



A Message from Sue Parks, HCCPTA President

My, how time flies!

Believe it or not another school year is almost over. Time to start thinking about next year.

The end of the year allows you time to reflect on what went right and what went wrong. It is important for committee chairs and officers to complete End of Year Reports while things are fresh in your minds. This is helpful to those who follow you in your position so they don't have to reinvent the wheel each year.

In addition to looking back and reflecting on your successes and failures, it is important to look forward. May is the month when most PTA's elect incoming officers for next year. Don't forget that as part of your requirements to be in compliance with Maryland State PTA, each PTA must send the names and contact information for all your newly elected officers. You may send that to us using the form in this newsletter found on Page 2 and we can forward to Maryland. This should also be a time when the current officers look into bylaws to see if they need to be reviewed prior to the next school year. Take the time to review the bylaws and have them in order so that any new officers don't have to deal with that the minute they take over their new positions. It is also a good idea for the outgoing and incoming officers to meet so that a smooth transition can be made. Make it a social outing, like dinner, so it can be relaxed and enjoyable.

Now is also a great time to train your incoming officers or those changing positions or just members who want to learn more about the PTA. HCCPTA will have leadership training on Thursday, May 23 from 6-9 p.m. at Patterson Mill Middle/High School. We will offer tips on the ABC's of Boards, advocacy, and the standards of continuing affiliation with a list of when and how to complete each requirement. We will also offer Maryland State PTA's mandatory training that the treasurer and one other member must complete for each school. This will count for next school year so you can get ahead of the game! We will conclude with a roundtable discussion so bring your ideas of best practices to share with others. Please see the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter for registration information. This information is also posted on our website at www.hccpta.org.

Finally, as you look forward to the next year, don't forget to look back on the past accomplishments from this year and celebrate them. Remember those volunteers moving on due to graduation or change of schools, etc. Make this a time when people are glad they volunteered for PTA while letting those that are just joining know they have become part of a supportive and special group.

Good luck and thank you to all those moving on to the next challenge and welcome aboard to all those taking up the challenges for next year. We are glad to know each and every one of you!

Sue Parks,
HCCPTA President

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.



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Mark Your Calendars

BOD Meetings
Patterson Mill Media Center
7:00 p.m.
May 7
June 4

Council Meetings/Training

Thurs, May 23, 2013
Leadership Training &
Council Meeting
Patterson Mill Media Center
6:00 – 9:00 pm



Visit Us At
www.hccpta.org
Click "Calendars"
for more 2013
details!

New Officers Contact Information

2013/2014 School Year

If your local unit's list of officers does not include one of the positions listed, please mark the spot **N/A**. If the position is currently vacant, please mark the spot **VACANT**. Thank you.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

PTA NAME: _____ **YEAR:** _____

Please circle one: **AGREE OR DISAGREE** to the statement below:

Information on this form may be shared with Public Officials and Harford County Public Schools.

PRESIDENT:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

DELEGATE TO THE COUNCIL:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

TREASURER:

Name: _____
Address: _____

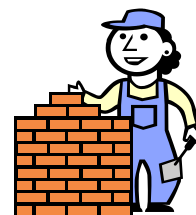
Phone: _____ FAX: _____
Email: _____

Return completed information to:

Sue Parks
102 Regent Drive
Bel Air, MD 21014
Email: sparksfamilylaw@yahoo.com
OR send to Webmaster@hccpta.org

Thursday, May 23, 2013 – Patterson Mill Middle/High – Media Center

Build PTA Success Through Leadership and Teamwork



- 6:00 PM Registration & Networking Dinner
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting
- 6:50 PM Session I: Officers/ ABCs of Boards
- Session II: Mandatory Maryland State PTA Training (your treasurer and one other person must attend – this will count for 2013-2014 school year requirement)
- 7:20 PM Session 1: Standards of Continuing Affiliation Requirements
- 7.40 PM Break
- 7:50 PM Session I: The Power of Advocacy
- 8:20 PM Ins and Outs of the Reflections Program
- 8:30 PM Best Practices Roundtable/ Closing/Questions & Answers



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

May 23, 2013: PTA Leadership Training. (Please RSVP by May 17 so we can adequately prepare food and materials.)

