

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
RECOGNITION**

**2016 OUTSTANDING AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL OF THE YEAR**

**SARAH PARSLEY, HAVRE DE GRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**June 13, 2016**

**Background Information:**

AAA Mid-Atlantic and the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety & Education sponsor the School Safety Patrol Program. A tradition since 1920, the AAA School Safety Patrol has helped keep children safe on their way to and from school.

The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety & Education's Outstanding AAA School Safety Patrol Awards Program recognizes patrol members in the AAA Mid-Atlantic service area who stand out above the rest. Their leadership skills and dedication for the safety of others makes them worthy of awards and recognition. This year, 12 School Safety Patrols were chosen from public and private schools throughout Maryland. They were honored at a luncheon on May 10 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Baltimore North-Pikesville. During the awards ceremony, the winning patrols received a \$100 Visa gift card and a plaque bearing a gold-colored safety patrol badge.

**Discussion:**

Sarah Parsley, fifth grader at Havre de Grace Elementary School, was named an Outstanding AAA School Safety Patrol of the Year. Sarah has shown a great interest in learning about the Safety Patrol Program, which has recently been re-activated at Havre de Grace Elementary School thanks to Officer Jameson Hughes of the Havre de Grace Police Department. Until recently, the Safety Patrol consisted of two (2) patrollers attending to the American Flag at the beginning and end of each day. Today, in addition to those two, there are now four (4) patrollers who conduct traffic and pedestrian safety duties. Sarah is one of the traffic patrollers. Since the beginning, Sarah has been very enthusiastic about the program and even went so far as to read the manual, learning some of the hand signals included. Because of Sarah's efforts to go above and beyond, she was promoted to Senior Patroller. Sarah periodically comes to Officer Hughes for advice on issues regarding monitoring of posts or if there is a scheduling problem where patrollers will not be able to assist. Sarah has what it takes and exemplifies the Safety Patrol to its heart and core.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Sarah Parsley on having been named a 2016 Outstanding AAA School Safety Patrol of the Year and extend its wishes for a continued successful school career.

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**2016 MARYLAND HISTORY DAY AWARD RECIPIENT**

**OLIVIA BORKOWSKI-JOHNSON, BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**June 13, 2016**

**Background Information:**

For middle and high school students who participate, Maryland History Day sparks critical thinking and helps develop skills in research and analysis, writing, and public speaking. Working solo or in small groups, students create original documentaries, exhibits, performances, research papers or websites exploring a breadth of historical topics within an annual theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. This year's theme is Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History. The intentional selection of the theme is to provide an opportunity for students to push past the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding. The theme provides a focused way to increase students' historical understanding by developing a lens to read history, an organizational structure that helps students place information in the correct context and finally, the ability to see connections over time. Students progress through History Day competitions at the school, district, state, and national levels.

**Discussion:**

This year, 2016 Maryland History Day was held on Saturday, May 7, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Bel Air Middle School sixth grader Olivia Borkowski-Johnson was awarded the Special Prize in the History of Science and Technology, sponsored by the UMBC Human Context of Science & Technology Program, for her project, *The Apollo 13 Mission: Catastrophic Failure, Triumphant Success*. She was the only winner from Harford County, and the first-ever winner from Harford County Public Schools. Olivia's teachers, Eric Bennett and Drusilla Herbert, supported Olivia's efforts in this competition.

National History Day will be held June 12-16 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Olivia Borkowski-Johnson on having been awarded the Special Prize in the History of Science and Technology in the Maryland History Day Contest and wish her continued success in her educational career.

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**2016 HCPS NURSE OF THE YEAR**

**LINDA MICHEL, PROSPECT MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**June 13, 2016**

**Background Information:**

For more than 20 years, the Harford School Health Services Association (HSHTSA) has been honoring one Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Nurse as Nurse of the Year. The Association chooses a school nurse who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school, the school system, and her profession. The prospective Nurse of the Year is nominated by one of her peers and her identity is revealed in a surprise announcement during the annual banquet held this year at Giovanni's Restaurant in Edgewood on May 10.

**Discussion:**

The 2016 Harford County Public Schools Nurse of the Year is Linda Michel from Prospect Mill Elementary School. Ms. Michel has been a registered nurse for 41 years and has served as a school nurse for the past 10 years. She is deeply involved in her school, the Harford School Health Services Association (HSHTSA), and her community. Ms. Michel uses humor and warmth to help students enjoy learning about health and strive to be the healthiest they can be. She is a compassionate caregiver and uses her extensive nursing experience to evaluate and treat the children that visit her health room. For the past three years, Ms. Michel has mentored new school nurses, a very rewarding piece of her job. She is an active member of HSHTSA, idea sharing with members to encourage her colleagues. She has served as treasurer and fundraiser for the organization. Ms. Michel is also a member or chair of the following school committees: safety, attendance, wellness, and indoor air quality. In addition, she is a member of her school's PTA and volunteers for and supports its functions. Through this partnership, she has facilitated PTA scholarships for staff to participate in CPR training, as well as yoga classes for staff. In addition to her work in healthcare, Ms. Michel is active in her church community as an elected member of Vestry Holy Trinity Church. She serves on an outreach committee, a women's group, and a "Helping Hands" sewing and knitting ministry. Ms. Michel works tirelessly to do her part to strengthen the nursing profession by mentoring new nurses, opening her health room to nursing students, building trust with parents/guardians, and participating in health fairs and programs to increase awareness and education. She is a leading example of dedication for school nurses and demonstrates daily what makes a successful, well-rounded school nurse.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Linda Michel on having been named the 2016 Harford County Public Schools Nurse of the Year, recognizing her outstanding accomplishments as a health professional working with students and

staff to maintain good health. The Superintendent also recommends the Board commend Nurse Michel for her efforts in advancing the mission of Prospect Mill Elementary School and the school nursing profession and extend its wishes for many more years of productive service in caring for the health needs of students and staff.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
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**ONE IN A MELON AWARD**

**HCPS FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES**

**June 13, 2016**

**Background Information:**

From March 15 through April 15, 2016, parents, teachers, community stakeholders, and students were invited to visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm to School Census website and nominate their favorite farm to school program to receive the 'One in a Melon' award. One school district per state was selected for the award by receiving the most public nominations. According to the Census, 22 Maryland districts have farm to school programs, and a total of 5,254 districts participate across the U.S.

**Discussion:**

Harford County Public Schools' Farm to School program was voted the top program in Maryland and was the recipient of the USDA's 'One in a Melon' award. HCPS has been participating in farm to school since 2006. Initially, local farm purchases were primarily apples and peaches. Once the program was in place, it was expanded to include other fruits and vegetables, such as watermelon, honeydew, lettuce, corn, green beans and broccoli, among others. HCPS also works with other programs, like the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (FFVP) offered by the USDA, to introduce a wider variety of produce to elementary students. A cooperative effort with Bel Air High School resulted in a project demonstrating the synergy of fish and plants to grow fresh lettuce and tomatoes. Support for school gardens is part of the program, and the plan is to continue to expand such efforts. School food service staff at HCPS have noticed a number of benefits to participating in farm to school initiatives, including being able to offer much fresher, more nutritious produce to students. Produce is picked closer to the ripening date and offered the next day in the cafeteria, in many cases. Today, approximately 37,000 children have the opportunity to be exposed to local foods in their school meals and snacks at HCPS every day. In the future, HCPS hopes to expand the program, increasing the portion of local purchases every year.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate the Food and Nutrition Services for the national recognition of their Farm to School program and the achievement of having their program named 'One in a Melon' in Maryland and wish the staff continued success as they work to expand their efforts.