and ties.



### Engineering Classes in Baltimore Build Bridges

The Engineering students at The Harbour School at Baltimore developed bridges out of craft sticks. The students determined the bridge style that would hold the most weights. They were able to build a bridge that held 75 pounds.





## Pathways

### Pathways Crossland Re-Entry Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Pathways innovative re-entry transition program at Crossland High School is celebrating its 10th year! Beginning in 2005, in partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), it is modeled on the successful of Pathways other Type II program, DuVal Re-Entry, which had been operating at DuVal High School since 1989. Pathways-Crossland Re-Entry offers a curriculum with instruction that satisfies state and county requirements for a Maryland high school diploma. At the same time, students receive academic and therapeutic support that enables them to take as many mainstream classes as possible and participate in all of Crossland's academies, as well as extracurricular activities.

Students at Pathways Crossland-Re-Entry take full advantage of the opportunities of a public high school, including being elected to the Student Government Association, earning recognition on varsity sports teams, and participating in ROTC. This year, a Pathways senior who had taken class in the high school's culinary arts academy received her ServSafe certification which helped her to secure employment at a local restaurant.

The success achieved by Pathways Crossland Re-Entry students continues after graduation. A 2010 graduate now in the Marines makes it a point to return every Thanksgiving to thank the Pathways staff for supporting him through ROTC and enabling his military career. Similarly, the parent of a 2012 graduate called to pass on good news about her son who is now a college senior at St. Augustine College in North Carolina and on the Dean's List.



MORE!

# SCHOOL News



*Ivymount students meet with business representatives at Mary Career Exploration Fair*

## Ivymount

Ivymount School students, along with a group from Montgomery County Public Schools, participated in the Maryland Career Exploration Fair in October. Businesses from throughout the area met with students to discuss interview behavior and job possibilities. Students met with business representatives in small groups, and attended an Exhibitor Fair to gather information and talk with exhibitors about potential employment and other post-secondary services in the community. They did a wonderful job dressing for success, acting professionally, asking questions, and communicating appropriately. The program was made possible through a grant from HSC Foundation in partnership with SchoolTalk and other community organizations.

## Phillips School - Laurel

### PHILLIPS Growing Futures ribbon cutting

On October 7th PHILLIPS~Laurel held a ribbon cutting for its Growing Futures program. Growing Futures is a hydroponic education and job training program. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using nutrient solutions instead of soil that cuts down on water and pesticide use. PHILLIPS partnered with Blue Planet Consulting to develop this program. The school is focusing on educating students about hydroponics by using a curriculum and a learning lab this school year.

The students are growing a variety of microgreens. The plan is to expand the program to selling the microgreens to local farms, markets, and restaurants.

*Piper Phillips, Caswell, President and CEO, Kristen Kokonis, Sarah Headley-Boyd, Program Director, Walt Townshend, President of the Baltimore/Washington Chamber of Commerce, Brittney Williams, Davontae Connor, Henry Gordon-Smith, Blue Planet Consulting*





# of NOTE

MANSEF EXTENDS ITS BEST WISHES TO  
**DR. KRISTINE ANGELIS**  
ON HER RETIREMENT FROM  
THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## MANSEF CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 11, 2015

BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER



*Over 1,700 special education professionals will convene for a full day of workshops covering topics that focus on providing a continuum of services for Maryland students with disabilities.*



Check the MANSEF website frequently at  
[www.mansef.org](http://www.mansef.org)  
for updates and more details

### Exhibitors

*Reserve a table at the conference. This is a great way to promote your business partners.*

### Interested?

Contact Nancy Marsiglia at  
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or [mansefinfo@aol.com](mailto:mansefinfo@aol.com)





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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.