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It is hard to believe that we are already into mid-February as the school year keeps rolling along.....

Our next Delegates Assembly will be February 24th. - Before the business meeting, there will be a program presentation related to special education. That presentation will be from 6:30PM until 7:30PM. Speakers: Gwen Mason, Director of Special Education Services for MCPS and Dr. Susan Hammond. Dr. Hammond is a licensed clinical psychologist with William R. Stixrud, Ph.D. and Associates. She has extensive experience working with children and adolescents with learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and emotional and behavioral difficulties. She specializes in the evaluation of young children, children with emotional disabilities and gifted youngsters. *Included in the program will be a Q&A session.*

The Delegates Assembly business meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM. As a reminder, the November Delegates Assembly draft minutes were included in the December Presidents Newsletter for your review. Delegates, also please review the items below that were included in the January President's Newsletter, on MCCPTA website and posted to the MCCPTA Bulletin Listserv.

**Proposed Resolution on School System Pilots
(To be Voted on in February)**

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.

Proposed Resolution on the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget From the MCCPTA CIP Committee (To be Voted on in February)

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.

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

(Vote for this resolution below to be taken at the March 24 Delegates Assembly)

This resolution on Accelerated and Enriched Instruction will be introduced for Delegates at the February 24th Delegates Assembly to take back to their school communities to seek local PTA input. This resolution will be brought back to the March 24th Delegates Assembly for a vote on an organizational position for MCCPTA to take in advocacy related to gifted education.

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.

Budget Advocacy Is Still in Full Swing- MCCPTA, local PTAs and school communities are still publicly advocating for full funding of both the Capital Improvement Budget and the Operating Budget. Many have given public testimonies, as well as submitted written testimonies to the Board of Education and to the County Council. We are also making our presence know in Annapolis. We are working as an organization to assure needed funding dollars come back to Montgomery County. Our children and schools are worth every penny! If you are interested in helping to advocate, please contact Rebecca Smondrowski, MCCPTA VP for Legislation. MCCPTA and Cluster Testimonies on both recommended budgets are located on our MCCPTA website: <http://www.mccpta.com/pressReleases.html>

Capital Improvement Program Budget Timeline

February–May 2009 -County Council reviews requested Amended FY 2009–2014 CIP

Mid-February 2009 -Superintendent releases recommendations on winter boundary studies and CIP recommendations for deferred items (if any)

February 23, 2009 -Board of Education facilities work session for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)

March 4, 2009 -Public hearing on superintendent’s recommendations for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)

March 10, 2009 -Board of Education action on winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any) for the Amended FY 2009–2014 CIP

Early-May 2009* -Board of Public Works decisions on FY 2010 State CIP

May 31, 2009* -County Council approves the Amended FY 2009–2014 CIP and the FY 2010 Capital Budget

*Estimated date

Operating Budget Timeline

Board of Education adopted the recommended operating budget on February 9

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

Kay Romero

MCCPTA Committee Reports

MCCPTA Training Committee Report

Chair: DeBora King

The Training Committee is in the process of preparing for the MCCPTA Spring Training scheduled for June 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Blake High School. Soon we will submit requests for the website and listservs. We are in the process of recruiting our trainers, and Pam is preparing the training materials. I'm currently seeking volunteers for registration, food, and logistics. If you are interested in joining the Training Committee please give me a call at (301) 879-9511 or e-mail me at dkndc@msn.com

MCCPTA Cultural Arts Committee Report

Chair: Priscilla Peterson

On January 11th, I sent out on the PTArts listserv the Cultural Arts Budget Survey for the 2008-09 school year. This year I have received responses from 58 schools in the county after putting out a request for updated budget information. Of these 58 schools, 21 have had an increase in their Cultural Arts budgets over last year, 20 schools had a decrease, and 17 schools' budgets remained the same. I indicated on the list whether the information given for each school is current or from a previous year.

I have also used the PTArts listserv recently to put out information about an upcoming Artist-Teacher conference being given by the Maryland State Arts Council at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City, on February 25th. This will be a good opportunity for all our county schools' Cultural Arts chairpersons to meet and discuss residency programs with teaching artists in four disciplines: performing arts, visual arts, poetry, and playwriting. Christine Stewart, the Arts in Education Program Director, will be reviewing residency requirements for each discipline, and giving two sessions on how to fill out the eGRANT online Arts in Education application.

MCCPTA President's & Principal's Dinner Committee Report

Chair: Sharon St. Pierre

The planning of the Presidents and Principals Dinner is coming along well. We have our masters of ceremonies for the event - Shirley Brandman (President of the BOE) and Leon Harris (Channel 7 News Anchor). Our entertainment includes the Walter Johnson Jazz Combo for the reception hour and Sherwood's Rock and Roll Revival for the dinner program entertainment. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at the North Bethesda Marriot from 6 - 9 PM. Invitations should be mailed out after Spring Break.

We are still looking for company/organization sponsors to help finance our dinner. It is a great opportunity to help out the MCCPTA and enjoy the benefits of name recognition among our members and guests at the dinner (which is expected to be over 400 people). The deadline for submission is February 27th. If interested or wish to find out more information, please contact Sharon St.Pierre at stpierre619@verizon.net. Thank you.

MCCPTA Health Committee Report

Chair: Susan Young

Update on MCPS School Wellness Committee

The MCPS Wellness Policy Work Group, in cooperation with the Office of Shared Accountability, has developed a comprehensive survey to determine the number and types of health- and wellness-related activities currently taking place in our schools. There will be separate surveys for principals, teachers, and PTA leaders. The surveys will form the basis for the development of a "toolkit" of strategies for promoting wellness in our schools. The surveys will be administered at the February MCCPTA Board of Director's meeting and at the February Delegates Assembly. (It was scheduled for the January 28 DA, but the snow forced cancellation of that meeting.)

Citizen's Advisory Committee of Family Life and Human Development Curriculum

This committee reviews instructional materials proposed for the MCPS Family Life and Human Development Program. The committee met on January 21 and recommended approval of two resources that will be available to health teachers

for use in the classroom during units on family life and human development. The next meeting will be held on February 11.

To join the MCCPTA Health Committee list serve, contact Susan Young at susan@youngspa.com.

MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program Committee Report

Chair: Steve Augustino

1. Budget update. On January 15, County Executive Ike Leggett proposed his CIP budget for the county. Leggett's budget funds the Board of Education's entire proposed CIP request except for a new \$500,000 water compliance item. All school projects and all countywide projects would proceed on schedule under Leggett's proposed budget. The County Executive warned that he may be forced to revisit the recommendations after the state legislative session if the county does not receive the funding expected.

