

Harford County Council of PTA's eNewsletter

P.O. Box 435, Bel Air, MD 21014 | Visit us on the web at www.hcc-pta.org | Email us at hccpta@hccpta.org

Issue 10

Spring 2014

A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

What a winter! I hope you had better luck than we did trying to hold meetings on days it did not snow. Let's bring on warmer days and some structure for the kids.

As you know, in 2014, for the first time in history, the HCPS Board of Education will have 6 elected seats, one from each county council district. (There will still be three appointed seats, as well.) The deadline for candidates to file was February 25, so now we can get to the business of meeting the candidates. At HCCPTA, we plan to send out questionnaires to each candidate and will share their responses with you. Please consider inviting the candidates to one of your meetings. Maryland's primary election will be on June 24. Although the general election will take place in November, the new Board of Education members will not begin their terms until July 1, 2015.

The winners of the county-level round of the Reflections Program were announced in early February, and we sent 73 works of art on to the state level. Please see inside this newsletter for a complete list of the artists to win a prize. Our Reflections Ceremony on April 24 will honor the efforts of these students.

Applications for our 2014 scholarships have been distributed to all the high schools, and are available through the guidance counselors. See inside this issue for additional info. If you need a copy for distribution, please send me an email. The deadline for applying is April 1. We are pleased to announce that we have moved to a blind judging process—thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions on the scholarship process.

While the weather may have postponed our Founder's Day celebration, it gives us more time to collect nominations for the Maryland PTA Lifetime Achievement Awards. Please submit your recommendations as soon as possible. Also, the application for our Jennifer Handlin Advocacy Award will be emailed to you in the next week or two. Stay tuned for details.

The HCCPTA elections will take place on April 24, with all positions open. Per our bylaws, the current Treasurer, Secretary and President are not eligible to run again for their positions, so we need some new leaders to step into these roles. Please contact me at any time to discuss the job responsibilities of any of our Board of Director positions. If you need help with your own elections, just ask.

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Stay Connected!



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REMINDERS

Maryland Personal Property Returns are due April 15

Submit Membership & Advocacy Achievements

**Thursday, April 24, 2014
Reflections Ceremony & Elections**

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

**Thursday, May 22, 2014
Leadership Training**

Harford Tech
6:00 – 9:30 pm



HCCPTA has a new look!

<http://www.hcc-pta.org>

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.

Maryland PTA 2014 Legislative Session – Bills in Support

by Marla Posey-Moss, HCCPTA VP of Legislation

The Maryland General Assembly convened the 434th legislative session on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. The session is only 90 days and concludes on Wednesday, April 7. The Maryland PTA is tracking 78 House Bills and 58 Senate bills, some of which are cross-filed legislation. While there are many bills being monitored, the ones listed below are only bills that the MD PTA is supporting via written testimony as of Feb. 15th. Additionally, given the recent winter storm, the PTA Night in Annapolis was postponed to March 6th from 6:00PM to 9:00PM.

HB 1/SB 64 - Children in Need of Assistance - Educational Stability

Requires juvenile courts to inquire about the educational stability of a child at specified hearings and proceedings, and authorizes the juvenile court to consider specified factors in determining the educational stability of a child.

HB 56 - Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Periods - School Supplies and Textbooks

Expands the annual sales and use tax-free period to include specified school supplies and textbooks if the taxable price of the school supply or textbook is \$500 or less, etc.

HB 133 - Vehicle Laws - School Vehicles – Definition

Alters the definition of a "school vehicle", establishing that a "school vehicle" includes specified vehicles that meet or comply with specified standards and requirements, etc.

HB 297 - Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014

Expands prekindergarten services to specified 4-year-old children; establishing the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program; identifies the purpose and requires the Department of Education to administer the Program; requires the Program to be a competitive grant program for specified providers, etc.

