



President's Corner...

Sandra Monaco-Burton, President, PTA Council of Harford County, Inc.



Happy May! It has been a busy two months and we are in the final stretch of the school year. Officer elections are taking place throughout the county, and veteran leaders are planning their "retirement" while new volunteers begin to explore new opportunities for their schools.

While many of us may be dreaming about summer vacation, there are still some very important tasks that require our attention. Now is the time to update your PTA procedure book or instruction manual for your successor. Incoming officers will appreciate

having your unit's EIN number, tax info, bylaws, committee rosters, meeting minutes, budget, PTA booklets, and the most recent audit, 990 and Personal Property Returns, etc., all in one place. And since all PTAs/PTSAs are unique, try and think about the questions you had or the items you needed when you began your own term of office. Please remember that HCCPTA exists to provide support for you, so share our contact info with your volunteers. In addition, all officers are encouraged to attend our final training of the year: May 29 at Patterson Mill (more details inside).

Council has been quite busy since we distributed our last e-newsletter. First of all, I would like to thank the 17 PTAs/PTSAs that came out to our Founder's Day Dinner and Awards Ceremony. We were able to recognize 22 units for increases in membership, 3 units for their advocacy efforts, and 3 volunteers with Maryland Lifetime Honorary Life Memberships, as well as present a National PTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

At our Reflections Ceremony we celebrated the children whose artwork was recognized at the county level of the competition (all 145!). We could not be prouder of our kids—out of the 72 entries selected by Maryland PTA at the state competition 20 (yes TWENTY) were from Harford County. And, of the 24 entries Maryland PTA was allowed to send onto the National PTA competition, 7 were ours!

HCCPTA's Scholarship Committee evaluated an amazing array of applications and will proudly present four students with \$500 scholarships at the Senior Awards nights. Our Nominating Committee talked to many dedicated leaders to ensure the future of council and those recruiting efforts continue; please let us know if you are interested in a new volunteer role. (C'mon...deep down you know retirement would be boring...)

This is our final issue of this school year and I would like to conclude with some personal comments. In my two years as HCCPTA President I have been blessed with tremendous support from an awesome Board of Directors—talented, tireless individuals who give up the little spare time they have to assist other volunteers because they believe in the mission of PTA. They have kept me straight (bylaws! parliamentary procedure!) and focused, and I will remember our service together with great fondness.

I am also grateful for the cooperation of HCPS administration which has sought our opinion on many committees, attended our events, and answered countless questions to help us advocate for a better educational experience for our children.

Thank you for sharing your ideas, challenges and successes with me. It has been gratifying to expand the PTA family and help parents direct their voices. I have learned a lot and thank you for the honor of serving as HCCPTA President. I hope to work alongside you again soon for every child with one voice.

Inside this Issue

Training Registration	2
Founder's Day Wrap-up	3
Achievement Awards	4-5
Updates	6
Treasurer News	7-8
Reflections News	9-10
News from Our Locals	11
Betty Bull Scholarship	12



Mark Your Calendars!

BOD Meeting

Patterson Mill Media Center
7:00 PM

May 1, 2012

Council Meetings/Training

Tues, May 29, 2012

Leadership Training & Council Meeting

Patterson Mill Media Center
6:00 – 9:00 pm

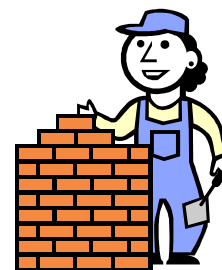
PTA Vision

What the future will look like if PTA accomplishes its mission. Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission

A powerful voice for all children, A relevant resource for families and communities, and A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Build PTA Success Through Leadership and Teamwork



5:55 pm Registration & Networking Dinner
6:10 pm General Membership Meeting
6:25 pm ABCs of Boards/Standards of Continuing Affiliation
6:55 pm Goal Setting
7:20 pm Ins and Outs of the Reflections Program
7:30 pm Break
7:40 pm Workshop Session I

- ❖ President
 - ❖ Treasurer
 - ❖ Secretary
- 8:30 pm Workshop Session II
- ❖ Membership
 - ❖ The Power of Advocacy
 - ❖ Parliamentary Procedures
- 9:00 pm Closing/Questions & Answers



Registration PTA Leadership Training - RSVP by May 20

PTA: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

E-mail address: _____

Workshops (check one for each session):

SESSION I

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

SESSION II

- Membership
- The Power of Advocacy
- Parliamentary Procedures

Training/Dinner Cost: \$5.00 members \$15.00 non-members

Send registration to: HCCPTA, PO Box 435, Bel Air, MD 21014

(There is no cost to attend the General Membership Meeting only.)

