

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

Vol. No 8

March/April 2013

A Message from Sue Parks, HCCPTA President

As we get ready to move forward to the rest of the school year, we at HCCPTA are pleased to announce we finally have a full board with a lot of fresh new faces. In recent months we have elected or appointed a new President, 1st Vice President (Trudie Norman), 2nd Vice President (Chrissy DeHaven), Vice President of Legislation (Marla Posey-Moss), and Vice President of Membership (Cheri Wilson). They join our existing Secretary and Treasurer. We have also welcomed a new Awards Chair and Hospitality Chair (Sherry Dass) to join our existing chair people. Help me in welcoming these newest members who bring a variety of experience and freshness to our organization. If anyone is still interested in joining us, we have room so just let us know and we will find a place for you.

Now that we have a full board, we wish to celebrate with all of you. Please join us for our annual **Founders' Day Celebration on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Bel Air High School**. Please see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for further details. This is a great time to get to know us and to celebrate your own PTA/PTSA's accomplishments with other local units.

Finally, a friendly reminder that it is not too late to make sure your PTA/PTSA is in good standing. As most of you are aware, Maryland State PTA instituted a set of Standards for Continuing Affiliation (SOCA), i.e. rules we must all follow to remain in good standing as PTA's. While we appreciate all the hard work you do as a volunteer for your local PTA, we must not forget that PTA's are a corporation and, therefore, subject to certain federal and state laws. The SOCA is an attempt to make sure we follow these laws. Failure to follow the rules can have adverse consequences on your PTA/PTSA and especially the students for whom we are all here working so hard. As we get ready to start up the new year and push full steam into the second half of the school year, check your SOCA to make sure you are in good standards. Maryland State PTA has begun to send notices to all PTA/PTSA's who are missing any of the requirements. We will also be following up with these units.

Just remember that your HCCPTA Board is here for you. If you have any questions or need any help completing the requirements, please contact us. We will be happy to help you get through this.

Sue Parks
HCCPTA President



Visit www.pta.org
for more
Student Safety
details



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

www.mdpta.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.

Stay Connected!



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Mark Your Calendars

BOD Meetings
Patterson Mill Media Center
7:00 p.m.
March 5, April 9, May 7, June 4

Council Meetings/Training

Thurs, March 7, 2013
**Founder's Day Dinner &
Council Mtg/Nominations**
Bel Air High School Cafeteria
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Thurs, April 18, 2013
**Reflections Ceremony &
Council Meeting/Elections**
Patterson Mill Auditorium
7:00 – 9:00 pm

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

**Next Newsletter
Submission
Deadline**
April 15, 2013

Harford County Council of PTA, Inc.

Cordially invites

You and Your Family to attend the

Founder's Day Celebration

March 7, 2013, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

at Bel Air High School Cafeteria

Presentation of
Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards
County Membership & Advocacy Awards

Dinner & Entertainment will be provided

Cost is \$10.00 per person

Proceeds benefit Harford County Council PTA
Betty Bull Scholarships

RSVP Number of Attendees by March 4, 2013
To Sherry Dass 443-402-0966
or email sherryhccpta@gmail.com
or hccpta@hccpta.org

HCCPTA Betty Bull Scholarship Award

Submitted by Bruce Butz

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 49 Harford County PTA Schools are eligible to apply for the Betty Bull Award.

Betty Bull Award deadline is April 1, 2013

The Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. is planning to award up to four (4) \$500.00 scholarships for the 2012/2013 school year. (The number awarded is dependent on available funding from HCCPTA membership dues.)

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 high school graduating seniors are eligible. There is a stipulation that the student or a parent or guardian is a member of a PTA or PTSA in Harford County.

Applications can be secured from the High School Counselor's office and also available for download on our website, click on PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES: 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%.)

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

Procedure:

- Complete the three-page application
- Verify that all material is included or being submitted

Mail to:

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



SUPPORTING MATERIAL REQUIRED:

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

Treasurer's Notes

By Bruce Butz, HCCPTA Treasurer



Most PTAs Don't Have Personal Property but...

All incorporated PTAs should have received, in the mail, the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's 2013 Personal Property Return. It must be filed by the April 15 deadline after which a \$25 per month penalty may be assessed. You don't want to lose your incorporation status and have to pay another \$100 to get it reinstated. If you did not receive a Personal Property Return, it could be because your incorporation was forfeited. This occurs when a corporation fails to submit the annual Personal Property Return. To obtain instructions for the completion of this form, please contact HCCPTA Treasurer, Bruce Butz, at bob@iximd.com. You can check your incorporation status by going to www.dat.state.md.us, click on Business Data Search and then Business Entity Information.

