



B-CC BANTER

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Karen Lockard



Summer is a time of reflection and planning here at B-CC, when we thoughtfully consider the paths we will take during the new school year. To evaluate where we are and what we need to address, administrators, parents and resource teachers participated in a highly successful Leadership Week. Academic concerns took precedence, but we also considered the welfare of the whole child. We decided to start the school year with a close look at the risky behaviors of teens, specifically the use of drugs and alcohol.

To begin the conversation, we must acknowledge that substance abuse by teens is a problem in our community, as it is in most high schools. Teens have access to alcohol at parties, where it may have been obtained from older friends who are

of legal age to buy it, or from parents' liquor cabinets. Likewise, the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription and non-prescription drugs also impacts the health and performance of our children. Intoxicants endanger their lives and their futures.

This will be a year of awareness as we work together with students and the PTSA to learn about these negative behaviors and their causes. Senior Alison Silverstein is leading an effort to create a B-CC chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). To educate and enlighten parents, the PTSA will host a series of sessions entitled Risky Business.

B-CC students are some of the best in the country. They achieve at high levels and make us all proud. They work very hard, but they play hard, too. I believe that many adults avoid difficult discussions about drug and alcohol abuse. Now is the time to end the silence and to collaborate

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on sending these messages to our young people:

We care about you.

We know that you may be engaging in dangerous, illegal behaviors.

We need you to stop hurting yourselves.

Our community must work together to remind students that there are safe, legal ways to have a good time. We need to help students realize that they do not have

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CARTA DE LA DIRECTORA

Karen Lockard

El verano es tiempo de reflexión y planeación en BCC. Es el momento en el que cuidadosamente consideramos los caminos que recorreremos durante el nuevo año escolar. Como parte del esfuerzo para evaluar dónde nos encontramos y qué temas debemos tratar, tanto administradores como padres y maestros titulares participaron en una muy exitosa Semana de Liderazgo. Las inquietudes académicas protagonizaron los trabajos, pero también consideramos temas relacionados con el bienestar integral del estudiante. Así, decidimos comenzar el año escolar con una mirada de cerca a las conductas riesgosas entre los adolescentes y, específicamente, al consumo de drogas y alcohol.

Para abrir la conversación, es necesario reconocer que el abuso de sustancias por parte de los

adolescentes es un problema en nuestra comunidad, como lo es en la mayoría de las escuelas preparatorias. Los adolescentes tienen acceso a bebidas alcohólicas en fiestas, donde pueden obtener alcohol de amigos mayores que tienen la edad legal para comprarlo o de los lugares donde los padres guardan las bebidas alcohólicas. De la misma forma, el uso de drogas ilegales y el mal uso de medicamentos tanto controlados como de los que no requieren receta médica impactan también la salud y el desempeño de nuestros hijos. Este tipo de sustancias tóxicas pone en peligro las vidas y el futuro de nuestros estudiantes.

Este año será uno de consciencia al trabajar con los

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**9th
Grade
Orientation**
Thursday, Aug. 27

First Day for Students
Monday, Aug. 31

Back To School Night
Thursday
Sept. 3
6:30 - 9 pm

**Dentro de
este numero:
mas articulos
en espanol!**

AUGUST

- 23New Family Welcome Event
- 279th grade Orientation
- 31First Day of School

SEPTEMBER

- 3Back to School Night
- 4 & 11Dr. Horrible Play at B-CC
- 7No School, Labor Day
- 15B-CC Crew Information Session
- 15PTSA Meeting
- 19PTSA Monthly Meeting
- 28No School, Yom Kippur

OCTOBER

- 2Early Release Day
- 13PTSA Meeting
- 14PSAT Administered at B-CC
- 14FAFSA Meeting
- 30Marking Period Ends

COMING UP

- November 2No School
- November 11Report Cards
- November 13PTSA Dinner Dance Fundraiser
- November 17PTSA Meeting Risky Business

Letter from the Principal

Continued from page 1

to indulge to be popular. We have to let them know we are aware of their risky, illegal activities and that we do not approve. We can effect change when we unite in a common cause. I ask you to join me in keeping our students safe.

I am looking forward to a positive and productive school year. Please put Sept. 3 on your calendar so you may join us for Back-To-School Night. As always, thank you for trusting us with your children.

Karen Lockard

Calendar entries are derived from the B-CC website calendar. Contact Michaela Barnes (mabarnes9@aol.com) to add or update entries. Visit the B-CC website calendar for more details on any of the events listed.

Back To School Night!

Thursday Sept. 3

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Classroom visits begin at 7 pm; end at 9 pm.

THE B-CC PTSA NOW HAS ITS OWN WEBSITE! BOOKMARK WWW.BCCPTSA.ORG TODAY!

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Karen Lockard

The B-CC Banter is the publication of the B-CC Parents, Teachers and Students Association (PTSA).

The Banter is available online on the PTSA pages of the B-CC High School website or at www.bccptsa.org

NEW POLICY FOR COURSE-RELATED FEES

By Bennie Green, Assistant Principal

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, Montgomery County Public Schools has implemented a new policy and guidelines for course-related fees. This policy change is the result of an in-depth study conducted by school system personnel last fall regarding “fees related to the instructional programs at both the elementary and secondary level.” MCPS took the opportunity to review current practices in order to “reduce the impact of fees on families without jeopardizing our rich and diverse programs.” The study only looked at course-related fees, not noncourse-related fees.

The resulting guidelines are intended to “strike a balance between reducing the number of course-related fees that fam-

ilies are asked to pay and preserving the broad array of course offerings our community expects and students deserve.” The conclusion of the study resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of “allowable” course fees, as well as “a revised fee waiver process established for students whose families cannot afford the approved fees.”

The general guidelines state that:

- ❖ Textbooks, supplementary readers, audio/visual aids, stationery and materials of instruction are provided by the school
- ❖ All items used for instruction must be available in the classroom in class sets;
- ❖ Any allowable fee must be

for the cost of the item consumed by the student;

❖ The principal in collaboration with the school’s leadership team will determine if allowable fees will be charged and if allowable personal supply items will be provided by the school;

❖ No school is required to charge students allowable fees or is required to request approved personal supply items be provided by students

❖ Waivers (or fee reduction/payment plan) are available for all students; fee waivers may be requested by a student, family member, counselor, teacher/staff, administrator or any advocate familiar with the student’s financial circumstances. The waiver does

not require a parent signature or financial verification. A reason must be provided for identifying a student who may need adjustment in a course fee.

In summary, successful implementation of these new guidelines will require the attention and diligence of all stakeholders to ensure that fees are fair, reasonable and do not place undue financial strain on families, while allowing our school to continue to provide a “broad array of course offerings our community expects and students deserve.”

B-CC IB MIDDLE YEARS PROJECT BOOK FAIR AT POLITICS & PROSE – SATURDAY, NOV. 14

Could this possibly be the most perfect way to spend a chilly Saturday in November? Come and tuck yourself up at this wonderful local bookstore, Politics & Prose (5015 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008), and browse through old and new literary friends, while helping to raise money for our school.

With the support of Politics and Prose, the B-CC community helped raise \$2,500 for our school last year, as well as provided books for our media center and donated books to a school in New Orleans. This year, 20% of all B-CC generated sales will be donated by the IB MYP students to Greg Mortenson’s non-profit foundation, the Central Asia Institute (ikat.org), which has built 78 schools serving 28,000 students in remote, politically volatile pockets of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

B-CC students will be on hand to tell you about their support of this wonderful foundation and about the book that started it all, *Three Cups of Tea*, which they have read throughout the summer. Look out for exact times and for your B-CC shopping vouchers nearer the day of the event. Thank you so much for your support. For more information about this International Connections Committee (ICC) sponsored event, please contact Laura Elsey at, elsey.laura@gmail.com.

Counselor Assignments 2009 - 2010

Grades 9-11

Ms. Colleen Desmond:	A – Bas
Ms. Rina Palchick:	Bat – Du
Mr. Brett Demunter:	E – Har
Mr. Richard Gordon:	Has – Li
Ms. Tammy Mayo:	Lj – Pon
Ms. Mia Hemmer:	Pop – Sm
Ms. Nancy Keller-Klothe:	Sn – Z

GOLDEN MOMENTS: STUDENTS AND PARENTS LAUD SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE TEACHERS AND STAFF AT B-CC

Michael Costello

My daughter was fortunate to have him for math while at B-CC. Now a college freshman, her plan for help with college-level math is to find Mr. Costello over the break! He is a terrific cross country coach as well. His gentle persistence, availability, humor and ability to encourage kids to achieve are true gifts and he uses them well. He has remarkable skills in joining forces with parents to facilitate learning.

