

Harford County Council of PTA's eNewsletter

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

Issue 9

Winter 2014

A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Happy January 2014! I hope as you read this Winter Break does not seem a distant memory. We have been working hard to keep events on track and we are pleased to be offering our next Leadership Training on January 9 at Harford Tech. We have introduced two roundtable sessions to cover the many changes and challenges that PTAs are facing, and to discuss the HCPS budget concerns.

Both the Board of Education and Harford County Public Schools have asked for parent input on several subjects. On the school system's homepage (www.hcps.org) you can find links to these issues: superintendent search survey; budget recommendations; teacher of the year nominations; proposed revisions to the Closure of a School policy and the Adjustment to School Attendance Boundary Lines policy. Please share the links to these items with your communities and note that some of the deadlines for input are approaching.

The county level Reflections Program judging is underway. Please be advised that Maryland PTA will only accept entries for the state level of competition from units that have met all of the Standards of Continuing Affiliation (see list of requirements inside this newsletter). We would be happy to work with you on anything your PTA/PTSA has not yet completed. Remember to send copies of all your forms (990, audit, PPR) to Maryland PTA—this is a common culprit for noncompliance. Our Reflections Ceremony will be held on April 24 at Patterson Mill.

We will be celebrating your successes at our Annual Founder's Day Dinner in March, so stay tuned for invitations. In preparation for this event, we will ask for nominations of those volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty, and these individuals will also be recognized during the awards ceremony.

If your membership campaigns have lull, please email us for advice on how to keep your unit growing. Don't forget to approach local businesses and community leaders about joining your PTA/PTSA.

It is never too early to think about your elections. Please review Article VI of your Bylaws so that you know what is required of your PTA in terms of a nominating committee and notification. You may find it helpful to hand out at your next general membership meeting copies of your job descriptions, and let interested individuals know

Continued on p. 3

Stay Connected!



Inside this Issue

Proposed FY15 Budget	2
HCPS Policy Change	3
Task Force on Arts	3
Treasurer's Responsibilities	4
The Latest on Sales Tax	5
Leadership Training	6
Membership Campaign Info	8
Bylaws Reminders	9
Lifetime Achievement Award	9
News from Our Locals	10
World Artists Experience	11
News from HCPS	12
News from MSDE	13
National PTA News	14

REMINDERS

**Submit Nominations for
MDPTA Lifetime Achievement
Award**

**Submit Membership &
Advocacy Achievements**

Thursday, January 9, 2014

**Leadership Training &
Membership Meeting**

Harford Tech
6:00 – 9:30 pm

March 2014

**Founder's Day Dinner &
Council Mtg/Nominations**

Location TBD
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Thursday, April 24, 2014

**Reflections Ceremony &
Elections**

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

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Leadership Training

Location TBD
6:00 – 9:30 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.

Interim Superintendent's Proposed FY15 Budget

On December 16, the interim superintendent of the Board of Education of Harford County presented a proposal for the FY15 school budget. From FY10 through FY14, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) operating costs increased by \$55.8 million while revenue decreased by \$9.1 million. The resulting shortfall was resolved by eliminating over 240 positions, reducing expenditures and costs by \$37.4 million, salary savings of \$10.9 million from employee turnover, and removing non-recurring costs of \$12.1 million. However, an additional \$4.5 million of fund balance was required to balance the Unrestricted Operating Budget from the same time period.

The superintendent recommended that the Board of Education review the Proposed Budget for FY 2015 in the Unrestricted Fund of \$457,495,043. Additionally, the amounts for the other funds are: Restricted Funds of \$27,223,604, Food Service Fund of \$16,044,667 and the Capital Budget of \$76,991,350.

The budget informational report will be posted at www.hcps.org through January 16, 2014 for public comment.

