

BLAZER

Volume 8 Issue 2

October/November 2002

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire staff of Montgomery Blair High School, I extend a heartfelt welcome to every family in the Blair community. This year will be especially exciting and busy for all involved. The staff is engaged in several exciting professional development programs that will result in improved teaching and learning in the classroom. As we continue training our teachers in different instructional approaches, we will raise the level of instruction for your child. We are also continuing to develop the courses for the Academies. We expect the Academies not only to help increase the rigor of our instructional program for each of our students but also to help students see and progress down career pathways.

The opening of school was very successful. We were especially pleased with the results of bringing the ninth grade students in on the first day of school and all other students in on the second day. This enabled the ninth grade students to have a smooth transition into high school without the distraction of having several thousand other students in the building. We have also instituted a number of initiatives directed at improving the academic performance of our ninth grade students. On October 9, the entire instructional staff of the Blair Cluster (over 1,100) will participate in a cluster-wide writing conference sponsored by Blair here at Blair.

We will continue to work on improving communications from the school. Parents should stay in touch with their son's/daughter's teachers and counselor — don't wait for problems to develop before contacting the school. Call or e-mail to keep informed on how your son/daughter is doing in his/her classes or to give the teacher positive feedback. Each department has several telephones within the department. You can call directly into the desired department (bypassing the office secretary) to speak with or leave a message for the teacher. The direct department numbers are listed in the **Parent Handbook**. The **Parent Handbook** and of course, the **PTSA Newsletter (Blazer)** are efforts to help keep you informed. They contain important information that we hope parents find useful. For those of you who have access to the Internet, we have **BEN (Blair Educational Network)**. Through **BEN**, parents and students can monitor the activities of teachers' classes. There are also many other components of **BEN** that parents will find very useful — so please call the school to sign up.

Pedestrian safety still remains a major concern at Blair. Please insist that your child cross the four-lane highways around the school only at controlled intersections. Parents are reminded that parking permits have been issued, and only those students having a valid school parking permit should be allowed to drive to school. Parking without a valid parking permit will result in the vehicle being towed. Illegally parking in the nearby communities or on the nearby commercial lots will also result in the vehicle being towed. Parents, please help us to assure our students' safety by dropping off and picking up passengers **only** on the Colesville Road side of the building. Nor should you enter the student parking lot or mingle with the buses.

Please support Blair by participating in the PTSA, the athletic, band or choral boosters, or by volunteering at the school. The PTSA meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

Sincerely,

Phillip F. Gainous
Principal

Montgomery Blair High School on the Web at www.MBHS.EDU

Estimados padres :

En nombre de todo el personal de la escuela Montgomery Blair, les extendiendo una cordial bienvenida a todas las familias de la comunidad de Blair.

Este año sera lleno de entusiasmo y muy ocupado para todas las personas que esten interesadas. El personal esta atareado participando en varios programas de desarrollo profesional que les ayudara a desarrollar tecnicas de enseñanza y aprendizajes para poner en practica en las clases. Cuando continuamos dandoles entrenamiento a lo maestros en los diferentes metodos de enseñanza, aumentamos el nivel de instrucción de sus hijos. Tambien continuamos con el desarrollo de los cursos para las academias del consorcio. Esperamos que las academias, no solo aumenten el nivel de nuestro programa educativo, si no que tambien les ayuden a los estudiantes a descubrir y progresar en sus metas hacia sus carreras profesionales.

El comienzo de la escuela fue de mucho exito. Nos agrada ver el resultado al permitir a los estudiantes de noveno grado comenzar la escuela el primer dia de clases y resto de los estudiantes el segundo dia . Esto les ayuda a los estudiantes de noveno grado a tener una transicion mejor a la escuela secundaria, sin tener la distraccion de otros miles de estudiantes en el edificio. Tambien hemos implementado varias programas para mejorar el rendimiento academico de los estudiantes de noveno grado. El 9 de octubre, todo el personal de instruccion (mas de 1,100 personas) de las escuelas del grupo de Blair participaron en una conferencia de escritura patrocinado por la escuela Montgomery Blair y se llevara a cabo en Blair.

Vamos a continuar trabajando para mejorar la comunicacion entre la escuela y los padres. Los padres deben de mantenerse en comunicacion con los maestros y consejeros de sus hijos. No esperen hasta que hayan problemas para comunicarse con la escuela. Llamen a los maestros o escribanles pare mantenerse informados sobre el progreso de sus hijos. Cada departamento tiene varios telefonos. Ustedes pueden llamar directamente al departamento que deseen para hablar o dejar mensaje a los maestros. Los numeros directos de los departamentos los pueden encontrar en la guia para los padres. La guia para los padres, y el boletin de la asociacion de padres (PTSA) son formas de mantenerles informados. Estos contienen informacion util para los padres. Para aquellos que tienen acceso al internet, tenemos el sistema BEN (Blair Educational Network) Por medio de BEN los padres pueden informarse de las actividades en las clases de los maestros de su hijos. Tambien hay otros componentes del sistema BEN que son utiles para los padres. Llamen a la escuela para inscribirse.