PTA: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Email address: _____

Check which session you wish to attend:

- SESSION I
- SESSION II

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

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

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

For additional information, contact: Sue Parks at: sparksfamilylaw@yahoo.com

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

GROUP SESSIONS (SESSION I):

OFFICERS & ABCs OF BOARDS: We will go over the various officer positions and your responsibilities as a board member. What is needed for “teamwork”.

STANDARDS OF CONTINUING AFFILIATION: What you must do to continue as a PTA. Get a concrete timeline and how-to tips.

THE POWER OF ADVOCACY: What is advocacy? How to advocate for children in a public forum.

HCCPTA Betty Bull Scholarship Award

Submitted by Bruce Butz

Harford County Council PTA Scholarship Committee has been working diligently to determine the recipients of this year's five \$500 Betty Bull Awards.

The HCCPTA Betty Bull Awards Scholarship Committee, Cheri Wilson, Sherry Dass, and Bruce Butz, Chair, are reviewing the 23 Award applications (this is up 35% from last year) representing the following Harford County High Schools:

School	Total
Bel Air High School	3
C. Milton Wright High School	2
Fallston High School	2
Harford Technical High School	2
Havre de Grace High School	1
Joppatowne High School	1
North Harford High School	8
Patterson Mill Middle High School	1
Science & Math Academy @ Aberdeen High School	3
Grand Total	23



Five graduating Harford County seniors will be presented with a \$500 Betty Bull Award during their end of year awards' ceremonies. Visit our website www.hccpta.org (Scholarships) in June to view the winners!

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

The purpose of the Betty Bull Awards program is to provide financial assistance to students of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs & PTSAs) who are pursuing their goal toward advanced education. All Harford County high school graduating seniors are eligible to participate with the stipulation that the student or a parent or guardian is a member of a PTA or PTSA in one of the 49 PTA local units in Harford County.

Welcome Aboard!



HCCPTA would like to give a warm welcome to our new HCEA Teacher Representative for the 2013/2014 School Year – Ms. Donna Wright. She is a 5th grade teacher at Church Creek Elementary School. She has been appointed to our board as the teacher representative for Harford County Public Schools and we look forward to working with her next year!



Treasurer's Notes



By Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer

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

Personal Property Return 2013, Have You Received Yours? And did you remember to submit a copy of the Personal Property Return to Maryland PTA? (Do not send a copy to HCCPTA.)

Personal Property Report

If your local has not filed their Personal Property Return, the April 15 deadline has passed. This does not mean that you don't have to file. Though you will probably incur some late fees, there is still time.

If you did not receive this form, please visit the website www.dat.state.md.us to check your status. Click on Business Data Search and then Business Entity Information to view your general information, personal property filings and your status. Please keep in mind that a \$25.00 a month late fee will be assessed if you failed to file.

You don't want to lose your incorporation status and have to pay another \$100 to get it reinstated. If you have lost your incorporation status, you are putting your local in direct jeopardy. If you find that your status has been forfeited, please contact the Maryland PTA office at 410-760-6221 to ask for a Revival Packet. Do not use the form found on the Department of Assessments and Taxation website, as Maryland PTA has a very specific form for our chartered locals. If you require assistance in filling out any of these forms, you can contact the office via the above phone number or by e-mail at office@mdpta.org.

Have you heard the latest that HB232 has passed both houses and at the time of this writing, it is awaiting the governor's signature?

What does this mean to you? Effective July 1, 2013, the PTAs in the state will no longer be responsible for collecting and remitting sales tax on items they sell. If this bill is signed into law by the governor, you will be provided with a form that must be mailed in to close your Sales And Use Tax Account.

However, local units are still **required to pay sales tax** on all items that they purchase, just as before, except for those items purchased directly for the school. The Blanket Certificate of Resale is no longer valid and cannot be used. We are awaiting final interpretation but cannot obtain that from the Comptroller's office until the bill is signed by the governor either May 2nd or 16th.

