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Marshall County Schools continues to seek ways to provide open communication for parents and community members.

Email us at: marshallcountyschools@

Board of Education policies may be viewed at <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/policies>.

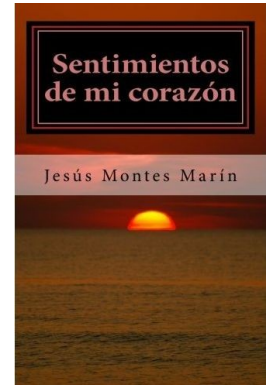
If you were standing directly on Antarctica's South Pole facing north, which direction would you travel if you took one step backward?

A step in any direction would lead north.

JM Teacher Publishes Book

During the school day, Jesus Marin stays busy teaching John Marshall High School students the Spanish Language. In his spare time, he is a writer. Jesus has just published his first book, titled *Sentimientos de mi corazón*. The book is written in Spanish, and is a book of poetry. Jesus plans to donate all proceeds from the book to his former elementary school in Costa Rica for the purchase of computers and technology needs.

Jesus soon plans to publish a second book that will focus on traditional short stories from his native country. This book will be published in both Spanish and English.



Innovation Awards Semifinalists



The Conrad Foundation has launched the 2011-2012 Spirit of Innovation Challenge to encourage students to embrace science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

learning to solve global issues. The competition seeks to motivate students to create technologies and products that meet contemporary challenges. The competition asks high school teams to create commercially viable technology-based products in one of three categories: aerospace exploration, clean energy, and health and nutrition.

A team of four John Marshall High School seniors; Andrew Marchlenski, Ryan Gellner, Chase Cassis, and Josh McKown have been chosen as national semifinalists for the Spirit of Innovation Challenge award in the area of health and nutrition. The team has designed a market-driven concept aimed at addressing both science and social entrepreneurial needs. Their business product utilizes microgrid technologies and energy generation science. The product is designed for marketing in both business and community medical fitness and wellness centers. Their design puts in place reward systems that would reduce the operating costs of fitness and wellness centers. This reduction of cost could make memberships to the centers more reasonably priced and encourage more participation. An increase in community wellness through physical activity can ultimately lead to the reduction of chronic disease such as diabetes and obesity. The team's business proposal was accepted by a team of judges from the science and business communities as a viable product idea.

Quotes to Quotes

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - Les Brown
"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together." - Vista M. Kelly

The Playback Challenge

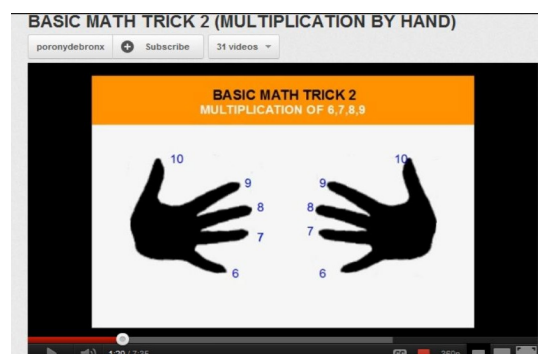


Sand Hill and Hilltop Elementary Schools have both been awarded several hundred dollars to initiate a breakfast expansion grant, "The Playback Challenge." Funding for this opportunity is being provided by grants from USDA Team Nutrition and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Regular exercise and eating right is essential for building and maintaining cardiovascular, muscular, joint and emotional health. Sand Hill Elementary plans to provide monthly Family Fitness Nights designed to teach parents and students how fun and simple it can be to stay healthy. Based upon the benefits of a healthy life style, the program will use six stations that will focus on cardiovascular, abdominal strength, upper body strength, flexibility, agility and nutrition. Sand Hill plans to reach out to parents, teachers, high schools students and PTO members to help set up and man each activity station. Plans are being made to work with the Wheeling YMCA as the site of this activity. Prizes and healthy snacks will

be included in a monthly given away. Hilltop Elementary is planning tasting parties including a "green" tasting party in honor of St. Patrick's Day and a multicultural food tasting.

YouTube Whitelist

Have a YouTube video that would be a good educational tool for your class? It is possible via the whitelist. All educators can submit YouTube videos for whitelisting via WebTop - <http://wvde.k12.wv.us>. WebTop is the free K-12 Education Portal and is available to all public school educators. Within the Teacher Tools section of WebTop is a link to the YouTube Request Tool. This tool allows teachers to submit individual YouTube videos for whitelisting which allows the video to be accessible in their classrooms. A video overview of this process can be found at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/technology/tutorials/vids/youtuberedo/youtuberedo.html>.



Requests can also be emailed to filtering@access.k12.wv.us for review of any website that educators would like to have blocked or unblocked. WVDE staff will review all requests and respond promptly. For additional information or questions, please contact John Miller at 304-558-7880 or jpmiller@access.k12.wv.us.

Brittany Cecil Receives National Board Certification

The Mission of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance student learning and achievement by establishing the definitive standards and systems for certifying accomplished educators, providing programs and advocating policies that support excellence in teaching and leading, and engaging National Board certified teachers and leaders in that process. Brittany Cecil, a teacher at Cameron High School, has recently earned National Board Certification. Ms. Cecil has taught seventh and eighth grade reading and Language Arts at Cameron High School for five years. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall University and a Master of Arts degree in English from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Jack Cain, principal at Cameron High School states that "Brittany is an excellent teacher who is willing to do whatever is needed to help students and the school." He noted that she serves as an after-school tutor, and as a communications liaison for publications. She also consistently participates in workshops to further advance her knowledge and skills as a teacher. Marshall County Schools congratulates Ms. Cecil and looks forward to working with her for many years to come.



