Season’s Greetings!

The highlights since the last Newsletter include the Maryland Assessment Group Conference or MAG, Student Educational Planning Guide (SEPG) meeting with High School Principals and Guidance Counselors, MASC Fall Leadership Conference in Frederick, Southern Regional Education Board Transition Course Planning and all the exciting December events scheduled for the coming weeks.

At MAG, I selected workshops that were specific to STEM, NextGen Science, and Common Core. I collected some great information and support materials to assist us as we continue to move forward with changes to curriculum. The high point of this event was the Key Note closing speaker, Stephen Pruitt who is the leader of the NextGen Science Standards movement. He was fantastic and provided great information about NextGen and plans for implementation.

The SEPG meeting was held at GC and we worked on updates to change the percent grade reporting to a 4.0 GPA. We examined policy/procedures related to this as well as changes to the planning guide. The change to 4.0 reporting should take place following approval from the BOE at (hopefully) the December 10 meeting.

Students from NH and NX joined Allegany County students to attend the Fall Leadership Conference sponsored by Linganore HS. They had a fantastic time, made new friends and learned about many leadership topics.

I am a member of the team working on Transition Courses for College and Career Readiness. We began to meet last week and will continue until we have reported on the seven required points from SB 740. I will also be a member of the six person team attending the SREB Training for Transition Courses in Atlanta, GA, sponsored by SREB and coordinated by MSDE.

As always, if there are any items of particular interest to your school that might fall under Secondary Education/College and Career Readiness, please contact me.

Michelle Harman
**Science Safety**

Five minutes—that's all it takes—to quickly inspect the safety equipment in your lab. According to the OSHA Laboratory Standard, safety equipment should be checked on a regular basis. This checklist from Flinn Scientific makes regular inspections easy!

Your copy of Flinn's "Five-Minute Safety Inspection" is available at: http://www.flinnsci.com/sndecember13

Make sure to share this edition of Flinn's Science Department Safety Training Notes at your next department meeting; your fellow teachers will appreciate this simple way to evaluate the safety equipment in their labs too.

Thank you for ordering from Flinn!
Every time you order from Flinn you help support our efforts to improve safety in school science labs.

Very truly yours,
Larry Flinn
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**ANTI-BULLYING MESSAGE**

Danny, 6-year-old teased:

Band of elementary schoolmates rally around boy to stop teasing

After the group of fifth-grade football players from Massachusetts found out their 6-year-old water boy was being teased for his attire and speech, they played great defense and showed him their support.

Posted: 11/23/2013

By: WCVB staff
BRIDGEWATER, Mass. - Even the most stoic person might shed a tear at the goodness found in a group of boys.

After the group of fifth-grade football players from Massachusetts found out their 6-year-old water boy was being teased for his attire and speech, they played great defense and showed him their support. As ABC affiliate WCVB reports, Danny is a first-grader in Bridgewater, Mass. He has a small speech impediment developed after a brain hemorrhage he had shortly after he was born. And he's the fiercely loved water boy for the fifth-grade football team. His fifth-grade teammates found out other kids were picking on Danny for wearing a tie and jacket -- and for his speech impediment. Instead of lashing out, though, the boys decided to use their football skills to good use and planned a great defense. Watch the video below for a smile you won't be able to get rid of all day.

Video:

Read more:

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**MASC Fall Leadership Conference: Students Participate in Leadership Conference in Frederick**

Students from Northern High School and Northern Middle School joined students from Allegany County as they made the trip to the Fall Leadership Conference sponsored by Linganore/Frederick County on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The theme of the conference was "Launch. Land. Lead." Nearly 500 students from across Maryland attended Saturday's event. Students participated in a variety of workshops, learned about the MASC state charity for this year and participated in round tables, mock general assemblies, etc. Workshop topics included Parliamentary Procedure, Service, Campaigning, Ethical Decisions, Advocacy, School Spirit, Environmental Responsibility, Leadership, Empowerment, Motivation and Extemporaneous Speaking.

Students who attended said that the conference offered great information, opportunities for meeting and networking and was a valuable tool for leadership development.