If making payment with one check for multiple registrations, please attach separate forms for each registrant.

GROUP SESSIONS:

ABCs OF BOARDS: Your responsibilities as a board member. What is needed for “teamwork”.

STANDARDS OF CONTINUING AFFILIATION: What you must do to continue as a PTA.

GOAL SETTING: How to plan for the year and determine your financial needs to make it happen.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

SESSION I:

- ❖ **PRESIDENT:** What Presidents need to succeed. Planning for the year. What to expect.
- ❖ **TREASURER:** Dos and don'ts of PTA finances. Budgets, Reports, and Taxes.
- ❖ **SECRETARY:** Record keeping, minutes, motions, and members.

SESSION II:

- ❖ **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership programs and ideas. Dues, membership lists, and reporting requirements.
- ❖ **THE POWER OF ADVOCACY:** What is advocacy? How to advocate for children in a public forum.
- ❖ **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:** A necessary tool of running a successful meeting.

In order for our board to plan for the correct amount of handouts and food, please fill out the registration form and mail to HCCPTA by May 20, 2012. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sandra Monaco-Burton at monaco_sandra@yahoo.com.

Thank you to these PTAs/PTSAs for coming out to celebrate our 72nd birthday at the Founder's Day Dinner!

- Aberdeen High
- Bel Air High
- Churchville Elementary
- Fallston Middle
- Fallston High
- Harford Tech
- Homestead/Wakefield Elementary
- John Archer
- Joppatowne High



Our guests enjoyed dinner catered by Scotto's Café, Festival Bel Air



Entertainment provided by Patterson Mill High School Chorus under the direction of Marianne Pastalek

- Magnolia Elementary
- Magnolia Middle
- North Bend Elementary
- North Harford Middle
- Patterson Mill Middle/High
- Prospect Mill Elementary
- William S. James Elementary
- Youth's Benefit Elementary



Cindy Mumby presents Shirley Faulkner with Aberdeen High's Membership Award



Dr. Tomback greeted attendees

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE JENNIFER HANDLIN ADVOCACY AWARDS

The Jennifer Handlin Advocacy Award honors local units committed to the PTA mission of advocating for children, families and education. Through this award, HCCPTA also recognizes outstanding efforts in strengthening cooperative relationships between the local unit, its members and our Council.

This year we are honoring three recipients:

*This active PTA has demonstrated the power of advocacy in many ways. When their school's assistant principal was recently honored with a national award, the PTA President, with husband and children in tow, spoke at a school board meeting to show PTA support for an outstanding school administrator. Members of this unit attended a public budget hearing to advocate for upgrades to their school playground. When the requested improvements were made, the PTA proudly featured the photos on its Facebook page that is continuously updated to keep parents in the loop. This PTA has also written to HCPS administration advocating for school needs and consistently contributes to our e-newsletter. And so, we are proud to present a 2012 Jennifer Handlin Advocacy Award to **Homestead Wakefield Elementary PTA**.

*This PTSA is an excellent example of a unit always in great standing. By attending all HCCPTA leadership training, meetings and events as well as the annual Maryland PTA Convention, this PTSA is able to keep its members informed and motivated. Volunteers also share their experiences and successes by actively participating in the e-mail discussions and by submitting items to our e-newsletter. For the second year in a row, we recognize **Patterson Mill Middle/High PTSA** with a Jennifer Handlin Advocacy Award.