La seguridad de los peatones continua siendo una de las mayores preocupaciones de Blair. Por favor, insistanle a sus hijos que crucen las calles en las intersecciones controladas por los semaforos. Se les recuerda a los padres que los permisos de estacionamiento ya se han asignado y solo los estudiantes que tienen un permiso valido se les permitira manejar a la escuela. Los autos estacionados sin permiso seran remolcados. El estacionamiento ilegal en en los vecindarios cerca de la escuela o en los estacionamientos comerciales tambien sera causa para que los autos sean remolcados. Padres, por favor, ayudennos con la seguridad de los estudiantes dejando y recogiendo a sus hijos en el estacionamiento sobre la calle Colesville. No entre con los buses o al estacionamiento de los estudiantes.

Por favor apoyen las actividades de Blair participando con la asociacion de padres (PTSA) en la recaudacion de fondos para la banda, el coro, los equipos de deportes o haciendo trabajo voluntario en la escuela. Las reuniones de la asociacion de padres (PTSA) se llevan a cabo el tercer martes de cada mes a las 7:30 PM

Atentamente, Phillip F. Gainous

PTSA Presidents' Letter

The first month of school has flown by, and the beginning of another school year at Montgomery Blair HS is underway. The Parent/Teacher/Student Association extends a warm welcome to our new and returning families. We hope that each of you will join with us to support our students, teachers, administrators and staff.

Become connected with Blair—volunteer at school. Meet your student's friends. Stay involved with your student's life at school. Subscribe to the PTSA e-mail list. (instructions below.)

This year the PTSA will focus on several areas:

- **Academic Achievement:** Are all our students learning what they will need to know in order to succeed after high school? Are students taking responsibility for their education—by attending school, completing assignments, participating in class and asking for assistance when they need help?
- **Outreach and Communications:** How can we involve more families in school activities? How can families find out school information?
- **Safety:** How can our streets and sidewalks be improved to protect students? How can parents learn the safe way to drop off and pick up their students? How can drivers be made to obey traffic laws?
- **Respect:** How can we all help create a school climate that is based on mutual respect between students, staff and parents?

Please join us.

Marilyn Shoenfeld and Valerie Ervin

PTSA e-mail list

To subscribe to the discussion group, send a blank message to blairptsanet-subscribe@egroups.com. For *information only* messages posted by the PTSA presidents, send a blank message to: blairptsapresident-subscribe@egroups.com.

BEN

Blair Education Network is an easy, convenient way to e-mail teachers or check on assignments. You can reach BEN through the Blair Web address www.mbhs.edu or directly at www.ben.mbhs.edu. Fill out the on-line request form to receive access to BEN. If you have BEN questions, e-mail BENhelp@mbhs.edu

From the Parent Community Coordinator...

Beatriz Mendoza 301-649-2821

Welcome to another exciting year at Montgomery Blair High School. By now some of you had the opportunity to meet your child's teacher at Back to School Night.

We want this to be a successful year for all our students and we know that sometimes you may have concerns or questions about your child's educational program. When you do, we want to hear from you, as soon as possible, so that together we can address any problems early, before they grow. To help us resolve concerns in a constructive way, we would like to share the following process:

Preparing for the meeting

- Define the problem for us. What do you think may be contributing to the problem?
- Gather examples that will help us better understand the problem.
- List several possible solutions to the problem.

Contacting the school

- Contact the teacher.

Together, you and the teacher can identify the nature of the concern, review pertinent facts and outline the next steps. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, or if you are uncomfortable talking to the teacher then:

- Contact the grade level administrator.

The grade level administrator will follow the same step as the teacher in addressing your concern. Afterwards, the grade administrator will contact the teacher to share information about your discussion. You can also contact your child's counselor.

- Please call me if I can be of any assistance. Let's work together to make this a successful year for our students.

The first Hispanic parent meeting at the Long Branch Community Center will be October 16th at 7:00 PM. The center is located at 8700 Piney Branch Rd. Silver Spring.

*Parents are invited to visit
Montgomery Blair High School classes
Veteran's Day, November 11, 2002*

*Park in the Colesville Road lot and
come to the Main Office
for a visitor's pass.*

Bienvenidos a otro año escolar en la escuela Montgomery Blair. Probablemente, algunos de ustedes ya conocieron a los maestros de sus hijos cuando vinieron a la "Noche de Regreso a la Escuela. Este año queremos que todos los estudiantes tengan éxito y sabemos que algunas veces ustedes tienen algunas preocupaciones o preguntas sobre los estudios de su hijo(a). Cuando esto suceda queremos que se comuniquen con la escuela lo más pronto posible, para que podamos resolver el problema antes de que aumente. Cuando nos llamen, por favor explíquenos el problema y lo que ustedes creen es la razón que lo está causando. Denos ejemplos y como creen que se puede solucionar.

Cuando quieran comunicarse con la escuela llamen a los maestros y junto con ellos pueden identificar la causa de su preocupación y encontrar una solución. Si ustedes no está de acuerdo con el resultado pueden llamar al administrador del grado de su hijo(a) y explicarle el problema. También pueden comunicarse con el consejero(a) de su hijo(a).

Por favor llámenme si les puedo ayudar en algo.. Trabajemos juntos para el éxito de nuestros estudiantes.

