

**Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School**  
12650 Brooke Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
(301) 780-2100  
School Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m

Mr. Mark E. King, Principal

**August 2008**

Bought to you by the members of the Wise – Parent Teachers and Student Organization

**Inside this Issue:**

- 1** Five Keys to Success
- 2** Wise has a new King!
- 3** Join the Wise PTSO
- 4** Upcoming Events
- 5** 2008/2009 Uniform Policy

# Wise Remarks...

## Welcome Back!

Now, Get Involved!

While your child was in elementary and middle school, he needed you so much! Now that your family has a teenager, does that mean you can sit back and relax? Anyone with a teen knows that's a laugh!

Your high school child needs your involvement more, not less. With more homework, after school activities, driving lessons and a growing number of friends, your teen needs you to be on the ball all the time.

### FIVE KEYS TO SUCCESS:

**1** Be involved. Know your child's friends. Who does he hang out with? Who does he look up to? Where do his friends live, and who are their parents? It's okay to be nosy about these things—this is your child! Know the adults in their life too (teachers, principals, counselors).

**2** Don't wait until a crisis occurs to learn about your child's work load. Encourage him in his schoolwork. Ask about upcoming quizzes and tests. Set a firm schedule for studying before other activities (i.e., TV, game, & computer time).

**3** Go to open houses and parent/teacher conferences and volunteer at the school, during the day or after hours. Chaperone at dances, parties and other activities. Go to the games and activities with your teen. Be involved.

**4** Listen to your teen. When he says, "My parents don't understand me", he's probably right! School today is not like it was when we were in school. Make every effort to look in his eyes and pay attention to his words. It might be hard to relate to the situation but if you can relate to what your child is feeling, they will open the doors of communication.

**5** Talk to your child about responsible behavior, from dating to drugs and alcohol, to interacting with other people. Talk about respectful and kind attitudes toward adults and other students, especially those who might be lonely or different.

Parents are essential to the success of any school. There are plenty of ways for you to be involved from day one!

for more information, visit: [www.partnershipforlearning.org](http://www.partnershipforlearning.org)

# Wise welcomes a new King!

*We optimistically welcome Mark King as the new Principal at Wise!*

Our previous principal, Monica Goldson, was promoted at the end of the last school year to the position of Executive Director of the High School Consortium, which oversees the county's 22 high schools. We wish her the best and are pleased that her skills will continue to benefit the PG County Public Schools.

Our new principal, Mark King, has been with Prince George's County Public Schools since 1994. He taught social studies at James Madison Middle School in Upper Marlboro for four years, then became Assistant Principal at Hyattsville Middle School for six years, and went on to become principal at James Madison for four years.

After becoming principal at James Madison's in 2004, the school made consistent improvements in its academic scores. Under King's guidance, James Madison became the only middle school in the county this summer to receive county approval to start an

International Baccalaureate program. This will add a global studies concentration to the school's curriculum and help to better prepare students for college.

James Madison Middle School funnels hundreds of students each year into Wise. King has spent four years building relationships with students and their parents. This is a big advantage for both King and Wise.

But Wise is not only larger than Madison, it is the county's newest high school. Wise opened its doors in 2006 and has already showed some of the best test results among county high schools. In benchmark tests taken in March for example, Wise students had the county's third-best scores in language arts, third-best in government and second-best in biology.

King has said he is looking forward to handling the challenges of a high school. And when asked about Wise, he simply said 'It has the potential to be the best high school in the county.' To get us there, he plans to maintain open lines of communication with teachers and administrators and be as accessible to parents as possible.

In his interview with the

Gazette, King said his goal is to get teachers and students focused on broadening the strategies and thinking skills students use. "We need to start providing students with more strategies to solving problems," he said. "The more strategies they have, the more likely they are to succeed."

Teachers and parents from Madison are optimistic that King will help Wise have a successful year.

Wise is also looking forward to a successful school year. Therefore, we optimistically welcome Mr. Mark E. King to high school.

## Join the Wise PTSO today!

*"And now, a word from our sponsor..."*

Dear Parents,

The PTSO has gone through many changes in the past several months. As we restructure, we aim to leave an even stronger network in place for both parents and the revolving Executive Board.

And now, as we rapidly approach the start of another school year, we focus our efforts on reaching our parent base and building



upon our communications plan.