On January 21, Governor O'Malley proposed his budget for the state. The budget includes \$260.3 million for school construction aid. Unless Montgomery County receives a larger percentage of these funds than in years past, it is likely that the county will receive less than the \$40 million assumed in the Recommended CIP.

2. CIP Resolution. After receiving Board input at the January BOD meeting, the Committee presented a resolution to the Delegates regarding CIP funding. This resolution is scheduled for consideration at the February Delegates Assembly.

3. Restroom Assessments. In January, Kay Romero and I met with Joe Lavorgna and his staff to discuss the process for conducting the next round of restroom renovations. In the next full CIP (FY 2011-16), MCPS plans to assess 102 schools and propose a schedule for completing renovations at these schools. We discussed both the criteria used for evaluating restrooms and the process for receiving public input on the restroom renovation project. I have posted on the Board listserv seeking additional guidance from Board members on how to proceed.

4. FACT Assessments (Modernizations). At the January meeting with Joe Lavorgna and his staff, we also discussed the process for assessing additional schools for modernization. MCPS stated that they did not anticipate the need to include additional schools on the modernization list until the FY 2013-18 CIP, which will be three budget cycles from now. We discussed ways to evaluate the criteria used to assess schools before any further schools are evaluated. MCPS expressed its desire to assemble a group of stakeholders, which will include MCCPTA, to consider the FACT criteria.

5. Looking Ahead. 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 Communications Committee Report

Chair: Patti Twigg, listservmod@mccpta.com

1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall webmaster@mccpta.com

Lin-Lin Mao webmaster@mccpta.com

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in January:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- MCCPTA Calendar
- Operating Budget Committee
- Bylaws Committee

- Grading and Reporting Committee
- Special Education Committee
- Capital Improvement Program Committee
- Resolutions
- Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence
- Archived MCCPTA President's Letters & Committee Reports
- Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators

Other additions:

- Online nomination form for MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Awards
- Nomination form for MCCPTA Partners for Education Award
- Nomination form for Maryland Life Membership Award
- Updated Spotlight on homepage
- Thank you letter from MCCPTA President Kay Romero to all our PTA advocates for their testimonies at the MCPS Board of Education Budget Hearings on January 14 and January 21
- Letter to Governor O'Malley from MCCPTA requesting a meeting
- MCCPTA and cluster testimonies before the BOE on the FY 2010 Operating Budget for Montgomery County Public Schools
- FY 2010 Budget Questions and Answers (1 – 18)
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Letter from Gov. O'Malley's Chief of Staff on Reimbursing MCPS due to budget error
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on Course-related Fees
- MCPS Powerpoint Presentation on Course-related Fees
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on County Executive Economic Stimulus Program
- Memo from Superintendent Jerry Weast to Members of BOE on FY 2010 Operating Budget: State Aid
- Cluster Coordinator's Guide to Understanding the 2010 CIP
- Agenda for the SSL presentation for the January 27 DA
- Information on accessing SBRC Survey created by Grading and Reporting committee
- Committee reports: Capital Improvement Program, Communications, Cultural Arts, Downcounty Consortium, Gifted Child, Legislative, Nominating, Reflections, Safety, Special Education
- January MCCPTA Presidents Letter
- Montgomery County is Not Eliminating Gifted Programs - Questions and Answers, MCPS Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, 12/23/08

Updated committee chair and cluster coordinator listings and email addresses.

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:

Listsers Moderator:

Patti Twigg listsersmod@mccpta.com

As of January 31, 2009 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
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MCCPTA Board	86	0
MCCPTA Bulletin	616	0
MCCPTA Delegates	476	+2
MCCPTA Presidents	289	0
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.

Assistance was given to committee chairs regarding notices and other listserv issues.

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 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!

MCCPTA Safety Committee Report

Chair: Laurie Halverson

If you are interested in being on the Safety Committee, please email Laurie Halverson at LSH2727@verizon.net. All schools are encouraged to have a Safety Committee Chair and be involved in the MCCPTA Safety Committee. You will be added to the email list and we will keep you informed on all Safety issues throughout the county.

Safety of Portables- The Safety Committee will discuss a proposed resolution on the safety of portables at their February meeting. By this time, we should have an updated schedule of all MCPS portables, their inspection ratings and information about new portables planned for purchase in the upcoming school year. The Safety Committee will prepare a guide for PTAs on what to look for and how to stay on top of issues that may occur with portables and will add it to the Safety Committee webpage before the end of the school year.

Safety and Security at a Glance- This report was released on the MCPS website a few months ago. It 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.

Visitor Management System- If you would like to share how the new visitor management system is working at your school, please email Laurie Halverson at LSH2727@verizon.net. The Safety Committee is interested on how this new technology is being implemented at the various schools that have had systems installed this year.

Bullying Prevention: We are hoping to get a subcommittee started this month to communicate with MCPS and MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) to get involved in the implementation of the new bullying prevention guidelines after the passage of legislation last year at the state level.

Underage Drinking Law change: An adult found guilty of obtaining or furnishing alcohol to youth under the age of 21 will receive a fine, and that fine has been increased to \$2,500 for the first offense (up from \$1,000) and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense (up from \$1,500.)

MCCPTA Special Education Committee Report

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

The "Call for Nominations" went out for our annual Special Education Awards ceremony. Electronic submissions have been coming in and we are excited about the reduction of paper. This year the ceremony will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009. Once again it will take place in the evening, and be held in the Rockville High School auditorium. We are working on entertainment for the opening ceremony and it looks like we have a band of young musicians lined up. We will be using the Rock Terrace Bistro for our catering needs. The food order will be placed shortly.

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. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Carver Cafeteria.

This week one of our more active Chairs at the ES level resigned because of a family commitment. I will touch base with the appropriate folks to see if the local PTA has another volunteer for the position.