Remember that you must submit a copy of the Personal Property Return to Maryland PTA to maintain your Standards of Continuing Affiliation.

It is not necessary to submit a copy to HCCPTA

Avoid a black mark on the PTA name

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, IRS, and the State of Maryland 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 signature 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 audit or review of the books.**

National PTA Membership Year Final Dues Payment

National PTA membership year ends March 31. Maryland PTA is currently in 3rd place in the nation of large states in memberships sold. Please make sure that any memberships that have not yet been reported to Maryland PTA are reported prior to March 31, so that they get counted by National PTA.

Budget Review

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

Audit/Review Preparations

It is not too early to be thinking about who will be performing your audit 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 audit/review report along with your year-end financial report to Maryland PTA to maintain your Standards of Continuing Affiliation?**

It is not too late to submit your reports for the 2011/2012 school year if it has not already been done.



HCCPTA Announces Reflection Program Winners!

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

Reflections is a themed competition in the cultural arts areas of Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Students compete in four age groups: primary (pre-k through grade 2), intermediate (grades 3 through 5), middle school (grades 6 through 8), and high school (grades 9 through 12). New this year is the Special Artists age group (pre-k through 12). This offers students who are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act the opportunity to compete as a peer group.

The theme for 2012-2013 was "The Magic of a Moment" and this year Harford county students created and submitted 696 entries to 24 local PTAs.

The Reflections program begins in the fall of each school year at the local schools. Local PTA schools that choose to participate gather school level entries, judge them, and send up to four winners per age group and arts category to county competition in December. County judging is completed in January and up to three county winners in each arts area and age group are sent on to state competition. Maryland PTA selects state level winners by early March, and a total of 30 entries — the single best entry in each arts area for each age group — go on to National PTA competition. National winners are announced in late April.

On April 18th, an awards ceremony will be held at Patterson Mill Middle/High School to honor the County winners in the Reflections Program. Sponsored by Harford County Council of PTAs, this occasion honors the 141 winners selected from the 357 entries submitted to HCCPTA. County judges may bestow up to three Awards of Excellence and up to five Awards of Merit in each age group and arts category. County judges may additionally recognize one of the Award of Excellence entries as being an Outstanding Interpretation if the entry addressed the theme exceptionally well and was technically excellent. The 68 entries recognized with Outstanding Interpretation and Award of Excellence awards at the county level went on to competition at Maryland PTA. Please join HCCPTA in congratulating all the Harford County winners in this year's Reflections competition!



Next year's Reflections theme is "Believe, Dream, Inspire". For more information about the Reflections program please visit <http://www.pta.org>, <http://www.mdpta.org> and/or <http://www.hccpta.org>. HCCPTA chairs for the Reflections program are Carol Ellis and Bob Reschly. Below is the list of Harford County Reflections winners for 2012-2013:

Primary Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation	Kaitlyn Calland	North Bend Elementary
Award of Excellence	Isabella Leon	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary

Intermediate Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation	Heather Roberts	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Award of Excellence	Jessica Schneider	Youth's Benefit Elementary
Award of Excellence	Aaron Coogan	Bel Air Elementary
Award of Merit	Tori Gay	North Harford Elementary
Award of Merit	Courtney Boseck	Prospect Mill Elementary
Award of Merit	Heather Roberts	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Award of Merit	Gage Walker	Youth's Benefit Elementary
Award of Merit	Allison Poling	Bel Air Elementary

Middle/Junior Dance Choreography

Award of Excellence	Alissa Roberts	Bel Air Middle
Award of Excellence	Alissa Roberts	Bel Air Middle

Senior Dance Choreography

Outstanding Interpretation	Cassidy Miller	North Harford High
Award of Excellence	Demetri Sims	Aberdeen High
Award of Excellence	Madalyn Rupprecht	North Harford High
Award of Merit	Dominique Overman	Aberdeen High
Award of Merit	Megan Valle	Patterson Mill Middle High
Award of Merit	Laura Ebsworth	North Harford High

Primary Film Production

Award of Excellence	Natalie Kelly	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
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Intermediate Film Production