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher at B-CC. This year my daughter has been struggling with math and he has been more than happy to help her whenever she has approached him for help. He knows how to explain everything to help students understand. He is also a marvelous cross country coach.

Linda Figert

She is a wonderful teacher who is patient, kind and always willing to go the extra mile.

Daniel Gallagher

He was interesting, his class was fun and every day when I left Mr. Gallagher's class I would know something new.

He is the best teacher I have ever seen. I was lucky to have him as my ESOL NSL teacher. He made the course understandable to everybody. His skill was in using live examples and making everyone participate.

There was *life* in Mr. Gallagher's class. He was easy-going and nice, but strict when he had to be.

Freddie Harris (Plant Equipment Operator)

Mr. Harris was a critical part of years of successful book sales. He went beyond job descriptions and duty hours, working long after his shift finished so the sale was ready when we came in on Saturday morning.

Peter Haupt

I went to Dr. Haupt after school when I had trouble with one assignment, and he spent an hour and a half helping me. I have tremendous respect for his patience and perseverance. He cared that I understood.

I had Dr. Haupt as a sophomore and again this year as a senior. I loved how he read passages from the books; he has a mesmerizing tone of voice. He could really teach a book and make me understand the nuances of literature. Just his presence in the classroom kept me from being bored. I could never get higher than a B from him, except my final exam my sophomore year. The question on the exam really hit home with me and I wrote like crazy. He actually gave me an A on the exam, and to this day it is the grade in high school of which I am the most proud. I feel that he is the closest I could get to having a college professor in high school. After having Dr. Haupt, I feel as if I might do well in college.

William Howell (Building Services Assistant Manager/Maintenance Supervisor)

He is always very helpful and a creative problem solver.

Stephanie Lee

She is helpful, nice and always has an answer for all my questions.

Mary Kay Lyddane

She is so helpful and a really good teacher. I enjoyed having class with her.

Michael Richards

He teaches my son AP physics. He seems to be available for the students at lunch and after school. When I have e-mailed him he always responds promptly and is on top of the situation. This Saturday he is conducting a review session for his students as the AP exam is next week. I think that his dedication deserves a commendation.

Heather Slattery

She is one of my favorite teachers and helps me with my homework. I have fun in her class. She has a lot of patience. Now I understand pronunciation, I read, and thanks to her, my English is good.

Sarah Straus

There's never a dull moment in Mrs. Straus' class. She is undoubtedly the reason I did so well in my IB Math exam; she really knows her stuff. Love her!

Sophie Vigeant and Marshall White

They inspired my son in his first year at B-CC (and the public school system).

Galit Zolkower

She is funny and understandable. She understands what ESOL students are going through. She really does her best at everything.

Reasons to sign up for EDLINE:

1. It's easy--just go to: The B-CC website and sign up.
2. It's important: Your child's teachers use Edline for important communications with students and parents.
3. It's a link between school and home: Use it as a tool to discuss your student's progress and help them succeed!

DO IT TODAY!!!!

WELCOME TO NEW B-CC STAFF AND FACULTY

Matt Jacobs *Physics and Earth Science*

Where you came from: I am originally from Connecticut. I lived in Pittsburgh for seven years while I was going to school, and then in Orange County, California for two years while I was practicing law. I moved to Maryland in May 2008 so I'm still pretty new to the area.

Brief background: I am a new hire in Montgomery County Public Schools. This will be my first full-time teaching position. I just graduated from the University of Maryland, Graduate School of Education. I was a student teacher at Walter Johnson High School during the fall semester in 2008, and I completed my student teaching at Wootton High School during the spring semester in 2009.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: I was very excited to be offered the position at B-CC. Principal Lockard and I high-fived over the conference table!

What you like about your job: I enjoy teaching because I like hearing what students have to say on a daily basis. I like seeing how they perceive the world from a scientific standpoint and how that perception changes after a year of Physics class.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I was on the TV game show "Jeopardy!" this past December ... and won!

Suzette Thom *Athletic Director and Physical Education teacher*

Where you came from: I came from Paint Branch High School.

Brief background: I've been teaching 14 years, 11 in Montgomery County Public Schools. I'm a former college basketball coach and was varsity basketball coach at Springbrook High School, where the team went to the State Final Four Tournament in 2005. I have a master's degree in counseling psychology. Originally from Brooklyn, I was raised in West Chester, Pa. My family is originally from Guyana, West Indies.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: Excited and intrigued.

What you like about your job: I like making a difference in the life of students regardless of athletic ability and creating

opportunities for success.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I zip-lined through a rainforest in Costa Rica.

Christopher Klein *Algebra and Geometry*

Where you came from: Oceanside, N.Y.

Brief background: I started teaching in Bronx, N.Y. I earned my BA in Philosophy from Fordham University and MA in Education from Mercy College through the NYC Teaching Fellows Program. I play and teach chess, read literature and philosophy continuously, and enjoy playing and watching all sports, especially soccer.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: I was pleased.

What you like about your job: Teaching kids to think.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I just got back from my honeymoon in Spain.

Eva El-Khatib *Biology and ESOL Algebra*

Where you came from: I am returning to B-CC after teaching at Loiederman Middle School, where I have taught matter and energy, biology and 7th & 8th grade science.

Brief background: I completed my student teaching at B-CC, then taught there, took a year off, went to Loiederman Middle School and now am back at B-CC.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: Very excited! I am happy about returning to B-CC, where my teaching career started.

What you like about your job at B-CC: Besides the kids, staff and overall school - the swimming pool on the fourth floor, it totally rocks!

What you like about your job: I enjoy meeting new students each year, watching them make those "aha" moments and learning new tricks or strategies while the students enjoy the courses I teach.

Students would be surprised if they knew: How many pets my family has (four: two rats, one dog and a cat). Our hermit crab and "killer" fish both died during the summer. My favorite movies are "My Fair Lady" and "Star Wars."

Rita Molyneaux *ESOL Level 3, ESOL Modern World History, ESOL Dev. Reading*

Where you came from: Watkins Mill High School

Brief background: M.A.T. ESOL, Johns Hopkins University. I am also highly qualified to teach Social Studies and English. I changed careers to become a teacher. My previous professional experience is in public policy, media and environmental, as well as architecture.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: I was thrilled because I had visited B-CC and loved meeting the students who made me feel welcome. I am excited to be working with Galit Zolkower, whose work I have admired, and with Karen Lockard, who I think is doing great things at B-CC.

What you like about your job at B-CC: I will have to wait to see, but I hear that the staff at B-CC is very professional and collegial. I also think I will enjoy the diversity of the students and getting to know each of my students as individuals.

What you like about your job: I love working with teenagers. I love their openness, energy, challenge and optimism.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I spent part of this summer in the wilds of the Serengeti surrounded by lions, elephants, zebras, leopards, cape buffalo and more. I love hiking, kayaking and photography. And I read history books for fun!

Todd Scriber *Biology*

Where you came from: Born in Ithaca, N.Y.

Brief background: I taught in MCPS for three years at Watkins Mill High School, special ed. biology and SAT prep math. I was a paraeducator for three years before that. I was also assistant coach for the Wootton hockey team (three years) and the Washington Pride (two years).

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: Looking forward to a new challenge and being a part of a new community.

What you like about your job at B-CC: Haven't started yet but the short commute will be a nice change.

What you like about your job: Interacting with a number of different people and get-

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B-CC HIGH SCHOOL MURALS DEDICATED

By Carole Brand and Julie Pounds

On July 9, the B-CC High School Educational Foundation, along with alumni from the class of 1956, current B-CC students, Principal Karen Lockard, Chevy Chase muralist Katie Freeman Vita and PTSA President Mary Cobbett dedicated the two four-panel murals now hanging in the front lobby of the school.

Jonda McFarlane, B-CC alumna and former B-CC teacher, led fundraising from the class of '56 at its 50th reunion to donate money to the B-CC HS Educational Foundation to recreate the historic 1946 "Life at B-CC" mural; B-CC student artists Laura Sheys, Rosalie Eck, Caroline Walker, Lexi Williams, Martha Abbott, Diane Sinclair, Kristine Albanes and Eva Bessette, under the direction of Katie Freeman Vita, created and painted the new "Life at B-CC 2009" mural.

