

PTSA Newsletter

February 3, 2009

Argyle Middle School

Get the Low Down on What's Happening at Argyle

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. If there is anything you would like to learn about Argyle or the PTSA, please e-mail us at argyleptsa@gmail.com. The PTSA meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Please join us for interesting and informative evenings. Assistant Principal Casey Crouse led a discussion about whether students would be motivated to try harder if they knew how their personal MSA/MAP-R scores/grades/eligibility contributed to the school's performance. Joanne Dennie talked about SSL credits. Budgets—MCPS and PTSA—come up a lot.

Possible topics for upcoming meetings include a visit from the Downcounty Consortium coordinator discussing high school choice and requirements, a speaker from the NAACP and reviewing the PTSA bylaws. If you have an idea for a meeting or something you would like to learn about Argyle, please let me know at argyleptsa@gmail.com.

The 2008-2009 PTSA budget is \$8,022. For the most part, the money comes from membership dues and Giant Bonus Bucks. One of the items PTSA money goes toward is cultural arts assemblies for the students. In December, Argyle hosted Hal Trapkin, who put on a one-man multimedia performance of "A History Of Teenage Music in the United States." There will be another event in April.

This year, we began a mini-grant program, aimed at using its funds to benefit the students and staff at Argyle directly. Staff can apply for up to \$500 for projects to benefit their classroom, their grade or the school as a whole. The funds can be used for guest speakers or other things that are above and beyond what can be done otherwise. So far this year, we have awarded a grant to the sixth-grade team for a grade-wide support program for parents, a grant to the counselors to help with Career Day, and a grant to the Media Center for two comfortable chairs for a Reading Corner. We hope to award a few more mini-grants this year. Any leftover money will be given to Dr. Mugge to help students in need.

According to the Montgomery County Public Schools FY2010 Operating Budget Programs and Efficiencies, the Middle School Magnet Consortium will be reduced by one supervisor, three coordinators and six teacher positions. However, three resource teacher positions will be added. When Argyle received its grant, Dr. Mugge and magnet coordinator Casey Crouse put most of the funds toward buying computers and equipment that will not be taken away due to budget cuts. Argyle will have to make adjustments to the daily schedule, but the administration is working on a plan so that there will be little to no fall-off in the quality of the program. What would be most helpful at this time is to keep your child at Argyle and continue to support this wonderful program.

The budget will not be approved until June 9, 2009, so show the Board of Education your support for the Argyle Magnet Program by e-mailing boe@mcpsmd.org or sending a letter to Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123, Rockville, Md. 20850.

Finally, please consider joining the executive committee for 2009-2010. A few of our executive committee members, including our treasurer, are parents of eighth-graders and won't be at Argyle next year. E-mail me for a description of the job's duties.

Thank you for your help,
Kathy Young, PTSA president



Notes from the Principal

Happy new year! I am so pleased to be back at Argyle Middle School after two months at the MCPS central office.

Welcome to second semester, which started out with two snow days! Remember information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, and cable channel 34. Announcements can also be found on the Internet at montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and on a taped telephone message service at 301.279.3673. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6 a.m. (or the night before, if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11 a.m. I do want to remind you that when schools are delayed by two hours, the staff arrival is also delayed by two hours.

I am very happy about the variety of academic and extracurricular after-school activities this semester at Argyle. There is something for every student. Academic support is offered to all children, so if your child is struggling in one or more academic areas, please stop by the main office and pick up an After School Activity schedule or contact Robert Wooten, our after-school activities director at Robert_Wooten@mcpsmd.org.

Due to the President's Day holiday, there will be no school on Monday, Feb. 16. In addition, there is an early release day on Friday, Feb. 27. Interim progress reports will be distributed on February 13 and March 6.

Students currently in grades six and seven will begin the registration process during the week of February 9-13. Registration materials will be due back to their counselors on February 20.

We are currently in the process of reviewing our master schedule. Information about our schedule for the 2009-2010 school year will be given to students with their registration materials. If you have any questions about the registration materials, please contact our guidance office.

