



October 13, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Thanks to Senator Nancy King for bringing Comptroller Franchot to visit the Academy of Finance at Watkins Mill High School this morning! It's always great to have an opportunity to show our elected officials the great instruction going on here at "The Mill". Senator King and Comptroller Franchot visited several classes, and had an opportunity to engage directly with students regarding the financial literacy programs at our school.

We have just completed the administration of H.S.A. exams for seniors who had not taken or passed the High School Assessments. Opportunities to complete assessments in Algebra, Government, English and Biology were provided, and additional make-up opportunities will also be available.

Please remember that tomorrow, October 14 the PSAT will be administered to all 10th grade students. All 9th grade students will be taking the practice PSAT in preparation for the SAT or ACT. The 11th graders will be taking the practice ACT unless they have registered and paid for the PSAT. Please make sure your student is well rested, fed, and timely in coming to school for this important exam. Seniors will be having their senior class meeting during the morning, and also have their senior class picture taken. Remember, any student unable to take the exam on October 14 will be required to take it on Saturday, October 17 (8:00-11:00 am). There will be no makeup exams after Saturday.

Interims were mailed home last week; we are rapidly approaching the end of the first quarter (October 30). Please be sure to check your student's academic progress via Edline. Report cards will be sent home via your student on Wednesday, November 11.

Please remember that our next PTSA meeting is on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please come and participate in the important process of partnering for your child's education.

Last reminder - the 5th Annual Mike Tyler Run/Walk will be held this Saturday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m. This 5K run/walk was established to honor a Watkins Mill High School student who tragically passed away in 2006 as a result of an injury during a wrestling match. All proceeds from the event go to the Mike Tyler Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to four seniors each year. Registration forms are available in the main office and on the WMHS home page.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Hobbs
Principal

CAREER CENTER INFORMATION

WATKINS MILL COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCEDURES

The school counseling department met with all seniors on September 9 during English class. We discussed the college admissions process and invited them to make an appointment to see their counselor. The **Life After High School** packet that seniors are provided when they meet with their counselor to discuss post-secondary plans is **now online**. It includes: How to Process College Applications & Transcript Requests, Sample Resume, Student Brag Sheet, Request for Teacher Recommendation Letter and websites for Exploring College/Career Goals. Go to: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> Click on "Career Center." Choose: "College Admissions Process." Questions? Call or email your counselor or Mrs. Prochnow in the College/Career Center at 301-840-3957.

SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

The fourth annual Scholarship Conference will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Montgomery College's Germantown campus in the High Technology and Science Center building, located at 20200 Observation Drive Germantown, Maryland 20876. This is a free event held to provide college-bound students with the opportunity to receive a wealth of information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities. The highlight of the conference will be the keynote address, by Marianne Ragins, the author of "Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide," which provides scholarship information and shares Ms. Ragins' experience with earning more than \$400,000 in scholarships. In addition, the conference will include information booths and workshops by representatives from Montgomery College, local colleges and universities, and scholarship organizations.

For complete information about the conference and to REGISTER, please visit <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/scholarshipconference/>

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. See Mrs. Prochnow for assistance.

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."

Word of caution: do not pay for scholarships or scholarship searches!

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES (AND MORE!) ON-SITE ADMISSION INTERVIEWS!

Here is a list of scheduled events as of 09/23/09. The list will be updated as additional information is received.

Morehouse University * (GA) and Dillard University (LA), **Nov. 4** @ Gaithersburg H.S.

Trinity University ** (DC), **Nov. 19** @ Wheaton H.S.

Hampton University (VA), **Nov. 23** @ Rockville H.S.

Morgan State University (MD), **Dec. 2** @ Walter Johnson H.S.

Univ of Maryland Eastern Shore, **Dec. 9** @ Springbrook H.S.

Norfolk State University (VA), **Dec. 17** @ Einstein H.S.

Bowie State University (MD), **Feb. 11** @ Kennedy H.S.

UNCF/NAACP/MCPS College Fair, **Feb. 17** @ Richard Montgomery H.S.

Coppin State University (MD), **Mar 10** @ Northwood H.S.

*all male school

** all female school; not an HBCU

Contact the WMHS School Counselor or Career Center for more information (301)840-3957 The high school hosting the event will want to know who to expect from WMHS. Typically, these evening events begin at 6:00 pm with a presentation from the admissions rep, followed by individual interviews (first come/first served). Students must be prepared with a completed application, transcript and test scores in hand and ready to interview with the admissions representative.

EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Part-time jobs are being sought by students enrolled in the On-the-Job Training Program. Do you know any businesses that are currently hiring? Please contact Donna Kelly with job leads at 301-840-3981, donna_m_kelly@mcpsmd.org. Thanks for your help!

