



RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READINESS

MILLER HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 5

February, 2015

“High expectations for all; raising the bar every day and in every way”

Student of the Month



Congratulations to Shamontae Little for being selected as the February Student of the Month by her teachers! According to her teachers, she consistently participates in her classes and always demonstrates appropriate behavior and our PBIS core values of respect, responsibility, and readiness.

Ladies of Class and Distinction

In December, Ms. Carter, Ms. Carr, Ms. Powell-Murphy, and Ms. Maihot started a mentoring group called, *Ladies of Class and Distinction*, that focuses on upperclassmen who have the traits to become leaders in the school and community, but who may need support identifying and developing the leadership qualities they already possess. *Ladies of Class and Distinction* is committed to encouraging the development of positive relationships, self-esteem, confidence, decision-making skills, and communication skills by providing positive female role models and strong support structures to

these 11th and 12th grade girls. The program will start with only about 20 girls. The hope is to have more mentees as the program grows. The monthly meetings will focus on the following topics: Building Self-Esteem and Self Confidence, Sexual Health and Decision-Making, Future Options, Community Service and Global Citizenship, Nutrition and Healthy Living, and Academic Studies/Educational Goals. The focus of *Ladies of Class and Distinction* is to empower young women by having them think critically about themselves, their identity and their goals, while breaking down nega-

tive messages fed to them by society and the media. *Ladies of Class and Distinction* supports young women in developing their self-esteem and making informed decisions for themselves in the face of severe societal pressure; illustrating that they have a network of support and resources available to them. The ladies in this program were handpicked by the mentors in the program, as well as by the staff here at Milford. We are very excited to start the program, and look forward to our first meeting this month. Be on the lookout for *Ladies of Class and Distinction* because we are doing to do great things!

MILLER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to February Miller of the Month, Mrs. Renata Henderson! Mrs. Henderson is one of the main office administrative assistants who helps to keep the office running smoothly. She is known for her positive attitude and her bright smile. She is always willing

to assist staff, students, and families in any way that she can. Many students and former students stop by the office on a regular basis just to say hello to her and to see that winning smile! We are so lucky to have her on Team Milford!!!





Principal Roderick W. Harden, Sr.

Learning to Save Lives

The juniors in the Health Science Technology magnet program are currently completing our CPR and first aid units. Students are becoming certified through the American Heart Association in CPR/AED and First Aid training.

Also, the students in the Health Science program will have the opportunity to take a two credit college level course through CCBC for the spring semester (February-May). The course will be taught at Milford Mill Academy during the class period and is called Allied Health 104: Introduction to Health Care Careers. Every Monday we will be having an allied health speaker come to Milford Mill to speak to the students about various careers. Some of careers they will learn about are mortuary science, occupational therapy, nursing and dental hygienist.

From the Desk of Principal Harden

This month Milford Mill has had much to celebrate! We have been recognized as having the highest improvement in the percentage of students graduating in Baltimore County. Our 5.16% increase in graduation rate moved our total graduation rate up to 91%. We were also recognized as the school

with the highest increase in the number of students participating in our Advanced Placement program. Our attendance rate has increased and we also had three hundred and fifty-three of our students to make honor roll. We have the highest number of scholar athletes than we have ever had, and many of our

seniors have been awarded athletic *and* academic scholarships. Our students are proud of their accomplishments and have gained a new sense of school spirit that continues to propel us forward.

Milford Mill Is Turning "Inside Out"

Seventy-five of Ms. Kotarski's visual art students are participating in the "Inside Out Project." The "Inside Out Project" a global participatory art project that allows people worldwide to get their picture taken and paste it to support an idea and share their experience. The project began with the French artist JR in 2007. Participants have their portraits take which are then printed on large paper posters. The posters are publicly displayed outdoors on walls of buildings for all to see. When viewers see the photographs, they learn about the individuals who they are looking at. Over 200,000 people in 112 countries and territories have participated with increasing numbers daily.

The mission statement written by the students is, "Milford Mill Academy wants to be seen as a crea-

tive, high achieving, and outstanding high school with diverse and determined students. We want to change the outlook of the school from negative to positive in our community. We hope to achieve this by participating in the Inside Out Project."

