

SPECIAL THANKS TO BALFOUR

A special thanks to Pat Mahoney from Balfour for being the primary corporate sponsor for the Assistant Principals' Conference. Balfour has long been a supporter of our Spring Conference and will continue to support us in that activity. Pat stepped up and offered to help us with the Assistant Principals' Conference.

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NASSP CONVENTION SAN DIEGO FEBRUARY 27- MARCH 2, 2009

Plan to join us at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina on Thursday evening February 27 for a welcome to San Diego party sponsored by Tom Scarry and *National Quality Products*. We will be sending out invitations to all Marylanders who are registered for the convention. There will be a hospitality room in the Marriott which will open each evening one hour after the close of the general sessions for refreshments and conversation.

**MASSP SPRING CONFERENCE
MARCH 19-21, 2009
CLARION RESORT FONTAINEBLEU HOTEL
OCEAN CITY, MD**



**Maryland Association of
Secondary School Principals**

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FIRST CLASS

MASSP Report

to the Secondary Administrator

**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**



Affiliated with the National Association of Secondary School Principals

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**MELISSA SHINDEL
MARYLAND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

Melissa Shindel, Assistant Principal at Patuxent Valley Middle School in Howard County is the 2008-2009 Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year. Melissa is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and a Master of Arts in Education, Policy, and Leadership. She has been an English teacher, director of an early learning academy, instructional specialist, and assistant principal in Prince George's and Howard County.

As an assistant principal, Melissa has implemented programs to teach parents and others about what children are learning, how they are learning it, and how to support this effort at home. She has planned, organized and executed learning fairs, question and answer sessions, MSA parent nights, Saturday and after-school parent instructional workshops, and data utilization meetings.

Our new assistant principal of the year is a published author in *Principal Leadership* with two articles entitled "Lessons Learned, Wisdom Earned" and "Inverting the Achievement Pyramid." She has also presented at local, state, regional, and national conferences on various topics during her professional career.

In working with her staff Melissa created a program called "MSA Monday" which is embedded professional development for every teacher in the school during their planning time to familiarize and teach them about the MSA. She has also taken a leadership role in the school's testing plan, planning and presenting at parent training and workshops, and organizing student improvement workshops where students were able to sign up for seminars in which they were taught in small groups on various topics. . Patuxent Valley Middle School is a Professional Development School and she was the liaison between the University of Maryland and the school. (Continued on next page)

She created opportunities for the staff to take courses in action research, classroom management, and on becoming a mentor teacher using the Teach-Coach-Reflect model.

Melissa believes, especially at the middle school level, it is critical to facilitate the growth of the “whole child”. With that she initiated the development and maintenance of co-curricular programs that complement the curriculum, while trying to foster all students’ academic success. Working to elevate the student voice, she has implemented her county’s first National Junior Honor Society and revitalized the Student Government Association.

One of her administrative directors, David Bruzga wrote that, “Melissa has consistently impressed me as she has exemplified a highly collaborative leadership style, excellence in instructional leadership, and personalization of the school environment. Her outstanding communication skills, attention to detail, organizational ability, and judgment have enabled her to become an effective educational leader with great potential for higher levels of responsibility.”

Another Howard County administrator, Dan Michaels, wrote that, “Melissa has enhanced the instructional and behavioral support programs at her school by effectively involving parents and staff. She is an effective communicator who clearly articulates a vision and leads participants in focused action. She has effectively reconciled instructional and interpersonal issues that ultimately enhanced the learning climate for students.”

Her principal at Patuxent Valley Middle School, Robert Motley related that, “She has earned my respect and the respect of staff, students and parents. She has done this through her honest, genuine, and engaging personality. She is a person of integrity who takes pride in keeping her word. She knows the importance of following through on commitments she makes to people. Melissa works hard and models the high expectations she sets for others.”

Finally her PTA President, Andrea Zahlis, wrote that, “Her strength lies not only in her intelligence and efficiency, but in her energy and kindness, she has been able to develop a great rapport with so many of the students, and they truly respect her. Whether in the office, monitoring the halls or supervising the cafeteria, she treats people with courtesy and warmth”.

MASSP is proud to have Melissa represent Maryland in the national competition for NASSP Assistant Principal of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS MELISSA!!!!

REGIONAL MASSP MEETINGS

The October meeting of the Executive Board of MASSP was held on October 11, 2008 at Middletown High School in Frederick County. We were pleased to have Delegates Paul Stull and Galen Claggett from the Maryland General Assembly as our guests. They shared their ideas and concerns about the upcoming 2009 legislative session in Annapolis. MASSP appreciates both of the delegates sharing some of their time with us on a Saturday morning. Also with us at the October meeting were Becky Koontz, Instructional Director of High Schools from Frederick County and Tracey Lucas, Instructional for Middle School in Frederick County. They shared the latest news from Frederick County with the Executive Board. Dr. David Reeder, Director of Middle Schools for Washington County was also able to visit with us during the October meeting.

Our next regional meeting will be at Reservoir High School in Howard County on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. The following legislators have been invited: Senators Edward Kasemeyer, Allan Kittleman, and James Robey and Delegates Gail Bates, Elizabeth Bobo, Steven DeBoy, Guy Guzzone, James Malone, Warren Miller, Shane Pendergrass, and Frank Turner. We hope that some of the local directors and assistant superintendents will be able to join us in November. In addition, we invite any and all MASSP/NASSP members near Reservoir High School to join us for an hour or two as well. We will be holding our Executive Board meeting at Eastern Technical High School (Baltimore County) in January and at Lockerman Middle School (Caroline County) in February.

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

It is of little surprise that the 2009 Maryland Legislative Session will not be productive in terms of funding for any entity in the State. The structural budget continues to be a major issue not to mention the day to day operations of the State government. Thorton and any such prior legislation will probably not be fully funded as the governor has asked for across the board cuts in all programs. The Geographic Cost for Education Index has already been listed for cuts. There continues to be discussion about moving the cost of funding the pension system back to the counties but that probably is unlikely, but we need to remain aware of this possibility. There probably will not be much to report to you but the usual things will pop up as they have for the past several years. The website will be updated weekly once the session gets underway in January.

High School and Middle Level Principal of the Year

Applications for the MASSP High School and Middle Level Principal of the Year will be due to the Maryland office on or before WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009. The application is available on our website at www.md-massp.org. As we did for the Assistant Principal of the Year program, we will be soliciting nominations from each county for both the High School and Middle Level Principal of the Year for Maryland. With the Assistant Principal Program we received twenty-six nominations from principals across the state and received nine completed nomination packets for Assistant Principal of the Year. For the Principal of the Year program we will be utilizing a similar format by soliciting nominations and sending the nominees packets for the award. The self-nomination process is still in play but it seems that school administrators do not want to nominate themselves. Hopefully with self-nomination and nominations from each county we will have a number of quality packets to consider for this coming year’s award.