ClarkNet Donates Internet Access to MSD
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ON THE COVER
James H. Clark, '81, shows (l to r) Wayne Randall, Patrick Holness, and Peggy Faulkner tips on "Surfing the net". Mr. Clark, founder, President, and Chairman of the Board of ClarkNet, donated high speed internet access to MSD.
The Cyberspace Revolution
By Rick Schoenberg, Instructional Computer Support Specialist

There are three revolutions at MSD. They have nothing to do with protests. They are like the Industrial Revolution of 19th Century which changed the way people lived and worked.

The Computer Revolution
Over three years, MSD has acquired over 60 computers for both campuses with donations, grants and MSD's funds. Since last Fall, MSD has purchased:

3 computers and 1 Color InkJet printer from Frederick PTPA for the Elementary Department.

14 computers, 2 Laser printers and 2 CD-ROM servers for Elementary Departments at both campuses.

6 computers and 6 Laser printers administrative personnel.

8 computers donated from Fort Dietrick for administrative personnel on both campuses.

20 computers, 1 Laser printer and 1 CD-ROM server to expand Computer Lab in Ely Building.

The computers are no longer considered as luxury items. They are used as a tool to work, prepare, design, and explore. In addition to the computer acquisition, Internet connection was donated by James Clark, a graduate of MSD who is the owner of ClarkNet, located in Columbia, Maryland. He donated the necessary equipment to make the connection with Internet. The Internet is essential in getting MSD on the Information Superhighway. MSD's domain name is mad.edu. MSD has its own homepage which is under construction. The homepage will contain information about the school, school calendar, events, students' work, and special announcements like school closings and job openings. Computers have revolutionized the way MSD plans, manages and makes decisions.

The Student Revolution
The computer revolutionizes the way students study, communicate and explore. The computer lab in Ely Building is usually found with students in it. MSD teachers bring their classes to the lab to do research papers, creative writing, class projects and data collection. There are some computer-skill courses available to all students. Some courses are required for graduation. The courses vary from Keyboarding to Computer Graphics. Next Fall, new courses will be added to curriculum to cover programming language, such as C++ and VisualBasic, and Web Design. With the Internet connection, the students are able to investigate and gather information. Also they are able to send E-mail to anyone anywhere in the world. Some students participate in KeyPals program to correspond with students in other schools. The program motivates the students to communicate in a meaningful way.

Not only in text but pictures and graphics can be e-mailed, also. Recently, a class that plans to go to Italy and Greece this Spring used the Internet to gather information about the countries. The Spanish classes read the homages from Spanish-speaking countries. There are many good Web sites, such as www.defworldweb.org and www.school.discovery.com. The use of computers and the Internet prompts learning and motivation. The opportunities for the students is endless. Trips to the library, use of ditto papers, blackboards, chalks, and typewriters are becoming things of past.

The Teacher Revolution
The way teachers work, communicate and research is changed by computer technology. Training is essential to a good teaching and using the computer more effectively. Since last October, individual tutoring has been offered to teachers who want to learn more about computers and applications. Also there are several classes on MS Word, Netcape and Basic Computer taught by Mr. Jim Taylor, Network Administrator. The teachers try to figure out meaningful ways to integrate what they find from the Internet, computer applications such as MS Word, multimedia encyclopedias such as Encarta into their curriculum. They teach the students how to explore, discover, sort and use what they find and apply such information to classroom projects, activities and lessons. Teaching fact is becoming passé.

The computer curriculum is being developed and expected to be implemented next Fall. The object of the computer curriculum is to teach how to use computers as a tool, find information from different sources, teach basic skills and prompt the students to be independent learners. The computer curriculum applies to all grades K to 12 and flow from grade to next grade. It prompts the teachers to integrate lessons and activities into the lab setting. When the teachers need of information, they can just turn to Internet to find all information they want. Several examples—www.ed.gov provides information about programs, policies, people and practices; www.mightymedia.com/work-working.htm is a public conferencing system for K-12 teachers who wish to share ideas with other teachers. Will there be other revolutions? Yes, without a doubt.

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Middle School Language Arts teacher Nancy Swoiko advises students, Joshua Walker and Marissa Clopper how to display their research projects on Ancient Egypt. The students used both a word processing program and a graphics program to complete their project.
MSD ADDRESSES ITS DIVERSITY

By Evelyn Hill Johnson, Columbia Campus Curriculum Coordinator

As an Organization increases its number of employees and/or the number of people it serves, one would also expect an increase in diverse perspectives. Having diverse perspectives can be a positive or a negative experience depending upon the response of the organization itself. Often the organization provides sensitivity training for its employees to facilitate the respect for and the acceptance of individuals and the perspective that they bring to the environment and to any given situation.

The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) mirrors such an Organization. MSD is now training a core group of employees who will provide sensitivity training to the members of our Community. MSD has embraced the mission and philosophy of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) to provide its Community with the opportunity to accept and respect the perspectives that each of its employees and students brings to MSD based upon their cultural experiences. NCBI is a training program that is "dedicated to ending the mistreatment of every group whether it stems from nationality, race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, job, or life circumstance". NCBI espouses the philosophy that the best approach to eliminate mistreatment and insensitivity within a Community is to empower the members of that Community. An empowered Community is committed to eradicating prejudice from its Community and to enriching that Community with diversity.

MSD started this process of radicalizing insensitivity from its Community and embracing diversity August, 1996 with an introduction of some identity awareness activities during the opening-of-school orientation. This introduction was presented to the Community by Ms. Carol McLaughlin, the NCBI contact person at Gallaudet University. These activities emphasized the fact that while we are all different, we also have aspects of ourselves that are common with each other. After this brief introduction, the administrators, department heads, committee leaders, and the identified core group of trainers participated in an all-day session of the NCBI training one Saturday in September.

The core group of trainers - Albert Cooten, Cynthia Gadarian, Philip Hall, Evelyn Hill Johnson, Stacey Katz, Gwendolyn Long, Mark Sewell, Peggy Ann St. John-White, Eva Staubitz, and Bonnie Vanbuskirk - participated in a three-day training seminar at Gallaudet University. During the three-day training, the core group trainers engaged in activities that teach the participants prejudice-reduction techniques. The participants received training in how to:

1. Heal the emotional and institutional impact of discrimination and remove the hurt, misinformation, and powerlessness which hold discrimination in place;
2. Lead workshops that welcome diversity, unfreeze prejudicial attitudes, and intervene in the face of oppressive remarks and actions; and,
3. Become empowered individuals who are constructive allies on behalf of other groups.

After the three days of intense training, MSD became a member of NCBI which entitles the Core Group of Trainers of MSD the privilege to conduct NCBI prejudice-reduction workshops.

After the three-day training, the members of the Core Group realized that their work had just begun. Now they must continue to sensitize themselves through self-analysis and self-examination. Through this process, the group members must take risks and trust each other with sensitive issues and revelations of their own personalities, experiences, and diverse perspectives. This is a very necessary process because the Core Group members must confront their own insensitivities to diversity in order to commit themselves to encourage and enhance diversity within the MSD Community.