MCCPTA Reflections Committee Report

Chair: Melissa McDonald

Please see attached list of winners. Note that Award of Excellence winners move forward to the state level competition, but Award of Merit winners do not. A total of 33 local PTAs participated in the Reflections art program, and 726 entries were submitted at the local level. The breakdown per category was as follows:

Literature: 228

Musical Composition: 16

Photography: 178

Visual Arts: 278

Dance Choreography: 6

Film Production: 10

The award ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

MCCPTA Operating Budget Committee Report

Chair: Pam Moomau

The Operating Budget Committee hosted the Operating Budget Forum on January 5th, and an Operating Budget Workshop with cluster coordinators on January 12, where we developed the theme "hold the line" on further budget cuts. Operating budget testimony before the Board of Education is complete. MCPS has provided answers to 18 questions that were asked by BOE members at these hearings. They are posted to the MCCPTA website, under Operating Budget Committee.

http://www.mccpta.com/opBudg_dir/FY2010_OpBudg_QA.pdf

While some answers lack specificity, there is some interesting information about where certain categories of position cuts can be expected to occur.

The next advocacy step will be reminding our State delegation that we are following the budget process in Annapolis, and expect them to advocate strongly for school funding.

The Governor's proposed budget holds promise for local school funding. It includes continuing state funding of teacher pensions and continued phase-in of funding the GCEI. In addition, it corrects an error in the calculation of the wealth-based Thornton formula for Montgomery County. Offsetting this good news is a reduction in cost-sharing for non-public placements from a state share of 80 percent to a state share of 50 percent. The net result of these and a couple smaller adjustments is that expected revenues for MCPS based on the Governors budget are approximately \$23 million more than MCPS had projected when preparing the Superintendent's recommended budget. Current plans for those additional funds are to restore funding of various required reserve funds, including pensions and health benefits, that the originally recommended budget had failed to provide. Since it is poor budget process to neglect these reserves to begin with, and the likelihood of more funds being available to catch up next year is small, this is probably a good use of these funds.

The error in Thornton funding to Montgomery County for the current fiscal year (2009) was \$24.5 million. We have heard various estimates of when we can expect to see that money. The most recent information is that it will be sent in April, 2009. However, partially offsetting that \$24.5 million increase is a reduction in the GCEI payment for fiscal year 2009. Thus, MCPS expects a net \$15 million more for the FY2009 budget than had been anticipated at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The County Council postponed its meeting on Spending Affordability Guidelines until February 9. Based on public comments as well as comments at our MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum, we do not expect the County Council to exceed the guidelines. Since the projected County operating budget is still in deficit, we can expect further budget struggles at the County level.

MCCPTA Nominating Committee Report

Chair: Carol Salisbury

The 2009 Announcement of Solicitation for MCCPTA Leadership Nominations is posted on the MCCPTA website (mccpta.net/nominatingForm.pdf). The announcement will be published and distributed to all the locals via listserv and on the MCCPTA website.

Members of the MCCPTA Nominating Committee have worked very hard to contact and convene and chair their Area Nominating Committee meetings as required by MCCPTA Bylaws before February 1, 2009. This deadline was met. During the next few weeks, the Area Nominating Committees will be working to fill any vacancies for Area Vice Presidents.

To begin the process of filling Cluster Coordinator vacancies, Cluster Nominating Committees will publish an announcement to solicit nominations on their school's listserv and website. Each Area Nominating Committee is responsible to hold a meeting at which each PTA in the cluster will be represented by its president, or their alternates, for the purpose of nominating at least one (1) and no more than three (3) Cluster Coordinators. A current Cluster Coordinator will submit the name(s) to the MCCPTA Nominating Committee by March 15, 2009. At the MCCPTA Annual Meeting on April 28, 2009, additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the MCCPTA voting body from that cluster if the candidate's permission has been given prior to their nomination. Cluster coordinators shall be elected by ballot separately by MCCPTA delegates who are members of the local units within the area the Cluster Coordinator represents.

Please review the following list taken from the December 2008 Bylaws Committee Report which is available on the MCCPTA webpage (www.mccpta.com/bylaws_dir/bylawsCommitteeReportDec08.pdf):

- MCCPTA Nominating Committee election timeline
- When to elect the MCCPTA Nominating Committee (allow summer to meet potential candidates), first meeting within two weeks of election
- Replace member if they move or are no longer in PTA
- Question about removing Executive Committee position: VP for Legislative (conflicts with committee?)

The timeline for upcoming MCCPTA Nominating Committee actions are:

FEBRUARY 1 through MARCH 15, 2009 MCCPTA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations, contacting potential nominees, requesting and reviewing candidate qualifications.

MARCH 15, 2009 - Area Nominating Committees and Cluster Nominating Committees submit nominations for Area VP and Cluster rep(s) to MCCPTA Nominating Committee.

MARCH 28, 2009 - MCCPTA Nominating Committee submits (publishes via listserv) nominee's names and qualifications for Area VPs, Cluster Coordinators, and MCCPTA officers to locals, delegates and MCCPTA Board of Directors.

APRIL 28, 2009 - Annual Elections are held. Nominations can be made from the floor if the candidate's permission has been given prior to nomination

I appreciate your time and attention to the above timelines and consideration of the items under review as described above.

Legislative Committee Report

Chair: Rebecca Smondrowski

The Legislative committee has been working on several action items this month:

- 1) We have begun planning to coordinate groups of Clusters to visit Annapolis throughout February and March. We will be relying on Cluster Coordinators (as well as the Area VP's) to work with us together as a group in an effort to maximize participation and to oversee the preparation of their group's trips. Ideally, we would like to make sure that there are several people from each of the Clusters going each time, so that every delegate's constituents are represented at some point during session. If you do not think that your Cluster can attend on your assigned date, please let me know and we will work with you to switch dates so we don't mess up the intentional mix of geographic areas that are scheduled to attend as follows:

Group 1 - Date for Representation: Feb 11th, 2009

Winston Churchill
Northwest
Clarksburg
Watkins Mill
Bethesda-Chevy Chase

Group 2 - Date for Representation: Feb 25th, 2009

Richard Montgomery
Poolesville
Damascus
Northeast Consortium
Walter Johnson

Group 3 - Date for Representation: Mar 11th, 2009

Rockville
Quince Orchard
Gaithersburg
Sherwood
Wheaton

Group 4 - Date for Representation: Feb 25th, 2009

Thomas S Wootton
Seneca Valley
Magruder
DownCounty Consortium
Walt Whitman

Car pools would target a 10:00 am departure time with arrival at 11:00 am. Multicolored Flyers (based on Clusters and dates of visits) are going to be put together highlighting a few target points, items of support, and/or areas of concern based on the Clusters they will be coming from. Clusters are encouraged to raise issues important and specific to their clusters. MCCPTA organization positions are also encouraged to be promoted.

