



October 27, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

On Thursday, October 22 Watkins Mill High School conducted our 2009 induction ceremonies for S.I.S. (Sisters in Success) and B.O.S.S. (Brotherhood of Superstars). Mr. Bomani Arnah, a local art educator and poet, was the featured speaker. Please join me in congratulating the following students:

S.I.S. Inductees

Moriama Akibu	Aniqua Matthews
Betty Bazelais	Perside Mavambu
Diane Best	Lanniel McCarthy
Lea Bruce	Afolake Olakanye
Jina Bula	Marissa Parham
Upinder Dhaliwal	Naomi Pickett
Kiana Edwards	Quetina Quartey
Ashlie Gordon	Tiffany Reid
Anika Haque	Courtney Smith
Shanicia Hanson	Youanidou Thiaw
Maeva Komenon	Kanisha Tong

B.O.S.S. Inductees

Alain Bazubwabo
Hien Duong
Erhabor Emokpae
Stefan Hall
Omar Koita
Ali Ramadhan III
Damiete Roberts

S.I.S. has fostered a partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Xi Sigma Omega Chapter. They will mentor the young ladies as well as co-host various workshops for the community and perform community service projects.

Report cards will be distributed to students to take home on November 11, 2009. Please be on the lookout for these. Also, the second marking period is from November 3 through January 22, 2010.

Beginning in the month of November, I will be “twittering” in an effort to keep our parents and students informed of important information, on a real-time basis. Look up “PrincipalHobbs” on twitter and sign up today to get information sent directly to your phone or email! The url for twitter is: <http://twitter.com/> If you experience difficulty in locating me on twitter, you may also type in: <http://twitter.com/PrincipalHobbs>

Finally, please remember that our next PTSA meeting is on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. Please come and participate in the important process of partnering for your child’s education.

This is a gentle reminder that we return to Standard Time at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. Please remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour.

I hope this information proves helpful to you in planning your family activities around school events.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Hobbs, Principal

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes
Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

Students DEVELOP CIVIC BEHAVIOR from high quality service learning.

- Check the SSL information on the report card. Contact your school SSL coordinator with any discrepancies. Keep copies of all SSL documentation.
- SSL activities help middle school students achieve curricular objectives in Grade 6 science, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 social studies.
- High school students enrolled in the National, State, and Local Government course have the opportunity to learn about advocacy in semester 1 and 2. SSL hours are earned for full participation in the SSL activities and successful completion of the course.
- Students may earn SSL hours with school clubs that focus on service. Often times the service activities involve **indirect action**. In indirect action a need is addressed but students do not meet the recipients of their service face-to-face. Examples of indirect service activities include collections of food, clothing, and/or hygiene items, fundraising, and blood drives.
- Plan now to be involved in SSL activities over Winter break. Look for opportunities on the SSL Web site www.mcpsssl.org, listen for opportunities promoted at school, or call the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600.

STUDENT SAFETY – WALKING TO SCHOOL

The MVF's Transportation, Development and Public Facilities (TD&PF) Committee will take up the issue of the safety of our kids who walk to school at their **Dec 2** meeting. The meeting will be held in the **Board Room at the North Creek Community Center at 7:30pm**.

You are invited to attend this meeting to share your experiences and help seek solutions to make the walk to school safer for all of our kids.

POWER PERIOD STUDENTS - will be exploring New York City through technology, history and culture on Friday, March 26, 2010. The trip is available on a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$50 and payment plans are available. There are still a few seats available. Please email Ms. Sharon L Fitzgerald at Sharon.L.Fitzgerald@mcpsmd.org for more information.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH - The Black History Month committee is looking for individuals who have attended Historically Black College or Universities to participate in a forum promoting higher education through HBCU's. Please email Ms. Sharon L Fitzgerald at Sharon.L.Fitzgerald@mcpsmd.org for more information, or if you would like to participate

SCIENCE STUDENTS ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS - The following students were selected by their teacher to be the Science Student of the Month. These students were selected for their effort and academic achievement in their science class.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Fatima Gonzalez	Christie Allison	Shawntel Villamayor
Matthew Sadler	Michael Valdez	Sarah Wollman
Joy Barwell	Brittini Bledsoe	Patrick Heo
Dondre Brown	Michael Siders	Usman Rajput
Dontay Hears	Ryan D'Souza	Kathy Nguyen
Karthik Komanduri	Karaih Guilds	Caroline Stokes
Siobhan Summers	Michael West	Kristen Elyaouti
Corbin Smith	Tricia Briner	

INFORMATION FROM THE COLLEGE CAREER CENTER FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

A financial aid workshop will be held at Watkins Mill High School on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. This workshop is very important for parents of 12th grade college-bound students. Melissa Gregory, a financial aid representative from Montgomery College, will present the workshop. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be discussed along with other pertinent financial aid information. The FAFSA form should be completed for all seniors planning to attend college or a career school regardless of family income. A student never knows when he/she might need a student loan, and the FAFSA needs to be on file. The form will be available to students in mid-December but cannot be filed until AFTER January 1, 2010 but before March 1, 2010. In addition, important information from the Maryland Higher Education commission about Maryland State financial aid will be presented. Parents attending will get answers to their financial aid questions.