The Core Group of Trainers meets once a month in order to continue this learning and growing process, alternating between both Frederick and Columbia Campuses. During the first two meetings, the group identified two contact persons, Evelyn Hill Johnson, Columbia Campus, and Mark Sewell, Frederick Campus. Ms. Johnson is also the contact person for MSD with Ms. Cherry Brown of NCBI and Ms. Carol McLaughlin of Gallaudet University. During the next meetings, the Core Group will continue its training of the NCBI techniques in order to conduct workshops with the MSD Community. These workshops will encourage its members to recognize, acknowledge, and respect individuals and the perspectives they bring to situations which are influenced by an individual's cultural experiences. The goals of the Core Group is to provide a partial workshop to the MSD Community before the end of this school year.

This writer hopes that this NCBI sensitivity enhancement training program will continue for years to come. This writer is very excited, hopeful, and optimistic that the MSD Community will experience similar positive feelings, as she has, toward the commitment to eliminate any mistreatment that exists within our School Community. As they become more knowledgeable with this NCBI training and its techniques, the Core Group will welcome new members from the MSD Community to become trainees of the MSD Community. These new members should be dedicated to working towards the eradication of any mistreatment of any individual and/or group within our School Community. The NCBI sensitivity trainer is unselfishly committed to welcoming diversity and respecting cultural differences in order to enrich our School Community. Change is an attainable yet monumental accomplishment that requires an unyielding commitment from facilitators of that change.

These are exciting times as MSD experiences growth and expansion in order to meet the needs of the students of the State of Maryland. It is the hope of this writer, that during this time of expansion, we remember and acknowledge that we have similarities that are sprinkled with diversity, and differences that are enhanced and enriched by our individual cultural experiences.
AP English: Raising Expectations
By Kevin Strachan, High School Instructor

"I know this is a world famous love story, but at times their words seem so superficial and false that I doubt they are really in love."
(Tim Riker, Junior, on Romeo and Juliet)

"In both Dante's and Sartre's Hell, the real punishment seems to be that sinners are revealed for who they really are and can no longer hide it from themselves or from others."
(Kelly Corrigan, Junior, on Inferno and No Exit)

"Throughout the whole first chapter, Wang Lung seemed like a good man: a decent, hard working farmer. But one word in the final sentence of the chapter makes me think he is not a good man at all."
(Darla Konkel, Sophomore, on The Good Earth)

Tim, Kelly, and Darla are three of the students currently taking Advanced Placement English, a course offered for the first time this year at MSD. And their thoughts above are just a few examples of the kind of advanced reading and thinking that students in the class are encouraged and expected to do.

Advanced Placement English (or AP English), taught by Kevin Strachan in the high school English Department, is designed with two basic goals in mind: (1) to provide all students with an excellent education in reading and writing, and (2) to prepare them for three national exams that will increase their options and enhance their chances of being accepted to the college of their choice; these exams are the SAT I, the SAT II Literature Test, and the Advanced Placement English Test. Students in the course are expected to handle a rigorous work schedule and meet higher expectations including summer reading and reading major works of art such as Les Misérables, a novel of some 1400 pages in length.

The nine students in the course have not only been working hard to meet the demands of their class work, but they are working hard to make the program work. For as with any new endeavor there are problems along the way. One of the biggest challenges facing the AP program is the rate at which these students read books. They consume books, devour them; they finish reading a major work of literature every two weeks or so. The English Department is in the process of creating an AP Book Bank, a collection of class room sets of books for the AP students, but in the mean time, the AP students are reading and reading and reading. So for the time being, students visit the library often and some pay for the books and are starting small libraries of their own.

Another big challenge facing the AP English students is the demand on their time. These young people are MSD's leaders: they are representatives in student government, main characters in the Spring play, stars on athletic teams, etc. And part of the reason they are who they are is that they always insist on doing their best. Now they are in AP English which is putting even further demands on their time and energy. So far they are doing fine handling this new challenge, but it is far from easy.

MSD's Advanced Placement English course is an ambitious and exciting new program at the school. And without a doubt it is extremely demanding for both the students and the teacher. They are working hard and learning much. And they all know that they have a lot more hard work ahead of them before the course is the best it can be. In education, as in all areas of our lives, nothing worthwhile is easy to do.
As a graduate student at New York University in 1962-1963 studying "deaf education," I studied pedagogy, psychology of deafness, speech and audiology, reading and writing development, and other courses related to deafness. Reading textbooks, observing classroom instruction in New York City schools for deaf children, and talking to my professors, I began to feel that deaf children are mentally defective, and are in great need of professionals' help and guidance.

I recall a lesson plan I presented to my professor and classmates in a "Methods and Materials" (pedagogy) class. Throughout the semester, the professor demonstrated remedial teaching techniques, rewriting and simplifying English language for language instruction, and adapting concepts for lower-level comprehension. Most of my classmates developed and presented lesson plans for students reading and writing several grades below their age level. I constructed a social studies lesson plan for 12th graders reading and writing on 12th grade level and "taught" this to my classmates. The lesson was not well received by my professor, for she explained I needed to adapt materials. I protested that my lesson plan was appropriate for students reading and writing on grade level, but my lesson plan to her was apparently a work of fiction.

During my first semester at New York University, to satisfy my "practicum" requirement, I observed a class in one of New York City schools. I was appalled at what I saw. Communication between teachers and students was almost non-existent. Teachers rarely focused, for they either wrote sentences on the blackboard for students to copy, or passed out "books" work which would students would complete in half a class period. Students then would either chat among themselves or fail asleep for the remaining of the class period. One teacher even told me to my face that I could not possibly become a teacher because I was deaf.

A public high school in Manhattan was my choice for the 12 week student-teaching experience during the second semester. There were 40 "hearing-impaired" students among 2,000 students at the high school, and four teachers of the "hearing-impaired" shared the teaching of deaf students. One was my supervising teacher, and uniformly during my second day, she had back pain and was on leave for the next several weeks. An administrator from the New York City Board of Education then visited my class and asked me if I could handle my supervising teacher's class schedule; and I, not knowing a different answer, replied that I would try. The next few weeks were for me were "baptism by fire," in learning how to develop lesson plans, develop materials, present lectures, maintain classroom decorum, and establish rapport with students of wonderfully diverse backgrounds. Being a "full-fledged" teacher for several weeks, I came to see how the three other teachers prepared lesson plans for their students. Again, I was taken aback at the level of work prepared by the teachers for the students. Materials were written out for students to fill in the blanks. Sometimes the same copy was given out in the same week or the same two week period. It was as if the students did not remember what they have worked on a few days earlier.

After receiving my master's degree, I stayed at NYU for summer classes to meet the requirements for a New York State teaching certificate. I also took a job at a summer camp for high school students in Manhattan as a camp counselor. There wasn't a lake nearby, but we had access to an Olympic-sized outdoor pool, to classrooms for arts and crafts, and to a gymnasium for physical activities. The classrooms and the gymnasium were on the third floor of a school and the only operable water cooler in the building was on the first floor. Camp policy dictated that camp counselors accompany high school students from the third floor to the first floor if they desired a cool drink from the water fountain. I was puzzled at the policy at first, but complied for several days. Then, the camp staff had our first staff meeting, and I raised the question as to why an escort was needed for a trip to the water cooler. The camp director said it was because the students were deaf. I did not add anything to this response. A few weeks later, I suddenly brought the subject up again, and after much discussion from other camp counselors, the director reluctantly agreed with the students' request to travel down the stairs and drink water unpursued.

