



# **MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

## *Parent Newsletter*

### **Principal's Address**

Since we have come to the end of the first nine weeks grading period, let me take a few moments of your time to update you of what is happening here at Mountain Ridge High School. The administration and staff are working diligently to keep our students progressing toward proficiency and to make sure Mountain Ridge High School continues to make Adequate Yearly Progress according to No Child Left Behind. We are also setting the foundation as we transition toward the Maryland Common Core State curriculum. To assist with the implementation of the new curriculum in the next three years, we have developed a transition plan that is part of the county's plan and our School Improvement Plan. At this time we are taking the "toe in the water approach" as opposed to the "jumping in head first approach." We are in the process of analyzing and comparing our current Voluntary State Curriculum and practices with the new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum. Through the guidance of the administration and the SIT Team, we have started generating dialogue and discussion in our monthly department meetings as well as our newly formed Professional Learning Communities. These groups will be instrumental as the year progresses.

As you can see, we are working diligently to make Mountain Ridge High School one of the best high schools in the state and to provide the best education possible for our students.

**Sincerely,**

*Mr. Morgan*



## Guidance News

*By: Keleigh Hunter*

Presently the Guidance Office has been busy with visits from college recruiters. Recruiters have visited Mountain Ridge from

Randolph – Macon, UMBC, Allegany college of Maryland, Hood, West Virginia University, St. Francis and Frostburg State Univer-

sity. Mountain Ridge has also started a college bound bulletin board for each student who has been accepted to college.

## Health Room Updates

*By: Malia Bailey*

The Flu Season is right around the corner. Mrs. Cook, school nurse, wants everyone to be prepared because this illness is going around. One way you can protect yourself and those around you is by fre-

quently washing your hands. Another way is by getting the flu vaccine at the Allegany Health Department. This agency is located at 12501 Willow Brook Road Cumberland. Flu shots are available every Wednes-

day at the Health Department from 8:30 A.M.— 12:00 P.M. and from 1:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M. If you have any questions or for more information please call 301-759-5055 or contact Mrs. Cook.



## Mountain Ridge After-School Program has begun

*By: Erin Weimer*

The After-School Program at Mountain Ridge has begun for the 2011-2012 school year. Permission forms can be turned in at any time. The After-School program consists of activities using music, recreation, computers,

video games, board games, weight room, cooking class, Tech Ed projects, and Art projects. This year there are currently 57 students enrolled and 10 faculty members involved. The first field trip for the after school program was a

trip to the movies at the Country Club Mall on November 3, 2011. The next field trip will be to The Sherwood Bowling Alley. The date will be announced at a later time.

## Journalism students headed to New York

*By: Haylee Wilson*

The Journalism classes are headed to New York City in March of 2012. The students are going to a journalism conference at Columbia University that will last from March 14-17. The cost of the trip is very expensive, so the journalism students have

been fundraising tremendously. The students have been selling raffle tickets for a snack food basket, a hoagie sale, and a Spirit Night at the Chic-fil-A in the Country Club Mall. The students are expecting to have many more fundraisers in the months leading

towards March and would appreciate any help from the students and community. If you know any journalism students, ask them about their fundraisers. They would be glad to have you buy something.

## Yearbook Updates

*By: Sadie Beal*

It's that time of year to order the 2011-2012 Mountain Ridge Meridian. Yearbook order forms have been sent out and should be received by mail. Order

books early to get discounted prices! Senior Vanity Ads are presently being sold. All ads were due by November 23, 2011. Bre Grove and Niki Folk are this year's

co-editors of the yearbook. If you have any questions contact Mrs. Marchbank in room 131.

## Mountain Ridge Cross Country Team finishes the successful season

*By: Nilufer Ozcan*

On Thursday, October 13, 2011, The 2011 Mountain Ridge Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Team became Allegany County Champions at Allegany College of Maryland. Alexis DeVault and Hlynur (Ice) Andresson both places first. Alexis finished with a time of 21:31, while

Hlynur finished with a time of 18:07.

Later on in the season, on November 3, the team traveled to Smithsburg to compete in the regional competition.

The girls dominated the race, becoming Regional Champions for the first time in Mountain Ridge history. The boys fin-

ished the race in third place.

The following weekend, on Saturday, November 12, the team traveled to Hereford High School for the state meet. The girls came in third out of ten teams while the boys came in sixth. The team ended the season with success and set high expectations for next year.

## Mountain Ridge holds girls' soccer senior night

*By: Jocelyn Hoffman*

On October 20, the senior members of the Mountain Ridge Girls Soccer Team were recognized. Those being honored included: Kaylee Devore, Kayla Kirk, Kaitlin Lem-

mert, Kelsey Miller, Kendra Miller, Abby Beal, Paige Wagoner, and Emily Grieg.