History of the murals at B-CC HS

From the 1940s through the 1990s, B-CC students painted more than 40 murals on the walls of the A and C Buildings, depicting B-CC life, Montgomery County history, cultural icons, famous literature and art. When the 1999 restoration of the school began, asbestos was found in the walls, requiring the destruction of the murals. Under the direction of then-PTSA President Mary Allen, the murals were professionally photographed with the hope that some day they could be reproduced and once again grace the halls of our school. You can view photographs of the murals at www.bccedfoundation.org.

In 2002, when the modernized B-CC was reopened, then-Foundation member Nancy Suniewick, a former PTSA president, donated money to research how to bring murals back to B-CC's walls. The B-CC High School Educational Foundation's Murals Committee was formed. We conducted the research and were responsible for having the murals recreated and hung.

The "Elvis" mural, now hanging across from the auditorium, was created on canvas, using the Giclee print process, which uses high-resolution digital scans of an image that are then printed with archival quality inks onto canvas. Donated



At the murals dedication: Members of the alumni class of 1956, with Karen Lockard, student artists and muralist Katie Freeman Vita.

in 2005 by the class of 1975, this mural was the first to be recreated.

The 1946 B-CC mural, when photographed, was no longer in good enough shape to recreate it satisfactorily. We met with Ms. Katie Vita in hopes that she could touch up the Giclee so that we could have it reproduced into a new, crisp Giclee that would be similar in size to the original. She concluded that the touch-up paints would never match the Giclee and that we should repaint the mural. Ms. Vita agreed to take on the job of recreating the 1946 mural. The Murals Committee had always hoped to reproduce this mural with an accompanying modern version on the curved wall in the front lobby.

In the summer of 2008, the stars aligned:

—Jonda McFarlane and the class of 1956 wanted to donate a mural and chose this important one;

— Ms. Lockard loved the idea and agreed that the mural should be hung in the front hall;

— David Lockhart would create the curved canvases and then hang them once done;

—Ms. Vita was willing to recreate the original mural and with her team of student artists create the modern version, thus bringing all of our hopes to fruition!

ABOUT THE NEW MURALS IN THE LOBBY

Life at B-CC 1946 Mural

The four panels closest to the front doors in the main lobby comprise the recreation of the "Life at B-CC" mural, depicting life at B-CC HS during the 1940s, a 50th anniversary gift of the Class of 1956 in grateful memory of how the participation in academics, sports, music, art and fun during their high school years shaped their lives and their futures.

Life at B-CC 2009 Mural

In spring 2009, a group of students under the direction of Ms. Vita created a new B-CC mural to accompany and complement the recreated 1946-era mural. The subject for the mural is loosely based on the content of the old mural - daily life at B-CC. A highlight of the new mural is the illustration of our now very diverse community and a group of exuberant students, decked out in blue and gold, with face paint, hats and headbands, ready to participate in "Spirit Day." Other sections feature the use of new technology at B-CC as well as sports, art and music. The artists felt strongly that they celebrate in paint the richness of diversity at B-CC today.

Youthquake 1988 Mural

Alumnus Phil Hutinet, class of 1988, painted "Youthquake" in 1988. As an adult, he has remained a painter, and he donated his time to recreate his mural, which will hang in the "C" atrium. As money is donated by alumni classes and community members to the B-CC HS Educational Foundation for this work, the Foundation will continue to bring murals back to the school.

If you would like to contribute to the foundation, which directly funds many of the academic support programs for B-CC students as well as recreating the murals, please visit www.bccedfoundation.org.

By Colleen Desmond, Resource Counselor

Welcome back to what I anticipate will be a successful and productive new school year. While you were away on summer vacation, the counselors have been working hard to prepare the schedules, to meet with rising seniors about college and to plan programs for the upcoming school year.

There have been some changes in the Counseling Department due to the retirement of our former resource counselor, Christine Foland. Some of the counselors have moved offices. Additionally, some counselor assignments have shifted. Colleen Desmond, our new resource counselor, will be the counselor for most of Ms. Foland's former students in grades 9-11. We are also excited to have a new counselor, Tammy Mayo, joining our team. She is coming to us as an experienced counselor from Northwest High School and will be the counselor for Ms. Desmond's former 9th through 11th grade students. The counselor assignments are included below for your reference. Keep in mind that the counselors will be keeping their rising seniors and that Ms. Mayo will be the counselor for Ms. Foland's rising seniors.

As you know, change can be bittersweet. We are all sad to see Ms. Foland go, but we are enthusiastic about the upcoming school year and aspire to continue the excellent counseling program that Ms. Foland established at B-CC. To round out our department, we are fortunate to have our knowledgeable and experienced registrar, Kathy Peebles; our talented and hard-working career and counseling coordinator, Cheryl Feldsott; and our beloved counseling assistant, Cathie Goltz. We are also lucky to have our registrar's assistant, Eileen Adelman, continue with us.

September and October are busy months for everyone as we make the transition back to school. Within the next couple of months counselors will be presenting a program to 9th and 10th graders about the

importance of every year in high school. We will introduce students to a computer program called Family Connection, which gives students a glimpse into the college search process and also includes a career and personality assessment. The 11th graders will be introduced to the college process in November/December, and we will be meeting with seniors in September to remind them of the college process at B-CC. Seniors should be scheduling college meetings with their counselors if they have not already done so.

A lot goes on during the school year. If you need some guidance along the way, talk to your counselor, who can assist you in seeking out support. B-CC has outstanding and helpful teachers, as well as wonderful resources to support its students, including TAP, composition assistants, NHS tutoring, and College Tracks. Students, remember to work hard and give it your all. Have a successful and valuable 2009-2010 school year!

COLLEEN DESMOND TAKES THE HELM IN COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

By Meg Baker

Never mind that she got the call on Sept. 11, 2001. As soon as she arrived at B-CC to interview, she knew she was in a special place. After all, it was within these walls that her father spent his high school years.

Colleen Desmond has provided counsel to countless B-CC students ever since, and now has been appointed to the position of Resource Counselor, managing the operations of B-CC's Guidance Department.

A product of MCPS herself, Ms. Desmond earned her BA in Education from George Mason University and began her career in alternative programs, working with students at risk. Because the work had a strong advisory component, she developed a passion for counseling and decided to pursue her Masters at Johns Hopkins University.

She loves working with high school students. "It is such a great age - the students are full of hopefulness and enthusiasm." She enjoys helping them develop their skills in problem-solving and planning out

Counselor Assignments for 2009-2010 school year:

Grades 9-11

Ms. Colleen Desmond:	A – Bas
Ms. Rina Palchick:	Bat – Du
Mr. Brett Demunter:	E – Har
Mr. Richard Gordon:	Has – Li
Ms. Tammy Mayo:	Lj – Pon
Ms. Mia Hemmer:	Pop – Sm
Ms. Nancy Keller-Klothe:	Sn – Z

Grade 12

Ms. Tammy Mayo:	A – Bel
Ms. Rina Palchick:	Bem – Ea
Mr. Brett Demunter:	Eb – Hur
Mr. Richard Gordon:	Hus – Mari
Ms. Colleen Desmond:	Marj – Pan
Ms. Mia Hemmer:	Pao – Sin
Ms. Nancy Keller-Klothe	Sio - Z

a path that is right for them.

Her summer must-read list included Stephen Covey's "The 8th Habit" as well as "The Glass Castle," a true life story written by MSNBC columnist Jeannette Walls.

She has been a runner since her youth and has recently become interested in trail running. Last year she participated in the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Marathon, finishing in fifth place. She has also served the B-CC community as a coach in both cross-country and outdoor track.

The oldest of five children, Ms. Desmond has two college-age children of her own. She and her extended family are very close, gathering at every opportunity and enjoying vacations together each year.

When asked for her advice to high school students, she said she would urge them to utilize the wealth of supports available to them, not just go to class. "Meet with your teachers, take advantage of TAP, go

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AVOIDING THE MOST COMMON COLLEGE ADMISSION MISTAKES

By Cheryl Feldsott, College/Career Coordinator

Here is a list of common college admissions mistakes and some advice on how to avoid them:

Missing the Boat Academically

The single most important factor in a college application is the transcript. An ideal college prep curriculum includes four years of core English, science, math, social studies, and foreign language classes. Do not believe that colleges weigh all AP and IB classes in a superior way. For example, AP Environmental Science is not a substitute for Honors or AP Physics, and AP Statistics is not a substitute for Pre-Calculus or Calculus, at all levels. AP Environmental Science and AP Statistics should be regarded as great electives, not core classes, within a curriculum loaded

with the five core subjects above.

Following the Pack

Don't choose College X because a majority of your classmates do. The reason another student selects College X may have nothing to do with your educational objectives. Personalize your search by defining what you are looking for in a college and have the courage of your convictions to select schools that are not on everyone's "top ten" list. Also be wary of rating and ranking guides. There are outstanding academic programs within "average" institutions. A "top-ranked" institution may have a weak program in your area of interest.

