

STEPPING Stones

May 2013

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

CARDIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Forty-nine Maryland students will receive the Cardin Scholarships on June 3, 2013, at the MANSEF annual awards luncheon. The students, who either currently attend or have graduated from a MANSEF member school have overcome many obstacles and will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Myrna Cardin, former executive director of MANSEF, will be on hand to award the scholarships along with Alan Kanter, Chair of the Michael Cardin Scholarship Fund.

In addition, the 2013 MANSEF *Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives* award winner is **George Hollenack** of St. Elizabeth School. Mr. Hollenack began working at St. Elizabeth School in 1992 and after retirement in 2005 has continued to volunteer. George's commitment to St. Elizabeth School went well beyond just doing his assigned role. He was always on the lookout for job opportunities for students and, with his connections, landed employment for several students. George is a man who "cultivates bright futures" and MANSEF is pleased to recognize George with this special honor.

Isaiah Allen, The Pathways School

Joshua Barringer, The Foundation School

Niciera Booker-Johnson, Arrow Center for Education Fair Meadows Campus

Ashley Bradds, Forbush School at Glyndon

Bobby Bradsher, New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Ronnie Braxton, Foundation School of Montgomery County

Rashon Brown, Oak Hill House

Tourre Butler, The Foundation School

Kayla Buttner, Forbush School at Glyndon

Amari Cooper, Gateway School

Lafayette Cunningham, New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Chiara D'Alessio, St. Elizabeth School

Shamar Duvall, New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Cristen Fletcher, High Road School at Prince George's County

Ian Fontaine, Kennedy Krieger High School

Tyreke Gaston, Forbush School at Glyndon

Giovanni Greene, Foundation School of Montgomery County

Connor Hall, The Chimes School

Ross Hall, Strawbridge School

Codie Hansley, The Children's Guild, Inc.

Jacob Homsher, St. Elizabeth School

Dineen Jones, Forbush School at Glyndon

Eugene Kasey, St. Elizabeth School

Chana Kramer, Chelsea School

Edward Kraus, Hannah More School

Bradley Macpherson, Salisbury University

Parris Malloy, Foundation School of Montgomery County

Orlando McNeil, The Children's Guild, Inc.

Maconio Morton, Villa Maria School of Harford County

Shyann Peterson, Villa Maria School at St. Vincent's

Shakira Ramsey, Chelsea School

Donnelle Roundtree, High Road School of Southern Maryland

Capri Savoy, The Katherine Thomas School

Benjamin Schuman, Lourie Center School

Leah Schuman, The Katherine Thomas School

Tony Scott, The Ivymount School

Naseem Sharpe, The Foundation School

Aaron Simon, Lourie Center School

Siera Snee, The Arrow Center for Education Fair Meadows Campus

MaKaile Stanley, Kennedy Krieger High School

Andrew Stem, New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Sean Sweeney, Hannah More School

Devon Thomas, The Children's Guild, Inc.

Artiana Thompson, The Children's Guild, Inc.

Malik Walker, The Chimes School

DeAntre Watkins, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Arnette Williams, New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Kristin Wollenweber, Hannah More School

James Yanchulis, High Road Academy

*Shakira
Ramsey
from
Chelsea
School*



"We serve as the collective voice and essential resource for the nonpublic special education community to champion the continuum of services for students with special needs."

– MANSEF's mission



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Maryland **A**ssociation of **N**onpublic
Special **E**ducation **F**acilities

Phone: (410) 938-4413

Fax: (410) 938-5130

Email: mansef@aol.com

Website: www.mansef.org

Tania DuBeau - President

Mary Schaefer - Vice President

Stephanie deSibour - Secretary

David Stone - Treasurer

Dorie Flynn - Executive Director

Within the next few months, I will finish my two-year term as MANSEF's 19th Board President. I end my term as I started – full of hope and expectations for positive change. It is remarkable to see the many ways in which MANSEF strives to best serve Maryland's children with special needs and to assure a comprehensive continuum of educational programs and services by:

- Advancing the mission of the association;
- Advocating to legislatures during MANSEF's Lobby Day and through other extensive lobbying efforts;
- Sharing resources with families and advocates for students with special needs by responding to specific inquiries and distributing the MANSEF Membership Directory;
- Serving as a liaison to the Maryland State Department of Education and Local School Systems regarding program approval, COMAR, staff certification, budget procedures, Common Core Standards, and other issues having an impact on MANSEF schools and students;
- Coordinating the MANSEF Conference and other professional development opportunities;
- Facilitating opportunities for participation in Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS);
- Preparing schools for the upcoming implementation of Common Core Standards through the Summer Teaching Institutes;
- Supporting the completion of the longitudinal study and broadly sharing the results substantiating positive outcomes for MANSEF's graduates;
- Providing networking, technical assistance, and mentoring opportunities to member schools in order to strengthen their ability to serve students;
- Coordinating the consortium to provide specialized services for special education students attending private and public schools;
- Representing MANSEF's goals, needs and interests at the local, state and national level by attending conferences and sharing resources;
- Highlighting the successes of MANSEF schools, community partners, and students through social media, the website, and Stepping Stones;
- Awarding Michael Cardin Scholarships to deserving MANSEF students seeking to pursue educational, recreational and vocational experiences;
- Enhancing the role parents play in educating the community and advocating for students through the Friends of MANSEF;
- Serving as a centralized source of valuable support and information about the educational options available for Maryland's special education students; and
- Filling a critical role in supporting Maryland's goal to once again be ranked as the #1 school system in the nation.

These reflect how MANSEF is shaping and strengthening Maryland's special education community. Regardless of what inspires you to meet the needs of special education children, there are endless opportunities for you to be a part of creating positive change and carrying forward MANSEF's mission.

I look forward to a new and exciting chapter as we continue to promote MANSEF's mission and goals with our next new President and incoming Board members. My sincere best wishes.

Sincerely,

Tania DuBeau
MANSEF President

MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



*Patrick
Marcotte on
the Severn
River at Ben
Oaks*

Baltimore Lab School

Baltimore Lab School (BLS) senior **Patrick Marcotte** was motivated to change the world after attending a Chesapeake Bay Foundation trip to Port Isobel Island with Baltimore Lab's Outdoor Education program. Upon his return, Patrick developed an action project in his Environmental Science class at BLS to send a group of students to study and work on the Severn River at Ben Oaks. During the project, students searched for macroinvertebrates, conducted water testing, pruned shoreline vegetation, and cleaned Bear Creek. Patrick's knowledge and passion for the environment inspired others to make a difference in their community.

Compass Academy

Compass Academy is thrilled to highlight one of their students, **Billy Delawder**. Billy transferred from Catonsville High School and became a member of the Compass family in January 2013. In just a short



Billy Delawder and Friend

amount of time, Billy transformed from a shy, unsure teenager, to a confident and social young man. He now easily makes and maintains friendships, communicates with peers, and participates in class. The smiling student you see today is a far cry from the one who was ready to end his academic career just a few months ago. Billy's mom, Mary, is forever grateful for the change. "Thank you again for letting us into the Compass Family. Billy has really blossomed thanks to you guys!!"



Dylan Salavics

Linwood Center

Linwood Center has been addressing the needs of children and adults with autism for nearly 60 years, and hundreds have a better life because of its groundbreaking programs. One student,

Dylan Salavics, has been attending classes and participating in campus work experiences at Linwood for the past six years. "Dylan came from an outside program lacking the individual support he needed for his behavior," says his father. "Linwood has been able to develop his individual support, focus on his abilities rather than his disabilities and enable him to learn and mature so that he is better prepared for life after graduation."

New Visions Academy of Baltimore

Last spring, **Lafayette Cunningham** accepted to lead the New Visions Academy of Baltimore class of 2013 in the "passing of the torch" ceremony. Although a top student and long-standing member of the Director's Level 5 club, Lafayette's school accomplishments are just part of what makes him an exceptional young man.

