



April 22, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 4

## SMA NEWSLETTER

### State Superintendent Visits AHS

State Superintendent Dr. Nancy Grasmick paid a visit to Aberdeen High School on the morning of March 11. She was given a tour of the building by Mr. Szeresits, Principal of AHS and Mr. Volrath, the HCPS Director of Secondary Education. Dr. Grasmick spent some time on the third floor because she wanted to talk to students from the SMA. After being greeted by Dr. Dennis Kirkwood, Supervisor of Science for HCPS, Ms. Grasmick dropped in on the SMA Geometry class. She asked students to speak freely and honestly on how they felt about being in the SMA. Eight students responded and all spoke

positively about being in the SMA. Several said they felt the work was hard but it is well worth it. One student said she felt that although the work is challenging, SMA students are learning their subjects more in depth than they would in any regular high school program. Another student stated that, "It's okay to be a nerd in the SMA because we all are." Dr. Grasmick praised the students for taking the risk to be in the very first SMA class and that she would continue to follow their progress over the next four years as they work their way toward graduation.



Dr. Grasmick speaks with SMA students.

Dr. Grasmick with Mr. Szeresits in the SMA.

#### HSA Test Schedule

**May 24 –27**

**Tues: Government**

**Wed: Geometry**

**Thurs: Biology**

**Fri: Algebra**

### Incoming SMA Class Selected

The SMA Class of 2009 has been determined. The fifty new students were chosen from an applicant pool that was nearly double the size of the previous year, the first year of existence of the SMA. The new class contains representatives of all Harford County public middle schools as well as the private schools Harford Christian, St. Joan of Arc and, Trinity Lutheran. One student will be coming from Rising Sun Middle School and is now a Harford County resident. Mrs. Clem, the coordinator of the SMA characterized the group as diverse. She also stated that it contains a nearly equal number of females and males.

The group will receive an orientation on August 22, 2005 prior to the opening of school.

## SMA Students Celebrate Earth Day



Twenty SMA students participated in the Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 16 in Festival Park in Aberdeen. The festivities included a wide variety of activities, but the SMA students were involved primarily in face painting and creating seed purses. The celebration also provided an opportunity to promote the SMA to the public and they did so with a Power-Point presentation and a poster that they had created in school.

The participating SMA students agreed that they had fun and would like to return next year.



Photo by Brian Herget

## SMA Career Day Set for June 1

The first annual SMA Career Day is to take place June 1, 2005. This event will be the culminating activity of our discussion on career choices and selection. We are asking for any friends, family, and relatives to speak about their careers to the class.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Jill Smith of the Army Research Lab. Dr. Smith will speak from 9:00 AM to 9:45. This will be followed by workshops which will include interview techniques (presented by Jorge Christian), resume writing, dressing for success, and networking among others. In the afternoon, the volunteer guests will speak about their careers and students may choose which ones they will attend.

One of the afternoon presenters will be Megan Brasfield, to speak about college. She is a college administrator and will speak about college admissions and cost, college preparation, and the college experience in general. Ms. Brasfield's discussion will be more of a question and answer session and an excellent place to learn about college.

So spread the word, if you know anyone who would be a good speaker please encourage them to come and speak with us.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Ms. Clem at [donna.clem@hcps.org](mailto:donna.clem@hcps.org) or Ms. Tomcanin at [misty.tomcanin@hcps.org](mailto:misty.tomcanin@hcps.org).

*Article by Rachel Sandlain*

### Keep Us Up-To-Date

Please let the SMA know of any changes in address, telephone numbers, or e-mail.

### High Ropes

The current SMA freshman class is invited to participate in the high ropes course at Harford Glen on Saturday, June 18 from 9 AM to 1 PM.

### SMA Family Picnic

Clear your calendars! The SMA family picnic will be held Saturday, June 5 at Harford Glen from 2 PM to 5 PM. Contact Mrs. Lin VanName if you have any questions at [lbi815@comcast.net](mailto:lbi815@comcast.net).

### Symphonic Band Meeting

Anyone interested in symphonic band who missed the April 21 meeting to discuss changes for next year should contact Mr. Gardiner immediately.

### Last day of School Announced

If there are no more inclement weather days, the last day of school for students will be Friday, June 17 and the last day for teachers will be June 20.