



NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

February 1-29, 2012

Watkins Mill High School

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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

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MESSAGE FROM MR. MURPHY, PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the **2nd semester** and the halfway point of the year! When the semester began on January 24, students reported to homeroom and received new schedules—like the **first day of school** all over again! I encouraged students to think back to their anticipation and excitement when the school year began in August, and to use that energy and “fresh start” to set goals for the second half of the year. The start of a new semester offers students the opportunity to have a clean slate and a renewed outlook for success on their path to college, career, and beyond.

Also, as the semester begins, the **administrators and I** are visiting all students in their English or social studies classes. We are providing a few reminders about **school policies and procedures**, as there will be stepped-up enforcement of some of our school policies such as: hats and head coverings (not to be worn at all during the school day); cell phones (must be off and out of sight during class); as well as reminders about dress, respectful behavior, and conduct in class. We are also providing reminders about the swift and severe action that will be taken if students are involved in bullying, a fight, any physical aggression, theft, drugs or drug paraphernalia, and any other serious incidents. We are also encouraging students to talk to a trusted adult if there is ever a concern at school, at home, in the neighborhood, or online. Finally, we are reminding students to routinely seek extra help in order to be academically successful, as all of us need extra help at some point to be successful in high school, in college, and in life.

Also, students need to be reminded that the attendance policy is in full effect: students risk failing the class with five or more unexcused absences.

As the second semester gets underway, we also have so much to **celebrate!** I have summarized a few **highlights** below, with more details coming throughout this newsletter.

Congratulations to boys soccer Coach Jeff Heckert, who was named by the Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer (MACS) as **State Coach of the Year** on January 23. Please be sure to check out the article and picture in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, our winter teams are having outstanding seasons with the playoffs coming soon. I would like to congratulate:

- Our POMS squad for two consecutive first place finishes at recent competitions. Please come out and support them at the County Championships on February 4 at Richard Montgomery High School. Spirit bus is available!
Details at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/news.aspx?id=219872>
- Indoor Track for taking third place in all of MCPS at the county championships!
- Bocce team for an outstanding inaugural season. Come support them at the county championships also on February 4 at Northwest High School at 10:00 a.m. Our Bocce team is currently 5-2.
- Swim Team: The girls are currently undefeated; the boys have had only one loss in the division, vs Clarksburg HS and they lost by just one point! Division championships also on February 4 at the Olney Swim Center. Diving 7:30 a.m.; Swim 9:30 a.m.
- Wrestling: <http://gaithersburg.patch.com/articles/senior-grapplers-honored-at-wolverines-final-home-meet>
- Our basketball teams are also on tremendous winning streaks, with the boys sitting atop their division. Please come out in support on February 10 vs. Clarksburg. Not only will we be celebrating senior night for our players, POMS, and cheerleaders, but also unveiling the state championship banner from Boys Soccer!

Downstairs in the Career Center, notification of **college acceptances** and thousands of dollars in **scholarships** are pouring in. For example, eleven (11) of our seniors recently earned On the Spot admission to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and thousands of dollars in scholarships at a recent visit in our Career Center. Seniors, please be sure to bring in your merit award letters from any of the colleges that have accepted you, regardless of whether you will attend there, so that Mrs. Prochnow can update our scholarship total.

More important information for seniors: In the next few weeks, letters will be mailed home to parents of seniors who are experiencing difficulties obtaining necessary credits, and giving specific information regarding their graduation status. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact **your student's counselor at 301-840-3970**.

Graduation! There will be an important meeting **for parents/guardians of all seniors on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium**. At this meeting you will receive the graduation packet, which includes important information about the graduation process, exam schedule, SSL requirements, bus reservations to DAR, and financial obligations.

It is critical that each student be represented by a parent or guardian at this meeting. In addition to the graduation packet, **SSL report of hours earned, and a listing of your child's current obligations will be provided to each parent**. As we approach graduation, please reference the special senior page on our website here:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/students/seniors.aspx>

The Class of 2012 is looking for student speakers for the 2012 commencement ceremony in June. Interested applicants should submit a graduation speech to Ms. Young by **Friday, March 23rd**. The author of the best speech will be chosen to speak in front of the entire Class of 2012 during the commencement ceremony. Specific details about applying to be a student speaker are outlined on page 5 of this newsletter.



Registration for 2011-12 is almost complete! Juniors have registered for classes for next year, with underclassmen to be complete in the next two weeks. Please look for a registration card coming home to verify course selections for next year. **Attention 10th grade parents:** Please consider taking advantage of courses in our International Baccalaureate (IB) program, or consider enrolling in the IB Diploma Program. Regardless of the courses you have taken, you are eligible to consider IB now! Questions? Please contact Ms. Ingram, IB Coordinator, at: Lisa_A_Ingram@mcpsmd.org.