Outstanding Interpretation	Zoe Hubert	Fountain Green Elementary
Award of Excellence	Greer Strine	North Bend Elementary
Award of Excellence	Garrett Strine	North Bend Elementary
Award of Merit	Benjamin Skelley	Darlington Elementary
Award of Merit	Brennan Budke	Youth's Benefit Elementary
Award of Merit	Heather Roberts	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Award of Merit	Sigourney Soriano	Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Award of Merit	Taryn Schertz	Youth's Benefit Elementary

Middle/Junior Film Production

Outstanding Interpretation	Khaled Abuhantash	North Harford Middle
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Senior Film Production

Outstanding Interpretation	Sean Mullen	North Harford High
Award of Excellence	Grace Brett	Bel Air High



Primary Literature

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Hudson Welsh
Piper Biemiller
Madeline Waldt
Charles Hammond
Autumn Tagliaferri
Courtney Baker
Tia Gay
Radha Kausik

Youth's Benefit Elementary
Fountain Green Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Emmorton Elementary
North Harford Elementary
Emmorton Elementary
North Harford Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary

Intermediate Literature

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Ben Truxel
Haden Welsh
Jamie Kavanagh
Iman Mian
Kristen Harrison
Meadow Santoriello
Liam Gallihue
Anna Boegner

North Bend Elementary
Youth's Benefit Elementary
North Bend Elementary
Emmorton Elementary
Ring Factory Elementary
Emmorton Elementary
Darlington Elementary
Norrisville Elementary

Middle/Junior Literature

Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Emily Catrambone
Katelyn Anderson
Nnaemeka Ede
Kaitlyn Trexler
Maha Mian

North Harford Middle
North Harford Middle
Bel Air Middle
Fallston Middle
Bel Air Middle

Senior Literature

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Natalie Brosh
Elizabeth Schatz
Abby Mervine
Kelsey Acton
Megan Woodring
Peter Sheu
Royce McNair

Edgewood High
Aberdeen High
Patterson Mill Middle High
Aberdeen High
Patterson Mill Middle High
Aberdeen High
North Harford High

Special Artist Literature

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence

Wilson Gorrell
Becky Reisler
Rachel Goette

North Harford High
North Harford High
North Harford High

Primary Musical Composition

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Joseph Morrison
Marissa Price
Kaitlyn Calland
Paige Feick
Haley Stone

Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
North Bend Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
North Bend Elementary

Intermediate Musical Composition

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Nicholas Pappas
Heather Roberts
Kierstyn McManus
Hannah Donohue
Heather Roberts
Delaney Fairley
Bryan Nichols

Norrisville Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Jarrettsville Elementary
Youth's Benefit Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary
Youth's Benefit Elementary
Youth's Benefit Elementary