In the community, Lafayette works with outreach programs that provide assistance to the less fortunate and serves on the safety committee at Villa Maria. For two years, Lafayette met with state representatives to advocate for funding for nonpublic schools.

Next year, Lafayette will attend Community College of Baltimore County, majoring in criminal justice and business before transferring to Towson University and becoming a police officer.



Senior Lafayette Cunningham is surrounded on the left by Jerome Johnson, Transition Counselor, Michael Gunthrop, Academic Coordinator, and on the right Rob Thumma, Teacher.

The Children's Guild

Autism Students Learn Social Skills Through Running a Healthy Snacks Store

Students in The Children's Guild's Autism High School have found a way to learn about healthy eating and how to manage money, an effort that will also teach them life skills and is fun! Five autism students opened a store on our Prince George's County campus to sell healthy snacks. Students work as greeters, cashiers and runners. They named the store, advertise the store, take inventory to identify needed replacement items, and review best-selling items. This project builds self-esteem and reinforces social skills that present challenges to autism students, including customer service, working cooperatively with others, and effective communications.

The Frost School

Students Support Military Families

Most high school students are required to complete a number of community service hours in order to graduate. This is more difficult for some than others. The Frost School students have an opportunity to earn hours after school and support a noble cause at the same time. **Our students clip manufacturer's coupons** to send to military bases overseas. Military families are on a tight budget. These coupons allow them to save money while shopping at the commissaries and post exchanges on base. While working, our students are able to socialize and feel good about supporting those in uniform and their families.



Frost School students clip coupons for the troops

SCHOOL News



DeAngelo explores the Smithsonian

The Chelsea School

Chelsea School at the Smithsonian

On Tuesday, March 12, students of Chelsea School took part in the second annual **Chelsea Smithsonian Seminar Day** in downtown Washington, D.C.

Students signed up for 90-minute seminars that were led by Chelsea teachers at the various museums on the National Mall. These seminars represented academic and intellectual exploration in the fields of science, art, history, and technology. Despite some very heavy rain, the day was a huge success.

The Smithsonian Seminar Day is an academic initiative launched last year to promote experiential learning for students at Chelsea School. Unlike a normal field trip, the Smithsonian Seminar Day is formal and collegiate in tone, comes with academic expectations, and is designed to promote advanced and critical thinking. It is an opportunity for students to experience the broader world of ideas and to interact with cultural institutions with the support of Chelsea's special educators.

In one very popular seminar called **"Designing the Car of the Future,"** students toured and analyzed automobile designs from the twentieth century at the Museum of American History's new transportation wing. Students were challenged to provide solutions to engineering problems and applied critical thinking to design and function. After the seminar, students designed their own automobiles relying on the principles they observed during the seminar.

In a seminar entitled **"All Americans are Not the Same"** at the National Museum of the American Indian, students explored cultural diversity among Native American tribes and how family traditions and culture influenced their writings. They explored how life experiences and cultural diversity affect us today and investigated how the story-telling and literature that are produced by different cultures are shaped by historical and life perspectives.

Other seminars held on the trip included a forensic exploration of human remains from Ancient Egypt and the Jamestown settlement, an interactive survey of early space exploration, a critical look at Henri Matisse's famous "cut-out" paintings, a high-tech smart-device project aimed at remixing media at the Smithsonian, and a look at how early photography influenced formal portraiture.

Frank Mills, Chelsea School's Director of Education, stated, "Chelsea School's mission is to prepare students for success after high school. With this in mind, we try to expose them to enrichment experiences that challenge them to think critically, explore with enthusiasm, and solve problems. We don't ignore or hide from complex language or challenging ideas; instead, we show students how to navigate these intellectual obstacles. By exposing students to the discourse of thought that is taking place around them, we help to prepare them to process and use language, images, and ideas."