When making decisions about **course selections**, please feel free to call or email appropriate staff with any questions. We expect all students to enroll in the most **rigorous academic program** possible, especially **honors, AP, and IB** courses. Exposure and successful completion to these courses is known to have a direct correlation to college readiness. Any student, regardless of their perceived abilities, can be successful in advanced courses with effective effort and hard work. We also want students to make informed decisions about their elective courses, as the master schedule will be built around student interests and needs. Please note that courses without sufficient enrollment will risk being eliminated.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the hardworking parents of our Booster Club for their leadership with two upcoming events. You can help! Please come out to the Silent Auction and Gala on February 11: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/news.aspx?id=218889>

Also, thank you to the Booster Club for spearheading the first annual March to the Mill camp this summer. More info here: <http://marchtothemill.blogspot.com/>

Report cards will be distributed to students on **February 1**.

Thank you for your support of your students and our school community. If we can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to email or call. A full staff directory can be found here: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

Sincerely,
Scott W. Murphy, Principal

JEFF HECKERT – COACH OF THE YEAR! - Congratulations to Jeff Heckert on being named the Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer (MACS) **State Coach of the Year!** The presentation was made at their annual All-State banquet on January 23. MACS represents all soccer coaches in Maryland's public, private and parochial high schools. Many college and university coaches in the state are also members. <http://www.macs-soccer.org/>
Congrats Jeff!



COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS

FAFSA

Watkins Mill recommends that the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form be completed for all seniors planning to attend college or a career school regardless of family income. Many families mistakenly think they may not qualify for this type of aid based on their income and assets. However, if you choose not to apply for need-based financial aid, you may be closing the door on opportunities that could help you pay for college. There are other sources of financial assistance available regardless of your need, but most require that you first file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The completed FAFSA should be submitted as soon as possible, but before March 1, 2012 to be considered for need-based aid from both the federal government and the state of Maryland. Some colleges request that the FAFSA be submitted before March 1st, so be sure to adhere to your colleges' financial aid deadlines.

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.

There is FREE help available:

College Goal Sunday - February 12 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, Student Services Center. (Snow Date 2/19)

Financial aid advisors from the state of Maryland will be present to help you complete the FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is a **FREE** event. Bring proof of 2011 income such as estimated federal tax returns and W-2 forms or year-end pay stubs for the student and the parent(s). Bilingual advisors will be present. For more information visit the following website: www.collegegoalsundaymd.org

Online at www.fafsa.ed.gov "Help" buttons on every page of the online application will take you to additional help. You can also click the "Live Help" button to chat with a customer service representative directly online between the hours of 8 am and midnight EST.

For additional help, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov to find the online version of Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid. This guide covers a range of topics.

You can also get FREE help by phone toll-free between the hours of 8 am and midnight EST by calling 1 -800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Another option for free FAFSA Help:

Contact Ms. Diana Benson from Montgomery College at either (240) 567-5642 or diana.benson@montgomerycollege.edu

MARYLAND GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT - Deadline: March 1, 2012 - Seniors who have significant financial need should apply for this Maryland grant that may cover up to \$15,500 in college tuition. Income limits are posted on the MHEC website: http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_ga.asp (A family of four must have income below \$29,055). Student must enroll in a 2 or 4 yr college in Maryland, minimum cumulative unweighted high school GPA requirement is 2.5 and a completed FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov) in addition to the Guaranteed Access Grant application must be submitted by March 1, 2012. Students will have to log on to MDCAPS at <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>, create a student account, activate that account and then log in to complete the GAG application. An official HS transcript (through the Fall semester of their senior year) and a guidance counselor certification form must also be submitted to make the application complete. Students should see Mrs. Walker in the Counseling Office to request the transcript and the completion of the counselor certification form. Watkins Mill will then mail out the official transcript and certification form to the MHEC.

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE DEADLINES

Seniors planning to attend Montgomery College next fall should pick up an application for regular admission in the College/Career Center. Students who return the application to Mrs. Prochnow **BEFORE MARCH 1 will have the \$25 application fee waived**. Save yourself some money – and apply before March 1.

FOR JUNIORS AND THEIR PARENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars for **March 1** at **7:00 p.m.** for **Watkins Mill High School's College Night**. Our speakers this year will be **Mr. Rich Edgar** from **St. Mary's College** of Maryland and **Ms. Sonja Lewandowski** from **Ohio State University** who will talk about the admissions process, finding the best fit, preparing the college application, and college essay writing tips.

