

PTSA Newsletter

March 16, 2009

Argyle Middle School

Spring Happenings at Argyle

If you have been following the news, you know that the school system will receive \$21.4 million in federal stimulus dollars for the fiscal year 2010 budget, allowing Argyle to retain the eight-period block schedule. Yay!

We are really excited to announce that Argyle is having a book fair from Wednesday, April 29 through Friday, May 1. It will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. those days, plus we will keep it open on Thursday night, April 30, until 7 or 8 p.m. Students will come through on the first day and see what we have to offer and create wish lists. We are getting a whole range of middle-school-appropriate books, plus some on African-American topics, computer and Internet-related books, some in Spanish and some low-cost books. All volunteers are welcome—please contact Julie Mazur at argyleptsa@gmail.com if you can help.

Also on April 30, we are having a fundraiser at McDonald's in Plaza del Mercado. A percentage of sales will be given to Argyle. So park there, have dinner and come to the book fair.

The PTSA is sponsoring a dance on Friday, March 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets, which cost \$1, are limited to 75 students per grade. Any parents who are willing to help chaperone, please contact us at argyleptsa@gmail.com.

We approved a second round of mini grants for a field trip for students in Spanish classes, professional books for staff development, coverage for some students to attend the Maryland Association of Student Councils convention in March and transportation for a sixth-grade field trip. The remaining funds will be given to Dr. Muggge for the Neediest Child fund. The source of this money is the Giant A+ Bonus Bucks, so make sure you have registered your card.

At our February meeting, Ms Armstead told us about the art auction taking place on Thursday, May 28. See page 3 for more information. At that meeting, we also discussed how to improve attendance at our meetings. Suggestions included guest speakers, babysitting and announcing the topic in advance. If any of these would entice you to come or you have other ideas, we would love to hear about it. E-mail us at argyleptsa@gmail.com.

Matt Kamins, Supervisor of Psychological Services in MCPS, will be the featured speaker at our meeting on Tuesday, May 12. He will be talking about transitioning from one grade to the next. This may be of particular interest to parents of eighth-graders, and if you know any parents of incoming sixth-graders, invite them too.

The second PTSA cultural arts assembly will take place on Friday, April 3. "Improv 4 Kids" introduces audiences to a variety of music and theater arts including opera, Broadway, jazz, modern dance and spoken word. Each comedy vignette is created spontaneously based on audience suggestion and participation and emphasis is placed on current events, social interaction and public speaking skills. It sounds like it's going to be great!

We really need a PTSA treasurer. Can you add? Can you use a calculator? You are who we're looking for. Our current treasurer, whose son is graduating, will be happy to fill you in on the details. Please contact us at argyleptsa@gmail.com. By the way, did I mention that we REALLY need a treasurer? Even if you don't want a titled job, join us for a meeting. I guarantee you will learn something helpful.

Kathy Young, Argyle PTSA president



Notes from the Principal

March is a very busy month for students and staff at Argyle Middle School. Teachers have been preparing students for the Maryland School Assessment (MSA), which will be administered March 16-25, 2009. The MSA is a test of reading, math and science achievement and will provide educators, parents and the public valuable information about student, school, school system and state performance. MSA scores will show how well children have learned the reading and mathematics skills specified in the Maryland Content Standards. MSA scores will also show how children performed compared to other students across the nation. This test will include both multiple-choice and short-essay questions. The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) fulfills the federal testing requirements of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

Students in grades six through eight will be given the reading assessment March 16-19 and the math assessment will be given March 20-25. Mrs. Dahl, our staff development teacher, has been working long hours to make sure the assessment process runs smoothly for staff and students. It is important that children arrive at school on time, rested and ready for the day. Students who arrive late to school will not be able to participate in that day's testing and will need to take the assessments on a makeup day. I can't stress enough on how important it is that your child arrives to school on time each and every day. The testing schedule will be posted on our Web site.

The end of the third marking period is March 27. Monday, March 30, is a professional day for teachers for report card preparation. Report cards will be sent home with students on April 16 after spring break.

Spring break comes after the MSA this year. Students and staff will be enjoying time away from school April 6-13. This is a good time to relax, regroup and enjoy time spent with friends and family. I want to wish the entire Argyle community a safe and happy spring break.

Dr. Debra Mugge, Argyle Middle School principal

Mark Your Calendars

March

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 makeups
27 PTSA dance, 3-5 p.m.
30 Professional day for teachers
31 MSA makeups

April

2 Advanced Band
performance at
County Band Festival
3 Cultural Arts assembly
4 Earth Day cleanup at
Rock Creek Park
6-13 Spring Break
14 PTSA meeting
16 Report cards distributed

May

7-8 Musical theater show:
"When in Rome"
12 PTSA meeting
19 Spring concert, 7:30 p.m.
22 Jazz Band Night at
Argyle Jazz Cafe, 7 p.m.
28 Art auction, 6-9 p.m.
29 Band/Orchestra
Festival, Hershey Park



AMS PTSA Officers 2008-2009

President

Kathy Young

Vice President for Membership

Gloria Salas-Kos

Treasurer

Pat Vanderwolf

Recording Secretary

Julie Mazur

Teacher Appreciation

Tracy Powell
Carol Sprague

NAACP Representative

Nichole
Washington

Cultural Arts

Dylan Presman

To contact any
officer, e-mail
[argyleptsa@
gmail.com](mailto:argyleptsa@gmail.com)

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

Check the school Web site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/argylems/index.html>

KEEP IN

Visit Edline: www.edline.net

TOUCH

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: argyleptsa@gmail.com

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Congratulations to the band and orchestra students who performed at the County Solo and Ensemble Festival March 6 and 7 at Paint Branch High School.

