



Poolesville High School

17501 Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2006
301-972-7900

October 2009

Dear Poolesville Families,

We were honored to have Dr. West, Superintendent of Schools, visit us on the first day of school. He observed classes, spoke with teachers and students, and toured our new addition. He was very impressed and complimentary about Poolesville High School and extremely pleased with the instruction and learning that he observed during his visit. Dr. West also admired the science/technology addition and many staff members and students thanked him for supporting PHS with the whole school magnet. (See photos, page 5)

A huge thank you to our outstanding PTSA for having our first dinner to welcome our new 9th grade students and new students to PHS. The "Pasta and Pizza Extravaganza" was quite a success!

If you were able to attend our Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 15th, I know you recognized the type of high quality education your children encounter every day at Poolesville High School! One of my most enjoyable activities is visiting classes. I always feel gratified to see our excellent teachers challenging and inspiring our students. Our parents send us students who are ready and eager to learn. Our staff meet very high standards in delivering rigorous and engaging lessons every day to our enthusiastic learners.

Congratulations to our National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists, **Ishan Khetarpal**, son of Sanjay and Smiriti Khetarpal and **Andrew Li**, son of Wei and Qiu Li, our National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalist **Nakutolab Desalegn**, son of Malconnew Tefera and Genwet Welkera, and to our National Merit Commended students **Michael Abraham**, son of Mark Abraham and Kathleen Calder; **Erin Auel**, daughter of Adam and Kari Auel; **Pavan Bhargava**, son of Hiremagalvr and Sirlaxmi Bhargava; **Chloe Canetti**, daughter of Elie and Elizabeth Canetti; **Thomas Coombs**, son of William and Laura Coombs; **Matthew Dickens**, son of John and Rhonda Dickens; **Daniel Dresser**, son of Mark and Debra Dresser; **Andrius Gaigalas**, son of Adolfas and Jura Gaigalas; **Avinash Ganti**, son of Krishna and Paleswari Ganti; **Robert Gifford**, son of Brian and Margaret Gifford; **Benjamin Hessels**, son of Mark and Julie Hessels; **Kuang-Yuan Hsiao**, son of Wei-Li and Tsuey-Lan Hsiao; **Matthew Hunt**, son of David and Sally Hunt; **Joseph Kamali**, son of Mirahmad and Aisha Kamali; **Ishan Max Kim**, son of Gin and Mari Kim; **Rebecca Krosnick**, daughter of Steven and Lisa Krosnick; **Bryan Kuo**, son of Jonathan and Grace Kuo; **Connie Lu**, daughter of Xiaobin Victor and Bing Jiang; **Preet Mandavia**, son of Jagdish and Shilpa Mandavia; **Matthew McKay**, son of Rich and Cecelia McKay; **Vanamala Narasimhan**, daughter of Thiruvengadam and Sujatha Narasimhan; **Jessica Repep**, daughter of Derrick and Dawn Repep; **Bryan Rudin**, son of Tom and Kelly Rudin; **Vivek Shaker**, son of Swathi Chandrasekharan; **Joanna Shockey**, daughter of Thomas and Susan Shockey; **Philip Si**, son of Qi Sun; **Catherine Tappert**, daughter of John and Karen Tappert; **Mark Villarrubia**, son of John and Maria Villarrubia; **Ashley Zhan**, daughter of Steven and Xiaogua Zhan; **Xiao Meng Zhang**, daughter of Hong Bin Wei and Lingling Zhang; **Sophiaann Zhao**, daughter of Jim Zhao and Diane Lu. They were selected from over 1.4 million students who took the PSAT last October. Their high PSAT scores as juniors qualified them for this distinction.

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The PSAT will be given to all 10th and 11th grade students on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. There will be no charge for this test for the sophomores. Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to offering this test because of the benefits it provides our students in preparing for the SAT as well as the opportunity for honors and scholarships.

The more students practice and become familiar with these high stakes tests, the better skilled they are in taking them. In addition, we use the results for diagnostic and prescriptive purposes to work with students on strengthening specific skills areas. The tests are administered during the school day and all students are expected to attend school and take the tests. All 9th graders will be taking a practice PSAT that day. If a 9th grader wants to take the PSAT that is given to the 10th and 11th grades, the cost is \$13.00. Checks should be made payable to Poolesville High School and given directly to Mrs. Adams in the Career Center. For fee waiver information, please, contact Counseling Services at (301) 972-7909.

We are thrilled to offer an on-line SAT, ACT, PSAT, prep course entitled TRIUMPH. This on-line tutorial is free to all MCPS students and from the reports that have been shared with me, students who use the tutorial raise their scores considerably. We shared this information with our students and we are also able to monitor the usage. We have one sophomore who has already logged 90 hours on Triumph. Again, this site is easy to access from the MCPS home page and will give your child an edge when taking these high stakes tests for college entrance.

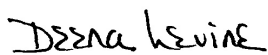
Please, remind your child to use the services of our College and Career Center. We have over 20 colleges visiting us this month including University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, US Air Force Academy, Vanderbilt University, Stony Brook University, Western New England College, and MIT. MIT visited PHS on Thursday, September 17 at 8:15 a.m. and because of student interest, we met in the auditorium. The MIT representative returned to meet with individual students after school. We offer excellent support and guidance for our students and our teachers and counselors provide outstanding letters of recommendation for colleges since they know our students so well.

Homecoming 2009 begins with Spirit Week on October 5, 2009. The theme this year is "Video Games." SGA selects themes for each class, the halls are decorated, "creative" attire is worn and the entire school is involved with our famous Falcon Fever! We especially look forward to the Homecoming football game on Friday night because so many of our alumni return to cheer for PHS. The Homecoming Dance is Saturday, October 10 from 7:30-11:00 p.m. We are in a sea of Black and Gold for one entire week!

Please, join me on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, for my Principal's Breakfast from 7:30-8:30 a.m. PHS has limited parking available this year on our property; please, park in the Baptist Church across the street. These gatherings give me an opportunity to listen to your ideas, share PHS information, and respond to any questions you may have.

We are having a wonderful school year because we teach the most exceptional students in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Deena Levine
Principal

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Important Announcement

PHS has distributed a "Hand Sanitizer" to each classroom and to the cafeteria for student use. If you have a concern regarding the use of the Hand

Sanitizer or a concern that your child may be allergic to the Hand Sanitizer, please, contact our Health Room, (301) 972-7914. Thank you.