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

Middle/Junior Musical Composition

Outstanding Interpretation

Alissa Roberts

Bel Air Middle

Senior Musical Composition

Outstanding Interpretation

Natalie Brosh

Edgewood High

Award of Excellence

Amanda Saikali

Aberdeen High

Primary Photography

Outstanding Interpretation

Lance Coffin

Emmorton Elementary

Award of Excellence

Aden Harvey

Jarrettsville Elementary

Award of Excellence

Kendall Marx

Red Pump Elementary

Award of Merit

Sophia MacKinnon

Prospect Mill Elementary

Award of Merit

Tsambika Anastasi

Darlington Elementary

Award of Merit

Evan Dawson

North Harford Elementary

Award of Merit

Kai Olsen

Darlington Elementary

Award of Merit

Tia Gay

North Harford Elementary

Intermediate Photography

Outstanding Interpretation

Abigail Wagner

Ring Factory Elementary

Award of Excellence

Hannah Donohue

Youth's Benefit Elementary

Award of Excellence

Nicholas Weimann

North Harford Elementary

Award of Merit

Corinne Smith

Prospect Mill Elementary

Award of Merit

Greer Strine

North Bend Elementary

Award of Merit

Rex Westfall

Emmorton Elementary

Award of Merit

Kevin Kilchenstein

Prospect Mill Elementary

Award of Merit

Delaney Sommers

Abingdon Elementary

Middle/Junior Photography

Award of Excellence

Ashley-Ann Nelson

Fallston Middle

Award of Excellence

Matthew Funk

Patterson Mill Middle High

Award of Excellence

Matthew Funk

Patterson Mill Middle High

Award of Merit

Heather Baill

Bel Air Middle

Award of Merit

Jack Stinar

North Harford Middle

Award of Merit

William Pappas

North Harford Middle

Award of Merit

Logan Domanico

Bel Air Middle

Award of Merit

Dylan Maly-Cordell

Bel Air Middle

Senior Photography

Outstanding Interpretation

Abigail Lowe

North Harford High

Award of Excellence

Abby Mervine

Patterson Mill Middle High

Award of Excellence

Kelly Roman

North Harford High

Award of Merit

Meredith Chang

Aberdeen High

Award of Merit

Abigail Lowe

North Harford High

Award of Merit

Abby Mervine

Patterson Mill Middle High

Award of Merit

Meredith Chang

Aberdeen High

Primary Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation

Hajira Mian

Emmorton Elementary

Award of Excellence

Tsambika Anastasi

Darlington Elementary

Award of Excellence

Benjamin Roland

Prospect Mill Elementary

Award of Merit

Claudia Gerry

Youth's Benefit Elementary

Award of Merit

Averil Wright

Abingdon Elementary

Award of Merit

Lily Grissom

Abingdon Elementary

Award of Merit

Aidan Chester

North Bend Elementary

Award of Merit

Sammy Lever

Homestead-Wakefield Elementary



Intermediate Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Mark Boegner
Russell Perdue
Delaney Sommers
Anna Boegner
Emma Lofland
Mareike Debye
Kristen Cameron
Colin Cover

Norrisville Elementary
Darlington Elementary
Abingdon Elementary
Norrisville Elementary
Youth's Benefit Elementary
North Bend Elementary
Fountain Green Elementary
Homestead-Wakefield Elementary

Middle/Junior Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Jasmine Kweon
Jessica Kweon
Katherine Eckart
Hayley Welzant
Shelby Blaker
Lizzie Gutridge
Sierra Smith
Jenna Heil

Bel Air Middle
Bel Air Middle
Patterson Mill Middle High
North Harford Middle
Bel Air Middle
Patterson Mill Middle High
Bel Air Middle
Fallston Middle

Senior Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit
Award of Merit
Award of Merit

Alexander D'Agostino
Kelly Roman
Kristen Hadaway
Alexandra Agim
Jenna Westfall
Cody Parks

North Harford High
North Harford High
Patterson Mill Middle High
Patterson Mill Middle High
Aberdeen High
North Harford High

Special Artist Visual Arts

Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Excellence
Award of Merit

Wilson Gorrell
Michael Hale
Rachel Goette
Thomas Belcher

North Harford High
North Harford High
North Harford High
North Harford High

Congratulations to all our winners!

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: Newsletter Chairman

Next deadline is April, 15, 2013

Avoid Common Bylaw Pitfalls

Submitted by: Sue Parks

HCCPTA President

Member Maryland State PTA Bylaws Committee



When it is time to review your bylaws, most people get all worked up and their eyes glaze over. Bylaws are not that scary or daunting if you just take your time and avoid some common pitfalls. And now, Maryland State PTA has developed a new set of bylaws, which take effect February 12, 2013, that are very "user friendly."

The most common mistake people make is by trying to change the standard form language. Bylaws are mostly boilerplate language that cannot be changed. Yet people still try to change it. This is when your bylaws will be rejected by the Maryland State PTA. Another common mistake is forgetting to fill in all the blanks. If you have left any of the blanks empty, your bylaws will also be rejected.

Make sure when you review your bylaws, you have a committee reviewing them. This helps to make sure everything is double and triple checked. That way, when you present the bylaws to your general membership, there should not be any mistakes.

There are some common things to look for. If you have more than one vice president or secretary, you must make sure to add what each person's specific duties are as the template only includes duties for one vice president and one secretary. If your terms of office are two years, you need to add whether elections for the position are in odd or even years. If the positions are only one year, this is not necessary.

When you complete the information on the back of the bylaws concerning who to contact in case there are any issues, make sure you think carefully who to use. If you are reviewing by-laws toward the end of the school year, you need to make sure you put an officer that will presumably be at the school the next year as it is likely the review may occur over the summer. If you put, for example, a President who is leaving the school as his or her children are moving on, that person may not be available anymore to handle any questions the Maryland State PTA Bylaws Committee may have. Instead put another officer that you know will be returning.

As stated, the new bylaw template takes effect February 12, 2013. If you are reviewing your bylaws prior to that, you may use the old template you should have received at the beginning of the year in the Maryland PTA mailer. If your bylaws are due after February 12, 2013, you must use the new template. You will need to contact Maryland State PTA to get a template as you have to supply an original and not downloaded version to them. You will also need to include a copy of the minutes from the meeting in which your PTA adopted the bylaws, even if there were no changes.

