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**Into the New Year.....** PTA is an organization that speaks for children, The message for all PTAs is *everychild. onevoice.*

As PTAs start thinking ahead to things on their "to do" lists, please remember we are in the middle of budget funding advocacy for both the operating budget and the capital improvement program. MCCPTA and local PTA communities are working hard to advocate for school funding needs. PTA advocates, along with other school communities representatives, attended the January 14, BOE FY2010 Operating Budget Hearing to give testimony, or support others who did, about school funding needs. Everyone did a great job, including the students, who took time out of their busy school schedules to give moving budget testimony. MCCPTA's budget theme for this year is, "Hold the Line." We all must hold the line and not have school budgets chipped away bit by bit. Our children deserve funding to meet their educational needs.

**FY 2010 Operating Budget Timeline**

- Board of Education operating budget hearing: Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. (the second of two)
- Board of Education operating budget worksessions: Jan. 28 and 29 at 6 p.m. each evening
- Board of Education operating budget adoption: Feb. 9, 10 a.m.
- Operating budget request presented to County Executive and County Council: Feb. 27
- County Executive issues operating budget: March 16

- County Council operating budget hearings: April
- Council approves operating budget: May 21
- Board of Education takes final action to adopt FY 2010 Operating Budget: June 9

As a reminder, if you cannot attend the operating budget hearings you may submit written comments directly to the Board of Education at the address below or via email to: [boe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:boe@mcpsmd.org) Montgomery County Board of Education  
850 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

You may also submit a budget question online or review past questions:  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/question.shtm>

Your PTAs should also be thinking about forming nominating committees to seek officers for the upcoming year. Be sure to check your PTA's bylaws to see what your timeline is, and the required number and composition of your nominating committees. PTAs must grow their own leadership. There are many in your PTAs who should be encouraged to become. Sometimes all it takes is asking another if they are interested in being an officer.

MCCPTA will also be looking for officers for the upcoming year. The MCCPTA Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of nominees for officers, Area Vice-Presidents,

and Cluster Coordinators for election at the Annual Meeting held at the April Delegates Assembly, April 28, 2009. The nomination form is located on the MCCPTA Nominating Committee webpage: <http://www.mccpta.com/nomComm.html>

The 2008 - 2009 Maryland PTA Membership Theme is "Let's Get Growing" and it is still in full swing. Anyone may join a local PTA. They do not need to have children in the school. When PTAs grow their membership base, they are helping to grow future parent leaders in their schools. The next time you see another parent from your school community that does not attend your school's PTA meetings, take time to personally invite them to attend and become a member. Our MCCPTA Membership Chair is April Keyes and she can be reached at (301) 515-8249 or [keyesa@sec.gov](mailto:keyesa@sec.gov). Please contact April to get more information related to increasing your membership and attending the MCCPTA membership committee meetings.

*Dues: From MDPTA: All local units are required to submit to Maryland PTA dues of \$3.25 for each member that joins their PTAs. Remember, membership is year long and in fact we will be kicking off the January membership campaign soon. All membership dues payments for the 2008-2009 year will be due by March 31 to be eligible for consideration of a membership award and it is one of the requirements to be a unit in good standing. Be sure to post flyers, notices on website and newsletters with all the great activities and programs that the PTA supports in your school. Review your membership book (or look on line [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org)) for information on the Membership Awards. This year, we will be combining our membership recognition with our Reflections program to be held in May.*

From an email sent on December 30 from the Maryland PTA President:  
Maryland PTA and a new membership campaign in the works: They will be having a drawing for free Summer Leadership Registrations. Each county will have their units put in a hat and drawn out. The number drawn will be based on the number of units in the county/city  
(1-25) - 1 registrations  
(26-50) - 2 registrations  
(51-75) - 3 registrations  
76 and above- 4 registrations  
All units who submit registration for 25 or more members by Feb 2, 2009 will be eligible for the drawing.

It is important that local PTAs pay their MCCPTA dues too. Your dues are MCCPTA's operating money to keep our office up and running in support of local PTA needs, as well as going toward the cost of printing the Blue Books, as just one example. Your MCCPTA dues, (\$1.00 per member) all go directly back into MCCPTA to help continue committee work, office/phone support, copying and more. MCCPTA does not make a profit off its members. In order to participate as voting members at our Delegates Assemblies for 2008-09, each school should have by now paid at least a first installment of MCCPTA dues - \$1.00 per member. Once your first payment is received by MCCPTA, your school will receive 3 green Delegate voting cards. These voting cards are promptly mailed back to each PTA when they send their first dues payment to the MCCPTA Office. Every voting Delegate should bring their voting card to meetings they attend in order to participate in discussions and vote on any organizational positions related to MCCPTA. Delegates are reminded that when your school PTA votes to take a position on a particular issue, you have an obligation to bring that position forward.

