

# STEPPING Stones

February 2012

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

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Maryland Politics Summit



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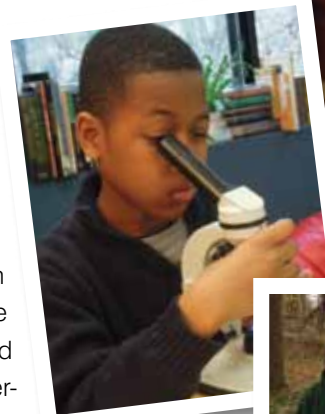
**David Stone** - Treasurer

**Dorie Flynn** - Executive Director

## THE AUBURN SCHOOL

The Auburn School curriculum design and teaching approaches are focused on the pathways through which the children will understand deeply the concepts and ideas they encounter. Our Silver Spring, Baltimore and Herndon, Virginia campuses provide children with authentic experiences that invite them to make connections and develop a broad palette of perspectives. This is accomplished through a rigorous curriculum that includes an integrated social thinking framework, field experiences, and direct instruction.

Through our partnerships with families, we help children construct bridges from their in-school learning to their worlds outside of school, and as such, we achieve our ultimate goal: for students to generalize and to apply what they learn to novel contexts, and to become independent learners equipped to navigate a complex social world. In Silver Spring, we partner with many professional organizations, such as Imagination Stage, Great and Small Horse Farm, Discovery Education, The Levine School of Music and AEMS (Arts Education in Maryland Schools), that supports us to reinforce and enhance the mission of The Auburn School.



In the first half of the year, the Silver Spring students have celebrated community by developing peer relationships, learning our rights and responsibilities, visiting a local farm, and hosting a Thanksgiving feast for Auburn families. At the Auburn School, we strive to support our students as they take risks, make mistakes, and master new skills.

The Auburn School added a third campus this September when we opened our doors to 10 enthusiastic students in Baltimore. Our beautifully renovated facility in the Towson Unitarian Univer-

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*"To the world you may be  
just one person, but to one  
person you may be the world."*

*- Brandi Snyder*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The impact that one person has had on others can often be immeasurable. But, at times, the influence can be found in the legacy left behind. This past December, The Pathways Schools community and I were deeply saddened by the sudden and unexpected loss of **Rev. Sharon Peters**. Before retiring five years ago, she had served as the Executive Director and CEO of Pathways for nearly 25 years and as a MANSEF Board member in 1999-2003. I had the privilege of working under her leadership for over 20 of those years, and I, undoubtedly along with many others, was changed in many ways by her compassion, her strength, her courage, and her dedication.

Within Maryland's field of special education, the ways in which she changed others can be seen through students' successes, through the dedication of the next generation of special educators, and through specialized school programs. In recent weeks, a former student, who is highlighted later in this issue, remarked that Sharon "was extremely pivotal in providing services to teens such as she was back then."

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is placing a newly energized emphasis on developing **partnerships between MANSEF member schools and the local school systems**. It was over 20 years ago that Sharon collaborated with Prince George's County Public Schools and MSDE to develop a partnership that became the first nonpublic Type II school in the state. Since Pathways opened the first nonpublic school operating within a public school in 1989, MANSEF member schools have built on that success and grown to open 14 Type II programs throughout the state. In more recent years, partnerships have taken on several different forms, including developing small classes within public schools for students with very specialized needs and providing access to related services within their home schools.

Especially within the realities of the current economic challenges, it is imperative that the special education community, including MSDE, local school systems, MANSEF member schools, families, and community advocates stand together to strengthen access to the continuum of services for students with special needs. Within recent weeks, many MANSEF supporters have made their views known to the state legislators about the importance of financially supporting nonpublic special education schools. It was fantastic to see all those who came to Annapolis for **MANSEF Lobby Day** to meet with their representatives and to highlight the following key points:

- Nonpublic school tuition rates have been frozen for the past three years while costs continue to increase,
- There is a legal obligation and a tremendous need for the specialized services offered in MANSEF schools,
- Our outcome study demonstrates that MANSEF students enroll in post-secondary education at a higher rate than students from public school programs, and
- MANSEF schools employ over 2000 people.