Budget Review

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

Financial Review Preparations

It is not too early to be thinking about who will be performing your financial review for 2012/2013. Are you willing to pay someone or a company to perform the review or will you use volunteers? Will you be able to find a person? Is it going to be done by a committee? Please see National PTA's Money Matters regarding what will need to be provided. Did you know that you are required to submit a copy of the Financial Review report along with your year-end financial report to Maryland PTA to remain in good standing? It is not too late to submit your reports for the 2011/2012 school year if it has not already been done.

Audit/Review Procedures

According to Maryland PTA bylaws, **each constituent organization must submit "a copy of its annual financial review to Maryland PTA" along with a copy of the Annual Financial Report. Please do not send a copy to HCCPTA**

In preparing for the audit make sure:

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

Treasurer's Notes



By Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer



Check the unit's bylaws to determine the make-up of the financial review committee as well as the deadline for completion of the financial review. (Currently, this is to be sent to the Maryland PTA office by October 31.) Some local units choose to use an independent auditor for this year-end financial review. It is the treasurer's responsibility to forward all pertinent information to the financial review committee or auditor so that the review may be performed in a timely manner. Check Cash Encounters, the Maryland PTA booklet, for additional information. And remember to present the financial review report to the executive board at the first appropriate meeting and then to the General Membership where it will be officially adopted.

Budget Preparations

The summer months are a perfect time to establish a budget committee and prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2013/2014. Check out Cash Encounters for additional assistance. Please include some carryover for 2014/2015.

Remember that IRS requires that you use a gross budget. Another IRS requirement is that you allocate money for leadership training.

When preparing your budget for next year, don't forget about your Bonding, Liability, and Directors and Officers Insurance for the 2014/2015 school year. This will be due prior to July 1, 2014.

Avoid a black mark on the PTA name

Obtain and prepare IRS Form 990EZ and accompanying Schedule A (Schedule B if necessary) if previous three years' gross receipts average more than \$50,000. This is an IRS requirement because we have a 501(c)3 income tax exemption status. This form is due by November 15 for PTAs. If you do not meet the \$50,000 criteria, you will be required to file the 990N online. You do not have to wait until the deadline. This is a form that can be completed as soon as the audit is finished.

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

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

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

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

To lessen the likelihood that this problem might occur:

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

Mandatory training is still required

All treasurers must obtain the mandatory financial training offered by either Maryland PTA or HCCPTA. Check the website frequently for training session opportunities. There will also be an on-line class beginning in July. In addition, one additional member of your board must have been trained. This must be completed within 180 days of taking office.

PTA Membership

By Cheri Wilson, VP of Membership

Harford County Council of PTAs News

Harford County has 49 local PTA units. All except for one have paid dues to the Harford County Council of PTAs and the Maryland PTA. March 31st was the deadline by which local PTAs were to report memberships to the Maryland PTA. As of that date, there are currently 10,972 PTA members in Harford County, which is a 9.2% decrease from 2011-2012 (total membership 12,084).

What can you do to increase membership for 2013-2014?

1) Incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten PTA Membership Recruitment Drive

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration are scheduled for Friday, May 3rd.

Consider:

- Providing information on the PTA as part of the materials distributed to parents/guardians at registration.
- Creating a sign-up sheet for parents to indicate their interest in joining the PTA and/or serving as volunteers. A potential sign-up sheet might include the following fields:
 - Child's name
 - Grade Entering
 - Parent's/Guardian's name
 - Telephone number
 - Email address
 - Would you like to serve as a volunteer? (Yes/No)
- Hosting a table at registration and/or orientation.

In addition, if your school hosts a Pre-K or Kindergarten Orientation, be sure to have a PTA representative speak to the benefits of PTA membership and participation. Also, have additional PTA information and the sign-up sheet available. Make sure to circle back to the parents/guardians on the sign-up sheet as part of the Membership Drive

Maryland PTA News

MARYLAND PTA VALUES ALL OF ITS MEMBERS

The Maryland PTA membership theme for 2012-2013 is "Making a Difference" and local units did just that, and some units earned money at the same time.


All PTA units reporting 50 or more members by March 31, 2013 were entered in a drawing to win \$250.00 cash. Four units were chosen at random from these units and won \$250.00 each.