*Bringing to life the PTA motto "every child, one voice", this PTA has embarked on an advocacy campaign to modernize not only their own aged school facility, but also another Harford County school that is in need of upgrades. Documenting their concerns, speaking out at school board meetings, inviting school board members to tour facilities, meeting with school officials and honing their advocacy skills by participating in PTA training, this unit is writing the book on how to advocate for major capital projects. Whether the message is coming from their president or from other board members, communications from this PTA are respectful, fact-based, and...relentless. We congratulate **Youth's Benefit Elementary PTA**.

At the Founder's Day Awards Ceremony we honored a few of our volunteers for their exemplary leadership and long-term innovation in PTA. The following is excerpted from the evening's comments.

Our first recipient has been a long-serving volunteer in the Council. **Robert Reschly** has worked as co-chair of our Reflections program for over a dozen years, promoting, gathering, shepherding, and celebrating thousands upon thousands of art entries from our children. Bob is the most enthusiastic cheerleader of Reflections and his efforts have allowed our kids to shine. He works hard to ensure that every child's entry meets the criteria. This year we had twenty state-level winners, our kids won in every category and every age group. Seven are currently being judged at the National PTA level. And Harford County submitted more entries than any other county in the state. Our children have a strong arts advocate in Bob and their successes are a testament to his devotion to the program. Two years ago Bob stepped up to become our Secretary when it looked like we were not going to have enough leadership to continue Council. Not only has he mastered that role, but he has volunteered to serve on most of our committees as well as the Maryland PTA Policy and Procedures Committee. He brings such commitment and thoroughness to every project he undertakes. We are delighted to present Robert Reschly with a MDPTA Honorary Life Membership.

Our next Maryland PTA Honorary Life Membership recipient has been a tireless PTA volunteer throughout elementary, middle and high school and also at the Council level. **Sue Parks** began her PTA life at Ring Factory Elementary, served as President of Bel Air Middle, chaired several committees at Bel Air High and was instrumental in establishing the PTSA at Patterson Mill Middle/High where she currently serves as President. She was very active in advocating for the building of Bel Air High and Patterson Mill. In 2007 she was appointed to fill the Council's vacancy of Recording Secretary and was subsequently elected as First Vice President and has served in that capacity for the last four years. Sue's PTA involvement is a family affair, with her children and husband Kevin often seen helping out wherever Sue has "volunteered" them. For Council she has played an invaluable role, aiding locals in reviewing their bylaws and helping to organize our trainings and events. She is a go-to source for knowledge about PTA procedures and practices. Even with a full-time job, Sue always finds a way to get the work done for PTA. And so it is with great pride and gratitude that we present Sue Parks with a Maryland PTA Honorary Life Membership.

Terry Troy Celebrated with a National PTA Life Achievement Award



(The award was presented at the Founder's Day Dinner; introduction excerpted below.)

The National PTA Life Achievement Award is the highest honor from the nation's largest child advocacy organization. It celebrates those who daily live out their commitment to children. Tonight we have the honor of presenting a National PTA Life Achievement Award to a woman who defines commitment, dedication, passion and advocacy. Her volunteer resume is, well, insane.

Terry Troy began her PTA career clipping Campbell's Soup labels for Homestead Wakefield. Before long she was serving on countless committees and then became PTA President, and that experience was followed by stints as President of both Bel Air Middle and Bel Air High. During that time she served on HCCPTA's Board of Directors for five years as a Vice President. In 1996, Maryland PTA recognized Terry and her family as "Family of the Year" for all her efforts on behalf of education. But Terry didn't rest on her laurels. In 1998, she was appointed to the Harford County Board of Education where she served five years. She also served on the Maryland Association of the Boards of Education eventually becoming President. In that position she represented 24 school districts throughout the state and spent a lot of time in

Annapolis testifying in favor of various funding projects for education. To this day she still works on various HCPS committees, including the Superintendent's Diversity Committee and the Teacher of The Year Review Committee. In addition, she serves as Chair of the Greater Education in Excellence Foundation.