Failing to Thoroughly Research Their Choices

Good research can help you match your abilities, achieve-

ments and interests to the academic, social, and geographic settings of various institutions. After reviewing university and college websites, be sure to visit your top-choice schools. Make sure that what you have learned online and from promotional materials matches what you see on the ground. A campus visit is well worth the investment of time and money and will make for a stronger application that demonstrates the "perfect fit" between the applicant and the school.

Deciding there is Only One 'Right' College

Do not confuse one "right" college with one "type" of right college. An effective college search can yield a prototype of the kind of school that is likely to best meet a student's academic and non-academic priorities. Once you

have established that prototype, you will find tens if not hundreds of schools across the country that might be a good match. Within that prototype, take a three-tier approach to selecting a list of schools to apply to. Be sure to include "reach," "target" and "safety" schools.

Bombing the Essay or the Interview

When schools require essays and interviews, take these tasks seriously and spend time preparing. College essay readers are looking for thoughtful and sincere content, creative expression and good writing. Interviewers want to see enthusiasm, poise and maturity. One of the most common essay and interview errors is writing or saying what the student believes the school wants to hear. Students must be themselves and express their beliefs, opinions and points of view so schools can evaluate whether they are a mutually beneficial fit for each other.

Failing to Manage Time and Meet Deadlines

Time can be a friend or an enemy in the application process. Applications must be complete, accurate and neatly prepared. All directions must be followed perfectly. The applicant is responsible for making sure that college application deadlines are met. This means the applicant has to submit his or her forms on time and also make sure that school forms, teacher recommendations and test scores are forwarded as required to each institution. Submissions after these due dates may greatly hamper chances of admission.

COLLEGE VISITS AT B-CC

By Cheryl Feldsott, College/Career Coordinator

Every fall, B-CC hosts more than 200 admissions representatives from colleges and universities across the country, and from Canada and Europe. These visits start during the third week of the semester and end by Thanksgiving. Students can benefit from attending these information sessions. In all likelihood, a college's admission officer for the Maryland area is the first person who will review applications from B-CC students. Your participation indicates your interest in a given school and makes a favorable impression when your application is reviewed.

The Family Connection website maintains a list of admissions representatives scheduled to visit B-CC this fall to meet with juniors and seniors. To view this dynamic list, go to <http://connection.naviance.com/bcc>. Type in the personal password you received from the counseling department or the guest password "barons" using lower case letters only. Click on the "visit schedule" link in the purple column and a chronological list will appear. For more detailed information about a particular visit, click on the corresponding magnifying glass. To view the list in an alphabetical format, click once on the link "College" in the heading of the chart. Please note that schools called "University of" or "College of" are listed alphabetically by the name that succeeds those words. For example, University of Maryland is listed under "M" for Maryland and College of William and Mary is listed under "W" for William.

Details about a visiting college are available by clicking on the school's name. Links on that new page will lead you to the college's website and email address, to B-CC's admissions history, and to lots of facts and figures about the school.

If you are a junior or senior interested in participating in a college admissions visit, you must bring your handbook ahead of time to the College/Career Center to pre-register. You will sign up in a book by the front door and then write the appointment in your B-CC handbook, which will be

Continued on page 9

JUNIORS: THE PSAT IS REQUIRED FOR MARYLAND DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR PROGRAM

By Cheryl Feldsott, College/Career Coordinator

Juniors, please keep in mind that in order to be considered for this academic scholarship program you must, at a minimum, take the PSAT at B-CC on Wednesday, Oct. 14. You may also take the SAT no later than January 2010, if you would like those scores to be considered as part of your application. The SAT will be administered Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 and Jan 23. B-CC will be a test center for the October and December exams. In November and January, the SAT can be taken at other nearby schools. See the College Board website for details.

Students who are academically eligible for the Maryland Distinguished Scholar Program will be contacted by the Counseling Department after the fall semester ends and cumulative GPA's are calculated for each junior's first five semesters.

Who may apply: Current high school juniors may apply or may be nominated by their schools. Students and their parents must be Maryland residents. They must enroll at a two-year or four-year college or university or a private career school in the state of Maryland as a full-time (12+ credits per semester), degree-seeking undergraduate student. This scholarship can be used at both public and private institutions, and it is not based on financial need.

Academic Achievement Category: Applicants must have earned a minimum, cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale in academic subjects taken during their first five semesters of high school. The applicant's highest SAT scores from tests taken in January of the junior year or earlier are used with the GPA to determine final eligibility. PSAT or ACT scores will be considered *only* if the student has not taken the SAT.

Award Amount: The award is \$3,000 each year, renewable for a total of \$12,000 over four years.

SAT TESTING AT B-CC DURING 2009-10

The SAT will be administered at B-CC on the following dates during the 2009-10 school year: Oct. 10, Dec. 5 and May 1. Online registration is available at the College Board's website, www.collegeboard.com. There you will also find a complete calendar of testing dates and sites. The fee for regular registration is \$45. The fee for late registration is \$68.

Test Date	Reg. Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Oct. 10, 2009	Sept. 9, 2009	Sept. 23, 2009
Dec. 5, 2009	Oct. 30, 2009	Nov. 12, 2009
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010

GIVE A LITTLE TIME...MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Students gain citizenship skills from high-quality service learning.

SSL is a graduation requirement in the state of Maryland. Understand the SSL plan in Montgomery County Public Schools by contacting the SSL coordinator in any middle or high school and exploring the SSL website www.mcpsssl.org.

Service performed during the summer for which SSL hours are desired must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification, and turned in to the SSL coordinator by Sept. 25.

All organizations and opportunities for which SSL hours are desired must be preapproved. Check the list of organizations tagged "Approved SSL MCPS" and opportunities tagged "MCPS SSL Approved" at www.mcpsssl.org or get MCPS Form 560-50, Request for SSL Preapproval, granted in advance of any involvement.

The award of SSL hours outside of the instructional day (before school, lunchtime, after school) is one SSL hour for every hour of service within a 24-hour period. There are no exceptions.

SSL is provided without financial compensation.

College visits

Continued from page 8

stamped and signed by Mrs. Feldsott. You are responsible for obtaining the signature of the teacher whose class you will be missing, indicating that your absence from class is excused. Upon your arrival in the College/Career Center for the visit, Mrs. Feldsott will check your handbook to be sure you followed this procedure. Remember, attendance at any college visit is always at the discretion of your teacher. All class work missed is expected to be made up. Attendance will be taken for every visit, and the Attendance

Office will be given a daily account of all students who participated in these sessions. Questions? Contact Mrs. Feldsott at 240-497-6327.

B-CC PTSA RISKY BUSINESS PROGRAM: THE TRANSITION TO LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

By Winnie Frable

On Wednesday, April 22, the PTSA offered its third program in the Risky Business series, "The Transition to Life After High School."

Lead speaker Dr. Amelia Arria from the Center for Substance Abuse Research at the University of Maryland is the principal investigator for the College Life Study, a five-year study of young people in college. She gave the following advice to parents:

Continue parental supervision, especially during 12th grade, in order to reduce the engagement of their adolescents in risky behaviors. In college, risky behaviors can be lethal; monitor your kids' friends and living situation.

Express disapproval of heavy drinking and drug use; don't dismiss it as a "rite of passage."

Maintain weekly contact with college kids. Alcohol/drug problems and mental health issues peak between the ages of 18-25.

Emphasize happiness rather than undue pressure to succeed.

Remember that alcohol and other drugs are widely available in college environment. Students' recreational use of prescription drugs is increasing, which presents risks:

Nonmedical use of both prescription stimulants (such as ADHD medications), as well as painkillers, often go hand-in-hand with other drugs including alcohol.

Without physician oversight, nonmedical use can lead to adverse health effects, including a risk of addiction.

Nonmedical use is illegal, as is sharing, selling or trading pre-

scription medications.

These drugs can be deadly, particularly when mixed with other drugs or alcohol.

Behavior in high school predicts behavior in college. Only 4 percent of students who didn't drink in high school developed an alcohol use disorder, versus 29 percent for students who drank one or more drinks in high school. Mrs. Lockard and some parents noted that this is not necessarily true for all; some kids "break out" in college after abstaining in high school.

Share your own experiences, and tell kids they are lucky to have survived. Don't lie or dismiss experiences.

Know that extroverts and sensation-seekers are at higher risk for problems with alcohol and drugs. Irregularities in how the brain regulates emotion and behavior may be at the crux of addiction.