**One person can make a difference.** The way in which you impact the world may be by advocating on a student's behalf, by seeking a legislator's support of funding for nonpublic schools serving the state's neediest students, by developing partnerships to strengthen the continuum of services, or by dedicating your work to create better lives for students with disabilities. In memory of Sharon, I challenge you to make a difference.

Kind regards,

Tania DuBeau  
MANSEF President



# MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



## Children's Guild

### Eugene Thriving In High School After Five Years At Children's Guild

Eugene was two years below grade level, angry, aggressive, anxious, hard to control and unable to function in public school when he came to The Children's Guild in third grade. Prior to leaving the Children's Guild last summer Eugene chose Bishop McNamara High School, a Catholic high school to attend in Prince George's county. Today Eugene is having no behavioral problems, is doing very well in his academic classes and is playing on the JV football team. Eugene's mom, a teacher, responded by saying: "I cannot thank the Guild enough for what they did for my boy!"

## The Foundation School

DeAndre came to The Foundation School of Montgomery County as a frightened and frustrated 8th grader in 2008 after a long history of unsuccessful special education placements. His referral noted increased

aggressive behavior towards staff, unsafe behavior and repeated truancy.

In just three years, DeAndre has made consistent academic, clinical and behavioral progress. DeAndre's work in our program has helped him maintain the highest levels of risk-free behavior, earn honor roll grades, and achieve excellent attendance records.

For DeAndre, The Foundation Schools provides a sense of security and responsibility. And, as is often the case, his personal development is opening doors to community involvement. DeAndre has worked in the school store and has served as a member of the Student-Staff Advisory Board. In August, 2011, DeAndre began mainstreaming in the Thomas Edison High School of Technology's (Silver Spring) Hospitality and Tourism Program. He has earned the National Restaurant Association's "Serve Safe Food" Protection certificate and will begin studying for his Food Handler's license. He is looking forward to an upcoming internship with the Marriott Corporation.

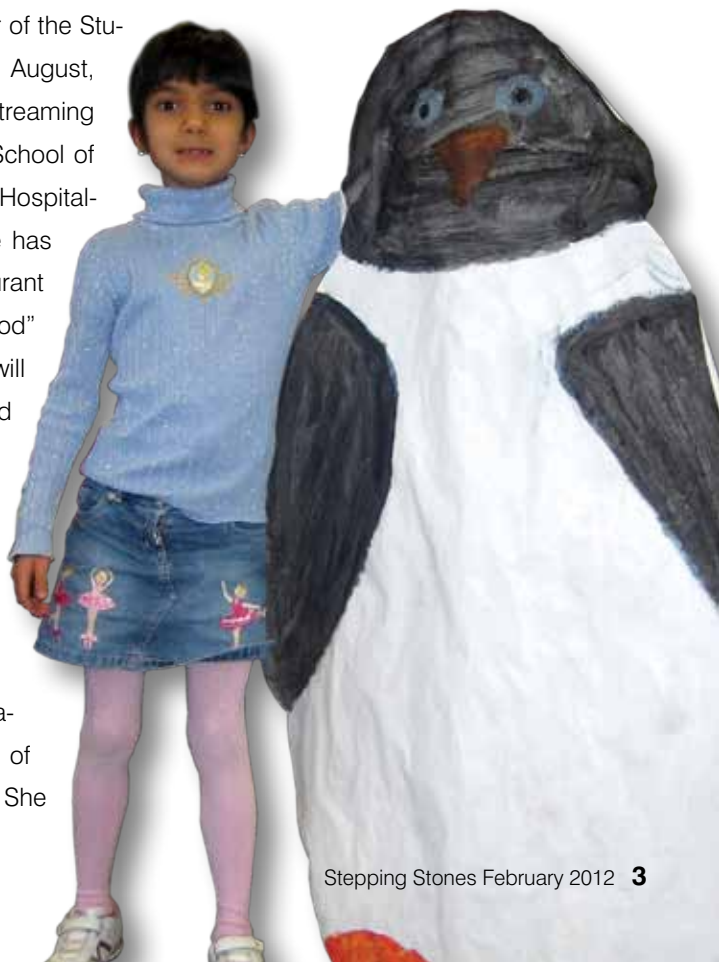
## Gateway School

Avigail Rubin was recently featured in the September issue of the Jewish Times magazine. She

entered Gateway at four years of age. Avigail initially attended Gateway's auditory/oral preschool program, and is now a second grader. The article tells of Avigail's diagnosis of hearing loss and also includes information about navigating the IEP process from MANSEF's executive director, Dorie Flynn. "Avigail loves to learn and her language skills are showing constant improvement. But the most important thing is she's happy. She loves to go to school every day," states her mom.

