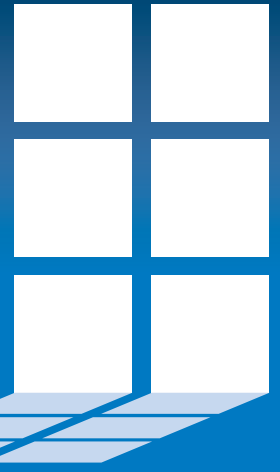




THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

The WINDOW

FALL 2011



Beyond All Expectations: A Father and Son Expand Their Horizons

Are miracles really possible? Just ask Steven Salembene, whose son Daniel has attended The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) for the last six years. "The Maryland School for The Blind has really performed miracles with my son. I never imagined he would reach this level of communication," says Salembene.

As a preschooler, Daniel attended a daycare program, where MSB outreach staff

frequently worked with students with special needs. Daniel had been diagnosed with cortical visual impairment, a neurological disorder. "They recommended that Daniel would be a good candidate for MSB,"

Salembene explains. "We toured other schools in the area, but we liked what we saw at MSB – small class sizes, good teacher-to-student ratio and the fact that everyone we met on campus had big smiles on their faces."

Lisa Fulmer taught Daniel during his first two years at MSB. "Our primary emphasis was working on communication skills," she describes. "We found computer technology using sounds and symbols was very helpful." Like many young boys, Daniel

enjoys the Sponge Bob Square Pants computer program. "His face glows when he knows we are going to use it," relates Fulmer, who is encouraged by Daniel's progress.

Amy Krebs, Daniel's physical therapist, agrees. Daniel can now operate the head switches on the power wheelchair he began using last year and is able to turn the chair without assistance. He is also using a gate-trainer (an adaptive walker) and can follow certain routes. "We continue to develop his wheelchair skills so that eventually he can navigate the campus and the community. He's made great strides in the last nine months," attests Krebs.

Last year, Daniel's grandparents attended Parent Visitation Day and received a wonderful surprise. "They saw Daniel walk across the assembly room on his gate-trainer. Then he answered all the questions correctly on his classroom computer exercise," recalls Salembene. Daniel's grandmother was in tears, realizing the strides Daniel has made and what the future holds for him.

A lover of music and swimming, Daniel has joined a swim club started by Bill McGeachy, his orientation and

continued on page 3

Daniel has much to smile about these days.

Message from the President

Greetings! Having lived and worked in many regions of the country, I often reflect on the rich history of Maryland.

One of the most striking aspects to Maryland's history is the fact that since 1853, The Maryland School for the Blind has been at the forefront of educating children who are blind or visually impaired, and in more recent years, those with multiple disabilities. The current student population is very different from those who originally attended the school and the buildings designed for these students are no longer suitable for today's students with multiple disabilities.

During the 2011-2012 school year, we expect to break ground on a new building for students who are blind or visually impaired with intellectual and physical disabilities. As you read about Daniel in this issue of the Window, you will understand how vital this project is to the education of these students. We appreciate that the legislation appropriated \$7 million in funding for this new state-of-the-art building.

Recently, we welcomed the Maryland House Appropriations Committee members, Senator Edward Kasemeyer and Senator DeGrange, on tours of our Baltimore campus. We are scheduling other visits with legislators throughout the coming school year. We encourage you also to visit us and see first-hand the remarkable work being done by our dedicated staff.

As we began our 159th school year, we were excited to welcome back students and staff. We look forward to sharing our success stories with you as the school year progresses and ask for your continued support of our Campaign for our Children's Future.

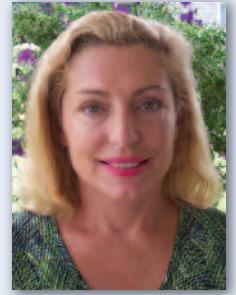
Michael J. Bina, Ed.D.
President



Dr. Michael J. Bina, former State Senator Barbara Hoffman, Senator Edward Kasemeyer and Board Chairman Edward J. Veilleux

Spotlight On Carol Bogue

MSB's new Director of Education looks forward to building on the school's history of leadership.



When Carol Bogue was offered the MSB Director of Education position, it didn't take her long to accept.