Eileen Elias, a disabilities and behavioral health expert, was the next presenter, making these points:

Experts now believe that adolescence, the stage of development before the adult brain is fully formed, lasts until age 30.

Milestones — college, career, marriage — are not as clear now as they were for us.

The transition after high school for kids with disabilities is particularly challenging. Parents need to encourage them to advocate for themselves for accommodations, help with prescription drugs or accessible housing.

The Bazelon Center and the Access Board (a government organization responsible for addressing Section 508 of

Rehabilitation Act and the ADA with emphasis on access ability) can help.

The next speaker was Cindy Bustillo of St. Luke's House Career Transitions Program. She explained that, in exchange for participating in a study of young people and career preparation funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration, Bethesda high school juniors and seniors, as well as college students, can get support services from Career Transitions, including:

- ❖ Education support
- ❖ Clarification of career goals
- ❖ Career shadowing and internships.

Louis Velasco, a recent graduate of the University of Florida, discussed his transition from high school to college:

He experienced culture shock going from a small Jesuit high school to a big public university, but it prepared him "for the real world."

It was also a shock to be "just another person" in college, but every student can find a niche.

He grew to appreciate his parents' involvement more when he was in college.

His transition was easier, he said, because "I got to college a week before classes started...and I didn't have to work the first two years." Dr. Arria agreed that it's preferable for students to take fewer classes the first years, aiming for mastery instead of credits.

Time management is a big challenge, especially having much more free time.

Study habits from high school may not translate to college.

"You are whom you hang out with." It is really important to find a good group of friends.

He also advised that kids shouldn't show up at parties alone. Go with people who can help you and leave with you.

If he had it to do over, Louis stated that he wouldn't feel pressured to declare a major early, and that he would focus on one or two extracurricular clubs.

Audience members brought up college-related questions about date rape, roommates and depression before the evening ended.

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Introducing Colleen Desmond

Continued from page 7

to the Writing lab,” she advises. “There are so many resources in place to help you maximize your high school experience. Don’t be shy - teachers want to help.”

Ms. Desmond also encourages students to recognize that each person has his or her own unique gifts, skills and traits.

“Believe in yourself, get involved in school, challenge yourself. Be a part of the community - attend the activities, the sports events, the plays. Keep your life

balanced.”

When she’s not counseling, running, reading, or getting together with family, she might likely be found kayaking in the calm waters of Little Seneca Lake.

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**RENEW YOUR GIANT BONUSCARD AND
ESCRIP/SAFEWAY GROCERY CARDS**

NOW

Every September, please remember to register your Giant BonusBucks and eScrip Safeway cards again. Parents, faculty, staff, and other supporters “must” register every year to ensure that the supporter’s points are credited to the correct school(s). If you are new to B-CC you also must register every year.

THANKS: Last year B-CC earned over \$6,600 from Giant BonusBucks and \$4,500 from eScrip Safeway cards. Thanks for your support!

You may renew online by following the directions below.

Or contact Laura Schreiber at 301-656-8533, or lauraandrich18@gmail.com. She will be happy to register for you. You will need your 12-digit Giant BonusCard number. Your Safeway/eScrip card number has 11-digits.

Giant A+Bonus Bucks Program

B-CC ID =00636To register go to the following site and follow the directions: http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/aplus_school_directory. You will need your 12-digit Giant BonusCard number and the ID number for **B-CC** that is **00636**. Thanks!

Escrip/Safeway

B-CC ID= 1563784

Go to www.escrip.com and reregister your card for this program or to sign up for the first time if you haven’t done so in the past. You just need the 11-digit number from your red Safeway card and the **B-CC ID** that is **1563784**. Thanks!

For more information please contact:
Laura Schreiber, 301-656-8533, lauraandrich18@gmail.com.



CARTA DE LA PRESIDENTA DEL PTSA, *Mary Cobbett*

El nuevo año escolar comenzará dentro de poco, y quisiera darles la bienvenida a B-CC, con una bienvenida especial para las familias nuevas. Estoy empezando mi noveno año como “mamá de B-CC,” con una hija entrando en el noveno grado, después de observar como mis tres hijos mayores, ya graduados de B-CC, crecieron y prosperaron en el ambiente estimulante de la escuela.

Quizás Uds. piensan que yo debería saber todo lo que hay que saber sobre B-CC y sobre la educación de los adolescentes, pero, si hay una sola cosa que he aprendido, es que no hay nada en cuanto a los adolescentes que permanezca lo mismo. Cada hijo reacciona a los desafíos de una manera diferente. El mundo en el que nuestros estudiantes están creciendo está cambiando tan rápidamente, que nosotros, como padres, muchas veces quedamos atrás, si no excluidos, de su “texting” y de su realidad virtual en el Internet y en Facebook.

Sencillamente, la escuela secundaria de hoy es muy diferente a la que nosotros hemos conocido. No podemos contar con nuestras propias experiencias de la juventud para entender las presiones y estresantes sentidos por los adolescentes de hoy. Por eso, les ruego que conozcan a B-CC y que queden en contacto con la comunidad escolar. ¡Involúcrense! Trabajar como voluntario en la oficina principal, o en la tienda escolar, o en la oficina de consejos, son maneras maravillosas de llegar a saber lo que está pasando en B-CC y de poner caras a los nombres de las personas. Ud. también podría ser mentor de un estudiante de noveno grado que necesita ayuda navegando la transición a la escuela secundaria, una actividad sumamente remuneradora que también le daría mayor entendimiento de la vida de su propio hijo en B-CC.

Para la mayoría de nosotros que no podemos estar presentes en la escuela durante el día, hay oportunidades de participar en las importantes organizaciones de padres que apoyan a los equipos de deportes, los conjuntos musicales, y las obras teatrales. Durante

estas actividades, hay oportunidad de hablar con los otros padres, de compartir preocupaciones y consejos sobre varios asuntos. Por ejemplo, qué hacer cuando su hijo para de hablar con Ud., pero tiene mucho que decir y “textear” a sus amigos; cómo contestar a un adolescente que dice, “No te creas, Mamá. Nadie realmente maneja 60 horas con sus padres antes de tomar el examen de conducir.” O que dice, “Vamos, Papá. Claro que todo el mundo bebe.” Los otros padres muchas veces tienen buenos consejos de cómo lidiar con el programa académico riguroso de la escuela. Para cualquier uno con preocupaciones sobre la cantidad de tareas, la vida social, el tiempo libre, las dificultades académicas o las notas—la conexión con los otros padres podría asegurarnos que nosotros—y nuestros

hijos—vayamos a sobrevivir la escuela secundaria.

Los padres también pueden unirse a las actividades sociales divertidas que la PTSA organizará a fin de fortalecer a la comunidad de B-CC y de dar a los padres más oportunidades a comunicarse. Hemos planeado dos eventos nuevos: un baile y una subasta silenciosa para los padres en el otoño, y, en la primavera, nuestra propia Copa Mundial de B-CC, con equipos hechos de estudiantes y padres.

Espero que cuantos más posible de Uds. encontrarían una manera nueva de conectarse con B-CC este año, y, así, fortalecerían su relación con su propio adolescente.

NUESTRA NUEVA DIRECTORA ATLÉTICA

Banter les presenta a Suzette Thom, la nueva directora atlética de BCC. La señorita Thom llega de la preparatoria Paint Branch donde se desempeñó con gran éxito. Nacida en West Chester, PA, creció en Brooklyn, NY para luego mudarse a la zona de Beltsville, en Maryland, graduándose de la preparatoria St. Vincent Pallotti en 1987. Después de asistir a la Universidad de West Chester (jugando basketball y softball), viajó y trabajó a lo largo de la Costa Oeste antes de terminar una Licenciatura en Ciencias en Educación Física en la Universidad de Salisbury en 1996. La señorita Thom permaneció en Salisbury enseñando educación física y colaborando como entrenadora adjunta del equipo femenino de basketball, llevando a las Gaviotas a dos campeonatos de la CAC y tres de la División III de la NCAA. En 2003 obtuvo una maestría en artes en asesoramiento psicológico (*counseling*) de la Universidad Estatal de Bowie.