Terry has supported children, indeed all residents of Harford County, in countless other ways, too. A woman who apparently can't get enough of meetings and assignments, Terry serves on the Harford Community College Foundation Board and Co-chairs the Harford Chamber of Commerce's Education Liaison Committee. She is a founding member of the greater Bel Air Community Foundation, which with its first project, raised over \$262,000 towards the construction of bleachers at Bel Air High. She works on projects for SARC, Habitat for Humanity, the Bel Air Downtown Alliance and the Community Foundation of Harford County and she recently completed her term as President of the Harford County Library Foundation.

This partial list of Terry's accomplishments indicates how much dedication and passion she has given to her role as education advocate and community activist. She seamlessly juggles these projects, her job, and her family while encouraging the rest of us to catch her incomparable energy and extraordinary sense of commitment. She is a role model and a mentor and for these reasons and many more, we honor Terry Troy with the National PTA Life Achievement Award.

The HCPS Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for Gifted and Talented Education invites parents to attend a community forum to provide feedback and input on programs and services.

CAC members will lead discussion in small groups. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and ideas about GT identification, curricula, communication, strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Edgewood Public Library - Tuesday, May 1, 6:00-7:30 PM

Havre de Grace Public Library - Wednesday, May 2, 6:00-7:30 PM

Jarrettsville Public Library - Tuesday, May 8, 6:00-7:30 PM

Interested participants should RSVP to Debra Daugherty at debra.daugherty@hcps.org or 410-588-5327.

The CAC looks forward to meeting with diverse parents and stakeholders over the next few months in order to better understand the issues and needs of our community.

For more information, contact Dr. Keri Guilbault, Coordinator of Accelerated Learning Programs, HCPS at Keri.guilbault@hcps.org 410-588-5354.

HCCPTA Notes from the Road

By Cindy Mumby, Local PTA Liaison

As summer vacation approaches, I wanted to thank all of the local PTAs that have allowed me to visit and share information this year about the resources and assistance available from HCCPTA.

In my travels since my last update, I have seen the many ways our PTAs are working on behalf of the children and the school communities in Harford County. High school PTSAs are planning to give out college scholarships and getting ready to provide safe and chemical-free celebrations for students following their senior proms; middle school PTAs are planning 8th grade celebrations and working on advocacy efforts; elementary PTAs are busy with spring flings and at one local PTA, a principal offers a "dialogue" with parents as a regular part of the meetings, fostering open communication between parents and the school.

The end of the year can be a busy time, as all PTA volunteers know, but please do not hesitate to contact me if a visit from HCCPTA can help in any way.

Once again, thanks for your hospitality and a happy summer to all!



Jan Harp Domene Diversity & Inclusion Award

We wanted to let you all know that the Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award **nominations have been extended until Friday, May 4th at 5:00 p.m. EST.** If your units or councils are doing phenomenal work in the area of diversity and inclusion, please make sure to submit a nomination. Information on how to apply for the award is located on the website: <http://www.pta.org/5073.htm>.

Elizabeth Ysla Leight

Federal Legislative Chair

Maryland PTA

fedlegislation@mdpta.org

Join the PTA Takes Action Network Today

<http://www.pta.org/takesaction/>



Sign-up for PTA Takes Action Network to stay informed on the latest happenings on Capitol Hill and to learn more about legislative issues affecting families, schools and communities. By joining the PTA Takes Action Network you will receive PTA's monthly federal policy e-newsletter and action alerts that provide you the opportunity to weigh in on key federal policy issues with your Members of Congress.

Sign-up today and join the millions of other child advocates!

ACTION NEEDED by JULY 1st 2012 ~ INSURANCE POLICY

I wanted to call your attention to a change in the insurance policy period for PTAs/PTSAs. You should have recently received a new premium notice and certificate of liability insurance from BB&T. Our policy periods had been running October 1-October 1, but it was decided that it made more sense for the policy year to align with the school year/fiscal year. Therefore, all Maryland policies will now run July 1-July 1. On your BB&T statement you will see all PTAs were issued a credit of \$36 for the premium previously paid (when the policy was to expire October 1, 2012).

You must pay the remaining premium of \$143 before July 1, 2012 to continue your insurance through July 1, 2013. (A late fee of \$25 is assessed from July 1 onward.)