Congratulations to these 4 winners!
 Fields Road Elementary ~ Montgomery
 Fountaindale Elementary ~ Washington
 Frederick High School ~ Frederick
 Lisbon Elementary ~ Howard

Thanks to all of our PTAs, the Maryland PTA ranked Number 4 of the large units in the National PTA membership contest.

Virginia and Maryland PTA Family Day – Come see the Washington Nationals play the New York Mets on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at 3:05 p.m. For more information, see:

http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_membership.html.

	VA & MD PTA FAMILY DAY
	SATURDAY, JULY 27 • 3:05 P.M.
	 vs  JOIN FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND PTA TO CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY AT NATIONALS PARK
<p>Discounted tickets available at Virginia PTA \$14 Upper RF Terrace Tickets</p> <p>vapta.org mdpta.org</p> <p><small>For more information or for group sales, contact ERICA BLEDSOE 202.640.7713 erica.bledsoe@nationals.com</small></p>	

NEWS FLASH: When one joins the PTA, one joins the local PTA, Maryland PTA, and National PTA simultaneously. Currently, \$3.75 per member is sent to the Maryland PTA (\$2.25 for National PTA dues and \$1.50 for Maryland PTA dues) in addition to \$.50 sent to the Harford County Council of PTAs. The Maryland PTA is proposing a \$1.00 increase to the state portion of the membership dues.

The proposal will be voted upon at the Maryland PTA conference in July. Local PTAs will need to consider whether an increase in membership dues will be necessary.

Maryland PTA White Paper

Why is a Dues Increase Needed Now?

By Bruce Butz, Treasurer

Think about how much the price of a postage stamp has gone up over the last ten years. Think about the price of gas in the last ten years. The last increase in Maryland PTA dues occurred in 2001-2002.

1. In the last 10 plus years, Maryland PTA has absorbed all of these increases plus many more:

- Stamps - 29% Increase
- Paper - 230%
- Energy - 70%
- Gasoline - 54%
- Hotel room - 26%
- Per mile Reimbursement - 100%
- Consumer Price Index - 21.28%

2. While costs have continued to increase, memberships have decreased and the number of PTA units has decreased.

- Memberships down 26%
- Number of Units down 10%

3. This has resulted in Maryland PTA's cash assets going from a high of \$448,886 in 2005 to \$339,770 at the end of 2012 – a decrease of 24%.

Maryland PTA has seen very little in the way of additions to our reserve accounts in the last seven years. The last three years have seen a \$61,000 reduction in our savings.

- 2010 – short \$20,041
- 2011 – short \$29,361
- 2012 – short \$11,071

4. Income in all 2002 line items have decreased a combined 24% while overall expenses increased by 15%

Administration expenses have increased 48%.

- Insurance & Bonding – up 134%
- Postage – up 104%
- Professional Fees – up 83%
- Supplies – 0%
- Telephone – up 75%
- Bank Charges – up 41%
- Equipment Leasing – up 137%
- Equipment – up 33%

Program expenses have increased 7%.

- State Convention – up 15%
- Organizational meetings – up 20%
- Reflections – up 171%
- Maryland PTA Awards – up 348%
- Program Development – up 16%

Many Program line items have seen dramatic cuts over the last 10 years in an effort to save money.

- Outside Meetings – down 53%
- National PTA Convention – down 48%
- Legislation – down 69%
- Winter Boards – down 22%
- Local Unit Service – down 22%
- Bulletin – down 93%
- Forms and Brochures – down 89%
- Scholarships – down 37% (related to the available funds realized from Lifetime Achievement Awards)

Without an increase, Maryland PTA will be forced to make more difficult decisions on its expenditures.

- **TRAVEL:** Maryland PTA expends a part of its budget in training and supporting local leaders. With the rising cost of travel, covering volunteer travel for training purposes may no longer be an option.
- **STAFF:** A reduction in staff would threaten to erase many advances made in the past 10 years.
- **LEGISLATION:** Increased travel expenses may limit trips to Annapolis advocating for children.
- **REFLECTIONS:** Rising participation could cause this signature program to see cuts because of postage, printing and labor costs.
- **CONVENTION:** Rising hotel convention rates, room fees, equipment fees will seriously limit participation by delegates.
- **LOCAL UNIT SERVICES:** A reduction in services such as phone assistance, postage, mileage, rooms, meals, printing, etc., would be inevitable.

