



MILLER HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 3

December, 2014

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

Student of the Month



Congratulations to December Student of the Month, Tyshawn Beauford! Tyshawn is a 9th grade student who is known for being a very nice and respectful young man. He always does his best and his teachers all agree that he is a pleasure to have in class!

Mr. Anderson Receives National Board Certification

Milford Mill Academy Physics teacher, Mr. James Anderson has completed his program of study and received his National Board Certification. Mr. Anderson is one of the 127 Baltimore County teachers recognized as a National Board Certified Teacher. The National Board was established as the profession's vehicle for defining and recognizing accomplished teaching. National Board Standards are created by teachers, for teachers, as is National Board Certification, a voluntary process to certify teachers against those standards. In 1989, the National Board published *What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*, a document that articulated the National Board's Five Core Propositions for Teaching. Similar to medi-

cine's Hippocratic Oath, the Five Core Propositions set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching and underscore the accomplished teacher's commitment to advancing student achievement. Together, they form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification.

Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

Proposition 2: Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.

Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities.

Mr. Anderson's decision to pursue the certification was motivated by his desire to improve his teaching, and to increase student understanding of physics, as well as to make the class more fun and engaging. He describes the experience as a long pain staking process but rewarding at the end. Mr. Anderson wants to keep improving his teaching and growing professionally. While he is a dedicated member of Team Milford, he does think about maybe becoming a college professor in the future.

MILLER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our December Miller of the Month, Mr. Thomas Long! Mr. Long was selected by his colleagues as our Miller of the Month because he is always willing to assist anyone in any capacity.

Mr. Long teaches 11th and 12th grade English, as well as IB English. He also facilitates SAT prep sessions for students throughout the year. We are lucky to have him on team Milford!





Principal Roderick W. Harden , Sr.

Focus on Fitness

The Physical Education department will be getting into shape throughout the month of December. Our focus for the entire month will be fitness. Each day we will complete a variety of activities which will help improve our overall health. We recently teamed up with the JROTC program to help jump start our fitness by participating in the Army challenge. Our students took part in various fitness and teamwork activities that members of the Army facilitated. It was a fun day had by all.

From the Desk of Principal Harden

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2014 I can't help but to reflect on all of the good things, as well as the challenges that have been a part of these past few months. While we continue to make strides at Milford it is important for the school community to remember that we all play an important role in

moving the school forward. The manner in which we conduct our daily activities and react to challenges can have an effect on the climate within the building. It is important for all members of the community to communicate openly and to let our PBIS core values of respect, responsibility and readiness

serve as a framework for all that we do. I continue to be amazed and inspired by all of the wonderful accomplishments and talents showcased by the staff and students each day. I wish you all a restful holiday season and I look forward to creating more memories with you in 2015!

LEARNING TOOLS

Strategies and resources that help increase student understanding and spark interest can be used by parents and guardians as well as teachers. Students don't have to limit their use of educational resources to those provided to them by their teachers. Milford's STAT teacher, Ms. Linda Webb has found a wonderful tool to share!

FakeBook is an innovative presentation tool. The site allows teachers and students to create imaginary profile pages for fictional or historical figures. Use Fakebook to chart the plot of a book, the development of a character, a series of historical events, and relationships. Users may even choose to add pho-

tos, videos, status updates, friends, posts, comments, and more. If you can do it on Facebook, you can do it on Fakebook!

For more information visit www.classtools.net/fb/home/page or

<http://techtoolsfor-schools.blogspot.com/p/facebook-project.html>

Peer Mediators Make a Difference

This year Milford Mill has established a peer mediation program. The program identifies seniors who have exhibited the ability to work with people of all backgrounds and to be willing to hear all sides of an argument without being judgmental. The students who were selected to participate as mediators practiced using problem solving strategies in simulated mediation session. School psychologist, Dr. Stuart Tabb and Behavior Interventionist, Mr. Hugh Mellerson, worked with the mediators to provide them with the tools that they needed in order to be able to create a comfortable environment for students who agree to mediation. They also taught them how to listen to all sides of a disagreement and to refrain from making comments or using body language that could be viewed as judgmental by participants.