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

The United Negro College Fund and MCPS will host a **College Night** featuring representatives from 50 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. All parents and students in grades 9 – 12 are welcome to attend. There will be on the spot admissions interviews for seniors if they bring completed applications, an official transcript and test scores. The event will take place on **February 15, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Montgomery Blair H.S.** For more information about HBCUs, the event, and to register to attend the event, please go to <http://hbcucf.mbhs.edu>

For more information from the College/Career Center including information about scholarships, admissions tests, summer opportunities and more, please check out the Career Center Newsletter and the Career Center webpage at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/careercenter/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH INFORMATION

WMHS will celebrate Black History Month this year by honoring the women of color who have had an impact on history and culture. Throughout the month of February *Wake up Watkins Mill* will feature short bios on politicians, poets, authors, playwrights and musicians. On February 16th, The Mill will host a celebration showcasing poetry, music and drama honoring Sojourner Truth, Maya Angelou, Zora Neale Hurston, Billie Holiday, the late Etta James and many more. The show, titled ***In Honor of Her***, will start at 7pm with free admission. All are welcome.

STUDENT GRADUATION SPEAKER APPLICATION

Do you have something exciting and inspirational you would like to say at graduation? If so the Class of 2012 wants you to speak during the 2012 commencement ceremony in June. Interested applicants should submit a graduation speech to Ms. Young by **Friday, March 23rd**. The author of the best speech will be chosen to speak in front of the entire Class of 2012 during the commencement ceremony.

Requirements:

- Student at WMHS for three years
- Involved in the school (sports or any other extracurricular activities)
- Good Public Speaking Skills
- Speeches should be between 3 and 5 minutes long.

Selection Process

1. See Ms. Young to go over general requirements.
2. By Friday, March 23, submit a videotaped speech [any subject] to Ms. Young. It should be 2-3 minutes long.
3. After April 2nd, Ms. Young will select the 8 best videotaped speeches.
 - a. At this time Ms. Young may make comments on how to improve your speech, grammatical errors, etc.
 - b. You will be encouraged to revise and re-submit your speech.
4. The 8 selected speeches will be announced on Wednesday April 11th.
5. Students will resubmit their speeches by Monday April 16th
6. A selection committee composed of staff and students will narrow the selection to 3 speeches.
7. Students of the 3 top speeches will practice their speech in front of the selection committee
8. The selection committee will chose the best speech and it will be announced on May 1st.
9. If you are chosen, you will have to work with the committee until graduation to polish your final speech and make sure it is fully appropriate.

Due Date

All speeches should be submitted to Ms. Young by Friday March 23rd.

IB NEWS



IB and Course Selection 2012-2013

Rising juniors are fully underway with scheduling. For those of you who have any questions about your IB Diploma Two Year Plan for your 11th and 12th grade school years, see Mrs. Ingram in the IB Office before or after school, or during STEP any day in A200.

For rising sophomores (and select rising juniors already underway in a career academy pathway- Academy of Finance, Academy of Engineering, Child Development, Medical Careers) consider combining your Career Academy coursework with a new and unique IB Credential created through an alliance between the International Baccalaureate and the formal career academies: The IBCC (IB Career Certificate). This new program, being piloted at WMHS in the upcoming school year, offers students a possibility to get the most out of both the Career Academy coursework and the IB. The IBCC aims to address the needs of students interested in pursuing a career-related education by offering a learning and assessment program that promotes access to an IB education complemented by career-related courses.

See Mrs. Ingram in the IB Office before or after school, or during STEP any day in A200 to inquire. Meetings will be held in the upcoming weeks to speak to students directly **about this program's requirements and benefits.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION –It's getting to be the time of year when winter weather may disrupt school operations, forcing schools to close, dismiss early or delay opening. Announcements of school closings or delays are made as early as possible, generally in time for news broadcasts that begin at 5 a.m. If schools are closing early, the announcements are made by 11 a.m.

There are several ways to get the latest information on closings.

- MCPS QuickNotes e-mail news service will send emergency information to subscribers. To sign up visit: www.mcpsquicknotes.org
- MCPS home page <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org> will display emergency announcements.
- ASK MCPS Telephone Information Center at 301-309-6277 has English- and Spanish-speaking operators available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- MCPS information line, 301-279-3673, has recorded information 24 hours a day.
- MCPS Cable channel 34 and local radio and TV stations will broadcast the information
- MCPS will Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mcps>

PARKING PERMITS!

Student parking permits are being sold in the Finance Office for \$37.50 (the MCPS fee) for second semester. All students parking on campus must have a permit by 2/1/12. Violators will receive tickets and risk towing.

2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The calendar has been approved by the BOE for next year and can be found at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/>

What's New in the Media Center? The Media Center is looking for parent/community volunteers to assist in the Media Center with the tutoring of students from 2:10 p.m. to 3:30 pm on Monday - Thursday. This is a great opportunity to volunteer in the school, get to know staff and students, and be of service to your community. Have time? Contact Media Specialist Sarah Bourgeois at 301-840-3994. Ms. Bourgeois will be able to provide you with specific details.