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## High Road Academy Student Takes the Higher Road!

Jenna Carlson began attending High Road Academy in Howard County when she was a sixth grade student in 2007. A reader, Jenna still had many gaps in her reading comprehension, math, spelling, and written expression skills which lagged several years below her grade level. Jenna also experienced many difficulties socially and with changes in routines.

Over the ensuing years, Jenna gained more and more confidence and competence in all of her academic skills, with gains ranging from three to eight grade levels in her middle school years. This year, as a ninth grader, Jenna began a partial transition to her home high school, River Hill High School, in Howard County. Initially, starting the year with two classes at RHHS, Jenna was so successful that her course load was increased to three classes in addition to her schedule at High Road Academy. This lengthened Jenna's school day to an eight hour day as opposed to the six and a half hour day she had grown accustomed to! Again, Jenna rose to the challenge and, as of the start of the second semester, she has made a full transition back to River Hill High School for the remainder of her high school years. In addition, Jenna has already made many new friends and is a member of the cast and crew for the upcoming school musical!

We are so proud of Jenna! We couldn't have done it without the amazing cooperation and collaboration of the staff of River Hill High School and the nonpublic office in Howard County. Congratulations to all and best wishes to Jenna!



# STUDENT Success



## Harbour School

The Harbour School at Baltimore government class wrote a letter to Senator Mikulski requesting that she have a United States flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the school's 30th anniversary. The flag was presented to the school at a special ceremony.

The Harbour School at Annapolis color guard opened the general session at the MANSEF conference at the Convention Center in Baltimore in November and the performing arts students sang Silent Night in German and English and a scene from Beauty and the Beast. Students present the flag at graduation ceremonies, conferences and at the Independence Day celebrations. In addition, performing arts students were invited to perform at the holiday party for the Division of Certification and Accreditation at MSDE. They were received with huge warmth from staff members. Students thanked MSDE staff for all they did for non-public schools. Students offered the appreciation on behalf of all MANSEF students.



Aaron Banks, a student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, has been accepted to attend the Aspiring Art Classes at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Aaron's art has previously been selected to be on the cover of the Journal of Learning Disabilities in October 2010.







## Kennedy Krieger

Central Maryland Young Marines located at Kennedy Krieger High School participated in the 70th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Five Central Maryland Young Marines went to support this once in a life time historical event. They marched in the parade carrying the banner for the USS Maryland and their unit flag. These five Young Marines also participated in the wreath laying ceremony that honored those who lost their lives in the Pearl Harbor attack. The students raised money for the trip by selling candy, collecting cans and recycling used cellphones and ink cartridges.

## High Road School of Perryville

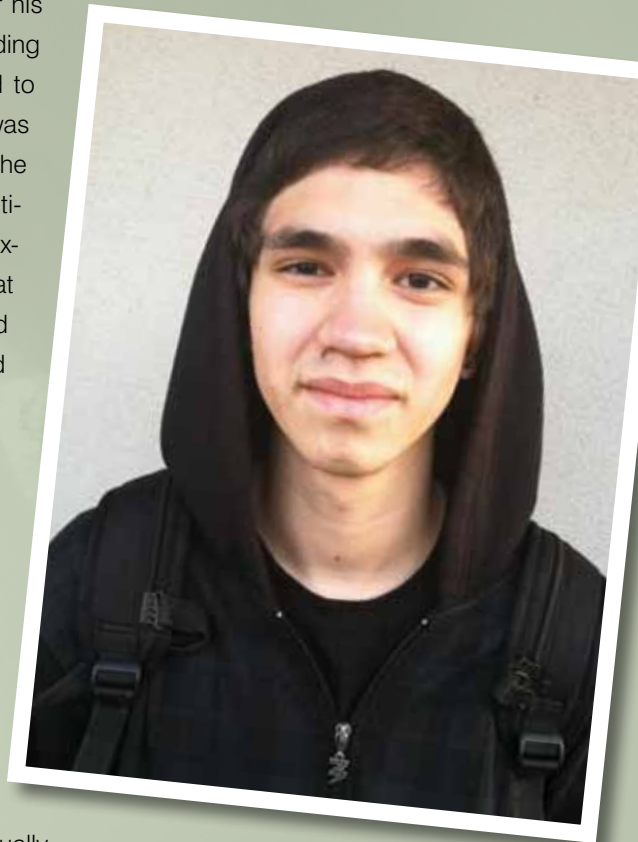
Henry Candia is a sixteen year old tenth grade student at the High Road School of Perryville. He is a passionate, friendly young man who enjoys school, likes to read and excels at skateboarding. Henry's emotional disability caused him to require additional support in the school environment which is why he was referred to High Road School. In school, he maintains a blue level status, the highest behavioral level, and therefore earns many incentives. Most of the free time earned in school is spent reading about skateboarding, idolizing pro skaters, and attempting new tricks in the school parking lot. But there is another outlet for Henry's expression that is often overshadowed by skateboarding; Henry is also a talented musician who plays the piano, guitar, and sings.