Expenditures - Current Expense Fund						
Program	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2013 Budget	FY 2014 Budget	FY 2015 Proposed Budget	FY14 - FY15 Change
Board of Education	556,993	591,173	640,182	611,002	639,412	28,410
Board of Education Services	200,953	230,006	267,871	244,807	250,522	5,715
Internal Audit Services	154,649	154,986	160,206	158,285	161,134	2,849
Legal Services	201,391	206,181	212,105	207,910	227,756	19,846
Business Services	27,346,682	31,805,847	32,401,977	33,679,975	37,961,846	4,281,871
Fiscal Services	26,334,212	30,897,144	31,461,776	32,797,281	37,044,410	4,247,129
Purchasing	1,012,470	908,703	940,201	882,694	917,436	34,742
Curriculum and Instruction	4,843,375	4,530,466	4,688,315	4,776,750	5,381,659	604,909
Curriculum Dev and Implementation	3,183,490	2,883,851	2,958,669	3,105,929	3,485,450	379,521
Office of Accountability	631,935	766,518	763,370	774,711	870,761	96,050
Professional Development	1,027,950	880,097	966,276	896,110	1,025,448	129,338
Education Services	182,395,787	179,073,760	181,071,472	175,022,284	187,499,576	12,477,292
Career and Technology Programs	8,703,825	8,416,038	8,589,133	7,931,241	8,336,093	404,852
Gifted and Talented Program	1,450,073	1,548,646	1,704,274	1,619,130	1,643,521	24,391
Intervention Services	1,803,801	1,262,520	1,255,608	1,199,570	1,246,184	46,614
Magnet and Signature Programs	2,021,810	2,079,803	1,886,703	1,762,549	1,788,971	26,422
Office of Elem/Mid/High Schools	702,975	705,233	733,938	591,825	628,750	36,925
Other Special Programs	2,795,545	2,860,781	2,855,497	2,919,704	3,076,667	156,963
Regular Programs	157,263,497	155,329,614	156,925,961	152,261,294	163,402,196	11,140,902
School Library Media Program	6,893,066	6,279,536	6,349,733	6,068,346	6,684,254	615,908
Summer School	761,185	581,589	670,625	668,625	692,940	24,315
Executive Administration	1,877,329	1,843,491	1,900,138	1,649,512	1,616,561	(32,951)
Communications	446,629	401,698	464,846	440,496	442,939	2,443
Equity and Cultural Proficiency	201,011	204,419	202,328	170,938	175,570	4,632
Executive Administration Office	1,229,689	1,237,384	1,232,964	1,038,078	998,052	(40,026)
Extra Curricular Activities	3,562,271	3,544,901	3,618,784	3,577,129	3,611,777	34,648
Interscholastic Athletics	2,751,722	2,792,037	2,765,110	2,730,555	2,758,179	27,624
Student Activities	810,549	752,864	853,674	846,574	853,598	7,024
Human Resources	74,095,164	72,027,693	72,972,018	72,884,034	82,311,741	9,427,707
Operations and Maintenance	67,667,330	66,984,483	68,273,290	68,293,551	69,583,504	1,289,953
Facilities Management	21,774,525	21,478,610	21,956,084	21,817,012	22,591,465	774,453
Planning and Construction	813,109	818,624	846,700	857,195	884,884	27,689
Transportation	31,031,105	31,218,016	31,596,368	31,443,916	31,938,842	494,926
Utility Resource Management	14,048,591	13,469,233	13,874,130	14,175,428	14,168,313	(7,115)
Safety and Security	1,119,507	876,245	924,137	924,541	929,519	4,978
Special Education	40,244,566	39,912,925	39,913,958	40,027,993	43,129,761	3,101,768
Student Services	14,648,178	14,343,587	14,677,614	14,179,628	15,227,636	1,048,008
Health Services	3,295,627	3,283,239	3,395,532	3,360,035	3,748,948	388,913
Psychological Services	2,336,691	2,303,721	2,370,022	2,262,778	2,539,383	276,605
Pupil Personnel Services	1,813,772	1,623,005	1,691,081	1,685,167	1,741,957	76,790
School Counseling Services	7,402,088	7,133,622	7,220,979	6,891,648	7,197,348	305,700
Office of Technology & Information	9,055,451	8,813,062	9,026,212	9,110,872	9,602,051	491,179
Total Unrestricted Fund	427,412,633	424,347,633	430,108,097	424,737,271	457,495,043	32,757,772
Restricted Fund	28,787,162	30,645,648	29,302,413	28,087,632	27,223,604	(864,028)
Current Expense Fund	\$ 456,199,795	\$ 454,993,281	\$ 459,410,510	\$ 452,824,903	\$ 484,718,647	\$ 31,893,744
Food Service	15,201,306	15,413,941	15,147,627	15,615,568	16,044,667	429,099
Debt Service	30,155,642	29,736,815	30,355,614	30,628,653	30,298,127	(330,526)
Capital	26,758,294	37,191,795	14,911,610	32,471,846	76,991,350	44,519,504
Pension	33,360,568	26,284,223	30,575,369	27,319,963	27,319,963	0
Total - All Funds	\$ 561,675,605	\$ 563,620,055	\$ 550,400,730	\$ 558,860,933	\$ 635,372,754	\$ 76,511,821