My expectations described above as a graduate student stayed with me for years, and probably will for years to come as I have now recorded them in this Maryland Bulletin issue. Needless to say, I was disillusioned by these experiences and by many other similar examples. I often wondered what kind of messages were given to the students when teachers did not challenge them, gave them "busy" work, and had little, if any, confidence in their ability to grow into independent adults.

The following autumn brought me to the California School for the Deaf in Fremont where I taught Language Arts to deaf high school students. There, my hope for the field of deaf education was quickly restored. I saw faculty and staff members having high expectations for CSSE students in and out of classrooms. I then saw results in students who achieved academically and in extra-curricular activities, and who were marvelously confident in their abilities.

The Maryland School for the Deaf also has high expectations for MSD students. We expect all students to maximize their individual academic abilities, and then some. MSD's Vocational Curriculum, the Maryland High School diploma requirements, and MSD diploma requirements demand MSD students master academic subjects; Student Service Learning requirements and work-study experiences also demand MSD students develop their understanding of being accountable to self and others. By continuing to provide programs such as student body government, varsity sports, drama club, and other student organizations demand development in leadership, athletics, arts, and intellectual pursuits.

When high expectations are imposed on MSD students and students everywhere, they rise to the occasion! The field of deaf education has spent an absurdly enormous amount of time psychologizing deaf children, and we have learned by now that this is a destructive endeavor. Demand excellence from students, and they will produce excellence. We may proclaim this as our greatest gift to our students, but this is actually their birthright!
News from FC Elementary Dept.
The Elementary department has grown. There are now 14 students, two new faces on its staff and three new computers.
Ms. Connie Jones joined the department as a contractual teacher after the holiday break. She hails from Indiana. She has a Masters degree from Western Maryland College. She has been working with the department's first grade class.
Mr. Toby Daniels, a MSD alumnus, joined the department as a teacher aide on January 20th. He taught at the New Mexico School for the Deaf for one and a half years.
The department is pleased to have three new IBM computers in our lab. The department deeply appreciates the PTCA's efforts in making this possible. They are looking forward to receiving more computers from a grant soon.
—Melinda C. Padden, Assistant Principal, Elementary

FC Elementary Drama
The Elementary Classes have had many exciting drama performances this school year. All performances took place in our gym from 11:30 - 11:50 a.m.
On October 15th, Ms. Lowry's third graders did "Thy Friend, Obidah". On October 23rd, Ms. Vini's 4th grade class performed "The Teacher from the Black Lagoon". "The Treasure Box" was given by Ms. Grant and Ms. Mertz-Witczak's Kindergarten class on October 24th. On October 31st, Mr. Feldman's 5th graders had a Presidential Debate which President Clinton received overwhelming support from the audience.
Four performances were given in November. Ms. Miller and Ms. Van Winkle's Language Arts classes gave "Communities - Urban and Rural" on November 1st. Ms. Millard and Mr. Martin's Pre-Kindergarten class performed "The Five Little Pigs" on the 15th. Ms. Hanyrewski's Language Arts class performed "It's Ok to Be Me" on the 22nd and on the 27th Ms. Sinclair's first graders did "Transportation & Signs".
"Encyclopedia Brown" by Ms Tingler's Language Arts class was the only performance given in December.
On February 7th, Ms. Millard and Mr.

Fifth graders take part in a 1996 mock election at the recent gathering in Kent-McCann Auditorium.

Martin's Pre-Kindergarten performed "Journey Cake, Ho!"
Four additional performances will be given in March and three in April. We are pleased that MSD students have many opportunities to participate in or watch various performances.
—Melinda C. Padden, Assistant Principal, Elementary

Chamber of Commerce Teacher Recognition
ROBIN MILLER
Ms. Robin Miller, a teacher in the Frederick Campus Elementary department, was honored as a nominee for the Eighth Annual Recognition of Teacher Excellence program. The Frederick County Chamber of Commerce sponsors this program which concluded with a final awards program held on Thursday, November 7th at the American Legion Post.
Full-time classroom teachers are eligible. The teacher must have outstanding qualities that make him/her a "model" teacher. Students, parents, colleagues and interested citizens may nominate their "model" teacher.
Ms. Miller has taught in our Elementary department since 1979. She is a highly enthusiastic teacher. Her enthusiasm rubs off on the students. She has high but reasonable expectations of each student which encourages them to achieve more. She believes in collaborative learning. The students have the opportunity to think deeply and express their own ideas. She encourages them to defend or expand their ideas.
Ms. Miller's enthusiasm is not limited to the classroom. She constantly takes various courses to seek new learning strategies for the classes. A teacher who loves to learn is an exciting teacher.
MSD is pleased and thrilled that Ms. Miller has been given this honor.
—Melinda C. Padden, Assistant Principal, Elementary

DONALD HAHN
Mr. Donald Hahn, masonry teacher in Applied Academics Department was nominated to represent MSD in the Eighth Annual Recognition of Teacher Excellence Awards Banquet on November 7, 1996.
Mr. Hahn became a teacher in the fall of 1979. He was instrumental in preparing his students to enter the construction field of brick and block laying. His masonry classes have made several important contributions to Frederick camps. Mr. Hahn has a long history of community involvement and is invaluable in the implementation of an effective masonry apprenticeship program.

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In his masonry shop, students use safety procedures while learning masonry bonding and mixing mortar by hand.

The Applied Academics Department is pleased that Mr. Hahn has been given this honor. He strives for excellence and makes the extra effort that means so much to the trades education of MSD students.

—Robert Padden, Assistant Principal, Applied Academics

Students of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS to these High School students who were honored as “Students of the Month” in the residence halls. To accomplish this honor, a student must show proper respect, be helpful, have their rooms cleaned at all times, and have good study habits. The Student Life Counsellors made the selection of students, and the prize was a trip to Dairy Queen with the Dean of Students.

The students of the month are:

September - Quanda Mackley and Shah Polyzides
October - Niamia Frickett and Jason Wells
November - Kelly Ann Corrigan and Delmon Hamilton
December - Kristin Shaulis and Jason Gunderson
January - Carey Knezevich and Owen Barrow

—Linda Coleman, Dean of Students

Curious George

In effort to continue emphasizing to families the importance of reading with their young children, on November 6, 1996, Family Education’s Columbia Toddlers, Preschoolers and their parents took a trip to Zany Brainy to meet Curious George. Curious George stories were read by Zany Brainy staff and interpreted by MSD teachers. Then, the highlight of the trip was photos with the famous literary character! Parents had opportunities to browse the store and teachers helped with suggestions for holiday gifts! It was a wonderful way to spend a Wednesday morning.

Columbia Campus Enters the Computer Age

Jim Taylor, Network Specialist, provides computer training to Columbia Campus staff.

With the acquisition of new computers from a grant from the State of Maryland, staff and students have been eager to learn how to use them. MSD’s Network Specialist, James Taylor, held a series of computer classes for everyone from beginners to experts to educate Columbia about using computers. Classes on the use of the Internet were also held.

Soon, Columbia’s Local Area Network (LAN) will be available for intercampus communication. David Inouye, a longtime Columbia employee, had recently been promoted to Columbia’s Network Specialist Trainee. With his expertise, the new computers and the installation of the ISDN line, untrapped vistas will be open to the students and staff. Everyone is eagerly anticipating “surfing the Net”.