Best wishes,
Sandra Monaco-Burton
President, Harford County Council PTA



Treasurer's Notes



By Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer

Congratulations on the upcoming successful completion of another wonderful year, but the Treasurer's job has not finished yet. Before you know it, school will be starting again. Whether you are continuing or new to the position, the following has to be completed before the first general membership meeting.

Personal Property Report

Your local should have filed the Personal Property Return by the April 16 deadline. ALL PTAs//PTSAs must file! Although you will probably incur some late fees, there is still time. You don't want to lose your incorporation status and have to pay another \$100 to get it reinstated. If you are not incorporated or have lost your incorporation status, you are putting your local in direct jeopardy. You can check your status by going to www.dat.state.md.us; click on Business Data Search and then Business Entity Information. **Remember that you must submit a copy of the Personal Property Return to Maryland PTA. It is no longer necessary to submit a copy to HCCPTA.**

Budget Review

Now would be a good time to take another look at the budget to determine if there is a need for any amendments that could be taken care of at your last general membership meeting.

Audit/Review Preparations

It is not too early to think about who will be performing your audit for 2011/2012. Are you willing to pay someone or a company to perform the review or will you use volunteers? Will you be able to find a person? Is it going to be done by a committee? Please see National PTA's *Money Matters* regarding what will need to be provided. Did you know that you are required to submit a copy of the audit/review report along with your year-end financial report to Maryland PTA to remain in good standing? It is not too late to submit your reports for the 2010/2011 school year if it has not already been done. If you need suggestions of individuals or firms to perform this function, contact Bruce Butz at bob@iximd.com.

Audit/Review Procedures

According to Maryland PTA bylaws, **each constituent organization must complete an annual audit of the financial records and provide a copy of the report, along with the Annual Financial Statement to Maryland PTA.**

In preparing for the audit make sure:

- all accounts balance,
- all bank statements are reconciled,
- all vouchers and checks are in order, and
- a copy of the current budget, all treasurer's reports and copies of the minutes are included.

Check your unit's bylaws to determine the makeup of the audit committee as well as the deadline for completions of the audit. Many local units choose to use an independent auditor for this year-end financial review. It is the treasurer's responsibility to forward all pertinent information to the audit committee or auditor so that the review may be performed in a timely manner. Check *Cash Encounters*, the Maryland PTA booklet, for additional information. And remember to present the audit report to the executive board at the first appropriate meeting and then to the General Membership.

Budget Preparations

The summer months are the perfect time to establish a budget committee and prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2012/2013. Review *Cash Encounters* for additional assistance. Please include some carryover for 2013/2014. **Remember that IRS requires that you use a gross budget. Another IRS requirement is that you allocate money for leadership training.**

When preparing your budget for next year, please include about \$190 for your Bonding, Liability, and Directors and Officers Insurance for the 2013/2014 school year. This will be due prior to July 1, 2013. **Please Note:** beginning this year, the insurance year is going from July through June. Bills will be coming directly to the school and payment of \$143 is expected by July 1. Please carefully read the material which was sent to each PTA President from the Insurer. If you do not pay your insurance, your PTA will not be covered and no certificate of insurance will be sent to HCPS. This certificate is required for your PTA to operate on school grounds.





Treasurer's Notes Continued...



By Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer

Avoid a black mark on the PTA name

Obtain and prepare IRS Form 990EZ and accompanying Schedule A (Schedule B if necessary) if previous three years' gross receipts average more than \$50,000. This is an IRS requirement because we have a 501(c)3 income tax exemption status. This form is due by November 15 for PTAs with a June 30 fiscal year end. If you do not meet the \$50,000 criteria, you will be required to file the 990N online.

Make sure that financial institution signature cards are updated. Reminder that signatories cannot be related and the Treasurer and one other person must sign all checks. **Never sign a blank check.**

While the treasurer is assigned the duty of being the custodian of the funds of the association and accounting for these funds, **all of the officers and chairmen have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the PTA is maintaining proper financial records**, depositing money in a timely manner, adhering to the budget and complying with all legal and reporting functions. Adhering to the policies and guidelines established by National PTA, Maryland PTA, and the IRS will help to reduce or eliminate questions about the management of the PTA and its monies.