We will be contacting our Legislators and making them aware that we are coming. This will be a great opportunity to tour the State House, meet with members of the Montgomery County Delegation, and remind everyone that we are here. We strongly encourage participation in this exercise so that we can let our Delegation know that not only are we paying attention this session, but that we are all working together.

I am also working on putting together a separate formal 'Meet and Greet' evening event that we are hopeful will be a strong showing of strength for Montgomery County. This will be another chance for people to come to Annapolis and have a chance to bend a few ears. Further details of this event (including the date) will follow as soon as they are confirmed.

- 2) The last couple of weeks, we have begun contacting the Montgomery County Delegation to specifically determine and discuss any bills they are working on, or are aware of, that the MCCPTA should be paying close attention to. We will continue these efforts though-out the remainder of session, as well as closely monitor any new Bills as they are introduced.

- 3) Currently, we are following both National PTA interest as well as working with MDPTA in an effort to update MCCPTA as to which legislation they are watching, supporting, and opposing. We are also working with several parents as well as Committee Chairs trying to pull together as much information as possible about Bills that they have

brought to our attention. If anyone comes across any legislation that they would like for us to look into or follow, please just let me know.

4) On Wednesday, January 28th, SB 15 (School Construction—Pedestrian Bicycle Trail Enhancements—Funding) will be heard. Given concerns about where the funding for the Bill's supporting projects would specifically come from, MDPTA will be submitting testimony in support of this bill but with a request for potential amendments to be added.

These are busy times, and things are moving fast.

OPERATING BUDGET:

**Pam Moomau and The Operating Budget Committee worked an endless number of hours putting together several powerful events. Community forums, Operating Budget workshops, and two FULL sessions of Testimony Hearings are not small parties to plan! THANK YOU PAM for all of the time, effort, and energy that you gave in making those events work for us. I also want to thank Kay Romero and Liz Wheeler, for all of their work as well as everyone who testified and showed up for support! The strongest statement we can make comes just from being there.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

**Steve Augustino has been continuing his efforts to advocate for the CIP and will be presenting us with an Amendment to vote on tonight. I think I speak for all of us when I say that any other county would be hard pressed to find someone who can put together a Cluster Coordinator's Guide To Understanding the 2010 CIP manual better than Steve can! Thank you Steve!

MCCPTA Membership Committee Report April Keyes, Chair

The Membership Committee met on January 7, 2008. We had seven committee chairs in attendance. We discussed the success of our Membership Drive this school year. One of the concerns raised was the economy and how this has made a difference in attracting new members.

We also discussed ways that members promoted new membership at their local PTAs. Some of the members did family memberships and others provided ways for members to pay dues in installments.

It was suggested that Maryland PTA needs to create a theme statewide for membership and market it throughout the state of Maryland. It was also stated that it would be very helpful for MCCPTA to add the link to the Maryland PTA Membership booklet to their website.

The **Value of PTA** handout that was provided in our Membership packets from the state should be edited to represent the locals in Montgomery County. We will work with MCCPTA to prepare this form for our locals.

Our final discussion was on diversity in our PTAs and we talked about incidents where some of our membership chairs felt out of place when they attended a PTA meeting. They suggested that even though you may not speak the language of the new member please go up to them make them feel welcome at your meetings. If you have a large population of diverse members you should think about having a translator at your meeting.

We are planning on inviting a membership representative from the National PTA to our next quarterly meeting. We will announce the date in the coming weeks.

From MDPTA- Membership Cards

Your unit has been issued membership cards based on last year's membership. MDPTA has increased your total by 5 and rounded off to the nearest sheet of ten.

Important information:

One membership card per member. No two names on a card.

One card one vote

Membership is required to participate in the business of your PTA. Non members are not allowed to vote or take part in the business of PTA.

Membership on one local PTA does not constitute privileges in any other local PTA.

All members of your board of directors must be PTA members, see bylaws.

A current Membership card is required to attend National and Maryland PTA conventions and participation in the business of the organization.

All damaged or invalid cards must be returned to the Maryland PTA office. They can be mailed in with the monthly statement.

Unsold membership cards must be returned to the Maryland PTA by the end of the school year.

Each local unit determines the dues for their unit. They must, however, remit \$3.25 to Maryland PTA for each member that joins their local PTA.

Maryland PTA remits \$1.75 to National PTA and retains \$1.50 in Maryland.

Maryland PTA cannot issue a refund for membership overpayment

The Membership Committee chair is charged with an important and rewarding responsibility. The opportunities for involvement that PTA membership provides are of great importance. Research has shown that academic achievement among students is higher in schools with active PTAs than in schools without these associations. When parents and school staff interact positively and regularly, their enthusiasm and interest is transmitted to students.

2008-2009 Membership Awards -PTA and PTSA Good Standing Certificates

All PTA/PTSAs in good standing as of March 31, 2008 will receive a Certificate of Good Standing.

5% Growth over Last Year-All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 5 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a certificate.

15% Growth over Last Year

All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 15 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a plaque.

25% Growth over Last Year

All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 25 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a plaque and a PTA/PTSA school banner.

All membership is calculated from July 2, 2008 through March 31, 2009. Growth will be determined based on the membership reported by March 31, 2008.

Maryland PTA Membership Awards will be given out during the Reflections/Membership Recognition Program in April/May 2009.

MCCPTA Dues and Delegates Cards- 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.

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 their 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>

MCCPTA is 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>

It Nominating Time- Local PTAs should be setting up Nominating Committees

Your PTAs should be 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. Please refer to ARTICLE VI Officers and Their Election- Section 3 in your local PTA bylaws for information regarding your nominating committee. In order for PTAs to grow their own membership, they must be actively involved in looking for leadership in your school communities. Sometimes, all it takes is asking another if they would like to consider a leadership role in your PTA. PTAs work very hard in their school communities advocating on behalf of children and are great support for their schools. Be inviting!

Quick Tips about PTA Nominating Committees from Maryland PTA

Nominating Committee-The nominating committee is one of the most important committees in your PTA unit. It is essential that the members of the nominating committee include experienced ongoing leadership as well as newer members.

The unit bylaws should outline how the nominating committee members are elected and how many members should be on the nominating committee (Article VI, section 3).

The nominating committee members have the responsibility of bringing forward the name of the most eligible person for each elected position. In considering which PTA members are the best qualified to serve in the officer positions, the criteria listed below should be considered and evaluated.