The Arrow Center for Education Fair Meadows Campus

Students at The Arrow Center for Education Fair Meadows Campus are getting their hands dirty! A wide **variety of seeds have been planted in the Arrow Greenhouse** by the students in the Horticulture class. They are amazed at how quickly the seeds germinate and are looking forward to being able to plant the seedlings in gardens on the school grounds as soon as the weather permits. They can't wait to taste the fruits (and vegetables) of their labors! Market packs and hanging baskets will be available to the public for purchase in May. Please call 410-734-0560 for additional information.



Students grow fruits and vegetables

The Forbush School at Glyndon

Helping Students Make Healthy Choices

The Forbush School at Glyndon has been embarking on **health initiatives** throughout the program to improve the health of their students. Fifty-nine percent of primary students and 35% of secondary students at the school are overweight or obese, which presents serious immediate and long-term medical concerns. The student population is met with the additional challenges of medications that cause increased appetite and weight gain, lack of education about what foods to buy and how to modify lifestyle, and lack of access to affordable nutritious items and resources to support health.

On April 8, the school held nutrition assemblies for primary and secondary students presented by Sheppard Pratt dietitians **Julie Wells, RD, LDN** and **Melissa Freestone, RD, LDN**. The presentation for primary students referenced the popular children's book, "**The Hungry Caterpillar**" by Eric Carle, to introduce a variety of healthy foods. The presentation for secondary students provided education on choosing nutritious foods, managing weight, and reading nutrition labels, with a "hands-on" demonstration to emphasize portion control.

New guidelines in the school's cafeteria have been implemented to help students make smart and healthy food choices. For example, soft drinks are limited to Fridays only, and students' purchases of unhealthier items such as chips and cookies are limited. Salad, yogurt and fruit are recommended as alternatives.

Mr. Greg Zechman, Food Service Teacher/Coordinator, commented, "We have never deep fried anything because we try to prepare foods in healthier ways, like grilling and baking. A lot of our food is prepared from scratch to help us control the amount of sodium and additives in the food we serve. We're also trying to control portion size and choices to help students make healthier choices when they can't do it on their own." Changes in the cafeteria offerings include more items with whole grains, like whole wheat pasta, and lower fat and calorie snack options like baked chips. Healthier drinks such as 100% fruit juice and flavored water are options on the menu.

The Pathways Schools

In-school Branches of Credit Unions Succeed at The Pathways Schools

Eight years ago, the **Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit Union (MCT)** opened a groundbreaking in-school branch at the Pathways School-Edgewood. It was the first in a special education high school. The innovative program was designed to be compatible with Edgewood's vocational programming, so students were trained and worked as the branch's tellers. The in-school branch was so successful that in 2009 the **Transit Employees Federal Credit Union (TEFCU)** used it as a model when it opened an in-school branch at Pathways-Crossland-Re-Entry. This in-school branch was the first in Prince George's County.

Last year, MCT merged with **Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU)**. Though it had educational programs fostering financial literacy in schools, ESFCU had little experience with in-school branches as sites for career training. Once it saw the success of Edgewood's branch, however, ESFCU not only agreed to keep it operating with student tellers, it became interested in expanding its in-school branch program to serve the career training needs of students. ESFCU representatives met with Pathways' Transition Specialist and Career Path Coordinator **Anthony Hamm** and with Prince George's County Public Schools officials to discuss opening an in-school branch at Pathways DuVal Re-Entry in October 2012.

(410) 938-4413

www.mansef.org



The Foundation Schools

The Foundation Schools held its most successful benefit yet on March 21 at the University of Maryland. The theme was, "Giving Kids Another Chance" and Governor Martin O'Malley was the Honorary Chair and guest speaker. He was introduced by Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker. Awards were given to two staff members who exemplify our Core Values of teamwork, work ethic, integrity, respect and leadership. Student performances included **Girls Rock!** and the **FSMC STEP team**. The fabulous student art work was another highlight of the evening.