Antes de trabajar en la preparatoria Paint Branch, la señorita Thom entrenó al equipo principal de basketball femenino de la preparatoria Springbrook, llevando a los Diablos Azules al Torneo Estatal de

Cuatro en las Finales en 2005, su primer año como entrenadora. La señorita Thom trae a BCC su pasión y entusiasmo por la educación y el deporte. Con la entrada de BCC a una nueva temporada deportiva llena de esperanza y posibilidades, nuestra nueva directora se mostró alentada por las oportunidades que tienen los Barons al pasar a la división 4A. “Creo que al jugar en la división 4A tendremos la oportunidad de enfrentar contrincantes que llevarán nuestros programas al siguiente nivel competitivo”, declaró al Banter. “Jugar en la división más alta del estado prepara a nuestros estudiantes-atletas académica, social y físicamente. Damos la bienvenida a este reto y seguiremos demostrando una actitud de respeto deportivo y un desempeño de calidad, haciendo nuestro mejor esfuerzo por lograr el éxito.”

PROGRAMA DEL B-CC PTSA DE NEGOCIOS ARRIESGADOS: LA TRANSICIÓN A LA VIDA DESPUÉS DEL BACHILLERATO

El miércoles, 22 de abril, el PTSA ofreció su tercer programa en su serie d Negocios Arriesgados titulado: “La Transición a la Vida Después del Bachillerato.”

La Panelista principal, Dra. Amelia Arria del Centro de Investigación sobre el Abuso de Sustancias de la Universidad de Maryland e investigadora principal en el Estudio sobre la Vida Universitaria, un estudio de 5 años sobre la vida de los jóvenes en la Universidad, ofreció los siguientes consejos a los padres:

Continúe supervisando a sus hijos, especialmente durante el 12avo grado, para reducir las probabilidades de que se involucren en conducta arriesgada. En la Universidad, este tipo de conducta puede ser mortal; chequee los amigos de sus hijos y como viven.

Expresé su desagrado sobre el consume en exceso de alcohol y el uso de drogas; no lo ignore como “una fase de su crecimiento.”

Mantenga contacto semanal con su hijo Los problemas de alcohol/drogas y de salud mental se acentúan entre los 18 y los 25 años.

Haga énfasis en la felicidad más que en la presión excesiva a tener éxito.

Recuerde que el alcohol y otras drogas pueden obtenerse en el ambiente escolar. El uso frívolo de drogas prescritas está en aumento y presenta los siguientes riesgos:

El uso de estimulantes prescritos (como los medicamentos para el ADHD), al igual que los analgésicos, a menudo van de la mano con otras drogas, incluyendo el alcohol.

Sin la supervisión médica, el uso puede causar efectos secundarios adversos, incluyendo el riesgo de la adicción.

El uso sin supervisión médica es ilegal, al igual que el compartir, vender o traficar los medicamentos prescritos.

Estas drogas pueden causar la muerte, en especial si se mezclan con otras drogas o con alcohol.

El comportamiento en la escuela secundaria predice el comportamiento en la Universidad. Solo 4 por ciento de los estudiantes que no bebieron en la escuela secundaria desarrollaron una dependencia al alcohol, a diferencia de un 29 por ciento de los estudiantes que bebieron en una o más ocasiones durante la escuela secundaria. La Sra. Lockard y algunos padres indicaron que esto no es necesariamente cierto en todos los casos; algunos chicos cambian drásticamente en la universidad después de abstenerse durante la escuela secundaria

Comparta sus experiencias, y dígame a su hijo que tuvo suerte de haber sobrevivido. No eche a un lado ni mienta sobre sus experiencias.

Tenga en cuenta que los extrovertidos y los que les gusta buscar nuevas sensaciones están mas en riesgo para los problemas de alcohol y drogas. La clave de esto puede radicar en la manera irregular en que el cerebro regula la emoción y los comportamientos.

Eileen Elías, experta en comportamiento de la salud y en minusvalía fue nuestra siguiente Panelista, y ella hizo los siguientes comentarios:

Los expertos ahora creen que la adolescencia, la etapa del desarrollo en la que el cerebro adulto se forma por completo, no termina hasta los 30 años.

Hitos – Universidad, carrera, matrimonio – no están tan claros ahora como lo eran para nosotros.

La transición de la vida después del bachillerato para los chicos minusválidos es más difícil aun. Los padres necesitan animarlos a que aboguen por ellos mismos, a que soliciten que se les brinden las acomodaciones necesarias, ayuda para sus prescripciones medicas o por vivienda accesible.

El Centro Bazelon y la Junta de Acceso (una organización gubernamental responsable por la Sección 508 del Acta de Rehabilitación y del ADA con énfasis en disponibilidad de acceso) pueden ayudar.

Nuestra siguiente panelista fue Cindy Bustillo del Programa de Transición de Carreras de St. Luke’s House. Cindy explicó que, a cambio de participar en un estudio sobre personas jóvenes y sobre preparación para las carreras fundado por la Administración de Seguro Social de los EEUU, los chicos en grado 11 y 12 de la escuela superior de Bethesda, al igual que estudiantes universitarios, pueden obtener ayuda del Centro de Transiciones, que incluye:

Apoyo escolar

Clarificación de sus metas relacionadas con su carrera

Aprender sobre su carrera siguiendo ejemplos de otras personas e internados

Louis Velasco, recién egresado de la Universidad de Florida, nos explicó sobre su experiencia de transición de la escuela secundaria a la universidad:

Experimentó un drástico cambio cultural de una pequeña escuela Jesuita a una gran universidad pública, pero esto lo preparó para la vida “real.”

Fue para el también un choque el ser “solo uno más” en la Universidad, pero cada estudiante puede encontrar su lugar.

Llegó a apreciar más el que sus padres se mantuvieran involucrado en su vida cuando estaba en la Universidad.

Su transición se hizo mas fácil, dijo, porque “Llegué a la Universidad una semana antes de que empezaran las clases. . . y no tuve que trabajar durante los dos primeros años.” Dr. Arria estuvo de acuerdo en que es preferible que los estudiantes tomen menos clases durante los primeros años, y que hagan énfasis en dominio más que en créditos.

Aprender a administrar su tiempo es un gran reto, especialmente cuando tienen tanto tiempo libre. Hábitos de estudio de la escuela superior pueden ser difíciles de aplicar en la universidad.

“Dime con quién andas y te diré quien eres.” Es realmente importante encontrar un buen grupo de amigos.

Indicó que los chicos no deben de ir a las fiestas solos. Siempre vayan con personas de confianza que te puedan ayudar y que se marchen contigo.

Si tuviera que empezar de nuevo, Louis dijo que no se sentiría presionado a elegir una especialización tan temprano, y que habría tratado de pertenecer a uno o dos clubes extracurriculares.

Los asistentes hicieron preguntas sobre la vida universitaria sobre los temas de la violación entre conocidos, la convivencia con compañeros de habitación y la depresión antes de que se terminara la noche.

*Carta de la Directora**Continuo de la pagina 1*

estudiantes y la PTSA para aprender acerca de estas conductas negativas y sus causas. La *senior* Alison Silverstein está encabezando el esfuerzo para crear un capítulo en BCC de SADD (Estudiantes contra las Decisiones Destructivas, por sus siglas en inglés). La PTSA organizará una serie de sesiones tituladas *Risky Business* (Asuntos Riesgosos) a fin de capacitar e informar a los padres de familia.

No olvidemos que los estudiantes de BCC se encuentran entre los mejores de todo el país. Nuestros hijos tienen logros de alto nivel que nos llenan de orgullo. Trabajan muy duro, pero también se divierten así. Considero que muchos adultos evitan tener discusiones difíciles acerca del abuso de las drogas y el alcohol. Este es el momento de terminar con el silencio y colaborar haciendo llegar estos mensajes a nuestros jóvenes: Nos importan. Sabemos que podrían estar adoptando o participando en

conductas peligrosas e ilegales. Necesitamos que dejen de hacerse daño a ustedes mismos.

Nuestra comunidad debe trabajar al unisono para recordar a los estudiantes que hay formas seguras y totalmente legales de divertirse. Necesitamos ayudar a los estudiantes a darse cuenta que no tienen que ceder para ser populares. Debemos hacerles saber que estamos al tanto de sus actividades peligrosas e ilegales y que no las aprobamos. Podemos lograr el cambio cuando nos unimos en una causa común. Les pido que se unan conmigo para mantener a nuestros estudiantes seguros.

Estoy segura que este será un año escolar positivo y productivo. Asimismo, no olviden marcar el 3 de septiembre en sus calendarios, que es cuando tendrá lugar la Noche de Regreso a la Escuela (*Back to School Night*). Como siempre, les agradecemos que nos confíen a sus hijos.

Karen Lockard

**PLEASE JOIN
THE B-CC PTSA**

Our students and staff count on your membership and tax-deductible contributions to fund after-school and summer academic programming, the student handbook and directory, the parent newsletter, classroom items, staff support, student recognition events, student publications and many other important items.