Coach Mauzy stated that this group of seniors have given much to the Mountain Ridge soccer pro-

gram, and they will be missed very much. Also, Coach Mauzy stated that the coaches know they all will be successful in college. She hopes that they will come back and visit often.

## Mountain Ridge volleyball team joins fight against cancer

*By: Linda Cheshire*

The 2011 Mountain Ridge Volleyball Team raised \$550 from attendance at the Mountain Ridge vs. Allegany game on October 3, 2011. These proceeds went to Mrs. Betty K. Murray to help battle medical expenses incurred from her third bout with cancer. The team also partici-

pated in the Making Stands Against Breast Cancer Walk and raised \$1,800 in donations. The volleyball team has participated in the Breast Cancer Walk for the past two years, and always strives to help the fight against cancer.

The volleyball team also went on a road trip to see

the three-time National Champions, Penn State Volleyball Team on October 19, 2011. The girls have traveled to Penn State for the past three years to watch the games and enjoy how a college level team plays.

## Diamonds dance hard to shine

By: Nilufer Ozcan

Every day during 7<sup>th</sup> period, The Mountain Ridge Diamonds have been practicing hard and learning new dance routines. The Winter Camp was held at Mountain

Ridge High School from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.. Nicki Brehm was in charge of the team and taught them four new dances. Senior Captain, Michelle Russ stated,

“The squad is shaping up quite nicely, and there’s always room for improvement. We hope to have a continuously successful year”.



## Fellowship of Christian Athletes holds weekly meetings

By: Sadie Beal

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. in the Media Center. Members of this group went to Berkeley Springs High School for a Fields of Faith 2011 Program. The leadership

team is planning some great future meetings dealing with issues teens currently face from a biblical perspective. Dustin Darby, Montana Bradley, Amanda Duvall, and Kylie Humbertson all attended

Fields of Faith. The FCA will be attending ROCK Youth Conference January 20-22, 2012 in Ocean City, Maryland. FCA t-shirts are for sale for \$17.00. If interested, contact Mr. Rob Duncan.

## Students attend Sherman Alexie presentation

By: Nilufer Ozcan

On Friday, September 24, approximately 35 students in Advanced Placement Language and Literature classes from Mountain Ridge High School attended a field trip at the Allegany College Theater. The guest speaker was Sherman

Alexie, an award-winning Native American author. During the presentation, Sherman discussed his book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Besides discussing his book, Alexie also shared some of the ob-

stacles he faced throughout his life and shared his perspectives on religion and race. The A.P. students who attended this lecture were pleased with the outcomes of the event and will be reading his book in the nearby future.

## Juniors Compete in 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Mathematics Contest

*By: Haylee Wilson*

A team of ten juniors competed in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Mathematics Contest Wednesday, November 16, 2011. The team included Taylor Buffenmyer, Emma Godfrey, Tyler Perske, Shea Hormuth, Rachel Boch, Sabrina Ridenour, Alexis Devault, Annabelle Hegeman, Nick DeMichele, and Madison Willey.

The competition took place at Allegany College of Maryland.

The team will compete against other schools in the area for a first place prize of a \$1,000 scholarship to Allegany College of Maryland. Monetary scholarship awards will be given to the top ten individual finishers. A team certificate was pre-

sented to the school with the highest team score, which was determined by the top three students. Mountain Ridge student Racheal Boch placed 3rd in the competition, with Nick DeMichele placing 10th in the competition. The awards ceremony was held on November 30 in the College Center Theatre.

## Freshman English Classes

*By: Keleigh Hunter*

Honors students in Mrs. Bonsell's ninth grade English classes are finishing up reading *Great Expectations*. They will soon start to read the story *The Outsiders*. Right now they

are learning the parts of speech and sentence structure Mrs. Bonsell would also like to recognize the students who have the highest grade in their class. Period 1: Josie Guyton; Period 2:

Ashlyn Hormuth; Period 3: Sabrina Colmer; Period 5: Addie Lauder; Period 6: Daniel Jones; and Period 7: Kori Mills.

## Students excel in Mrs. Malec's English classes

*By: Linda Chesire*

The students in Mrs. Malec's English classes are reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The classrooms walls are covered with students' visual depictions of various setting and characters from the book. Mrs. Malec encourages anyone to come and see them in room 147. For the past three years Mrs.

Malec's students have been drawing and making the different pictures to get a better understanding about the setting and characters in the novel. Logan Chesire stated, "This class so far has taught me inspirational ideas to be creative, and work to the best of my ability."