The FSMC STEP Team



Student artwork up for auction



SCHOOL News

The Ivymount School

Ivymount Staff and Students Contribute to New Autism Speaks Employment Toolkit
The **Autism Speaks Employment Tool Kit** (www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/employment) launched recently to rave reviews! Several Ivymount students are featured throughout the tool kit, and Ivymount Post High School Director, **Lu Merrick**, served on the task force to develop the project.

This launch coincides with media focus around **MTV World of Jenks**, a show following a young man with autism, who is transitioning out of high school and will be looking for a job. This first launch is geared toward a person with autism and the next two pieces that will launch next month will be an Employer Guide and a Parent Guide.

Ivymount Teacher & Student Appear in National PSA

Last spring, Ivymount School was approached by the Department of Labor to participate in their "What Can YOU do?" Campaign for Disability Employment. In one afternoon, the halls of Ivymount School became a full-fledged film studio!

The final PSA has debuted and will begin to appear nationally in the next few months. Ivymount student **Jonathan Miranda** is featured for his work as an artist and appears with **Amy Alvord**, Ivymount's Director of Student Services and Transition Specialist. See the video PSAs at www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org.



Amy Alvord and Jonathan Miranda

Bravo! Ivymount Students Receive Honors at Folger Shakespeare Festival

Students in Ivymount's **Model Asperger Program** performed scenes from "The Tempest" at the **Secondary Shakespeare Festival** in March. The festival attracts students from area middle and high schools, and student performers receive commentary and awards from an expert panel of reviewers.

A particular distinction of the MAP project is that, while most school performances are productions of drama clubs drawn from large schools, the 10 players in the MAP performance represent the entire high school English class with the addition of three eighth grade students.

MAP performers were recognized with several awards, including: Sweet Sweethearts Award (**Caitlin Allen** and **Zachary Meyers**), Peggy O'Brien Award (**Zachary Hough**), Distinction in Acting Award (**Brandon LaMotte**) and the Ensemble Award given to the entire MAP group.

Ivymount students take to the stage



Linwood Center

Linwood Center Adding New School

The big news at Linwood Center is the opening in August 2013 of a new school building adjacent to the historic manor house in Ellicott City, MD, where it has been providing programs and services for children and adults living with autism for nearly 60 years. The new building will house a state-of-the-art educational program, including dedicated areas for multi-sensory environments, computer labs, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and fine arts. The 36,000 square foot school will allow Linwood to increase the number of children it serves, including kindergarten to 12th grade students with less severe forms of autism.



New school building at Linwood Center

Kennedy Krieger High School

Kennedy Krieger Students "Clean It Up"

This spring, 80 students from the Kennedy Krieger High School Career and Technology Center in Baltimore participated in the school's **Clean It Up Club** as part of a **Global Youth Service Day** initiative. The school's program, which was supported through a grant from **UnitedHealth** and **Youth Service America**, is designed to develop, refine, and maintain workforce readiness skills while exercising through participation in a walking club.

The Kennedy Krieger **Clean It Up Club** began with a kick-off event in January that communicated the purpose of the club to the students, who exhibit a variety of disabilities and disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and musculoskeletal system. Club members engaged in walking activities over a two-and-a-half month period that built toward participation in sponsoring a mile section of the Torrey C. Brown Trail located in Baltimore County. Over the course of the project, which culminated on April 26—Global Youth Service Day—students traveled to the trail to walk and clean up the sponsored section. Trash and litter have no place in nature, and the goal of the Clean It Up Club is to show good stewardship by helping to keep the trail clean and to show students that they can do their part in picking up litter and helping to maintain cleanliness in the outdoors.

Since the initial commencement activity, students participated in outings where they were equipped with pedometers to track how far they walked;

gloves for safely handling trash that was found; and garbage bags to collect litter. Each class in the club participated weekly by walking (for physical exercise and well-being) and by cleaning up trash encountered along the way, which benefitted the environment. A large focus of the club is to work and exercise in a team setting that reinforces workforce readiness skills and self-advocacy. It is critical to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to establish relationships, and the Clean It Up Club does just that.

