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Weekly Refresher

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things our eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

- Deuteronomy 4:9

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Guilford Gazette

Hammond Principal Wins The Washington Post Award



HCPSS File Photo: Marcia Leonard, Hammond High School

Hammond High School alma mater, where she principal, Marcia Leonard served as principal since 2005. Washington Post for her excellence as a Howard County Public School System administrator. Ms. Leonard was awarded the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, the Post announced recently.

Ms. Leonard, who came to Hammond in 2010 to replace retiring principal Sterlind Burke, arrived after distinguishing herself at Atholton High School, her

nations and made the final decision to submit Ms. Leonard's name to the Washington Post.

The Post's nomination criteria include the following: manage effectively, demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation, foster cooperation between the school and the community, maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff, keep abreast of developments in the field of education, encourage team spirit, and demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.

"The selection process is a true community effort which begins with an open call for nomination and culminates with the school districts' selection of the winners, adding to the prestige of the awards", said Katharine Weymouth, publisher of the Washington Post.

According to a Washington Post news release, Ms. Leonard has the opportunity to attend a three-day seminar about media and crisis communication response training, and sessions focused on current issues in education. The ceremony will be in May.

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The Publisher's Notes

We are finishing up spring break. Many of our students have had opportunity to relax, spend time with friends, play video games, watch television, or just pursue whatever fancies them – with no thoughts of academic pursuits.

But as sure as we know, spring break is coming to a close. We also know that our students will shortly return to school and begin the final quarter of the academic year. The question hangs in the air: How will the year end? For the student, the question is much more about what level of effort will be put into fourth quarter? For the parent, the question centers around the level of support, guidance, and discipline that will be offered to assist the student.

Marcia Leonard, the principal of Hammond High School, will be honored in May for her efforts as a leader and an educator. There is no doubt at all that Ms. Leonard is one of the top educators in Howard County. But, she, like other educators, needs agreeable partners to truly excel at her job.

Educators cannot force students to study; they cannot force parents to get involved. Achievement is mostly a voluntary activity, but the influence of the parent on the student, especially at the early stages of a child's life is invaluable to establishing an attitude of learning.

A parent's guidance does not always work out as planned, however, what would any child be with close to zero guidance? Parenting can be immensely frustrating, and academic work for a student can surely be a chore. But what results are gained absent the struggle? We are always better off for having struggled through difficult times rather than having ignored those down times.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

Political Points

Last week we reported in this column that the election of School Board members takes place at the primary election only. The statement that we made was incorrect. The April 3, 2012 vote was a run-off election. The top six vote getters left standing out of the original 14 candidates will be on the ballot in November for the general election.

The following candidates will move on to the general election: Janet Siddiqui (14.6%), Ann Delacy (10.4%), Ellen Flynn Giles (9.4%), Jackie Scott (9.1%), David Gertler (9.0%), and Bob Ballinger (7.7%).

Ms. Siddiqui and Ms. Giles are the incumbents still in the race. Allen Dyer, an incumbent, pulled in only 6.6% of the vote, losing his bid to return to the Board.

Incumbents in other races, such as U.S. Senate, and House of Representatives, won their races and move on to the general election.

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April Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

NEW: Kamryn Lambert Foundation

This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior going into the nursing or medical field. Applicants must file an application and write an essay on an adversity they have overcome. Applications are available with your school counselor. The due date for this application is April 13, 2012.

NEW: Ken Mann Scholarship

This \$1000 scholarship will be offered to prospective elementary school teachers. The recipient of this award must graduate from a public high school in 2012 and plan to attend a college, trade school, or university within the state of Maryland. The application can be obtained and completed online by visiting www.wcps.k12.md.us and the deadline is April 13, 2012. Once applicants visit the website, click on "Our Schools," then click on "Elementary," then scroll down to "Maugansville Elementary," and click on "More Info."

Clare and Robert Moore Scholarship

This fund offers a yearly \$1000 scholarship to a student who is majoring or plans to major in English and/or Drama and will attend the Notre Dame of Maryland University. The application can be found at <http://crmoorescholarship.org>. The deadline for this scholarship is April 15, 2012.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Tau Pi Chapter

The Tau Pi Chapter Scholarship Committee will award scholarships under the categories of the Fraternity's four Cardinal Principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. The scholarship application must be post marked by April 15, 2012. This scholarship is available to all Howard County Public School System graduating Male seniors (class of 2012). Special consideration will go to students enrolling in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Applications must be typed and can be downloaded at www.ques-taupi.org.

Visine Students with Vision Scholarship Program

This program is offering a one-time \$5000 to high school seniors with a minimum GPA of 2.8. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, school and community involvement, financial need, and demonstrated vision or goal. The website to apply is aim.applyists.net/vision and the deadline to apply is April 16, 2012.

Federal Water Quality Association Scholarship

The Federal Water Quality Association is offering scholarships to students preparing for a career in environmental protection. Three to four scholarships in the amount of \$2000 will be awarded. Applications will be judged on the basis of academic achievement, and above all, the applicant's level of commitment to environmental protection. The application must be received by April 16, 2012. If you are interested in this scholarship, please see your counselor.

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Scholarships from page 4**John T. McCraw Scholarship**

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland will include two scholarships in the amounts of \$2000 and \$1500, which will be awarded to legally blind students who exhibit academic achievement and community involvement. Applicants must be legal residents of the State of Maryland, or is pursuing post-secondary studies in the State of Maryland, and will be enrolled as a full-time student at any post-secondary institution. Applications are available in the counseling center and are due on April 20, 2012.

Barbara Balter Entrepreneurial Spirit Scholarship

The Baltimore Regional Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners will award two \$1000 scholarships. Applicants must be female high school seniors planning to attend a university and have demonstrated entrepreneurial talents and live in the state of Maryland. The application can be downloaded at http://www.nawbobrc.org/committees_scholarship.php. The deadline to apply is April 20, 2012.

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

The BVA offers merit-based scholarship programs for spouses and dependent children of blinded Veterans to assist them with their higher education tuition. This year, six scholarships of \$2000 each will be awarded as part of the Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship program and one \$1000 scholarship will be awarded under the Thomas H. Miller Scholarship program. Students can apply online at www.bva.org/services.html. The application deadline is April 20, 2012.

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