Here are just a few of our most recently purchased paperback and hardback books:

Title	Author	Type
Karl Marx:	Cates	Biography
Sigmund Freud:	Gillam	Biography
Scorch trials	Dashner	Fiction
Hust, hush	Fitzpatrick	Fiction
For the win	Doctorow	Fiction
Little brother	Doctorow	Fiction
Beautiful Chaos Series	Garcia	Fiction
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks		Fiction
Witch & Wizard	Patterson	Fiction
McGraw Hills SAT 2012		NonFiction
How to draw Hip-Hop	Scott	NonFiction
Military Might & Global Intervention	Woog	NonFiction
Steampunk prime (Story Collection)	Ashley	SC

STUDENT SUCCESS:

JOSHUA VILLANUEVA - We are pleased to announce that sophomore Joshua Villanueva has been selected as a 2012 "Yes I Can!" award recipient for the category of Excellence in School and Community Activities.

Joshua was recommended by his former elementary school principal, Mrs. Aara Davis-Jones, for the "The Yes I Can!" award. This prestigious honor is given by the Council for Exceptional Children, an international organization to recognize children and youth with disabilities who excel. Joshua was one of the 21 youth selected from among nominations from different states and Canada. Joshua will receive his award in Denver, Colorado in April 2012.

Joshua has been very successful in his learning, academic and extracurricular career at "The Mill." Josh founded and leads the WMHS Rubik's Cube Club and will compete for the coming 2012 You CAN do the Rubik's Cube Tournament in the Greater Washington DC area. Competition is on April 11,25 or 26 2012 and the 6 finalists will advance to the final tournament to be held in Washington DC on April 28, 2012.

He is also a varsity and scholar athlete for WMHS Swim and Dive Team under Mr. Clark and was one of the swimmers mentioned recently in a 1/9/12 news article at Montgomery Village [patch.com](http://montgomeryvillage.patch.com) for placing first place in the 100-meter breaststroke event. <http://montgomeryvillage.patch.com/articles/watkins-mill-vs-albert-einstein-vs-wheaton-high-school-swim-meet#photo-8853862>

In addition, Joshua plays and teaches piano outside of school, as well as volunteers to be the piano player for the WMHS upcoming Spring play *Guys and Dolls*. **Joshua Villanueva is a fine example of "Yes I Can!"**

POMS! Congrats to Beth Jordan and our Poms squad on taking first place and best choreography at the invitational competition held at Magruder HS on January 23. This is their second consecutive win heading into the County Championships on February 4! Congratulations, girls!

BWI YOUTH GALLERY – ART EXHIBITION!

Congratulations to Afia Kyeremeh and Fizza Shadab, both from the class of 2010. Their artwork has been selected to be shown at the BWI Thurgood Marshall airport Youth Art Month Exhibit: Colors, and is being exhibited from now until the first week of June. The gallery is in the BWI airport in the Observation Deck area. Congratulations to their teacher, Ms. Amato, as well!

EQUESTRIAN CLUB NEWS! - Alana Hamann represents WMHS at the Inter School Horse Shows (ISHA), as part of the Equestrian Club. In addition, she also competes at The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Shows. This past weekend, Alana qualified for Regionals. She will be competing on February 5 for a spot at the IEA Zones. If successful at Zones, she will compete at the Nationals to be held at the Coliseum at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY, April 20-22. The IEA was founded in 2002 to support the athletic efforts of middle and high school equestrians throughout the United States. The IEA provides membership and event structure for students to participate in Hunt Seat and Western competitions and serves over 7000 members in eight Active Zones comprised of states from coast to coast.

The riders show in a draw-type format that "levels the playing field," and prepares them for intercollegiate riding and scholarships. Awards are given to the top individual riders and to the highest placing teams. Each spring, the top riders and teams are tested at the Regional and Zone level, and finally, the best from each division are invited to the ISEA National Finals. Good luck, Alana!

PRIDE OF THE MILL!

Congratulations to the following students for being recognized by their school counselor as January's **Pride of the Mill!**

Sarah Crews
Vonzel Martenia
Nancy Wanjiku Nyambura
Dede Gaba
Sandra Puetate
Milan Tackie
Hauwa Muazu
Christiana Nakhla

These students have demonstrated their commitment to academic and personal success through:

P-Perseverance
R-Reliability
I-Integrity
D-Determination
E-Enthusiasm

HOMEWORK HOTLINE LIVE! - This show airs live on-the-air (and streaming live online) each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the school year providing help for students who call 301-279-3234 as well as those who text us at 724-427-5445 (7244-ASKHHL), email us at questions@AskHHL.org or post a question on our AskHHL.org website or on our Facebook page ("Like" us at Homework Hotline Live!).