HB 407 - Juvenile Law - Prohibition Against Continued Detention

Prohibits the continued detention, beyond emergency detention, of a child under the age of 12 years except under specified circumstances

HB 413 - Special Education - Individualized Education Program Parental Notice Requirements and Service Models List

Requires the parents of a child attending their initial individualized education program evaluation meeting to be provided a specified verbal and written explanation of their rights and responsibilities and a program procedural safeguards notice and providing the right for the parents to request this information at any meeting thereafter; etc.

HB 440/SB 58 - Education - School Vehicles - Authorized Riders

Prohibits the driver of a school vehicle from allowing specified individuals to board or ride on the school vehicle, subject to specified exceptions, etc.

HB 571 - School Counselors - Role Expansion in Public High Schools

States a goal of the State regarding a ratio of school counselors to students; requires specified school counselors to spend a specified percentage of time performing specified activities; requires each local school system to share resources and technology available for school counselors, etc.

HB 1265 - Fairness for All Marylanders Act

Prohibits discrimination based on gender identity with regard to public accommodations, housing, and employment and by specified licensed or regulated persons. Requires State personnel actions to be made without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation; defines the term "gender identity"; etc.

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2014 Legislative Session

Continued from p. 2

SB 0082 - Vehicle Laws – Prohibition Against Smoking in Vehicle Containing Young Child

Prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle in which a person who is under the age of 8 years is a passenger from smoking a tobacco product or allowing a passenger to smoke in the motor vehicle

SB 0124 - Education Coordinating Committee and Lida Lee Tall Learning Resources Center – Repeal

Repeals laws related to the Lida Lee Tall Learning Resources Center (for Teacher Training) and responsibilities of the Education Coordinating Committee in overseeing it.

SB 159 - Vehicle Laws - School Vehicles - Definition

Alters the definition of a "school vehicle", establishes that a "school vehicle" includes specified vehicles that meet or comply with specified standards and requirements, etc.

SB 288 - Public Schools - Smoking on School Property - Prohibition

Prohibits an individual from smoking a tobacco product at any time on public school property; establishes a \$50 civil penalty, etc.

SB 332 - Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014

Expands prekindergarten services to specified 4-year-old children; establishes the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program; identifies the purpose and requiring the Department of Education to administer the Program; requires the Program to be a competitive grant program for specified providers, etc.

A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Continued from p. 1

Thank you to all who attended our January 9 training, especially those of you who shared your best practices and innovative ideas. Please let us know if you liked the round table format of these discussions. Our final Leadership Training of the school year will take place on May 22, so please share with us any ideas you have for topics or speakers.

Finally, keep discussing the HCPS budget priorities with your communities, and communicate these to our Board of Education and County Council members and the County Executive. This is a tough economic climate, and early indications from the county and the state are that the school system will not receive the full amount it requested in its budget. This means that cuts will need to be discussed. Let's help our officials make the best decisions for the kids.

I have had the privilege to attend some of your monthly meetings recently, and it is thrilling to hear firsthand of your successes. While the weather and the economy may have created new challenges this year, many PTAs/PTSAs have not slowed down in the least. As always thank you for your tireless efforts and tremendous talents given on behalf of the children of Harford County. If anyone feels that your PTA has stalled, please reach out to Council and we will find the best mentor to help you create solutions. My "door is always open." Monaco_sandra@yahoo.com.

Sandra Monaco
HCCPTA President

*Next Newsletter
Submission Deadline
May 15, 2014*



Visit www.pta.org
for more
Student Safety
details

Treasurer's Responsibilities



by Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer



You are past the half way point and it's now time for a quick follow up to what has hopefully taken place over the last six or seven months.

All local PTA units were required to complete one of the 990 forms for the IRS. This should have been submitted to IRS by November 15. Be sure you send a copy of either the 990, 990EZ, or the 990N to Maryland PTA.