Two things to note:

1. Delegates are chosen to represent the views of the local PTA.
2. Delegates represent the position of the local PTA membership at Delegate Assemblies. The Delegates Guidebook is available on the MCCPTA website: <http://www.mccpta.com/DelegatesHandbook.pdf>.

A MCCPTA dues voucher is now being pony mailed to your PTAs each month so you can pay regularly for additional members that join after your PTA's initial payment to MCCPTA. This coincides with any monthly payments your PTAs make to MDPTA and will make it easier for your PTA treasurer to keep track of dues payments. If your PTA has not paid any dues to MCCPTA, your PTA will not be able to participate in MCCPTA business meetings as voting members with voting cards or receive Blue Books.

### **It is Awards Time!**

(Please read the enclosed flyers for more details.)

Champions for Children Award - This award from MCBRE goes to an outstanding PTA program that promotes parent involvement. The ceremony will be held on April 21, 2009.

How you can honor your outstanding PTA volunteers and leaders? Local PTAs can give Maryland and National Life Membership Awards. Nomination materials are available at [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org) and [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). These awards will be given at our

May Presidents and Principals Dinner.

MCCPTA -2008-2009 Special Education Committee is looking for nominations of outstanding contributions to the success of students with special needs by Educators, Programs, Parents, and Students.

The next Delegates Assembly is on January 27. There will be a program presented about student service learning (SSL) from 7:00-7:30 PM in the Carver auditorium. The SSL program agenda can be reviewed on our MCCPTA website at the following link: [http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA\\_news/SSL\\_Program\\_AgendaFinal.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA_news/SSL_Program_AgendaFinal.pdf)

The business meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM. The following two resolutions will be offered at the January 27 Delegates Assembly for a vote. (School System Pilots and FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget)

### **Proposed Resolution on School System Pilots**

Whereas, The National PTA adopted a resolution in 1990 titled "The Commercial Exploitation of Students in School"; and

Whereas, The National PTA Executive Committee adopted in 1991 "National Principles for Corporate Involvement in the Schools"; and

Whereas, In February, 2008 Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department entered into a pilot program with BusRadio; and

Whereas, In December 2008, the Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department requested parent participation in a proposed workgroup to review BusRadio for possible expansion to all school buses in the county; and

Whereas, A pilot program of BusRadio was already in progress for approximately 10 months before parents were asked by the school system to participate in the workgroup; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Montgomery County Council of PTAs will not support any school pilot programs for students that omit parental input and feedback before any pilot programs begin, and be it

Resolved, that parental input and feedback gathered by MCPS will be done in languages spoken in school communities.

### **Background Materials and Resources**

Maryland PTA Legislative Platform 2008  
[http://www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_legislation.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_legislation.html)

Excerpt: Education-Will create school-business relationships based on sound educational principles, which will preserve the integrity of the learning environment making sure that programs meet an educational need and not a commercial motive. (N)

Maryland PTA opposes policies which sell or provide access to a captive classroom audience, or determine an instructional program or equipment based upon donations rather than what the school identifies as most beneficial to students. (N)

Excerpt: Parent and Family Involvement-Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

Includes parent/family involvement at all educational decision making levels. (N)  
Supports active involvement and participation of parent/families at all levels of advocacy pertaining to children and youth. (N)

Additional background materials:  
[http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/Resolution\\_on\\_School\\_System\\_Pilots.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/Resolution_on_School_System_Pilots.pdf)

**Proposed Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget  
From the MCCPTA CIP Committee**

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2008, the Montgomery County Board of Education approved a FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$200.7 million and an amended FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) request totaling \$1.3 billion;

WHEREAS, the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request assumes the availability of sufficient funding sources from the state and county budgets, including \$40 million in state school construction funding;

WHEREAS, in this fiscal environment, the availability of sufficient funding is subject to significant uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the projects planned in the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program would provide critical school additions, modernizations and other improvements to provide students with safe, secure and adequate learning facilities;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT the County and State should provide adequate funding to ensure that the FY 2010 Capital Budget appropriation request and the amended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program may proceed forward as planned;

THAT the State should provide school construction funding to the County in an amount at least equal to \$40 million;

THAT the County and the Board of Education should strive to reconcile any gap in available funding so as not to harm the educational opportunities provided to all students or to threaten the health, safety or welfare of students;

THAT in the event adequate funds are not available in FY 2010, MCCPTA supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that planned school additions and modernizations are not delayed; and

THAT MCCPTA further supports prioritizing available funds to ensure that the HVAC Replacement, Roof Replacement, Restroom Renovation, Building Modifications and Program Improvements and Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement county-wide projects may proceed without delay.

