

Maryland

**Boys Read**

Arthur Middleton Elementary School

1109 Copley Avenue, Waldorf, MD 20602; 301-645-3338; FAX 301-645-0931

Submitted By: Stacey Castle, Penny Turner, Joyce Campbell, Karen Ferruzza and Rhayda Thomas

Boys Read is a program designed to provide the fourth and fifth grade male students with a variety of literature and informational texts that will engage their interest and encourage reading. Students will be formed into reading groups by the teachers and will meet at least once or twice a week, discussing the readings through open sharing and inquiry by the teachers. The goal is to enhance the reading interest of the boys so that they become enthusiastic readers by giving them appealing reading material and the opportunity to discuss their ideas. As a culminating activity, guest author Barry Polisar will visit the school to share his books and his story of how he became interested in reading and writing books.

**Blogging Into Maryland History**

Ballenger Creek Elementary School

5250 Kingsbrook Drive, Frederick, MD 21703;

Submitted By: Mandy McAteer, Cathy Lepine and Marisa Dudiak

Fourth grade students at Ballenger Creek Elementary School will use web logs (blogs), websites that allow their authors to express ideas and receive comments from readers in a digital conversation, to integrate their social studies learning of Maryland history to contemporary times. Students will use discussion, the expression of personal opinions, and the comparison of historical events to demonstrate an understanding of events. These blogs are intended to inspire more critical and creative thinking in a public forum, while developing communication, technology and interpersonal skills. Students will design and present a culminating activity based on the student's choice to represent their learning.

**Guys Night Out**

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School

2040 St. Thomas Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602; 301-645-1334; FAX 301-753-1788

Submitted By: Kathleen Davis

Guys Night Out is an innovative monthly evening program for targeted sixth grade boys and their fathers or adult role models as a way of increasing family participation in the formal education process, fostering relationships and an appreciation for reading. This program, along with other various activities such as history and science fair family planning nights and family-oriented book fairs, sets out to increase the reading interest of young males. Each male parent or guardian of all fifty sixth-grade boys will be contacted and offered an opportunity of being enrolled in the program, which will consist of a gathering once a month. Included on the basic agenda will be activities like the meal, literature circles type discussion of the book, and ending with tickets to attend a chosen sporting event.

**BLAST!**

Broadneck Elementary School

470 Shore Acres Road, Arnold, MD 21012; 410-222-1680; FAX 410-222-1676

Submitted By: Catherine Maloney

BLAST! is a hands-on, science and math enrichment program that focuses on space science and is aimed to bring energy, enrichment and enthusiasm to the students in order to instill and foster an interest in science. The after school club with a maximum of 50 students will meet bimonthly and will be open by application to all third through fifth grade students. It will emphasize serious commitment and dedication in addition to having fun. There will be a special focus on attracting girls and minority students to the club in order to build up interest among those particular groups. Club activities will extend the science concepts taught in the classroom curriculum with a focus on logical/mathematical, visual/spatial and kinesthetic, incorporating Bernoulli's principle of flight with Newton's third law of motion. Students will design rockets, test them, measure the distance flown, collect and display data on graphs and charts, act as engineers to make modification and report their findings. They will also explore space flight with various activities. As a culminating activity, students will present their findings to the school and community at the Schoolwide Science Expo.

**The Civil War: Live at BMS!**

Brunswick Middle School

301 Cummings Drive, Brunswick, MD 21716; 240-236-5400; FAX 240-236-5401

Submitted By: Kay Monus

This program is designed to enrich the current eighth grade American Studies Curriculum focusing on the Civil War time period at Brunswick Middle School, giving the students a realistic portrayal of Civil War life through examining primary resources and artifact displays, and listening to guest speakers. The programs given by the guest speakers will be on two themes: Civil War medicine and the soldier's experience. A media center "museum" will be set up with the artifacts and primary sources. Students will participate in activities such as a scavenger hunt. Afterwards, they will complete a creative writing assignment to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained.