Local PTAs with income of \$25,000 are required to register, or annually renew their registration, as a charitable organization with the Office of the Secretary of State and have submitted the fee by the end of December. For those locals who filed the e-postcard for the 990N, but had income of less than \$25,000, Maryland PTA and the State's Comptroller are strongly encouraging you to complete the Exempt Organization Fund-Raising Notice. Those locals filing a 990N with gross incomes of \$25,000 but less than \$50,000 may elect to submit a copy of their 990EZ or complete the COF-85 located on the Secretary of State's website. Please be sure to provide Maryland PTA with a copy of your submissions to the Secretary of State.

According to Maryland PTA Bylaws, you are required to submit the treasurer's annual report reviewed by an auditor or auditing or review committee to Maryland PTA. This annual financial report should accompany the Financial Review Report document found in Maryland PTA's Sample Reports booklet. This should have been reported to Maryland PTA by October 31.

You should have received the 2014 Personal Property Report form in mid-February. These are mailed to organizations who have not forfeited their incorporation in the state of Maryland. They have a return due date of April 15 and can be completed online and mailed. In order to maintain your good standing with Maryland PTA, you must submit a copy of that report to Maryland PTA. You can view your status by searching the website of the Department of Assessments and Taxation at www.dat.state.md.us. If you have forfeited your incorporation, contact Maryland PTA.

A reminder also that payment for memberships sold should be made to Maryland PTA (\$3.75/member) and to Harford County Council (\$0.50/member) by the end of each month. There are still local units who have not submitted dues for the school year. (Please do not pay Maryland PTA for any membership that you do not sell as there will be no refunds issued.) You must remit your membership dues promptly. Not reporting to HCCPTA or Maryland PTA the portion of the dues you collected on their behalf is withholding money that rightfully belongs to them and is considered fraud by IRS.

If you needed to submit an IRS 1099 MISC for those individuals for whom you paid \$600 or more in the calendar year 2013, you should have ordered this form and the accompanying IRS 1096 Remittal form as the 1099 must go to the individual before the end of January. This form is not downloadable. Penalties for late reporting to individuals are quite stiff. Check Cash Encounters to determine who qualifies.

Now is an excellent time to review your budget to see if any amendments are necessary. Remember that IRS requires that you use a gross budget. This means that you cannot just report the profits from your fundraisers as income.



Visit Maryland PTA Website for great resources & tools for your PTA!

www.mdpta.org

HCCPTA Betty Bull Award

Since 1988, the Harford County Council of PTAs has sponsored this 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. The Harford County Council PTA continues this Award Program in her Memory. All Harford County High School Seniors with a GPA of at least 2.0 and a valid PTA/PTSA membership from any one of the 47 Harford County PTA Schools is eligible to apply for the Betty Bull Award. The deadline is April 1, 2014

The Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. is planning to award up to six (6) \$500.00 scholarships for the 2013/2014 school year. (The number awarded is dependent on available funding from HCCPTA membership dues.) To date, HCCPTA has granted over \$36,600 to more than 80 individuals. The purpose of this award program is to provide financial assistance to students of the Parent Teacher Student Association who are pursuing their goal toward advanced education. All Harford County public high school graduating seniors are eligible. There is a stipulation that the student or a parent or guardian is a current member of a PTA or PTSA in Harford County. Applications can be secured from the High School Counselor's office and are available on our website: www.hccpta.org.

Eligibility:

1. Must be a senior in a Harford County public high school.
2. Must have applied and been accepted at a post secondary institution, e.g. college technical school, etc.
3. Must have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.0.
4. A copy of the student's PTA/PTSA membership card, the parent's or legal guardian's PTA/PTSA membership card, or the signature of the President of a sponsoring PTA/PTSA only must be provided with this application.
5. Money awarded by the scholarship must be used for tuition, transportation, books and other associated materials, room and board to a college or technical school.

Selection Criteria: (Rating for Award applicants is based on a scale of 100%.)