—Rich Steffan, Deputy Superintendent/Principal

Parents and their young children enjoy Curious George stories with help of MSD teachers.
After School Program at Columbia Campus

During the past few months several activities have happened in relation to our after school programs. The swimming program has continued with consistent attendance from the residence halls and several day students. This activity will continue every Monday until almost the end of school. The basketball program is nearing an end and there have been a few games to celebrate the students’ fine efforts.

The first game was held just before the holiday break against the staff of MSD. Everybody came and we even had a half time performance by the middle school cheerleaders. It was great fun and nice to see staff and students interacting in ways other than teacher to student (like doing the Macarena). The students won on their last shot. A rematch game was played on February 27th. Again it was another close game. The staff’s only lead in the second half came on its last shot when it won by one point.

The basketball team also played two games against Eastall - one at home and the other at Kessel. As if planned, both games ended in ties. They will have to wait until next year to see who is the winner. The social time shared between the two schools after the game proved to be as much fun as the game itself.

MSD student dancers finally had a chance to perform. The students were scheduled to dance before the holiday break, but it was postponed due to inclement weather. Almost five weeks later in front of the entire school, the show went on. Despite only a 15 minute warm-up and no practice in weeks, it was a great success. The students did warm up exercises and then performed a dance routine to the “Wicked Snow Queen” story. Mr. Connie Schwartz of the National Deaf Dance Academy and several MSD staff members did a fantastic job with all of the students that participated.

When the dance program ended staff members replaced that activity with volleyball and a table game called Dingo. Dingo is a very popular “deaf” club game and is played like bingo only with cards. It seems that there were a little something for everyone. The spring activities will start in a couple of weeks. Again, staff members plan to have a dance activity, swimming, and then a couple of new activities that will take students outside for much of the time.

—John Stavig, Assistant Principal

Basketball Extravaganza
MSD - CC Staff vs Students

For those who attended the MSD-CC Staff vs Students basketball game, held on December 19th, it was an afternoon of fun-filled action packed excitement.

Gwen Long put together a high energy group of twenty students who were anxious to display the skills they had worked hard on for the past several weeks. A much more experienced, aged group of MSD-CC staff showed up as their opponents.

The game was a see saw battle, first the students is the lead, then the staff. This exciting action continued right to the end of the game. The students practice paid off when it counted, however, and they scored the winning basket in the last six seconds of the game. The staff accepted the loss and shook hands with the winners. They were just happy to still be standing.

Andre Watley was the leading scorer for...
the students with 14 points. Other students scoring points included: Anthony Meadows with 8 points, Joshua Kelbaugh had 4 points and David Broggin, Ben Jones, Joey Williams, Markell Dobins and Ryan Curry each chipped in with 2 points.

For the staff, the top two point getters were Frank Willis and Danny Rinza. David Hinch contributed six points. Pete Ridgley and Elizabeth Reed chipped in four points each, and Joan Miller and Helen Woods managed a basket for a total of two points each.

As half time the middle school girls coached by Michelle Alisnuck performed a cheerleading routine. This routine included cheers, cheerleaders lifting other cheerleaders and a short rendition of the Mocarana that resulted in total fun, players and cheerleaders participation.

This was so much fun that it could well become an annual event.
—John Snavlin, Assistant Principal

**Evon Black**

Highlights Black History Month Celebration at Columbia Campus

Students and staff alike were delighted with an afternoon presentation by Evon Black, a distinguished storyteller and former employee of MSD. Born in Arkansas, educated at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University, Ms. Black shared many touching and humorous stories about her childhood and what it means to be African-American and Deaf.

The audience was “in stitches” watching Ms. Black describe growing up in a farm community. She portrayed herself, her mother, and her siblings getting ready for and attending church, eating a stick from a tree so that her mother could discipline her, and eating Sunday breakfast, among others. Everyone in the audience could relate to something Ms. Black told. She also took time to teach the students about appropriate behavior toward their parents and other adults as well as other proper behaviors.

All in all, the presentation was educational and fun. After the assembly, Ms. Black visited the Student Life Program and the parent’s sign language class. Needless to say, Columbia Campus had already invited Evon back next year.

—Rich Steffan, Deputy Superintendent/Principal

**What's a Good Way to Beat the "Winter Blahs"?**

*Make Some New Friends!*

That's exactly what Deanna Williford's second grade class did in January when they visited Mary Brown's four year old class at the Children's World Learning Center in Columbia. Ms. Brown is a former MSD-CC aide who enjoyed sharing ASL with her little ones but none of her students had ever met a deaf person.

With the help of Ms. Williford and aide Carol Snyder, the two groups got the opportunity to interact while they had a snack together and made "inventions" (alias a "casual," "robot," and "car") out of recycled "stuff."

For next month's visit, MSD students have planned to retell some of their favorite books by Jan Brett, teach the ABC handshapes, and bake a special traditional Irish St. Patrick's Day bread to share with their new friends in the community.

—Ms. Deanna Williford, Elementary Teacher

MSD students Sheena Stuart, Eric Griswold, Gabriel Sadowa, and Albert Tarpey III teach the "ILY" sign to 4 year olds.
New Closets in Foxwell/Moylan Hall

The boys in Foxwell/Moylan Hall are very happy to have 75 new closets. Our closet designs look good. The closets give our rooms more space than before. All of our new closets have two locks, one on the right side and one on the left side. There is plenty of space to put clothes inside because the closet has five shelves on right side and a large space for hanging any shirts or coats on the other side. Also, the closet has shelves for storing shoes or boxes. We are very comfortable with our new closets because our belongings are more secure. We have our own keys. Our boys are really thrilled about having these fantastic closets. Thanks to everyone who made the new closets possible. I hope the High School boys can keep them neat!

—Petru Cibotarescu, 11th Grade

Michael Edwards, Khan Top, Cedric Moore, and Petru Cibotarescu are among the boys in Foxwell/Moylan Hall who keep their belongings in new closets.

The Deaf History Calendar for the Year 1997

The school decided to challenge our American Studies II class, making us personally responsible for the development of a first-time ever project in MSD history. There were only two adults and nine of us involved with this huge project. Keep in mind that what we did have another subject (American Studies II, of course) to learn in the classroom. Our focus was not only the major project. The project, specifically, was to develop a calendar which we all can totally relate to as members of a deaf community with a rich history behind it. In the process we learned about Deaf History which is full of heroes and heroines who have totally inspired others and shattered the old-fashioned stereotypes about deaf

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people. The Deaf History Calendar is the major picture of it all; A lot of people ordered it for friends, family and for themselves to learn what we learned. It was an amazing feat and accomplishment to do well in all of our researches and get it completed under extreme pressure, but we did it. We did it... but not alone.

It all began in late Fall 1996, Mr. Chad Baker, our school principal, wanted especially our class which is under Mrs. Geraldine Whitt, to do this project because we had the means and the skills to do it. Mr. Brian Brizendine, an ASL teacher, contributed a lot to the project, too... Thankfully! Speaking of contributions, many people were not directly involved with the project but still were helpful and we are really grateful for that.

