

MCCPTA

March, 2011 Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Committee

Priscilla Peterson: PrisFP@verizon.net

I have recently sent out two important announcements to the Cultural Arts reps on the PTArts e-list:

1. The MCCPTA-EPI Board of Directors have now made available the videos that were taped during the annual Cultural Arts Showcases this past October. The videos can be viewed at www.mccpta-epi.org. To access the videos, click on "Programs and Classes" on the home page, then click on "view the showcase clips". The user name is "culturalarts" and the password is "2010". All MCPS Principals, PTA Presidents and Cultural Arts Chairs are welcome and encouraged to use this website. Not all artists who performed at the Showcases will be seen.

Some did not give permission for their act to be shown, and a few of the videos did not turn out well, but most of the performances are now online.

2. The registration form is now available for the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) Arts in Education Artist Selection Conference, to be held on April 2nd, 2011, 9:30-1:30, at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City, MD. The conference is open to all Cultural Arts Chairs as well as school staff. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the artist residencies that are available, and to learn about the application procedure for the MSAC residency grant which is due on May 20th for the next school year. Grant applications must be submitted by school staff, although they often ask for assistance from their Cultural Arts Committee members. I have sent out the registration form to all Cultural Arts reps on the PTArts e-list.

Gifted and Talented Committee

Michelle Gluck: gluck.michelle@yahoo.com

The Gifted Child Subcommittee responded to a request for information and advice from parents at the Roberto Clemente MS magnet program for the highly gifted in advance of a meeting held on Feb. 17 to discuss proposed changes to the magnet program's longstanding 8th grade capstone field trip, which is a culminating event for which students work beginning in 6th grade. At the meeting, RCMS and Carver personnel acknowledged communications breakdowns and promised greater transparency in future changes to magnet curriculum. The GCC will continue to monitor developments here and in the Eastern and Takoma Park MS magnet programs. The GCC is also drafting letters and testimony in favor of the continued identification of and provision of services to academically gifted students in local (non-magnet) schools who need curriculum and programs above their grade level.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechnersonline.com

In order of items in 2010/2011 Work Plan -

1. Recognizing Issues: Sent out survey questions to all HS Presidents.
Compiling responses.
2. Communications: Contacted all HS Presidents again and added several (Again) to Yahoo Group..
3. Summarize Email Historic Content - no action this month.
4. Verify that all MCPS PTSA High School Presidents are aware of and "on" the Electronic Mail list - Completed.
5. County-wide projects and programs - See below.

Specific Actions / Projects:

1. Running a contest for Safe-Prom night Project launched - Ongoing.
Responses were due Feb 28. NO RESPONSES received. Deadline being extended.
 2. HS Model United Nations event....Requested HS contact info from HS Presidents, Social Studies Department HEads, andHS Model UN Club Advisers. Good response from HS Club advisers.
 3. Parking Lot Safety - Surveying HS Principals now. Will have a report this year as scheduled.
 4. Test Day Survey - in process - Sent out questions to all HS Principals, English Dept, and Social Studies Dept. heads.
 5. Joint Curriculum discussion event with the Curric. Committee...Planned for later this year.
 6. Special Programs idea sharing - no action this month..
 7. Shakespeare Video Contest or Festival Event - Sent out questions and description to all HS English Dept. heads..
 8. MCPS Policy IED (H.Schools). - Reviewed the "NEWLY APPROVED" county policy - not a single comment or suggestion of ours was incorporated into the approved policy. Planning to schedule a discussion with the POC.
 9. Relationship to the Booster club and After-Prom Committees - No action to date.
 10. SAT/PSAT Test preparations - Requested inputs from HS Presidents (50% responded so far) and Principals (10 % response so far).
 11. Share topics and speakers - no action to date.
 12. PTSAs involvement in SIP - no actions to date.
- (Note - Items 9,11, and 12 will be active the next several months).

Legislative Committee

Patrick Dunn: patrickdunn65@yahoo.com

The Legislation Committee is working to improve distribution of information from MDPTA Legislative Committee to MMCPTA BoD and Delegates. This includes action alerts from the MDPTA VP for Legislation.