1. Goals (40%)
2. Volunteer work/Extra curricular activities (30%)
3. Grades (GPA counts as 10% of the final process)
4. Written application (10%)
5. Letters of Reference (5%)
6. Financial need (5%)

Procedure:

1. Complete the two-page application
2. Verify that all material is included or being submitted
3. Application must be received by April 1, 2014

Mail to:

**Betty Bull Award Selection Committee / Harford County Council of PTA, Inc.
P. O. Box 435, Bel Air, MD 21014**

SUPPORTING MATERIAL REQUIRED:

1. Completed two-page application form by the deadline.
2. Transcript of high school credits earned, including current semester and GPA.
3. Two letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, sponsor, etc. (Family members may NOT be included as references.)
4. Copy of PTSA or PTA membership card or signature of only a PTSA/PTA President.

**BETTY BULL AWARD
Harford County Council of PTA, Inc.**

2014 Award Application

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Personal Data:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Social Security #: _____

_____ Email: _____

Parent's or Legal Guardian's name: _____

High School: _____

Family Data:

Family's Annual Income: _____ # of years as PTA/PTSA member: _____

Family Composition:

Name	Age	Name	Age

The Family Data above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Scholarship Information:

Grade Point Average (Minimum 2.0) _____

Names of Colleges or Technical Schools to which you applied	Accepted? Yes/No/Not Yet

**BETTY BULL AWARD
Harford County Council of PTA, Inc.
2014 Award Application**

Part I - Essay

Write an essay of at least 3 paragraphs stating your goals for the future, how you plan to achieve these goals, and how this award will help you accomplish your goals.

Part II - Activities/Community Service

List all activities, clubs, awards, athletic teams, youth groups, church groups, community services, etc. in which you have been an active member or participant.

SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Name of Activity	<u>Grades/Years Involved</u>					<u>Awards or Recognitions Received</u>
	9	10	11	12	Other	Volunteer Work Performed

Provide an attachment if necessary

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Name of Activity	<u>Grades/Years Involved</u>					<u>Awards or Recognitions Received</u>
	9	10	11	12	Other	Volunteer Work Performed

Provide an attachment if necessary

Part III - Activities/Community Service Brief Paragraphs

On an attached sheet of paper:

1. Explain what PTA means to you; and
2. Describe any two of the above school or community activities of which you are most proud and explain why?

Maryland
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everychild.onevoice.[®]
Updates

The **2014 Maryland PTA Letter of Interest and Nominating Packet** is now available! Deadline for application is close of business 4:30pm on April 1, 2014. Download the packet at http://www.mdpta.org/documents/MDPTA_Letter_of_Interest_14Final.pdf. Questions? Please contact Emory Young, Chair of the Nominating and Board Development Committee at Nominating@mdpta.org.

The **2014 Maryland PTA Scholarship Application** for graduating high school seniors interested in pursuing a career in education has been released. The application may be downloaded at <http://www.mdpta.org/documents/Scholarshipapplication2014.pdf>. A PTA meeting the Standards of Affiliation must sign off on the application prior to its submission! Questions? Please call Maryland PTA at 410-760-6221....

Mark your Calendars! The **2014 Maryland PTA Mandatory Online Trainings** have been scheduled for the spring on the following dates:

March 26 Financial Training
March 27 Financial Training
April 14 Financial Training
April 17 Financial Training

All trainings begin at 7:30pm and last approximately 1 hour....You can register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/maryland-pta-4713268535?s=21632117>. Be sure to register early as space is limited!

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Updates

The National PTA Membership Committee has issued your PTA a challenge to get **14 in '14**, a nationwide membership challenge in which your PTA can win \$1,000 by simply recruiting 14 members. Win cash to support existing PTA programs and events or start new initiatives. Go to <http://www.pta.org/challenge> to download an entry form.

Sales Tax Notes

by Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer



HB0232: “This bill exempts from the State sales and use tax sales made by a parent-teacher organization or other organization within an elementary or secondary school in the State or within a local school system in the State.”

First Option: For now, in lieu of paying sales tax to the vendor, issue them a Blanket Certificate of Resale (located in Cash Encounters and the Sample Reports booklet). The use of the Certificate is limited to a \$200 minimum purchase from the vendor. It is required that you have a Sales and Use Tax License. You will need to continue filing zero on your scheduled sales and use tax reports.