Now, since there were nine students and twelve months; Each of us had a partner, and the two of us were assigned three preferred months to work on. Meanwhile, we did everything possible to find all the accurate information and facts on people and places. We interviewed the actual person who was going to be featured in that month, took a trip to the Gallaudet University Archives, scouring through both musty and new books and magazines, and we collected photographs ourselves and from outside sources. It was indeed, time consuming and tiring for all of us, especially the two teachers. Credit truly goes to Mrs. Whitt and Mr. Brizendine for they had endured the ups and downs with the students during the development of the Deaf History Calendar, and they committed a lot of time and energy to ensure the Calendar’s success. My greatest recommendations to both of them. During the development of the calendar, we were gratified to have corresponded with famous deaf people. Samuel Thuan, one of the participating students, received a personal letter and a

photo from the acclaimed former Deaf Mosaic newscaster Mary Lou Novisky. Don Padden, one of Gallaudet University’s famed Iron Five (college basketball team in the 1930s when Gallaudet was just a college), came to MSD for an interview in our classroom with Darla Konkel, Kelly Corrigan and Stephanie Gasco for one of their three assigned months. Franco Korpics and Samuel Thuan also had the chance to interview a greatly revered deaf painter named Louis Frisino in class. I contacted the famed author Jack Gannon’s office at Gallaudet and had a nice conversation with his secretary Ms. Gerri Frank via TTY on telephone. On the other hand, much information could be received through good old-fashioned researching on books. Speaking of authors, LaThya Plummer researched Dr. Jack Gannon through his wonderfully-made nonfiction work Deaf Heritage. Dantzy Maliszewski and Tim Riker scanned some old magazines and works to support facts on the person they were featuring on.

As you can tell, it was both exhausting and rewarding for all of us in the

end. But perhaps there is no end to this story. We are just a chapter... the first chapter; for there will be another MSD Deaf History Calendar on the way for the year 1998. There will be others who will be involved with this new annual project and we have paved the rocky path for them. We have gained a lot of valuable experiences so other new students can follow our lead to make the best calendar MSD could ever offer.

--Lisa DeLamosta, 11th Grade

Our Special Visitor

We learned about different communities. We compared Urban communities to Rural communities.

We invited Scott’s father to talk to all the 2nd graders. Ray Lehmann is deaf and works at the Post Office in our community.

Ray showed us many different kinds of clothing he wears. He showed us how to spray bad dogs. We all went into his mail truck. It was fun.

Ray gave us a pen, paper and a coloring book. We hope Ray comes to visit again.

--Robin Miller’s Language Arts Class

Mr. Ray Lehman, Deaf mail carrier and Ms. Robin Miller’s 2nd graders pose for a picture in front of Mr. Lehman’s mail truck.
MSD Youth Basketball

Larissa Clapp, Darren Hause, Alexander Heath, Joshua Feldman, Jessica Frank, Sigridur Jonsson, Jared Kingsford, Shana Lehmann, Lisa Monroe, Bruce Persons, Jennifer Timmons, Ryan Turner, and Brittany Williams were the members of the MSD Bantams teams under the coaching staff of Mr. Ray Lehmann and Ms. Lorraine Stoltz. Mr. Tom Luttrell coached the Junior team members: Krystle Bergman, David Broadwater, Chris Corrigan, James Markel, Jr., Kami Padden, Jade Sims, Amanda Stone, and Derrick Williams. Due to a large number of players on the Bantams roster, they were split into two teams. They had an opportunity to play a lot. Despite losing the games, they indicated improvement from the beginning to the end of the season. One of two Bantams and Junior teams lost in the first round at the Monocacy Youth Basketball Association tournament. The other Bantams team won in the first round, but lost in the next round.

The Middle School boys' basketball team had nine players: Jason Blyum, Jason Coleman, Michael Gurdner, Jeffrey Railis, Robin Shannon, Rob Sims, Paul Tyler, Joshua Walker, and Jason Yeh. Mr. Conrad vonGarrell, Mr. Delmas Woodall, and Mr. Ray Shannon, the coaching staff, devoted a lot of time to the program. At the Monocacy Youth Basketball Association tournament, the team proved that they were the true champs. Their ability of playing ball had indicated a great improvement at the tournament, comparing to the first game of the season back in December. They played Baber Creek #4 for the championship and they captured the title. The score was 42 to 21. Jason Coleman made nineteen points and Jason Yeh had ten points for MSD.

Ms. Darla Minter, Ms. Norma Clapp, and Ms. Tracy Perry coached two Middle School girls' basketball teams. Josephine

Junior Basketball Team


Bantams Basketball Team

Middle School Boys’ Basketball Team


Avda, Fallon Brizendine, Kimberly Clapp, Denna Duncan, Ashley Gill, Nancy Hoever, Laura Lohmeier, Tabitha Markel, Shannon McDonald, Kristen Suter, Jenica vonGarrel, Jessica vonGarrel, Lacey Whilten, and Jennifer Wood participated in the Monocacy Youth Basketball Association league. They won few games during the season. The Ladies’ Orioles did not place in the first round at the tournament.

Middle School Girls’ Basketball Team


MSD hosted its annual Middle School Deaf Basketball Tournament on February 27, 1997. Delaware School for the Deaf, Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Maryland School for the Deaf, and Pennsylvania School for the Deaf participated in all day tournament. The round robin format was used to determine the winners for the championship game. The highlight for the MSD Lady Orioles was capturing the crown by defeating Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, 30-27. Laura Lohmeier made eight points for MSD. Tabitha Markel had seven points. Jessica vonGarrel shot for six points. Ashley Gill made four points. Sportsmanship award went to Delaware School for the Deaf.

In the championship game against Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, the MSD boys’ basketball led at the half-time with the score of 22 to 11. However, they struggled in the second half and had to settle for second place. The score was 36-30. MSD’s Jason Yeh made fifteen points. Joshua Walker had eight points for MSD. The Sportsmanship award went to Delaware School for the Deaf.

MSD Youth Wrestling Club

In order to qualify for the Mason Dixon Wrestling League Championships, the wrestling club participated in the meets at Williamsport, Walkersville, Catoctin, Jefferson, and Middletown on the weekends.

Adam Baker (Intermediate 110), Shannon Callahan (Bantams 52), Jarvis Grimshaw (Bantams 48), Brian Grossinger (Bantams 74), Daniel Grossinger (Midget 85), David Nutter (Midget 59), Brad Sims (Midget 74), Drey Sims (Bantams 60), Gurry Sims (Bantams 44), and Andrew Weddig (Junior 84) were qualified to wrestle in the Mason Dixon Wrestling League Championships at the Frederics High School on Sunday, March 2 and 9, 1997.

There were approximately 550 wrestlers at the tournament. The 1st to 6th place trophies were presented. In their respective weight class, the following MSD wrestlers won: Adam Baker, Shannon Callahan, and Daniel Grossinger, sixth place, and Brian Grossinger and Brad Sims, third place.

The coaches, Mr. Bill Thompson and Mr. Eric Woods, were pleased with the results. This year the team had shown their improvement since last year. Mr. Jeff White helped with the Middle School wrestlers. The team looks forward to another exciting season next year.
Youth Wrestling Team


Another Great Season for Varsity Wrestling

MSD wrestling team grabbed 13 victories while suffering the only loss to Boonsboro and tying with Georgetown Prep this year. The Orioles were able to defeat most of the opposing teams by wide team margins, except quite a few close individual calls.