Question for the BoD: To what extent is additional information also desired? For example, there is a weekly teleconference discussion of legislation pending before the MD General Assembly. Is it desirable for the BoD to receive MontCo pertinent bill IDs, titles, and short descriptions?

Rebecca Smondrowski organized Annapolis Night for MCCPTA with MCEA and other groups which was held on February 28. It was a successful event with 2 buses full of teachers and parents. Everyone had a chance to talk with their legislators from their district as well as observe a legislative session in progress.

There may be updates coming from that trip, but it will be after the Mon. deadline for committee reports.

Membership Committee

Janette Gilman: janettegilman@verizon.net

The MCCPTA Membership Committee and our local PTA/PTSAs leaders continue the push to grow membership to raise our local impact and to strengthen our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County.

Based on the membership numbers provided by Maryland PTA in the most recent edition of its Standards of Continuing Affiliation (SOCA) and the numbers recorded by MCCPTA, we are working to reconcile differences and get all active units on record. Our locals are very much on the grow!

The committee requested MCPS enrollment data from MCCPTA officers and is preparing to calculate MCCPTA membership award winners using reconciled Maryland PTA and MCCPTA membership counts as of end-March.

Don't forget: MCCPTA will be presenting our Membership Awards at the May 18 Principal-Presidents Dinner. These awards compliment Maryland PTA membership awards. MCCPTA membership awards will be given for a) percentage growth in local PTAs by 5% increments (up to 5%, 10%, etc.); b) absolute numbers—the largest—PTA/PTSA by category of school (elementary, middle, high, or special school); and c) greatest parent involvement calculated by the ratio of the total number of students to total membership. Membership numbers used will be those on record at Maryland PTA and MCCPTA as of March 31, 2011; have your treasurers and membership chairs/vice presidents get outstanding payments in. It is never too late to make one final push for members...especially if you still have directories!

Presidents and Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan: dalejryan@yahoo.com

Sponsorship letters were emailed to businesses and elected officials, as well as posted to the MCCPTA website.

Currently there are only 4 sponsors (\$3300+). We have also asked PTAs to help in getting sponsorships.

This year we have reasonably priced business card size ads for \$250 with 1 dinner seat included. This type of ad is able to help the small businesses whose budget is limited to participate.

We plan on sending evites out this year and are looking at payment using PayPal.

There will be student auditions for entertainment groups for the dinner. Auditions to be held at Walt Whitman HS on March 18 from 3-8 pm only. Please email Deb Lang (debolang@yahoo.com) if you intend to come and audition.

Cost of the dinner - recommended \$55 unless we reach our \$10K goal for sponsorships.

Committee has begun working on the program layout.

[NOMINATION Forms for National and MD Life Memberships, and Partners in Education were updated and posted to MCCPTA website.](#)

MC - Leon Harris, Guest speaker - TBD, Induction - Chuck Saylor, National PTA President

Committee will meet Thurs. 3/10 at the MCCPTA office.

Safety & Health Committee

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The Health and Safety Committee met last week with guest speaker Marla Caplon, Director of Division of Food and Nutrition Service for MCPS. She shared with us that MCPS school lunch menus exceed the USDA dietary requirements, how the menus are planned and tested, etc. We may plan a tour of the MCPS food warehouse facility—if you are interested please let us know.

We continue with our mission to save the SRO program. The Community Partnership for Public Safety letter now has over 30 signatures from community groups and counting in the letter we are sending to the County Executive!! ...Not including the signatures of 10 legislators collected in Annapolis and more local city officials that are pending. If you are part of a civic association or community group that is not represented, please let us know if your group will support this initiative.

Our next meeting is Tuesday March 29 at 7 pm with two guest speakers: Our first speaker will be Kathleen Michels, Program Director-Neuroscience Cluster NIH. Kathleen has done extensive research on artificial turf, please join us for her presentation- Q & A will follow. The Second speaker will be Nadji Kirby- coordinator for Safe Routes to School Program (with Montgomery County's Department of Transportation).

The County's Safe Routes to School Program is an effort to use a variety of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies that help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school. The program involves the whole community; parents, children, neighborhood groups, schools, law enforcement officers, community leaders, and transportation and public health professionals to help identify issues and work together on solutions.