

About the Newsletter

High Expectations is a publication of the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC). It is published and distributed quarterly as a tool to help keep members, schools, and community organizations informed, motivated, and inspired to act in positive ways to support students and our schools in closing the minority achievement gap in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Send comments to the following:

rosalindblunt@aol.com

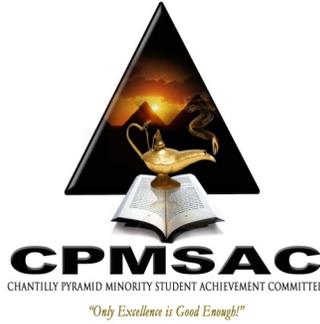
or

Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee
P.O. Box 221351
Chantilly, VA 20153

For more information, go to www.cpmsac.org.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
2013-2014 Calendar	3
STEP 2012-13	4
STEP's New Year	5
Letter from School Counselor	6
Golf Tournament	7



High Expectations

www.cpmsac.org

Volume 4 Issue 3

NOVEMBER 2013

ANNUAL PRINCIPALS' RECEPTION

CPMSAC held its annual Principals' Reception on October 17, 2013 at Sully Station Community Center in Centreville, Virginia. The purpose of the reception is to express CPMSAC's thanks to school officials and staff for their wonderful support of CPMSAC's programs and activities. Principals, assistant principals, the director from Cluster 8, school counselors, parent representatives, and parents attended. Dr. Jane Dreyfuss, Cluster 8; Shawn Frank, Chantilly High School; Martin Grimm, Centreville High School; and others shared with the group what special initiatives are in place to help all students achieve their academic goals. Dr. Darryl Craig of FCPS's Family Partnership Office highlighted some of her office's shared interests with schools and CPMSAC. Carla Urbina, Director of School Engagement, informed the group of Project Lead the Way which is an organization that provides STEM education curricular programs for middle and high schools. Board member Chuck Coffin spoke about some interesting happenings and innovations during CPMSAC's recent Annual Academic Awards and Youth Motivation Programs. Malaika Howard, a student at Westfield H.S., shared her personal perspectives as an awardee at the Awards Program she attended. Board member Kim Graham, in the interest of promoting diversity and harmony in our schools, announced the date of the 2014 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Festival, and Barbara Tyler, Coordinator of the STEP tutorial program, explained the purpose, execution, and outcomes of the program.

As a tangible "THANK YOU," school principals and all other participants received a beautiful pin with the CPMSAC Logo.



CPMSAC President Johnny Nelson



Project Lead the Way Featured

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Johnny L. Nelson
President

Sylvester Smith, Sr.
1st Vice President

Barbara Tyler
2nd Vice President
STEP Tutorial Program Coordinator

Frances Blair
3rd Vice President

Stephani Atkinson and Ella Thomas
Co-Recording Secretaries

Joseph Barr
Treasurer

Louse Ford
Membership

Charles M. Coffin, Jr.
Operations

Mark Richardson
Sergeant-at-arms

Kim Graham
MLK, Jr. Program Coordinator

William Bernstein and Alex Jasper
BITS Tutorial Program Coordinators

Dr. Rosalind Blunt
Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S PROFILE AND MESSAGE



Since some have asked, the aim of this message is for our readers to get to know more about the President and the mission of CPMSAC. So, here it goes: I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from Jackson-Olin High School. I went on to graduate with honors with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education and a Master's Degree in Personnel Administration from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Huntsville, Alabama. I am a doctoral graduate of Vanderbilt-Peabody University, Nashville, Tennessee and a retired senior manager of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. While attending A&MU as an undergraduate student, I served as the President of the Student Body and met my now late wife, and the founder of CPMSAC, Shirley Oliver Nelson. We are the parents of two children.

CPMSAC (www.cpmsac.org) is a 501 (c) (3) community organization designed to assist schools in raising the academic achievement and participation of minority students, focusing primarily on African American and Hispanic students. The objective is to encourage and motivate students through community recognition to sustain high levels of achievement and active participation throughout their school years. For specific information about our major programs, please visit our website.

Over the years through the work and service of CPMSAC, the lives of thousands of young people have been deeply affected and greatly enriched. Some students report taking their CPMSAC awards to college and displaying them proudly in their dormitory rooms. Many CPMSAC alumni have gone on to become lawyers, doctors, and other high-level professionals.