Students in Mrs. Malec's English classes have demonstrated hard work and dedication to their school work. Students that she would like to recognize are Ashleigh Clise, Tyler Perske, Jacob Kyle, Markiee Fike, and Cody Lyons. These students have excelled and have the highest grades for their class for

## French classes attend concert

*By: Kelly Workman*

Mrs. Eberly's French classes had the opportunity to attend a concert on November 2, 2011, at Allegany High School. The concert featured French singer and

songwriter Eric Vincent, who is currently touring North America for a two month period. Vincent interacted with the forty-two students who attended by having them

sing along and by quizzing them on French words. Mrs. Eberly also stated that Vincent is an outstanding guitarist.

## Mountain Ridge Spanish Club holds first meeting

*By: Keleigh Hunter*

The Mountain Ridge Spanish Club held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year. Elections were held for officers. Plans were made for the remainder of the school year and included a Latin dance session, and afterwards

“merienda” at El Canelo Restaurant. The Spanish club will also have a guest speaker and other cultural activities in the near future.

Mrs. O'Brian would like to recognize the 2011-2012 Spanish Club Officers: President-

Sabrina Ridenour; Vice-President- Mark Manwani; Secretary- Nick DeMichele; and Treasurer- Katie Frantz. The Spanish Club membership is open to any Mountain Ridge student who has an interest in the cultures of Latin America and Spain.

## Progress in Spanish Classes

*By: Malia Bailey*

Ms. Heather Malec, Spanish teacher at Mountain Ridge High School stated that her Spanish classes have been working very hard this year. During the month of October, her Spanish I class has completed greeting conversations. Also during the

month of October, her Spanish II class completed conversations expressing emotions and giving advice to handle emotions.

Many students have excelled in her classes this year. Students she would like to recognize are: Karlee

Raines, James Kirk, Aaron Winters, Daniel Blair, Jessica Smith, David Cotton, Daniel Jones, and Billy Everett. These students not only have a positive attitude in class, but also have shown a superior work effort.



## Ms. Griffith's class plans for poetry competition

*By: Caleb Fazenbaker*

Ms. Griffith's Grade 10 English classes have been focusing on styles of narration and rewriting the ending of the short story, "The Boar Hunt." They also

completed their first quarter benchmarks. During the month of November, Ms. Griffith's class focused on completing poetry, which will feed into this year's

The Poetry Out Loud competition was held at Mountain Ridge on December 6 in the theater.

## Students receive iSafe training

*By: Jocelyn Hoffman*

Students in grades 9-12 have taken iSafe training with Ms. Durst, the Media Specialist, and their English teachers. This training

focused on using the internet and computers safely at home and at school.

Ms. Durst also wants to announce that the library

has received new books and the online card catalog is available at the schools Moodle website.

## Students urged to take math classes

*By: Caleb Fazenbaker/ Ms., Kyte*

Students who do not take a math class their senior year are very likely to fail college placement tests. These students are often placed into a high school level math class, usually one they have already taken,

costing them or their parents hundreds of dollars. Further, since these students are not taking a college-level class, they are not receiving credit for these classes! Moral: Take a math class your senior year! There are

many math course offerings in Allegany County. Contact your child's math teacher or guidance counselor for suggestions on a class appropriate for his or her ability and needs.

## Don't Get Left Behind!

*By: Caleb Fazenbaker/ Ms.. Kyte*

Did you know that 85% of college freshman taking Calculus I have already taken it in high school? Also, Calculus I is required for more and more majors. Students who took Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and opt out of calculus are putting themselves at a

distinct disadvantage. What should you and your child do to get ready for calculus? Students must take Algebra I and II, Geometry and Trigonometry prepare for Calculus. Make sure your child is keeping up doing their best work in Geometry, AlgebraII and

Trigonometry. Challenge them to take Honors classes if they can. Both Calculus I and AP Calculus are offered in Allegany County. Contact your child's math teacher or guidance counselor for further details.

## Organizations sponsor service activities

*By: Caleb Fazenbaker*

NHS sponsored a Blood Drive on Tuesday, November 8 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gym at Mountain Ridge. Donors 16 or younger could donate blood with a permission from a parent. Anyone over 17 didn't need a permission form. Refreshments were served to donors. The

Honor Society would like to thank the following businesses for all of their help with the project: Fat Boys Pizza, Auntie Ann's, Chick-Fil-A, Martin's, Lorenzo's Bakery, Cici's Pizza, M&M Bakery, Armstrong Insurance, and McDonalds.

Students Helping

Other People will also be holding some events in the upcoming months. S.H.O.P. recently went to Beall Elementary to talk with students about making healthy choices. They also wore Red Ribbons all week to draw attention to being drug, alcohol and tobacco free.

