

CARROLL COUNTY
STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

December 2015

High School Reports

Westminster High School

SGA's first event this school year was Homecoming, in which we collected a combined total of about \$12,500 from Powderpuff and the dance. Both were a great success even though the events were held very early in the school year- there was a record number of attendees this year at our Around the World the World themed dance with about 1,000 students. With these funds, Student Senate has donated \$3,000 to Stand Up! (a student run organization that's geared towards empowering the student body and community), \$2,000 to our school's food pantry that supports the Westminster community all year-long, and \$200 to the county Holiday Drive. In accordance with the CCSGA drive, we have our own school-sponsored drive, in which Student Senate got other clubs/organizations to adopt over 25 families. During November, we were able to get all the students active in a food drive and provide 60 families with Turkey dinners. In January, we're hosting our Mr. Westminster pageant to bring the school together for an enjoyable event and to earn proceeds that can be used to help the community. This event will be held on January 9th at 6:30 P.M., and the snow date is January 16th. Lastly, in March, our SGA plans to hold Owlapolooza, a community fair for the people in Westminster and in neighboring towns, and a blood drive through the Red Cross Organization.

Francis Scott Key High School

FSK's Student Government recently held another successful blood drive November 30th. We are currently finalizing the plans for another Ugly Sweater Day with Cookies & Cocoa, an event held on the last day of school before winter break. Students wear holiday sweaters, we serve cookies and cocoa, have a holiday movie playing, and provide a photo op with Santa from 7:00-7:30 before classes. We also recently decided on our charity for our annual volleyball tournament, which this year was voted to be the Wounded Warrior Project. A committee has also just been formed in hopes of planning a lock in during the early spring, but the planning has just begun. Happy Holidays!

Manchester Valley High School

-We had a successful homecoming in October and several fundraisers during that time. We raised about \$1300 with our penny wars competition between the classes to donate. Our theme was The Great Gatsby and it was a huge success!

-We just concluded our holiday clothing drive this past Friday and received a fair amount of donations from students and staff! Anyone who donated received cookies and hot chocolate as a thank you.

-This coming Friday we will be serving cookies and hot chocolate again if students donate a minimum of \$2.00 to help a former MVHS student who is battling stomach cancer.

-In February we will be hosting Winter Formal which is Valentines themed.

-Also in February we are hosting MASC Legislative Session for the second year in a row!

Gateway High School

Recently at Gateway 5 SGA students attended Fall Leadership training, currently planning for our holiday enrichment which will be next Wednesday the 23rd. Our workshops for Holiday enrichment will include cookie baking, ornament making, and blanket making for kids helping Hopkins. We are also making holiday cards for the Arch.

Liberty High School

Our goal as an organization this year is to avoid the “dead-zone” period SGA’s face after the fall season. I am proud to say our Student Government has continued thriving since we went “Under the Big Top” for our circus themed homecoming. During the duration of that week we had outstanding participation. Since then our SGA committees have been working diligently for our winter events. To uphold student voice the SGA hosted it’s first “town-hall” meeting where two representatives from each club gathered to discuss school policy and lion pride. The meeting was a success. The SGA was able to gain insight into areas of concern that the students had. This “town-hall” was a catalyst for our students to fight apathy in the “dead-zone” season and for the leadership teams to continue their wonderful winter projects. Liberty is proudly hosting a Holiday Movie Night on Friday, December 18th. The movie was decided on through an online vote that was open to all students. The event is sure to be a hit! During the month of December we have been also having a Battle of the Advisories Holiday Drive. Where advisories compete against each other to see who can bring in the most donations. The winning advisory will receive a pizza party following winter break. The competition has been tight and the donations have been plentiful. All donations will be donated to the children of the Boys & Girls Club of Westminster. I am proud of the progress we have made this year. I am so grateful for the doors God has opened for our organization. I am grateful for an awesome pair of Advisors and an amazing team of Administrators. Merry Christmas!

Middle School Reports

New Windsor Middle School

New Windsor Middle has undergone many activities since our last CCSGA meeting. The students of New Windsor have taken part of the public hearings and made speeches to try to influence the school board into not closing down New Windsor Middle; some of the students with notable speeches were William Costlow, Bethann Rosenburg, David Rapids, Valerie Schnider, Ally Green, Ellie Bowman, and Colton LeBeau.

