Back on Track!

The beautiful forecast for this week (that was back on April 1) has inspired me to get back on track with my plans, goals, and newsletter. As usual, there is so much going on and I try to highlight some of that for you in this newsletter. Please know that I also try to maintain the webpage (areas for which I am responsible) and share other information there as well. If I miss anything, please send it my way and I will showcase it in either place.

I am amazed at how quickly the year is flying by, despite the many interruptions that weather has provided. I won’t go so far as to say we are finished with the snow yet, as I know better. But it is certainly beginning to look more promising.

As far as Secondary Education and College and Career Readiness, we have been working diligently on Perkins and Perkins Reserve Grants. All paperwork has been submitted and we now await word on revisions, denial, or awarding of the grants. We are also looking at a couple small modifications to policies/procedures for the benefit of our students.

Speaking of students—they continue to astound me with their performances in all realms—sports, theater/fine arts/music, leadership, academics, etc. Despite moving from the classroom, I still have the privilege of working with our students. I recently returned from Maryland Association of Student Councils State Conference where Mrs. Lorie Burdock, Mrs. Jo-Ann Forno and I supervised our delegates for three days. As usual, they represented Garrett County in such a way as to make us all proud. What I see in our fine students is partially a reflection of the outstanding influences that they have had through the years. Not just their families but the many teachers, custodians, bus drivers, administrators, secretaries, counselors, paraprofessionals, and more who care for them and help them grow up into great Garrett County citizens.

Thank you as always for your work!

Michelle Harman

Important Dates:

April

April 3—SHS NHS Inductions
April 4—6 Robotics
April 8—BOE meeting
April 8—NH/Swan Meadow Stream Activity
April 10-12—Macbeth at SH 8:00 p.m.
April 12—GCASC
April 12—Health Fair
April 15—A & S
April 17—NH Talent Show 7 p.m.
April 23—Administrative Professionals Day
April 24—Blue Ribbon Visit
Dr. Lowery—NH
April 26—SH Prom
April 28—Pushing the Limits with Derek Berger at RE Library Oakland

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
April 14—17, 2014

MAY:

STEM FESTIVAL May 3 -
Pushing the Limits—part 3—May 19 and June 16
**Northern High School Receives the MD DNR “PLANT” Award!**

NHS has received the 2013 Maryland DNR PLANT (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) award, gold level. PLANT is a statewide award program to recognize communities for their tree planting and tree care efforts. Communities range from schools, homeowner organizations and parks to metropolitan areas, cities and towns. There are four PLANT award levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Green.

NHS received the silver level award in 2012 for planting over 200 native trees to create riparian buffers for the Cove Run Brook Trout Restoration Project. The gold level was awarded due to the continuation of the restoration project and the maintenance of the riparian buffers. Students enrolled in AP environmental science have participated in the restoration project for the past three years. These students conduct stream health assessments and biodiversity studies at least twice a year to document changes in the stream over time.

**Update on Hands Only CPR**

The equipment for training has been ordered and will soon arrive for Hands Only CPR Training. This initiative is state-wide but Garrett County is ahead of the game with the support of the Property Owners’ Association of Deep Creek Lake and the Garrett County Lend a Hand Committee. The POA has purchased the training manikins as well as training AEDs which will be housed at Garrett College. The training is approximately 30 minutes and is not a substitute for full CPR training, merely an easy way to learn life-saving techniques that can be taught to almost any age group. Trainings will be held by scheduling through Garrett College and other area rescue organizations. Details to follow. If you would like more information about the training for your group or organization or yourself, contact Michelle Harman or attend the Garrett County Health Fair on April 12 to see demonstrations and gather more information. Training sessions will also be available that day.

**Learn how to save a life in about 30 minutes!**


If this Bill passes, it will be a requirement of schools to provide CPR training. I also think that it would be great to train all faculty members of GCPS in the Hands Only while offering periodic training in full CPR and First Aid as we do now through GC, GCMH, and Emergency Services.
Six Southern High School students were inducted into the 1800 Club. The six new inductees scored an 1800 or above on a recent administration of the SAT. The high school an in school SAT Prep course and SAT software to help assist students in preparing for the SAT.

Pictured in top left: junior Benjamin Reichard, senior Sam Jones, senior Natalie Tracey and Principal James Maddy
Pictured in top right: senior Megan Stone, Principal James Maddy and senior Anna Martin

Students Win at SKILLS USA Competition!

On April 4th-5th students from Southern High School traveled to Baltimore, MD to compete in The 41st Annual Skills USA Maryland State Championship. The students were accompanied by Jared Roth, machine tool teacher, and Loren Bowser, carpentry teacher. Kevin Harris, Justin Peck, and Cody Richter competed in cabinet making, and Devon Tracey and Zach Shreve competed in precision machine technology. Of these students, three placed in the top three in their competition areas. Zach Shreve had a 3rd place win in precision machine technology and Devon Tracey had a 1st place win in precision machine technology. Kevin Harris placed 2nd in the cabinet making competition. Devon Tracey will go on to Kansas City, Missouri in June to represent the state of Maryland at the national competition. Congratulations SHS Students!

SKILLS USA Medal Winners from left to right are: Zach Shreve, Devon Tracey, and Kevin Harris

Stream Restoration Efforts—NHS and Swan Meadow Team Up!

Swan Meadow and NHS students combined their resources and conducted stream quality analysis on April 8 in the Cove area. Personnel from the DNR and Friends of Deep Creek Lake were also on hand to offer their expertise for the project. Both NHS and Swan Meadow are recipients of the Governor’s “Schoolshed” Grants which help to support their environmental efforts as they seek to identify problem stream areas and problem-solve to create innovative solutions. Through their efforts, area stream health is improving, habitats are being restored, and species are returning to areas previously unfit for living. Thanks go out to all the area agencies, parents/guardians, farmers, landowners, students, and faculty for their concern for our environment and their efforts to work collaboratively to improve our region!
A delegation of students representing Garrett County middle and high schools attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) in Ocean City, MD on March 26 - March 28, 2014. Delegates from Northern High, Southern High, and Northern Middle attended General Assembly meetings, voted on state officers, presented Regional Reports, attended various workshops and heard keynote speakers, A’ric Jackson and Kent Julian. Nearly 1000 students and advisors from throughout Maryland attended the event.

Mr. Seth Bagley (Northern HS/GCASC Vice-President) addressed the entire crowd during General Assembly on the final day and presented the Regional Report on behalf of Ms. Annie Fratz (GCASC President) who was unable to attend.

For more information about local, state, or national opportunities for student leadership, please contact Michelle Harman at 301-334-9811.