Seniors and their parents can (and should!) register for their FAFSA PIN (Personal Identification Number) now. If you fill out the form on-line you will need this information in order to "sign" it. To apply for this number please visit the U.S. Department of Education website: www.pin.ed.gov. This is an important first step in applying for federal student aid.

Word of caution: There are many sites which charge a fee for filling out the FAFSA form such as fafsa.com. The real site is www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no charge for applying for federal student aid.

Get help in completing the FAFSA at www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/fafsa.jsp.

More than 35 schools have replaced loans with scholarships, grants and paid work-study positions in an effort to recruit high-achieving, economically disadvantaged students and to increase economic -- and, indirectly, racial -- diversity. Some of the schools that have replaced loans with grants include: Colby, Amherst, Vanderbilt, Harvard, Bowdoin, Wellesley, and Vassar. Go to <http://www.finaid.org/questions/noloansforlowincome.phtml> to see the complete list.

SEVEN TUITION FREE COLLEGES

College of the Ozarks (MO), Deep Springs College (CA), Berea College (KY), Olin College of Engineering (MA), Cooper Union (NY), Curtis Institute of Music (PA) and Alice Lloyd College (KY).

After federal and state government programs, the best source of financial aid is directly from colleges and universities. It is imperative that every student investigates exactly how financial aid is distributed at each school they are applying to.

Typically, a freshman application for admission starts the financial aid process and each applicant is automatically considered for merit-based money. Occasionally there are special scholarships, often quite large and therefore heavily competed for, that require separate applications. You do not want to find out that the "perfect scholarship" just passed you by because you missed the deadline.

Become a "student" of each school's website and check back often for updates.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Many local and national scholarship opportunities are posted on the Watkins Mill College/Career Center webpage and links to the application form & eligibility criteria are included when offered. Go to <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> , click on "Career Center." Some scholarship forms are not available online but can be found in the College/Career Center scholarship bin.

MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

A list of scholarships that target minority students has been posted on the Watkins Mill H.S. webpage for your convenience. To view the document online, go to: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> and click on "Career Center." Look on the left side for "Scholarships for Minority Students."

Check out October College/Career Center Newsletter for upcoming events and enrichment opportunities. The Newsletter can be found on the Career Center webpage, http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/cc/career_center_new.shtm

EDLINE - If you need help with Edline activation, please email Mr. Joy at: Mitchell_Joy@mcpsmd.org

Edline gives you the perfect opportunity to view your student's academic progress throughout the year.



FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY UNIT – PARENT MEETING

A parent meeting to view the materials for the Family Life Human Sexuality and Disease Prevention and Control units will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7 pm in the Skybridge Conference room. All curricular materials will be available for review so that parents/guardians can make an informed decision about their children's participation in the unit. For further information contact Mrs. Jody Tyler at 301-840-3977 or by email at Jody_D_Tyler@mcpsmd.org.

FALL THEATER PRODUCTION - This year's Fall Production at the Mill is "Noises Off" . The show plays Nov. 13,14, 20,and 21st at 7pm. Student tickets are \$5 and Adult tickets are \$8. Come and Support The Drama Club!

Important Dates:

November 1

Set your clocks back one hour (at 2:00 am) – Standard Time Resumes

November 2

No School for Students – Teacher Professional Day (Grading/End of Marking Period)
Booster's Meeting – Skybridge, 7:00 pm

November 3

First Day of Second Marking Period

November 6

Afternoon school Pep Rally
FB V-Seneca Valley at Watkins Mill 6:30 pm

November 7

FB JV-Seneca Valley at Watkins Mill 10 am

November 11

Report Cards Distributed

November 12

Family Life and Human Sexuality Parent Presentation, Skybridge Conf. Room, 7:00 pm

November 13

Fall Theater Production – "Noises Off", 7:00 pm

November 14

Fall Theater Production – "Noises Off", 7:00 pm