

# PRIDE & Joy Newsletter

Maryland State Department of Education  
Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

December 2009

Issue 2

## HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to MSDE \* Professional Accolades \* Special Deliveries \* Shining Stars

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined."* ~ Henry David Thoreau

## MSDE Newsmakers

-**Purva Hukmani** completed the Desire2Learn – MSDE's Online Mentoring - course with a 98 percentage grade. The course is especially designed to assist educators new to online learning to master e-course tools and strategies. Not only is her family proud of her academic achievement, but her colleagues are, as well. Purva still continues to strive to set a positive example for her children and grandchildren, and strives to offer encouragement to all Maryland public school students within her reach. – Submitted by R. Ziegler

-The **Division of Library Development and Services** won an award during the Annual MACO Convention held in Ocean City, in August, for the best statewide exhibit. It should be noted that all of the materials – lighthouse and boat – for this eye-catching booth were donated. – Submitted by I. Padilla

## Did you hear?

-**Max Mutchler**, spouse of **Julie Ayers** in the Youth Development Branch, was invited to the White House on October 7, 2009 to help facilitate a Star Party for President Barack Obama, his family, and approximately 140 area middle school students.

The stargazing event was held to promote the importance of science and technology during what is currently the International Year of Astronomy. Max, a scientist who works on the Hubble Space Telescope and does a great deal of volunteer educational outreach regarding astronomy with youth, along with 11 other astronomers from across the country, was asked to bring his personal telescope and his enthusiasm for science to the White House lawn that night. He had a great time helping introduce students to the night sky, and having Astronaut Buzz Aldrin look through his telescope as well. – Submitted by V. Diggs

-**Rose Bailey**, in Region V-Catonsville Office of DORS, is pleased to announce that her son, **Marvis Robinson, Jr.**, graduated this year from Morgan State University with a Bachelors Degree in Information Technology Systems. His perseverance and assistance from family and the MSDE/DORS staff helped him overcome numerous personal obstacles to achieve his academic goals and vision of giving back to his community. – Submitted by G. Tucker



-**Dorothy Richburg**, in the Procurement Office, is extremely proud of her daughter, **Dionne Curbeam**. Dionne, a member of Coppin State University's Office of Information Technology (OIT), is the recipient of the "Technology All-Star" Award presented by Career Communications Group Magazine and IBM Corporation. She proudly accepted her award during the 14th Annual Women of Color STEM Conference held in October in Dallas, Texas. – Submitted by G. Tucker

-**Beth Shevitz**, daughter of **Linda Shevitz** of the Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch, was appointed Chair of the History Department at Newport Mill Middle School in Montgomery County, and was also chosen to conduct curriculum training for all new Social Studies teachers in the school district. Beth brings to her world studies classes her global perspectives enhanced while traveling on a Fulbright Scholarship to Turkey and Cyprus, as well as her trips this year to Israel and Jordan. – Submitted by G. Tucker

Best wishes to all of them on their professional endeavors!

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## *“PRIDE Hall of Fame”*

Let's give a 'Shout-Out!' to this quarter's Shining Stars soon to be profiled in the Liberty Street Lobby...

*Annette Mallory Donawa; Claudette Harvey; LeeAnn Hutchison; Katharine Oliver; and Luke Rhine*

## *MSDE's Got Talent*

### Welcome to the MSDE Family!

Kathryn Antonioli, DBS  
Maryum Anwar, DORS/DDS  
Patrick Bagnell, DORS/DDS  
Beth Baker, DORS/DDS  
Kathleen Baughan, DORS/DDS  
Keri Bienert, DORS/DDS  
Renee Bissett, DORS/DDS  
Wendy Browning, DORS/DDS  
Kenra Bryant, DORS/DDS  
Lindi Budd, DECD  
Stan Catherman, DORS  
Alice Crowder, DORS/DDS  
Anita Dewling, DORS/DDS  
Dara Fillmore, DORS/DDS  
Marjorie Gribble, DORS  
Carol Harsel, DORS/DDS  
Shirron Hightower, DORS/DDS  
Rashida Howard, DORS/DDS  
Aniya Jefferson, DORS/DDS  
Stephanie Kachik, DORS  
Lauren Keegan, DORS/DDS  
Gregory Materkowski, DORS/DDS  
Kara McKenzie, DORS/DDS  
Cathy Nelson, DOI  
Katie Nethken, DORS/DDS  
Cierra Neville, OS/AUDIT  
Christopher Phipps, OS/AUDIT  
Roberta Reasoner, DCCR  
Scott Rittler, DORS  
Adrienne Robinette, DBS  
Robert Sarpong, OS/AUDIT  
Melissa Serra, DORS  
Ava Shener, DORS  
Rachel Showman, DORS/DDS  
Jena Smith, DECD  
Kenyatta Smith, DECD  
Ardena Walker, SE  
Rachael Watts, DORS/DDS  
Edwin Williams, DCCR

### DWTS Comes to MSDE

-Nancy Grasmick, Derrick Lockley, and Andrew Topps are three of the reasons why the Maryland Charities Campaign kick-off was so successful. Before the campaign comes to a close, let's take a moment to recognize our “Dancing With the Stars” participants, not merely for the giving of their time and training efforts, but also for their willingness to perform live for a very worthy cause—helping those in need.



### New Arrivals!



-Barbara McCready, in the Office of Child Care-Howard County/Region 6, is the proud grandmother of Layne Alexander Jones born on 10/23/09. Baby Layne weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. He is the son of first-time parents Chad and Sheri Jones.

-Maureen Moran, in the Office of Academic Policy, is the proud grandmother of Ellie Sonia Liberman. Baby Ellie weighed in at 6 lbs., 11 oz. She is the daughter of Erin & Daniel Liberman and joins big brother Riley, 2-years-old.

### REMEMBERING Excellence in Education

-The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual School Health Interdisciplinary Program (SHIP) Conference honored the late JoAnne L. Carter for her outstanding contributions to knowledge and development in the advancement of school health and mental health programs for children and adolescents. JoAnne was remembered for her leadership, excellence in education, commitment to all students, and various contributions to public education throughout Maryland. JoAnne understood the importance of linking academic achievement to health and wellness. Her continued support for coordinated school health in Maryland has been a great contribution to the success of the annual SHIP Conference. JoAnne will forever be remembered as an extraordinary leader in education.

For more information about **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools visit  
[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)