

## **More Maryland PTA Convention News**

Our Council will be receiving a **COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD** at the Maryland PTA State Convention Awards Dinner at on Friday, November 13, 2009. Congratulations to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs for a job well done in supporting local PTAs in our county.

## **Parent/Family Involvement Awards- Grants from Maryland PTA.**

In addition, four of our local PTAs will be receiving Parent/Family Involvement Awards-Grants at the Maryland PTA State Convention Awards Dinner at on Friday, November 13, 2009. If your PTA has not representative at the awards dinner, Maryland PTA will mail the check o your PTA.

## **About the Maryland PTA Parent/Family Involvement Grant**

Maryland PTA supports the research that indicates, children succeed when families, schools and communities work together. Maryland PTA encourages the development and implementation of family-school parent engagement programs that link to student learning and success. Each year Parent/Family Involvement Grants are awarded to some of the many deserving local PTAs that promote and encourage parent, family, caregiver and community engagement. Maryland PTA invites all PTAs to apply for the Grant that supports your PTA's effort to collaborate with students, parents, families, caregivers, teacher, the community and your school staff. The maximum amount of the grant is 500.00. All winners will receive their checks and be recognized at the State Convention. After the convention our local PTA award winners will be added to the Maryland PTA website: [http://www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_parentinvolvement.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_parentinvolvement.html)

### **DUFIEF ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:**

Project Name: DuFief Reading Dragon Mural

Description: To involve our Learning Center families in a project that will increase their sense of inclusiveness with the DuFief Elementary School PTA. The PTA received a grant last year from Lowe's School Tool Box to create an Outdoor Learning Center Garden in front of their school. The entire school participated in planting and laying the pavers for a walkway. The garden is almost finished and has many educational aspects to it. One last major component to this garden is a Mural on the large expanse of white wall behind the garden. In an attempt to nurture the parent involvement that began with the garden, a professional muralist will complete the main component of the mural and then the art teacher will work with the children to add flowers to the mural. When completed they will hold the official unveiling with an Ice Cream Social for all families in the school.

**BROWN STATION ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:**

Project Name: Mornings in School

Description: The program is designed to bring parent volunteers into the classroom during school hours on a regular monthly basis. The program will run once a month for five consecutive months. The PTA surveyed their parents and determined that one of the main reasons that parents are unable to volunteer in the classroom is because they care for at least one younger child at home. The purpose of this program is to provide structured volunteer opportunities for the parents of young children during school hours with onsite babysitting by experienced childcare professionals.

**FIELDS ROAD ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:**

Project Name: Adults Are Students Too. English Conversation & Learning: How to become involved in your child's education.

Description: The program is designed to involve parents and guardians where English is a second language into the school and into their children's school life. Help them feel welcome and confident enough to assist their children with homework. More than 17% of the student body is enrolled in ESOL. This grant will begin an 8-week workshop for parents and guardians who don't currently speak English and therefore are not able to understand the flyers and announcements that come home from school, nor can they help their students with homework. Professionals will teach parents how to help their children be successful in school along with 8 one-hour language sessions.

**GEORGIAN FOREST ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:**

Project Name: Conversational English Courses for Parents

Description: The PTA will provide free conversational English classes to non-English speaking parents to help them better understand English so they can become more engaged in their children's education and help them succeed. 27% of the student population is enrolled in the ESOL program. Volunteer instructors will lead weekly English language conversion courses designed to strengthen participants' vocabulary and grasp of the language. In addition to these sessions, the PTA will provide participants with textbooks and information on self-study options such as tutoring programs, drop-in centers, and ESOL classes available in the county.