In September, 2010, shortly after his placement at High Road School of Perryville, Henry received the shocking news that one of his friends was killed in a tragic car accident. He was devastated. One of the ways Henry coped with his grief was by collaborating with other Harford

County musicians and High Road staff members to write and perform a song that would honor his late friend. Impressed by Henry's talent and desire to honor his friend, the staff members encouraged him to showcase his song at The Annual High Road School Fine Arts Festival. After his well received performance and standing ovation at that event, he was asked to perform at another venue. Henry was the first of three acts to perform at the 2011 MANSEF Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center. He was anxious about performing in front of that many people, but he sang and played with profound emotion. The crowd gave him another standing ovation by well over 2000 teachers and special educators!

Henry is a very reflective person. He is always considering the past and wondering how he can learn from mistakes made. He has an open mind and is excited about his future. He has experienced great success within the High Road School program and will be gradually

transitioning back to public school next quarter. Everyone at High Road School is extremely proud of Henry and his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in the future!



# MANSEF STUDENT SUCCESS

*continued*



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## Pathways

### Graduate Success

Chelsea Rickert-Hayes came to Pathways in early 1998 and graduated the following year. She worked extremely hard at both her studies and her job as a veterinary assistant and receptionist at an animal hospital. In addition, she attended Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training on Sundays and had night and weekend duty at the Rescue Squad. As ambitious and hard-working as she was, Chelsea still struggled with self-doubt and worry. She remembers Pathways Executive Director Rev. Peters talking with her during these difficult moments: "She said to me, 'Chelsea you can, you CAN be everything you want to be, you just have to believe in you'."

Today, Chelsea is a single mother of five, with four adopted daughters and a biological son. She is a full-time nurse, and in 2010 was named Foster Parent of the Year from Montgomery County by The Freddie Mac Foundation and the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

In a recent email Chelsea wrote, "I will forever be thankful for [Rev. Peters'] devotion to the children at Pathways and to me. ....Together everyone helped me make a plan for my life that would have never been possible."

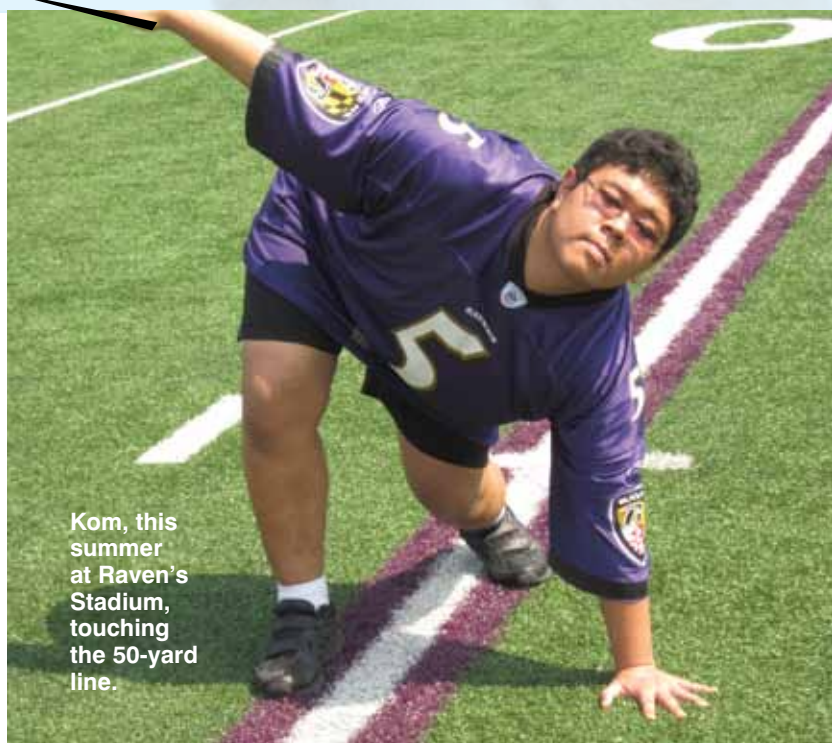
*"Chelsea you can, you CAN be everything you want to be, you just have to believe in you."*