## Freshman visit Career Center

*By: Kelly Workman*

On November 15, 2011, the Center for Career and Technical Education held its Eleventh Annual Ninth- Grade Career Developmental Program. The visitation was for any ninth

grader in the Allegany County High School system who is interested in attending the Career Center in the future. Students chose two skill areas that they could explore while at the Career Center. For fur-

ther information about the Center for Career and Technical Education, please contact Mr. Stan Eisel, Guidance Counselor at 301-689-3377.



## Ms. Pein's Art students strengthen their art skills

*By: Erin Weimer*

Ms. Pein's Art I students are currently competing projects to reinforce and strengthen their basic art skills and knowledge. Art II students are completing high contrast self-portraits. Art III and IV students are preparing to paint a large canvas based on their favorite

songs.

Ms. Pein would like to recognize students who excelled in her classes during the first nine weeks. Art I students selected are: Chris Peppin, Ben Devore, Amy Blank, Kayla Bowers, Evan Deneen, Mellani Morris, Ethan Morton, Tessa

Ceppaluni, and Jarred Morns. Art II students include: Wesley Wamsley and Shayla Emerick. Art III and IV students recognized are Tessa Broadwater and Ben Bowers.

## ECO spreads awareness throughout Mountain Ridge

*By: Linda Chesire*

Environmental Concerns Organization (ECO) started off the year hard at work at Mountain Ridge. Members of ECO showed their concern for the environment by placing stickers on the paper towel dispensers throughout the school. By placing these stickers on the dispensers, the

students are reminded that paper towels come from trees. Two students who especially showed their interest in the environment were Tara Holshey and Beth Meredith, who spearheaded this project. Every year Mr. Kozikowski and the members of ECO work diligently to show the students of Mountain

Ridge just what they can do to care for the environment. Teaching other students about how to be environmental friendly is a key to being an ECO member.

## Students attend first Reality Fair

*By: Haylee Wilson*

Students in the Financial Literacy classes attended the first annual Reality Fair on October 13 at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds. Students got to experience what it is like to live in the real world. The students had the chance to practice applying for loans and

planning for their future financially.

Many students realized that living on their own is challenging. Also, realizing their parents do it every day, students are more willing to help their parents out financially. The Financial Literacy teachers, Mrs. Myers, Mrs. De-

vens, and Mrs. Goodwin, plan to give the students who will be taking the class in the second semester the chance to also have this real life experience.

## Students prepare for Envirothon Competition

*By: Kelly Workman*

On October 25, 2011, Envirothon training was held under the direction of Mrs. Byzon. This training was for any student who plans to attend the Envirothon Competition in the spring. Envirothon members include: Beth Meredith, Brea Ishler, Charles Duke, Claire Romaine, Diana Whitman, Dustin Darby, Georgia

Grace Edwards, Hunter Barclay, Jennifer Bray, Jessica Smith, Karli Hakala, Kierston Biggs, Kiya Wilhelm, Kristie Whiteman, Kyle Harris, Madison Offstein, Madison Willey, Mark Manwani, Matthew Clark, Missy Hanson, Myrissa Green, Sabrina Ridenour, Tara Holshey, and Victoria Winebrenner.

The Maryland Science Bowl will take place on January 14, 2012, at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. The Ocean Science Bowl will take place on February 4, 2012 in Virginia. Students participating in these events will be working under the direction of Mrs. Byzon.

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# Calendar

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- Dec. 7:** National Honor Society Induction at 6:30 p.m. in theater
- Dec. 13:** Band and Chorus Winter Concert
- Dec. 15:** Mountain Ridge Performing Art's Spirit Night at Cici's Pizza 4:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
Mount Savage Middle School Winter Concert 7:00 P.M.
- Dec. 22:** 3 hour early dismissal for Christmas Break
- Dec. 22—Jan. 2 : Schools closed for Christmas Break
- Jan. 2: Schools reopen
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## Fundraisers:

**5X7 Photo Mats-** For more information or to purchase one, see one of the MRHS cheerleaders.

**Stadium Cushions-** For more information or to purchase one, see Mrs. Kenny or one of the MRHS Diamonds.

**Miner Magnets-** For more information or to purchase one see one of the MRHS cheerleaders.

**Christmas Candy Canes-** The newspaper staff will be selling candy canes for 50 cents each in the cafeteria on December 1 through December 16.

## Staff:

**Editors-In-Chief: Kelly Workman and Nilufer Ozcan**

Sadie Beal

Malia Bailey

Linda Cheshire

Caleb Fazenbaker

Keleigh Hunter

Jocelyn Hoffman

Erin Weimer

Haylee Wilson