When it is time to review your bylaws, don't panic! They are not as bad as you think if you just take your time and "fill in the blanks".

Representative Cathy Vitale introduced HB 232 providing that the sales and use tax not apply to sales by non-profit Parent Teacher Organizations or other non-profit organizations within an elementary school or secondary school in Maryland. Our VP for Legislation has written testimony and has been in contact with Delegate Vitale et al, the sponsors of the bill. We are asking that PTA be specifically named and that language be amended in such a way as to include our non-traditional PTAs that are not in a school building. The scheduled hearing date for the bill is February 26th at 1:00 p.m.

We are requesting that you ask your locals to go to www.mdpta.org and click on Capwiz. They will find a letter already drafted for them. All they have to do is enter their school and their information and it will be directed to their appropriate legislators.

Passage of this bill would make the monies collected in our fundraisers exempt from sales and use tax.



State Legislative News

Submitted by: Marla Posey-Moss
HCCPTA VP Legislative



HB 532 - State Board of Education - Online Courses - Graduation Requirement (Crossfiled with SB 537)

This bill requires that students entering the 9th grade beginning the 2015-2016 School year be required to take an online course as a graduation requirement. The online course must be approved by either the Maryland State Department of Education or a local board of education. The hearing for this bill was heard before the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, February 20 at 1:00 pm. Effective, Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 657 Truancy Education Program - Parents and Guardians of Students

This bill makes a person guilty of a misdemeanor if that person induces, attempts to induce, employs or harbors a child and causes that child to be absent unlawfully from school. The bill also imposes fines and or imprisonment for those who legally care for a child and fails to see that the child attend school. Finally the bill establishes mandatory participation in the Truancy Education Program and requires that the Pupil Personnel Service Workers of each county implement the program for parents and guardians of students who are chronically truant in the county. The bill further details requirements of the program. The hearing for this bill was heard before the House Ways and Means Committee on February 20th at 1:00 pm. Effective July 1, 2013.

HB 844 Public School Teachers - Certification - Continuing Education (Crossfiled with SB 694)

This bill requires each county board of education to establish continuing education criteria for certificated public school teachers and to implement a system for verifying completion of the continuing education requirements. This bill authorizes the criteria to include college course credit, leadership roles, preparation for National Board Certification or monetary grants, professional development, coaching, advising, or sponsoring extracurricular activities, and school-related community service; etc. The hearing for this bill will be on Wednesday, Mar. 6th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective, Oct. 1, 2013

HB 1069 Education - Beginning of the School Year - After Labor Day

This bill prohibits public schools and publicly funded kindergarten programs from opening for pupil attendance the day before Labor Day. The hearing for this bill was on Tuesday, Feb. 27th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective July 1, 2013

HB 1168 State Department of Education - Minority Teacher Recruitment - Study and Report (Crossfiled with SB 548)

This bill requires the State Department of Education to study and make recommendation on strategies to increase and improve minority teacher recruitment, preparation, development and retention, in elementary and secondary education in the State. Requires the Department to submit a specified report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2013. The hearing for this bill will be on Tuesday, Mar. 6 at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective on July 1, 2013.

HB 229 State Aid for Public Education - Certification of Net Taxable Income (Crossfiled with SB 277)

This Administration bill requires State education aid formulas that include the local wealth component to be calculated twice; once using a net taxable income (NTI) amount for each county based on tax returns filed by September 1 and once using an NTI amount based on tax returns filed by November 1. Each local school system then receives the greater State aid amount of the results from two calculations. Phases in the increased State aid over a five-year period, beginning fiscal 2014. The hearing for this bill was on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means committee. Effective July 1, 2013.

HB 684 Tobacco - Free Schools Act

This bill prohibits an individual from using a tobacco product at any time inside a school building or a bus. During regular school hours, an individual is prohibited from using a tobacco product on school grounds. Outside of regular school hours, an individual is prohibited from using a tobacco product on school grounds when children are younger than 18 are present. An employee or volunteer of a local school system, a public charter school or a private school is prohibited from using tobacco products at an off-campus, school-sponsored event in the presence of students. An individual who violates the bill must receive a warning and verbal notification of the policy for a first offense, and is subject to a civil penalty of a \$100 for each violation for a second or subsequent offense. The Maryland State Department of Education must adopt regulations to implement the bill. The hearing for this bill was on Wednesday, Feb. 20th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective July 1, 2013.