BIG NEWS! This year, when the show ends at 6, the help continues! Hotline teachers will remain available on-line from 6pm to 9pm answering questions submitted via text, email, website and Facebook. That's five hours of help each night. Please tell your students about this service.

EDLINE UPDATE – Contact Mitchell_Joy@mcpsmd.org if you don't have an activated Edline account. An activated Edline account will allow you to:

- **Check your child's latest grades and see missing work**
- See the status of credits for graduation
- Receive email alerts when new grades are posted
- Receive emails with school or class information
- View team and club activities
- **Email your child's teachers**
- View upcoming assessments
- **Check your child's attendance**

Our Watkins Mill HS website has a link on the right hand side for edline, and there is also a "how to activate my edline account guide" there as well. Here are two important url's:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>
www.edline.net

ATHLETICS:

Varsity Girls Basketball

The basketball season for the Watkins Mill Girls Varsity Basketball has been a learning experience so far. Coach Hicks has had a successful blend/mix of seasoned players and freshman to compete each and every night. One of the many highlights of the season was defeating 4A rival Richard Montgomery by a score of 47-41. In the contest Senior Guard Josepha Mbouma scored 16 and had 11 rebounds, freshman Dominique Walker led all scoring with 17 points, Junior Jewell Johnson had 4 points and 5 steals, Junior Shay Braithwaite had 5 points, Junior Grace Boito had 3 points and freshman Danielle Durjan chipped in with 2 points to bring home the victory for the Lady Wolverines. The season is at the half way point and the Lady Wolverines are pleased with their success but not yet satisfied. Good luck to the Lady Wolverines.

--Coach Ivan Hicks

Poms

I would like to thank all of the Watkins Mill parents who came to watch football and basketball, and stayed for our half time performances. I received such positive feedback I could share with our team. The past few years of coaching this team has been about finding our place, learning what we can do, and teaching girls who have never danced how to be solid performers. Its paid off in full, as this year we have earned two first place trophies, a first place Captain award, and a Best Choreography award. As we look ahead to our final hurdle, The MCPS Pom Competition, where we will compete against all the high schools in our division, we are excited and very hopeful we will make Watkins Mill proud. Please come support us, February 4th at 9:30 am. Richard Montgomery HS. Thank you!

--Coach Beth Jordan

Swimming and Diving

The Watkins Mill Swim & Dive team **has had a successful season but it's not over yet. Girls are undefeated in the Division with a record of 5-0 while the Boys aren't far behind with a respectful 4-1 record.** The only loss came to Clarksburg with a score 85-84. The Wolverine swimmers & divers are hungry to win their first division title in 4 years. The Divisional Championship is coming up Saturday February 4th at Olney Swim Center. The meet will last from 7:30am-1:30pm so make sure to stop by to root WM on to victory!

Highlights

The Boys 200 Freestyle Relay team qualified for Metros with a time of 1:41:37

The Boys 400 Freestyle Relay team qualified for Metros with a time of 3:47:00

Kelly Lewis qualified for Metros in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:14:19

Nick Lechner qualified for Metros in the 200 Individual Medley & 100 Freestyle for the 4th consecutive year.

--Coach Bryan Clark

Wrestling

Although the team win/loss record doesn't show this, the 2011/2012 Wolverines wrestling season has been very successful. With two wrestlers ranked in the county and several that will qualify for the regional tournament, there are a number of opportunities to have Watkins Mill represented at the state tournament this year. One of the biggest highlights of the season thus far has been our win over Blair High School 46/41. The team has been led by captains Steven Rodriguez (Sr), Carlos Molina (Sr), Sam Thompson (Sr) and Johnny Lam (So). As each day of intense practice passes, the team grows stronger, faster and more equipped to take the mat and compete with the best amongst the county and state, the future of the Watkins Mill wrestling program looks bright. With the post season quickly approaching, the team has their eyes on a 7 and 7 finish.

--Coach Tony Rodrigues

Boys Varsity Basketball

The Boys Basketball team started the season with 5 straight losses, including 3 which slipped away in the final moments. However, the boys have turned the season around in dramatic fashion by winning 7 consecutive games. The winning streak has catapulted the Wolverines into a first place tie in the Montgomery County 2A/3A division. Their 7-2 divisional record has them poised to make a run at their first division title since 2005. The boys' resurgence has been a team effort as they have improved quite a bit on the defensive end while putting up some of the best offensive numbers in the county. Please come out and support the boys as the season winds down and the play-offs begin!

