

Communications Committee Report
September 2009
Patti Twigg, Committee Chair
listservsmod@mccpta.com

1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Kevin David webmaster@mccpta.com
Sharon Goodall webmaster@mccpta.com

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in June, July and August:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- MCCPTA Calendar
- Meeting Minutes
- Archived MCCPTA President's Letters & Committee Reports and Workplans
- Parenting Workshops, Seminars and Support
- Resolutions
- Blue Book, and online form for submission of information
- Communications Committee and Listservs Subcommittee
- CIP Committee
- Standing Committees
- Areas/Clusters
- Guidebooks
- Gifted Child Committee
- Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence
- Officers
- Bylaws Committee
- Guidebooks
- Spotlight Archives
- MCCPTA Office Information
- Technology Committee
- Dues, and Voucher form
- Insurance, and Forms
- Finance Committee and Treasurers Tidbits
- Curriculum Committee
- SSL Sub Committee
- MCPS Committees, Task Forces and Projects
- MCCPTA Liaisons and Representatives

Other additions:

- August 2009 MCCPTA President's Letter
- Hyperlink to National PTA Blog

- COMMUNITY FORUMS Sponsored by the Montgomery County Board of Education
- Keeping our Children Safe in Portable Classrooms
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE, subject: FY 2010 Operating Budget - Expenditure Restrictions, August 20, 2009
- Letter from Superintendent Jerry Weast in response to MCCPTA's Resolution on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools, June 10, 2009
- Testimony before the BOE regarding Principal Handbook, July 14, 2009
- ICB Documents:
 - 2009 memo PTA Presidents
 - 2009 Your PTA and ICB
 - 2009 ICB PTA Guidelines July 09
- Summer and Fall schedules in English and Spanish for YMCA Youth & Family Services Parenting Workshops & Classes
- Reply Letter from Peter Franchot, Comptroller to Thank You Letter from MCCPTA, May 8, 2009
- MCCPTA Thank you letter to Comptroller Peter Franchot
- MCCPTA Thank you letter to Senator Jennie Forehand
- Letter from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, seeking clarification on the County's MOE request, June 4, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release on Presidents and Principals Dinner, May 31, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release on Dignitaries attending the Presidents and Principals Dinner, May 31, 2009
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on FY2010 Operating Budget: Council Action, May 21, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Superintendent Jerry Weast on MCCPTA's Resolution on Indoor Air Quality at MCPS Schools, May 15, 2009
- New item for "Spotlight"
- Summer Food Service Program
- MCCPTA Fall Training flyer
- MCCPTA Leadership for 2009-2010
- Winners of Annual MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Awards
- Minutes, MCCPTA Executive Committee, May 11, 2009
- Minutes, MCCPTA Executive Committee, June 11, 2009
- Minutes, MCCPTA Executive Committee, June 8, 2009
- Minutes, MCCPTA Executive Committee, Aug. 6, 2009
- Report on Disproportionality in MCPS (Published June 2009)
- Money Matters- National PTA
- Cash Encounters- Maryland PTA
- List of Support Groups in and around Montgomery County
- Power Point documents from presentation at DA:
 - Middle School Expansion Courses: Implementation, Vision, and Rationale
 - No-Label Pilot: Student Success with Accelerated & Enriched Instruction at Georgian Forest
 - What have we learned from label or lack of label?
- Sample course-related fees parent letters for ES, MS, and HS
- Sample student planner - agenda statement phrase
- General guidelines for elementary and secondary level Course fees
- Do's and don'ts for Course fees
- FAQs for ES, MS and HS Course fees

- Upcoming Seminars and Workshops around Montgomery County related to parenting
- Letter from Stephen Bedford on Curricular Fees in Answer to MCCPTA's letter and resolution, April 24, 2009
- Minutes, MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, March 24, 2009
- Northeast Consortium Elementary Schools' Testimony to the Montgomery County Council Regarding the FY2010 Recommended Operating Budget
- All Updated PTA Officer Guidebooks and MCCPTA BOD Guidebook
- Annual Transition of Listserv Memberships and Settings
- School Web Services
- Cyber Security Tools and Education Programs
- Tech Committee notes on March 23rd meeting with Melissa Woods MCPS Director in the Division of Technology Support and Shelley Johnson MCPS Director Instructional Technology and Partnerships
- Cluster Coordinator Letter on Summer CIP Submissions
- Instructions to Cluster Coordinators on Summer CIP Submissions
- Format For Submitting Cluster Comments for Summer CIP Submissions
- The Montgomery County Transitioning Youth Resource Fair (English and Spanish)
- Family Leadership Institute for Latino Families In Montgomery County (English and Spanish, registration and information)
- Letter of invitation to Community Forums from BOE President, Shirley Brandman
- Montgomery County's Summer Youth Jobs Programs
 - o Worksite Fact Sheet
 - o Worksite Application
 - o Youth Participant Fact Sheet
 - o Youth Participant Application

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our website. This is a great opportunity to help the PTA without leaving your home, and at the time of your choosing! Attendance at meetings is not required to do this task! Below is a description of the ideal candidate:

A volunteer would need the following skills:

- Knowledge of HTML
- Knowledge of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)
- Ability to create PDF documents from most file formats (Word document, PowerPoint document, etc.). **Note, anyone who uses a Macintosh computer has the ability to create PDF documents without needing to get Adobe Acrobat Professional

The volunteer should be someone who calls themselves a "web designer" or "web developer", since updating websites is not a simple task that someone can learn in a week. If this person is already creating websites as their business or hobby, the MCCPTA website should be fairly easy and straightforward to work on.

Worked with our ISP to ensure the mail forwarding from aliases was working correctly. Made changes to forwarding addresses as positions were filled.

Website calendar was updated as dates for the new school year were announced.

A new Web Coordinator was familiarized with the website in order to take over for our one retiring Web Coordinator.

2) Listservs:

Listservs Moderator:

Patti Twigg listservmod@mccpta.com

As of August 30, 2009, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	71	-16
MCCPTA_Bulletin	621	+9
MCCPTA_Delegates	483	+5
MCCPTA_Presidents	260	-31
MCCPTA_Treasurers	212	-8

The auto-reminder calendars for the Bulletin and BOD listservs has been updated as meetings and events are scheduled or changed.

The summer sees a major transition in the listservs membership as new officers take over in local PTAs, so the moderator has been very busy handling the transition. A new sign up procedure was introduced in the spring, and has been very helpful in allowing larger numbers of subscribers to be added faster.

Assistance has been given to MCCPTA committee and locals listserv moderators as requested.

3) Public Relations/Publicity:

Sub-committee Chair:

Lee Ann Doerflinger

No press releases were sent during this period, but the Sub-committee chair has plans to contact by phone the reporters to whom she's been e-mailing press releases. Her goal is to get this done by the end of October, as well as to continue sending out information on the activities of MCCPTA in the interim.

4) Spotlight:

The MCCPTA website has a corner just for your school or PTA and its accomplishments! "Spotlight" is the place for your school or PTA to shine – for the whole county to see! Don't be shy - you know how great you are, here's your chance to let everyone else know it too! If you have news and/or achievements from your school or PTA, please notify MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com).

Spotlight appears on our homepage, and is changed as new items come in. Be sure to check back to see what is happening!