State Legislative News

Submitted by: Marla Posey-Moss
HCCPTA VP Legislative



HB 933 Crimes - Human Trafficking of a Minor - Defense of Ignorance of Victim's Age

The bill establishes that a person charged with human trafficking of a minor may not assert a defense that the person did not know the age of the victim. The hearing for this bill was on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 1:00 before the House Judiciary Committee. Effective Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 875 Education - Public Schools - Parent Trigger

This bill authorizes parents and legal guardians of students attending public schools that are not meeting State accountability goals to petition county boards of education to implement interventions. It requires county boards to notify the State Superintendent of Schools and the State Board of Education on receipt of petitions and of the final dispositions regarding the petitions; etc. This bill was heard on February 27th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 396 Criminal Law - Electronic Harassment of a Minor

This bill prohibits a person from using a computer or a computer network from the following: 1) to cause a minor or another person to reasonably fear for the safety of a minor; 2) to engage in conduct which would constitute sexual harassment of a minor; 3) to disseminate data with the malicious intent to psychologically torment or harass a minor; 4) from making a any statement intended provoke or likely to provoke a third party to stalk or harass a minor. The hearing for this bill will be on March 7th at 1:00 pm before the House Judiciary Committee. Effective, Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 843 State Board of Education - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester long course in financial literacy. Each local board of education must implement the curriculum in every high school under the board's jurisdiction, and a student must complete the course in order to graduate from high school. The hearing for this bill will be on Wednesday, Mar. 13th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 1123 Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs - Girls Lacrosse - Protective Head Gear

This bill requires the State Department of Education to require specified girls lacrosse youth sports programs to require specified athletes to wear protective head gear during practices and games. The bill also requires a recreational athletic organization that operates a girls lacrosse youth sports program to require specified athletes to wear protective head gear during practices and games; requiring a local government to provide a specified notice to operators of a girls lacrosse youth sports program under specified circumstances; etc. The hearing for this bill will be on Wednesday, Mar. 13th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 855 Student Health and Fitness Act

This bill requires that a public school student in elementary school be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week, including at least 90 minutes of physical education. It also requires that the program of physical activity for a specified category of student be consistent with a specified plan for the student. Requires public elementary schools to designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate specified activities; etc. The hearing for this bill will be on Wednesday, March 13th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective Oct. 1, 2013.

HB 232 Sales and Use Tax - Exemption - Parent-Teacher Organizations Fundraisers

This bill exempts from the state sales and use tax made by nonprofit parent-teacher organization or other nonprofit organization within an elementary or secondary school in the State. This bill was heard on Monday, Feb. 26th at 1:00 pm before the House Ways and Means Committee. Effective July 1, 2013.



Legislative News

Submitted by: Marla Posey-Moss
HCCPTA VP Legislative



News for members with kids:

Recent Maryland Law Enacted for Child Consumer Protection - The first in the nation.

As of January 1, 2013, parents and legal guardians can place a security freeze on their minor child's credit records that would prevent identity thieves from opening credit accounts in the child's name.

If the child has a credit record, the new law allows a parent to freeze the child's credit record so that someone seeking to open new credit in the child's name cannot access the credit report.

If the child does not have a credit record, the parent may request that a credit reporting agency create a record that prohibits the agency from releasing information about the child to potential creditors. Similarly a guardian may place a freeze on the credit record of an individual under their care.

Parents or guardians may contact the three major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to place a freeze. You can also submit a freeze request online on behalf of a minor.

NEWS FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

In light of traumatic brain injuries at both the professional and collegiate sports, the following information is put forth within an Education Bulletin by the Secretary of the Maryland State Department of Education, Dr. Lillian Lowery. The Maryland State Board of Education is seeking to strengthen protections for student-athletes by making permanent the emergency regulations put in place last fall requiring training for coaches in the area of brain injuries. In mid January, the State School Board members proposed requiring refresher concussion training for coaches on a biennial basis; requiring concussion training for physical education teachers; and making certain that local school systems implement policies to ensure appropriate academic accommodations, documented oral and written notification to parents, and timely notification to athletic directors and school nurses of student-athletes who have sustained a suspected concussion. The Board will publish the revised proposal in the Maryland Register in the coming weeks. When published, the public will have an opportunity to provide public comment prior to adoption. For further details regarding the proposed amendments to current regulations please visit:

http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/no1_2013 and go to MSDE bulletins, Jan. 25, 2013.