**Background Documents and Resources**

Cluster Coordinator’s Guide To Understanding the 2010 CIP  
[http://www.mccpta.com/CIP\\_committee/Guide\\_to\\_the\\_2010\\_CIP\\_Final.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/CIP_committee/Guide_to_the_2010_CIP_Final.pdf)

MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program Committee  
<http://www.mccpta.com/cip.html>

.....  
**(Vote for this resolution below to be taken at the February 24 Delegates Assembly)**

**This resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction will be introduced for Delegates to take back to their school communities to seek local PTA input. This resolution will be brought back at the February Delegates assembly for a vote on an organizational position for MCCPTA to take in advocacy related to gifted education.**

**Proposed Resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction from the  
MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee**

**Whereas:**

MCPS Strategic Plan states that “A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child.”

MCCPTA believes that, to ensure that right, every child should be appropriately challenged in accordance with his or her academic ability, motivation and interests.

MCCPTA passed a *Resolution on Mathematics* on April 24, 2001, a *Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Programs* on January 24, 2006, and a *Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools* on April 25, 2006.

The MCPS Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction is working on recommended changes to *Policy IOA: Gifted and Talented Education* for the MCPS Board of Education's consideration in 2009.

**Therefore be it Resolved:**

MCPS must identify students who need additional academic challenge beyond that which is provided to similar aged peers.

MCPS must continue to provide global screening for all students in grade 2 to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must provide additional screenings throughout elementary school, middle school and high school to identify students who need additional academic challenge.

MCPS must inform parents when their children need additional academic challenge and must inform parents how MCPS will ensure that those needs are met.

MCPS must provide students who need additional academic challenge with instruction that is accelerated and enriched.

MCPS must ensure that accelerated and enriched instruction is delivered consistently and with fidelity in every school across the county.

MCPS must ensure that students are given the opportunity to work in groups of students with similar academic abilities, motivation, and interests.

MCPS must provide curriculum resources and professional development to teachers and administrators to ensure that students are provided with accelerated and enriched instruction in accordance with research-based best practices.

MCPS must monitor the implementation and effectiveness of accelerated and enriched instruction by collecting, analyzing, monitoring and publishing key data measuring student participation and performance in grades K-12 in all core subject areas.

**Background Documents and Resources**

MCCPTA Resolution on Mathematics

Approved by the MCCPTA Executive Board on March 29, 2001 and Delegates Assembly on April 24, 2001

<http://mccpta.com/bulletins/MathResolution.html>

MCCPTA Resolution on Wider Use of the Methodologies Used in Magnet Program

Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates on January 24, 2006

<http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/magnetprograms012406.pdf>

MCCPTA Resolution on Gifted and Talented Curriculum in Middle Schools

Approved by the MCCPTA Delegates on April 25, 2006

<http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/gt042506.pdf>

MCPS Policy IOA - Gifted and Talented Education (Currently Under Review)

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioa.pdf>

MCPS Regulation- Gifted and Talented Education

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ioara.pdf>

**Kay Romero**

## MCCPTA Committee Reports

### MCCPTA Communications Committee Report

Committee Chair: Patti Twigg, [listservsmod@mccpta.com](mailto:listservsmod@mccpta.com)

#### 1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)

Lin-Lin Mao [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in December:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- Parent Involvement Committee
- MCCPTA Committees
- Curriculum Committee
- Legislation Committee
- Maryland PTA links
- Bluebook info updates
- MCCPTA officers
- Dues Voucher form
- Dues Info
- MCCPTA Workgroups
- MCCPTA Calendar

Other additions:

- Letter from Montgomery County BOE President Nancy Navarro to Senator Madaleno, Delegate Feldman and Members of the Montgomery County Delegation on November 18, 2008 meeting
- Presentation from The Montgomery County Board of Education and The Montgomery County Delegation Annual Meeting, November 18, 2008
- Presentation on Montgomery County Public Schools Demographic Trends and CIP Issues, October 14, 2008
- Presentation from Board of Education Work Session - Superintendent's Recommended FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amended FY2009–2014 CIP, November 6, 2008
- Montgomery County CyberSafety Initiative Slide Presentation
- CyberSafety Fact Sheet
- CyberSafety Brochure
- CyberSafety Parent Resource Sheet
- MCPS CyberSafety Website link
- November Committee Reports: Communications, Special Education, High School, Membership, Reflections, Safety, Cultural Arts
- June, August and November BOD minutes
- October DA minutes
- Letter to BOE President Nancy Navarro regarding Inauguration Day, December 1, 2008
- YMCA Youth & Family Services Parenting Schedule (English)
- YMCA Youth & Family Services Parenting Schedule (Spanish)
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on FY 2010 Operating Budget Revenue, November 26, 2008
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Economic Indicators Report, November 26, 2008
- MSDE Student Surveys website link
- Users/Non-Users Results

- 2007 Maryland Adolescent Survey - Montgomery County
- Montgomery County - Percent of Students Reporting Substance Use by Grade Level and Time Period
- PTA national magazine link
- Executive Committee minutes
- Memo from Larry Bowers to Principals regarding Additional Budget Expenditure Restrictions, December 4, 2008
- Memo from Larry Bowers to Executive Staff regarding Update on FY 2009 Operating Budget Expenditure Restrictions, December 3, 2008
- Edward Shirley Award Nomination Packet
- Summary, MCCPTA Meeting with MCPS Department of Safety and Security Leaders, December 5, 2008
- MCCPTA Safety Committee's webpage
- December MCCPTA Presidents Letter

Committee chairs, please look at your committee's website page and let the Website subcommittee know of any changes you would like to make. All MCCPTA standing committees website pages can be accessed from the following link: <http://mccpta.net/committees.html>.