All persons handling funds and all persons signing the PTA checks are liable for the use or misuse of the funds of the PTA. Responsible fiscal management is a must in any organization.

The local PTA unit has the responsibility to be accountable to its membership for all monies. Every officer can be held liable for debts incurred by the organization. In other words, if funds are unaccounted for, bills still have to be paid. Companies can take the PTA and its officers to court to recover the money due them. Your bonding insurance might cover embezzlement if the PTA established and followed certain procedures.

To lessen the likelihood that this problem might occur:

1. Demand complete written Treasurer's reports at every meeting.
2. Bank statements should only be sent to the school address. The president should review and sign before giving to treasurer. An officer without signature authority should compare the resolved bank statement with the Treasurer's report.
3. Establish in writing the process and individuals authorized to handle PTA funds.
4. Absolutely implement cash control policies. Establish a two signature/two receipt process for exchange or transfer of funds within the PTA.
5. Deposit PTA funds immediately upon receipt.
6. Have two signature on every check--no exceptions.
7. Never sign a blank check.
8. Disbursement request forms should be used and receipts required.
9. Pay all bills by check; never pay with cash.
10. Most important: **conduct an annual audit or review of the books.**



Congratulations to our elected officers for 2012-2014:

Bruce Butz, Treasurer Robert Reschly, Secretary
Emily Gudel, Vice President of Membership

The following positions are currently not filled:
President * 1st VP *** 2nd VP *** VP of Legislation**

If you are interested in serving at the county level, please let us know.



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

HCCPTA Announces Reflections Program State Competition Winners

"The cultural arts are wisdom. They are mankind's commentary on the human condition — comedy and tragedy. They are insights into the anguish and ecstasy, the conflicts and triumphs, the failures and aspirations of humanity." With this statement, Mary Lou Anderson founded the National PTA's Reflections Program in 1969.

The theme for 2011-2012 was "Diversity Means" and this year Harford county students created and submitted 862 entries to 25 local PTAs/PTSAs. The students listed below were recognized by MDPTA at the state level competition; those with an asterisk after their name will be representing Harford County at the National PTA competition! (Out of the 24 entries MDPTA was allowed to submit, 7 were from our kids!!!!)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dance Choreography

Primary ~ Award of Excellence ~ Ria Singh, Homestead Wakefield Elementary
Intermediate ~ Award of Excellence ~ Courtney Bosek, Prospect Mill Elementary
Middle ~ Outstanding Interpretation ~ Hannah Grzymala, North Harford Middle*
Award of Merit ~ Madalyn Rupperecht ~ North Harford Middle
Senior ~ Award of Excellence ~ Cassidy Miller, North Harford High

Film Production

Primary ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Greer Strine, North Bend Elementary*
Award of Excellence ~ Daniel Truxel, North Bend Elementary
Intermediate ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Paige Bilsbury, Hickory Elementary*
Middle ~ Award of Excellence – Jacob Shimek, Patterson Mill Middle/High
Senior ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Grace Brett, Bel Air High*

Literature

Middle ~ Award of Merit – Kirsten DiBastiani, North Harford Middle

Music Composition

Intermediate ~ Award of Merit – Chris Wagner, Prospect Mill Elementary

Photography

Primary ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Ella Budelis, Red Pump Elementary*
Award of Excellence ~ Nick Spigler, Prospect Mill Elementary

Visual Arts

Primary ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Kylie Sauer, Emmorton Elementary*
Intermediate ~ Award of Excellence – Christopher Pappas, Norrisville Elementary
Award of Merit ~ Delaney Sommers, Abingdon Elementary
Middle ~ Award of Excellence – Rachel Donohue, Fallston Middle
Senior ~ Outstanding Interpretation – Melissa Ragos, Edgewood High*
Award of Merit ~ Jason Lee, Bel Air High

Streamlining Enhancements for Reflections 2012-2013

“The Magic of a Moment”



Dear Reflections Chairs, Staff, State Presidents, and State Presidents-Elect, National PTA recently sent out a survey to obtain input on ways to enhance and streamline our Reflections program. At every level from local to state, we heard that our volunteers and staff love Reflections, but you are clearly frustrated by much of the administrative process behind it. We hear you and we agree with you! As such, the National PTA Reflections Committee has voted to move ahead with a streamlined Reflections program for 2012-2013 year.

