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November/December Newsletter from the MCCPTA President - Kay Romero-

Happy Holidays as we move into November and December. The year is going by so fast. I will be heading up to the Maryland PTA State Convention late Thursday afternoon and will participate in convention activities while renewing the strength of PTA advocacy on behalf of children while doing the business of our state organization. This year will be Maryland PTA's 94th Fall Convention on November 13th and 14th in Frederick, Maryland. I will see many of you there!

I work with a group of well seasoned advocates who never lose sight of the bigger picture in our school funding needs. I want to personally thank all of our PTA advocates. You are valued. Without our local PTA advocacy, MCCPTA would not be as strong as it is. There is a sense of real pride in knowing that you are making a difference. It can never be said enough that when all of us join together in advocacy, children's voices are being heard.

Do not forget that November 19, 2009 is National Parent Involvement Day.

Project Appleseed began National Parental Involvement Day in 1994 and Public School Volunteer Week in 1997, to provide opportunities in which parents can volunteer in their local public schools. Five million parents in 3500 school districts are involved in this effort. Below we provide examples of their dedication to this cause.

Join us on the 17th Annual National Parental Involvement Day, third Thursday of November 2009 and the 13th Annual Public School Volunteer Week, the third full week of April in 2010. The campaign wants more parents and caregivers to take the **Parental Involvement Pledge**. The Pledge is a written learning compact in which parents commit to be involved in a child's education. The Pledge is the most widely distributed learning compact in the United States and our celebrations are observed from coast-to-coast.
<http://www.projectappleseed.org/abc.html>

Join us by featuring Project Appleseed in your activities, and order the **Parental Involvement Toolbox** for your schools today!

Our PTAs have a mission and vision of making every child's potential a reality while being a powerful voice for all children in being a relevant

resource for families and communities, and continuing as a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. The message of PTA is "every child. one voice."

It is Budget Advocacy Time-Capital Improvements Program Budget (CIP)

On November 11 and November 12, MCCPTA, MCCPTA Cluster Coordinators, local PTAs, and community representatives will give CIP testimony related to their school funding needs on the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2011 Capital Budget and the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program. The Capital Budget supports school construction and other major projects related to schools and other facilities. We encourage everyone to come out and support those advocating on behalf of their school communities.

The testimonies, representing our various school cluster funding needs, will be posted for viewing on our MCCPTA webpage at <http://mccpta.net/pressReleases.html>, under MCCPTA Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence. Please review the testimonies and appreciate the advocacy of our PTA leaders.

Capital Improvements Program Budget (CIP)-Timeline

November 11 and 12, 2009 - Public hearings on the superintendent's recommendations for boundary changes and the FY 2011-2016 CIP

November 19, 2009 - Board of Education action on boundary studies and the FY 2011-2016 CIP

November 30, 2009 - Final revisions on FY 2011 state aid request due to IAC

December 2009 - County executive reviews Board requested FY 2011-2016 CIP

December 3, 2009 - IAC appeal hearing on FY 2011 State CIP

January 15, 2010* - County executive recommendations for the FY 2011-2016 CIP

January 27, 2010* - Board of Public Works hearing on the FY 2011 State CIP

February-May 2010 - County Council reviews requested FY 2011-2016 CIP

Mid-February 2010 - Superintendent releases recommendations on winter boundary studies and CIP recommendations for deferred items (if any)

February 22, 2010- Board of Education facilities work session for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)

March 3, 2010 - Public hearing on superintendent's recommendations for winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any)

March 22, 2010 -Board of Education action on winter boundary studies and deferred items (if any) for the FY 2011-2016 CIP

Early-May 2010* - Board of Public Works decisions on FY 2011 State CIP

May 31, 2010* -County Council approves the FY 2011-2016 CIP and the FY 2011 Capital Budget

*Estimated date

On Monday, October 19, we hosted a dinner with the Montgomery County Annapolis Delegation. Those attending were MCCPTA Officers, Area Vice Presidents, Cluster Coordinators and Committee Chairs. PTA advocacy filled the room and it was a night of advocacy to talking about school funding needs

At our last Delegates Assembly, the Delegates approved the following:
<http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions.html>

MCCPTA Resolution on the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program Budget
And FY2011-2016 CIP

MCCPTA Resolution on the Restroom Renovation Project In the FY 2011-2016
Capital Improvement Program

MCCPTA Resolution on FY2011 Operating Budget Priorities

MCCPTA FY2010 Operating Budget Compact

Amendments to the MCCPTA Bylaws

Our resolution on operating budget priorities is the result of MCCPTA officers visiting PTA leadership in each area of the county in June 2009. The list of priorities represents the most frequently mentioned concerns. The Compact, which aligns with the MCPS Strategic Plan, provides the basis for testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2010. MCCPTA will not support any budget, MCPS Strategic Plan, or other planning or policy document, that does not make progress towards the requirements of this compact. Both documents are used in our advocacy during the yearly budget cycle and both will be referenced in our various testimonies to the Board of Education and to the County Council.