Each nominee:

- Must be a PTA member.
- Must be enthusiastic and supportive of PTA.
- Must believe in the basic policies and purposes of the PTA.
- Must be fair and objective and concerned for the best interests of PTA.
- Should be willing to attend training.
- Should have some knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and in the community.
- Should be willing to give PTA a satisfactory level of priority and commitment, including attendance at meetings.
- Should be able to work well with people.

Who is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee?

Any member who has paid current membership dues in the local unit is eligible to serve on the nominating committee. The principal may serve on the Nominating Committee if elected as any other member. *The current PTA President may not serve on the Nominating Committee.* All members should have an opportunity to nominate or be nominated for the committee.

What skills should Nominating Committee members possess?

- Fair, ethical and impartial judgment when evaluating people or situations
- Ability to listen and ask penetrating questions
- Ability to keep confidential information
- Understanding of PTA Mission, Purposes, and plans
- Understanding of how to build skill sets by position

Election of Nominating Committee:

- The Nominating Committee is elected, as described in Article VI Section 3 of your bylaws. The bylaws state the number of people to be elected to the Nominating Committee. It is always an uneven number.
- Elect the Nominating Committee at least two months prior to the election meeting according to the manner described in your unit's bylaws (general membership or board of directors).
- After the committee is elected, the committee will elect their chair.
- When selecting a chair, consider their demonstration of:
 1. Ability to facilitate and resolve difficult discussions
 2. Fairness and objectivity through role modeling
 3. Ability to hold information in confidence
 4. Nonbias behavior within their role at the PTA
 5. Integrity and ethical behavior
- The chair, with input from other committee members, sets the first meeting date, time, and place. Hold the first meeting early enough to allow for a second and third meeting, if necessary.

Conducting Nominating Committee meetings:

- Conduct the meeting only if a majority of the committee is present. All committee members should be present at the meeting, if possible.
- Allow sufficient time to interview, study and discuss candidates.
- Matters discussed by the Nominating Committee are strictly confidential. No names should be revealed until they are released according to established procedures.
- Committee members themselves may be nominated for office. They should be excused from the room while their nomination is being considered and may return to vote.
- Committee meetings are open only to committee members. Discussions must be open and honest, and above all, confidential. Should confidentiality be breached, it is the chair's responsibility to counsel the member. If the chair breaches confidentiality, it is each member's responsibility to bring it to the attention of the President.
- In contacting potential nominees, the nominating committee chairman (or other designated committee member) should:
 - Give a clear indication of the responsibilities of the office and how much time may be involved.
 - Include any expectation of officer representation at leadership training workshops, council/state PTA meetings and/or the annual convention.
 - Never try to talk a reluctant individual into accepting a nomination.
 - Never try to 'fill the board' just to have names in place. A vacancy at the time of the election may be filled by a nomination from the floor or later by the newly elected executive board.

First meeting:

- Determine a target date for completion. (Consider upcoming communications, e.g. newsletter, meetings, programs, etc.)
- Develop a "candidate search list" and determine how contacts will be made. Potential nominees should include PTA members who represent the social and ethnic makeup of the school and parent community. (After the election, it is helpful to pass on a list of those individuals who are interested in a committee to the incoming president.)
- Refer to the unit's bylaws for copies of the job duties for each elected position.
- Set the next meeting date before adjourning.

Second meeting:

- If needed, conduct interviews. Ask the same questions of all candidates per position. For example, ask all treasurer candidates the same questions. These questions can be different or the same as the questions you ask of the secretary candidates but ask all secretary candidates the same questions.
- If a complete slate of officers has been selected, complete a Nominating Committee Report, listing all nominees and positions. Date sign and present one copy to the PTA Board as soon as possible. Retain the another copy to read at the election meeting.
- If the slate is not complete, give a Status Report ONLY to the Board, and continue the process until the slate is complete.

When the slate is complete: • The Nominating Committee prepares and presents a report for the PTA board meeting and the general meeting, listing nominees for each office.

- When all nominees are selected and notification is given to the Board, post one copy of the Nominating Committee Report in the school office, or another visible location, at least 10 days prior to the election meeting or according to bylaws.

Dissolution of Nominating Committee:-A Nominating Committee, unlike other special committees that are automatically discharged when their report is made, has not completed its work until balloting for nominees has begun. If a nominee withdraws before the balloting begins, the Nominating Committee shall present another nominee.

"Common" Nominating Committee Mistakes:

- Forgetting to elect the Nominating Committee at least two months before the election month.
- Failing to provide advance notification to the general membership about when the Nominating Committee will be elected.
- Failing to apprise all members of their eligibility to potentially serve as an officer or on the Nominating Committee.

- Selecting members for officers without first determining what skills and qualifications they have for the position.
- Not actively recruiting new members for leadership positions.
- Assuming that only members who have children in the public school are the best candidates for leadership roles.

Maryland PTA Election tip sheet

- 1) Review your local unit's bylaws to determine the date for the election of officers.
- 2) Send out a notice to the membership with the slate of candidates at least 10 days prior to the general membership meeting that the elections will occur. (See Article VI: Officers and their elections section 3 c.)
- 3) Only those individuals who are current members of the PTA may be considered for election for a position on the PTA (Article VI section 3 d.)
- 4) Individuals may join the PTA on the date of the election prior to the start of the election portion of the meeting.
- 5) Remember that our bylaws # Article IV: Relationship with National PTA and Maryland PTA section 8: *The bylaws of this local PTA/PTSA shall prohibit voting by proxy, mail (including electronic communications), or absentee.*
- 6) Choose the members who will act as the Tellers for the elections. There should be at least 3 Tellers who will count the ballots, if they are necessary, prior to the elections.
- 7) Must have flip chart/chalk board available to list all candidates. Procedure for presenting slate of candidates and nominations from the floor
 - 1) Report of the nominating committee: The chair of the committee is called upon by the president to present the slate of candidates to the membership. Once this is done, the work of this committee is complete.
 - 2) The president (or chair of the meeting) rereads the slate of candidates and opens the floor for nominations for each office.
 - 3) There are two ways to call for nominations:
 - a. Nominations from the floor are completed and nominations are closed for each office before voting for any office.
 - b. Nominations for one office are completed and votes are cast for that office and the result is announced before the chair calls for nominations for the next office.
 - 4) The decision on how to do the nominations and proceed with the voting is up to the unit but should be decided on prior to the meeting.
 - 5) The wording for opening nominations for either choice is:
 - a. "For the office of President, Mr. A, is nominated by the nominating committee. Are there any further nominations for the office of President (if there is a person nominated from the floor, the chair repeats the name of the nominee) Mr. N is nominated. Are there any further nominations?"
 - 6) When it appears that no one else wishes to make a nomination, the chair should ask if there are any further nominations, and if there is no response, the chair would then declare the nomination (for the office) are closed and the wording would be:
 - a. "Are there any further nominations for President (pause) If not (pause) nominations are closed (Or, Without objections, nominations are closed)"
 - b. If you choose to hold elections after each office, you would move to the vote for president at this time. If your unit decides to complete all nominations, you would move to the next office of Vice President. The wording remains the same inserting the office that is being open for nominations.
 - 7) A member does not need to be present to be nominated from the floor. They must however, have given in writing their consent to run for the office they are nominated for.
 - 8) A member may be nominated for more than one position, however if they receive the majority vote for both positions, they must resign from one position.
 - 9) A member may nominate themselves for a position.