In addition, the SGA had a spirit week in the fall that rose over \$500 for various charities. The charities included the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Carroll Human Services, FDNY Rescue 1, Carroll Hospital's Breast Health Department, and we also plan to donate to the Child Support Fund as well. SGA has two more spirit weeks planned for each quarter of the year that plan to continue contributing money to different charities.

Our archeology club finished its dig at the Deihlman Inn in New Windsor and will begin cataloging their finds over the winter season. Our Drama club is beginning to prepare for their presentation of Dr. Dolittle in the spring with dates TBD.

Shiloh Middle School

During the month of November, we organized our annual 'Kids helping Kids' food drive. In preparation for the food drive, Mrs. Lynn Sheavly came to speak to our members about the need for food donations in our community. We were able to gather approximately 800 food items, which we were able to donate to NESAP, the local food pantry. We look forward to visiting NESAP in the Spring to help stock the shelves and organize items for sale in their store.

As a tribute to our veterans on November 11th, we presented a video tribute on the morning announcements, and created a collection of cards that were distributed to the members of Westminster VFW Post #467. Teachers at our school also helped to prepare a 'Wall of Tribute' on which the photos of veterans related to the students and staff of our school was displayed. Most recently, we created 30 'Santa Stockings' and wrote an assortment of holiday cards for the assisted living center at Westminster Ridge. The caregivers at the center use these cards to help the residents rehearse their memories of the holidays. We are planning a game night for these residents one evening in January.

Instead of doing our annual toy drive for the holidays, we adopted an elementary school in West Baltimore. The school, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary is located in West Baltimore, has many needy families and is a school that is in need for more books in their media center. During our schools' annual 'Scholastic Book Fair', we gathered donations of new and gently used books for the school. We were able to give the school 106 new books and 4 large boxes of gently used books. During the 'Family Night' of the sale, members of our SGA wrapped books, wrote cards for the students at the school, and created approximately 80 bookmarks to give to the school.

Our Student Council members brought clothing for the CCSGA Charity Children's Fund Program to the December meeting and voted to also send a monetary donation from their funds.

After the holiday, members of the SGA plan to travel to the Ronald McDonald house in Baltimore to learn more about how we can be of comfort and assistance to those children that stay at the center and deliver donations that we will collect for the center. During our December meeting, we were able tie 4 blankets that the Ronald McDonald House will give to the children who are residents at their house. We hope that during the winter months we can organize and conduct many more projects that are successful.

Sykesville Middle School

Sykesville Middle School SGA has done Turkey Pops for Thanksgiving, which was selling lollipops with turkey cut-outs at all of the grade lunches. We are currently doing Adopt-a-family with the Salvation Army, where we have a family for each team and we help them out by bringing in Christmas presents for that particular family. We are also selling Candy Cane Grams as a fundraiser. During lunch you can purchase a candy cane with a note and send it to a friend or teacher. These will be delivered on Dec. 23.

North Carroll Middle School

We raised lots of money from our fall dance and donated some of it to Make-A-Wish. We are planning our first annual talent show, along with our second dance. Thanks and have a great winter!

Northwest Middle School

We have been working on figuring out fundraising activities and talking about charities. We have voted on a glow dance and have interest in organizing a color run in the spring.

West Middle School

So far this year we have attended the September CCSGA general assembly, have had our pumpkin decorating contest, which we raised money to donate to local fire stations, and helped our school administration pull off a Veteran's Day Celebration. We also helped with a school canned food drive, had our first after school fun night, which was sports themed, we have attended MASC Fall Leadership Conference, we have had four board meetings, and we have had four general assemblies. Our SGA established a temporary dance committee and we have made a scrapbooking historian committee made by our historian, Riley Legler. We are in the middle of the door decorating contest at the moment, where people are decorating their homeroom doors based on a snow theme. Also in the near future we expect more meetings, our February Rose Sales, and attendance at the next CCSGA general assembly. We also expect attendance at Lobby day and a possible Celiac Disease Research fundraiser. We expect a good rest of the year, thanks.