La primera reunión de padres en español será el miércoles 16 de octubre a las 7:00 PM en el centro comunitario Long Branch, situado en el 8700 Piney Branch Rd. en Silver Spring. Esperamos verlos allí.

Join the Montgomery Blair PTSA

Name _____ Phone (h) _____

Address _____ Phone (w) _____

E-mail _____ Student Name(s) _____

<i>Category</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>privileges</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>privileges</i>
Basic	\$10	full membership	Educator	\$25	full membership + extra directory
Principal	\$50	above + Blair T-shirt	Superintendent	\$100	above + student performance pass
Postmaster General	\$250	all of above, including 2 season passes to all Blair home athletic events and student performances			

Make check payable to Blair PTSA and send to: PTSA Membership, 51 University Blvd East, Silver Spring, MD 20901

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!!!

Show Your Support for Public Schools

- Join the PTSA and let your child know how much you value education.
 - Keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Stay informed by reading all school communications and consulting the school's website.
 - Talk to your child's teachers and school principals throughout the year and be sure to attend PTSA meetings and other school events.
 - Talk to your friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and neighbors about how they can volunteer in their schools. Encourage them to support public schools too!
 - Subscribe to National PTA's free, electronic newsletter, This Week in Washington, to learn about legislation that affects children. Visit www.pta.org/ptawashington/index.asp# to subscribe.
- To learn more about being an advocate for public education and how the No Child Left Behind Act (commonly known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA]) will affect your child's school, see the following resources: National PTA's Guide to Effective Advocacy (available in the members' area of National PTA's website, www.pta.org), and the Parents' Guide to No Child Left Behind—available on the U.S. Department of Education website, www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov.

Middle School Workshops Planned

To help parents and students prepare for high school, the 3 Blair Cluster middle schools and the Office of the Down County Consortium have prepared 4 workshops.

- **Alternate High School Programs**, at Takoma MS, Thursday, Oct. 17, 7-9 pm
- **Blair Academies**, at Blair, Thursday, Nov. 14, 7-9 pm
- **Transition to High School**, at Eastern MS, Monday, Dec. 16, 7-9 pm
- **Planning for College, Looking Beyond High School**, (location TBA), Thursday, Jan. 23, 7-9 pm

Recycle Those Ink Cartridges

Don't throw out empty cartridges. Recycle Ink will give the PTSA \$1 for every empty ink jet, laser printer and fax machine cartridge we collect. Although most cartridges are recyclable, Recycle Ink does not accept Epson and Brother cartridges. Bring or send empty cartridges to the main office during regular school hours. Thank you for recycling and supporting the PTSA.

The Wall of Honor

Purchase a plaque for the Wall of Honor and commemorate your student's years at Blair! The funds raised are used to support Blair. For more information: call Susan Madden at 301 649-2831.

2002-2003 MBHS PTSA OFFICERS

President	Marilyn Shoenfeld shoenfel@cais.net	301 587-6197
President Elect	Valerie Ervin ErvinSolo1@aol.com	301 565-4695
VP Academic Achievement	Ana Curtis ajanckso@fcc.gov	301 593-6524
Secretary	Elsie McGuire Elsie_McGuire@McKennaCuneo.com	301 587-0510
Treasurer	Rich Celotto rcelotto@aol.com	301 593-4921
Committees/Contacts		
After Prom Coordinator	Diane Foley Diane.foley@baesystems.com	301 258-1944
Athletic Boosters	Jill Woo JillWoo@aol.com	
Black and Hispanic Coordinator	Ana Curtis ajanckso@fcc.gov	301 593-6524
Blair Cluster Rep	Deborah Stoll DJStoll@aol.com	301 891-2676
BLAST Rep	Amy Chang	
Citrus Sale	Chris Simpson	301 589-8504
Counseling Advisory	Chris Fitzgerald fitztoiv@aol.com	301 270-6460
	Fred Feinstein	301 270-2586
Directory	Laura Steinberg LMS2day@aol.com	301 589-9280
Drug & Alcohol Awareness	Carol Valoris dkidzni@erols.com	301 434-4117
Membership	Claudine Biggs Cobiggs@aol.com	301593-5251
	Carol Blythe Goodman blythe-goodman@erols.com	301 681-7569
Newsletter	Carol Lindeman kinglin@aol.com	301 589-8578
Pedestrian Access & Transportation	Pete Lafen pmlafen@aol.com	301 439-9709
Silent Auction	Elsie McGuire Elsie_McGuire@McKennaCuneo.com	301 587-0510
Staff Appreciation	Gaylene Beach rogerbeach@aol.com	301 989-3239
	Karen Fishman	301 588-9691
Volunteer Coordinator	Carolyn Packer c_henrich@pta.org	301 681-0873
Web Master	Judy Scott opatik1@aol.com	301 445-4795

..... PTSA FUND-RAISER -- CITRUS SALE

**Dear Families and Friends of
Montgomery Blair High School,**

This is the annual citrus sale, fund-raiser for the PTSA. We have been doing this for over 20 years and our citrus fruit is delivered fresh from Florida's Indian River, in time for the holidays. Your past support has been excellent and we are, once again, counting on you to help make this year's citrus sale a success. Please share this information widely, with friends, family and co-workers, and note the following:

ORDER DEADLINE:
Monday, November 18, 2002
(just before Thanksgiving)

TYPE OF FRUIT: FRESH FROM FLORIDA, INDIAN-RIVER CITRUS--Hamlin Oranges (juice Oranges); Tangelos; Navel Oranges; and Red Grapefruit.