1. **Group Entry:** Effective in the 2012-2013 year, most individual students will no longer be required to complete the official entry process. Instead, the Local Reflections Volunteer, Local School Principal, or Local Teacher will complete a very simple and brief online Group Entry process.
2. **Online Student Entry:** The only students who will be required to formally complete the Online Local Student Entry Process and artwork upload will be those students whose submissions are selected to move to the next level of judging. **(NPTA recommends One Student per Arts Category per Grade Division per School.)** This process will not involve file naming, any special file formatting, or file conversion.
3. **The Consent Form:**
The Consent Form will be eliminated.
4. **Participation Form:**
Reflections volunteers will no longer be required to complete the current excel based Participation form. Participation information will be derived through the online process.
5. **Master Entrants Form:**
The Master Entrants Form will be automated at all levels of the program and will not require input from volunteers or staff at any level. Information will be obtained via the Group Entry and Student Entry process.
6. **State Chair Use of CDs and DVDs:**
State Reflections Chairs will no longer be required to create CD or DVD files of state winning entries or to mail anything to NPTA. As Reflections Chairs at each level of the program complete their judging, they will simply click a box next to the name of students whose entries are moving to update the Master Entrants Form and all entries, forms, and reports will pass to the next level of judging.
7. **Judging Online Versus Physical Artwork**
All forms, reports, and artwork will be available online and derived from the Group Entry and winning Student Entry process. The decision to judge online versus physical artwork in any or all categories will be at the discretion of each state. Likewise, a print option will be available at every level for any chair or volunteer who prefers to view paper files.

Training and Communication:

The 2012-2013 “The Magic of a Moment” Reflections Chair Guides and training materials will be available in late May, two months earlier than last year. We are just beginning the national level judging process for the current year, but we will be providing additional information and FAQ updates to facilitate a unified and common understanding of 2012-2013 Reflections enhancements and streamlining procedures over the upcoming months leading up to the release of the Arts Chair Guide in May and Convention in June.

We are all very excited about the enhanced Reflections program for 2012-2013. We are grateful to all of you who responded to the survey, and to those who provided input and offered suggestions throughout the past year. Please help us to communicate this wonderful news regarding the 2012-2013 National PTA Reflections® Program to all Reflections volunteers and staff in your state. Thanks so much for all you do for the Arts and for Children!

Sincerely,

Cindy Dearing

National PTA Reflections Committee Chair

Jane Coyne

National PTA Arts in Education



News from Our Local



News from Youth's Benefit Elementary School



Over 80 YBES students performed in a school musical, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr". A BIG "Gator Thank You" to the parents, staff and teachers for their support.

YBES Patriot Program

Congratulations to the many YBES students that participated in the Patriot Program this year. The Patriot Program provides an opportunity for students to gain a sense of patriotism, and to learn more about our state and country. Memorization, interpretation, and community service activities were offered at each grade level. Students who completed these activities developed an awareness and appreciation of our country's past, present and future and will be recognized at a school-wide assembly in May.

Thank you to all the YBES Patriots who helped create and deliver more than 900 Valentines for local senior citizens, collect over 100 pounds of trash from around the YBES campus and illustrate 216 placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients. YBES Patriots also collected non-perishable food for the Harford County Humane Society, and participated in local scouting events and church community events throughout the county.

YBES is a Maryland Green School

As a Green School, YBES seeks to achieve the program's goals to transform education through the integration of hands-on, inquiry-based instruction that is designed to empower youth to practically apply knowledge at school, home and in their communities. Students learn to reduce pollution, decrease waste, increase habitat, limit carbon emissions and create healthy learning and living environments. YBES celebrated all things GREEN with "Earth Spirit Week" during the week of April 16th. The **activities included school-wide garden planting, "spirit wear" days, and recycled craft day.** The end of the week culminated with special "Earth Day" presenters for each grade level. Thank you to the students from North Harford High School who spoke to the 5th grade students. YBES has also partnered with Sheppard Pratt's Forbush School, local nurseries and home improvement stores as well as local Cub Scout packs to help make this event a success.