News from Our Local



News from Prospect Mill Elementary School PTA:

The PMES PTA got off to a great start for 2013! A general membership meeting was held on January 10. School safety was a topic of discussion, with information shared by our Principal, Chris Cook, and a question and answer session with parents in attendance. Minutes are posted on the PMES website. Our next general membership meeting is Tues, March 10th at 7PM in the Media Center. We also held a Snowflake Drive for Sandy Hook, and when Sandy Hook could no longer accept more snowflakes, we hung half of them in the cafeteria for the children to enjoy, and donated the other half to a local nursing home.

The PTA sponsored a Family movie night on Friday, Jan. 11. Madagascar 3 was the feature film, and PTA members enjoyed free admission to the event, with nominal admission fees for non-members. It was a very well-attended event and another is likely later in the year. Our Teacher Assistance Committee continues to be hard at work 3 days a week helping teachers prepare classroom materials, and our Cafeteria volunteers help out daily during lunch shifts. Box Tops, Campbell's labels, eScrip recycling & Redner's receipts continue to be a great source of income for the PTA general fund, as well as our community nights, like Barnes & Noble and Dark Horse, which directly benefit the playground fund, currently at over \$11,000. Chuck-E-Cheese night is March 26-27, Applebee's pancake breakfast is May 4 and a night at Joe's Crab Shack on June 4. Be sure to mention PMES PTA if you are visiting these places on our special days!

We are very thankful to all our families who are currently PTA members, and have provided special perks this year as incentive to join. Members this year have received special perks such as discounted Spiritwear, FREE movie night, and more surprise perks to come for Spring events, like tickets for the Carnival and a discount for other events. The PTA has also helped sponsor iMom breakfasts monthly, as a time for Moms and kids to share some quality time together. The PMES PTA is also helping with the Teens for Jeans drive, collection jeans for needy families in the community. We are also so proud of our Reflections program, still going strong at PMES, with 38 entries this year, and 18 moving on to the county level.

We are looking forward to a busy, yet fun-filled Spring at PMES, with upcoming playground fundraisers like Flagship Cinemas coupon book sales, Original Works art fundraiser. We also have events planned like our first ever International Day on March 16, our Spring Carnival on April 26, Teacher appreciation week in May, a student Talent Show on Thursday, May 9 at the Amoss Center at Harford Tech. Admission is free, with donations accepted at the door for our Playground fund. We welcome families from other schools to join us for all our events! Happy Spring!

The PMES PTA Exec. Committee
Heidi Cawman - President
Fran Downes - Vice President
Beth Pelletier - Treasurer
Danielle Spigler - Secretary



News from Our Local



NEWS FROM ABERDEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Our AMS Eagle Exchange could really use some donations! Students who are rewarded with Eagle Slips for responsible and respectful behavior exchange them for popular and treasured items. Please send any donations in to Aberdeen Middle School located at 111 Mount Royal Avenue, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

The next PTA meetings are set for the following dates at in the media center from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM: March 27 and April 24. At the April meeting, a nomination of officers will be presented.

The PTSA will be supporting a mural project headed by art teacher, Mrs. Baker. The students will be engaged in painting a mural depicting how not to bully and to be part of a team (school) of friends that all support each other. The mural will be a painting of a fish on a wall in the lower part of the building. It gives these students ownership and pride to know that they are participating in something that will always be a part of this school.



NEWS FROM CHURCH CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BEL CAMP

BLOOD DRIVE:

The CCES School nurse, Debra Sellers, has set up a Church Creek Community Blood Drive for Tuesday, March 5th from 3:30PM until 8:00PM. It will be located at 4299 Church Creek Road in Belcamp, MD 21017. Please call her at the school at 410-273-5550 or stop by her office to schedule your life saving donation.

FAREWELL and WELCOME:

CCES PTA is saddened to announce that our wonderful 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Sue Darden has left our family this past January. While we will miss her greatly, we hope her future is filled with the brightest endeavors.

CCES PTA welcomes Miss DeBonis. We know she is a wonderful teacher and will be an asset to the CCES family.

FUNDRAISER:

On Thursday, March 7, Church Creek Elementary School will have their '*Barnes & Boston Night*'. Enjoy a dinner out at Boston Market 4:00 p.m. to closing, then visit Barnes & Noble from 5:00PM to 8:00PM for wonderful reads. They are in the same shopping center in Bel Air. All funds raised will be used to purchase books for CCES students for Summer Reading. Also, the Reading Specialist will also be following up with a "Reading Road Trip" on Tuesday, March 26.



