

# PRIDE & Joy Newsletter

Maryland State Department of Education  
Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

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Issue 6

Welcome to MSDE \* Academic Accolades \* Fame \* Special Deliveries

## "PRIDE Hall of Fame"

Let's give a great big 'Shout-Out!' to this quarter's Shining Stars...

*Carole Abel, Donna Gunning, Susan Oskin, Jerry Price, Kausar Syed, Joshua Walley, and ...*

*School Improvement Team Leaders ~ Carol Hepler, Geri Taylor-Lawrence, Tina McKnight, and Jim Newkirk*

## IT'S ACADEMIC!



"Education is the transmission of civilization." ~ Ariel & Will Durant

**Philip Deitchman**, in the OHR, and **Heidi Deitchman**, in the DECD, are beaming with pride over their son, **Richard Deitchman**. *Richard* received his Bachelor's Degree from Frostburg State University in Health and Physical Education—following in his mother's footsteps believing our future is in our children's hands. After graduation, *Richard* had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Israel and is currently substitute teaching as well as applying for teaching positions. He was the co-president of Frostburg's club lacrosse team and will work with Liberty High School as an assistant J.V. lacrosse coach. *Richard* is planning to pursue a graduate degree in September 2011.

**Richard Scott**, in the DSFSS, is filled with joy because of his daughter, **Brittany Scott**. In December, she graduated from UMBC—majoring in psychology. *Brittany* plans to become a school psychologist and will pursue graduate school in the fall.

**Seth Kaufmann**, son of **Valerie Kaufmann** in the DECD, is now employed with a cyber security company as a software engineer. *Seth* gained his experience by working for two years as a Programmer Analyst at MSDE. His entry into the world of software engineering began with an education at Frostburg State University.

**Susan Oskin**, in the DCCR, was recently awarded a Master's of Science Degree in Community and Mental Health Counseling from McDaniel College.

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." ~ *Malcolm S. Forbes*

## Education Alert!

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES**—Our next **PRIDE & Joy Newsletter** will be the ever-popular "Scholar Issue." Please forward any graduation announcements (pre-K through higher education) to Gail Tucker in the Division of Academic Policy by Friday, May 27th.

Let's give our loved ones and colleagues the "Academic" Shout-Out! they so rightfully deserve.

"The fate of our country won't be decided on a battlefield—it will be determined in a classroom." ~ *Excerpt from 'Waiting for Superman'*

"A baby is born with a need to be loved...and never outgrows it." ~ *Frank H. Clark*



## Pitter-Patter



**Paula Isett**, elated grandmother in the DLDS, welcomed her 5 lbs. 14 oz. grandson, **Max Isett**, to the world on December 24th. It won't be long before *Max* will be playing with his proud parents, Matt and Allison.

**Purva Hukmani**, proud grandmother in the DBS, welcomed a grandson, **Dylan**, on January 10th. *Dylan* weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 19 inches long. He is a bundle of joy to proud parents Bhavik and Kelly, and 2-year-old big brother Deven.

**Liz Neal**, in C&A, is beaming over her 8 lbs. 5 oz. 20 in. granddaughter, **Brynn**, born on January 25th to Kate and Rob Myers.

## Welcome to the World!

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# PRIDE & Joy News

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Welcome to the MSDE Family

Lea Ann Christenson, DOI\*  
Henry Chan, DORS/DDS  
Donna Clem, DOI\*  
Cecelia Coffin, DOI\*  
Shu Costea, DOI\*  
Muriel Donlin, DAR\*  
Michelle Eberly, DORS/DDS  
Nancy Feeley, DSE  
Rebecca Francis, DORS/DDS  
Andrea Guzman, DSFSS\*  
Mary Harris, DSFSS\*  
Kendra Hart, DOI\*  
Elissa Hozore, C&A\*  
Robert Juskus, DBS  
Patrick Kellinger, DAR\*  
Brenda Kelly, DSFSS\*  
Zahi Khamis, DOI\*  
Kathy Lauritzen, DOI  
Susan Markowitz, DAR\*  
Richard Marquart, DOI\*  
Karla Marty, DSE  
Vernita Mickens, DSFSS  
Mary Minter, DAR\*  
Laura Motel, DAP\*  
Lynne Muller, DSFSS\*  
Sara Reed, DOI\*  
Cecilia Roe, DOI\*  
George Smith, DORS/WTC  
Cassandra Smith, DOI\*  
Murdux Smith, DOI\*  
Ava Spencer, DOI\*  
Jill Seewagen, DBS  
Makia Tabourn, DECD  
Nira Taru, DOI\*  
Maria Torres, DAP  
Brian Tureck, DSFSS\*  
Debra Ward, DOI\*  
Ilhye Yoon, DOI

\* Race To The Top staff

**"The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people." ~ Leo Tolstoy**

## Headliners and Legends



As a child, **Kelly Rudd** in the DSFSS, was known for two things, being nicknamed "Ms. Hollywood" and being extremely dramatic in everything she did. Kelly's parents were very instrumental in giving her the confidence to believe that she could be successful in acting—it paid off. When watching the independent film "Smalltimore," you will notice that a character by the name of Melanie injects emotion and comedic one-liners into various scenes throughout the movie. Kelly has appeared in more than 14 independent films like "Last Kill and Testament," "The Mystery Date," "Still Taboo," "Grave Mistakes," - just to name a few. This year, Kelly will also be busy planning her wedding.

**Bryan Zillig** in the DAP, is making his own nuptial news. Last fall, while hiking to the top of Camel's Hump Mountain in Vermont, Bryan popped the question to *Rachel Frazer*—she said "YES!"



"Achieving Excellence," authored by **Elo Akonawe** in the DORS, is an inspirational book that focuses on how and who enables us to achieve excellence in all areas of life. Elo is also the author of "Born to Live." You may purchase books at [www.elolight.com](http://www.elolight.com), Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, or most major book stores.

**Gail Tucker**, in the DAP, was accepted at the University of Maryland School of Law. While pursuing a juris doctor (J.D.) degree, Gail intends to further explore her interests in politics and write a novel.

For more information about **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools visit  
[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)