QUANTITY: 2/5 Bushel (about 20 pounds of fruit), 4/5 bushel (about 40 pounds of fruit).

AGAIN THIS YEAR: The Indian River Gift Pack -- 20 pounds of Citrus (14 - 16 Navel Oranges and 6 -8 Red Grapefruit) plus 1/2 pound Chocolate Coconut Patties plus 8 oz. of Orange Blossom Honey plus 8 oz. of Tropical Marmalade.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Montgomery Blair High School PTSA

SEND OR MAIL ORDER FORMS TO :
PTSA Citrus Sale
c/o Montgomery Blair High School Office
51 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

DISTRIBUTION: Fruit should be available for pickup on or before **the week of December 16**. You will be contacted (so be sure to include a phone number or e-mail) to establish a pickup time in the afternoon or evening during the week or on Saturday morning.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR ORDER FORMS CALL:
Chris Simpson 301 589-8504

BLAIR PTSA CITRUS SALE (please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-mail address _____

Item	Size of Box	Number of Boxes	Price Per Box	Total Price
Navel Oranges	2/5 Bushel		\$16	
Navel Oranges	4/5 Bushel		\$27	
Red Grapefruit	2/5 Bushel		\$15	
Red Grapefruit	4/5 Bushel		\$25	
Tangelos	2/5 Bushel		\$15	
Tangelos	4/5 Bushel		\$25	
Hamlin Oranges	2/5 Bushel		\$13	
Hamlin Oranges	4/5 Bushel		\$23	
Indian River Gift Pack			\$26	

GRAND TOTAL (DUE WITH ORDER) _____

SEND OR MAIL ORDER FORMS TO :
PTSA Citrus Sale
c/o Montgomery Blair High School Office
51 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, MD 20901

VENTA DE FRUITAS PARA BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Apellido _____ Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____ Estado _____ Zip _____

Teléfonos (casa) _____ (trabajo) _____

E-mail _____

Articulo	Tamaño	Cantidad	Precio	Total
Naranjas ombligo	2/5 Bu		\$16	
Naranjas ombligo	4/5 Bu		\$27	
Toronjas Rosas	2/5 Bu		\$15	
Toronjas Rosas	4/5 Bu		\$25	
Tangelos	2/5 Bu		\$15	
Tangelos	4/5 Bu		\$25	
Naranjas Hamlin	2/5 Bu		\$13	
Naranjas Hamlin	4/5 Bu		\$23	
Indian River Gift Pack			\$26	

TOTAL (A Pagar Adjunto Con La Orden) _____

ENVIE SU CHEQUE A:
 Montgonery Blair High Shcool PTSA
 PTSA Citrus Sale
 c/o Montgomery Blair High School Office
 51 University Boulevard East
 Silver Spring, MD 20901

Estimadas familias y amigos de la escuela secundaria **Montgomery Blair:** La Asociación de Padres y Maestros está solicitando su asistencia en esta venta de frutas frescas de Florida como único evento anual para recaudación de fondos para la escuela. Estas frutas estarán disponibles a tiempo para la temporada de Navidad y días de fiesta. En el pasado esta venta ha sido un éxito gracias a su cooperación. Es por esto que una vez más estamos solicitando su asistencia. Por favor comparta esta información con su familia y amigos:

DIA FINAL PARA ORDENAR FRUTAS:
Lunes 18 do noviembre de 2002
 (justamente antes del Dia de Acción de Gracias).

TIPO DE FRUITA CÍTRICAS: Naranjas (Chinas) Hamlin, Tangelos (Toronja-Mandarinas), Naranjas de ombligo y Toronjas Rosas.

CANTIDADES: Dos quintales (20 libras de fruta); cuatro quintales (40 libras de fruta).

NUEVAMENTE ESTE ANO: India River Gift Pack: 20 libras de fruta citrica (14 a 15 naranjas y 6 a 8 toronjas) más 1/2 libra de galletas de chocolate y coco. Además, 8 onzas de miel Orange Blossom, mas 8 onzas de mermelada tropical.

ENVIE SU CHEQUE A:
 Montgomery Blair High School PTSA
 PTSA Citrus Sale
 c/0 Montgomery Blair High School Office
 51 University Boulevard East
 Silver Spring, MD 20901

DISTRIBUCIÓN: Las frutas estarán disponibles para recoger **la semana del 16 de diciembre.** Usted será informado para que venga a recogerlas en la tarde o temprano en la noche durante la semana o en la mañana del sábado.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN POR FAVOR LLAMAR A:
 Chris Simpson 301 589-8504

Counseling Advice and News

■ All parents should review the 2002-03 “Yellow Pages” (pages 23-32) in the student plan book. They contain information on graduation requirements, the college application process, the “Bridges” program, dates for SAT and ACT tests, and much more. See the Career Center Web page www.career.mbhs.edu or call the Career Office at 301 649-2819 to find out more.

