

Harford County Council of PTA's eNewsletter

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Issue 11

Fall 2014

A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Happy December! I hope you enjoyed the extended Thanksgiving Break and are ready for the whirlwind of activity this month always brings.

I am delighted to report that Deerfield Elementary School re-formed its PTA in November, and we now have 48 units in Harford County. Units all over are working hard to increase membership—as I write this letter, at least 12 PTAs/PTSAs have exceeded their membership from last school year. If any of you need some fresh ideas for recruiting, please contact Bob Reschly, our VP of Membership, for assistance.

By now you should have completed your IRS 990 form and your financial review, and sent copies of both to Maryland PTA. Next up is the Maryland Charitable Organization Renewal form due to the Secretary of State by December 31. Our Treasurer, Bruce Butz, can assist with any questions you may have about your financial obligations.

Reflections competitions were implemented in approximately half of our PTA schools this year. The deadline to submit your winning entries to Council PTA for consideration in the county level of competition is December 18. Keep in mind that Maryland PTA will NOT accept any entries for the state round of competition that come from units that are not compliant with the Standards of Continuing Affiliation. (Please see the list of Standards inside this newsletter.) HCCPTA will send reminders in early January to any PTS/PTSA that has failed to complete a step, and we will be available to assist you in achieving full compliance.

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Stay Connected!



REMINDERS

MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP TRAINING & COUNCIL MEETING

January 29, 2015
6pm-9:30pm

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER & COUNCIL MEETING

March 26, 2015
7pm-9pm

REFLECTIONS CEREMONY & COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2015
7pm-9pm

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & COUNCIL MEETING

May 21, 2015
6pm-9:30pm

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Maryland PTA 2016-17 Reflections: Top Five Themes Selected

1. We Could Create... - Frederick County, Ijamsville Student: Brianna Henderson
2. I Am One Of A Kind - Baltimore County, Perry Hall HS Student: Emma Krug
3. Music To Me Is... - Harford County, N. Harford MS Student: Madison Fetherson
4. My Life Is Awesome - Baltimore County, Perry Hall HS Student: Jack Krug
5. What Makes Me Unique - Howard County, Lilm Kiln MS Student: May Olson

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.



Treasurer's Corner



by Maryland PTA Treasurer and Harford County Council PTA Treasurer, Bruce Butz

It is unfortunate that the free All-Day Financial Training had to be cancelled. It is hoped that another can be scheduled for late spring. If you need to experience the Maryland PTA Mandatory Training to fulfill your bylaws requirement that the treasurer and one other board member must be trained, you can sign up for the on-line training offered at www.mdpta.org under Training.

Another reminder that if your local unit had gross receipts of more than \$50,000, you are required to file IRS Form 990EZ and the accompanying Schedule A (Schedule B, C & G if necessary). This form was due by November 15. If you need to file this form, it is not too late. The fine is only \$20/day. If your gross receipts were \$50,000 or less, you were required to go on line at www.irs.gov and file a 990N with IRS. You may file a 990-EZ if you wish even if your gross income is less than \$50,000.

The Office of the Secretary of State is also requiring that you register as a charitable organization with them, or if already registered you must renew that registration by completing the Annual Renewal of Registration form and submitting the fee by the end of December. You must supply a copy of your 990-EZ. If you were not required to file a 990EZ with IRS, it will then be necessary to complete a COF-85 to satisfy the requirement. If your gross income was under \$25,000, you should file the Exempt Organization Fund Raising Notice with the Secretary of State. See the Maryland PTA Forms & Instructions booklet.

According to Maryland PTA Bylaws, you were required to submit the treasurer's Annual Financial Report and the Financial Review Report for 2013-2014, reviewed by an auditing or review committee or an auditor, to Maryland PTA. This was due at the end of October. Please do not send a copy of this to HCCPTA.

A reminder also that payment for memberships sold should be made to Maryland PTA (\$4.00/member) and to HCCPTA (\$.50/member) by the end of each month. Don't get confused. Pay them at the same time. Please do not pay Maryland PTA for any membership that you do not sell as they do not issue refunds. You must remit your membership dues promptly. Not reporting to Maryland PTA or HCCPTA the portion of the dues you collected on their behalf is withholding money that rightfully belongs to them and in the view of IRS is considered fraud.

If you need to submit an IRS 1099 MISC for those individuals for whom you paid \$600 or more this calendar year, you should order this form and the accompanying IRS form 1096 remittal form during December as the 1099 must go to the individual before the end of January. Please see Cash Encounters for additional information on this topic.