Upcoming events sponsored by Student Government at the local, regional, or state level include GCASC Meeting on December 14, Maryland Leadership Workshops at FSU on January 15, Legislative Session at Allegany (state-wide event) on February 8, Lobbying Day on February 24, and Maryland State Convention on March 26 - 28, 2014.
Southern High Art Students Decorate Tree for Dove Center Event

The art students at Southern High are putting the finishing touches on the Paint Me a Peacock Christmas tree in honor of Samantha Gibson and sponsored by Samantha Funding the Arts Foundation! The tree was featured at the Dove Center Festival of Trees over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

These are the art students at Southern High working on handmade ornaments for the "Paint Me a Peacock Christmas" tree for the Festival of Trees, Garrett County MD. It is so great to have them involved in helping two organizations, Dove Center and Samantha Funding The Arts Foundation!

Save the date and your Christmas shopping money!

Silent Night, Silent Auction

Date: December 6, 2013
Time: 5:00 pm. - 8:00pm.
Place: Northern High School Cafeteria

Tickets are $3.00 in advance and $5.00 at the door.
See Mrs. Berger or any member of the NHS student council.
Light refreshments will be provided.

Exciting items include:
Steelers Tickets
Ravens Tickets
Gift cards for fun family activities
Gift cards from local restaurants and businesses
Themed Christmas Baskets
And much more!!

This event is sponsored by the NHS Student Government Association.
Join us for a night of festivities, food, and fun!
Proceeds benefit the Dove Center & Winter Wish Week.

SHS Performance of Shrek

Bring your family and come see Shrek: The Musical this week at Southern High School!
Thursday-Saturday at 8pm, $5 admission!

Policy and Procedure Changes

Guidance, Principals and Secondary Education met to review all policies and procedures related to converting to a 4.0 GPA reporting scale. Many colleges and universities request that student grades be reported to them on the 4.0 scale so converting to 4.0 will save time when providing student information to these institutions. Percentage scores will still be available and reported as well.

The recommended changes include awarding 1.0 point for AP courses, 0.5 for Honors and 0.25 for Merit. The changes to the policies and procedures should be heard by the Board of Education at the upcoming meeting December 10, 2013.

Service Learning

Following the November BOE meeting, the Implementation Plan proposed for changes to Service Learning will now go into effect. No changes will occur this year but advisory groups will be formed as well as a study of current practices and transitions necessary as we implement the new system.

The new system will be phased in with a final requirement of 50 hours of embedded service learning in middle school, 10 in high school with 15 independent hours in proposal to award high Learning, beginning in be explored. Students beginning in 6th grade to grades 9-12. The pre-school credit for Service middle school will also could bank extra hours gain high school credit.
Good News about our students and staff!

Recycled Art Contest Held at Garrett College

The Garrett Arts Council is exhibiting selected sculptures from the contest from November 15 to December 6, 2013. "Rethink Recycling" Sculpture Exhibit, The Gallery Shop, 206 E. Alder Street, Oakland will be displaying entries from the recent recycled art contest sponsored by Garrett County Solid Waste and Recycling. Sculptures created by local high school students are available to view during regular business hours of 10 AM - 5 PM.

For more information --> http://www.garrettcounty.org/solid-waste-recycling/annual-rethink-recycling-sculpture-competition

Operation Christmas Child at SHS

The Foster D. Bittle Chapter of the National Honor Society recently conducted a shoe box drive for Operation Christmas Child at Southern Garrett High School. Thirty-one different classes in the school sponsored 40 boxes full of holiday goodies and necessities for boys and girls ages 10-14 living in Third World countries.

"The generosity of the students and their teachers was overwhelming. National Honor Society members and probationary members were really touched that the school embraced the initiative in such a manner. " Honor Society advisor Heather Savage said. "The boxes were overflowing with donated items. The students and teachers put a lot of thought and heart into this act of giving."

The members and probationary members of the National Honor Society also have donated service to Landon's Pumpkin Run and recently wrapped up their annual Canned Food Drive for the House of Hope. Over 800 non-perishable food items were collected school-wide and will be donated to the House of Hope's pantry.