■ Seniors and their parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their counselor to get started on the college selection process. See the Career Center Web page for college timetables and the dates that college and career representatives will be visiting Blair. Students can meet the visiting representatives in the Career Center, but they must first get permission in advance from the teacher of the class they will miss.

■ Juniors and seniors who are interested in the U.S. Military Academy nomination process should see Ms. Williams in the Career Office now to start the process.

■ PSAT's will be given to all 9th, 10th and 11th graders during school hours on Tuesday, October 15, 2002. Eleventh graders who want to apply for National Merit Scholarship Awards should take the test. There is a \$10 charge for 11th graders; all others take the test at no cost.

■ The PTSA Counseling Advisory Committee (formerly Guidance Advisory) will be active again this year. Regular meetings will be held at the school. If you are interested in joining the Counseling Advisory Committee, contact Fred Feinstein at 301 270-2586 or Chris Fitzgerald at 301 270-6460.

■ Check out page 5 of the Career Center Web page for **Where in the “World” are those SCHOLARSHIPS?** at <http://career.mbhs.edu/scholarships.html>

■ Blair has a new director of Counseling Services, **Karen Hunt**. We also have new counselors this year, **Jennifer Taylor, Audrick Carrasco** and **Karen Johnson**. Care was taken to make as few changes to the overall counselor assignments as possible, but students may find that they have been shifted to a new assignment.

PROGRAM COUNSELORS

CAP - Ms. Battle
 Magnet - Ms. Wood (A-K) and Ms. Wiseman (L-Z)
 Special Ed.- Mr. Lindsey
 ESOL - Ms. Ceide

REGULAR EDUCATION COUNSELORS

Grade 9 - Mr. Spears (A-J) and Ms. Carrasco (K-Z)
Grades 10-12 Ms Taylor (A-C), Ms. Johnson (D)
 Mr. Lindsey (E-G), Ms. Wood (H-I)
 Mr. Campbell (J-Ng), Ms. Johnson (Nh-Pe)
 Ms. Bailey (Pf-Tr) and Ms. Wiseman (Ts-Z)

■ Special Resume Workshops are planned for interested students on October 8, 15, 22 and 29. **Amy Henning** will be conducting a “help with your resume” workshop in the Guidance Office conference room from 10:30-12:00. Students should sign up in the Career Office for these workshops because space is limited.

■ The Career Office is excited about the new ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Program. The ASVAB is a multi-aptitude test. It consists of 8 parts and results in a career exploration score. It measures aptitudes that are related to success in different kinds of jobs. Please take a look at the site at www.asvabprogram.com A couple of the links are still being updated, but the office plans to have everything up and running by mid-November.

■ The PTSA and school staff have planned a Blair College/Career Discovery Night for November 19, at 7:00 PM. We will also have a Financial Aid Workshop on November 26th. Both events will be at Blair.

Pathways to the Future

Parents who look at the MCPS Course Bulletin know that Montgomery Blair High School offers an abundance of course selections for its students. The challenge is understanding which courses to take to reach a particular goal. Regardless of the kind of career to which a student aspires, the question is the same. Which electives should my student take?

To assist in that decision-making process, Montgomery Blair is organizing its courses into Academy programs. (Note the name change from Signature Programs to Academies.) Once students have selected the program that best suits their interests, they will use the suggested course sequences in that program as a guide in constructing their four-year plan. To assist students in identifying their interests and aptitudes so that they can choose appropriate career goals, a one-semester course called Connections (previously called E-Portfolio) is currently being piloted. In this course, students will survey the five academies by doing projects related to each one. They will also create a Web-based portfolio through which they will display their career goals, their interests, and examples of their best work from their courses. Students who are not enrolled in the Connections course will learn about the Academies through presentations in their English classes.

The Academies cover five areas: Entrepreneurship; Human Service Professions; International Studies; Media Literacy; and Science, Math, and Technology. To learn more about the Academies, follow the Academy link from Blair's web site at <http://www.mbhs.edu>. For questions, please contact Susan Ragan at 301-649-2880 or via email at sragan@mbhs.edu.

SEPTEMBER PTSA MEETING

Co-President Marilyn Shoenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. She introduced PTSA President-Elect, Valerie Ervin, and announced the PTSA's three main goals for this year: Academic Achievement, Community Outreach, and School Climate & Respect.

Pedestrian Safety: A cluster-wide Pedestrian Advisory Committee has been formed to discuss traffic concerns in and around our neighborhoods and schools. The community was invited to attend the first annual "Safe Routes to School" meeting on September 27.

Principal's Report: Mr. Gainous welcomed everyone back. He stated that consortium planning meetings will be announced soon, and encouraged everyone's participation. On October 9, Blair will host an all-day "Reading Conference" for over 1,100 cluster teachers and staff. Improvements on school grounds are underway – they include a new "chiller" to help keep the building cool; the baseball field is getting an "entrance building" complete with concession stands, lighting and a professional to fix the sound system to alleviate the noise that pours into the surrounding community during sporting events.

New Business: The Spirit Club is selling "Spirit" packages and collecting donations for the "Make A Wish Foundation." They will be accepting donations through December. Athletic Boosters need our support. They in turn support many other Blair organizations. With a \$60.00 membership, you will get a wonderful Blazer blanket perfect for football games.