Officers, please take a look at the other MCCPTA website pages and let us know if there is information that is no longer relevant or needs to be updated. The MCCPTA website is at <http://mccpta.net>.

**2) Listservs:**

Listservs Moderator: Patti Twigg [listservsmod@mccpta.com](mailto:listservsmod@mccpta.com)

As of December 28, 2008 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA Board	86	0
MCCPTA Bulletin	616	+3
MCCPTA Delegates	474	+4
MCCPTA Presidents	289	+1
MCCPTA Treasurers	218	0

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

**3) 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](mailto:office@mccpta.com) and/or [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com)).

**MCCPTA Safety Committee Report**

**Chair: Laurie Halverson**

**Visitor Management System:** On December 5, Laurie Halverson, Kay Romero and Merry Eisner visited Westland Middle School and met with Bob Hellmuth, Director of Safety and Security to learn about the new Visitor Management System and CCTV system. A report of the meeting can be found on the Safety Committee page of the MCCPTA website.

**Bullying:** Steve Zagami, Special Ed and Student Services Director was the guest speaker at our December committee meeting to help us understand the bullying policies at MCPS. Mandated by the Safe Schools and Reporting Act, MCPS has a form that can be completed to report a bullying incident. It is called the “[Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation](#)”

[Reporting Form #230-35.](#)” A student, parent, close relative or staff member can complete the form. MCPS only received about 65 to 70 forms last year. MCPS informs parents about the form through Quick Notes, TV programs on the MCPS cable channel on the program “Take Ten,” and through notification by Principals at the local schools (at Back to School Night or school newsletter.) The process of handling the bullying forms is directed by each principal who may delegate the role to another staff member, such as the school counselor. There is no set timeframe on completing the feedback form, called the [“Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Incident School Investigation Form #230-36.”](#) MCPS does not keep track of these forms on a school by school basis so schools are not rated in the number of bullying incidents that occur. MCPS Bullying policy currently has embedded language in several areas such as JFARA and HRA. Much of the language is included in the “Students Rights and Responsibilities.” New legislation passed last year requires all county school systems to have a separate policy for prevention of bullying. MSDE has already developed a model draft of the new policy and has submitted it to relevant MCPS personnel to review and provide feedback. Typically parents are involved in policy changes and it is likely parents will be included as a stakeholder in the development of the new policy.

There is a law that a report must be filed in the case of child abuse or neglect. However, there is no such requirement in completing the bullying form. If your child is being bullied, parents should be communicating with the principal and should expect the problem to become resolved. Questions to ask: What are you doing to make my child feel safer? What can I do at home to support that? All stakeholders should be aware. If the problem is not being resolved at the local school level, then parents can take it up the ladder to the community superintendent and the Director of the Office of School Performance, Steve Bedford. Parents can suggest goals for bullying prevention in the School Improvement Plan. Steve Zagami handles issues such as intervention strategies with bullying. Steve Bedford is responsible for accountability and policy issues related to bullying. All committee members agreed that most parents do not know about bullying forms and most principals are not communicating the availability of the forms. The Safety Committee is forming a subcommittee that will work with MCPS and MSDE to try to get a stakeholder place in the process of the development of this new policy and to communicate what parents perceive is working or not working currently.

**Safety and Security at a Glance** - This report has 6 sections that report information from various sources. It can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/regulatoryaccountability/SafetyGlance/> and is also on each school’s website along with the student and parent satisfaction surveys. While this is a comprehensive report from different sources, it does nothing to help separate bullying incidents from other incidents, plus these are “serious incidents” so minor bullying incidents are not reported on this report. The only way to gauge bullying incidents is through the bullying report which isn’t providing an accurate picture of the true number of bullying incidents if only 60-75 reports are completed county wide each year. It is notable that the questions about bullying and teasing (which for many schools show a clear problem) are not included on this report.

**Safety of School Buildings:** The Safety Committee will discuss and possibly vote on a proposed resolution about the safety of portables when they are moved from one location to another. As noted in previous reports, there were problems last summer when portables were moved to schools within MCPS.