--Coach Jay Tringone

Indoor Track

Please Congratulate Wylliam Yougnia and Sterling Cadeau both breaking school records in the 300 and 500 meters at the Virginia Tech High School indoor invitational. Wylliam ran a national qualifying time that allows him to attend the New Balances games in New York City, the second weekend in March. The young men had a great experience and weekend with all the young men running very well. Regionals will be February 8th. We hope to see you all there!

--Coach DeShawn Anderson

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK – FEBRUARY 6-10, 2012:

Please join me in the celebration of National School Counseling Week 2012. Our High School Counselors will be celebrated on February 6-10, to focus public attention on the unique contributions of professional school counselors and highlight the tremendous impact they have in helping students achieve school success, plan a career, and be ready for college!

A NOTE FROM OUR PTSA PRESIDENT – MARTHA CREWS

Are you interested in running for a PTSA board position? The Nominating Committee is currently seeking interested PTSA members for next year's board. Elections will be held at the May PTSA meeting. If you are interested or would like to learn more about the board positions OR if you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact a member of our Nominating Committee: LaDonna Williams at Williamsladonna19@yahoo.com or Keisha Blackman at KeishaBlackman@westat.com.

Did you know that our PTSA bylaws are up for review this spring? If you would like to join the Bylaws Committee to review and update our bylaws, please contact Martha Crews at mjcrews5@comcast.net.

Are you the parent of a senior who's applying for scholarships? For consideration for PTSA sponsored scholarships, you must be a member of the PTSA. We accept memberships throughout the year. Remember, your PTSA membership is joint with Boosters membership. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/ptsa/ to download a membership form. One form, one fee, and you're a part of two great organizations!

Do you like to put a smile on people's faces? Then you're the perfect person to help out with Staff Appreciation Week May 7-12! We're looking for a few volunteers to help our Staff Appreciation Chair make sure that our Watkins Mill staff know just how much we appreciate all that they do for our kids and our school! Please contact Martha Crews at mjcrews5@comcast.net if you can help!

Can you give a little bit of your time by joining a PTSA committee? If everyone pitches in just a little, we'll be able to be successful in our efforts. Committee members are needed for: Nominating, Staff Appreciation, Bell Awards, Bylaws, and Scholarship. Please contact Martha Crews at mjcrews5@comcast.net if you can help!

Want to support our students in a fun way? The Booster Club is holding its Valentine's Day Gala and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 11 at North Creek Community Center from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Tickets are only \$10/person. Come out for a fun evening with fellow parents and friends in the community to help raise money for our students and their programs. More information can be found on the Booster Club Web site.

We are not holding any business meetings in February or March. **Our next PTSA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 17.** Our agenda for this meeting is "What's happening in Montgomery Village?" We will have speakers talk to us and answer questions about various things such as new retail businesses coming to Montgomery Village, enhancements and updates in our community amenities, etc. It should be a very interesting and informative meeting.

See you around the Mill!
Martha Crews
PTSA President

BOOSTER CLUB – INFORMATION FROM JIM MARSH -

Boosters is getting busy!

1. **Valentine's Gala & Silent Auction, Saturday evening, February 11th** @ North Creek Comm Ctr , see flyebvr at end of this newsletter for details – for parents staff and friends of WMHS over 21. Donate stuff, attend, bid, win! The more stuff and people, the more fun for all and more money for our teams, clubs and scholarships. Celebrity (staff) game dealers and refreshment servers! Reserve your souvenir ticket (provided at the door) with \$10 donation per person at <http://watkinsmillboosterclub.blogspot.com>
More information is provided in the article below:
2. Mulch Sale, Saturday, March 17th - \$4.50 per bag w/ free delivery on orders of 10 or more bags. Order form is included at the end of this newsletter, on the school web site and at <http://watkinsmillboosterclub.blogspot.com>
3. March to the Mill – Summer Sports Camp for rising 4th – 8th grade boys and girls. Details at end of this newsletter. Two one week sessions, sign up your future Wolverine for one or both at <http://watkinsmillboosterclub.blogspot.com>

Our next regular Booster Club meeting is Monday, February 6th @ 7:30 PM in the Sky Bridge Lounge. Remember to **register as a PTSA/Booster Club member if you haven't done so yet at:**

<http://watkinsmillboosterclub.blogspot.com>

Thanks and Go 'Rines!!!

Jim Marsh, Booster Club President
Email: Jhmarsh4@gmail.com

Watkins Mill Booster Club Valentine Gala and Silent Auction

The Watkins Mill Booster Club is presenting the Valentine Gala, our major annual community builder and fundraiser, on February 11.

We'd like to ask a couple of things of you:

First, and most important, please attend. You mean so much to the school, you are such an important part of our success, and the party just won't be as much fun without you.