SGA: **Nardos Bellete** and **Jennifer McGuire** were present on behalf of the SGA. They asked parents to chaperone at Blair's Homecoming Dance, October 12. It's a great event and parents were encouraged to sign up.

The business portion of the PTSA meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m., at which time we separated into two groups. Senior parents attended a "College Timeline" session presented by Blair's **Karen Hunt, Cathy Henderson-Stein,** and **Linda Wanner.** Everyone else attended an information session held by President-Elect Valerie Ervin. The next PTSA meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2002.

Elsie McGuire, Secretary

Giant Bonus Bucks Program

Support the SGA (Student Government Association) by registering your Giant Bonus Card and designating Blair HS as the target school. You can sign up at the service desk of your local store or online at www.Giantfood.com/bonuscard_aplus_pin.cfm. To change or sign up for school designations on your Bonus Card account, you'll need to supply both your twelve-digit card number with no spaces and the first three digits of your last name. Anyone can designate Blair, so remind your neighbors and friends to support Montgomery Blair HS today.

Student Government Report

Julie Smrek & Rondai Ravilious, SGA co-sponsors

The SGA is working hard on plans for this year's Homecoming Dance. It is planned for Saturday, October 12, 2002, from 7-11pm. Parents are invited to chaperone.

A Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, November 22, 2002. Parents should call the SGA office at 301 649-2866 if they would like to donate blood at Blair.

The SGA also plans to sponsor a voter registration drive, a walk for the homeless and a food drive later this fall.

The SGA is responsible for distributing Giant Bonus Bucks at Blair. Last year's bonus bucks were used to obtain a DVD player for the English Department. **This year we hope that all Blair parents will help us increase our bonus bucks.** Sign up at Giant, get your friends and relatives to sign up, and designate Montgomery Blair High School.

Congratulations to the 2002-2003 SGA officers:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President	Sara Furlow
Vice-president	Emma Simson
2nd V.P	Nardos Bellete
3rd V.P.	Denise Sylla
Corresponding Secretary	Julia Treseder
Treasurer	Sophie Strike
Recording Secretary	An Nguyen
Public Relations	Jennifer McGuire & Austin Oh
Community Outreach	Yodit Beru & Austin Oh
Parliamentarian	Nikki Mosuro

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS (2003)

President	Noelle Brutus
Vice-president	Eurykah Fon
Secretary	Cordelia Abrokwah
Treasurer	Rosa Lozano

JUNIOR CLASS OFFICERS (2004)

President	Charlotte Fomengia
Vice-president	Alexander Berger
Secretary	Mallory Macdonald
Treasurer	Gordon Su

SOPHOMORE CLASS OFFICERS (2005)

President	Anna Murphy
Vice-president	Vaibhav Gupta
Secretary	Shewit Woldu
Treasurer	Kathy Wang

FRESHMAN CLASS OFFICERS (2006)

President	Sebastian Johnson
Advisor to the President	Peter Newman
Vice-president	Hannah Thresher
Secretary	Jessica Bermudez
Treasurer	Nina Yang

National Merit Scholar Semifinalists Announced

Blair tops region for seventh year in a row

By Kevin Chang, Silver Chips Online Editor-in-Chief

Blair announced 31 semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program and four semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. The semifinalists were selected for their high PSAT/NMSQT scores. Students who scored over 220 cumulative points were designated Merit semifinalists. Students with scores between 200 and 220 received letters from the National Merit Scholarship Program designating them "Commended Scholars." Achievement Scholarship semifinalists were chosen in a similar fashion, but that program is open only to black students.

Blair's semifinalists this year are: **Matthew Baron, Dimitry Briskin, Kristina Cammen, Eddie Chan, Josh Chang, Kevin Chang, Sara Eldridge, Ben Gaddy, Alex Harn, Jeremy Hoffman, Samantha Hong, Kristin Hoven, Elizabeth Inkellis, Omar Karim, Evan Karlik, Dan Ku, Lisa Leung, Winston Lin, Alex Lo, David Madej, Ben Meiselman, Jacinda Moore, Nate Pancost, Tina Peng, Alex Perry, Anatoly Preygel, Jared Sagoff, Shannon Sanders, Aleks Sverdlov and Anita Umarji.**

LA Holmes, Tania Jeanty, Marcus McKay and Shannon Sanders are the Achievement Scholarship Program semifinalists.

Nationwide, 16,000 students are selected as semifinalists every year; of the 16,000, 15,000 become finalists and 8,000 of those become awards recipients and have the chance to win one of 2,500 \$2,500 scholarships and scholarships from private companies.

Senior wins award

By Kevin Chang, Silver Chips Online Editor-in-Chief

Senior **Morgan Pitts** received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Deer Park/Baltimore Orioles Environmental Service Scholarship Program. Pitts won the award for his continued participation in several programs sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB), and other internships and volunteer work. Last summer, Pitts completed his Senior Research Project evaluating the health of Little Assawoman Bay. Pitts also founded the Blair Baysavers club, which has since become a part of Students for Global Responsibility. The club was created to help improve the general environment of the Bay. Students interested in finding out more about the Baysavers or SGR in general are encouraged to attend SGR meetings at 2:15 and 3:00 on Thursdays in room 134.

