

Mt. Royal School Newsletter

A publication to inform, inspire and involve our students, faculty and families

Class Notes & Hallway Happenings

The **EGATE Awards** spotlight gifted and talented programs aligned with the Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines and state regulations for gifted and talented education. Each EGATE school submits a comprehensive application which provides documentation of 21 criteria of excellence under four program objectives: student identification, curriculum and instruction, professional development, and program management and evaluation. Mt. Royal is proud to have been named one of ten Maryland EGATE recipients for 2017. An awards ceremony and reception will take place on Feb. 16th at North County High School in Glen Burnie. For those interested in attending, RSVP is required before Feb. 10th. <http://tinyurl.com/2017GTRreception>



Congratulations to the **January Golden Eagle Winners**: Mackenzie Frazier, Lane Naylor, Erick Reynolds, Isaiah Joseph, Carter Makle, Elias Burnett, Korye Ceo, William Anderson, Mariya Shipley, Marcus Jenkins, Kamyia Ashe and Da Naira Thompson.



Visit the school's website for pictures of this month's award ceremony and a complete list of all recipients for the school year.

Close Reading in the Classroom: This year's BCPSS push to increase reading strategies across content has begun at Mt. Royal. Close Reading is a strategy that asks students to engage with the same, rigorous texts multiple times. Each time the students read a text they are given a different purpose; understanding vocabulary terms, finding figurative language, answering text dependent questions and finding an overall deeper comprehension of the text. Be on the lookout for evidence that your student is engaging with this strategy and discuss it with them!

Congratulations to our winners at the **Mt. Royal History Day competition!** These scholars spent the first semester conducting original historical research and developing fantastic projects and will compete in the district competition on March 11. Winners include: Patience Odeh, Angelica Brooks, Rian Finney, Henry Kennison, Jordyn Blanding, Davon Cooper, Devon Thomas, Anaya Okafor, Ashantae Hayward, Tzipporah Harker, Zachariah Toland, Aniyah Davis, Precious Conteh, Taylor Chase-Bynum, Sean Cooper, Carmen Norman, Stella Perez, Dayvonte' Smith, Cameron Lesesane and Jaden Holmes.

A new set of **After School Activities** are now available for Feb. - May. For the complete list, visit <http://tinyurl.com/MRafterschoolFebMay> on our school website. Please email the point of contact if you are interested in your child's participating in any of the listed activities.

Upcoming Dates:

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- 2/8 **PTO Meeting 5-6pm**, Library
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- School Family Council Mtg.**
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- 2/9 **NAEP Test, 4th Grade**
-
- 2/15 **Middle School Open House 9am**
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- 2/16 **EGATE Reception 5-8pm**
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- Science Center Field Trip 1st Grade**
-
- Ravens Bookmobile Visit Grades K-2**
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- 2/17 **School Closed**, Professional Development
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- 2/20 **School Closed**, Presidents' Day
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ATTENTION 8th Grade Families: High School Applications are DUE!

Please schedule an appointment to complete your child's high school application at: www.signupgenius.com then click "**find sign up**"; enter **adhutchinson@bcps.k12.md.us** for the email address assigned to this signup and then **select a date and time**. If you need an evening appt., please email Ms. Williams directly at adhutchinson@bcps.k12.md.us



Middle School Europe Scholarship Tour

Help fund the amazing travel experience of a lifetime! Mr. Francella is currently building a scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to students traveling to Europe this summer. Visit this link to make a donation and learn more about this amazing opportunity for our middle school students. Please also pass the link along to family and friends, every donation helps! www.donorschoose.org/we-teach/1023232

BCPSS Survey

Baltimore City Public Schools wants to know what is and isn't working well at your child's school in an anonymous and confidential survey. Once parents and guardians, students and teachers have returned their surveys, school and district leaders will receive a summary of the responses — which they will share with the school community, and use to identify successes to build on and challenges to address. www.k12insight.com/SchoolSurveyParent/SY1617

Tardy Initiative

Mt. Royal has begun to work to decrease the number of tardies on a daily basis. Students who arrive after 8:15am are considered late each day. In an effort to get our students in class on time and learning, we have begun randomly selecting homerooms to be rewarded with Eagle Bucks.

Did You Know?

The **Baltimore Ravens Bookmobile** is headed to Mt. Royal Thursday, February 16 for children in grades K-2. This mobile library is packed with close to 2,500 books, including picture books, leveled readers, easy chapter books, and non-fiction books that children can keep for their own home library.



Mt. Royal will host a **Middle School Open House** on Feb. 15 for students interested in Advanced Academics and Ingenuity. There will be a teacher panel, students to field questions and a tour of the school.

Mr. Kuk is looking for parents or other community members who have a science, engineering or medical background and are interested in serving as judges for the **Mt. Royal Science Fair**, taking place on 3/9 from 5-7pm. Please contact him directly at jjkuk@bcps.k12.md.us to participate.

Boys and Girls **Track and Field** will begin March 1, 2017. Contact Coach Casson at ECasson@bcps.k12.md.us for more information.

Mt. Royal's Annual **Literacy Night** will take place in the spring. Literacy Night is a wonderful opportunity for families to participate in literacy based games, have dinner and get involved with our community. We are looking for authors, playwrights, and other wordsmiths from our community to join us! If you know of anyone or are interested please contact Mrs. Czochanski at cefish@bcps.k12.md.us

SPAR Spotlight: Health Education — Health is a quarter long class taught in grades 6, 7 and 8. Some of the units of focus are: Mental and Emotional Health, Nutrition and Fitness, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, Family Life and Human Sexuality, Disease Prevention and Control, Personal and Consumer Health, Safety and Injury Prevention. Lessons are designed to develop essential health skills necessary to adopt, practice and maintain health-enhancing behaviors.

Extra-Curricular Focus: Vex Robotics — Vex Robotics meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays (with mentors from Johns Hopkins) from 2:45 to 4:15pm. The **Vex Team** recently competed in the Hopkin Robotics Cup against the top elementary and middle school teams in the city. The team came into the competition ranked 14th of 30 coming off their best finish of the season, and were seeded 8th in the playoff round to face off against the eventual champions. Overall, the team finished 3rd out of 24. Vex Robotics services students in grades 6 through 8, while Vex IQ can service students grades 2 through 8. Contact Ms. Hughes for more information: jlwalden@bcps.k12.md.us

Mt. Royal In the News...

Mt. Royal wishes Ms. M a big congratulations on being named a recipient of the **MENSA Achievement Award**.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth is working on bringing inner-city kids into its programs. African-American kids from lower socioeconomic backgrounds haven't done well on the standardized tests the center typically uses. So the Center has been looking for new ways to identify bright kids from underserved neighborhoods. The result is the **Baltimore Emerging Scholars Program**. **Santino Vaughan**, a Mt. Royal student in 4th-grade was interviewed on WYPR to discuss a lesson that peaked his interest. Have a listen here: <http://wypr.org/post/new-way-identify-gifted-inner-city-kids>