

The Montgomery County Educational Media Association (MCEMSA) 2009-10 Nancy Walker Award for Outstanding Support of a Library Media Program goes to Dr. Albert DuPont, of College Gardens Elementary in Rockville. He was nominated by his School Library Media Specialist, Cyndi Kelly.

Dr. DuPont finds that flexible scheduling of the library media instructional program fits perfectly with the IB Primary Years program. Students in Grades 2-5 learn information literacy skills through authentic research projects, coordinated between classroom and the LMC. The library media specialist and grade level teams receive planning time during the school day for to collaborate.

He ensures that the library media center is open throughout the day for independent reading and research by balancing other duties assigned to the library media staff.

Dr. DuPont actively promotes his philosophy of library media instruction among his colleagues. He spoke at the School Library Media Programs' Professional Day this past August, and is helping facilitate a leadership class for library media specialists.

He also understands the time it takes to select quality materials and to properly account for those materials during year-end procedures.

Nancy C. Walker was Director of School Library Media Programs in Montgomery County during the latter nineteen-sixties and seventies. A particularly distinguished leader in a line of outstanding directors, she brought the Library Media Program of Montgomery County Schools to national prominence at that time.

The award which bears her name was established by MCEMSA in 1985 to highlight the crucial role performed by administrative leaders in supporting local media centers. Without a strong cooperative relationship with its school principal, no Library Media Center can be fully effective over time.

The Walker Award honors those Principals who make Library Media skills a priority in their schools. There is no formula for winning the award, because the actions a principal takes to foster a successful LMC will be unique by definition. Creativity and leadership are the sole requirements.

The Montgomery County Educational Media Specialists' Association is pleased to present Dr. DuPont with this, its highest award, in recognition of his work as an administrator in supporting and promoting an effective library media program for the students and staff at College Gardens Elementary School.