Second option: Pay the vendor the sales tax and then request a refund of that sales tax from the State on Maryland. This option would only be used for purchases under \$200 or for businesses that will not accept the Blanket Certificate of Resale and only for items that the PTA is going to re-sell. You will need to continue filing zero on your scheduled sales and use tax reports.

The State Comptroller's Office has posted some Frequently Asked Questions about Sales by Parent-Teacher Organizations and Other Organizations. Questions regarding these FAQs, or questions in general should be directed to the Comptroller's Office Taxpayer Center by calling [410-260-7980](tel:410-260-7980). See link below....

http://taxes.marylandtaxes.com/Business_Taxes/Taxpayer_Assistance/Business_Tax_FAQs/Sales_and_Use_Tax/Parent_Teacher_Organizations_FAQs/

To clarify the Third Party section of the FAQ, the State Comptroller's office states if the PTA is the point of sale, they are selling the items and the money is going into the PTA account, no sales tax would need to be collected. If the company is the point of sale and is collecting the money directly from the consumer, sales tax should be collected....The company, in this case, would be making a "donation" to the PTA with the % of sales agreed upon. The PTA should continue to use the Blanket Certificate of Resale until the State Comptroller has something more tangible to offer.

Third Option: Apply for your own Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate. You are not permitted to use the School's Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate. This exemption will eliminate any necessity to pay sales tax in the state of Maryland.

To obtain the Sales and Use Tax exemption, PTAs have to complete the current year Combined Registration Application (CRA), which you may find here. After January 1, 2014, the 2014 CRA will be required and will be available at www.marylandtaxes.com. PTAs should complete http://forms.marylandtaxes.com/13_forms/CRA.pdf should complete all required sections and follow the Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate (SUTEC) checklist on page 4 for additional information required.

The checklist will help guide you in completing the application. Subordinate organizations, such as PTAs covered by Maryland PTA's group determination letter must also provide a copy of the group determination letter and a letter from the parent organization on letterhead specifying that the particular organization is covered by your group determination. These letters can be obtained by contacting Maryland PTA. In addition to the 501(c)(3) letter and letter from holder of IRS group determination (mentioned above), the following information is also required:

- The completed CRA
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws

The exemption will take approximately 6- 8 weeks to review and will be valid until 2017 when it will be up for renewal. Also, please note that two individual officers will be required to provide their social security number for the application and will have to remember to have that number removed from the application when their term expires. This can be accomplished with a letter to the department.

Save the Dates!

99th Annual Maryland PTA Convention

July 11-12, 2014

Baltimore Sheraton North

Towson, Maryland 21204

1st Annual Emerging Minority Leaders Conference

Thursday, July 10, 2014 12 - 4pm

Baltimore Sheraton North

Towson, Maryland 21204

Visit <http://mdpta.org/> for more information

2014 Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition

SAVE THE DATE!

June 19-22

Austin, Texas

Austin Convention Center

The convention is 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.

Registration will open in January 2014.

Visit our NEW 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 the Communications Chair: tlflimited@gmail.com

Next deadline is May 15, 2014



Press Release

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Office: 410-588-5203 • teri.kranefeld@hcps.org • www.hcps.org • fax: 410-893-2478

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Barbara P. Canavan Named Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools

The Board of Education of Harford County (Board) appointed Barbara P. Canavan to a four-year term as Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) today, February 24, 2014, during its regularly scheduled business meeting. Mrs. Canavan has been serving as Interim Superintendent of Schools since July 1, 2013, when former Superintendent Robert Tomback's contract expired. She will remain in this capacity until the start of her new term on July 1, 2014.

In November of 2013, the Board contracted with Ray and Associates, a firm that has been conducting executive education searches since 1975, to help facilitate the first phase of a Superintendent Search process. Phase one encompassed the development of ideal criteria for the next Superintendent of Schools and 10 focus group sessions with key stakeholder groups, including elected/government officials, business/community leaders, HCPS leadership team members, support staff, central office staff, principals, teachers, parents, students and employee association leadership.