Voting and Counting Procedures

- 1) Upon completion of the nominations, you will proceed to the voting.
- 2) Prior to the elections, the candidates should be given the opportunity to address the members. They are given a predetermined amount of time that should be decided on prior to the meeting by the Board of Directors (usually no more than 5 minutes).
- 3) If only one person is nominated for a position, a voice vote is all that is required.
- 4) If more than one person is nominated for a position, a ballot vote is used. Below are some different ways that this can be conducted:
 - a. If no member is running for more than one position, one ballot can be used for all positions.
 - b. All names are placed on the ballot and the member is instructed to circle (or mark) the candidate they are voting for.
 - c. If a person is running for more than one position, you should use separate ballots for each position.

- d. In the event that a member is running for more than one position and they receive the majority vote in at least 2 of the positions, the person will have to determine which office they will accept.
- i. For example: Mr. A and Mr. B are running for president and Mr. B is also on the ballot for Vice President with Mr. C.
- ii. If Mr. B receives the majority of votes cast for both positions, he will have to determine which position he will accept. If he accepts the office of President and if no one else is on the ballot for Vice President, then Mr. C would be elected to the office of Vice President. However, if there is another person on the ballot for Vice President, the elections would have to be done again with the two remaining names. (in order to receive a majority vote).
- 5) The ballots are collected by the Tellers. The tellers will move to a separate area in the meeting room or another room to count the votes. The tellers will decide who will be the chair and give the report to the chair of the meeting once the votes are counted.
- 6) The Tellers report is as follow:
- Number of votes cast _____
 - Necessary for election _____ (This must be a majority of the votes cast)
 - Mr. A received _____
 - Mr. B received _____
 - Illegal votes _____ (These are ballots that do not have anyone marked, more than one candidate marked, name written in that was not nominated from the floor) The illegal votes count towards the number of votes cast.
 - The number of votes cast may not match the number of members present as some may decide not to vote.
- 7) If no candidate receives a majority vote, the elections are held again until one candidate receives a majority vote. If there are more than two people on the ballot, the candidate with the lowest amount of votes is not removed from the ballot. They may withdraw, but they are not dropped from the voting.
- 8) Majority is 1/2 plus 1.
- 9) The head teller presents the report to the president. The president declares the winner of the elections.
- 10) The Tellers report is entered in full in the minutes, becoming a part of the official records of the organization.
- 11) Upon completion of an election, if there is no possibility that the assembly may order a recount (which requires a majority vote), the ballots can be ordered to be destroyed or to be filed for a certain length of time with the secretary (such as a month) before being destroyed.

After Elections

- The chair would invite all the newly elected officers to the front to be sworn into office. The choice of the induction is left up to each unit.
- The newly elected officers should meet briefly with the current officers to set up a transition meeting which should occur prior to the start of their term as determined by your bylaws.
- At the transitional meeting, all material must be handed over to the new officers, except for the banking records and statements. It is the responsibility of the outgoing board to arrange for an audit to be done of the books prior to the start date of the new board.
- The new officers who will have check signing authority will need to make a date to go to the bank and change the signatures on the bank cards with the previous signers.

Let's Share The Good Things about PTAs and Your School Communities!!!!

Put a **Spotlight** on your School's PTA - Please share the successes of your PTA. We are looking for stories that highlight the good things happening in PTA's and PTSA's all around the county. If your local has found a new way to reach out to newcomers, increase membership, etc., let us know. Items will be featured on the MCCPTA website. Information is needed from elementary, middle, and high schools. Please include the name of your school/PTA and your school cluster with a brief synopsis of your successful event or program. Please write in general terms to protect individual privacy. Feel free to send info throughout the school year. Selected items will appear on the MCCPTA website. We also encourage you to send photos if you have them. Please send your PTA highlights to MCCPTA (via email to office@mccpta.com and/or webmaster@mccpta.com and reference "PTA Spotlight" in the subject.

Summer Food Service Program- Would you like to get involved?

Did you know that approximately 27% of the children in Montgomery County are eligible for free or reduced meals each school year? That equals 37,640 students. The Summer Food Service Program feeds approximately 6,000 – 7,000

children each day. Would you like to find out how to be a part of increasing this number? The one sure way to do this is by increasing the number of locations that provide the food and program. Once a site is qualified to participate in the Summer Food Service Program, all children at the site are eligible to receive meals at no cost! Are there members of your community that could benefit from the food services provided to needy children in the summer? Find out how your community can become a qualified site and/or how to access these services by contacting the Division of Food and Nutrition Services of Montgomery County Public schools at 301-840-8170. More information available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv

**Maryland PTA
94th Annual Fall Convention
November 13-14, 2009
Frederick, Maryland**

Maryland PTA offers training in many forms to our officers, councils and local units. This is accomplished thru Summer Leadership Conference, Regional Trainings, Maryland PTA Convention, Local Unit training, Council Officer training, National PTA events, BSP Training and more.

If you are interested in any of our training programs, please contact the state office at office@mdpta.org or call 410-760-6221.

2009 Regional Trainings	
August 15, 2009	All Day Financial Workshop
October 17, 2009	All Day Financial Workshop

REGIONAL TRAINING INFORMATION

Training is free to all PTA members. Breakfast and Lunch are provided. If you register and do not show, you will be charged \$15.00 to cover the cost of meals ordered for you. You MUST preregister. Send an email to office@mdpta.org or fax to 410-760-6344 with your name, address, phone and choice of workshop(s). All workshops are full day events.