### **MCCPTA Nominating Committee Report**

**Chair: Carol Salisbury**

At the end of December, a draft nominations announcement was sent to members of the MCCPTA Nominating Committee asking for comments with the deadline of Monday, January 5. We’re working on putting it in final right now so it can be posted on the website, listserv and distributed otherwise. Before February 1, 2009 the MCCPTA Nominating Committee will be meeting, and organizing and chairing their area meetings to form individual Area Nominating Committees to solicit nominations for Area Vice Presidents for 2009-2010. Also, before February 1, 2009, MCCPTA Nominating Committee members will be contacting Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators to ensure that each individual PT(S)A will have a meeting to nominate at least one, but no more than three Cluster Coordinators for 2009-2010. Nominations are due to the MCCPTA Nominating Committee by March 15, 2009.

### **MCCPTA DCC Committee Report**

**Chair: Sally Taber**

The Downcounty Consortium Committee, which is composed of the cluster coordinators from the 5 DCC clusters met on December 3 at Sligo Middle School with their Community Superintendents Heath Morrison and Frank Stetson. In addition, Marty Creel, Director of the Dept. of Enriched and Innovative Programs, and Jeannie Franklin, Director of the Consortia office, attended the meeting. Topics discussed included operating budget issues, although specifics could not be addressed as this was before the budget release. In addition, the group discussed the upcoming hearing before the County Council Education Committee on Dec. 8 on the recently released Council report on the DCC and the Northeast



Consortium. The link for the Council report is available at:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/olo/reports/pdf/2009-4.pdf>

### **MCCPTA Special Education Committee Report**

**Chair: Jeanne Taylor**

On December 1, 2008 we held a meeting for committee chairs and other interested parties. Judy Pattik and Gwen Mason, Directors of Special Education for MCPS, stopped by to introduce themselves to the group and briefly explain their departments. In addition, Rich Weinfeld and members of his consulting group came to speak about Best Practices for educating students who are Gifted/Talented & Learning Disabled (GTLTD), Best Practices for working with students who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Mentoring Programs. The meeting was very interesting and informative. We had a good turnout of approximately 28 people.

I was invited to speak on December 2, 2008 about Special Education in MCPS at the Fox Chapel ES PTA meeting. However, due to illness I had to cancel. Hopefully the meeting will be rescheduled. At a later date I still plan on sending out an article by E-mail about the difference between Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans. This project was delayed because of holiday commitments and other obligations.

The "Call for Nominations" mailings for the annual MCCPTA Special Education Awards ceremony will go out this week. This year the ceremony will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009. We are really encouraging electronic submissions. Please look for your mailing via e-mail. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009. We will show the Rick Lavoie video, "Last One Picked, First One Picked On" and hold a brief discussion afterward.

### **MCCPTA Cultural Arts Committee Report**

**Chair: Priscilla Peterson**

During December I was asked by Seda Gelenian, Producer and Coordinator of the annual Cultural Arts Showcases for MCPS, if I would please contact the members of our PTArts listserv to ask them an important question. We were offered the opportunity to hold one or more of our annual Showcase performance days next fall at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, rather than holding them all at the Carver Educational Center in Rockville as we usually do. The advantage would be to have the performances done in a real theater; the disadvantage of course is that it would be a much longer drive to get there for anyone coming from "down county." I got numerous responses, unanimous in agreement that we should continue to hold all performances at Carver, not at Black Rock. Very few people attending the Showcases come from the Germantown area; most come from areas south of or near to the Carver Educational Center.

A second question that was asked of the listserv members pertained to whether or not they would like to have a half hour lunch break added into the daily schedule for the Showcases, something that has not previously been done. Responses were equally divided on this, so Seda Gelenian is still considering the idea and will make an announcement about it prior to the Showcases next fall. I have continued to receive updated information from the MCPS Cultural Arts chairpersons about their budgets for this school year and will put out the results of the survey soon on the PTArts listserv. Anyone who would like to, may join the listserv by sending their name, school, and committee position to:  
[PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PTArts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### **MCCPTA Capital Improvements Program Committee Report**

**Chair: Steve Augustino**

December was an "in-between" month for CIP issues. After the Board of Education approved a Proposed CIP in November, it was submitted to the County Executive for review. The County Executive is scheduled to submit a proposed budget, including the school CIP, in January 2009 to the County Council.

At the December Board of Directors meeting, a discussion was held of the items that comprise the CIP budget. A number of questions were raised about specific line items, and I spent much of December attempting to research the issues further. I spoke with Robert Hellmuth, director of security for MCPS, regarding the installation of security cameras and access control systems. I also had further conversations with MCPS Division of Construction staff regarding the Tech Mod and HVAC line items. In addition, I researched further explanations of budget items provided

by MCPS to the County Council's Education Committee. The dates for Cluster testimony before the County Council have not been determined at this time. It appears more likely that the Council will receive testimony in April this year.

## **MCCPTA Reflections Committee Report**

**Chair: Melissa A. McDonald**

The deadline for submission to MCCPTA is January 5, 2009, which I had extended by three days from the MDPTA council deadline of January 2, 2009. The deadline for submission to state is January 23, 2009. Fewer schools participated this year – 33 to last year's 39. This year's break down by age division: 19 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 8 high schools. Total entries submitted to county totaled 314.

