



The Scorpion Sentinel



February 14, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1



Oakland Mills High School Gifted & Talented

Welcome to the Gifted & Talented Newsletter!

We have so many intelligent and talented people here at Oakland Mills High School. It is time to share information and showcase talents. Our children are tomorrow's future and the more that we all learn, the better prepared we will be to meet our future and create an awesome world.



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialized information to you—the parents, the staff, and our students. This newsletter can be a great way to connect and excite others about new information.

February Proclaimed by BOE as G/T Month

On January 13, 2011, the Howard County Board of Education proclaimed February as G/T Month. This is a monumental stride in recognizing G/T as an integral and vital program to the county.

The G/T programs will have a reception and movie on February 22nd in the cafeteria at 4:30pm to show the movie "The Great Debaters" with Denzel Washington to honor both Black History Month and G/T month. Please join us in the music room!

G/T Testimonies at the Board of Education

On 2/1/11, G/T Program Alumnus, Raymond Cheong, and G/T Parent Representative, Lisa Reeves, stood in front of the Board of Education (BOE) to testify for continued funding for G/T programs in fiscal year 2012. Many states are getting hit hard with the reduction in national funding for educational programs. G/T programs are not a nationally funded program and rely on local state interests to provide funding. While some states determine G/T funding via districts, however, in Maryland, it is determined by county.

Mr. Cheong is now enrolled in his Phd. program at John Hopkins University studying Biomedical Sciences.

Citing examples from his own life, Mr. Cheong supported the G/T program and felt that "it was the single most important component" of his educational success, in particular the G/T math program in middle school that had an exponential impact on his current success in gaining the confidence to pursue his goals. Mr. Cheong earned several awards in high school, which has flamed his passion for biomedical sciences.

Ms. Reves also spoke on the funding for G/T citing that she has two children with varied interests who also needed the support and stimulation of the G/T program. She stated that it is the "responsibility" of the program to provide educational opportunities for all children.



Scorpion Spotlight: Caroline Chisolm



Caroline

We begin our first newsletter with a story about Caroline Chisolm, a 16-year old student at OMHS. Ms. Chisolm was born in Rhode Island but grew up in Alabama. At the age of 6, she moved again to Virginia where her mother began to teach at JMU. Both parents are teachers, and her father is a high school math teacher. Ms. Chisolm feels that she does not have the “math genes” instead she feels that they went to her sister who has a Phd in Chemistry. Ms. Chisolm has another sister that she describes as highly intelligent but not as motivated.

It was when Ms. Chisolm was in 7th grade that her family moved to Columbia, MD. She stated that at this time, that the family underwent a lot of changes, to which she began to focus more on herself and also began to “blossom in school.” Ms. Chisolm feels that she is really enjoying her junior year with

supportive friends and family. She is involved with National Honor Society, has been a varsity cross-country runner since the 9th grade, and also tutors in her spare time.

With regards to the GT Research program, Ms Chisholm stated that, “I love the freedom of how you can present your final project. For instance, instead of writing up a pamphlet to pass out to people about my topic, I actually get to have a professional conference where speakers are coming to discuss my topic and educate the Oakland Mills community.” Ms. Chisholm stated that she enjoys the research and it is “worth the work” because it is on topics that she is interested in.

While Ms. Chisholm isn’t exactly sure what profession she will follow, she stated that she already “knows that one day [she] will make the world a better place.”

Student Gets Speaking Gig after Speaking for GT Meeting



Eden

On January 6, 2011, Ms. Eden Bartlett was one of four students who assisted Mr. Vincent James in giving an informational presentation to students and parents regarding the GT R&D (Research and Development) program during G/T Parent Information Night.

Ms. Bartlett is a junior at OMHS and considers her G/T Independent Research to be “the most rewarding experience” she has had since entering high school. Since September 2010, she has been exploring genetically modified organisms, and has been able to meet with experts in her chosen field of study who provide advice and guidance. Ms. Bartlett states, that “the greatest thing about this class, however, is that it

doesn’t give students the typical note-taking, textbook-learning experience; instead, we teach ourselves about a topic that genuinely interests us with the many Research and Development Program’s resources at our finger tips.” Ms. Bartlett feels that the program offers other added benefits such as time management, empowerment, and collaboration skills.

Following her presentation, Ms. Bartlett stated that she was honored to be invited by Ms. Tammy Reid to speak for Ms. Reid’s elementary supplemental Science and Math program. Ms. Reid wanted to focus on Math and Science as it related to the environment and felt that Ms. Bartlett’s topic would be great for her students to hear.

“If we did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.”

~Thomas Edison

OMHS GT Parent Advisory Group

The OMHS GT Parent Advisory Group has just begun to form. We are looking for parents who would like to learn more and who are interested in helping the students achieve their potential. This group is open to staff as well as students. Our first meeting is 2/15/11 at 7pm in the Media Center. If you would like to learn more, please contact Marci Brand at omhsgtparentadvisory@gmail.com.

OMHS GT Newsletter

Did you know that all funds for the GT programs come from donations and monies given by the county?

In these economic difficult times, there are many programs competing for the same funds. Join us and let our voices be heard!

To help out with the Scorpion Sentinel please contact us at omhsgtparentadvisory@gmail.com.

Submit your article/artwork by February 25th for the March edition.

Did you know that you can sign-up for Howard County News to be delivered to your email for free?

Visit <https://hcpssnews.com> for more info!

February Events

✓ 2/9 at 7pm: G/T Outreach (formerly Diversity) Committee

Faulkner Ridge Center, 10598 Marble Faun Ct., Columbia

Interested parents are invited to plan strategies for G/T program communications and community outreach.



✓ 2/15 at 7pm: OMHS GT Advisory Committee

OMHS Media Room

All staff, students, and parents are invited to discuss the vision of the OMHS GT community.

✓ 2/16 from 5pm-8pm: Governor's Reception of Celebrating GT Education

Legislators, Community Leaders, Educators, Parents and Students will be attending. For more info., please RSVP with Shawanda Smith, 410-767-0805 or shasmith@msde.state.md.us

✓ 2/22 at 4:30pm: Movie Presentation—The Great Debaters

OMHS Music Room

Honoring the newly proclaimed GT month and Black History Month, we will be watching a movie based on a true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College Texas. In 1935, he inspired students to form the school's first debate team, which went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship. Movie is directed by and stars Denzel Washington. Everyone is invited! For more info, contact Janet at 410-290-7168.

✓ 2/28 Nomination Deadline for G/T Educator Recognition Award

Please enter your nominations for G/T Educator Award! This annual award recognizes exemplary commitment to advanced-level learners and contributions to the Howard County Gifted and Talented Education Program. The nomination form and additional information are available at www.hcpss.org/gt/2011_gt_educatorawardform.pdf.

More GT Info

2011 G/T Summer Institutes

Howard County students entering grades 1-12 who are interested in advanced instruction and enrichment experiences in the sciences, mathematics, humanities, technology and fine arts, are encouraged to enroll in G/T Summer Institutes for Talent Development classes. Space is limited; please register early. Class descriptions and registration information are available at www.hcpss.org/summer/2011_gt_summerinstitute_rev.pdf

Common Core Curriculum

Review the standards in relationship to the needs of advanced-level learners. Go to the link below to record your questions or comments about these curricular documents. These parental questions will be compiled and addressed at a later G/T Parent Academy. <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

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The Common Core Curriculum Initiative

Exploring Depth, Complexity, and Rigor in the Common Core Curriculum Guest Speaker: Bob Glascock, Maryland State Department of Education

Location – T.B.A.