Who Should Attend? PTA Officers, Chairman, Treasurers, Up and Coming Leaders from All Counties

Workshops Include: Treasurer; Basic duties of Officers: President/Vice-President, Secretary, Committee Chairs; Board responsibilities and Bylaws.

What will we learn? You will gain in-depth training for all especially for treasurers and officers. There will be work sessions and networking to raise the level of performance in each local.

Registration is FREE but a must. Contact the state office to register at 410-760-6221 or office@mdpta.org.

If you would like to host a regional training or have any suggestions for needed regional training topics, please contact the state office at office@mdpta.org

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

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

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.

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>

All-Day Conference Set on Challenging 21st Century Learners

The Fifth Annual Partners for Rigor through Relevancy Conference, *Challenging 21st Century Learners—Connecting Classrooms*, will be held June 23, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Northwest High School located at 13501 Richter Farm Road in Germantown.

The one-day event will bring together school and community leaders with a stake in shaping the future of education in Montgomery County. Parents are invited to attend as an individual or a member of a team. Parent—Teacher Associations are encouraged to consider sponsoring a team from their schools.

All registration is online and includes meals and materials. An early-bird rate of \$20.00 per person is available through April 17, 2009. The conference website is: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/cte/conf>

Keynote speaker, Dr. Ronald Ferguson, Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, will address racial disparities in high-achieving suburban schools. The event will feature an incredible line-up of nationally renowned presenters and more than 25 breakout sessions targeting best practices within five conference strands. Additional information, including a downloadable flyer, is available on the conference website.

The conference is sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Council of Parent—Teacher Associations, Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education, and The Universities at Shady Grove.

Please direct questions to conference coordinator, Laura Grace at 240-632-6937 or Laura_R_Grace@mcpsmd.org.

Reflections Committee Report February 2009

I am pleased to announce the following MCCPTA 2008-2009 Reflections award winners:

Literature

Arsh Argawal	Wooton HS	Wow! SLAM! Dunk	Award of Excellence
Isha Argawal	Wooton HS	“Wow”	Award of Excellence
Jasmine Mengers	Clarksburg HS	The Box	Award of Excellence
Setareh Morarald	Churchill HS	I See Me	Award of Excellence
Nikita Mutter	Clarksburg HS	Mother Earth My Muse	Award of Merit
Harrison Blackman	Cabin John MS	Anasazi	Award of Merit
Emily Birnbaum	Cabin John MS	Beauty	Award of Excellence
Shaun Datta	Takoma Park MS	Wow!	Award of Excellence
John Morton	Rocky Hill MS	My Dreams for the Future	Award of Excellence
Gabrielle Nash	Cabin John MS	Wow-Where I’m From	Award of Excellence
Adityagutham Sezhian	Takoma Park MS	Wow!And your Senses	Award of Merit
Grant Yu	Hoover MS	The Wow Factor	Award of Merit
Brady Boudreau	Potomac ES	Stanley Cup Poem	Award of Merit
Brady Boudreau	Potomac ES	Imaginary Family	Award of Merit
Allen Duong	Sequoyah ES	Inside this Camera	Award of Merit
Adele Gilman	Beverly Farms ES	Wow! I’m the Luckiest Kid!	Award of Excellence
Gaia Ginsi	Potomac ES	Wow!	Award of Merit
Ryan Handel	DuFief ES	When I Climb Mt Everest	Award of Excellence
Florina Lam	Travilah ES	Wow	Award of Excellence
Mae McDermott	Little Bennett ES	The End of a Book	Award of Excellence
Hannah Bush	Beverly Farms ES	The Fairy Princesses	Award of Merit
Vivian Douglass	Seven Locks ES	Magic is Saved	Award of Excellence
Iris Gupta	DuFief ES	When Birds Fly South	Award of Excellence
Vedant Jog	Waters Landing ES	When I First Saw my Brother	Award of Excellence
Bella Koeung-Zambrana	Sequoyah ES	Untitled	Award of Excellence
Elise Prosen	Seven Locks ES	WE	Award of Merit
Gabriela Sanchez	Rock Creek Valley ES	The Adventures with Bluey & Blacky	Award of Merit.
Megan Ziao	Little Bennett ES	A Fun Adventure	Award of Merit

Musical Composition

Abhinav Argarwal	Wootton HS	Solitaire Rain	Award of Excellence
Sandow Sinai	Poolesville HS	The Circus!	Award of Excellence
Omid Barr	Cabin John MS	Snow Dance	Award of Excellence
Surtej Sarin	Robert Frost MS	Amazing Rhythm	Award of Excellence
Victoria Wolsh	Rocky Hill MS	Dance of the Dragonfly	Award of Excellence
Richard Chen	Dufief ES	Wow! I Made MD Classic...	Award of Excellence
Catherine Gao	Little Bennett ES	Spring Creek in Arora Hills	Award of Excellence
Gaia Jinsi	Potomac ES	Fall	Award of Excellence
Eric Rong	Cold Spring ES	Animal Adventures ...	Award of Excellence
Justin Hung	Potomac ES	Wii Driving	Award of Excellence
Megan Xiao	Little Bennett ES	Fairies in my Dream	Award of Excellence

Photography

Aaron Bernstein	Poolesville HS	Something Fishy	Award of Excellence
Neysa Nordstrom	Churchill HS	Sun Flowers	Award of Merit
Sanji Patel	Wootton HS	Will You Be Mind Forever?	Award of Excellence
Alex Rubenstein	Northwest HS	Froggy Style	Award of Excellence
Nicole Schorer	Churchill HS	Show Time	Award of Merit
Jordan Thompson	Northwest HS	London Terror	Award of Excellence
John Coreo	Rocky Hill MS	Wow That’s Tall	Award of Excellence
Shaun Datta	Takoma Park MS	Rag Mahal	Award of Excellence
Shaun Datta	Takoma Park MS	When in Rome	Award of Excellence
Shaun Datta	Takoma Park MS	Ducks in Flight	Award of Merit
Katlyn Easter	Rocky Hill MS	Brilliance/Daybreak	Award of Merit
Kiera Murphy	Newport Mill MS	Abstract Light	Award of Merit
Kevin Schechter	Hoover MS	Glacier Bay Alaska	Award of Excellence
Erin Connolly	Potomac MS	Misty Morning	Award of Excellence
Jackson Douglas	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Our Dreams Can Come True	Award of Excellence
Jackson Douglas	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Autumn in Cedar Valley	Award of Merit
Catherine Gao	Little Bennett ES	Niagra Falls	Award of Merit
Michelle Karlsberg	DuFief ES	Goats at Dusk	Award of Merit
Eleanor Kelman	DuFief ES	Blurry Baby	Award of Excellence
James Morey	Rock Creek Valley ES	Ohhh It’s Magic	Award of Merit
Birgitt O’Connor	Waters Landing ES	Smile	Award of Merit
Matthew Stewart	Beverly Farms ES	The Glowsticks of Wow	Award of Excellence
Morgan Beddingfield	Seven Locks ES	At Muddy Creek Falls	Award of Excellence
Feroz Campbell	Travilah ES	Hang On	Award of Excellence
Zachary Moore	Potomac ES	The Beauty in the Room	Award of Merit
Samarth Nayak	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Scenic Beauty	Award of Excellence
Sareet Nayak	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Magical Trees	Award of Excellence
Sareet Nayak	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Wingciting	Award of Excellence
Shelby Wilson	Little Bennett ES	Wow Obama	Award of Merit