I am in the process of sorting and logging in the entries. I hope to have them delivered to the judges by next Monday. A list of the MCCPTA winning entries will be sent to the local chairpersons the week following January 23, 2009. Most correspondence between the local chairs and me is via the Yahoo! Group listserv, or via e-mail. Therefore, a "cyberspace" committee meeting will be scheduled to start planning for the county awards ceremony.

MCCPTA Reflections Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

## **MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee Report**

**Chair: Susan J. Thomas**

### Upcoming Meeting

The next MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee (GCC) informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 7:30—9:00 PM at Gaithersburg High School (cafeteria). The topic is mathematics (acceleration, differentiation strategies, and pathways.) MCPS staff will present information and data and will be available for questions. The meeting will be open to the public. Before the meeting, the GCC Chair will be soliciting questions, concerns, and suggestions from PTA members about the ongoing MCPS math acceleration.

### Revision of MCPS Policy IOA

The current MCPS Policy IOA, Gifted and Talented Education, was adopted in 1978 and amended in 1986 and 1995. In preparation for revision of that policy by the Board of Education in 2009, MCCPTA has had two representatives on the MCPS Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) Advisory Committee. That committee confers with AEI staff, providing feedback and guidance about MCPS policies and plans involving gifted and talented students and programs and suggested revisions of Policy IOA. MCCPTA's current representatives serving on the AEI Advisory Committee are Susan Joyce Thomas and Ted Willard. The next AEI Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2008.

*The representatives to the AEI Advisory Committee have drafted a resolution that we anticipate will be presented to the MCCPTA Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2008. Following that meeting, information about that resolution will be discussed with PTA GT Liaisons and other PTA members prior to a vote.*

## **Legislative Committee Report**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Operating Budget Forum on Monday night. It was a great meeting and Pam did an incredible job of putting together a powerful panel. I would like to Thank you Pam for all of your hard work. What a wonderful thing to have everyone in a room at the same time. For those of you who happened to miss the meeting, please try to get a chance to watch the reply on TV. I think that I speak for everyone there when I say that I am very excited by the energy brought forth by the meeting and am looking forward to working together in our efforts to support Montgomery County in Annapolis.

Where things stand for right now – I have a copy of the agenda for session, and what I would like to do is plan a large group showing in the very beginning of things, January 16th or so, and then a large showing before the end or before any final budget divisions would be made. I will begin working on putting those dates together this week and next Monday night. For the in between, I would like to organize a group of people from a different cluster to trip down to Annapolis each week. This will remind everyone that the large numbers of people they saw in the beginning is not

going away. That being said, I would like some guidance on a few issues... I need to know how everyone would like me to go about assigning weeks for the Clusters. Should I meet with the Cluster Coordinators or just assign them all a week and let them know which they have? I have spoken to several people who have agreed to work with me on getting things together and I am planning on meeting with a few of them this week. I am also planning to hold a committee meeting next Monday night, and am hopeful to have a large showing for that, and I would like to encourage every Cluster Coordinator make sure that their schools get the word out. It is important that we have a very strong showing on the first trip to Annapolis if we want to drive in our point. Another area of question... Some people have asked about what we are going to do there- I would like to see about setting up appt.'s with people while we are in Annapolis? Who would everyone like to meet with and are there any special arrangements that you would all like me to make? I am going to try to set up a meeting if possible with the governor. Please feel free to email me any feedback that you might have.

Rebecca Smondrowski, MCCPTA VP Legislation  
[vplegislation@mccpta.com](mailto:vplegislation@mccpta.com)

## **National PTA News and Future Dates of Interest**

### **2009 National Legislative Conference**

#### **Washington DC**

#### **March 11-12, 2009**

On March 11-12, 2009, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington DC. The two-day Conference will inspire and educate its attendees; whether they are seasoned veterans or new to federal and state advocacy, PTA has workshops and guest speakers planned for them to learn. Registration is open to any PTA member who wants to get involved, so start planning now! Registration for the 2009 National Legislative Conference (which includes Wednesday breakfast, lunch and breaks, Thursday lunch and conference materials) will be \$250 per person.

[Register Now!](#)

[http://www.pta.org/national\\_legislative\\_conference.asp](http://www.pta.org/national_legislative_conference.asp)

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### **Partner Programs: African American Read-In**

In an effort to engage students and families in culturally diverse programs, PTA promotes the African American Read-In. Schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in their communities.

#### **Third Party Resources-The 20th National African American Read-In**

[http://www.pta.org/african\\_american\\_read\\_in.asp](http://www.pta.org/african_american_read_in.asp)

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### **2009 PTA National Convention**

#### **113th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition**

Friday, June 26–Monday, June 29, 2009

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Registration and hotel information will be available March 2009. For more information to help you plan, please email [nptameetings@pta.org](mailto:nptameetings@pta.org).