Senior Graduation Package

The Graduation Package is a cost-saving way to purchase several Blair graduation items at one time. The package includes a 2003 yearbook, the literary magazine, the cap and gown, a copy of the 2003 graduation group photograph, and 5 graduation announcements.

The Graduation Package is \$92 until the end of December. On January 1, 2003, the price will be \$100 and will stay at that price until spring break. On April 22, the price will be \$105 for the remainder of the year. Purchasing the package before the end of December saves about \$40 over the cost of ordering each item separately.

Name stamping is available on the yearbook cover for an additional \$4. You must order before November 1, 2002, to get the stamping.

Checks for \$92 (\$96 if name stamping is desired) should be made payable to Montgomery Blair High School and can be mailed to Mr. Norman Stant, Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd. E, Silver Spring, MD 20901, or delivered directly to Mr. Stant in Room 135 or the English Office in Room 141.

English Department News

Vickie Adamson, English Department 301 649-2856

Used Books

The English Department is, again, asking for your used book donations. Last year, many generous families donated hundreds of great books that we featured at our "Used Book Sale and Giveaway." Paperback books were offered for a mere 25 cents, while hardbound books went for \$1. Students visited the sale over the course of a week during their lunch time, and we were almost picked clean. We raised just over \$200, and that money will go back into the general book fund to purchase new materials, as needed. The most popular selections were Oprah Book Club titles and other popular novels. Our thanks go out to the many families who donated books. We will be happy to continue accepting your donations for the end-of-the-year-kick-off-summer-reading sale. Books can be marked and left for Vickie Adamson in the English Office.

Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to **Eric Shansby** for winning \$100 in the English Department's Summer Reading Poster Contest. Eric's entry featured *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. His poster was noted for its excellent review and wonderful use of art and color. The second place prize of \$50 was awarded to **Kevin Lin** for his entry of *Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card. **Karen Martinez** received an honorable mention, also for her entry of *Ender's Shadow*. Students will have another opportunity this year to compete and win, so look for announcements.

Film Festival

The Takoma Park Film Festival, with screenings of selected professional, semi-professional and student films, is scheduled for November 9 at 8:00 PM, November 10 at 2:00 PM and at 7:00 PM, November 13 at 7:30 PM, and November 16 at 8:00 PM in the Science Theater Building of Columbia Union College. The Festival is free and open to the public. The participating filmmakers have been invited to respond to audience questions about their films at the events.

College Bound Program

Takoma Park Library is hosting its annual College Bound program series on four Tuesday evenings in October. Guest speakers include Dr. Lori Potts Dupre, giving an overview of the process of choosing and applying to college; Dr. Herm Davis, author of *Financial Aid for Dummies*, speaking on financial aid; Camille Scott, discussing the two-year college alternative; and Ilhan Cagri with her son Zeki Mokhtarzada, helping with preparation for the SATs, and giving an update on the anticipated changes in 2005. Call 301 270-1717 for more information.

Parent Encouragement Program

World-renowned parenting expert and child psychiatrist, Dr. Stanley Greenspan will present, "*Why Does My Child Do That?... and What Do I Do Now?*", on Saturday, October 19, 2002, 7:30-9:30, NOAA Auditorium, 1305 East-West Hwy. Tickets are \$15. Advanced tickets strongly suggested, call 301 929-8824. Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) offers programs throughout the year. Web address is www.ParentEncouragement.org

Blazer Alumni Association

For more information about alumni news and events, contact Montgomery Blair High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 1434, Ellicott City, MD 21042 or e-mail blairalumni@aol.com.

Hispanic Heritage Month Performance

Come embrace Latin American culture and its diverse musical sounds. Bring the entire family to enjoy a free musical performance by Bill Castillo on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Ave, SS, MD 301 777-0910.

Physical Education Reminder

PE students must: pay a \$4.00 towel fee, bring an appropriate change of clothing, bring appropriate athletic shoes, bring a water bottle. All PE students have been assigned a PE locker and should not share. Teachers will only share the combination with the assigned student.

Cynthia Changuris, Physical Education/Health Resource Teacher

CALENDAR***OCTOBER**

- 10 9th Grade Parents Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 11 Homecoming Football game, 6:30 PM
- 12 SGA Homecoming Dance 7-11 PM
- 18 No school for students and teachers; Statewide teacher conference
- 14-16 Fall Play, *Charley's Aunt*, 7:30 PM
- 15 **PTSA Meeting**, 7:30 PM, SAC
- 16 Hispanic Parents Meeting, 7:00 PM Long Branch Community Center
- 24 Maryland Functional Math Test, 2-hour delay
- 29 First Marking Period ends
Early release day for students
- 30 Early release day for students
Magnet informational meeting, 7:30 PM, Gym

NOVEMBER

- 5 No School, Election Day
- 7 Concert, 7:30-9:30 PM
- 11 **Veteran's Day Open House**
Parents are encouraged to visit Blair during the school day
- 14 Report cards distributed
- 16 Females In Science & Technology (FIST) conference
- 19 **PTSA College & Career Night**, 7:00 PM
- 20 Hispanic Parents Meeting, 7:00 PM, LBCC
- 21 9th Grade Parents Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 26 Financial Aid Workshop *planned*
Coffee House, 7:00 SAC
- 28-29 Holiday; Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 5 Concert 7:30-9:00 PM
- 17 **PTSA Meeting**, 7:30 PM, SAC
- 19 New Faces Performances, 7:30 PM

*See the complete school calendar online at mbhs.edu

Blair on Stage...