Students will be installing the portraits on the bricks

walls outside of Milford Mill near the main lobby entrance in early March. All who pass by will see the diversity at the school. The concept of showing what occurs "Inside" the school and bringing it "Outside" the walls of the building illustrate the purpose of the "Inside Out Project".



(Jada Blackburn and Daekwon Bourne with their Inside Out Project Posters)

Bowling for Fun

The Milford Mill Allied Bowling Team, coached by Mr. Amato and Mr. Solli-day, participated in the county championships on February 11th. Each year this events brings the Milford family together to cheer our team to victory!



This year, Superintendent of High Schools, Mr. Mark Bedell even came out to support the bowlers *(pictured on the bottom left)* The Milford Mill JV Cheerleaders, coached by Ms. Dowling, displayed a great deal of sportsmanship as they cheered for the teams of bowlers who were not able to send cheerleaders to this event. While the team did not place this year, everyone had a great deal of fun and enjoyed the evening. Even Principal Harden got in on the action and decided to try bowling for the very first time! *(pictured on the right)*



A Fun Way to Learn

A creative way to engage students in learning is to introduce them to Voki, a free online service that lets anyone create customized speaking avatars for instructional purposes. With Voki, users can tailor the physical appearance of an avatar with clothes, hair-styles, and accessories that best express the interpretation intended. Users can even decide on a voice to use from the Voki menu. Having your Voki avatar speak is easy. Are you a little shy about recording your own voice? Voki

solves that problem. All you have to do is type in the text, and Voki will read it for you. It's that simple.

Here are a few great ideas for using Voki in the classroom:

Strengthen foreign language skills by practicing various question and answer conversations relating to the weather, the days of the week, and personal introductions.

Express the point of view of a character in a novel, short story, or play.

Participate in a debate on a current issue.

Present information or a report on a chosen topic.

Bring to life a historical figure



SAIL - Students Achieve In Libraries

In keeping with BCPS' efforts to offer a digitally enhanced curriculum, we are working with the Baltimore County Public Library to see that all students have a public library card.

While students can still physically go to the library to checkout materials and to attend programs, *they can now use the Internet to access an incredible variety of online resources.*

Resources listed on the Teen Page, <http://www.bcplonline.org/kids-teens-parents-teachers/homework-teens> are:

- * Ask a Librarian—hundreds of reference librarians available 24/7
- * Databases for subjects in addition to those offered by BCPS
- * One-on-One Tutoring from 2:00pm to midnight
- * A service for students to upload their writing assignments for review by writing instructors who will return the students' work with suggested corrections.

If you missed the chance to apply for a library card in your homeroom, stop by your nearest BCPL branch to apply and receive your card immediately.

Spotlight On Millers

Five Milford Mill student athletes sign their National Letters of Intent to attend college. Pictured from right to left: Adrien Allen -Morgan State; Chris Jones -Shepherd University; Deonte White - Glenville College; Brandon Abrams - Virginia Union; (*not pictured*) Keith Maithland -King's College.

On January 26th, Andre Jones (*pictured below & seated in the center*) received the Spirit of Soccer award at the 2015 Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer (MACS) awards banquet. The award is presented to a student who demonstrates exemplary qualities of sportsmanship.



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RESPECT

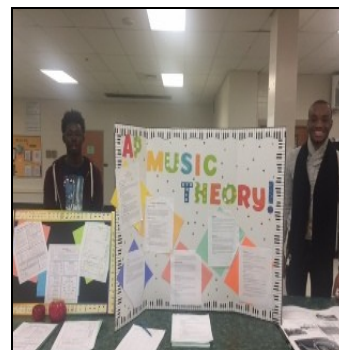
RESPONSIBILITY

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Advanced Placement Festival

Our rescheduled AP Festival was held on February 12th. Staff and students spent a great deal of time and effort preparing their displays and information tables for the festival. Unfortunately, the cold weather and multiple practices and rehearsals scheduled for the night resulted in a lower

than normal turnout of parents and students. As a result, the AP team will be holding more student information sessions in the library than we did last year. Because last year's sessions were so popular, we are certain that we will be able to continue to grow our program and increase student interest.



Honor Roll Afternoon Reception



Three hundred and fifty-three honor roll students celebrate their success at the first semester honor roll reception.