Through participation in clubs, students gain important skills such as socializing with others, making friends, and learning to work together in real-life situations—all skills that will transfer to other environments once they transition from high school.



*Clean it Up Club member
Chris G. in action!*



Mann Residential Treatment Center

"Poetry is like a fine dessert, you just can't get enough of it!"

The proof is in the writings from Mr. Jason's English class at Mann Residential School. The students have been reading the poetic works of Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Walt Whitman and Shel Silverstein, to name a few, and are dabbling in their own creative verse. They are writing ballads, couplets, narratives and free verse with an outpouring of expression and thought-provoking prose. According to one of our stellar poets, "Poetry is everything. It is the way we speak, the way we walk, the way we feel." Here is an excerpt from her latest work, **"Prisoner of the Mind."**

Why do I stand on a burned platform like I'm owned?

Why can't I wake up from this horrible dream?

I need to be healed and saved from the darkness.

STOP!!!!

The creativity doesn't stop there! The students designed their own blog using a website building program.

Visit our website:

Mrjasonspoetryclass.weebly.com



SOARING

The Katherine Thomas School

Soaring To Success through Art at The Katherine Thomas School

Artist in Residence is a favorite program of students and staff at KTS. An artist comes to KTS and works with students to create permanent pieces of art or installations. The artist designs the project and collaborates with the students to create large scale projects based on a particular theme or idea.

Teaching artist **Tara Holl** and KTS students created a project inspired by the KTS theme of “**Soaring to Success.**” Students worked hands-on with wood, wire, Styrofoam, metal and recycled objects, fabric, costume jewelry and paint to create colorful flying creatures that brighten our hallways and our hearts!

**Creativity
Spotlight**

Artist in Residence Tara Holl
assisting a KTS student

Sheppard Pratt

Celebrating 45 Years of Providing Special Education

This year, the Sheppard Pratt Health System, which operates the school programs listed below from across the state, is celebrating 45 years of serving students with special and complex learning needs. There are a variety of program models that provide educational, vocational, related and therapeutic services to students who require a specialized non-public school setting.

**The Forbush School
@ Anne Arundel**

The Forbush School @ Glyndon

**The Forbush Therapeutic
Preschool @ Towson**

**The Forbush School
@ Prince George's Co.**

The Forbush School @ Hunt Valley

The Jefferson School

The Jefferson School @ Finan

**The Forbush School
@ Oakmont -Upper School**

**The Forbush School
@ Westminster**

The Hannah More Schools

**The Programs
@ the Frost School**

Mann Residential School

The Highroad School of Southern Maryland

Celebrating 10 Years

The year was 2003 – “Chicago” won best picture, “The Sopranos” was redefining television, the Florida Marlins won the World Series and the High Road School of Southern Maryland opened its doors. On Friday, March 8, 2013, the High Road School officially celebrated its 10th year serving students in Southern Maryland.

The celebration served as both a toast to the past and a look to the present. Ericho Little, School Director, who has been with the program from day one, talked about the importance of utilizing what is learned from the past to shape the future. Several current and former students were in attendance. The event served as a reminder of the deep and profound impact the High Road academic and behavioral model has on students.



Former and current staff of High Road School



Keith White
and Ericho Little

SCHOOL News



Harbour students cook on the firepit

Harbour School

Museum Day at The Harbour School at Baltimore

The Harbour School at Baltimore hosted its **2nd Annual Museum Day** on April 19, 2013. The theme of the day was **Societal Change Through Art and Technology**.

Students used a wind tunnel to demonstrate how automobiles have changed through the years. Another

exhibit was TEACHnology! This is a virtual museum

using Smartboard technology. Students took visitors through inventions of the 19th, 20th, 21st century and into the future with an interactive time machine. They also demonstrated bookbinding as it was done in the past.