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

News from HCPS!

JOHNSON APPOINTED ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

LONG-TIME EDUCATOR MOVES FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BALTIMORE (January 22, 2013) – The Maryland State Board of Education today appointed Dr. Henry R. Johnson, Jr., as Assistant State Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment.

In his new position, Dr. Johnson will be responsible for leading the Department's team charged with implementing the new Common Core State Standards and coming Next Generation Science Standards, as well as the assessment programs related to the Maryland curriculum.

"Dr. Johnson has been an exemplary leader and educator, and he comes to the Maryland State Department of Education at a critical time," said State Superintendent of Schools Lillian M. Lowery. "His experience and vision will pay off for schools across the State as we continue to move our classrooms forward."

Dr. Johnson is a long-time teacher and administrator in Maryland and Virginia public schools. Most recently, he spent 10 years as principal of Northwood High School in Montgomery County. He began his career as a social studies teacher in Norfolk, VA, working in the classroom for 15 years before moving on to administration. Dr. Johnson also has served as an adjunct professor of education, first at Old Dominion University and later at the University of Maryland and Trinity University.

Dr. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, a master's in education administration from Old Dominion, and a doctorate in education, also from Virginia Tech.



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



MARYLAND SETS MODEL POLICY TO AWARD WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT FOR STUDENTS WHO LEARN LANGUAGE OUTSIDE CLASS

LOCAL SYSTEMS ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP OWN POLICIES

BALTIMORE, MD (January 29, 2013)

The Maryland State Board of Education, recognizing that Maryland's diverse student population has opportunities to develop language skills outside the classroom, has approved a model policy to award world languages credit for proficiency.

Local school systems may use the policy to develop policies and procedures to award credit toward high school graduation based on demonstrated proficiency.

"One of the most valuable skills immigrants bring to our country is their knowledge of foreign languages," said State Sen. James Rosapepe. "Today, Maryland is taking the lead in helping immigrants and the children of immigrants keep their heritage language skills as they perfect their English. By awarding high school credit for language skills learned at home, in churches, temples, and mosques, as well as in private, community schools, Maryland has created incentives for even more students from immigrant families to become multilingual -- a huge economic benefit for our economy and our country."

Sen. Rosapepe, along with State Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk, spearheaded legislation that led to the *Task Force for the Preservation of Heritage Language Skills in Maryland*, established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2008. The Task Force investigated current language preservation efforts and developed new strategies in preserving world language skills in our State. The legislation creating the Task Force recognized that "while it is important for new Americans to learn and master English, there is also a critical shortage of Americans proficient in languages other than English." The bill recognized that Maryland's heritage language speakers "comprise a valuable and vastly underutilized linguistic resource."

One of the recommendations of the Task Force's January 2009 Report to the Governor and General Assembly was to "support and promote the awarding of high school credit by exam for students who attend non-public heritage language schools in Maryland."

Identifying an assessment for the awarding of credit by examination is often a challenge. To that end, MSDE convened a statewide validation and standard setting study with key stakeholders and world language experts to select the assessments and set the recommended proficiency levels equated to high school credit that are included in the model policy.

Producing internationally literate graduates – graduates who are culturally aware and proficient in languages other than English – is viewed as critical to U.S. security and to global collaboration and competition. The model policy enables students to further their study of languages and achieve advanced levels of proficiency.



National PTA News

National PTA Endorses Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (January 31, 2013) - The following statement can be attributed to National PTA(r) President Betsy Landers:

National PTA supports the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013 introduced by U.S. Senator Al Franken (D-MN). National PTA believes that all children and youth have the right to mental health support services. Democratic Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano (CA-32) plans to introduce the House version of the bill next week, and we commend the Congresswoman and Senator Franken for championing a proposal to improve access.

The Mental Health in Schools Act would establish a grant program to help school districts form innovative community partnerships and train school staff, volunteers, families, and other members of the community to recognize the signs of child and adolescent behavioral health problems and refer them for appropriate services. Research affirms that these types of family-school partnerships and healthy home, school, and community settings contribute to positive learning environments and positive outcomes.

National PTA believes this, in addition to gun violence prevention legislation, is another significant step toward ensuring the safety of all students. The time for legislative action to improve access to mental health supports in our nation's schools is now, and we urge enactment of the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Disaster Distress Helpline:

1-800-985-5990 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).