*New Staff and Faculty**Continued from page 5*

ting to know them.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I drove over 13,000 miles across the United States last summer.

Jane Rankin *Security Team Leader*

Where you came from: Alternative Programs, Emory Grove High School

Brief background: I've been with MCPS for 20 years, in Security for the last 13 years.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: I was so excited! I am really looking forward to working with the students and staff at B-CC.

What you like about your job at B-CC: I am excited about working with the Security Team and Administration to keep B-CC safe and secure!

What you like about your job: Working with students!

Students would be surprised if they knew: I am a kick-boxer!

Stephen McDowell *U.S. Government and World History.*

Where you came from: Glasgow, Scotland

Brief background: I have taught Modern Studies for four years at Holy Cross High School in Hamilton, Scotland. I will be teaching at B-CC for one year on a Fulbright exchange.

Your initial reaction when you found out you had the job at B-CC: Since I found out I was coming to the USA I have been very excited and also slightly nervous about living in a new country. I am, however, very much looking forward to getting started at B-CC.

What you like about your job at B-CC: I'm sure I will enjoy working with the students and I know from my conversations with Mr. Zehner that I will be joining a great Social Studies department.

What you like about your job: I really enjoy the challenge of getting students interested in my subject.

Students would be surprised if they knew: I once ran a marathon – no chance I could do that now!

B-CC'S ACTORS SPEND SUMMER REHEARSING "DR. HORRIBLE" – DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Many of B-CC's talented student actors didn't take a break this summer. They rehearsed throughout the warm months to perfect their performance of "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog," a musical that combines memorable songs, special effects and heroic characters. Performances for this lively show, directed by Matt Boswell, will be held at the end of the first week of school, Friday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 pm in B-CC's auditorium, and the following Friday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$6 for students, adults and seniors, or \$8 at the door.

"Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" follows Billy (junior Bhenn Houde-Hostland) or more accurately, the mischievous doings of his evil alter ego Dr. Horrible (junior Tim Simon)...kind of. No one really seems to *get* him. Through his video blog, Dr. Horrible takes out his frustrations, whether they be about his arch nemesis Captain Hammer (senior David Sottile) or the state of the world in general.

As Billy, Dr. Horrible goes to the laundromat where he sees Penny (junior Naomi Cohen) and hopelessly wishes they could be together. His goals are simple: to rule the world and win the girl. But can he do both? Come to the show and find out!

The award-winning show, which was originally an online film written during the WGA writer's strike of 2008, has its own unique entertainment elements. "Let's just say that the show has all of the action and tension of 'Batman: The Dark Knight' but without Batman's raspy voice or huge budget," says director Boswell. "There's a Batman-like guy and a Joker, but they happen to be the same person. And most of it takes place in a laundromat. We do blow stuff up, though. There's very sophisticated weaponry and a dark ending. Not your typical 'Hello, Dolly' fare."

Other actors in the show include seniors Zach Weinberg, Anthony Pape-Calabrese, Jon Dutko and Alyssa Picard; juniors Ezra Lewis, Hallie Zokower-Kutz, Schuyler Krogh and Claire Durst; and sophomores Catty Leipold and Andrena Wade. Senior Kat Ignatova is the show's stage manager.

The show is being performed as a fundraising event to help send B-CC's troupe of actors to Scotland for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2010. To purchase advance tickets, please fill out the form below.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND A CHECK MADE OUT TO "B-CC THEATER." SEND CHECK AND FORM TO LINDA SIMON, 5308 WILSON LANE, BETHESDA, MD 20814. QUESTIONS? CALL THE BOX OFFICE, 240-497-6346. (Tickets will cost \$8 when purchased at the door, so save \$2 per ticket!)

Please indicate number of tickets for each performance: _____ Sept. 4 _____ Sept. 11

No. tickets X \$6 = _____ . Requests received by Aug. 28 will have tickets mailed.

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email: _____

B-CC BACKSTAGE

A WRAP-UP OF SPRING 2009 THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Three theatric events ended B-CC's 2008-2009 season:

❖ "Macbeth in the Woods" was an innovative rendition of Shakespeare's horrific tragedy, which was staged outside on the Capital Crescent Trail.

Directed by Anthony Pape-Calabrese, who also played Macbeth, and conceived by both Pape-Calabrese and recent B-CC alum Lizzie Parmenter in the role of Lady Macbeth, the play began at sundown, adding to its eeriness. The performance was entirely student run, sponsored by Mr. Aaron Taylor. The cast of 21 included graduated seniors Jon Miot, Blake Wilson, Ben Welna, Will Quick and Sandy Diehl; current senior Jan Vanous; juniors Stoff Scott, Jonah Goldman, Spence Heinrich, Caroline Borders, Bhenn Houde-Hostland, Tim Simon, Jorge Thomson and Cameron Kelly, and sophomores Jessie Klueter, Michael Boulter and Irene Burski. The show also featured the talented fourth-grade brothers Max and Sam Strickberger. Kat Ignatova was stage manager and Emma Fensterheim, Anna Johnson, Ally Navolio, Grace Center and Irene Burski did an outstanding job with

props, costumes and makeup. Eric Damtoft brilliantly crafted the lighting, with Carravita Pape-Calabrese managing sound and effects.

The show was so well received by the neighborhood as well as the B-CC theater audience that another "Shakespeare on the Trail" is in the works for Spring 2010.

❖ Next up was "B-CC Idol." Show-stopping participants included the vocal talents of Nasira Kane, Sterre Meijer, Gabi Rubin, Shaina Little, Lena Reed, Adreana Wade, Avi Adams, Christina Palacios, Nailah Harper-Malveaux, the band Dope Kabala and dance groups Boiz fuh Life and Billy Thomas & Co., with the following making it to Round Two: Brandon Levy, A Couple of Strong Lads, Billy Thomas and Co., Maddie Hook, Caitlan Maher and The Hawley-Smoot Tariff. The audience also was thoroughly entertained by the antics of the judges, and the emcees, Ezra Lewis and Zach Weinberg.

Final round participants were Maddie Hook, Hawley-Smoot Tariff, and "A Couple of Strong Lads." And the winner. . . . "A Couple of Strong Lads," otherwise known as Alex Donesky and Ben Muller.

❖ The theater season concluded with the ever-popular One-Act Festival. Last year's student directors were Tracy Erbacher, Caroline Diehl, Ian Brown-Gorrell, Jocelyn Baranshamaje, Hallie Zokower-Kutz, Claire Blackwelder, David Sottile, Tim Simon, Claire Durst, Spence Weinreich, Cameron Kelly, Caroline Borders, Jorge Thomson, Bhenn Houde-Hostland, Erin Hoxie, Kate Davis, Schuyler Krogh and Jonah Goldman. Caroline Borders was selected as the winning director of the Festival and will direct a children's play this fall.

MUSIC DEPT NEWS

By Julie Heaney and Debbie Jaffe



The B-CC Music Department is happy to welcome you, especially parents of new students to the world of B-CC music. We urge you to become an enthusiastic supporter of your student's musical life at B-CC.

For many years, our Music Boosters group has been an active group of parents who support our Grammy Award-winning Music Department and its dedicated staff, Marshall White, Cindi Kornhaus and Amy Vanek.

This year, your monetary and volunteer support will be needed more than ever. As you may have heard by now, MCPS will not be charging lab fees for music. Those funds, which were vital to our music program, will not be there any longer. We will be doing a lot of fundraising to help support the nearly 500 students at B-CC who are enrolled in Music.

Our first fundraiser of the year will be in the form of a letter asking for your tax-deductible donation. In addition, there will be an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for the Music Department. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with the various fundraisers, helping run concessions at concerts, watching the band room during concerts, or chaperoning the spring trip.

Some of our fundraisers will be ones we have had in the past like Sally Foster, the citrus fruit sale and Cabaret night, as well as an exciting new one: fall dinners in our music teachers' homes! Cindi Kornhaus and Amy Vanek will host on Saturday, Oct. 17. Marshall White and his wife Vanda will host on Saturday, Oct. 24. Details about how to make reservations for these special evenings will be forthcoming.