**Scientists in the Field**

Burning Tree Elementary School

7900 Beech Tree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 301-320-6510; FAX 301-320-6538

Submitted By: Helene Granof, Donna Dieckman, Travis Wiebe and Buffy Harowitz

Twenty-two second grade students and 24 fourth grade students will work in mixed age cooperative teams to explore the nature of science by investigating the work of real scientists through the use of personal interviews, hands-on science experiences with community-based scientists, books about scientists in the field and internet resources. Students will then prepare a presentation, reporting their findings at a 'Scientists in the

Field' mini-conference, and listen to an address given by practicing scientists who attend the event. Using what they have learned, students will relate it to the work they do as scientists in the classroom. This program intends to give students a context for the content of science by showing them how science is conducted by scientists in the real world.

### **Celebrate Maryland!**

Bushy Park Elementary School

2670 Route 97, Glenwood, MD 21738; 410-313-5500; FAX 410-313-5505

Submitted By: Irene Brown and Vanessa McNeil

Fourth grade students will participate in a cross-curricula, interdisciplinary unit that focuses on the three geographic regions of Maryland and provides students with the opportunity to express themselves creatively in music, art, and writing. Activities will be organized and geared towards the students in the Gifted and Talented program in particular and will emphasize research and critical thinking skills. These activities include Native American crafts, storytelling and music. The unit will culminate in a Maryland Day celebration for all fourth grade students where there will be a display of arts and crafts projects, travel brochures, and original stories and poems.

### **Cross Age Teaching of Science**

Clearspring Elementary School

9930 Moyer Road, Damascus, MD 21769; 301-253-7004

Submitted By: Emily Bizzell, Elaine Whalen and Rachelle Klein

Eleventh and twelfth grade students at Damascus High School will pair up with fourth grade students at Clearspring Elementary School in an effort to supplement, enrich, and reinforce the new science curriculum and help the fourth graders design interactive demonstrations and hands-on experiments. The high school students will present the lessons and introduce the available science and technology equipment. They will come to the school three to five days a week to engage in presentations. This program benefits the high school students by giving them the opportunity to gain valuable experience in planning and presenting lesson, while it also hopes to inspire the younger students to continue their science studies.

### **Bilingual Readers Club Project**

Clopper Mill Elementary School

18501 Cinnamon Drive, Germantown, MD 20874; 301-353-8065; FAX 301-353-8068

Submitted By: Anginise Moore Vernon and Lucy Alexander Montecino

Bilingual Readers Club is designed to increase parental involvement, create an appreciation of the Spanish language and culture as well as promote and encourage a love of reading. This project aims to build community in Clopper Mill Elementary School, which has a diverse multinational student body. Parents, one Spanish speaker and one English speaker, will read to pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade students from identical books in both English and Spanish for sixteen sessions, an hour long each,

during the year. Students will also participate in various activities such as learning songs and phrases in both languages and working on a craft that will be related to the story.

### ***The Lucky Clover, Student Run Paper***

Cloverly Elementary School

800 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905; 301-989-5770; FAX 301-879-1035

Submitted By: Kristen Miller

Third and fourth grade students at Cloverly Elementary School belonging to the Writer's Club will oversee a student-run newspaper to be published three times a year. All students will have the opportunity to write and submit articles to be considered for publication. This project will be a tool used to motivate students to write and to give them real life experience that complements the curriculum. The 6-Traits writing curriculum will be used for writing instruction in order to discuss, develop, and assess writing, empowering students to become good communicators. Members of the club will use it as a rubric to give feedback to student-writers. In addition to the academic aspect, the newspaper will help involve the community and provide information about school activities to parents.