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### **PTA Family Expo**

PTA Family Expo! Is a one-day extravaganza providing moms, dads, caregivers, and kids amazing opportunities for fun, education, and tools to help families in today's modern world.. The first Family Expo will be Saturday, June 27, 2009, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. <http://www.pta.org/2534.asp>

# Volunteers!

No, we're not looking for someone to do the work (for once) we're looking to recognize them for a job well done!

The Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE) is looking to honor the Volunteer of the Year at its annual

*Champions for Children Gala  
Many Cultures No Boundaries  
Creating a World of Difference  
April 21, 2009  
6 pm – 9 pm  
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center*

This award, which comes with a prize of \$1,000, may be awarded to either an individual or to a local PTA or PTA program.

We are looking for programs that are succeeding in

- 1) empowering parents: building competence and confidence in parents' ability to advocate for the needs of their children;
- 2) bringing parents into the life of the school; and/or
- 3) making a positive difference in the lives of Montgomery County children.

In keeping with this year's theme for the gala, we are especially interested in programs that are proving effective in bridging cultural and/or language differences in our school communities.

Letters of nomination should include:

- 1) a description of the program and/or volunteer activities;
- 2) how the program and/or volunteer activities meet one or more of the three (3) criteria outlined above (empowering parents, connecting parents with schools, make a positive difference for children);and
- 3) any supporting materials documenting the programs/ events/ activities, such as public outreach announcements, flyers, or photographs.

Nominations accepted through February 28, 2009  
(by mail to)

MCCPTA  
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204,  
Rockville, MD 20850  
by fax to 301/ 208-2003;  
by e-mail to [vpprograms@mccpta.com](mailto:vpprograms@mccpta.com)

Questions? Call Karen Smith at 240/338-0180, or email [vpprograms@mccpta.com](mailto:vpprograms@mccpta.com)

**MCCPTA**

**Presidents and Principals Dinner**

**Save the Date!**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6 pm**

**Marriott Bethesda North Hotel & Conference Center**

**When you return from Spring Break, be  
on the lookout for your invitation!!**

**Principals are guests of their PTAs**

**MCCPTA still seeking sponsors for this event**

**If you have any questions you may call the MCCPTA  
Office at 301-208-0111**

**Or**

**Contact Sharon St.Pierre  
Chair of the Presidents and Principals Dinner  
at [stpierre619@verizon.net](mailto:stpierre619@verizon.net)**



## **PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

The purpose of this award, to be given annually by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, is to recognize programs formed by local PTA/PTSA chapters, local schools and local businesses or community groups which demonstrate outstanding support for the education of Montgomery County children.

You and your local PTA/PTSA are invited to nominate any business, community group, or individual not directly associated with your local PTA/PTSA who has worked with you and your school to support the education of Montgomery county children. Examples of projects which may be nominated include (but are not limited to): tutoring programs between members of a business and students supported by the PTA/PTSA; school landscaping or environmental projects in which students, parents, and business or community members took part or which were funded by a business or community organization; drug-free school or after prom or homecoming activities organized by the PTA/PTSA where a business or community group provided substantial support. Programs may be ongoing (such as tutoring) or single-event (such as a special event or school assembly in which a community or business were important contributors).

To be eligible, nominees must be involved in programs or activities that have taken place or will occur during the 2008-2009 school year.

The award winner(s) will be a guest of MCCPTA at the Presidents/Principals Dinner on May 27, 2009. They will be recognized along with the nominating PTA/PTSA and the school, and a description of the program/event will be included in the Presidents/Principals program. In addition to the recognition at the dinner, the winner(s) will receive a commemorative plaque from MCCPTA.

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### PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

#### NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of Partner \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of specific services provided for the 2008-09 school year (no more than one page back and front, please)

#### NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact's PTA/PTSA \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by *Friday, April 3, 2009* to the MCCPTA office at  
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

For additional information, please contact Sharon St. Pierre at [stpierre619@verizon.net](mailto:stpierre619@verizon.net)



## MARYLAND LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2008-2009

This award is given to members who have shown themselves to be strong advocates for our children within the school system. We honor their commitment and dedication by presenting them with a certificate and pin that officially makes them lifetime members of the Maryland state PTA.

### GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATING INDIVIDUALS

The following guidelines and information when choosing recipients of the Maryland Life Membership Award presented by MCCPTA at our annual Presidents and Principals Dinner:

Nominees may be a parent, teacher, student, administrator, supporting staff or community member whose efforts are tied to the mission and objects of the PTA

Nominees' efforts should demonstrate cluster and countywide benefits to children and families  
Individuals' depth, breadth, and length of service to PTA

The winner of this award will be a guest of MCCPTA at our Presidents and Principals Dinner on May 27, 2009. The nominator will be asked to present the award to the nominee, briefly describing their accomplishments and and their role in the betterment of children and/or families. Nominators of award winners will be asked to provide a photo of the recipient that will be included in the Presidents and Principals dinner program.