Have a great Holiday Season.



The Time to be Heard is Now!

Don't miss your chance to provide input for the HCPS FY2016 operating budget.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Superintendent Works with Target Focus Groups

- PTA Executive Board
- Harford County Chamber of Commerce
- Harford County Council
- Citizens Advisory Councils, and more!

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Share with the Superintendent

- Attend Superintendent Budget Public Input Sessions
- Email budget@hcps.org
- Join the discussion during the Superintendent's Twitter chat
- Submit your proposed budget using our Budget Input Tool

DECEMBER

JANUARY

Talk to the Board of Education

- Attend Board of Education Budget Public Input Sessions
- Email board@hcps.org
- Submit your proposed budget using our Budget Input Tool

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Speak with the County Executive

- Attend County Executive Public Hearings: harfordcountymd.gov/council
- Dialogue with your county executive and your county council representative prior to the executive sending the budget to the council

APRIL

MAY

JUNE*

Reach out to the County Council

- Attend County Council Public Hearings: harfordcountymd.gov/council
- Ask your elected officials how they plan to support and fund education

*The County Council finalizes their budget on June 15, please be sure to provide input prior to this date!

www.hcps.org/budget

From the Awards Chair...

by Denise Mobley

This past July, Riverside Elementary was recognized at the Maryland State PTA Convention with a Certificate of Achievement for largest percentage membership increase in SY 2013-2014! Way to go, Harford County! The following local units were recognized by HCCPTA this past school year for obtaining an increase in membership over the prior year:

Riverside Elementary - 102.4% *
 North Harford Elementary - 82.8% *
 Emmorton Elementary - 47.7% *
 William Paca/Old Post Rd. Elementary - 42.6%
 Joppatowne High - 39.5%
 Prospect Mill Elementary - 35.3%
 Magnolia Middle - 33.3%
 John Archer - 32.8%
 Church Creek Elementary - 25.6%
 Edgewood Elementary - 18.4%
 Darlington Elementary - 15.1%
 Havre de Grace Elementary - 11.4%
 Aberdeen High - 8.4%
 Roye-Williams Elementary - 7.4%
 Bel Air Elementary - 3.0%
 Red Pump Elementary - 2.9%
 Fallston High - .9%



The following local units were recognized as having obtained a high percentage of memberships per student enrollment:

Youth's Benefit Elementary - 78.1%
 John Archer - 75.2%
 Hickory Elementary - 75%

The following units were recognized as having obtained a high increase in the percentage of memberships per student enrollment over the prior school year's percentage:

North Harford Elementary - 30.6%
 Prospect Mill Elementary - 24.1%
 John Archer - 24%

Finally, congratulations to the following 2014 HCPS graduates who received a scholarship award from HCCPTA last year:

Lauren S. - Bel Air High
 Emily M. - Fallston High
 Kayla S. - Patterson Mill Middle/High
 Tyler M. - Fallston High
 Karlie S. - Bel Air High
 Amber E. - Aberdeen High



Visit Maryland PTA
 Website for great
 resources & tools for your
 PTA!
www.mdpta.org

Standards of Affiliation

Reprinted from your By-Laws

A local PTA in order to meet the standards of affiliation shall:

- Adhere to the purposes and basic policies of the National and Maryland PTA;
- Remit the national and state dues to the Maryland PTA office by dates designated;
- Have bylaws approved every three (3) years according to the procedures of Maryland PTA;
- Have a minimum of twenty-five (25) members;
- Shall submit the names and contact information including phone number, address and email address of all elected officers to the Maryland PTA office within two (2) weeks of election;
- Remit bonding, liability and directors and officers insurance premiums by the date designated;
- Have an EIN (Employer Identification Number) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on file with the Maryland PTA;
- Maintain its status as a corporation, have as required by MD Non-Profit law, at a minimum a president, secretary and treasurer;
- File the appropriate tax forms, by the required dates, with the IRS and submits a copy to the Maryland PTA office within 30 (thirty) days of filing.
 - Each local PTA shall submit a copy of its annual financial review, to Maryland PTA within one hundred twenty (120) days following the end of the local's fiscal year.
- File all appropriate state forms with the appropriate state authorities by the required date and submit a copy to the Maryland PTA office within 30 days of filing



Outstanding teachers make a difference - Nominate yours now!