Mt. Airy Middle School

We have completed our first fundraiser of the school year in November. To help people get more involved and excited, we had a spirit week the second week of the drive for cans and coats. The second thing we incorporated was a "slime the teachers" which was a great way to stimulate the students into bringing in coats for 5 tickets and cans for 1. In addition we are currently having a toy for tots holiday drive which selected classes and students got to create boxes during their club meeting time or study hall. We are also having a "door decorating contest" which all academic classes can participate in with their homeroom teachers as our specials teachers vote. This was a way to help encourage students to bring in toys for kids around Christmas time. At our last SGA meeting we have begun to think about a winter dance theme and possibly other activities such as a Friday fun night for students to have. I hope to hear of more fantastic ideas from other students as well as SGAs, thank you!

Staff Reports

Charity and Outreach Coordinator

This is the second year CCSGA has held the Buffalo Wild Wings tournament. Following the first round in the fall, the results were: Liberty over Century, Manchester Valley over North Carroll, Winters Mill over Westminster, and South Carroll over Francis Scott Key. Congratulations to Liberty, who raised the most money of all the schools during the first round! The second round will be: Liberty vs. Winters Mill on January 20th, 2016 and Manchester Valley vs. South Carroll on February 3rd, 2016 (with snow dates TBD if necessary). At the last GA, we choose the Children Support Fund of Carroll County as our Charity for the year. We asked that each school collect money and clothing donations to support the Children Support Fund and bring these items to the December 18th GA to be collected. Please continue to consider the Children Support Fund as a recipient for fundraisers, the work they do for students in our county is immeasurable!

Officer Reports

Student Representative on the Board of Education- Elect

Hello General Assembly. I'm Matthew Johnson, your student representative on the board of education elect, and the student member of the Community Advisory Committee to the Board. Since my election in April, I have watched every main board meeting, and I have begun creating my SROB elect advisory council. I have also helped plan legislative session and have led workshops at both this year's GA's. Finally, I attended the Community advisory committee's first two meetings, where the committee has discussed the proposed redistricting plan.

Matthew Johnson

Secretary

Recently, the rest of the officers and I worked on planning this General Assembly and getting ready for the holiday drive. Next, we will have to start planning for legislative in February.

Kira Bender

Second Vice President

Hi! My name is Sydney Garman and I am the second vice president of CCSGA. Since the last general assembly I have attended the CCSGA officer meetings and executive meetings. In November I attended the MASC fall leadership conference, which was a great event! As we start to plan for the next MASC meeting I have been recruiting middle school students to help with host staff. Also I contacted all the middle school presidents and vice presidents so we can try and find a time to meet in the January to swap ideas! Feel free to contact me at 443-632-8454, or email me at sydmg315@gmail.com.

Sydney Garman

Vice President

Hey CCSGA my name is Rhitik Joshi and as all of you know I am your Vice President for the 2015-2016 school year. Recently, I have been working with Andrew to organize the newsletter that was created last year and that took a lot of effort and formatting. I also have been going to any officer team or executive board meetings that we have had to help plan Legislative Session, today's General Assembly, and I bought gifts for the family that CCSGA adopted. If any of you have any questions feel free to contact me whenever is convenient for you. Happy Holidays!

Rhitik Joshi

President

Hey CCSGA! My name is Andrew Boone and I am your President for the 2015-2016 school year! I have been very busy since the last time I saw all of you. CCSGA has had many officer team meetings and one executive board meeting, which I plan those meetings. During those meetings we have had a presentation on the proposed redistricting policy that Matt Saxton will touch on, planning legislative session, and the December General Assembly.

Also I sat on the school assessment committee for the Board of Education. We meet 3 times with the committee to look at how much instruction time is taken out for testing. We had to take the information we put together back to the Board of Education.

Also our High School numbers at a GA were low, so as an officer team, we decided to present to the High Schools Principals. Our officer team and some CCSGA staff members went to the High School Principals meeting. We can see it had a huge impact because we had a HUGE turn out at the GA.

The CCSGA officer team adopted a family for Christmas. We got donations from all of the officers and some staff members. I would like to thank everyone who participated. I would also like to thank everyone for donating to the Children Support Fund.

Legislative session is coming up and CCSGA is hosting again this year. What does that mean? We are in charge of running the event. We are in need of help. If you would like to help out, please email me (andrew.boone04@gmail.com) for more information.

For this General Assembly we planed 3 fantastic workshops with the theme of “Leading a Helping Hand.” I hope you all enjoyed the workshops and earned some valuable information! If you have any questions please let me know. Happy Holidays!

“Stay safe and make good choices” –Devin Spence

Andrew Boone
CCSGA President
andrew.boone04@gmail.com
443-605-8430