As we look ahead, I must remind you of the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) that will be given in reading and math March 16-25. These are extremely important assessments and I am asking that parents encourage their children to do their very best.

The best way to prepare for the assessments is by completing homework, class work and studying for tests and quizzes. Teachers are working diligently to prepare the students for these important assessments. Please encourage your children to read when they have time at home rather than watching television or playing video games.

The staff of Argyle Middle School appreciates your support in helping to prepare the students for the MSAs. We are looking to meet state standards for the fourth year in a row.

Again, I'm glad to be back!

Dr. Debra Mugge, Argyle Middle School principal



AMS PTSA Officers 2008-2009

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Kathy Young

Vice President for Membership

Gloria Salas-Kos

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Julie Mazur

Teacher Appreciation

Tracy Powell

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Nichole

Washington

Cultural Arts

Dylan Presman

To contact any officer, e-mail argyleptsa@gmail.com

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the media center.

Mark Your Calendars

February

4 Report cards distributed

10 PTSA Meeting

13 Valentine Dance

Progress reports

16 Presidents' Day

20 6th Grade Field Trip

Cultural Arts Program

24 Solo & Ensemble Recital

27 Early release day

March

6 Progress reports distributed

10 PTSA Meeting

13 MSA Assembly

16-17 6th Grade MSA Reading

18-19 7th & 8th Grade

MSA Reading

20 MSA Reading makeups

23-24 6th Grade MSA Math

25-26 7th & 8th Grade MSA Math

27 MSA Math & Reading makeups

30 Professional day for teachers.

No school for students.

31 MSA Math & Reading makeups

April

4 Earth Day cleanup

6-13 Spring Break

14 PTSA Meeting

16 Report cards distributed

Volunteer Opportunities

Halfway through the school year, you certainly have seen the new flooring, carpet in the media center and exit doors. You may or may not know that Dr. Mugge “paid” for them with volunteer hours combined with a QZAB grant from the Maryland State Department of Education and Montgomery County Public Schools.

This summer, AMS will get new P.E. lockers, hall lockers and a partition for the gym, also using volunteer hours.

Keep volunteering! There are flyers to distribute about once a month, although the beginning of the school year is the busiest time. Call Mrs. Weiler in the office or contact her at Deanne_Weiler@mcpsmd.org. She knows what opportunities are available and keeps track of hours.

Earning Student Service Learning Hours

At the December PTSA meeting, Student Service Learning Coordinator Joanne Dennie went over the SSL program and showed a video, which is can be viewed on the MCPS Web site at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/resources.shtml>.

Forms must be handed directly to Ms. Dennie. Contact her at Joanne_M_Dennie@mcpsmd.org.

Eat Out, Raise Money—Everybody Wins

Wouldn't you love to eat out and help Argyle at the same time? Some local restaurants will donate a portion of an evening's profit to the school, if we bring a lot of Argyle Eagles to eat there. Some possibilities include Jerry's Subs in Aspen Hill, McDonald's and Baja Fresh in Congressional Plaza in Rockville.

Let us know where you like to eat—argyleptsa@gmail.com—and we can try to set one up.

Homework Hotline Back Online

The Montgomery County Public Schools Instructional Television program Homework Hotline Live! (HHL) offers one-on-one homework help in most academic subjects from kindergarten to 12th grade. MCPS teachers take calls from students live on-the-air and assist them with homework problems.

HHL airs from 5 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through April 30 (except during spring break) on Comcast channel 33, Verizon channel 35 and RCN channel 88. For free homework help, call 301.279.3234. For more information, visit http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/ITV_Programs_HHL.shtm.

Painless Fundraising

Don't forget to sign up your Giant and Safeway cards and turn in Box Tops for Education. You must register or designate your school each year.

Register your Giant card number www.giantfood.com/aplus/. Argyle's school code is 02932. Thanks to the great efforts of JoAnn Nasios and her family, Argyle has collected more than \$1,655 during this school year!