## St. Elizabeth School

### Kom on the Airwaves

When Kom came to St. Elizabeth School, he didn't say much... or rather, he didn't say anything at all. With effort from SES therapists, teachers, staff and Kom's own perseverance, he slowly came around to talking. Early on, Kom would speak only in therapy, and then later, he would speak on the job and in the classroom. Kom invested time, work, and patience, and after four years of being at SES, he is hardly quiet anymore. Kom now announces Eagle High 5's, an award for students who exemplify SES's core values, every Friday. Kom's passion for the Ravens sang out recently over the school PA, as he yelled, "CAW! GO RAVENS!" loudly and proudly.



Kom, this summer at Raven's Stadium, touching the 50-yard line.



# SCHOOL News

## Children's Guild

Dr. Andrew Ross, President & CEO of The Children's Guild, was recognized by the Baltimore Daily Record as an Innovator of the Year in Baltimore for improving outcomes for children in child welfare and education through creating tools for the practical application of anthropology and neuroscience to manage child serving organizations and to instruct children.

## Diener School

At the Diener School, we place a strong emphasis on teaching social skills in order to help our students become successful members of their communities. In the Lower School, our students learn to identify expected and unexpected behaviors, to use strategies to express their feelings, to label and respond to another's nonverbal communication (especially facial expressions and body language), to initiate and maintain successful conversations, to enter ongoing play, and to be active listeners, to name a few. The students in our Upper School engage in lessons and activities to learn how to take another's perspective, to interpret and use humor/sarcasm/idiomatic language, to increase their self-awareness, to build upon their flexibility, to learn good sportsmanship, and to "filter" their thoughts before verbally expressing them. These lessons are infused throughout the week by the classroom teachers and with our Bullis School buddies to provide our students with more opportunities to practice these skills and aid them in maintaining social relationships.

## Forbush School at Glyndon

Forbush @ Glyndon began a reading program featuring Karma therapy dogs. These wonderful animals that were rescued themselves now provide loving acceptance and a warm cuddle to make reading a pleasure for youngsters who normally find reading a chore. They are brought by their trained handlers who are adept at supporting reluctant readers. Our students snuggle down next to their new buddy to read aloud without fear of criticism or impatience transforming reading from a chore into a delight. The children love it and so do our dog friends! We look forward to continuing with this popular program in 2012.

## Forbush of Prince George's County

Watch out, job seekers – the vocational program at The Forbush School of Prince George's County is making excellent progress in preparing students for adulthood! Students are participating daily in the vocational curriculum, and have recently completed a set of vocational clusters including hospitality and office management. One student who has progressed significantly in this program is J, who helps the office staff in completing a number of office tasks. A few of his responsibilities are making photocopies, sorting mail, helping to set up the school calendar, and delivering materials to the classrooms. J's assistance in the office is greatly appreciated!

*The Auburn School, continued from front cover*

salist Church on Dulaney Valley Road provides a warm and inviting academic environment surrounded by natural beauty which includes a short hiking trail.

In the first half of the year, Baltimore Upper School students have ventured into the community to visit the Walter's Art Museum while our younger class visited a local library and Pizza Hut. We participated in the Towson Chamber of Commerce Food Drive and were a force at the Walk Now for Autism Speaks event in October. Beginning a new school is a challenging and invigorating adventure.

We welcome you to visit!



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## Harbour School

The Harbour School was voted one of the top 75 Workplaces in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Over 1000 companies were nominated. The Baltimore Sun surveyed the employees of the companies nominated. Winners were determined by the votes of employees.