http://www.hcps.org/budget/?utm_source=hcps&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=budget

HCPS Policy Change Proposal

The Board of Education of Harford County recommended revising the Adjustment of School Boundary Attendance Areas policy to include language that authorizes the superintendent to initiate a change in school attendance. The Board is reviewing current policy so that a decision can be made about adopting the recommendation for policy revision.

The policy informational report will be posted at www.hcps.org through January 16, 2014 for public comment.

Governor's Task Force on Arts Education in Maryland Schools

Submitted by Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Governor O'Malley's P20 Leadership Council has established a statewide task force on arts education in Maryland schools. The task force is charged with making recommendations on policy, regulations, curriculum, instruction, professional development, and resources regarding students' PreK-12 education in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. The task force needs public input to help inform their deliberations and their recommendations. It is critical that the broad community be involved. To gather face-to-face comments from the public, the task force is launching seven forums around the state in January.

In addition to the public forums, please consider contributing to the work of the task force by responding to any or all of the questions on the online questionnaires. The link to the public comment questionnaires is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16GhXoHp-X9RIL_nMMcbFt_3dXBVQeN37GGfYs4e56Qc/viewform. Your voice in this process will make a difference!

More information on the task force can be found on the Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance website: www.aems-edu.org.

A Message from Sandra Monaco-Burton, HCCPTA President

Continued from p. 1

that Council will be there to support them—beginning with a Leadership Training on May 22. If you find that you are having a difficult time recruiting potential officers, let us know. We would be happy to come out to one of your meetings and help answer questions and address any concerns volunteers might have about stepping up to an officer position.

Outgoing officers, do not celebrate your “retirement” until you have updated your procedure books! Your new officers will be grateful to receive all pertinent documents and history from you. And, keep in mind that all Council PTA officer positions are up for election this year; the elections will be held prior to the Reflections Ceremony on April 24.

We are currently reconstructing our website, and should have up soon the new applications and eligibility criteria for our HCCPTA scholarships from graduating High School Seniors. You will receive email updates as we finalize all of our programs and events.

I thank you for your dedication to the children of Harford County and for working to improve the educational experience for all of HCPS. I am extremely fortunate to work alongside you and hope you will contact me should you ever have questions, suggestions or concerns. I wish everyone a healthy and Happy 2014!

Sandra Monaco
president@hccpta.org

Treasurer's Responsibilities



by Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer



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 are also 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, if appropriate, by the end of December. For those locals who filed the e-postcard for the 990N, Maryland PTA has determined that you must register with the Secretary of State. Locals filing the 990N and having a gross income of less than \$25,000 will not have to submit the fee but should 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 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.

Be watchful for the 2014 Personal Property Report forms which should be in your school's mailboxes in late January or early February. These are mailed to organizations who have not forfeited their incorporation in the state of Maryland and have a return due date of April 15. 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 HCCPTA (\$.50/member) by the end of each month. We still have local units who have not submitted dues for membership to HCCPTA for the school year. 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 is considered fraud by IRS.