Teacher of the Year

Deadline for submission:
Midnight on January 11, 2015

Application available at www.hcps.org

HCCPTA Newsletter

Edited by Tracy Worley

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Be sure to visit the HCCPS website home page at www.hcps.org (at least monthly) and click on the "Request for Public Comment" link (bottom right corner of the homepage). The community can provide direct comment on each policy being proposed or revised before the members of the Board of Education vote on the adoption of the new policies.



Destination Imagination

If you are interested in sponsoring a Destination Imagination team this year, Marcia Cole, East Central Regional Director of Maryland Destination Imagination, is available to give a DI presentation at your PTA meeting. If you have any questions, or would like to contact Marcia for additional information, she can be reached at: colesclass@yahoo.com.

Did you know...?

...that if you have two vice president positions, your by-laws should address the duties of each? Here's an example:

Section 2. The vice president(s) shall

- *act as aide(s) to the president*
- *in their designated order perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to serve; and*
- *perform such other duties as may be prescribed in these bylaws or assigned by this local PTA/PTSA or by the board of directors.*
- **The 1st VP shall be the membership chair and handle all membership drives and records.**
- **The 2nd VP shall be programming chair and handle all programs and events held in conjunction with meetings.**



Visit our Website at www.hcc-pta.org

Do you want to share your successes and solutions with us?

Send in a brief article to be printed in our next "eNewsletter." Tell us what works, what doesn't....Let's make it easier for the next PTA volunteers!

Email us your news to HCCPTA@hccpta.org Attention: Communications Chair

Next deadline is February 15, 2015

News from Our Local



News from Edgewood Elementary School PTA:

by Tracy Worley, PTA President

The Edgewood Elementary School has been awarded a grant from the National PTA for Healthy Lifestyles Energy Balance 101. National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Grants will provide winning PTAs with tools and resources to help improve energy balance and provide families with nutrition and physical activity education. Edgewood Elementary School PTA will use the Healthy Lifestyles grant to target K-5 grade students and their families.

EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



News from North Harford Elementary School PTA:

By Debbie Dawson, PTA President

For the past several years, the students at North Harford Elementary (NHES) in Pylesville, Maryland have looked forward to a popular fall fundraising event, NHES Football Training Camp. Similar to a Laps for Learning type walk-a-thon, students solicit donations from family and friends before participating in a variety of no-contact football drills. As a special addition to this year's NHES Football Training Camp which was held on October 3rd, students and staff received a surprise visit from both the Oriole Bird and Poe at the end of the school day. The surprise appearance of both team mascots was the perfect ending to a day of fun and fitness that helped raise \$11,000 for our school community. If your PTA is interested in having Poe or the Oriole Bird visit your students this school year, visit the official websites for the Baltimore Ravens and Baltimore Orioles to request a character appearance.

SAVE THE DATE

HCCPTA's next Leadership Training will be held at Harford Tech on January 29. Come learn best practices, network with PTA officers and committee chairs from around the county, complete your PTA's Personal Property Return, and participate in our roundtable discussions. Cost \$5 per member. If you have a topic you want us to cover, please email us at: 2ndVP@hccpta.org. Dinner will be provided.



A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Continued from p. 1

Our next Leadership Training will take place on January 29 at Harford Tech. We plan to continue our round table discussions, so email us any topics you would like for us to cover. In addition, at the training we will walk you through step-by-step instructions on how to complete your unit's Personal Property Return (which will be due on April 15).

Our annual Founder's Day Dinner and Awards Ceremony will be held on March 26. We will be celebrating all of YOUR hard work and successes. The evening will include the bestowal of our Advocacy, Membership and Lifetime Achievement Award winners. Please plan on sending a minimum of two of your members to the dinner—we would like for all PTAs and volunteers to be recognized for their work on behalf of the children of Harford County. Dinner will be provided by a local restaurant; invitations will be mailed out in January.

As you wrap up 2014, please consider discussing with your members now the FY2016 HCPS operating budget. The Board of Education is seeking public input and holding hearings, and will vote on the budget in January. You can find links on www.hcps.org to the budget process and to several other issues on which the Board of Education and HCPS are soliciting public comment; I urge you to share these with your community.

Finally, I hope you will consider nominating a candidate for the HCPS Teach of the Year Award. The application can be found on the school system's website—the deadline for submissions is January 11.