### **Understanding the Cloverly Courtyard**

Cloverly Elementary School

800 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905; 301-989-5770; FAX 301-879-1035

Submitted By: Cynthia Roca

Fourth and fifth grade students at Cloverly Elementary School will research and write about the flora and fauna in the Cloverly Courtyard in order to increase their knowledge and understanding of ecosystems and the interdependence of species. This year-long research project will include the production of a Courtyard Field Guide, interactive web site and a self-guided tour for students, families and staff. Signs will be built and placed in the courtyard to help identify and display information about the plant. Students will be encouraged to be learners and teachers, developing through learning by investigative research and sharing the gained knowledge.

### **History Documentary Project: Richard Nixon and the Media**

Connelly School of the Holy Child

9029 Bradley Boulevard, Potomac, MD 20854; 301-365-0955; FAX 301-365-0981

Submitted By: Ken Woodard

Students in the Advanced Placement United States History class will use primary and secondary sources to produce a video documentary about former President Richard Nixon's relations with the media. Some of these sources will come from the Nixon Library at National Archives II at College Park, Maryland, where the students will visit and find and use public domain photographs and documents that are available for use. The other source will be personal interviews with journalists and experts with memories and knowledge of the Nixon years. Students will use digital recorders to record these interviews and use the oral histories for the documentary, which will broadcast on

community access television. This project will motivate students to consider issues of quality and presentation not usually covered.

### **A Historical Garden**

DeMatha Catholic High School

4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781; 301-864-3666; FAX 301-864-0248

Submitted By: Martin Hager and Amanda Markus

Students will build and plant a vegetable garden with plants that were significant in colonial Maryland. In this cross-curricular, investigative and hands-on project, students will learn about botany and gain an appreciation of the importance of agriculture in the history of the state. The project integrates the study of American history with the study of botany, giving students the opportunity to learn how the early Marylanders coped with the difficulties of raising food crops, use the scientific method to conduct tests on soil parameters such as pH, and research and collect data. Two classes of students in the general biology class would participate in the project, which will continue over to the next year. This garden will be an ongoing project with each growing cycle overlapping with the next year's classes.

### **Return to Ancient Rome: A Living Museum**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School

11902 Daisy Lane, Glenn Dale, MD 20769; 301-464-3215; FAX 301-464-9725

Submitted By: Julie Peyton

Eighth grade students at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School will create a living museum of Ancient Rome as part of their introduction to Latin class. This project will help students enhance their written and oral communication skills and give them experience with research, technology and the study of Latin and Ancient Roman culture. In addition to students participating in weekly activities and working on the museum project monthly, Legio XX, a local re-enactment group from Virginia, will provide a half-day, interactive workshop, engaging the students in a visual presentation of everyday life in Ancient Rome. Students will also receive help on costume, prop, and set design for the exhibits in the museum. In conjunction with the workshop, the students will conduct in-class discussion and independent research on topics about Ancient Rome. The project will culminate with the opening of the museum, which will be available to visit by the entire school and parents.

### **Science in Motion**

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

5701 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-571-6949; FAX 301-571-6953

Submitted By: David Komlos, Monica Sandoval-White, Callie Chester, Tina Shahan and Rose Ann Schwartz

Science in Motion is an integrated unit designed to challenge the students to demonstrate their understanding of Newton's Laws of Motion through movement and dance in their Physical Education class in order to reinforce their understanding of science concepts.

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of concepts such as force, gravity, friction and resistance through movement. They will then demonstrate examples of Newton's Laws of Motion after reviewing the governing principles of movement in nature. In small groups, students will collect data and photos to document their observation of themselves and other objects in motion, applying their findings to the Laws of Motion by creating a visual model. Afterwards, students will choreograph and perform a movement/dance sequence that shows the three laws, which will be documented through photographs. The completed documentation will be shared with the school and parents in the school wide science fair and students will have the opportunity to physically display their understanding.