The host Maryland School for the Deaf captured the fourth title in a row at its annual Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) wrestling tournament with eight schools participating. On the weekend of January 24, 1997. The Orioles earned 207.5 points for the first place. Lexington School for the Deaf of New York City placed second with 195.5 points. Ohio School for the Deaf got third place with 77.3 points. American School for the Deaf was fourth with 64 points. Florida School for the Deaf was fifth with 62 points. Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf was sixth with 41 points. Indiana School for the Deaf placed seventh with 22 points. Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf settled for eighth place with 20 points. MSD’s DeJuan Hamilton was the Outstanding Wrestler. Team Sportsmanship award went to Ohio School for the Deaf. Of the 14 weight classes including the 215 lbs class, 12 MSD wrestlers entered the individual championship matches. Alvin Evans (130) and DeJuan Hamilton (189) repeated individual championships. MSD’s Tony Stallard (135), Jason Jones (140), Conrad Hause (145) and James Hopkins (160) won their championships. Jermaine Brown (112), Robert Steck (119), Khao Tep (125), Alan Duke (132), Tim Riker (125) and Pat Holness (275) placed second while Edward Lowe (171) was third. Adam Baker (104) placed fourth.

For the first time MSD was invited to participate in the third annual Maryland State Independent Schools Championships at Bullis School in February. Only 26 selected schools participated in the tournament and MSD was seventh in its division. DeJuan Hamilton of MSD placed fifth in his 171 lbs. class.

Alvin Evans (130) and DeJuan Hamilton (171) were selected on the Frederick Post News All-Area Wrestling First Team. DeJuan Hamilton was also named on the Herald-Mail High School Wrestling First Team.

Coach Jeff White’s outlook at the beginning of the season was that he hoped this would be one of their best years. Indeed, the MSD wrestling team has accomplished much this season.

Varsity Wrestling Team

Another Winning season for Boys’ Basketball

This year’s exciting and competitive schedule ended on a positive note by winning the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) Tournament. This was the first back-to-back championship since 1981 and 1982.

MSD Orioles boys’ basketball team participated in the Bama Classic at the Alabama School for the Deaf in December. MSD beat Florida School for the Deaf and Georgia School for the Deaf by 24 and 40 points, respectively. MSD led most of the first half against Alabama School for the Deaf until a third quarter run got ASD the lead. MSD lost to ASD by three points.

In only the second year in the Tri-State Athletic Conference (TSAC), MSD went into four overtime games out of ten. In the overall conference record MSD was fourth place with four wins and six losses. MSD was voted the TSAC sportsmanship award. The total win and loss record was 13 wins and 10 losses.

At the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) tournament at the Lexington School for the Deaf, the Orioles were ranked as number two seeded team. MSD beat Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 77 to 45. In the championship game against Lexington School for the Deaf, MSD rallied in the first quarter and finally bounced back into the game. They took control of the game and won the title for the second year in a row, 59 to 41. In that game Juan Pablo Borrero and Jason Gunderson had 19 points each. MSD’s Franco Korpics had 10 rebounds and six assists. Gunderson also had five steals. Juan Pablo Borrero, Jason Gunderson, and Franco Korpics were named to the All-Tournament team.

Boys’ Junior Varsity Basketball Team

Front row: Kurt Emmerich, Steven Jackson, Petru Cibotarescu, Shawn Shannon, Robin Shannon, and Jason McAnally. Back row: Head Coach Darvin Brenchen, Manager Matthew Harvey, Andrew McAllister, Jason Wells, Travis Hayes, Jonathan Ricks, Timothy McAlvey, Manager Michael Myers, and Asst. Coach Rocky Murray.

Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team

Front row: Trevor Betz, Roger Spidle, Franco Korpics, Juan Carlos Borrero, Cedric Moore, Head Coach Rocky Murray, Asst. Coach Darvin Brenchen, Joshua Moore, Daniel Maliszewski, Jonathan Antal, Juan Pablo Borrero, and Jason Gunderson.
Girls' Basketball Season

The 1996-1997 girls' basketball season had been a challenge with many obstacles coming at them in different directions. They were a young team with a lot of raw talent. The Lady Orioles had several disappointing cancellations this year. They were not able to go to the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) tournament at the American School for the Deaf in Connecticut due to illness and injuries. One game was canceled due to the weather. The Lady Orioles were also not able to travel to the Alabama School for the Deaf to participate in the "Bama Classic" due to illness.

The highlight of the season was winning the first game against Capital Christian. The Lady Orioles really pulled together and worked hard to maintain the energetic stamina they started out with at the beginning of the game. Each player contributed in every way to take control of the scoreboard and the game was won with a score of 57 to 43.

The Lady Orioles completed the season with a 1-14 record. It is unfortunate that people tend to view the record as a way to determine the success of a team. It is important to note that each player has improved in many different areas on and off the court. The Lady Orioles would need to look at the things they had learned this year and establish goals to make the 1997-1998 season a better success.

Fall 1996 Silent News All-American Teams

Maryland School for the Deaf was second to Texas School for the Deaf for the Team of the Year honor in football. DeJuan Hamilton of MSD is the Deaf Football Player of the Year. He is a deserving, young man to receive this honor. MSD's Joshua Moore joined DeJuan Hamilton on the All-American Offensive Team. Jason Gunderson and Cedric Moore were selected on the All-American Defensive Team. Joseph Davis was named as Honorable Mention.

Kyle Clark of MSD was named on the Deaf Prep Volleyball All-American first team.

DeJuan Hamilton is the 1996 Silent News Football Player of the Year.
Hazel Jonie Spreelman Barthlow Murray, '28, 87, of Frederick, Maryland, died on January 20, 1997, at Montgomery General Hospital at Olney, Maryland. She was preceded in death by two husbands, John W. Barthlow and Roland R. Murray, both MSD graduates. Born January 23, 1909, in Cumberland, Maryland, she was a daughter of the late Carl Spreelman and Edith Paxton Spreelman. She attended the Frederick Church of the Brethren and the Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore. She was survived by a sister; Anna Thompson of Cumberland, eight nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews and was preceded in death by two sisters, Elsie Farris who also a MSD graduate, and Mildred Burgess, and a brother, Tom Spreelman. Funeral services officiated by the Rev. Peggy A. Johnson were held at the Stauffer Funeral Home in Frederick. Mrs. Murray was buried at Sunset Memorial Park in Cumberland, Maryland. Memorial donations may be made in her memory to the Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 636, Frederick, MD 21705.

Lee Henry Hudson, '39, 79, of Berlin, Maryland, passed away on January 3, 1997, of cancer. Born in Bishopville, he was the son of the late Henry Hudson. His mother, Marvel Elles Palmer Hudson, died on December 31, 1996. His wife, Edna Jarvis Hudson, died in 1990. He is survived by his two stepchildren, Jack Jarvis of Ocean City, and Evelyn Savannah Krantz of Ocean City; one step-grandson and two nephews. A brother, Willis Hudson, died in 1978. A 1939 MSD graduate, he was a five-time All American basketball player at the school and he played in Madison Square Garden. He was an avid sportsman, fisherman, and beachcomber. He was employed for more than 20 years with Bremarom Condominiums in Ocean City in the maintenance department. He was a member of Atlantic Unites Methodist Church in Ocean City. A deaf funeral service with his mother, Marva Elen Hudson, was held at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin with burial in Sunset Memorial Park in Berlin. Donations in his mother’s memory may be made to Atlantic United Methodist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 88, Ocean City, MD 21842, or to the Worcester County Humane Society, P.O. Box 48, Berlin, MD 21811.