Charley's Aunt

November 14, 15 and 16, at 7:30 PM

\$6, \$4 students/seniors, (students \$2 Thursday)

Go Boosters!

Parents, join the Blair Athletic Boosters! The Boosters support all of Blair's athletic teams and cheerleading squads. How do they do it? They staff the concession stands at home games, have fundraising activities, and have regular dues. If your student plays sports or if you LIKE sports, please join the Boosters. If you have any questions e-mail John Simson, JSmusic3@comcast.net

Subscribe to *Silver Chips*!

Read faculty profiles, follow school sports, and find out about student opinions and other school news. It costs \$15 for a year's subscription (7 issues) of *Silver Chips*. Call 301 649-2800 for more information. See *Silver Chips* on line at <http://silverchips.mbhs.edu/>.

New Look, Same Price

Silverlogue, the Blair HS Yearbook, will cost \$50 again this year, and the 2003 issue will be 100% color. Order information will be mailed to households soon.

Did You Pay the Extracurricular Fee?

All Blair students who plan to participate in any extracurricular activity, such as sports or clubs, during the 2002-2003 school year must pay the \$20 ECA fee. Forms are available in the school office. For additional information call Mr. Dale Miller, 301 649-2840.

Blair Spirit Club

The Spirit Club is collecting \$1 donations for the **Make a Wish Foundation**. Their goal is to collect \$3,300 by December 1. The Club is also selling spirit packs for \$5 to raise money to meet their goal. If you want to purchase a spirit pack, contact Susan Madden at 301 649-2831.

REWARD!

\$25 for return of men's brown dress shoes, Allen-Edmonds brand, size 9D, left at Blair late May or June. Call Larry Bostian at 301-585-5624.

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

October 9

JV Boys Soccer v. Churchill; 5:00 PM
 JV Girls Soccer at Churchill; 5:00 PM
 JV Girls Volleyball at Einstein; 6:00 PM
 Boys Soccer v. Churchill; 7:00 PM
 Girls Soccer at Churchill; 7:00 PM
 Girls Volleyball at Einstein; 7:00 PM

October 10

Girls Tennis v. Kennedy; 3:30 PM
 JV Field Hockey v. Sherwood; 5:30 PM
 Field Hockey v. Sherwood; 7:00 PM

October 11

Girls Tennis v. Wootton; 3:30 PM
 Football v. Paint Branch; 6:30 PM

October 12

JV Football v. Paint Branch; 10:00 AM

October 14

Field Hockey at Springbrook; 3:30 PM
 JV Field Hockey at Springbrook; 5:00 PM

October 15

JV Girls Volleyball v. Sherwood; 6:00 PM
 Girls Volleyball v. Sherwood; 7:00 PM

October 17

Girls Tennis at Richard Montgomery; 3:30 PM
 JV Girls Volleyball at Paint Branch; 6:00 PM
 Field Hockey v. Kennedy; 7:00 PM
 Girls Volleyball at Paint Branch; 7:00 PM

October 18

JV Girls Soccer v. Bethesda-Chevy Chase; 3:30 PM
 Girls Soccer at Bethesda-Chevy Chase; 5:00 PM
 JV Boys Soccer v. Bethesda-Chevy Chase; 5:30 PM
 Football at Quince Orchard; 6:30 PM
 Boys Soccer at Bethesda-Chevy Chase; 7:00 PM

October 19

JV Football at Quince Orchard; 10:00 AM

October 22

Girls Soccer at Richard Montgomery; 5:00 PM
 Boys Soccer at Richard Montgomery; 7:00 PM

October 24

JV Football at Wootton; 5:30 PM
 Girls Volleyball v. Northwest; 6:00 PM

October 25

Football at Wootton; 6:30 PM

October 28

JV Girls Volleyball v. Churchill; 6:00 PM
 Girls Volleyball v. Churchill; 7:00 PM

November 1

Football v. Magruder; 6:30 PM

November 2

JV Football v. Magruder; 10:00 AM

November 8

Football at Sherwood; 6:30 PM

GO BLAZERS

BLAZER

Montgomery Blair High School PTSA
51 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, MD 20901-2451

Non-Profit Org.

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Silver Spring MD

Permit No. 191

Blair PTSA wants YOU to join us!

membership form is on page 3...

Imagine planning a party for all of your child's classmates. . . a really BIG party with games, prizes, decorations, entertainment, and lots of food . . . 1,000 guests, \$10,000 . . .

That's BLAIR'S AFTER PROM.

We will be asking you to help because it takes lots of money and effort to have this much fun!

Join the After Prom Committee
Contact Diane Foley, 301 258-1944 or
Diane.Foley@baesystems.com to help with
fund raising, decorations, prizes and more...

College/Career Night

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

at the PTSA Meeting
7:00-9:00 PM at Blair

Parents and students are invited to hear from school counselors and staff and meet college and career specialists from around the Washington area.

Take a look at your future.

Citrus Order Form is enclosed

Support Blair's PTSA and order Citrus!