Feedback gathered from the focus groups, as well as an online public survey, indicated resounding support for Mrs. Canavan, and the Board agreed there was no need to continue an expensive and time consuming search for outside candidates.

"Mrs. Canavan has proven her commitment to the students, staff and community of Harford County Public Schools," said Board of Education President Nancy Reynolds. "She has dedicated more than 40 years of exemplary service to our school system and the Board and I are completely confident in her ability to move our school system forward. We look forward to continuing to work with her as our Superintendent of Schools."

The Board and Mrs. Canavan will hold a press conference tomorrow, Tuesday, February 25, at 9:00 a.m. at the A. A. Roberty Building in Bel Air. All are invited to attend.

"I am deeply honored to be presented with the privilege of serving the students and the Harford County Public School community," said Mrs. Canavan. "I will work diligently to foster a culture of mutual trust and respect among all constituents and community leaders. I vow never to lose sight of the fact that each and every decision, no matter how small, is integral to creating a legacy of opportunity for our children."

Mrs. Canavan's career in the field of education began in 1970 as an elementary school teacher at the Sacred Heart School in Brooklyn, New York. In 1973, she made the move to the Harford County Public School System, serving as a teacher at Aberdeen Middle School before accepting a position as assistant principal at Edgewood Middle School in

-MORE-

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1978. She was promoted to assistant principal at Magnolia Middle School in 1983. After serving six years at Magnolia Middle, in 1989, Mrs. Canavan accepted an assistant principal position at Southampton Middle School where she became principal in 1991 and remained there for the next 19 years. As the principal of Southampton Middle School, Mrs. Canavan encouraged open-ended dialogue in order to assess the needs of the students, the staff and the community.

Her active leadership and good judgment in working with all stakeholders allowed her to develop positive relationships and conduct ongoing programs to support student achievement. Upon being named the executive director of middle school performance in 2010, Mrs. Canavan assumed the responsibility of the direction of curriculum development and instructional programming. While serving in this role, she gained a global perspective of school system management, which served the needs of students and staff throughout the county. She was named Interim Superintendent of Schools in May 2013.

Mrs. Canavan has served on and chaired many committees and task forces in Harford County that have been instrumental in determining policy and procedure as well as the vision and mission of HCPS. She has presented key education topics at the local, state and national levels.

Mrs. Canavan is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a minor in secondary education and French. She received her Master of Arts in Middle School Education from Columbia University Teachers College and a Master of Arts Equivalency in Administration and Supervision from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland.

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Harford County Chamber of Commerce scholarship applications are ready for distribution! The scholarship applications can be found on the Chamber's website at: <http://www.harfordchamber.org/GivingBack/ScholarshipApplications.html>. The General Application must be completed for Returning Adult, Technology/Trade, and Returning Veteran scholarships.

April 11, 2014: Applications Due * May 2014: Awards announced
June 19, 2014: Awards & Scholarship Luncheon



HCCPTA Newsletter

Edited by Tracy Worley and
Sandra Monaco-Burton

HCCPTA Newsletter

Contributors:
Bruce Butz, Debbie Dawson,
Sandra Monaco-Burton, Marla
Posey-Moss, Danielle Spigler

News from Our Local



News from Harford County PTAs:



For the past several years, the 450 students at **North Harford Elementary School** (NHES) in Pylesville have looked forward to a popular fall fundraising event, NHES Football Training Camp. Similar to a Laps for Learning walk-a-thon, students solicit donations from family and friends before participating in a variety of no-contact football drills. As a special kick-off to this year's NHES Football Training Camp, the students attended a pep rally in early September where they had a surprise visit from Poe, the mascot from the Baltimore Ravens. Poe helped the students show some great team spirit! Students were told that the class with the most spirit will win a pizza party and this was a great chance to start showing their spirit early in the competition. On Friday, September 27 NHES students dressed in their favorite team colors and jerseys (lots of Ravens purple) and participated in four separate football drills with their classes during a football training camp. Parents were invited to attend to cheer on their favorite teams, and students even had a visit from the North Harford Hawk mascot who led the classes in calisthenics. The entire North Harford community was a large supporter of this year's event and a dozen local businesses sponsored t-shirts that were given to students who raised a minimum amount of donations. The third grade classes really got into the Ravens spirit this year and decorated their portable classes in purple and black (they were living in portable classrooms during an HVAC renovation at the school), resulting in a three-way tie for most-spirited class. This year's event helped us to raise almost \$7000 for funding field trips and other activities for the students! Unlike other fundraisers that require students to sell items to raise funds, all donations to NHES Football Training Camp are 100% profit for our school. In addition, it is a wonderful way for students, parents, and teachers to reinforce the importance of teamwork and physical fitness.

The **Prospect Mill Elementary PTA** hit the ground running in August and has not stopped since! Our parents were encouraged at the Back to School night to find a way to help – no matter how small, similar to building with Legos. Every parent who attended that night received a Lego piece, and our structure is slowly growing in the school office as our volunteers add their pieces when they join the PTA, help at school, or simply do something to contribute to student success. We held a Back to School movie night for all families, and had a second movie night in January. Under the leadership of a new committee chair this year, our Laps for Learning event flourished, raising over \$12,500.00, exceeding our goal! Our principal held up his end of a bargain with the kids, and “dressed like a girl and danced at lunches” in November, followed by the Pie in the Eye awards for our most ambitious student donors. Our Holiday Shoppe was a great success in December, allowing the students to purchase gifts for their families. We have held several general membership meetings, including a guest speaker at each one. Our first was given by Principal Chris Cook regarding the new Common Core curriculum, the second was a Bullying presentation by Laurie Namey from HCPS, and our third was Corporal Keith Thomas of the Maryland State Police who spoke about Cyber Safety. Parents have found these sessions helpful and informational, and by including sessions like these, our PTA meetings are fulfilling both the purpose of conducting PTA business and providing our community with information pertinent to them and their children. Our annual Talent Show took place on February 27 at the Amoss Center, and we are hosting an International Night on March 27 from 5:30-8PM. All are welcome to attend! Our Spring fundraiser is a carnival and silent auction to be held April 25, and local businesses are encouraged to donate. We are looking forward to wrapping up the school year just as strongly as we began!



“Believe, Dream, Inspire” 2013–2014 MDPTA Reflections HCCPTA Program Summary

Local PTA Information (Total entries rec'd by all participating local PTAs)

	Total Primary	Total Intermediate	Total Middle	Total Senior	Total Special Artist	Grand Total
Dance choreography	9	8	6	5	0	28
Film production	2	13	3	1	0	19
Literature	27	69	26	7	11	140
Musical composition	5	7	8	2	0	22
Photography	35	75	40	13	0	163
Visual arts	120	114	18	49	13	314
Total number of entries	198	286	101	77	24	686

Council PTA Information (Received from locals for judging at Council)

	Total Primary	Total Intermediate	Total Middle	Total Senior	Total Special Artist	Grand Total
Dance choreography	9	7	5	5	0	26
Film production	2	12	3	1	0	18
Literature	24	39	10	7	4	84
Musical composition	5	7	5	2	0	19
Photography	24	41	11	10	0	86
Visual arts	44	45	11	17	4	121
Total number of entries	108	151	45	42	8	354

Council PTA Information (Forwarded from Council to MDPTA for judging)

	Total Primary	Total Intermediate	Total Middle	Total Senior	Total Special Artist	Grand Total
Dance choreography	3	3	3	3	0	12
Film production	2	3	3	1	0	9
Literature	3	3	3	3	3	15
Musical composition	3	3	2	2	0	10
Photography	3	3	3	3	0	12
Visual arts	3	3	3	3	3	15
Total number of entries	17	18	17	15	6	73