In order to achieve our goals, we ask that each parent provide us with essential contact information. This information will only be used to communicate with you about issues regarding the education of your child.

Please email us at [wisepsto@yahoo.com](mailto:wisepsto@yahoo.com), with your Name; Child's name & Graduation year; your Email Address; and Contact Number(s).

**Principal:** Mark E. King

**Assistant Principals:**

Roderick Watson  
Tyrone Hicks  
Lisa Johnson  
Sheila Robertson  
Deborah Royer  
Kristi Holden

**Parent Liason:**

Carolyn Cunningham  
301-780-2100 Ext. 2076

All questions regarding the uniform policy and purchasing uniforms should be directed to the parent liaison.

[car3.cunningham@pgcps.org](mailto:car3.cunningham@pgcps.org)

If you have any suggestions, it is not only your right but your parental responsibility to share your thoughts with us. We value your opinion and we want your participation.

It is our sincere desire to help Wise become a place where parents, teachers and students alike are PROUD to call themselves Pumas.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
The WISE PTSO  
Executive Board

**Approved Uniform Companies:**

Flynn & O'Hara Uniforms  
[www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com)  
Lanham Crossing Shopping Center  
8807 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD 20706  
(240) 764-4545

Land's End School Uniforms  
[www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school)  
Dodgeville, WI 53595-0640  
Phone: 1-800-469-2222  
Fax: 1-800-332-0103  
School # 900128125

One Elite Enterprise  
[www.oneeliteenterprise.com](http://www.oneeliteenterprise.com)  
7189 Old Alexandria Ferry Road  
Clinton, MD 20735  
Phone: 301-877-1526  
Fax: 301-877-1527

## Important News!

- **Back-to-School Night** is September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **9th Grade Student Orientation** is August 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am to 12:30pm. Buses will pick up students in the morning at their regularly scheduled stops and times.
- **9th Grade Parent Orientation** TBA
- Wise High School encourages parents and students to read the revised PGCPS **Grading Policy**. Visit [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org)
- The **Wise-PTSO** meetings for the remainder of 2008 are:  
September 16<sup>th</sup> – 7pm  
October 21<sup>st</sup> – 7pm  
November 18<sup>th</sup> – 7pm  
December 16<sup>th</sup> – 7pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Required Summer Reading Program for English Courses:**

During summer vacation, all incoming or returning students at Wise High School must read The Pursuit of Happyness by Chris Gardner. Books are available at the Public Library, Barnes & Noble, and Borders bookstore. Upon your return to school, you should have completed the writing assignment. This assignment will be a **substantial portion of your first-quarter grade** in any English course you take!

**Before Reading:**

In a brief paragraph, predict what might happen in this book or what you might learn from this book. Include the title, author, description of cover, and personal interest in the book.

**During Reading:**

1. Connect personally with what you are reading. Write about similarities between the characters and descriptions in the selection and what you have personally experienced, heard about, or read about.
2. Question what is happening. Search for reasons behind events and characters' feeling and actions can help you feel closer to what you are reading.
3. Clarify- Stop occasionally to review what you understand so far. Write a one-sentence summary of what has happened in the chapter(s).
4. Write quotations that seem to connect to the theme or meaning of the book, are generally noteworthy and meaningful, or that simply stand out as you read.
5. Make notes about the people or events in your books that prompt an emotional reaction from you, whether happy, sad, angry, confused, etc.

**After Reading:** (written response)

1. Is the ending of the book satisfactory?
2. What are the implications of the ending and its effect on the main character(s)?
3. Was the main character successful in overcoming adversity? Why or why not? How do you feel about that?
4. Summarize the summer reading book in a few paragraphs. Include in the summary:
  - a. The title, the author, the type of book (mystery, realistic fiction, nonfiction, etc.)
  - b. Discuss the book's organization and the author's purpose.
  - c. Explain how this quote by Chris Gardner, "I was late once and it cost me \$50,000. I figure it was cheaper to wear two watches" relates to the theme of the novel.
  - d. Compare and contrast the novel and the movie The Pursuit of Happyness. What changes did the filmmaker make to characters to make them appear more dynamic?

Upon return to school in the fall, you need to have a completed Reader's Response Log for The Pursuit of Happyness (by Chris Gardner).

Be sure to Label the sections and your responses.