### **JRR School Habitat**

James Ryder Randall Elementary School

5410 Kirby Road, Clinton, MD 20735; 301-449-4980; FAX 301-449-4834

Submitted By: Patricia Saddler, Stephanie Crummie, Nancy Eichelberger and Vicky Williams

The JRR School Habitat project is an interdisciplinary, interactive and creative program for teaching science and promoting reading skills throughout all grade levels by using the outdoor habitat courtyard site as a classroom. Students will design, construct, and maintain an area around their school, turning it into a National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat. Students will engage in various activities that meet academic standards across all subject area, using skills in those areas such as math to map the schoolyard, science in the study of photosynthesis and social studies to study the land uses of the school site. This project will have the continued involvement of students, parents, teachers, and the community to maintain the environment throughout the year.

### **Rising S.T.A.R.S. (Students That Achieve using Resource Support)**

John F. Kennedy High School

1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902; 301-929-2100; FAX 301-929-2240

Submitted By: Donovan Griffin-Blake

Rising S.T.A.R.S. is a program that will provide assistance to special education students who are college bound in preparing for the ACT and the SAT. Thirty-five graduating seniors will have an affordable, measurable, and well-managed test preparation that will build their strategic testing skills and increase their self-confidence. Test preparation will increase the likeliness of students performing at their best on the test because of the increased level of comfort and knowledge about the procedure.

### **Squid Dissection and Marine Centers**

John Poole Middle School

17014 Tax Fox Avenue, Poolesville, MD 20837; 301-972-7979; FAX 301-972-7982

Submitted By: Peg Callaghna and Nora Thomas

Squid Dissection and Marine Centers is an interdisciplinary program that gives students the opportunity to investigate the form and function of a squid's anatomy through

discussion and dissection, learn about career opportunities in marine biology and participate in various lab activities, some involving anatomy. Sixth grade students in the Accelerated and Enriched Science program at John Poole Middle School will participate in this program, which involves a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore where students will receive direction and help from marine biologists. The program will culminate in post-lab activities such as playing Jeopardy.

### **Spanish Books**

Leonardtown High School

23995 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650; 301-475-0200; FAX

Submitted By: Clara Ewell

Students in the Spanish classes at Leonardtown High School will participate in a language study involving children's literature. This language study focuses on grammar and the development of vocabulary through reading books and discussing the words that are not understood. The activities will emphasize reading, writing and speaking in Spanish. Students will engage in these activities as groups or pairs and will be encouraged to focus on different aspects of the language. This project incorporates self-expression through story telling into learning a new language.

### **Honors Biology Genetic Engineering Experience**

Magruder High School

5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20855; 301-840-4600; FAX 301-840-4617

Submitted By: Kelly Gallo

Students in the honors biology classes at Magruder High School will learn the principles of genetic engineering and the application of DNA technology to other disciplines. They will have the opportunity to manipulate DNA by performing a DNA restriction digest and prepare, load and run gel electrophoresis. The experience will be used to apply to topics that currently impact individuals and society, such as cloning, genetically modified foods, food borne illness outbreak, criminal investigations, and the ethics surrounding these topics. This program will provide students with a learning experience that they may use in the future since DNA technology is growing and more likely to affect their lives. Following the completion of the program for the honors biology students, all other biology students will have the opportunity to participate in a similar experience.

### **Guys Night Out**

Milton Somers Middle School

300 Willow Lane, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-934-4663; FAX 301-934-2982

Submitted By: Rebecca S. Blake and Lou D'Ambrosio

Guys Night Out is a preventive project designed to serve potentially at-risk middle school males who read significantly below grade level and may not continue their education. Male students will partner with an adult male participant—father, guardian or mentor—and forge a relationship to encourage reading interest and comprehension with the help of male reading teachers. They will meet once a month for two hours in the

evening. Integrated into evening sessions will be opportunities for choice of reading titles, student designed T-shirts, food, music and sports. This program also hopes to promote a positive influence and attitude.