HSTA Student of the Year

Cameron High School senior, Ryan Hughes, was selected by the Ohio/Marshall County Governing Board as the Outstanding Health Science Technology Academy (HSTA) Student of the Year. The HSTA Academy is a high school math and science enrichment program which concentrates on building a better tomorrow through education, lifestyles, and health literacy. Ryan and his co-presenters received the Outstanding HSTA Project for “Friends of Coal— Are They Really Our Friends?” Ryan participates in many community service projects including Special Olympics, Red Cross Blood Drive and HSTA Group Service. At school he is the Vice-President of his class, Secretary of the National Honor Society and a Member of Student Council. As a high school athlete, Ryan participates in Football, Basketball and Baseball. He also plays baseball for the American Legion Post #3. Upon graduation, Ryan plans to attend West Virginia University and major in Engineering.



Center McMechen Pre-K Joins Literacy Day Celebration



Universal Pre-K students from Northern Panhandle Head Start joined Mrs. Krenna Allender’s Children’s Literature Class from West Liberty University for a literacy day celebration. The preschool children and parents were invited to campus for a “Read With Me Under the Sea” literacy center event. The college students created the fun theme and planned learning stations according to the following: diversity, poetry, picture books, fantasy, and folk narratives. The college students planned, designed, and created developmentally appropriate learning centers that encouraged parents and preschoolers to explore the fun, joy, and importance of early literacy.

Parents and family members were provided with information and brochures, and the children were each given a book, book bags, and literacy props from each of the stations. The preschoolers took a magical journey with mermaids and princesses, were read stories on a pirate ship, wrote special messages in a bottle, and created many theme-related crafts. The college students learned the importance of bringing literacy to life, and the literacy day adventure was enjoyed by all!



WV BTOP Website Update

The WV Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) website was recently updated to include a tool for tracking the progress of Community Anchor Institutions, or CAIs. These are the properties where the BTOP grant is placing fiber and/or routers. The tool is called the CAI Master Tracker and can be found at <http://www.recovery.wv.gov/programs/broadband/>. This link will open an Excel spreadsheet which contains all 1,062 CAI locations. The CAI Master Tracker will be updated each week and can be found just below the WV map with the heading CAI Master Tracker Update.

A screenshot of the recovery.wv.gov website. The header includes the logo for recovery.wv.gov and the text "West Virginia's Economic Recovery Portal". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for About, Impact, Transparency, Programs, Ed Jobs Fund, News, FAQ, Certifications, and Resources. There is a search bar and a text size selector. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Broadband Related Programs" and contains information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and BTOP Grant Related Acronyms. The right column is titled "Broadband Categories" and lists various categories such as Community Anchor Institutions, Resources, Maps, Fiber Build-out Status Reports, Towers, NRAO-WVU, News, Links, and BTOP Interconnect Agreement Form.

Child Nutrition News

The free breakfast for all students is proving to be a success. County-wide statistics show a 20% increase in student participation. Hilltop Elementary and Sherrard Middle School have been taking hot breakfasts to the classroom, and as a result, have experienced participation increases over 45%. Central Elementary and John Marshall High School have initiated a breakfast after first period program and have also seen large increases in participation. Research consistently shows that students who eat a well-balanced breakfast perform better on standardized tests and show lower rates of absenteeism and tardiness. New nutrition guidelines were recently signed by President Obama and will go into effect next school year. To help meet these guidelines, the Child Nutrition program is now offering more 'made from scratch' items on the menus. School made items such as pizza with whole wheat crust, Salisbury steak, whole wheat rolls, and salad dressings are now part of the menu. An increase in the offering of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as using less processed food are continued goals of the program.



Additional Immunizations Required

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, students entering 7th and 12th grade will have shot requirements that must be met before the start of the school year. Students will not be permitted to start school in August without these immunizations. The new requirements include:

- 7th grade students must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of MCV4 (meningitis) vaccine.
- 12th grade students also must show proof of a single dose of Tdap, plus a booster dose of MCV4 if the first dose of MCV4 was given before the child's 16th birthday. If the first dose was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose is not required.

Proof of the immunizations should be sent to the school nurse by May 1, 2012.



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Need Technology Assistance?

Try the new MARS Helpdesk. MARS users can now request technical assistance by creating a work order in the MARS Helpdesk. Go to <http://www.thinkhelpdesk.com/boe.mars> and login using your MARS username and password. You will then see a screen that will be pre-filled with your name and email address. The "Phone" field is optional. Enter the room number in the "Room" field. If the room does not have a number, please type a description that will allow the technician to find it. Select your "school" from the drop-down list provided. Next you will choose a "Category" for the problem. For example, if you are having a problem with your whiteboard pen or software, you would choose "Electronic Whiteboard or Pen." In the "problem" box, type a short description of the problem. In the "Details" section, type as much information as possible concerning the problem and any steps that have already been taken to solve the problem. If applicable, include model numbers of the equipment that would be needed to correct the problem. As an example, if you are requesting a replacement projector bulb, you would put the model of the projector here. Once all the fields are complete, click on the "Submit Request" button at the bottom of the page. Once you have submitted a request, a "Help Desk Ticket" will be created and an email will be sent to the Technology Facilitator at your school and to the Technology Office. Anytime this ticket gets updated by a technician, you will receive an email showing the progress. For more detailed instructions on how to use the MARS Helpdesk, go to <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/TechnologyAssistance>.