Fundraising contact information:

Sally Foster – Noell Sottile at noniesings@hotmail.com

Fall Dinners with our Music Teachers – Michele Parsonnet at parsonnetj@aol.com and Cindy Easton at cseaston@aol.com

Citrus Fruit Sale – Alex Weiner at markalexweiner@verizon.net and Debbie Jaffe at dmjaffe@comcast.net

Cabaret – Bonnie Norman at bonnie.l.norman@gmail.com

First Semester Performance Dates:

Pep Band performances for Varsity Football Home games

Call time 5:45 pm, performance 6:30 pm, approximate end time 8:40 pm

Sept. 11 Adv. Band and Sym. Band only

Sept. 25

Oct. 9 Homecoming

Oct. 23

Oct. 30

Winter Concert Dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 pm - Choral Groups, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra and Advanced Band

Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 pm - Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, Dec. 22, morning TBA – School Concert featuring all ensembles

Opera at B-CC

The Music Department is excited to perform the Baroque opera "Dido and Aeneas" by Henry Purcell this year. Performances will be on Jan. 29 and 30 at 7:30 pm. All IB Music students will be involved with this production, as this is the prescribed work that they will study in preparation for their IB exam. In addition, all other students are encouraged to audition for a role or play in the pit orchestra, which will consist of strings and keyboard. The pit orchestra will have their first rehearsal on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 2:15 to 3:45 pm. Any student interested in playing should come to this rehearsal. No auditions are required. A list of pit orchestra rehearsals will be given out at the first rehearsal. Auditions for stage parts will be in early Sept. Announcements for auditions will be made via class and the B-CCnet. Most of our rehearsals will take place in Jan., so there will be no conflict with students wanting to be involved with the Theatre Department's production of "Moby Dick" in Dec.

B-CC Music Listserve

Due to popular request, the Music Department will have its own listserve this year. It will be part of Yahoo Groups (like B-CC net) and will be called "BCCMusic." Julie Doll will be our moderator and will let you know how to sign up once the school year starts.

We look forward to another exciting year in B-CC Music!

Designate Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (School ID:58098) at Target.com's "Take Charge of Education" link. Target will donate 1% of your purchases with your REDcard or Target Visa at Target and Target.com, and 1/2% of purchases made elsewhere with your Target Visa to the PTSA.

MEET THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Banter would like to introduce Ms. Suzette Thom as the new Athletic Director at B-CC. She arrives from Paint Branch High School, where she had a very successful tenure. Born in West Chester, Pa., she was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. before she moved to the Beltsville, Md. area, graduating from St. Vincent Pallotti High School in 1987. After attending West Chester University (playing basketball and softball there), she traveled and worked along the East Coast before earning a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Salisbury University in 1996. Remaining at Salisbury to teach physical education and serve as an assistant women's basketball coach, she guided the Seagulls to two CAC Championships and three NCAA Division III appearances. In 2003, she earned a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University.

Prior to working at Paint Branch High School. Ms. Thom coached the varsity girl's basketball team at Springbrook High School, taking the Blue Devils in her first year as coach there to the State Final Four Tournament in 2005. She brings a passion and enthusiasm for education and athletics to the Barons now. As B-CC enters a new athletic season full of hope and possibility, Ms. Thom is encouraged by the opportunities the Barons face in moving to the 4A Division. "I believe playing in 4A will give us the chance to play against opponents who will take all our programs to the next level of competition," she told the Banter. "Playing in the highest division in the state prepares our scholar-athletes academically, socially, and physically. We welcome the challenge and will continue to demonstrate good sportsmanship, quality performances, and achieve success to the best of our abilities."

B-CC ALL-SPORTS BOOSTERS

By Gary Zinkgraf and Lynne Pratt

The B-CC All-Sports Boosters Club is non-profit and all volunteer. The Boosters mission is to support B-CC's athletic programs and to promote school spirit and sportsmanship. Through its many fundraising initiatives, including the spring mulch sale and the quarterly plant sales, Boosters raises funds to support B-CC teams. These badly needed funds supplement the small amount of funding the Athletic Department receives from the County. One area of particular focus right now for Boosters is improved maintenance of the stadium field and baseball field. Ongoing initiatives include operation of the concession stand, operation of the school store (check out the new and improved merchandise!) and coordination of Homecoming night, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 9 (football game at 6:30 pm vs. Walter Johnson).

Our goal is for each B-CC athlete's family to join the Sports Boosters. It is a once-per-year, one per family request, no matter how many teams your athlete participates on. There will be a Sports Boosters table at Back-to-School night. You can also get membership information from the Boosters page on the B-CC website.

In a previous Banter edition, the Athletic Department announced a new sponsorship opportunity focused on improving the ambiance of the gym. The school has acquired 40 folding chairs with the Baron's logo for use by all of our indoor teams and at major school functions. We are seeking individuals, groups and teams to support this effort by donating the cost of one chair. Each chair sponsor will be recognized with a plaque on the top of a chair. At only \$125 per chair, we hope you will consider this a worthy investment in the B-CC athletic community and view it as a great way to receive recognition for your family, team or group. Some sports teams have already used this opportunity as a way to honor their coach. We want to thank those who have already sponsored a chair, and encourage everyone who has not, to consider doing so. If you are interested or know of an individual or group that wishes to sponsor a chair, please contact Lynne Pratt at lynnehausmanpratt@yahoo.com.

B-CC CREW

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

JUST A DESIRE TO TRY ROWING, HAVE FUN, MEET NEW FRIENDS!

- Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 pm at B-CC: An informational meeting for parents and students to learn more about the sport of rowing and meet B-CC Crew coaches, athletes and parents.

- Thursday, Sept. 17 – Thursday, Oct. 8: An introductory rowing program for interested B-CC Students. To register, go to www.bccrowing.net. Classes are after-school, three-days-a-week at Thompson Boat Center on the Potomac River in Georgetown and taught by B-CC Crew coaches.

The size of the program will determine the days of the week and there is a possibility of classes on Saturday morning.

Participation in these classes, while not required for joining B-CC Crew team's spring season, is a fun and physical way to learn about rowing – and to make your place at B-CC.

- Sunday, Nov. 8 at 6 pm at B-CC: The registration meeting for parents and students to sign up for the 2010 Spring Season.

Contact Jane LaFranchi
(jane.lafranchi@marriott.com or 301-951-5676)

B-CC CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AWARDS – SPRING 2009

Maryland State Champions – Gymnastics

Addie Tousley, 1600 Meters, 3A Girls Track and Field

Addie Tousley, 3200 Meters, 3A Girls Track and Field

Divisional Champions – Gymnastics

All-Met

Chris Graves, Girls Rowing - Coach of the Year

Samantha Miller, Girls Rowing - First Team

Emily O'Connor, Girls Rowing - Honorable Mention

Jamal Anderson, Boys Rowing - First Team

George Michopoulos, Boys Rowing - Honorable Mention

Dana Creager, Gymnastics - Coach of the Year

Ebony Walters, Gymnastics - Honorable Mention

Chris Pappalardo, Boys Lacrosse - Honorable Mention

Maggie Mitchell, Girls Lacrosse - Honorable Mention

All-Gazette

Dana Creager, Gymnastics - Coach of the Year

Julie Siegel, Gymnastics - First Team

Ebony Walters, Gymnastics - First Team

Addie Tousley, 1600 Meters, Girls Track and Field - First Team

Chris Pappalardo, Boys Lacrosse - First Team

John Tschiderer, Boys Lacrosse - Honorable Mention

Liza Amling, Girls Lacrosse - Second Team

Maggie Mitchell, Girls Lacrosse - Second Team

Mimmy Wenzel, Girls Lacrosse - Second Team

Nick Sevilla, Baseball - Second Team

Montgomery County All-Extra

Dana Creager, Gymnastics - Coach of the Year

Ebony Walters, Gymnastics - First Team

Addie Tousley, Girls Track and Field - First Team

Chris Pappalardo, Boys Lacrosse - First Team

B-CC Team Sportsmanship Awards

Varsity Baseball - Jacob Boross

JV Baseball - Nico Narel-Aguilar

Gymnastics - Allegra Barnes

Boys Varsity Lacrosse - Kerry Goebel

Boys JV Lacrosse - William Gale

Girls Varsity Lacrosse - Rachael Keeling

Girls JV Lacrosse - Brenna McManus

Varsity Softball - Caroline Symons

JV Softball - Becky Coe

Boys Tennis - Elliott Lane

Boys Track & Field - Reid Williams

Girls Track & Field - Hannah Richardson

Boys Volleyball - Iba Ba

Coed Volleyball - Kyle Monsees

Coed Volleyball - Kate Dimsdale

B-CC ATHLETICS INFO

Remember that you can
always get the latest information
about B-CC athletics online,
on the B-CC HS website.

Go to: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/athletics/index.shtm



Ellen's Run
5k Run/3k Walk
October 11, 2009

Fourth Annual

benefiting

www.ellensrunonline.org

B-CC High School
Community Scholarship