PTSA President's Note

Hard to believe the summer is over! School is in full swing and September is off to a fast start.

Back to School Night will be this Thursday, September 11th starting at 7 p.m. Don't forget to look for a membership table so you too can join the PTSA. We look forward to seeing our returning members and welcoming our new members. Click on the link to fill out your membership form early. It is also available on the PTSA website.

On Friday, September 12th the Magruder cluster PTAs will be holding their annual cluster night. The evening celebrates all the schools of the Magruder cluster with a football throwing contest, singing, a half-time parade, crafts and activities. And you get to enjoy HS football with your friends and family. Plan on coming early - the festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information, click here to see the flyer.

Our first PTSA meeting is Tuesday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center (take the stairs by the front offices and it's the first door on your left). We will hear from Mr. Evans about the start of the school year. We would also like to hear from you regarding what issues are important to you and what types of presentations you would like to have at the meetings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: Lori Black
Principal's Message
Mr. Leroy Evans

An Exciting Year Ahead of Us

I am pleased to start the 2014-2015 school year that will provide many opportunities and new challenges. We welcome our freshmen class and many upper classmen who are new to our school. We believe they will add a richness to our school community and contribute in many positive ways. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

We are very pleased with several needed improvements to our school facility. The long awaited renovation of our auditorium orchestra pit is complete; the gymnasium floor has been completely resurfaced and painted; the entrances to the Child Development Center and rear cafeteria area have been completely redone; and our stadium track is being repaired with an anticipated complete resurfacing in the summer of 2015. These improvements will add significantly to a positive school environment.

Most importantly, we are looking forward to our partnerships with community agencies such as Lockheed Martin (engineering) and KPMG Corporation (business and finance). The partnerships with these organizations will add greatly to our efforts to provide students with an enhanced learning experience, especially in the areas of technology, engineering, and finance. We will continue to reach out to the business and corporate community to bring enriched learning opportunities from professionals in the field.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the support of our parents through the PTSA, various booster clubs, and the individual volunteers. We realize that with the many partnerships we share with other stakeholders, a strong community of caring will be created for all students to grow intellectually and socially.

21 Reasons: Preventing Substance Abuse

To all parents:
Be sure to get your copy of FAST FACTS FOR PARENTS: TEEN ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG ABUSE, a flier created by the Many Voices for Smart Choices alliance - with input from Brave and Bold - that MCPS approved to be distributed at all middle and high school Back to School Nights!

To Parents New to Magruder: Since 2009, Magruder has held a major substance abuse prevention program for our students in odd-numbered years: Every 15 Minutes in '09 and '11; and the improved version, inspired by our own Bea Hanson - 21 Reasons, in 2013. 21 Reasons helps teens understand why they should not drink underage or use any drug for recreational purposes.
Today, the CDC reports the fatality rate for prescription drugs is one every 19 minutes. Addiction often begins in high school. Whether the teen becomes addicted to pain killers because a physician poorly managed his/her pain (wisdom tooth extraction, sports injury, etc.) or from recreational use, he/she ultimately resorts to heroin because it is cheaper and more easily accessible. Many parents do not realize how easily this can happen, even in the most supportive and loving families.

I encourage every parent/guardian to support the 21 Reasons initiative and explore ways to build on the original 2013 event. You are welcome to contact me or the PTSA Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Committee (AODAC) with your feedback and suggestions, or join the AODAC as they prepare for our 2015 21 Reasons!

Patti Winters, Coordinator, Brave and Bold Coalition
"Like" us on Facebook!  
Email - Brave and Bold

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Magruder will be welcoming many college representatives nationwide this fall to help students make informed choices. Be sure to check family connection under "visits" or stop by the College & Career Center for dates and times. Please make good use of the many resources in the center to assist with career exploration, the college application and selection process, standardized tests, financial aid and scholarship options and summer program opportunities.

Do not miss the lunch seminars, workshops, and evening programs offered throughout the year. Topics, dates and times are on the Career Center webpage along with a variety of additional resource information. Lunch seminars for September include: Ivy League Colleges and Financial Aid (September 11) and Finding the Right College Fit/Admissions Process (September 19). For seniors with questions about
2014/2015 Drama Officers:
President: Eve Guttman
Vice Pres: Marc Pavan
Secretary: Christy Arevalo
Treasurer: Cameron Lafond
Historian: Ben Fleischer

In Search of...

Colonel Connection Editor for 2015/2016 school year

Requires about 8 hours a month of volunteer time. Prior experience using Constant Contact is helpful but not required. I will provide as much training and assistance as you need. If you would like more information, please email me by clicking on this link - Debbie Lawrence, editor.

Welcome back for another exciting year of Magruder Colonels athletics! The Magruder Athletic Boosters Club is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that works throughout the school year to provide Magruder students with the best possible high school athletic experience as well as provide a sense of school spirit for students, parents, faculty and staff.

The Boosters Club raises money by selling concessions at games, selling Spirit Wear and through memberships. All of the money raised goes back to the school in one form or another for equipment, uniforms, field and gym maintenance and coaches training among other things. Last school year funds were used to buy a new scorer's table for the main gym and for improvements to the outside concession stand.

Please consider contributing to the Boosters Club in some way - become a member, buy and wear MHS Spirit Wear, volunteer in the concession stand, or just attend a game to cheer on our students. Please click on this link - Volunteer Sign up - to volunteer at an upcoming football game. Members of the Club will be at Back to School Night with membership information and to answer any questions. You can also visit the Boosters' page on the Magruder home page for more information or to join or volunteer. Go Colonels!

Thanks - Bill Leffingwell

Coming Soon - Community Tech Nights

Magruder will be hosting monthly Community Tech Nights this year as part of an effort to create a unified and cohesive...
partnership between the school and the families we serve.

Many exciting and innovative technologies are being used by teachers to teach and student to learn, and our mission is to share these initiatives with parents and the community. We will be giving parents the tools and resources to become integrated and involved in their children's school lives as well as community/school partnerships targeted to assist all Montgomery County families.

Community Tech Nights will be starting soon - dates and more details to follow.

Stephanie Schwinn, Media Specialist