And The Last Word Goes To The Membership.....



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

On April 18, 2013, HCCPTA honored 141 talented Harford students in the Annual Reflections Award Ceremony At Patterson Mill Middle/High School. It was a wonderful event again this year!

Exciting News!!!!

Maryland PTA has announced the 2012-2013 Reflections winners. Harford County has 15 winning entries in the bunch! Five of the fifteen winners were judged the best in the state in their category for their age group (Outstanding Interpretation) and they have gone on to compete in the National PTA Reflections competition.

Congratulations go to all our winners and a big thanks to the local chairs that made the program available to their school community. Maryland PTA will distribute awards to the students and will contact them directly. Certificates for all students who went on to state competition will be distributed with the art returns at the April 18th HCCPTA awards celebration. Harford County students did well among the other state jurisdictions. Harford had 15 winners and only Montgomery County had more at 19.

We look forward to hearing results from National PTA. Congrats again to our talented Harford students. Listed below are this year's state Reflections winners from Harford County:

Primary Dance Choreography

Award of Excellence , Kaitlyn Calland - North Bend Elementary

Intermediate Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation, Jessica Schneider - Youth's Benefit Elementary

Senior Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation, Cassidy Miller - North Harford High

Primary Film Production

Award of Merit, Natalie Kelly - Homestead-Wakefield Elementary

Intermediate Film Production

Outstanding Interpretation , Garrett Strine - North Bend Elementary

Senior Film Production

Award of Merit, Grace Brett - Bel Air High

Intermediate Literature

Award of Merit, Haden Welsh - Youth's Benefit Elementary

Special Artist Literature

Award of Excellence , Rachel Goette - North Harford High

Award of Merit , Wilson Gorrell - North Harford High

Primary Photography

Award of Merit, Kendall Marx - Red Pump Elementary

Intermediate Photography

Outstanding Interpretation , Hannah Donohue - Youth's Benefit Elementary

Primary Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation , Tsambika Anastasi - Darlington Elementary

Middle/Junior Visual Arts

Award of Excellence , Jasmine Kweon - Bel Air Middle

Senior Visual Arts

Award of Merit, Kristen Hadaway - Patterson Mill Middle High

Special Artist Visual Arts

Award of Excellence , Michael Hale - North Harford High

2013-2014 Theme...

"Believe, Dream, Inspire"

The theme for PTA's 2013-2014 Reflections program is Believe, Dream, Inspire. This theme was submitted through the Reflection's Theme Search Contest by Julie Lampert of Waverly Park PTA, located in East Rockaway, New York.

More details are outlined on the National PTA website

<http://www.pta.org/programs/ArtsinEducation.cfm?navItemNumber=510>



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

News from Our Local



MEADOWVALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

With Relay Recess, Meadowvale Elementary Students are Superheroes in the Fight Against Cancer through education and fundraising: <http://tinyurl.com/meadowvalerelayrecess>

Ways to participate:

- Students will participate in a special **Relay Recess walk at Meadowvale during the school day on Friday, June 7, 2013** to raise money and tell people about the fight to end this disease.
- **Meadowvale families, please join us the evening of June 7, 2013, 6:00 p.m., at HdG High School for the Havre de Grace community Relay For Life event.** Luminaria candles representing our spouses, mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends, coworkers, and so many others will light up the night with HOPE. We will remember loved ones lost to cancer, and honor those whose brave fight continues. **Dedicate a Luminaria Bag for \$10.00 to someone special in your life:** <http://tinyurl.com/mustangsluminarias> . Each bag purchased counts as a donation to the American Cancer Society.
- Another way to fight back is by attending our **IronBirds Game Star Wars Night Fundraiser**. See link for details: <http://tinyurl.com/ironbirdsstarwarsnight>
- Below are links if you would like to make a donation to the team for your child's grade, or ask family and friends for a donation:



<http://tinyurl.com/pre-kmustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/kindergartenmustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/1stgrademustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/2ndgrademustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/3rdgrademustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/4thgrademustangs>
<http://tinyurl.com/5thgrademustangs>