News from Fountain Green Elementary School

At March's PTA meeting we presented [Natalie Sieracki](#) with the Maryland PTA Honorary Life Membership Award. This award is the highest honor the Maryland PTA can bestow to a person who daily goes above and beyond for the PTA and shows a true commitment to our children. We thank Natalie for her dedication to our PTA.



Please join me in thanking [Jessica Patino](#) and [Amy Burns](#) who both co-chaired the FGES PTA BULL ROAST. FGES PTA netted a PROFIT of over \$1900 for our PTA! Also thank you to everyone who came out to support us and to those who gave donations.



Prospect Mill Elementary School

The PMES PTA has been busy with numerous events since the New Year. We held a Family Basket Bingo on March 23rd, our primary Spring Fundraiser. We held the event at the school for the first time this year, and had nearly 250 people in attendance. With lots of hard work from our committee members, we were able to exceed our projected goals. The PTA also continues to support the classroom teachers with our hardworking Teacher Assistance Committee (TAC) providing services such as laminating, cutting, copying, and materials distribution. We also have committee members working on the Pandarama Yearbook, a full-color book filled with memorable moments for our students. Our Staff Appreciation Committee is hard at work planning numerous events for May to show our staff how much we appreciate all they do for our children. Finally, the first Annual Pandamania Talent Show will take place in April. Fifty acts have been chosen, and they are rehearsing and getting ready for the show of the year. A special Finale is planned for all our 5th grade students who wish to participate. The event will be held at CMW High School on May 3rd at 6PM. All are welcome to attend!



HCCPTA Betty Bull Scholarship Award

Committee Report

Submitted by Bruce Butz

Harford County Council Scholarship Committee is working diligently to determine the recipients of this year's four \$500 Betty Bull Awards.

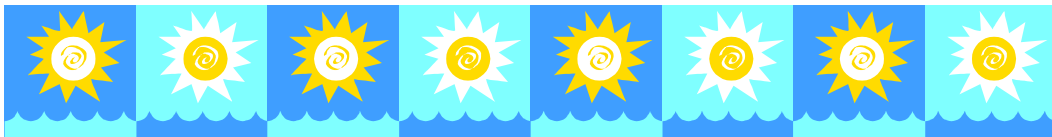
The HCCPTA Betty Bull Awards Scholarship Committee, Sandra Monaco-Burton, Cindy Mumby, and Bruce Butz, are reviewing the 17 Award applications (this is down 38% from last year) representing the following Harford County High Schools:

Bel Air High School	3
C. Milton Wright High School	1
Edgewood High School	1
Fallston High School	2
Harford Technical High School	2
Havre de Grace High School	1
North Harford High School	7

Four graduating Harford County seniors will be presented with a \$500 Betty Bull Award during their end-of-year awards' ceremonies.

In 1988, the Harford County Council of PTAs sponsored the first Betty Bull Award in honor of Mrs. Bull and her tireless and selfless efforts on behalf of children's welfare. She served during the 1950s as National PTA Legislative Chair, Maryland PTA President, Maryland State PTA Legislative Chair, President of HCCPTA, and President of the Jarrettsville Elementary PTA. She was also President of the Maryland Council on Education following World War II. She died on November 13, 1990, at the age of 86 and is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy O'Donnell, and a son, Robert, of Temple, Maine.

The purpose of the Betty Bull Awards program is to provide financial assistance to students of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs & PTSAs) who are pursuing their goal toward advanced education. All Harford County high school graduating seniors are eligible to participate with the stipulation that the student or a parent or guardian is a member of a PTA or PTSA in one of the 48 PTA local units in Harford County.



This is our last eNewsletter for this school year.

We look forward to bringing you more news and events in 2012-2013.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

E-mail us your news to HCCPTA@hccpta.org

Summer Vacation