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### MCCPTA MARYLAND LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

#### NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's PTA/PTSA \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a description of services, including depth, breadth and length of service.

#### NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Name of contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact's PTA/PTSA \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by Friday April 3, 2009, to the MCCPTA office at:  
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204, Rockville, MD 20850  
For more information please contact Sharon St.Pierre at [stpierre619@verizon.net](mailto:stpierre619@verizon.net)

# 2008-2009 MCCPTA Special Needs Recognition Ceremony

**May 4, 2009**

**The Event** Each year the MCCPTA - Special Education Committee holds a recognition ceremony in the spring to honor educators, programs, parents, and students who have contributed to the acceptance and success of students with special needs in MCPS during the school year. At this ceremony which will be held May 4, 2009, guests include, families, community members, MCCPTA leadership, MCPS administrators, Members of the Board of Education and the County Council, etc.

**The Purpose** This ceremony is an important way for the special needs community to say thank you to those who through instinct, creativity, empathy, patience, and determination, help our children enjoy success. It is also a way to acknowledge the benefits of investing in programs for students with special needs.

**Request for Nominations** - The MCCPTA - Special Education Committee is soliciting nominations of educators, programs, parents, and students for recognition at this year's ceremony.

**The Process** Any parent, administrator, educator, or student can submit nominations. Materials submitted will not be returned to the sender.

**We will begin accepting nominations in January 2009. All nominations must be received no later than Saturday, February 28, 2009.**

**Online nominations can now be submitted using the [online nomination form](#) or by email attachment to Jeanne Taylor, Chair @ [frtjmt@yahoo.com](mailto:frtjmt@yahoo.com). Nominations through the online form or email are strongly encouraged.**

Alternatively, nominations, including a completed nomination form, a nominating statement along with supporting statements can be forwarded to the MCCPTA office at:

**MCCPTA  
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204  
Rockville, MD 20850**

**(301) 208-0111 – VOICE  
(301) 208-2003 – FAX**

Please note on mailings Special Education Recognition Nominations or Nominations.

A [printable nomination form](#) is available to print and mail your nomination(s),

For additional information or forms contact

**Jeanne Taylor, Chair @ [frtjmt@yahoo.com](mailto:frtjmt@yahoo.com)**





## **Criteria for Special Education Recognition**

Each nomination should reflect at least one of the criteria listed below for the relevant category. Educators, Programs, Parents and Students:

Supporting statements from Students, Parents, Administrators and / or other Educators should be included!

### **Educators:**

Any educator who has provided consistently outstanding services to advance the success of students with special needs in at least one of the following ways:

1. Providing school leadership in developing or carrying out instructional or social practices to promote achievement and participation of students of special needs. (e.g. organizing an Appreciating Individual Uniqueness Week)
2. Demonstration of teaching practices in the classroom. (special education or regular education) which enable achievement and participation of students with special needs (e.g. classroom organization, differentiated instruction, instructional accommodation, appropriate test medications, peer helping strategies, social skills development, management of behavior)

### **Programs:**

A school based program that has demonstrated outstanding results in promoting success of students with special needs through the cooperative efforts of school administration, regular staff, special education staff, parents and students.

### **Parents:**

A Special Education Chairperson or other parent who has made an outstanding contribution to school and or community program to benefit students with needs in one or more of the following ways:

1. Dissemination of valuable information to staff and parents
2. Planning and conducting staff or parent training programs
3. Providing support to school programs by organizing volunteers or providing direct in-school assistance
4. Providing support to parents through participation in group meetings, PTA functions or IEP conferences

### **Students:**

Any Student who has made an outstanding contribution to school objectives, programs, or activities in one or more of the following ways:

1. Actively participating in school programs that increase peer acceptance and support of individual differences
2. Providing direct assistance, friendship, and encouragement to students with special needs
3. Demonstrating leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging, and cooperation among the student body

***PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

**MCCPTA  
2096 Gaither Road  
Suite 204  
Delegates  
Rockville, MD 20850**

**PONY MAIL to PTA  
Presidents to be shared  
with School PTA  
and PTA members**

**January 2009**

**MCCPTA Calendar 2008-2009**

**Unless otherwise specified all meetings take place at the  
Carver Educational Services Center (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850).**

**Upcoming Calendar Items:**

**January**

- 21 **MCPS BOE Operating Budget Hearing 7:00pm**
- 27 **MCCPTA Program Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours 7:00pm – 7:30pm**
- 27 **MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm – 10:00pm;**

**February**

- 2 **MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm**
- 5 **MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm**
- 9 **MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm**
- 12 **BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)**
- 18 **MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00p**
- 24 **MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 6:30pm – 10:00pm**
- 25 **BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30 pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)**