If you need 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 form 1096 remittance form as the 1099 must go to the individual before the end of January. This form is not downloadable so order immediately. 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

The Latest on Sales Tax

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.

Second option: Pay the vendor the sales tax and then request a refund of that sales tax from the State on Maryland. This option can only be used from purchases under \$200 and only of items that the PTA is going to re-sell.

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. See link below....

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

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: http://forms.marylandtaxes.com/13_forms/CRA.pdf. After January 1, 2014, the 2014 CRA will be required and will be available at www.marylandtaxes.com. PTAs 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.

Next Newsletter
Submission Deadline
February 15, 2014



Visit www.pta.org
for more
Student Safety
details

Thursday, January 9, 2014 – Harford Tech –Cafeteria and Media Center

Build PTA Success Through Leadership and Teamwork



- 5:50 PM Registration & Networking Dinner
- 6:20 PM General Membership Meeting
- 7:00 PM Workshop Session I (pick one)
 - MDPTA Financial Training Module (required under bylaws)
 - Best Practices Roundtable - What works for you
- 8:10 PM Break
- 8:20 PM Workshop Session II (pick one)
 - Treasurer Workshop - Forms and Record Keeping
 - HCPS Budget : PTA spending priorities and recommendations for cuts
- 8:55 PM Closing Question and Answer Session
- 9:15 PM Adjournment

Registration (This is a MUST-SEE for new officers as well as existing officers):

January 9, 2014: PTA Leadership Training. (RSVP by January 3 so we can adequately prepare food and materials.)

PTA: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email address: _____

Workshops (check one for each session):

SESSION I

- ☐ MDPTA required module
- ☐ Best Practices Roundtable

SESSION II

- ☐ Treasurer Workshop
- ☐ HCPS Budget Discussion

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

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

Please fill out the registration form and mail to HCCPTA or email to 2ndVP@hccpta.org (you can then pay at the door)

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

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

SESSION I:

MDPTA REQUIRED MODULE: We will cover the required material set forth by the MDPTA bylaws. (The treasurer and one other PTA/PTSA board member must complete training to satisfy the requirement.)

BEST PRACTICES ROUNDTABLE: possible topics: setting up and using PayPal for your local PTA, online volunteer sign-ups, Facebook/social media, fundraisers, communications, increasing membership-- what works for you, recognizing volunteers, running an election.

SESSION II:

TREASURER WORKSHOP: Personal Property Return, documentation and record keeping, Sales Tax, budget adjustments, audit preparation.

HCPS BUDGET: Discussion on the budget process and what members feel spending priorities should be, and where cuts should be made should they become necessary.

HCCPTA Newsletter

Edited by Tracy Worley and
Sandra Monaco-Burton

Contributors:
Sandra Monaco-Burton
Bruce Butz

January Membership Campaign Checklist

Reprinted from "Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual,"

http://www.ptakit.org/UploadedDocuments/Membership/Additional%20Resources/8_Membership_Recruitment_Manual.pdf

- Place "New Year... New Opportunities" yard signs, posters, and fliers around your community and school. Post Web banners on PTA, school, and community websites.
- Include campaign ads in PTA and school newsletters, accompanied by articles describing the benefits of PTA membership.
- Work with the school office to identify new families moving in for the second semester. Ask the new families to join PTA.
- Mail a membership postcard to every non-PTA parent at your school, and a thank-you card to every PTA parent.
- Host your membership event, and set up your membership table at every occasion.
- Ask each current member to resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

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 Website at www.hccpta.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 March 15, 2014

Bylaws Reminders

(from mdpta.org)



From the bylaws: 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;
- Files 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;
- Files 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.

How Can You Honor That Special Volunteer?