In addition to honor recognition by the Fairfax County School Board, the organization has been the recipient of a host of community service awards for advocacy for children, to include recognition by *The Washington Post* and House Joint Resolution No. 5109 by the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly. These and other accolades attest to CPMSAC's motto that "Only Excellence is Good Enough."

Dr. Johnny L. Nelson, President
CPMSAC

2013 - 2014 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

CPMSAC Community Academic Achievers Recognition
(1st & 2nd School Qtrs.) - November 2013

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Festival
January 12, 2014 - Westfield High School
January 19, 2014 - Alternate Date

Executive Board, General Membership, and Minority Achievement Rep Meeting
February 6, 2014

Annual Youth Enrichment Teach-in
February 21, 2014
February 28, 2014 - Alternate Date

Executive Board, General Membership, and Minority Achievement Rep Meeting - May 8, 2014

STEP Program Banquet - May 17, 2014
Chantilly High School

BITS Program Banquet - TBA

Annual Academic Awards and Youth Motivation Program
Middle and High Schools
June 7, 2014
Chantilly High School
4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA

Annual Academic Awards and Youth Motivation Program
Elementary Schools
June 8, 2014
Location: TBA

Strategic Planning Meeting - June 12, 2014

Summer Math Institute - July 21 - August 1, 2014
(Provided Funds are Available)

MEETINGS' TIME AND LOCATION will be announced for Executive Board, General Membership, and Minority Achievement Representatives. We hope to rotate the locations of meetings among the schools. Some Executive Board Meetings will be by teleconference. Advance notices will be provided.

Membership

by Louise Ford

Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee's (CPMSAC) goal for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 was to reach one hundred fifty (150) new and renewing members. CPMSAC is proud to announce that this goal was met as of October 2013 and is now looking forward to adding an additional one hundred (100) members by the end of June 2014. This task will not be hard. We are asking all Board Members to invite just one person and/or family to join in helping support our future community leaders (children). The CPMSAC Board would like to take this time to thank all new and renewing members. We look forward to working with everyone and invite you to attend our upcoming programs and meetings (to be announced).

CPMSAC membership is improving its image with a new and easier membership application. If you have any membership applications in your file at this time, please destroy and replace with the new application. Should you need the new application, please email Louise Ford at LLMFORD1@aol.com or Johnny Nelson at johnny.nelson@cox.net. You can also apply on line at www.cpmsac.org.

CPMSAC is a volunteer program and is always looking for new volunteers to assist with the many programs. On the membership application at the bottom, there is a place where you can select the activities in which you would like to volunteer. Please take a moment to select a program to help a child.



CPMSAC needs Community Parent Representatives to serve in the schools to work in their schools with their principals, PTA/PTSA, and CPMSAC in closing the achievement gap. The job is not hard to do, but it takes your commitment to join, attend the PTA/PTSA meetings, become a member of CPMSAC, take issues and concerns of the minority parents and students to the principals, and work toward solutions to problems.

Please email bytyler@fcps.edu to sign up for training.



STEP 2012-2013

By Barbara Tyler

Saturday Toward Excellence Program (STEP) school year ended on May 19, 2013 with our annual Banquet where we celebrated our academic achievements. This is also assessment time to see how did we do to help students reach their goals to improve grades; acquire new skills; promote goal setting; and develop strong communication, reading, writing, and study skills. STEP IS PROUD to announce that the overall assessment was great.

STEP has been providing free tutoring service in our community for 29 years helping minority and other ethnic groups in Fairfax County Public Schools. CPMSAC sees high academic achievers, and all they need is a little time and a loving environment. "Support, motivation, and recognition" is our mission and our goals are to revitalize students' outlook on learning; to continue strengthening communication with students, parents, counselors and teachers; and to enrich each student with renewed energy and to enhance personal growth. We enroll students in third through twelfth grades coming from schools in clusters 7, 8, and other schools.

STEP would like to thank Mrs. Theresa Johnson, principal of Chantilly High School; counselors; Mr. Franks; and Mr. Demek for recruiting tutors for STEP. Thanks for your partnership. STEP also would like to thank the Chantilly High School PTA for many years of financial support to our annual banquet.

STEP offers numerous programs and events to engage students in learning.