Second, please use this opportunity to support your favorite sport, club, or activity. If you donate something for the auction, you can direct the proceeds it garners to an organization of your choice or to the general Boost Club operating fund. Great items to donate are gift certificates to local businesses, time at a beach house, lake house, or ski house if you have one, sports memorabilia, bottles of nice wine, jewelry, tickets to events, gift items, bikes, electronics, and artwork -- just about anything nice.

Finally, please spread the word. Please print the flyer at the end of the Newsletter to remind and share. This event is open to anyone who wants to have a great night out and spend some money to support the school. So invite your friends and family to join you. For more info, email Lynne.Rusnak@hughes.com, Spirit805@aol.com, or tonimarsh101@gmail.com

See you there!

The Gala and Silent Auction Committee - Lynne, Lyn, and Toni

VOLUNTEER CORNER!

Thanks to all of you that have volunteered during the first half of this school year. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and help to make our school and community stronger and more cohesive. Watkins Mill High School has some of the most active volunteers in the county, earning our school recognition from MCPS as well as capital gains improvements from the county based on the number of volunteer hours that have been preformed for the past few years. In order to continue to be recognized for our achievements, it is important that volunteer hours get reported. Please email any hours you volunteer for the school. These hours can include planning events, helping at drama productions, driving team members to meets or games, helping in the school, just to name a few. Please email these hours to me at elaineratliff1@verizon.net or wmhsvolunteers@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 1

Report Cards Distributed

BB B-Rockville at Watkins Mill V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm

BB G-Watkins Mill at Rockville V 7 pm/JV 5:15 pm

February 3

BB B-Northwood at Watkins Mill V 5:15 pm

BB G-Northwood at Watkins Mill V 7 pm

February 4

BOCCE - Division Championship are scheduled

WR-Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill at Seneca Valley V 1 pm

County Pom Competition – Location: Richard Montgomery H.S.

SW-Division IV Diving Championship at Olney Swim Center 7:30 am - 9:30 am

SW-Division IV Swimming Championship at Olney Swim Center 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

February 6

Booster Club Meeting, 7 pm

February 7

BB B-Watkins Mill at Wheaton V 5:15 pm

BB G-Watkins Mill at Wheaton V 7 pm

February 10

BB B-Clarksburg at Watkins Mill V 5:15 pm

BB G-Clarksburg at Watkins Mill V 7 pm

February 11

Booster Gala and Silent Auction – see flyer

February 14

BB B-Watkins Mill at Gaithersburg V 5:15 pm

BB G-Watkins Mill at Gaithersburg V 7 pm

February 16

Black History Month Presentation, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium

February 17

BB G-Watkins Mill at Churchill V 5:15 pm

BB B-Watkins Mill at Churchill V 7 pm

February 21

PTSA Meeting, Media Center, 7 pm

February 22

Honor Roll Ice Cream – invitation only

February 23

Honor Roll Ice Cream – invitation only

February 25

Reunion de Padres Hispanos:

Alcanzando el Exito, 8:30-11:30 a.m. La biblioteca de WMHS (solamente en espanol)

February 28

Graduation Meeting for Parents, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium

Athletic Key:

SW = Swimming & Diving

BB B = Boys Basketball

BB G = Girls Basketball

WR = Wrestling

IMPORTANT LINKS

WMHS Website Home: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

Athletics: <http://www.watkinsmillathletics.org/>

College/Career Monthly Newsletter:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/careercenter/>

Calendar:

<http://coldfusion.mcps.k12.md.us/cfms/webteam/calendar/calendar.cfm?calendarID=watkinsmillhs>

Staff Directory: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

Edline: www.edline.net

Edline Assistance: Joseph_C_Bellino@mcpsmd.org, Mitchell_Joy@mcpsmd.org

PTSA Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/ptsa/>

Booster Club:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/boosters/boostersClub.aspx>

Lunch Pre-Payments: <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/>

Student Service Learning: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

Bullying: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

Free SAT/ACT Prep: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsi/testprep.shtm>

“News From The Mill” will be published electronically on the first day of each month through the following venues:

✓ *Edline*

✓ *WMHS Website*

✓ *Announcement on Twitter*

If you don't have access to a computer, a hard copy can be picked up in the main office.

Notifications of special events and other last-minute news will also be announced electronically throughout the month.

News From "The Mill" will be published two times per month on the news pages of the school website and Edline; emailed to all active Edline accounts; and is available by hard copy in the main office. If you would like a copy emailed to your Inbox, please make sure that your Edline account is activated with your current email address.



Save the date...

Watkins Mill Booster Club Presents

*A Valentine's Day Gala
And Silent Auction*

***An affair you won't want
to miss....***

Saturday, February 11, 2012

North Creek Community Center

Montgomery Village, Maryland

\$10 per person

7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

♥ Hors d'oeuvres

♥ Dancing

♥ 50/50 Raffle



got mulch?