John Calvin Foreman, '48, 70, of Frederick, Maryland, died on December 20, 1996, at home. He was the husband of Shirley Delauer Foreman. Born November 19, 1926, in Taneytown, he was the son of the late Earl and Hilda Frock Foreman, Sr. He is survived by his granddaughter, Donna Jean Beall of Frederick; his brother, Earl Foreman, Jr. of Frederick; and several nieces, nephews, sisters and brothers-in-law. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Beverly Jean Beall in 1993 and three sisters, Mildred Wamsley, Dorothy Shelton, and Louise Strawberry. He was employed with Meadows Van and Storage Inc. as a packer and a truck driver for 43 years. He was an avid sportsman, enjoying and participating in and watching sports. Funeral services for him were conducted at the Stauffer Funeral Home with the Rev. Peggy Johnsen of Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf officiating. Interment took place in Westhaven Memorial Gardens in Frederick. Memorial contributions in Mr. Foreman’s memory may be made to Shirley Foreman, 1002 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702.

The engagement of Sandra Kay Blazejak, '85, and Christopher G. vonGarrel, '84, son of Annabelle vonGarrel of Mount Airy, MD, and the late Hermann vonGarrel, was announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Blazejak of Denton, MD. Both are 1991 graduates of Gallaudet University. The bride-to-be received a degree in the applied computer field. Her fiancé earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration studies. Both Miss Blazejak and Mr. vonGarrel are employed at Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick Campus. A June 28 wedding is planned.

Christine Lynn Reid, '85, 31, of Rockville, MD, passed away on December 23, 1995 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. She had influenza and pulmonary edema. She was employed by the Montgomery County Board of School Commissioners in Rockville as a library technician since 1985. She was a member of the National Association of the Deaf. She is survived by her parents, Jack and Jean Reid, and a sister, Julia Reid, all of Rockville, a brother, Jack Reid, III of North Beach, MD, and a grandmother, Jean Welland of West River, MD. Funeral services were conducted at Pumpney’s Colonial Funeral Home with interment in Parkland Memorial Park in Rockville.

Raymond Snoots, Sr., 80, of Woodsboro, MD, died on January 2, 1997, at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Born in Point of Rocks, he was a son of the late Roger Cleveland and Fannie Grace Peart Snoots. He was a lifelong farmer. He was employed as a guard for 17 years at the Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick Campus, and drove a school bus for 14 years for Frederick County. He was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Utica. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Stang Snoots, whom he married December 2, 1957, two children, Raymond Snoots, Jr. and Anna Clingan; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, three sisters; one brother; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were conducted for Mr. Snoots at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Greerstown with burial in Utica Cemetery.

Alumni Day

For many years in the past, MSD traditionally held Alumni Day on Saturday in March. Then in the late seventies, MSD decided to change the Alumni Day to the first Sunday in March for a long time until March 1, 1997. The co-chairpersons, Brian Brierstone and Donna Vogel, persuaded MSD to bring the tradition back by hosting the Alumni Day to the first Saturday of
March. It was a huge success. The alumni reported that they appreciated that very much as they found it convenient and enjoyable. It drew a large number of alumni to visit Shadwell.

The Alumni had a general meeting in the morning. The major decision made was that they set up the MSD Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. Alvin Amberg was chosen to be the chairperson. Any one of you who want to be on his committee should contact Alvin Amberg at MSD. Tina Young, 88, is the new secretary of the MSD Alumni Association.

The basketball games took place in the afternoon. The girls' varsity basketball team beat Alumni. The score was 46 to 38. The Alumni beat the Boys' varsity basketball team with the score, 77 to 63.

Through the courtesy of Douglas Scrivner, the MSD Alumni Association hosted the dingo event at Eagle's Post O.E. Club. Several alumni people were in charge of the dingo. There were approximately 125 people in attendance.

The MSD Alumni Association wants to express its gratitude to Superintendent Tucker and MSD for bringing back the cherished tradition of having the Alumni Day on the first Saturday instead of Sunday in March. The homecoming will be on October 4, 1997. MSD will play against Mississaug.

Once again, the MSD Alumni Association is planning to host dingo event in the evening. Watch out for a forthcoming flyers that will come out in the fall.

MSD-PTCA News Tidbits

By Audrey Frank, President

MSD-PTCA at Frederick Campus hosted the following fundraising and social occasions.

Last November PTCA sold parents, friends, staff, and teachers Usborne books rather than $1800. Each department received free books thanks to meeting the total number of books ordered at MSD.

A roller-skating party was held at Braddock Heights Roller Rink on November 30. Over 50 people had an enjoyable evening roller-skating.

A picture-taking session with Santa Claus, played by Johnston Grindstaff during the holiday banquet last December. Santa Claus distributed candy to all students from elementary to high school departments and even the staff.

A special presentation "How to Reinforce the Deaf Children's Writing and Reading Skills" given by Bonnie Kramer, Director of Curriculum Instruction at the Learning Center for Deaf Children in Framingham, Mass was held on January 15, 1997. There was a tremendous turnout of parents and teachers who were interested in this extremely important issue. Ms. Kramer emphasized the importance of parents involvement at home on a daily basis by communicating and explaining what's happening with school, work, chores, shopping, etc. with their children and reading books to their children everyday.

PTCA purchased a new fax machine for Student Life Department last January 1997.

The Elementary School Fair was held on February 26, 1997. Both individual and class projects were demonstrated at the fair. The students received certificates for participating in the science fair.

Don't miss upcoming PTCA events...

PTCA General Meeting - May 17, 1997 at 10 A.M.

The Gift of Giving

This past holiday season the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Phi Kappa Zeta Sorority proudly identified the Family Education Program at MSD for its charitable holiday project. The focus of the project was "Spiritual gift giving of the season to Deaf children." The result was a huge success.

Members of the chapter donated educational books and toys for children ages 0-5. Teachers in the Family Education Program helped with the delivery of the age-appropriate gifts to children in the program. During their weekly home visits or classroom experiences, some MSD infants, toddlers and preschoolers had the spirit of the holidays brought to them. The families were delighted with their children's reactions to the additional surprise at home.

Members in the chapter hope to host an annual charity holiday project, benefiting children of all ages.

SMADC Donates Three Items to Middle School Department

The Southern Maryland Association for Deaf Children annually holds a small fund raiser to help the schools that their children attend. They generally raise between $500.00 and $700.00. To make the selection impartial the decision is based simply on the drawing of a ticket with the school's name written on the back.

The SMADC and its President, Mrs. Shirley Coffren called Ms. Flowers, the Middle School Assistant Principal early in the fall to let her and the staff know that the Frederick Campus Middle School was the school selected this year. Eric Oliver, a 7th grader at MSD is from Charles County.

The association members asked the Middle School staff to provide them with a "wish list" by the end of November.

Ms. Flowers gathered suggestions from the staff and sent them to the Association. The Association was happy to purchase the first three items on the list. They were as follows: a 25" color TV, a VCR and a fax machine.

Friday, March 21st, Mr. and Mrs. Coffren presented the 3 items to the Middle School Department. Mr. Tucker, MSD Superintendent, was there to thank them for the gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffren have a grandaughter, Jackie, in the Elementary Department at Columbia Campus and have been a strong advocate of the Maryland School for the Deaf.