### **What is Islam?**

Our Lady of Lourdes School

7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-654-1287; FAX 301-986-8716

Submitted By: Lisa Cosgrove-Davies, Luigi Maria deLuca, Linda Merkel and Regina Mitchell

The students at Our Lady of Lourdes School will gain knowledge and understanding about Islam as it applies to various course subjects and current events through this interdisciplinary program. Students will have the opportunity to learn from maps, technology, and historical resource materials about Muslims and may even take a trip to a mosque, which would provide additional insight along with an appreciation of art and architecture. This program hopes to increase understanding and a caring acceptance of different cultures.

### **Giving Voice to the American Century Oral History Project**

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

8804 Postoak Road, Potomac, MD 20854; 301-983-5200; FAX 301-983-4710

Submitted By: Glenn Whitman and Anne Macdonell

The American Century Oral History Project empowers students with an opportunity to be a practicing historian outside of the traditional classroom setting. Students enrolled in the Advanced Placement United States History class or America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century World class will create and preserve a primary source through an oral history interview. They will also develop an understanding of the oral history process and the strengths and weaknesses of the historical methodology in comparison to more traditional historical sources. This four-month project will culminate in an annual evening event, the Oral History Coffee house, in which bound copies of each student's project and a museum exhibit created by each student are shared with the community.

### **Community Outing Resources Kits**

Stephen Knolls School

10731 St. Margaret's Way, Kensington, MD 20895; 301-929-2151; FAX 301-929-2245

Submitted By: Catherine J. Hunter

Community Outing Resources Kits will feature four travel bags complete with the materials that the teaching staff will need when taking mentally and physically disabled students into the community on outings to work on critical community and vocational skills. Students at Stephen Knolls School will prepare for future work and adult living experiences through this project that will encompass various activities and learning objectives that focus on independent living skills, mobility, functional academics and personal management tasks. Materials such as pictures and play money will be placed in

the bags according to a unit theme such as “restaurant kit” or “job kit”, and these materials will help the students learn to interact, adapt and understand concepts.

### **Vocational Work Center**

Stephen Knolls School

10731 St. Margaret’s Way, Kensington, MD 20895; 301-929-2151; FAX 301-929-2245

Submitted By: Adriana Friedman

Students at Stephen Knolls School will be trained to participate in supported employment opportunities at the Vocational Work Center. The Vocational Work Center features specialized fine motor materials that are designed to teach severely disabled students vocational skills which will generalize to the working world in adult service programs. Activities in the work center will include sorting by color and texture, putting items together for packaging and simple office jobs involving folding, labeling and shredding.

### **Speedy Readers**

St. Leonard Elementary School

5370 St. Leonard Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685; 410-535-7714; FAX

Submitted By: Julie Lacombe

Speedy Readers is a program that targets a selected group of approximately 20 third grade students who are deemed at-risk based on their reading fluency level that was determined by standard test results. The goal of this program is to help students develop their reading fluency and comprehension in all subject areas. Fluency directly assists in comprehension and consistent practice is necessary to enhance fluency. Reading strategies will be implemented daily.

### **St. Martin’s in-the-Field’s Natural Habitat**

St. Martin’s in-the-Field Day School

375 A Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD 21146; 410-647-7055; FAX 410-647-7411

Submitted By: Melissa Diamondidis, Anne Hodges, and Jen Beers

Fifth, sixth and seventh grade students at St. Martin’s in-the-Field Day School will work to slow down, redirect and disperse the water that runs into a storm drain and then into nearby Colchester Creek in order to provide a barrier for a natural habitat to develop. This will be accomplished through creating a mulch pathway around the storm drain that would serve as a marked barrier for a wild growth area. It will provide a natural habitat for native plants, animals and insects that will be observed and studied by the students. Students in other grades will use this area for their study according to their curriculums. The project offers a unique opportunity for students to create a habitat and watch it develop over time.