(from mdpta.org)

Every year PTAs around the state begin to think of ways to honor that one special volunteer – the one who gives countless hours, looking for nothing in return. Thank that special volunteer by giving the award of a lifetime, the *Maryland PTA Lifetime Achievement Award*. This award, which supports the Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund, is the highest honor Maryland PTA can bestow to the person who daily lives out his or her commitment to children. The recipient of the Maryland PTA Lifetime Achievement Award will receive a certificate of recognition and a congratulatory letter from the Maryland PTA president. A sample press release will be provided to the nominating PTA for use in your local media.

The fee for presenting the Maryland PTA Lifetime Achievement Award supports the Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund, which provides the opportunity for graduating high school seniors across the state to pursue a career in education. If every local/council honored one member each year, Maryland PTA would have the potential of awarding over \$40,000.00 in scholarships to deserving Maryland students.

**GIVE THE AWARD OF A LIFETIME AND SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.
PRESENT A MARYLAND PTA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO THAT SPECIAL
SOMEONE IN YOUR PTA!**

News from Our Local



News from Edgewood Elementary School PTA:

The PTA wants to extend the warmest holiday greetings, and a hearty THANK YOU to all the parents, teachers, staff, and students who supported the Innisbrook fundraiser. Through your efforts, we had nearly \$2,000 in sales. Ms. Hoffman and her 5th grade class had the most participation and made the most sales. Each child who participated, from pre-K through 5th grade, received a gift from Innisbrook.

Thank you, also, for participating in our clothing drive. Through your efforts we have been able to drop off 7 large bags of your donated items to the local Goodwill and the National Children's Center.

The next PTA restaurant Night is at the Constant Friendship Chick Fil A in Abingdon on January 21. The next PTA general membership meeting will be January 30 at 5:30pm. EES PTA is on the web at www.edgewood-elementary-pta.net.



Governor's Leadership Council Task Force on Arts Education in Maryland Schools Announces Regional Forums for Public Comments

(from mdpta.org)

Governor Martin O'Malley's Leadership Council established a statewide task force to study and make recommendations on students' access to dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. The final report of the task force will be presented to the Governor and his Council in June 2014.

To ensure that all stakeholders in students' education in Maryland have an opportunity to provide the task force with their comments, there will be regional forums held around the state according to the following schedule.

Regional Forum Schedule

Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 4:00-6:00, Wicomico High School, Wicomico County
 Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 5:00-7:00, Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Baltimore County
 Wednesday, January 15, 2014, 5:00-7:00, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, Washington County
 Thursday, January 16, 2014, 5:00-7:00, Paint Branch High School, Montgomery County
 Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 5:00-7:00, Thomas Stone High School, Charles County
 Thursday, January 23, 2014, 5:00-7:00, North Caroline High School, Caroline County
 Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 5:00-7:00, Annapolis High School, Anne Arundel County

Inclement Weather: If the school system in the county designated for the forum is closed due to inclement weather, the forum will be cancelled and rescheduled, if possible.



DO YOU

- Want to voice your opinions about the need for international understanding?
- Want to share experiences with individuals from different cultural backgrounds than your own?
- Want to have your writing published in a book?

Maryland Connects with the World 2014 *REQUESTS YOUR WRITING*

2014 topic: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

The book of writings will be presented to world artists and citizens as a means to bridge the world through mutual understanding, respect, trust, and cross-cultural interaction.

A free copy of the book of selected writing will be given to student winners and to their school. Next spring, a publication celebration will be held at a Washington, D.C. embassy.

Who can enter?

Any Maryland student in grades 3–12.

What is the topic?

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

The poem or non-fiction prose should be about your experiences living in our interconnected global world—or your thoughts about making connections across boundaries that separate people. What have you experienced about

making connections and building bridges across the boundaries that separate people?

When is the deadline?

All submissions are due by **Friday,
February 21, 2014.**

Online submissions preferred at
<http://www.worldartists.org>
(See page 2 for submission
guidelines.)