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 26th–	Sunglasses Day and Sun Safety activities (revised from 5/24)
Friday, May 24th –	Inside Out Day and Tobacco Prevention activities (revised from 4/26)
Friday June 7th daytime –	Relay Recess Walk at Meadowvale as a mini Relay For Life
Friday June 7th, 6:00 p.m. -	Relay For Life Community Event at HdG High School
Thursday July 11th, 7:05 p.m. -	IronBirds Game (Star Wars Night) Fundraiser at Ripken Stadium

Meadowvale is helping the American Cancer Society create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Please make a donation today. Together we do more than what any kid could do alone! **Thank you for your support...** <http://www.facebook.com/MustangsFightCancerTogether>

Andrew Primrose, American Cancer Society Community Manager:
<mailto:andrew.primrose@cancer.org> or 410-933-5214

Amy Szymanski: <mailto:hopegreaterthancancer@gmail.com>



YOUTH'S BENEFIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Youth's Benefit Elementary School (YBES) PTA continues to work with families, teachers and the community to create memorable learning events for our students. The PTA sponsored a Family Fitness Night during the PTA General Membership meeting on April 8. The PTA also worked with the school during "Math on Earth Month" to focus on combining math activities and being "green". The PTA participated in a "Math Night" on April 22. On April 26, the PTA held it's annual Spring Bazaar at the school. Thank you...

Heather Johnson , YBES PTA Corresponding Secretary

HELP THE SAACKS FAMILY

CHECKMATE CANCER



Saturday May 18th, 2013 9:00-6:45 at Saint Patrick Hall
650 Pennington Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

A tournament to benefit the Saacks family. Thomas Saacks, a 3rd grade member of the Meadowdale Chess Club, was diagnosed in December 2012 with liver cancer.

This tournament is a benefit to help the Saacks family offset their medical bills.

Not a USCF member? Don't worry--the tournament will have both a rated and unrated section.

There will be four rounds and prizes will be based on donations / baskets from local organizations and businesses.

- ♙ Entry fee of \$5 online (www.checkmatecancer.com) before May 8th, \$10 on-site registration (Donations Encouraged)
- ♙ 4 Rounds Swiss System at 9:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 2:15 PM, 4:30 PM
- ♙ Awards at 6:45 PM
- ♙ Time Control: Game 60 with 5 Second Delay
- ♙ All tournament proceeds go towards helping the Saacks family offset medical bills
- ♙ Prizes based on d



Saint Patrick Hall

650 Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

For More Information t: 410-258-5675 e: RFECheess@yahoo.com www.checkmatecancer.com



Courtesy of the Maryland PTA:

Welcome to the Maryland PTA

Different Ways PTA Members May Serve as Volunteers

Level 1- This member may not be able to volunteer in school but is willing to support the PTA as a member and in attending the programs that your PTA will offer this year. These members are also willing to do activities from home such as:

- Collate materials for events
- Assist with the newsletter or website
- Participate in fund raisers
- Develop flyers to send home to members about events

Level 2- These parents may be available to volunteer a few times a year in school. They will assist with at least one PTA program. They will participate in the programs and fundraising programs.

Level 3- This member is more likely to be an active volunteer in the school. They are more willing to chair a committee for the PTA and assist in developing and implementing PTA programs.

In order to grow your PTA membership, your PTA must actively reach out and include everyone in the activities of your PTA. Every member is a valued member. PTAs should be actively sharing what the benefits of PTA memberships are. Show your members and potential members what your PTA does to benefit your school community. Many locals are doing wonderful things on a consistent basis and your school community should be aware of this. Your PTA leaders should communicate on a regular basis with your PTA members about the volunteer work your PTAs are doing.

Source: http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_membership.html

2) Accepting PTA Membership Dues via PayPal

Typically, local PTAs accept membership dues via cash and check. Accepting PTA membership dues via PayPal may be a more convenient method to collect membership dues. A potential member does not need to have a PayPal account to pay via PayPal since one can either pay using a debit/credit card or a PayPal account. PayPal deducts a small fee from all payments. However, if the local PTA informs members in advance, this fee can be added to the cost of membership as a convenience charge. For example, if membership dues are \$10.00 and PayPal deducts a fee of \$.50, the local PTA could charge \$10.50 for PayPal purchases to ensure that the full \$10.00 fee is received for membership. For more information, see: <https://www.paypal.com/webapps/mpp/donations> (PayPal for Nonprofits). The fee for nonprofits (registered 501(c)(3)s) is 2.2% + \$.30 per transaction vs. the standard fee of 2.9% + \$.30 per transaction.