### **Photography as Medium of American-Japanese Classroom Cultural Exchange**

St. Mary’s School

600 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20852; 301-762-4179; FAX 301-762-9550

Submitted By: Marnelyn Mataac

Through this cross-cultural enrichment program, students will be exposed to ideas of group and cultural identities and exchange unique perspectives and experiences. Fifth grade students at St. Mary's School will interact with Japanese students using an online classroom cultural exchange program. Students will learn about the Japanese school system through a power point presentation given by the teacher. They will also have the opportunity to communicate through electronic mail and possibly video conferencing. Digital photography will be used as a medium for conveying messages about American school life to the Japanese students. The students will put together a photo documentary using a basic digital camera to capture St. Mary's student life. The photo documentary will be sent to the Japanese students when completed.

### **Catching the Science in Nature/An Outdoor Science Classroom**

Takoma Park Elementary School

7511 Holly Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; 301-650-6414; FAX 301-650-6526

Submitted By: Kendell Matthews, Bruce Bush, Dan Hutton and Janita Love

Kindergarten through second grade students will participate in a project in which an outdoor learning laboratory will serve as a classroom center for science, math and language arts lessons. With the support of the Takoma Horticultural Club, a volunteer-run gardening club who will assist with the community planting days, students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the dynamic nature of living things, their interactions, and the results from the interactions that occur over time. The program also includes a trip to Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington.

### **Books Are Great**

Thurmont Primary School

7989 Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont, MD 21788; 240-236-2800; FAX 240-236-2801

Submitted By: Karen Yoder

Books Are Great is a program designed to enhance the fluency and comprehension of the second grade students at Thurmont Primary School by using home/school communication with parents. The school has constructed nineteen reading bags and students will take one of the bags of five books home to read with their family for a four-day period. The book bags will rotate from student to student on a weekly basis, so students have a chance to read different books each week. Each student will be responsible for responding to one of the books in a journal and will create a pictorial representation that gives evidence of ideas gathered while listening to and/or reading a text.

### **Independent Classroom Libraries for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Boys**

Waverly Elementary School

201 Waverly Drive, Frederick, MD 21702; 240-236-3900; FAX 240-236-3901

Submitted By: Les Holt III and Robert Simmons

An independent classroom library will be built for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys at Waverley Elementary in order to increase reading independence, improve comprehension, increase

fluency and develop an interest in reading. The libraries will include interdisciplinary and multicultural texts that will be chosen carefully to reflect and appeal to the interests of the boys. Boys will select the texts and then read and discuss them during “Boy’s Book Club”. Student writing journals will be kept in order to assess and monitor their reading progress.

### **Knights in the Kitchen**

Wheaton Senior High School

12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906; 301-929-2050; FAX 301-929-2081

Submitted By: Joan Locastro and Kerri Mullins

Knights in the Kitchen is a food and nutrition program involving hands-on cooking, aimed at increasing the independence of students with mental disabilities. The program emphasizes the crucial life skills of safety in the kitchen, sanitation principles, nutrition and healthy eating, and basic food preparation. Functional reading, writing and math skills will be incorporated throughout the program. Students will participate in a weekly lesson, instructional grocery shopping trips and in-lab experiences.

### **Around The World At Whetstone**

Whetstone Elementary School

19201 Thomas Farm Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879; 301-840-7191; FAX 301-840-7185

Submitted By: Ruth Gainer, Sarah McCarron and Denise Cunningham

Around the World at Whetstone is a program intended to transform the traditional International Night at Whetstone Elementary School into a twelve-week program of geography studies based on the heritage, resources, travels and interest of the diverse student population. The program would incorporate family participation by having parents and other community members present weekly one-hour sessions imparting information about their countries of origin. Students will collect materials including maps, children’s books, folk toys, photographs, artifacts and geography games. Student-developed questionnaires will be used to interview representatives of different countries during International Night and the collected data will be compared and contrasted. The program emphasizes parent involvement and an increase in the knowledge of geography and culture.