QUESTIONS? Email: writing@worldartists.org



A panel of respected writers, headed by former Maryland Poet Laureate Dr. Michael S. Glaser, will select the works to be published in the Anthology. Criteria will include:

- 1) The quality of the ideas and insights about international connections and
- 2) the effective use of the tools of good writing: clear narrative, imagery and comparisons, effective use of details, sounds and rhythms, good grammar, spelling, etc. Representation of voices and diversity of subject matter and points of view will be taken into account in the final selection.



World Artists Experiences' Writing Project

INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

DEADLINE:

Friday, February 21, 2014

Online submissions preferred. Visit <http://www.worldartists.org> to complete the submission form and to upload your work with the completed form. If it is necessary to mail it, send your work with the completed submission form to: World Artists Experiences' Writing Project, P.O. Box 9753, Arnold, MD 21012

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Poem or non-fiction prose must be your own original work.
2. Poems no longer than 40 lines, prose no longer than 500 words. Recommended length – not more than one page.
3. Type in a Word document using 12-point type. PDFs not accepted.
4. For online submission, upload one copy of your entry with completed submission form. If mailing, send the completed submission form with the original entry, plus one copy with your name, phone number, email address, and school name printed on the back only.
5. One submission per student.

CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Submission is original work of student
- ☐ Make sure the submission form has all blanks completed as requested.
- ☐ If mailed, in addition to the submission form, send one original copy of your entry, plus one copy with your name, phone number, email address, and school name printed on the back only. Staple both copies to the submission form.
- ☐ If submitting online at <http://www.worldartists.org>, the original is attached along with the completed submission form.

World Artists Experiences' Writing Project
P.O. Box 9753
Arnold, MD 21012



QUESTIONS? Email: writing@worldartists.org



102 South Hickory Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014 | (410) 838-7300

News from HCPS!



This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Harford County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year banquet program. Harford County's Teacher of the Year holds a prominent position as the county's education spokesperson and is the county's candidate for Maryland Teacher of the Year. Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted by administrators, colleagues, students, parents or others.

Please take the time to nominate that special teacher in your life who is truly a shining star with HCPS and worthy of this honor. This award is not only an amazing experience for the winning teacher, but for his/her students and the entire school community. Just a few of the benefits of Teacher of the Year include:

- Invaluable professional development;
- Positive public relations for the school;
- Monetary awards and gifts for the teacher/school;
- Invitations to special events and engagements throughout the year;
- An expanded network of colleagues throughout the state of Maryland;
- The opportunity to be named Maryland Teacher of the Year;
- And so much more!

Each candidate must have completed a minimum of five years teaching experience and be tenured with HCPS at the time of application. The key factor in the application is the description of outstanding qualities that make an individual a "model" educator and member of the community. When completing the application, applicants should be sure to include specific examples their impact on students, other teachers and the community. NEW this year, applications for the Teacher of the Year program will be accepted online ONLY.

Nominator Checklist:

Check STEP 1: Talk to the teacher you would like to nominate and let him/her know of your plans. Most of the application process is self-reflective and will need to be completed by your teacher.

Check STEP 2: Write an essay of no more than two, double-spaced pages on the topic: "My candidate should be recognized as the 2014-15 Harford County Teacher of the Year because..." and be sure to include your contact information (full name, address, phone number and email address).

Check STEP 3: Provide an electronic copy of your essay to your teacher, and tell him/her to visit www.hcps.org to access the link to complete the remainder of the packet. Please keep in mind that paper applications will not be accepted.

Check STEP 4: Remind your teacher the deadline is midnight on February 3, 2014. If you or your teacher have any questions about the nomination process, completing the online packet or the Teacher of the Year program, please contact Lindsay Bilodeau in the Communications Office at Lindsay.Bilodeau@hcps.org or 410-588-5213.

GO TO WWW.HCPS.ORG TO ACCESS THE 2014-15 TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION*

*Only teachers (nominees) should use this link to access the application, and they will be required to log in to apply.



<https://hcpsparentconnect.bbcportal.com/>
HCPS Parent Portal helps you manage your contact information.