Conflicts referred for mediation are Category I violations. Those include disagreements between students or misunderstandings about simple issues that have the potential to become big issues if there is no resolution. All students who are offered mediation have to agree to participate. If they do not all agree to participate then the conflict is mediated by the appropriate school official.

Both mediators and students in need of mediation agree that the program has been a positive experience. According to peer mediator Kayshia Cousar, "Peer mediation is a good program to prevent people from fighting and to diminish the drama. I feel as though there are some things that some people wouldn't tell adults, some things people wouldn't say. This helps them feel more comfortable."

Miles Nordt is another peer mediator who has found the experience to be positive. He says, "To me, peer mediation is helping someone's future improvement. It's a great program that gives people the opportunity to express their feelings about certain situations to people in their age group."

Although the peer mediators have been taught to effectively facilitate mediations, an adult administrator, teacher, or staff member is always present during mediation sessions. Although students report feeling self conscious at the beginning of the mediation session, most say that they became more comfortable as the session proceeded. In many instances the mediators have made themselves available to the participants if they would like to discuss any other issues that they may have at a later time.

Office of School Counseling

This month, the school counseling office distributed Naviance Parent Activation Codes. Students received information sheets containing Parent Activation Codes during Homeroom. Parents have the ability to use Naviance Family Connection in similar ways to their students. This will also open up communication between the School Counseling Department and parents. The department will also continue meeting with Seniors to determine their plans for life after high school and to answer any questions they may have regarding graduation or the college application process through Naviance.

During the month of December, the school counseling department hosted the first School Counseling Advisory Meeting. Members of the Milford Mill Community, in addition to several staff members, parents and students met to discuss what's going on in the Milford Mill School Counseling office.

WINNER'S CORNER!

Congratulations to senior, Meika Thomas, one of the winners of the FOX 45 Champions of Courage Essay Contest!

This year, Meika is the only student who will represent Milford Mill during the FOX 45 Champions of Courage Essay series that airs in February. Last year, two of the winners were from Milford Mill.

Engineering Tech teacher, Mr. Damon Royster, requires that all of his students write an essay and enter the competition each year.

Meika selected her father as her Champion of Courage. On December 17th she was invited to FOX 45 studios to record the reading of her essay. Information regarding the air date for the segment will be posted as soon as it is available.

MILFORD MILL ACADEMY

3800 Washington, Ave
Baltimore, MD 21244

410-887-0660

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READINESS

Meet Dr. Stuart Tabb

Over the past few years, many students at Milford Mill Academy have sought out the wisdom of Dr. Stuart Tabb. Dr. Tabb is a social worker who spends two and a half days here at Milford Mill Academy. To round out the rest of his week, Dr. Tabb works at his second job which is being a devoted father and grandfather. He can often be found helping a student in need. Whether it be a social issue, an academic issue, or even a family issue, Dr. Tabb is always willing to listen and assist students. He can also be found leading groups in various classroom set-



tings. His comical yet meaningful presentations capture the attention of all who are in the room. Dr. Tabb plays a unique role in the school system. He is highly skilled in meet-

ing the social-emotional needs of students. Dr. Tabb works to provide every student with the ability to meet his or her maximum potential.

Science Department News

While the weather outside is frightful, things are really heating up in Science at Milford Mill!

Forensic students are breeding houseflies to determine the time spent in each stage of development. This will allow them to figure out how long a body has been dead, just like NCIS!

What's in a name? Well, in Chemistry everything! Students are currently struggling with naming compounds and dealing

with covalent and ionic bonds. In Biology, students are getting acquainted with cell organelles and looking through microscopes. They are really getting the hang of reducing air bubbles in their slides, and doing some very accurate drawings of what they see.

Environmental Science students are adapting well to learning about adaptations. What makes one organism more successful in one environment than another? Our students are

all over that. COPS classes are learning about energy. These students have the potential to really celebrate kinetically over the Winter Break!

Our Earth Science students will be looking to predict the Winter Break weather. Will we have snow? Will it be warm enough to barbecue? They'll be able to let us know at the end of their Meteorology unit. Stay tuned!