Stay in touch with current events and breaking legislative news in your State. Visit Maryland PTA website for great resources and tools for your PTA! www.mdpta.org

Hopefully by now you have heard the great news!!! The senate passed HB232 by a 47 to 0 vote. It is now going to the Governor to sign into law. I want to thank Ray, Elizabeth and the Legislative Committee for all the hard work. Please take a few minutes to send a thank you to your senators and delegates to let them know we appreciate the support they gave us. This is true advocacy at work.

Please know that the law, when signed does not take effect until July 1, 2013, so PTAs still have to file taxes until the end of the fiscal year. Also remember that all PTAs will have to send in a final report and form to be removed from the Sales and Use Tax records. Once we have more information we will pass it along with a link to the form.

Have a great weekend!!!

Rita Lowman
President
Maryland PTA

"Making Every Child's Potential a Reality"



Like us on
Facebook

@ Harford County
Council of PTA's
and receive 'NEWS FEED
UPDATES' as we post
information to our Facebook
Friends!

4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION of CULTURES 2013

Saturday, May 4 | 11am-3pm
Bel Air Reckord Armory

Free Admission
 Cultural Performances
 Ethnic Foods
 Local Artisans
 Vendors
and much more!

INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR?
 Vendor tables are available for \$20 each.
 Food vendors welcome!
 Please call or email for details.

For more information contact
 Sylvia Bryant: 410-638-4739 or
 sbryant@harfordcountymd.gov
 Christine McPherson: 410-856-0333 or info@lasos.org

Human Relations Commission
 Harford County Department of Community Services
 www.harfordcountymd.gov/services
 410-638-4738

David R. Craig
 Harford County Executive
 Elizabeth S. Hendrix
 Director, Dept. of Community Services

This event is partially funded by a grant from the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

Save the Date
2013 Hate Bias Summit
Hate Crimes on Campus and in School - Save Our Students

May 6, 2013 | 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Towson University
 West Village Commons
 424 Emerson Drive
 Towson, MD 21284

Cost: FREE

Save Our Students (S.O.S.) Summit
 The S.O.S. Summit will be a powerful, honest and informative forum. Participants will be able to:

- Understand how hate and hate activities are destroying the lives of some young people
- Describe what can be done to stop hate before it takes another life
- Hear Maryland experts discuss the signs, danger, legal consequences, and alternatives to youth on youth hate crimes

Registration Information:
 Persons interested in attending the S.O.S. Summit may register online at www.hatibiasesummitmd.gov/hatebiassummit.html or fax a completed registration to 410-887-6079 or mail a completed registration form to the Baltimore County Human Relations Commission Drumcastle Center, 6401 York Road, First Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21212

Who should attend the Summit?

- College Administrators
- High School Administrators
- Counselors
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Campus Police
- School Resource Officers
- High School and College Students
- Multicultural Groups
- LGBT Community
- Disabled Community
- Faith Leaders
- Teachers
- Parents
- Civil rights advocates

For more information contact:
 Linda Dorsay-Walker at 410-887-5917 or
 lwalker@baltimorecountymd.gov

COVE
 BALTIMORE BRIDGE TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

This event is sponsored by the Baltimore County Human Relations Commission and the Coalition Opposed to Violence Against Women in conjunction with Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore County Police Department, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Child of Police Association, Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators, Maryland Association of Human Rights Agents, Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

2013 Harford Education Leadership Conference
Achieving Educational Excellence in Today's World

May 29, 2013 • 7:30am - 2:00pm
Harford Community College • Chesapeake Center

An Educational Leadership Conference
 Sponsored by:

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ❖ **Harford Business Roundtable for Education™** ❖ **Chamber of Commerce Harford County**

Doing more with less has become the norm in our slowly recovering economy and the past will not return. Old approaches are not acceptable. What does education look like in the future and how do it meet the needs of students, the demands of an evolving workplace, and the budget realities of our institutions? This conference will explore these questions and help establish a vision and set direction for the future.