Harbour School students built a fire pit to explore how cooking has changed with technology. They also demonstrated soap making and laundering clothes on a washboard to show how technology has made that process so much easier.

Harbour students served as museum curators and docents. The students used this opportunity to show the audience how Harbour students are applying their knowledge of **Science, Technology, Engineering Art and Math** in a multimedia exhibit for all to enjoy.

Yale University Whim and Rhythm Visits

Whim and Rhythm, an all senior young women's chorus, visited The Harbour School at Baltimore on March 19. The group was on tour as part of their spring break. Students are selected for this all-senior group by the graduating class. The graduating seniors audition and select the rising seniors, who will then carry the tradition through their own senior years.

Leo Club Design and Build a Stone Walkway

The Leo Club is a subsidiary of the Lions Club. Each Leo Club is a service club supported by a local Lions Service Club. Students of the Annapolis club **designed and built a stone walkway** between the campus of The Harbour School at Annapolis and the neighboring church, Christ Our Anchor. The school uses the church parking lot for overflow parking during the week, and the church uses the school's parking lot on weekends and religious holidays. The new walkway allows pedestrians to stay dry and comfortable as they travel between the two facilities.

Whim and Rhythm take to the stage



Annapolis students building new walkway

Compass Academy

Students Visit Wolf Sanctuary

On April 18, Compass Academy visited the **Wolf Sanctuary of Pennsylvania** as a part of their Project Adventure experiential learning program. Throughout the year, their **student government association** raised over **\$400**

towards the cost of the trip. At the sanctuary, the students learned about wolf pack dynamics, hybrid wolves, and why wolves do NOT make good house pets. With the help of their maintenance man, **Mark Mangus**, they donated over 150 pounds of venison to keep the park's critters satiated and satisfied!



Residents of the Wolf Sanctuary of Pennsylvania

Gateway School

Honoring Child Abuse Prevention Month

Gateway School planted a **pinwheel garden** as part of the **Stand for Children Campaign** to end child abuse. This Child Abuse Prevention Month activity is coordinated by The Family Tree, an organization that provides support to 14,000 families and caregivers each year.

As part of the campaign, students created pinwheels and planted them around the school and were then able to share their creations on social networks and with their families.

Students plant a pinwheel garden



Villa Maria School Timonium

26 Acts of Kindness campaign

During the months of February and March, the students and staff at the Villa Maria School at Timonium participated in the **26 Acts of Kindness campaign**. This campaign was started by **Ann Curry**, a journalist who covered the tragic shootings in Newtown, Connecticut. She wanted to make some good come from this tragedy, so she **challenged others to do 26 acts of kindness** in their lives in honor of the 26 victims at Sandy Hook Elementary.

After learning about this campaign, the **PBIS team** at Villa Maria School wanted to organize an activity that everyone could participate in and that would highlight many of the positive acts that we see each and every day in our school. Staff members were given slips of paper to write the acts that they witnessed on and then they connected these slips together to form chains of kindness in the classrooms. The culminating event came when the PBIS team collected all of these chains and then linked them together to form a school wide chain of kindness. The resulting chain loops over our front windows as an amazing visual display of the many kind acts that we witness and practice here every day.



The Friendship Tree

The Friendship Tree

On April 9, the Villa Maria School at Timonium held a dedication ceremony to celebrate its **student-made mosaic mural**. The Fine Arts department worked with all of the students to make this mosaic to beautify the hallway and welcome visitors into the school. On the center of the wall, we have a whimsical and peaceful tree that is surrounded by butterflies, birds, and circles. The tree was named, **The Friendship Tree**, by one of our students, **Cindy**. She shared this with us at the dedication:

"Hi, my name is Cindy and I'd like to talk about our mosaic. A mosaic is made from broken glass or tiles. We took mosaic pieces and put them on wood. When I did the mosaic, it was 'wow!' They are awesome! I like doing mosaics because it is fun and helps you calm down when you're in a bad mood. Our mosaic tree reminds me of friendship, kindness and respect. That's why I called it, 'The Friendship Tree.' It reminds me that our school doesn't need bullying and that we need to respect each other. Thanks to Ms. Hines, Ms. Sugar, Ms. Pam and Ms. Laura. And thank you to all of the students for making this happen."