These students received a “good” or “excellent” rating: Ana Allen, John Muncill, Alex Li, Mark Howell, James Drew, Jacqueline Liu, Alan Murphy and Jonathan Brown.

These students received a “superior” rating, the highest possible, and earned the opportunity to perform at the state festival: Daina Eiser, Chiun Baik, Jessica Bruce, Gabriella Cottilli, Vivian Henderson, Nicole Kim and Ethan Lee.



The Argyle Advanced Orchestra also received a superior rating. The members are Keren Blay, De’Andrea Bullitt, Leticia Candia, Gabriella Cottilli, Sujata Dighe, Caleb Fleming, Vivian Henderson, Ashley Holmes, Genesis Inoa, Nicole Kim, Chayanne Lawson, Ethan Lee, Ivana Olivares, Alex Vega and Jessica Young.

Congratulations to these students for the excellent manner in which they represented themselves and our school.

Norman Stultz, Argyle Music teacher

Art Auction

On Thursday, May 28, the art department will host an auction from 6 to 9 p.m. Enjoy an evening filled entertainment, refreshments and artwork created by our very own Argyle students as well as donations from art teacher Ms. Armstead and other Argyle staff, additional MCPS staff and students and even some local artists.

If you can help, please contact Ms. Armstead at jacqueline_armstead@mcpsmd.org or call the office.

The money raised will go to the Argyle art department to be used for school and art supplies and equipment.

Ms. Armstead and her students look forward to seeing you at the auction; it is going to be an art-inspiring event!



Talented Argyle Learners

Ms. Choudary has been working on a new addition to the Argyle Web site. You can find it at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/argylems/academics/tal.html>. One button has fun, family events in our area that highlight or connect with something academic. The other has extracurricular opportunities for our talented students.



In the future, she may add links for academic practice and samples of academic work. If you have anything to contribute, e-mail Sarada_D_Choudary@mcpsmd.org.

Musical Theater Show

The music department, under the direction of Mr. Stultz, presents the comedy, “When In Rome” on May 7 and 8.



Hilarity ensues when peasant thieves sneak into the palace and one of them, Gladius, falls in love with the princess. Her father says she must marry, but most of the men are away at war. If she can’t find a suitable match, she will be forced to marry the winning gladiator in the upcoming games. The princess trains Gladius so she can avoid marrying Brudis, the brainless brute favored to win.

March is National Nutrition Month

For many of us, our 2009 resolutions included “eating right!” Here are some Internet resources to help. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s MyPyramid for Kids—<http://mypyramid.gov/kids/>—has healthy recipes, games and activities, printable personal eating and activity logs and tips for encouraging children to make better food choices.

With our hectic schedules, we often eat out, so it is important to consider ways to eat healthy on the run. To keep an eye on portion size and check out portion distortion, visit the National Institutes of Health Web site at <http://hp2010.nhlbi.nih.gov/portion/keep.htm>.

Maintaining energy balance, a popular phrase, means calories in equals calories out. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education recommends 60 minutes of activity every day for children. Adults need at least 30 minutes of activity every day.

When eating out, maintaining the energy balance is often more difficult due to increased portion sizes. To make healthy choices, look at the way food is prepared. Steamed, broiled, baked, roasted, poached, lightly sautéed or stir-fried are always healthy choices.

You can also ask the server to make healthy substitutions. Additional healthy eating out ideas are available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/we-can/live-it/balance.htm>.

The most important thing to remember is to encourage and model a healthy, active lifestyle for your child. Maintaining energy balance is as easy as eating well (calories in) and moving more (calories out)!

Katie Becker, Chad Beswick, Diane Dalius, Edward Hernandez and Gregory Kellner, Argyle physical education team

Rock Creek Park Cleanup

Clean up Rock Creek Park in Rockville on Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and earn SSL hours. See the flyer on the last page of the newsletter.

Rock Creek Park Cleanup

**Argyle Middle School PTSA
invites you to**

**Think
Green**



Make a difference right in our community!

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Meet at the Russett Rd. entrance to Rock Creek Park (between Bauer Dr. and Arctic Ave., just south of Manorvale Rd.)**
- **Earn SSL hours while helping the environment! (Bring a form to be signed.)**
- **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**
- **Bring a water bottle. If you can bring a wheelbarrow, it would be appreciated.**
- **Gloves and trash bags will be provided (while supplies last).**

**Questions? Contact Dylan Presman at argyleptsa@gmail.com
or (301) 871-4997**

**Please return the lower portion by Friday, March 20 to the school office.
Registration is not required, but it will help us with planning.**

Yes, we'll do our part to keep our waterways clean!

Name _____ Phone or e-mail: _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

I would like to help organize. Please contact me at _____