



THE DRAGON'S BREATH

The MLWGS Academic Boosters Club Newsletter

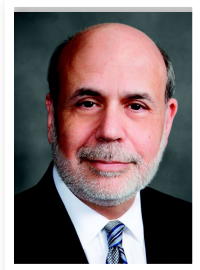
Issue No. 14-1

September 2014

Model UN to Host Ben Bernanke at GSMUN XVIII

Conference to be held March 20-21, 2015

GSMUN is thrilled to once again partner with The Richmond Forum to host Dr. Ben Bernanke as their keynote speaker. He served under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 2006 to 2014. *Forbes Magazine* named Dr. Bernanke one of the ten most powerful people in the world in 2013. With his expertise in economics, Dr. Bernanke truly understands the interconnectivity of the international community.



Upcoming Events

New Kent Fall Kick-Off Tournament (Quiz Bowl)

October 4
New Kent High School

Rumble in the Roads (Robotics)

October 4
Menchville High School

VCU Fall Tournament (Quiz Bowl)

October 11
VCU

VAMUN XXXIV (Model UN)

November 7-9
University of Virginia

Princeton Model Congress (Model Congress)

November 20-23
Washington, DC

Night of the Dragon Donations Due by December 5



The Night of the Dragon auction will be held at the Short Pump Hilton on Saturday, February 21, 2015, and **donation forms must be received by December 5th** to allow time for the volunteers to correctly process the items for the print and web catalogs. The most successful items have been the "experience" donations. Weekend or weeklong house rentals, specialty dinners and sailboat excursions are a few examples of parent donations. **All donations are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines for 501(c) organizations.**

Academics also needs an auction representative shadow this year because Susan Prizzia, the Chair of the whole shebang, will be retiring after this event because her son is a senior. All questions and offers of support can be directed to Susan Prizzia at susanprizzia@gmail.com.

Chess Club Helps Elementary & Middle Schoolers

The Chess Club is making a habit out of training Central Virginia's up and coming chess masters! Over the summer, club members organized and hosted their second chess camp for elementary and middle school-aged children. Roughly 40 kids were given instruction on the mechanics and strategy of one of the world's greatest games. Going forward, the club will also be providing monthly free clinics for the same age group. This is a tremendously positive thing that the club is doing, and we will provide more detailed information next month!

Volunteers are the Lifeblood of Your Academic Teams

Don't forget...it takes more than brilliant kids (which we have in spades!) to make a successful club. Parent volunteers are the lifeblood of our academic teams, and these groups cannot function without adult volunteers giving of their time and experience. If you are interested in getting involved and making a difference in the lives of some great kids, please contact Bill Benos at bbenos@williamsmullen.com.

Future Problem Solvers to Compete in New Category



For the 2014-15 school year, Future Problem Solvers (FPS) will be expanding the number of categories in which they will be competing. In addition to participating in the State Bowl competitions in essay and action plans, FPS will also be competing in a new category, Scenario Writing. Unlike team competitions, scenario writing is based on heavy creativity and a knack for story-telling.

The team will also be encouraging students outside of FPS, in English classes, to submit scenarios. In addition, the club's leaders are expecting many freshmen to join FPS to augment the solid foundation of returning sophomores and juniors. Together, these folks are going to proudly push forward and attack the new year!

If you are interested in participating, contact their current parent representative, Julie Wang, at julie.wang@power.alstom.com

Academic Quiz Bowl Prepares for GSAC

In addition to preparing for October's upcoming events (10/4 and 10/11), the club is preparing for December's GSAC, the annual quiz bowl competition that the club sponsors right here at Maggie Walker! Under the leadership of student leader **Connor Wood**, club participants are writing all the questions for the tournament, as well as organizing and addressing all of the other issues that go into hosting such an event. This year GSAC XXII will be held on December 13. Last year almost 30 teams participated, and we are hoping we will get a great turnout this year as well.

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to club faculty representative Hana Reed at hreed@gsgis.k12.va.us.

Mech Tech Dragons Have a Busy Fall Ahead of Them

Maggie Walker's Robotics Team 422, the Mech Tech Dragons, has a LOT of activities planned for this fall. The team is providing support to the Appomattox Regional Governor's School to re-start its robotics program. The team also continues to mentor middle and elementary school robotics teams. As part of this effort, the team will host its annual FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament on November 22 where it will provide mentorship to approximately 24 elementary and middle school teams.

On October 4, this year's Robot Rumble is moving from Richmond to Newport News. While the team will have to travel an hour east to compete, they will have a new opportunity with new hosts of the event. Triple Helix, the robotics team hosting the event at their own Menchville High School, are letting Team 422 field two robots!

This means that almost any interested student can step behind the glass and take control of one of our two robots. One robot will be our 2014 robot that competed in Baltimore over the weekend of September 20, while another is a robot a few veteran members have been working on over the summer and hope to have ready as teaching tool for new members by October.

Interested in learning more about the Robotics team? Contact their officers at team422.mechtechs@gmail.com.



Got News?

We want it! We welcome news and photos for the newsletter from parents, students, and faculty alike.

Please send submissions to us and we will include them in the next Newsletter.

Many thanks!

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