Featuring Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Lillian Lowery, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools "K-12 Education, Today and Tomorrow"
- Dr. Delienne P. Pollard, President, Montgomery College "Higher Education - The New Role of Community Colleges"

Invitees include the Board of Education of Harford County, the Board of Trustees of Harford Community College, the Harford County Superintendent of Schools, the President of Harford Community College, the Harford County Executive, members of the Harford County Council, members of the Harford County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, members of the Harford County Business Roundtable for Education, members of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, PTA members and leadership, and all interested Harford County Citizens.

*The Harford Business Roundtable for Education (HBRT) is a coalition of employers with a long-term commitment to supporting education reform and improving student achievement in Harford County. For more information about HBRT visit www.hbirt.info.

Harford Community College - Chesapeake Center - May 29, 2013
\$26.00 Per Person • Continental Breakfast and Lunch Included
 Reservations Required • 24 hr. Cancellation Required

Contact Person _____ Company Name _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
 _____ Chamber Member Method of Payment _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card (Online)

Please mail or fax this form to:
 Harford County Chamber of Commerce • 108 South Bond Street • Bel Air, MD 21014 • Fax: 410-692-4715

For more information, please contact the Chamber Office at 410-638-2020 or visit www.harfordchamber.org.

everychild.onevoice

News from around the County

Serving the parents and children of Harford County since 1939

COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS OF MARYLAND

The College Saving Plans of Maryland is a non-profit state agency that administers two 529 college savings plans for Maryland residents to help parents plan for college. They frequently present at schools and PTA meetings around the state generally focusing on parents of elementary and middle school students.

They have a prepaid tuition trust that allows parents to lock in at current tuition rates for whatever amount they choose (whether it is one semester or 4 years). They also have a traditional investment plan where parents can contribute as little as \$25 a month towards any higher education expense that is managed through T. Rowe Price.

These are the only two 529 plans where participants receive not only the federal tax benefits (all earnings are tax free), but also can deduct up to \$2500 a year from their Maryland Income taxes.

They would love to work with any of the PTAs in the area, so if your PTA is interested in having a presentation (or a few PTA's can join together to have a presentation) contact them. They generally spend about 20-30 minutes talking at the meeting along with providing additional information that parents can take with them. If you are interested, contact Francesca Nelson, Public Affairs Officer, College Savings Plans of MD
443-769-1034, fnelson@collegesavingsmd.org

Q. What is the Common Core? A. "A sea change" for education

New standards known as the "Common Core" are coming to all Maryland schools next year, designed to ensure that future high school graduates are career and college ready. Whether the Common Core will succeed as intended is unknown, even as Harford County Public Schools must prepare to implement the mandated new standards in all grades.

Click on the link below to learn more about the Common Core in HCPS, including parent guides created by National PTA that outline what students will be learning at each grade level:

<http://www.daggerpress.com/2013/03/17/new-common-core-standards-coming-to-all-maryland-schools-next-year-a-sea-change-for-k-12-education/>

New state tests aligned with the Common Core are also planned. The Maryland Department of Education says that the new tests will take students nearly twice as long to complete, but will more accurately measure college and career readiness.

Depending on grade level, completing the new math and English tests will take the typical student a total of 8 to 10 hours, combined, [according to estimates released in March by Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\)](#), the multi-state consortium creating the tests. The PARCC tests, based on the Common Core standards, will be administered to students in students in grades 3 – 11, replacing existing Maryland assessments beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Click here for more information on the new tests:

<http://www.daggerpress.com/2013/03/27/new-state-standardized-test-will-take-students-nearly-twice-as-long-to-complete-parcc-computer-based-exams-begin-in-2014-15/>

Summer Vacation

This is our last newsletter for the school year.

Thank you for sharing your news and successes this year. We hope you found our bi-monthly eNewsletters helpful this year and we look forward to serving you again next year. Have a safe and healthy summer and we will publish our first eNewsletter in September 2013.

Email us with any questions over the summer at HCCPTA@hccpta.org