With the help of the non-profit group, **MosaicMakers**, and **Ms. Sugar** (our art teacher), our artistic students learned teamwork, patience, and cooperation. Even when we got frustrated in learning something new, the students helped each other in the process. While making the mosaic mural, students eagerly learned about Antoni Gaudí, a famous mosaic architect, and how he was also influenced by nature, such as trees and flowers.

The students take great pride and ownership in their work as they will forever leave their mark on our school. Each student added a touch of their personality into the mosaic pieces, and when they all came together we created a sparkling masterpiece. We are all very proud of our students for this artwork!

Students work on their mosaics



Chains of Kindness



youth in Transition

Horticulture Program Expands

The Horticulture Program at the Youth In Transition School has expanded and students have been enjoying even more aspects of the program.

Students arrive eager to go to "work," and after a short lesson in the classroom they have the benefit of going into the greenhouses and actually doing and acting out the lesson with a very hands-on approach. Students learn how to plant, transplant, nurture and harvest crops and learn the benefits of composting organically, vermi-compost (worms) and the importance of sun, water and fertilizer. One student proclaimed "this is like taking care of children; you have to feed and care for the plants."

The lessons and possibilities are endless!



YIT get lessons in horticulture

St. Elizabeth School

Great Pairings

Last July, six St. Elizabeth School students began an ambitious journey. Partnering with CCBC, SES offered the students a certification course for the "**ServSafe Food Handler**" Program, which prepares future culinary employees in essential national food safety standards, culminating in the national ServSafe exam. Students that pass the exam will receive a Maryland State Food Handler Certification.



Chef Chris Lodwick working with SES student Desmond Thompson in the SES kitchen (Chef Duvall in background)

The six SES students have been attending Food Safety classes twice a week with CCBC Instructor Jarina Lloyd, who glows about her students, "It is wonderful to see students who have a passion for food apply themselves... [they] impress with their professionalism, genuine interest, and enthusiasm." Students apply their knowledge in the SES kitchen, preparing Chef Specials for staff under the direction of Chef Chris Lodwick. The SES staff has been delighted by a range of student prepared meals, including Chicken Parmesan, New Orleans Jambalaya, and more. We're sure that with all of their hard work and dedication, these students will look back on their upcoming exam as a "piece of cake." In the meantime, we wish them luck as they study and hone their culinary skills!

Celebrating the Benefits of Art Therapy

St. Elizabeth School's **Cathy Goucher, MA, ATR-BC, LCPC, LCPAT**, presented "Celebrating Idiosyncrasy & Making Meaning: Art Therapy with Individuals with Autism" at **Honestly**

Autism Day on April 20. Art therapy, as explained by Ms. Goucher, is an opportunity to bring internal thoughts and feelings out in a tangible form, to practice social tolerance and flexibility of thought, and to develop personal narrative verbally and non-verbally. Ms. Goucher, who has provided art therapy at St. Elizabeth School for over ten years, unveiled a video at the presentation that was produced by Real Look Autism and featured her therapeutic work with SES Student Conor Wade.



Cathy Goucher and Conor Wade

SAVE THE DATE



2013 Conference Friday, November 1, 2013 Baltimore Convention Center

Over 2,000 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

for updates and more details.

Call for Presenters

As in the past, we are looking for people willing to donate their time to present workshops related to topics that would be informative and applicable to our audience.

Interested?

Contact Joyleen Hamilton at 410-938-4413

or MansefAssistant@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE

for *Swing* **EDUCATION**

Golf & Tennis Classic

*Providing scholarships for students
with a variety of needs*

September 30, 2013

Woodholme Country Club

Hosted by

Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools

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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**.



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