- **Project BEST** is still presenting STEM education, and the students are excited to learn new skills. Now they can participate in their school's science fair.
- **Summer Math Institute** is another program designed for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders taking algebra and geometry. Classes are offered during the summer, and classes are held in the evening. (Note: this program is driven by getting a grant. The past year we did not get a grant, but we are still looking.)
- **Leadership Institute** will be introduced this year to our students. STEP AND NOVA will work in partnership to give our students a sense of leadership skills.
- **Motivational Speakers Bureau** is used to bring speakers in to share their experiences in various careers. We use people from the community and businesses, college professors and staff, school personnel, and parents.
- **College Round-Up** is held on the first Saturday in January, and various college and university students serve as speakers for this session.
- **Book Club Café** is Book Club Café is a favorite for our readers. Dr. Blunt, a retired English professor, works with the students and will visit the Chantilly Regional Public Library with the students.
- **Writing Workshop** is offered to elementary, middle, and high school students to improve their writing skills.
- **Study Skills Workshops** are offered at the beginning of school year and again mid-year to all the students.
- **Spelling Bee Contest** – elementary students compete for the trophy.
- **American History Contest** – middle and high school students compete for a trophy.
- **Annual Banquet** is a celebration of recognitions and participation for students, tutors, and volunteers.

STEP TUTORING PROGRAM BEGINS A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

On September 28, 2013, STEP held its annual Orientation and Registration Program. Mr. Shawn Frank, sub school principal at Chantilly High School, welcomed the students, parents, and tutors. Dr. Johnny Nelson, CPMSAC president, explained the history of the organization and its mission and encouraged the students to start strong this year in school, persevere, and finish strong. The program's director, Barbara Tyler, explained the goals and components of STEP.

STEP offers free tutoring for students in grades 3rd through 12th from Cluster 7, needing help in a variety of subjects, such as reading, writing, math, algebra, and geometry. STEP meets three Saturday mornings a month in the Media Center at Chantilly High School from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Presently, 50 students who are recommended by their counselors and teachers are enrolled in STEP. Because of the open enrollment, new students register at every session.

Following the opening session, students attended a study skills workshop presented by Andria Shoates, counselor at Northern Virginia Community College, while parents attended a workshop on parental involvement presented by Dr. Larry Bussey, Family and School Partnerships Department of Communications and Community Outreach for FCPS. After these two workshops, Barbara Tyler conducted a training session for the tutors who are members of Chantilly High School National Honor Society, parents, and representatives from local businesses.



To volunteer as a tutor,
contact Barbara Tyler

BTyler@fcps.edu.



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Centre Ridge Elementary School
14400 New Braddock Road
Centreville, Virginia 20121

October 28, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Centre Ridge Elementary School would like to thank the Chantilly Pyramid for Minority Achievement Committee for providing our students the opportunity to participate in the Saturday Toward Excellence Program (STEP) during the school year. This program has provided numerous students over the years free tutoring on Saturdays in reading and math. Our parents, students, and teachers have found this program beneficial in helping students build confidence as well as improve their report card grades and SOL test scores. We have many parents who are not able to afford a private tutor, and they are so grateful that their child can receive academic support outside of school.

We are looking forward to another great year with the STEP Program.

Thank you,

Anne Flannagan
Centre Ridge Elementary
School Counselor
703-227-2617

GOLF TOURNAMENT TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The tournament is held each year on the third Friday of September. Plan to Join Us!



CHANTILLY PYRAMID MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Membership Application

\$25.00 Per Family, Per Year



Please join CPMSAC today or if you are already a member, please re-new your membership for the next year –
July 1, 20__ through June 30, 20__.

Your membership and/or donation will help support our community's most precious resource
"Our Children."

Your donations and/or membership application may be mailed to:

CPMSAC, P.O. BOX 221351, CHANTILLY, VA 20153 OR JOIN ON-LINE AT www.cpmsac.org.

PLEASE PRINT

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	NEW	RENEW	PHONE #

PARENT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

HOME ADDRESS

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

CHILD'S/CHILDREN'S NAME(S)

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL

The Board of Directors requests your support in volunteering with one or more of the following CPMSAC programs:

There are many opportunities to serve with CPMSAC. Please check the activities you would like to volunteer in.

Annual King Festival (February) _____, Annual Youth and Motivation Awards Program (June) _____,
 Enrichment Teach-In (April) _____, Fundraising (Year round) _____,
 Minority Student Achievement Parent Rep (School year) _____, Motivational Speaker (Year round) _____,
 Principals' Reception (October) _____, Shirley O. Nelson Golf Tournament (September) _____, Tutoring Programs (Sept.-May) _____

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Johnny Nelson, CPMSAC President at 703-968-2471