Film/Video

Cameron Mackail	Poolesville HS	PHS Volleyball Wins State	Award of Excellence
Kiera Murphy	Newport Mill MS	Yellowstone: a Point of View	Award of Excellence
Anisha Gupta	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	My Encounter with Tropical Storm..	Award of Excellence

Nihar Gupte	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Wow! The Niagra Falls!	Award of Excellence
Max Jordan	Cold Springs ES	Reflections	Award of Excellence
Richard Wang	Little Bennett ES	News	Award of Excellence
Aidan Douglas	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Mentos Splash	Award of Excellence
Aidan Douglas	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	Ready, Set, Go!	Award of Excellence

Visual Arts

Chen Dou	Poolesville HS	Mother	Award of Excellence
Elise Gifford	Blake HS	It's in the Eyes	Award of Excellence
Erica Tsou	Wootton HS	Wow Bridge	Award of Excellence
Julie Zhou	Wootton HS	Power of Love	Award of Excellence
Caroline Chang	Cabin John MS	Awareness of Endangered Animals	Award of Excellence
Kevin Chen	Robert Frost MS	Midnight Sorrow	Award of Merit
Bruce Martin	Robert Frost MS	Bizzare Dinosaurs	Award of Merit
Karli Melder	Rocky Hill MS	Parachute	Award of Excellence
Amanda Obenland	Rocky Hill MS	Collage	Award of Excellence
Sandhya Taneja	Takoma Park MS	True America	Award of Merit
Danielle Wilson	Newport Mill MS	Ballerina	Award of Excellence
Max Anstine	Seven Locks ES	Vison	Award of Excellence
Abby Brustad	Woodfield ES	Snowy Day	Award of Merit
Grace Embry	Potomac ES	"Groovy" Sunflower	Award of Excellence
Anisha Gupte	Dr Sally Ride	Wow=Mom	Award of Merit
Ana Henriquez	Rock Cr Valley ES	Picture of School	Award of Merit
Sara Kim	Little Bennett ES	Water Fall	Award of Excellence
Sarah Ko	Little Bennett ES	Fireworks of Wow	Award of Excellence
Yamuna Satsangi	Lake Seneca ES	Thunderstorm	Award of Merit
Kira Zhovioskii	Beverly Farms ES	Kayaking Down the Falls	Award of Excellence
Michael Chu	DuFief ES	Fireworks in the Night	Award of Merit
Megan Huynh	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	untitled	Award of Merit
Vedant Jog	Waters Landing ES	Wow! I Can Draw!!	Award of Excellence
John Kim	Little Bennett ES	Wow"	Award of Merit
Kimberly Liu	Potomac ES	"Tag"	Award of Merit
Justin Ma	Woodfield ES	The Owl	Award of Merit
Joey Miller	Seven Locks ES	The Circus Elephant	Award of Merit
Jason Wood	Seven Locks ES	untitled	Award of Excellence
Elena Yeatts-Lonske	Stone Mill ES	Fairy Tales	Award of Excellence
Elena Yeatts-Lonske	Stone Mill ES	Hope & Liberty	Award of Merit
Emily Yu	Potomac ES	Snow Day	Award of Excellence

Dance

Hillary Templeton	Poolesville HS	Supercalifragilisticexpeialicious	Award of Excellence
Dana Laforce	Rocky Hill MS	Wow!	Award of Excellence
Alexandra Balance	Potomac ES	Disconnections	Award of Excellence
Aiden Douglas	Dr. Sally K Ride ES	My Wow Dance	Award of Excellence
Shelby Wilson	Little Bennett ES	You Can Do Anything	Award of Excellence

AWARDS - AWARDS - AWARDS

MCCPTA Special Education Recognition Awards - Call for Nominations. A Special Opportunity For You to Nominate a Special Person or Program!! All nominations must be received no later than Saturday, February 28, 2009. Visit the MCCPTA Special Education Committee Webpage for more for more information, details and nomination form: <http://www.mccpta.com/specneeds.html>

Champions for Children Award

Nominations accepted through February 28, 2009

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

For more information, details and nomination form:

http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA_news/Call_for_Volunteers_2009.pdf

MCCPTA Presidents and Principals Dinner Awards

Return forms by April 3, 2009

Partners for Education Award

Maryland Life Membership Award

For more information, details and nomination forms: <http://www.mccpta.com/index.html>

These award flyers and additional information were ponied mailed all school PTAs after the weather related cancellation of the January 27th Delegates Assembly. Please share with your PTA communities and submit your nominations. All items are also located on the MCCPTA website and posted to the MCCPTA Bulletin Listserv.

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

February 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:

February

- 18 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00p
- 24 MCCPTA Program “Special Education in MCPS” 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- 24 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 25 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30 pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)

March

- 2 Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 4 MCPS Facilities and Boundary Hearing 7:00pm – 10:00pm
- 5 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 11 MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 12 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 18 MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 19 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 23 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 24 MCCPTA Program “Curriculum in MCPS” 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- 24 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm – 10:00pm

April

- 2 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm – 10:00pm
- 6 Grading and Reporting Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 20 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 23 BOE Cluster Meeting 7:30pm – 9:00pm (Location to be announced by cluster)
- 28 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 6:30pm – 10:00pm
- 29 Reflections Award Ceremony at BlackRock Center for the Arts