The Harbour School was particularly appreciative given the salary freeze that has been in effect for several years. The Harbour School was featured in a Baltimore Sun supplement, at an awards dinner and online at the Baltimore Sun website.

## Ivymount

**2011 Post School Student Survey finds that 93% of Ivymount alumni are currently employed.** In order to ensure high quality programming, the Ivymount administration engaged respected researcher Dr. Eve Müller to coordinate site-based research projects and document program outcomes. Dr. Müller's work on autism, secondary transition, and language issues has been published in a number of peer reviewed journals, including the Journal of Autism and Development Disorders.

Among her first projects for Ivymount, she conducted follow-up studies with families of alumni from all programs, and tracked outcomes for innovative social skills and/or secondary transition programs. Parents of 43 Ivymount alumni were interviewed for this study. For the full report on this study and to see other Ivymount research projects, please visit: [www.ivymount.org/research](http://www.ivymount.org/research).

We are pleased to share that The Ivymount School was featured and named **Best Private School for Special Needs for 2012** by *Bethesda Magazine*.



# SCHOOL News

## High Road Academy

### VIP Tour for High Road Academy

On January 4, 2012, Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), the parent company of High Road Academy and other subsidiaries, hosted two very special guests.

Former Governor, Robert Ehrlich, and recently retired Maryland State Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Grasmick visited several sites. Accompanied by SESI President and CEO, Dr. Michael Kaufman, the guests visited New Hope Academy in Baltimore City. They then toured an in-district model, High Road Academy at Linthicum Elementary School where Anne Arundel County Public School's Director of Special Education, Mary Tillar, was on hand to celebrate the successful collaboration between SESI and AACPS! In addition, Susan Marshburn, Coordinator of Out of Home School Placements, also joined the tour at Linthicum to showcase the in-district model within the county. The last stop on the tour was High Road Academy in Howard County, a private separate day school for students with learning disabilities.

Governor Ehrlich and Dr. Grasmick were able to visit a range of programming options for students who need alternative programming, such as at New Hope Academy to an in-district model at Linthicum Elementary school to a full-day separate program at High Road Academy in Laurel! Both Governor Ehrlich and Dr. Grasmick were highly complimentary of all the programs. Their questions reflected great insight into not only education, but the field of special education as well. It was truly an honor to have two such illustrious Maryland dignitaries not only visit, but provide such thoughtful comments and compliments to our schools. It was a visit of a lifetime and will not be forgotten!

Special thanks to the administrative staff for their excellent hosting of this tour: Mrs. Staria Alexander, Mr. Matt Cooper, Dr. Ellen Gaske, Ms. Carrie Spies, Mr. Ryan Hax, Ms. Christine Hoelscher, Mr. James Young, Mr. Keith Seymour, and Ms. Tiffaney Schwartzberg. Special thanks also to all of the staff and students of New Hope Academy, High Road Academy at Linthicum Elementary School, and High Road Academy for sharing their wonderful work and the remarkable student achievements to our guests!





## Kennedy Krieger

The middle school classrooms at the Montebello/Kennedy Krieger Partnership School were off to a busy start this school year. The two middle school classrooms challenged one another in a **States and Capitals Competition**. The date was set for November 4th and the students prepared themselves to learn all 50 states and their capitals. During the weeks leading up to the competition, students prepared by playing matching games, studying flashcards, and completing homework that helped them to memorize each state and its capital. The teachers found online activities and used Promethean flipcharts to aid in the process. During transition times in the daily schedule, students quizzed themselves and their peers. They also took time out of their lunch period to make sure they would be prepared. On the day of the competition, there were three heats of students and the winner of each heat participated in the final round. The winner of the competition was *Cameron Palmer*, a 7th grade student, who was able to name all 50 states and their correct capitals! *Cameron* was awarded a certificate and named the "States and Capitals Winner". The competition was a huge success and the classrooms were eager to challenge one another again. The students decided that the next competition would be countries and capitals of Africa.