Watkins Mill High School Does!



**Saturday
March 17, 2012
\$4.50 per
3 Cubic Ft.
Bag of Shredded
Hardwood Mulch**

*Free local delivery with an
order of 10 bags or more.*

Watkins Mill High School Spring Mulch Sale

Brought to you by the Wolverines Booster Club

Saturday, March 17, 2012

**\$4.50 per 3 Cubic Ft. Bag of
Shredded Hardwood Mulch**

(most garden centers sell 2 cubic ft. bags for the same price)

Free local Delivery with an order of 10 bags or more

Please send order form and check payable to WMHS Booster Club by March 3, 2012
Mail to: WMHS Booster Club, 10301 Apple Ridge Gaithersburg, MD 20879.
Questions: Please email us at jhmarsh4@gmail.com or call Jim Marsh at 202-427-1740.

If you wish to place your order with a credit card please go to:

<http://watkinsmillboosterclub.blogspot.com/>

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ cell: _____ work: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ bags of mulch @ \$4.50 per bag... (with free home delivery of 10 bags or more) \$ _____

_____ bags of mulch @4.50 per bag... pick-up at school \$ _____

Watkins Mill scholarship donation \$ _____ Thank you for your support

**Thank You for Supporting Watkins Mill High School Students
GO RINES !!!**

Watkins Mill High School
SPORTS CAMP
for rising 4th - 8th grade boys and girls

Session 1 July 9—13 Session 2 July 16—20

Monday through Friday 10:30—3:30

- . Do a different sport every day!
- . Work with Watkins Mill coaches!
- . Play with Watkins Mill athletes!
- . March with the Watkins Mill band!
- . FREE tee shirt & pinnie!
- . \$85 per session
- . \$150 for both sessions

March to the Mill

More information and registration at

MarchToTheMill.blogspot.com

Call: 202.510.4163 Email: tonimarsh101@gmail.com

Registration deadline May 1, 2012

Location:

Watkins Mill High School

10301 Apple Ridge Road,

Gaithersburg



Still
#1 in the
nation

For the **FOURTH** straight year, Maryland's public schools ranked #1 in the nation by Education Week!

The 2012 *Quality Counts* annual report shows Maryland ranking **first in the nation for the FOURTH year in a row.**

Maryland consistently placed at the top of its class in the report's 6 determining categories and scored no lower than a B in any given area.

For **Transitions & Alignment, Maryland tied for first with an A*** for how well the K-12 education system, as a whole, helps students become ready for school, progress through the education experience, and prepare for college/university and/or the workforce.

In **Chance for Success**, one of the most comprehensive categories, Maryland earned a **B+ or fifth in the nation** based on 13 indicators linking education to beneficial outcomes from infancy to adulthood.

Maryland placed **seventh in the nation with a B+ in School Finance.** This category is based on school funding and equity.

The state **earned a B+ in Standards, Assessment, and Accountability** for its elementary, middle, and high school curriculum and testing standards and accountability policies.

Maryland's **K-12 Achievement ranked third with a B** for students' national test performance and improvement in both math and reading at key grade benchmarks – 4th, 8th, and Advanced Placement (AP) – as well as the high school graduation rate.

Maryland **also received a B, or third in the nation** for state policies addressing the **Teaching Profession.**

**Last updated and reported in Quality Counts 2011.*

Education Week is the nation's leading education newspaper. The newspaper's annual *Quality Counts* report provides a survey of states' educational policies and performance based on key criteria and benchmarks. The results are based on data collected and analyzed by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center as well as investigations conducted by **Education Week** reporting staff. This year's special theme — *American schooling from an international perspective* — examines the nation's place among the world's public education systems and provides a fresh look at the political, social, and cultural challenges the United States faces in preparing its students for the workplace demands of an interconnected world economy. To access the full report go to www.edweek.org.

Watkins Mill High School

10301 Apple Ridge Rd.

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

Phone: 301-840-3959

Fax: 301-840-3980



Los invitamos a un taller para padres de Montgomery Village:

Alcanzando el Éxito

¿Cuándo? **Sábado, 25 de febrero, 2012**
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

¿Dónde? **La biblioteca de Watkins Mill High School**

Hablaremos de como la familia, la escuela, y la comunidad pueden trabajar juntos para apoyar a nuestros estudiantes.

Vamos a tener información acerca de:

- Como usar el sistema **Edline** para ver el progreso académico de su hijo
- Como mejorar la comunicación entre padres e hijos (traiga su hijo/a)
- Programas para jóvenes y padres con **Identity**
- Recursos en la comunidad como servicios de emergencia y salud

Se ofrecerá:

- Cuidado de niños y un refrigerio a partir de las 8:30 a.m.