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.



1st ANNUAL WOLVERINE GOLF CLASS - The WMHS Booster Club 1st Annual Wolverine Classic was a HUGE success! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our students! We raised a good amount of funds for scholarship money and we are on our way to helping our students succeed! It was a beautiful hot and sunny day, the skies were clear and the excitement level was contagious. The turnout was excellent and everyone enjoyed a fun time. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped in making the day a success! Booster's received many compliments from our golfers. Special recognition goes out to Karen Kerr for obtaining the extra sponsors and raffle prizes, Scott Van Lowe for the wonderful brightly orange colored sponsor signs that were displayed at each hole, Jim Marsh for all his hard work and overall organization of the tournament, and finally to Anne Alban and Bobbi Parra for their assistance during the event. Our goal is to have our 2nd Annual golf outing in the spring after school ends to enable more faculty to participate. Laytonsville Golf Course was absolutely wonderful and totally supports WMHS in all their efforts. If you've not ever played there, we encourage you to do so, and challenge you to stop in and say "**THANK YOU**" to Dean Greer, the Head Golf Professional, on behalf of our students. Let's continue to support Laytonsville, as he supports our kids.

BOOSTER CLUB CHALLENGE - The WMHS Booster Club and PTSA have joined forces this year to offer you a special combined membership rate! If you've not joined either organization yet, please take a moment to do so and take advantage of this special rate to save you money in these tough economic times. Joint membership is only \$40. This includes a family booster club membership and a singular PTSA membership for one person. Please see joint membership form application elsewhere in this newsletter or pick up a form in the school front office.

Remember CHALLENGE is the name of the game, and we are **CHALLENGING** every family to become a member of the Booster Club. The WMHS Booster Club is funded through memberships from parents, special events (like our golf outing) and other activities throughout the school year. Our students cannot be successful without your support and funds raised through Booster Club. With your donation, you can guarantee your student will have all the necessary items to make their club or team successful.

For more information you can email us at: wmhsboosters@gmail.com or visit us on the web at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/booster> or www.wmhsboosters.wordpress.com

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.

WATKINS MILL RECEIVED THE “OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD” - Make sure you record your hours and submit them to Mike and Elizabeth King at wmhsvolunteers@gmail.com. You can submit hours as often as you want or submit your total at the end of the month. It can't happen without **YOU!** Hours can also be submitted at the school in the volunteer book located in the front office. Any little thing you do for the school counts. You can accumulate volunteer hours by picking up snacks for an event, making phone calls, working with your students' teams or clubs, PTSA and Booster Club meetings (including driving to and from locations), working concessions or any sporting event or practice, carpooling your kids to events, etc. **IT ALL COUNTS. SO ADD IT UP AND SUBMIT IT TODAY!! Let's continue to support the BEST students in Montgomery County.**

You may also submit any questions you may have to Mike and Elizabeth King at the volunteer email address above.

MCT BANKING INFORMATION - As a parent or guardian of a Montgomery County Public School student, you and your family members are also eligible to join MCT. You will find competitive dividend rates and loan rates, as well as other services that can help you get more out of your finances.

Please visit MCT's website, mctfcu.org, to learn more about how MCT Federal Credit Union can help you and your child/children.

GIANT BUCKS PROGRAM - Watkins Mill High School is participating in the GIANT BUCKS PROGRAM. Please make sure that when you shop at Giant Food, your purchases are recorded to benefit our school. Our Bonus Bucks Code is 00825.

Important Dates:

October 15

FH-Paint Branch at Watkins Mill V 3:30 pm/JV 5 pm

FB JV-Poolesville at Watkins Mill 5:30 pm

October 16

No School for Teachers/Students – MSTTA Convention Day

Homecoming Game - FB V-Poolesville at Watkins Mill 6:30 pm

October 17

Mike Tyler Run – 9:00 a.m. (participants arrive no later than 8:45 a.m.)

Homecoming Dance, 7:00 pm

October 20

PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm

FH-Gaithersburg at Watkins Mill V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm

October 22

FH-Watkins Mill at Einstein V 7 pm/JV 5:30 pm

VB G-Watkins Mill at Wootton JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 23

FB V-Watkins Mill at B-CC 6:30 pm

October 24

FB JV-Watkins Mill at B-CC 10 am

October 26

VB G-Watkins Mill at B-CC JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 28

VB G-Sherwood at Watkins Mill JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 29

FB JV-Watkins Mill at Einstein 5:30 pm

October 30

FB V-Watkins Mill at Einstein 6:30 pm

October 31

Halloween