"I had come up to Baltimore to interview with Dr. Bina and tour the campus," she recalls. "Everyone I met here, the teachers, students and parents, was positive and welcoming. It really was a community in addition to being a school with a history of educational excellence and leadership."

A mathematics major in college, she notes that her decision to change careers began when she worked one summer as a counselor at a special needs summer camp.

"Other schools would come there looking for people to fill school-year positions, and I talked with a representative from the Perkins School for the Blind," she notes. "They needed house parents for their dorms."

It didn't take her long to realize that she wanted to continue working with children who were blind and visually impaired. She returned to school to earn a Masters degree in Social Work and later, a Masters Degree in Education of Students with Blindness and Visual Impairments.

"I held several positions at the Perkins School and got a full perspective of the challenges that the school faced every day," she adds. "I was a social worker and worked with parents, a teacher in the classroom and finally, an administrator."

"I am looking forward to working with everyone here to build on the strengths of such a good school."

Beyond All Expectations continued from cover

mobility instructor. He also participates in MSB's Extended School Year summer program.

Daniel's expanding expectations have also broadened the horizons of his father, Steven. He has participated in MSB's legislative day in Annapolis advocating for support of special education programs. He also has joined the Parent Teacher Staff Organization at MSB, and now chairs its Advocacy Committee.

Both father and son eagerly anticipate the completion of the new classroom facility for students with multiple disabilities. "The current building is 41 years old, and is no longer suited for our students," notes

Salembene. "With the latest technology, the new specialized building will make things so much easier for students and teachers."

The future looks bright for Daniel.



Daniel and Steven enjoy their father and son times together.

Another Successful Summer!



Alana enjoys the sounds of summer.

MSB's summer program was a success again this year. Extended School Year (ESY) services are offered to students ages 3-22 who require additional academic services. During the month long program for the 103 student participants, skills are increased in orientation & mobility, social interaction, independent living, recreation & leisure, career education and assistive technology.

This year's theme was "Sights, Sounds, Smells & Sunations!"

Students were given opportunities to practice functional daily living skills and academic tasks through community based experiences, instructional and residential based activities. Fun was had by all while engaged in academic rigor and functional skill development. Great strides were made by many students including one who drove his power wheelchair for the first time!

ESY is one of the many services that MSB provides and is critical in assisting students build a foundation for a bright and more independent future.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THANK YOU TO:

UNITED WAY

The United Way kicks off its annual campaign in the fall. Please consider supporting MSB through your employer's United Way campaign. MSB's agency designation numbers are:

- **Baltimore City, Central Maryland and Combined Federal Campaign: #3051**
- **National Capital Area and Combined Federal Campaign: #7344**
- **Maryland Charity Campaign: #2062**

BANK OF AMERICA

MSB's Career Education program will benefit from a grant awarded by the Bank of America Foundation. The Career Education Program prepares our students with the tools to be successful, independent contributing members of their communities by teaching job and life skills they will use upon graduation.



Edward J. Veilleux, Josh Gregory, Dr. Michael J. Bina, Larry Simmons, Norm Hatmaker and Senator Kathy Klausmeier.

Baltimore County, L.H. Cranston, Inc. and the Middendorf Foundation Inc.

Thanks to the generous support of these three partners, MSB broke ground on a new student independent living home in June 2011. The rancher style house will be home to 6-8 older students who will learn activities of daily living while attending the school. The house is scheduled for completion in December 2011.

Join our Legacy Circle

Please consider naming MSB in your will. You will be recognized in special ways. Bequests will help us fulfill our mission. Contact the Development Office at 410-444-5000 ext. 1207 for more information.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Maryland School for the Blind is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization that depends on your support and donations to help students like Daniel become successful, independent adults. Please consider making a contribution to make a difference in a child's life.

Donate at www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org or by check, payable to:

MSB, 3501 Taylor Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236.

E-MAILS WANTED!

We are updating our database. Please assist us by sending your email address to caseyj@mdschblind.org.



Become a Fan on Facebook!



The Maryland School for the Blind



The Maryland School for the Blind

DONATE YOUR CAR TODAY!

1-877-MSB-DONATE

www.MarylandSchoolForTheBlind.org