The Middle School Department wishes to extend their generous thanks to the association and the Coffrens. Such gifts are precious and greatly appreciated.

—Marsha Flowers, Assistant Principal, Middle School

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Bell Atlantic Pioneers Donates Ultratec Uniphone to Shannon Hare

It was evident during Spoken English/Communication classes last year that Shannon Hare had the capabilities and desire to use voice carryover on the TTY. Voice carryover is very useful for people who are comfortable using their voice on the phone but need the additional support of reading the responses of the listener. The voice carryover user simply speaks into the phone and reads the responses as usual on the TTY. Due to the fact that Shannon has a lot of family members that are hearing and also enjoy the ability to make business type calls out into the community using his voice, this was the perfect solution. With the uniphone Shannon practiced many such calls in class. Some of these calls were placed to other hearing people who had a TTY and other calls were placed to businesses through the relay service.

In June, Shannon expressed to his Spoken English teacher, Ms. Lisa Gastelle, the desire to own a uniphone. After several calls to different agencies, the Bell Atlantic Pioneers offered to donate one to Shannon. The Bell Atlantic Pioneers are a group of active and retired employees of Bell Atlantic. Their goal is to provide for needs related to communication.

On November 5, 1996, Robert Dorrell, and Ms. Gastelle accompanied Shannon to a Hagerstown meeting of the Bell Atlantic Pioneers. They were treated to an extravagant lunch and enjoyed meeting a very nice group of caring volunteers. During the presentation, cameras were flashing and Shannon was all smiles. Ms. Gastelle would like to mention the names of the key players that made this happen for Shannon. She owed special thanks to the following Bell Atlantic Pioneer members for their help in obtaining the uniphone, Mike Flanagan, Bob Hammond, Betty Wiegler, and Bob Wicker.

On a humorous note, Ms. Gastelle was shocked and thrilled that the winner of the 50/50 raffle was none other than Shannon. In addition to a brand new uniphone, Shannon walked away with approximately $40 in winnings. What a way to end a perfect day!

A New Golf Cart

One day in October, while the boys and Coach Johnny Coleman were practicing football, Charles, Doris and Kristen Redmond brought a brand new cart. Johnny was puzzled and tried to figure out what he was seeing. Mr. Redmond asked if he was Johnny Coleman. He said, "Yes." Mr. Redmond then handed him the key for the cart. Johnny was certainly surprised and thrilled. The lovely brand new cart was donated by The Carts Inc. of L.J. Vanswinkle.

The cart will be used in the school's athletic department. MSD is grateful for this utmost generous donation. It came very handy.

—Johnny Coleman, MSD Head Football Coach

(Left to right) Bob Hammond, Betty Wiegler, Shannon Hare, and Bob Wicker. Shannon Hare receives an Ultratec Uniphone from Bell Atlantic Pioneers.

John Coleman, MSD head football coach extends his appreciation to the Redmond family for the new golf cart.
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Come One Come All
to the
Second Annual MSD-PTCA Auction & Carnival

Saturday - May 17, 1997 - 10:00am to 5:00pm
(Rain or Shine)

Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick Campus
101 Clarke Place, Frederick, Maryland
Football Field behind MSD Gym
(If it rains, MSD Gym will be the site)

Admission is Free

Interpreters will be provided

Booths * Exhibits * Door Prizes
Games for Children
Food will be Sold

Furniture * Toys * Sports Memorabilia * Books
Art Objects * Tickets for Sports/Entertainment Events
Celebrity Autographs * Local Restaurants * Much Much More!!

For more information call:
Paul Baker - (301) 845-6958 Voice/TTY  Audrey Frank - (301) 208-2586 TTY
Gaye Heisey - (301) 694-8483 TTY  Gayle Woodward - (301) 829-1989 TTY
Trudy Morita - (301) 631-5898 TTY  MSD - (301) 620-8500 Voice
  (301) 620-8555 TTY
Maryland Relay Service - 1-800-735-2258 Voice/TTY
April 1997 will find Dr. Donalda K. Ammons receiving the Hall of Fame Award in the category of Leader to be presented by the American Athletic Association of the Deaf in St. Louis, Missouri during the National Basketball Tournament of the Deaf. It is a deserving honor for Dr. Ammons who has contributed her services in various capacities from Special Assistant to the Chairperson of the United States team for the World Games for the Deaf. Art Kruger, father of the AAAD, invited her to serve on his committee in 1981 after she successfully coordinated fundraising events for MSD’s Sandra Phillips in 1977 when she was employed as a high school teacher at the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick.

Donalda Kay Ammons was enrolled at the Maryland School for the Deaf in the fall of 1958 as a new student and soared high in life as a successful Deaf American who graduated from MSD in 1970. She came from a Deaf family consisting of her Deaf parents and two Deaf sisters. Her older sister, Paula Jean Ammons-Woodall, currently working as a Family Education Supervising Teacher, graduated from MSD in 1968 and her younger sister, Sandra Dee Ammons, now employed at Olivine College in Fremont, California, as ASL and Deaf Culture instructor/counselor, is a 1976 MSD graduate. Her niece, Delannje Joy Woodall, is a 1996 MSD graduate and is presently a student at Frederick Community College and Gallaudet University.

One of the memories Donalda vividly remembers is the establishment of a basketball team for girls at MSD in late December 1967. She enjoyed playing basketball. Because of her love for sports, she is actively involved with deaf athletics community such as establishing a recreational volleyball team for deaf women in Frederick, publishing articles related to deaf athletics, and serving on various committees for AAAD/WG.

After her graduation from MSD in 1970, Donalda went to Gallaudet University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Philosophy with minors in Spanish and Psychology in 1974. She was offered immediately a job teaching English, Consumer, and Spanish at MSD where she worked from 1974 to 1977. She recalled fondly about teaching a class consisting of only eighteen to nineteen year old boys when she was only 21! She said, "That was a major undertaking". She received her Master's in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College in 1977. She began as a full-time instructor at Gallaudet University in 1977 and was eventually promoted to full professorship in 1992. In 1989, she assumed responsibilities to lead a foreign study program as Director. She did her dissertation, "Adapted Instructional Strategies for Foreign Language Instruction with College Aged Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students", for her Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education with a specialization in foreign language education from Nova Southeastern University in 1988. She is currently a Full Professor and Director of Foreign Study Program at Gallaudet University.

Dr. I. King Jordan, President of Gallaudet University, named Dr. Ammons as the President's Distinguished Faculty Member for 1996. In his memorandum to the Gallaudet University faculty, he stated that she earned the highest respect and admiration of her colleagues and students and she is universally known among faculty, students, and alumni as one of its finest and most gifted professors who has the ability to teach with clarity and incisiveness, and who possesses uncanny insights into how our students learn best. She also is recognized around the country and throughout the world as an articulate spokesperson for the rights of Deaf people everywhere. Dr. Ammons was honored at the Commencement in the spring of 1996 and was presented the Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in the fall of 1996.

What inspired Dr. Donalda K. Ammons to be successful to the point where she is now was that her parents and sisters encouraged her to pursue her own visions. Some teachers at MSD strongly believed that she could do more by assigning her many challenging and stimulating tasks throughout her school years.

She loves studying cognitive development and language acquisition in the area of languages, traveling, and leadership training. Today, Donalda has her future hopes and visions to continue as a contributing member in the world society as she moves toward the new millennium.