Sign up your Safeway card at www.escrip.com. Argyle's Group ID number is 6470319.

Bring your Boxtops to the office marked “Attention PTSA”. This year we have earned \$215 already.

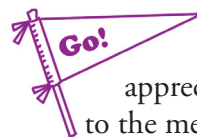
Finally, Target gives back through the Take Charge of Education program. Visit target.com/tcoe or call 800.316.6142 to designate our school.

Rock Creek Park Cleanup

Join neighborhood schools on Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Russett Rd. entrance to clean up Rock Creek Park in Rockville. Last year, 110 volunteers collected 60 bags of trash from the area, as well as 21 tires, four bikes, two lawnmowers, two mattresses and a computer. This year, we are tying in with a regional effort, the 21st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. For more information, e-mail argyleptsa@gmail.com.

Media Specialist Seeks College Banners

Media Specialist Sue Bakhru is collecting pennants from colleges and universities to hang in the media center. We want our students to think about colleges and



universities and the pennants are an excellent start for name recognition. She appreciates any and all pennants. Bring them to the media center or mail them to the school.

Staff Appreciation

Staff appreciation PTSA chairs are Tracy Powell and Carol Sprague. This October, the staff was treated to bags of candy for Halloween. In November, PTSA members helped serve at the Thanksgiving potluck lunch. In December, parents brought in cookies and other sweet treats for a pre-winter break cookie swap.

If you are interested in participating in future activities, which include a soup and salad lunch in February; breakfast and snacks during testing in March; and a week-long program in May, contact Tracy at traceypowell@verizon.net or watch for announcements on the Argyle listserv.

Spring Book Fair

The PTSA would like to put on a book fair in the media center. Argyle has not hosted one for more than three years, so there probably are a lot of eager customers. In fact, the organizers plan to ask for Scholastic to tailor the book selection to include technology books. Parents might be familiar with the difficult task of finding the appropriate—or any—information technology book for summer reading homework.



If you have worked at a book fair, organized a book fair, would like to help at this particular book fair, please contact the PTSA at argylepta@gmail.com.

PTSA Membership

Although the PTSA started the school year off slowly, vice president Gloria Salas-Kos reported in December that the PTSA has slightly more than 100 members. The PTSA held a contest to see which grade could recruit the most members. The eighth grade brought in the most and was rewarded with ice cream sandwiches at lunch before winter break. Also, 10 eighth-grade students won a \$10 Target gift card in a drawing.

You can still sign up. Forms are available at the bottom of this page, in the office and as a pdf on the Argyle Web site, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/argylems/resources/pta.html#officers>.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Check the school Web site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/argylems/index.html>
 Visit Edline: www.edline.net
 Join the listserv by e-mailing Argyle_MS_PTSA@yahoo.com
 Also, you can visit the school between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or call 301.460.2400.
 Contact the PTSA: argylepta@gmail.com




Argyle Middle School PTSA

2008-2009 Membership Dues

(Please check the membership level you are signing up for.)

____ \$7 for one student; ____ \$10 for one adult; ____ \$15 for a student and parent or two parents; ____ \$22 for one student and two parents or two students and one parent; ____ \$29 for two students and two parents

Each person who pays dues to join the PTSA will be issued their own individual membership card.

Names to be listed on individual membership cards:

Name of 1st adult joining: _____ Name of 2nd adult joining: _____

Name of 1st student joining: _____ Grade: _____

Name of 2nd student joining: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____ Please check if you do not want to automatically be added to Argyle's List Serve and receive notices of upcoming PTSA and school events. (NOTE: The list serve does not provide a way to communicate directly with teachers. See Argyle's website for teacher e-mail addresses.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Make checks out to **Argyle Middle School PTSA**. Turn form and money into the front office, attention: PTSA Membership. (Please check if you have included an additional contribution with your dues.)

*****PTA Use*****

Amount Received:	Check No.	Cash:	Date:
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