Press Release: Board Of Public Works Approves Maryland's New Role In College And Career Ready Assessments

MSDE To Become Fiscal Agent For Consortium Developing Rigorous New Examination Program

For Immediate Release
Baltimore, MD (December 18, 2013)

Contact: Bill Reinhard, 410-767-0486

The Maryland Board of Public Works today approved the state's new role as fiscal agent for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which is developing more rigorous state assessments aligned to the new internationally bench-marked, college- and career-ready standards being implemented statewide.

In its new position, Maryland will manage the finances of the state-led consortium starting on January 1, 2014. Florida previously held that role within PARCC, which is made up of 18 states plus the District of Columbia. Florida and Maryland have been working closely together to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

"Maryland is committed to the development and implementation of better assessments that provide educators with meaningful, timely data on student progress and give parents more useful information on how children are progressing toward college and careers," State Superintendent Lillian Lowery said. "As part of the PARCC consortium, we are working with other states to move beyond fill-in-the-blank bubble tests to give students opportunities to think critically, solve complex problems and demonstrate their thinking. We need assessments to provide true indicators of progress and identify individual skills. Both are currently missing from state test results.

"As a state and a nation, we must stop lying to students at high school graduation," Lowery said. "If they hold a Maryland diploma, they should be ready to succeed in college, career-training or the workplace without remediation."

All Maryland schools will field test the new PARCC exams this spring to make certain the tests are of the highest quality and they can be administered smoothly when rolled out statewide in the 2014-15 school year. The Maryland State Department of Education is working with county superintendents to assess their overall readiness and school needs. Nationally, more than one million students will take part in the field test across 14 PARCC member states and the District of Columbia.



The 2014 National PTA Legislative Conference will be held **March 11-13, 2014** in the Washington, DC area. Registration opens **January 2014**. Join fellow PTA advocates for this exciting three-day event that provides in-depth discussion about PTA's public policy priorities through interactive workshops, keynote speakers, advocacy trainings and more. Attendees also will visit Capitol Hill—where they put their skills and expertise to use through meetings with their Members of Congress.

Workshops:

Session 1

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: In this workshop, presenters will provide an overview of juvenile justice policy, including key protections for children in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), and discuss the National PTA's current federal advocacy efforts in this area.

Nutrition in Schools: Since the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in schools around the country have been implementing improved meal offerings in the lunchroom. For the 2014-2015 school year schools will also be making updates to all foods sold to kids during the school day, including a la carte lines, vending machines, school stores and some fundraisers. Advocates will leave with the information they need to know to support schools and PTA members through this healthy update to school foods.

ESEA-NCLB Reauthorization and Family Engagement: In the 113th Congress both the Senate and House made efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act-No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB). Find out what was included in those reform efforts, PTA priorities, and where we are today. We will also discuss family engagement provisions (driven by the Family Engagement in Education Act) that have been considered.

Engaging Local Units in Advocacy: This workshop will discuss best practices for engaging PTA units and members in local advocacy. Discussion will include how to identify an advocacy item; how to create an advocacy plan; how to recruit and engage PTA members and the community; and how to build relationships to effectively work with local leaders.

Session 2

Special Education: Presenters will provide a general overview of special education policy, including the Individuals Education Program (IEP) and K-12 transitions.

Federal Funding Primer for Advocates: This workshop will take a simple approach to explaining the federal budget process and actions that have happened throughout the past year, including reductions in education spending, sequestration, and appropriations. Advocates will leave with a better understanding of the process and tools to better educate membership on the impact of the federal funding process.

Early Childhood Education Federal Policy Update: This workshop will provide information on current early childhood education programs and updates on legislation pending in Congress.

Using Social Media for Advocacy: This workshop will focus on how to use social media in advocacy. Social media has emerged as an excellent platform for garnering support for issues, and PTAs at all levels can utilize this technology to their advantage. Discussion will include how to sign up for social media, post frequency, best practices for posting content, and reaching new people.