



The mission of Montgomery Blair High School is to ensure that all students graduate equipped with the skills to navigate their chosen paths successfully.

**Of Note**

Silver Quill was awarded First Place with Special Merit, which is the highest possible award from the American Scholastic Press Association. This was the highest in the county!

**Debate and Robotics Team Up**

For the fifth year, the Blair Debate Team sponsored a teenager for the holiday season. This year the Robotics Team sponsored a teen as well. Montgomery County Social Services identifies a needy teen, sometimes in foster care and sometimes with a challenging home situation. They send a short biography of the child needs, along with the child’s needs and wish list. The teams then collect money, shop, sign greeting cards and deliver the gifts to each child’s social worker. Gifts include winter clothes, shoes, DVDS, gift cards and many other items. What a generous and heartwarming way to help our most needy during this season of giving. Thank you!

**Magnet Students Place at Princeton University Math Competition**

Two teams consisting of eight members each participated in the Princeton University Math Competition (PUMaC) on November 19, in Princeton, New Jersey. This annual event is an international math competition that is open to all high school students. The competition consists of a power round, individual rounds, a team round, and individual finals. Both an A and a B division of competition are available, with the A division meant for more experienced teams. Blair’s A team tied for first place in the team round and placed ninth in the power round and sixth overall. Three of the members placed fourth, fifth and eighth for their performance on specific tests. Blair’s B team ranked eighth overall and one team member placed fourth and ninth on specific and overall results. Congratulations, once again, to the Magnet Department and the students who help make Blair sensational!

**Intel Semifinalists Named**

The Society for Science and the Public, the nonprofit organization that administers the Intel Science Talent Search, announced on January 11 that eight Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program seniors are among 300 semifinalists in the 2012 competition. Each student will receive \$1,000 and Blair will receive \$8,000 (\$1,000 for each of the semifinalists) to be used to further science, math, and engineering education. The Intel Science Talent Search is the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition in the country. There were 1,839 high school seniors from 497 schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and an overseas location who submitted their original science projects in the fall. In the Magnet Program, this work represents the student’s senior research project. This original research is completed under the guidance of a mentor, typically at a leading research institution or university. This year, only four high schools nationwide had more semifinalists than the Blair Magnet Program. These semifinalists will continue on to compete for 40 positions as finalists, to be named on January 25. Finalists will compete for \$1.25 million in awards from the Intel Foundation, including a top award of a \$100,000 scholarship. Final judging will occur in Washington, D.C. on March 8-13. Congratulations to Biz Duval, who oversees the projects, the Magnet Department and the eight semifinalists! We’re rooting for you!

**Calendar Events**

- **Monday, January 23; no school – Professional Day**
- **Tuesday, January 24 (RED); 2<sup>nd</sup> semester begins**
- **Wednesday, January 25 (WHITE); Registration Information Mtg. (9–11 grade parents) 7 pm in the auditorium**
- **Thursday, January 26 (RED); electives fair during lunches**
- **Friday, January 27 (WHITE);**
- **Monday, January 30 (RED)**
- **Tuesday, January 31 (WHITE)**
- **Wednesday, February 1 (RED); report cards**