Montebello  
Elementary/Middle School



## New Visions Academy

**GOING GREEN! Stroll into the graphics classroom at New Visions Academy of Baltimore, but watch out for the student zombies!**

Wait—*zombies*? This isn't as unusual as it sounds. As one of the innovative projects undertaken with teacher Jason Adelung and teacher's associate Phillip Johnson, New Visions' students made photos of themselves into zombies that now snarl out from the classroom wall. They have also created hybrid portraits, produced music videos, made stationary sets for a personal business, and designed notepads for a charity. Students use state-of-the-art software and equipment, including the Adobe Creative Suite, Sound Booth, iMovie, Garage Band, and a brand-new green room with studio-quality lighting, to work their digital magic.

Mr. Jason and Mr. Phillip's program takes a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on teaching students marketable skills in the ever-widening and competitive graphic design field. Students learn traditional print design but also web design, animation, and video editing, and in the midst of all of that, they dabble in writing, historical research, and business management. Don't be fooled by the zombies. With a print newsletter, weekly news broadcast, and field trips to newsrooms and radio stations on the horizon, New Visions' graphics program is vibrant and very much alive.

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## Mann RTC

**The Mann Residential School Gets Swept Up in the Holiday Season**

Santa's elves have nothing on the students at The Mann Residential School! The holiday spirit inspired students to dress as elves and wrap gifts at the Gatehouse Shop's Holiday Extravaganza. They made a surprise visit, along with Santa, to the Forbush Therapeutic Preschool. They read stories and led children in singing Christmas Carols while Santa handed out gifts. Our talented choir warmed the hearts of our friends at the Holly Hills Nursing Home by singing joyful songs of the season for them. That's a wrap for this year! Happy 2012!



## Katherine Thomas School

### TLC's Katherine Thomas School Brings Holiday Cheer to Ingleside Residents

On December 16, TLC's Katherine Thomas School was invited to perform a special holiday concert for residents of Ingleside at King Farm, a retirement community located in Rockville. The concert, led by Amy Gardiner, KTS Music Teacher, was followed by caroling with residents in the Assisted Living wing.

This was the second time KTS has performed at Ingleside, where the residents again enjoyed a wonderful and energetic performance that featured a wide array of musical selections. The program featured a rich collection of instrumental and vocal selections from all styles and genres. Students are looking forward to next year's performance already!

### TLC's Katherine Thomas School Wins Silver and Bronze Awards for "Positive Behavior"

In September, Matthew Vadney and Dustin Hartwigsen accepted special recognition for the KTS implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) at the PBIS Special Schools Returning Team Training in Howard County. Out of 417 Maryland participating schools, KTS high school won a "Bronze" banner and KTS lower/middle school received a "Silver" banner. The program included creating token economies, setting school-wide, positively stated behavior expectations for providing rewards both for individuals and groups, and for tracking student behavior and building a database of information.

The Maryland State Department of Education, which has been promoting PBIS, visited KTS last spring and interviewed staff and students about school-wide expectations, how behaviors should be handled, how students' positive efforts should be rewarded and recognized, and whether data was effectively used to shape staff responses to school-wide and individual challenges.



## Rev. Sharon Peters

Nov. 11, 1943 - Dec. 18, 2011

MANSEF extends condolences to our Pathways Schools colleagues on the untimely passing of Rev. Sharon Peters this past December. Rev. Peters led The Pathways School for more than two decades during the vital formative years, thoughtfully and firmly shaping Pathways into the dynamic and compassionate community that it is today. As a former MANSEF Board member, Rev. Peters vision to reach

out all across the state for children with disabilities will have a long and permanent legacy. Her caring, positive energy will be greatly missed.



# MARK YOUR Calendar

## Get Plugged Into your Future Career Expo

**Saturday, February 18, 2012 • Edgewood High School**

**9:00am to 12:00pm • FREE • Register online [www.geefinc.com](http://www.geefinc.com)**

This Expo is for 8th - 12th grade students, parents and guardians



*Are you ready to make the most of your future by making the right connections today?*

- Get employment advice from over 50 businesses representing a variety of technical, business and STEM occupations to give you the employability EDGE
- Attend Workshops presenting key information on:
  - Resume Writing
  - Mock Interviewing
  - How to Research and Apply for Scholarships
  - How to Research and Apply for College
  - What it Means to be College and Workforce Ready
  - Planning for and Affording College
  - Academic Planning
- Meet college representatives and learn admission and program information



## Expo for Transitioning youth

**Saturday, March 10, 2012 • Bel Air High School**

**8:30am to 1:00pm • FREE**

**Register online [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/expo.html](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/expo.html)**

This Expo is a conference for teens and young adults with special needs facing the challenges and opportunities of the transition to adulthood.