Thank you for all the time and talent you dedicate to our schools. Each PTA/PTSA not only provides a powerful platform for parents, teachers and students to improve the educational experience for all, you also create a unique environment in each school building that enables the children to feel nurtured, celebrated and safe. I greatly appreciate the invitations to attend your meetings and visit your schools and I look forward to seeing even more of you in the New Year. On behalf of the Harford County Council PTA, I wish you a joyous and healthy holiday season.

2015 Advocacy Awards

Nominations for the 2015 Advocacy Awards are now being accepted! If you know of an outstanding youth or individual PTA advocate, or know of a local unit or state level PTA that has done great advocacy work, please nominate them to receive an award for their efforts from National PTA! Winners will be announced in January, and will receive their awards at the 2015 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Like in previous years, advocates may apply themselves in the youth and individual categories, and the winners in these categories will get the opportunity to act as advocacy ambassadors for PTA. Please use the links below to make nominations.

Nominations must be for efforts made in the last year and are due by midnight on Dec. 19.

Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Ambassador Award
Outstanding Youth Advocacy Ambassador Award
Local/District/Regional PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award
State PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award

PTA News

SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOL

What is Smart Snacks?

As part of the [Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) included guidelines for "competitive foods" known as [Smart Snacks](#) for all foods and beverages sold to students throughout the school day. The new Smart Snacks guidelines apply to "competitive foods" that are not a part of the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program. Smart Snacks rules set limits on calories, fats, sugar and sodium and encourage the consumption of dairy, whole grains, protein, fruits and vegetables.



More Resources

National PTA has officially launched our Smart Snacks webpage where you can find many resources regarding Smart Snacks. You can access these resources PTA.org/SmartSnacks.

A number of tools and resources are available to help schools identify food items that meet Smart Snacks criteria. See the resources for info about the Smart Snacks requirement, helpful tools and ways to encourage children to make healthier snack choices that give them the nutrition they need to grow and learn on the [USDA website](#).

View a recording of the [Smart Snacks Overview webinar](#) and click [download the Powerpoint presentation](#). If your state or local PTA would like a web or in-person training, please email schoolfoods@pta.org. For additional resources and more info on Smart Snacks, please visit PTA.org/SmartSnacks.

SAVE THE DATE!
2015 National PTA Convention and Exhibition
June 25-28
Charlotte NC

The convention will be your opportunity to network with more than 1,000 PTA members and partners and hear from experts in the PTA and education community in a robust offering of inspiring education sessions and special guest speakers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EVERYDAY HEROS
25 HCPS teachers were honored by the
Greater Excellence in Education Foundation on October 22

Annually, the Greater Excellence in Education Foundation recognizes and awards outstanding educators in Harford County Public Schools as *Everyday Heroes* and honors their business partners with *Collaborative Partnership* awards. They were honored at the 10th annual gala on October 22.

GEEF Everyday Heroes 2014

School	Principal	Everyday Hero
Aberdeen Middle School	Tony Bess	Laura Casilly
Alternative Education	Kilo Mack	Michelle Kozak
Bakerfield Elementary	Tara Dedeaux	Christina Gray
Church Creek Elementary	Chrissy Douglas	Danielle Taylor
Churchville Elementary	Edith Buckler	Ina Gardner
Deerfield Elementary	Greg Lane	Jennifer Amato-Minton
Edgewood Elementary	Jennifer Drumgoole	Erika Jones
Edgewood Middle	Patrice Brown	Bridgette Bell
Edgewood High	Lisa Santos	Sarah Friedman
Forest Hill Elementary	Tammy Bosley	Terri Brown
Forest Lakes Elementary	Chris Langrehr	Wendy Jett
Harford Technical High School	Chas Hagan	Michael Svezese
Havre de Grace Elementary	Ron Wooden	Chris Hedges
Havre de Grace Middle	Chandra Krantz	Nancy Murphy
Havre de Grace High	James Reynolds	Kirsten Somers
Joppatowne High	Pamela Zeigler	Cheryl Orrichio
Magnolia Elementary	Patty Mason	Stephanie Guzman
Magnolia Middle	Melissa Mickey	Barbara Ford
Meadowvale Elementary	Debbie Freels	Anastasia "Stasi" Rajewski
North Harford Elementary	Lisa Sundquist	Kathy Ayers
Norrisville Elementary	Victoria Elliott	Erica Pickett
Red Pump Elementary	Blaine Hawley	Brenna Talbard
Ring Factory Elementary	Earl Gaskins	Margaret "Carol" Dietrich
Roye Williams Elementary	Rose Martino	Ronald Stump
William Paca/Old Post	Gail Dunlap	Reynard Burgess