A sampling of the workshops at the conference includes:

- "The College Admission Process - Getting There From Here", designed to help students and their parents navigate their college journey.
- "So You Want to Drive?", information on obtaining a driver's license in Maryland when specific medical conditions are present.
- "Mastering Your Money After High School", an interactive workshop which will teach students to be money smart in these financially challenging times.

Other workshops will focus on summer internships (paid and volunteer), how to apply for Social Security benefits, and work without losing benefits. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives of vendors, agencies, organizations and support groups.

For more information, contact Sharon Grzanka, Disabilities Coordinator at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or via email at [disability@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:disability@harfordcountymd.gov)

## Diamonds in the Rough: DC Area Special Learning Needs Sampler

**Sunday, March 18, 2012 • Universities of Maryland at Shady Grove**

**10:00am to 3:30pm • COST • Register online [www.weinfeldeducationgroup.com](http://www.weinfeldeducationgroup.com)**

Third Annual DC Area Special Learning Needs Sampler: Families, educators and therapists will join us for a day of seminars and resources especially for families of children and young adults with special learning needs. Participants will:

- Learn about advocacy, assessments, related services, and transition issues in the DC Metropolitan area
- Experience several "Ask an Expert" panel sessions
- Visit with special needs-related vendors and exhibitors
- Have opportunities to win door prizes and more!



**Kennedy Krieger Institute**

### Investigational Drug Study for Adolescents and Adults with Fragile X Syndrome

Kennedy Krieger Institute is looking for adolescents and adults, ages 12 through 25 years, with fragile X syndrome to participate in a research study.

The purpose of this study is to determine if an investigational drug, arbaclofen, is an effective treatment for social withdrawal symptoms associated with fragile X syndrome. This study will also assess whether arbaclofen is safe and tolerated by individuals with fragile X syndrome.

### Research Study for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Kennedy Krieger Institute is looking for children and adults, ages 5 through 21 years, with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to participate in a research study. (\*ASD includes autism, Asperger's Disorder, Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified [PDD-NOS]).

The purpose of the project is to study whether an investigational drug (arbaclofen) is safe and effective for the treatment of social withdrawal behaviors often seen in people with ASD.

**If you are interested in learning more about either of these studies, please contact:**

**Study Coordinator**

at 443-923-7619 or email

[ResearchTrials@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:ResearchTrials@kennedykrieger.org)

Walter Kaufmann,

Principal Investigator

## SAVE THE DATE...



**MANSEF**  
**Golf Tournament**

**June 18, 2012**

**Rattlewood in Mt. Airy, Maryland**

## MANSEF Participates in 2012 Maryland Politics Summit

On January 23, 2012, MANSEF was a sponsor in The Center for American Politics and Citizenship (CAPC) Summit hosted by the University of Maryland. CAPC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research institution at the University of Maryland, which provides citizens and policy-makers with research, education, and outreach on critical issues related to the nation's political institutions, processes, and policies. The highlight of the event was a panel on the state of education policy in Maryland.

*Pictured are: The Honorable Michael Busch, The Honorable Robert Garagiola, The Honorable Anthony O'Donnell, The Honorable E.J. Pipkin, and Dorie Flynn, Executive Director of MANSEF.*

### MANSEF Advocacy Day

MANSEF began the 2012 session of the Maryland General Assembly with a stronger presence and profile because of our outreach to and education of our elected officials. On January 31, over 100 parents and staff gathered in Annapolis for MANSEF lobby Day.

MANSEF school staff and parents met with legislators in Annapolis to educate them about the importance of nonpublic special education schools, the effects of the tuition freeze for the past four years and why the funding formula should not be amended. MANSEF would like to thank Dr. Jodi King from MSDE who spoke about the need for a continuum of educational options. Dr. Tania DuBeau reflected on the State's Number 1 ranking in Education and how the MANSEF members play a vital role in that national distinction. Delegate John Bohanan spoke to the need for the specialized services provided at the MANSEF schools. MANSEF extends a special thank you to Mr. Chris Casey, from the Friends of MANSEF, for sharing his personal journey and that of his son's success at a MANSEF member school and how it has changed his son's life.



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

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