Operating Budget Timeline for Fiscal Year 2011

Do not miss your opportunity to publicly testify about the FY11 Recommended Operating Budget. Call the Board of Education at 301-279-3617 beginning December 23

Superintendent presents Recommended Operating Budget December 10, 2009

Sign-up begins for BOE Operating Budget Hearings December 23, 2009

BOE Operating Budget Hearings January 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. January 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

BOE Operating Budget Work sessions January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. January 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

BOE Operating Budget Action/Adoption February 9, 2010

BOE FY 2010 Operating Budget Request presented to County Executive and County Council March 1, 2010

County Executive issues Operating Budget March 15, 2010

County Council holds Operating Budget Hearings April 2010

Council approves Operating Budget May 20, 2010

Final Board of Education Action to approve FY 2011 Operating Budget June 8, 2010

November Delegates Assembly and Program

MCCPTA Delegates Assembly and Program Tuesday, November 24, 2009, CESC Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland. The program begins at 6:30pm and the business meeting begins at 7:30 pm. November's program will focus on the math curriculum and development. Please contact Carol Salsbury, VP Programs for more information: vpprograms@mccpta.com

MCCPTA Bluebook Directory

MCCPTA Bluebook Directory is at the printer and we hope to have it back soon to pony to our local PTAs. If your PTA has not paid dues to MCCPTA, your PTA will not be able to participate in MCCPTA business meetings as voting members or receive Bluebooks.

The Bluebook contains listings for all local PTAs and their officers, as well as information about BOE, county and state elected officials, and community organizations, including information on how to reach each via phone numbers or email addresses. It is a valuable tool for your PTA community. Other community entities use the Bluebook to contact your local PTA when important issues/concerns pertaining to your PTA come up. Each school that has paid their MCCPTA dues will receive Bluebooks in care of your PTA president.

MCCPTA Board members can pick up their book at our BOD Meetings. Updated information will be posted on the MCCPTA Bulletin Listserv when the Bluebooks arrive.

Dues

Local PTAs should make sure to pay their dues installment regularly. PTAs receive an invoice from Maryland PTA, which covers the state and national portion of your dues (\$3.25 per member). In addition, each PTA receives a monthly dues invoice for its MCCPTA dues (\$1.00 per member). Make a check payable to MDPTA for the State and National dues portion and mail that directly to MDPTA. For MCCPTA dues, treasurers need to make a separate check out to MCCPTA and mail it directly to the MCCPTA office monthly.

Delegate Voting Cards for MCCPTA Business Meetings

In order to participate as voting members at our Delegates Assemblies for 2009-10, 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 BLUE Delegate voting cards. Our cards are just a little larger than a credit card, and have the MCCPTA tree logo on them. 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. If your PTA has not paid dues to MCCPTA, your PTA will not be able to participate in MCCPTA business meetings as voting members or receive Bluebooks.

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>.

2009 - 2010 Maryland PTA Membership Theme "Growing for our Future !"

Our membership drive is still in full swing. Maryland PTA is challenging all local units to increase their membership by "5" members over last year's membership - a campaign referred to as "HIGH 5!" If all of our units in Maryland bring in 5 new members, we will increase our membership by over 4,000 new members throughout the State. Currently, MDPTA has over 210,000 PTA members!

Maryland PTA Membership Awards -Local PTAs can earn membership awards!

PTA/PTSA Good Standing Certificates: All PTA/PTSAs in good standing as of March 31, 2010 will receive a certificate for the following:

15 percent growth over last year will receive a certificate to display
50 percent growth over last year will receive a plaque to display
75 percent growth over last year will receive a plaque to display
100 percent growth over last year will receive a plaque and a PTA/PTSA school banner

All membership is calculated from July 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. Growth will be determined based on membership reported by March 31, 2010 as computed by MDPTA. Membership awards will be given out during the Reflections/Membership Recognition program in April 2010.

Maryland PTA's 94th Fall Convention on November 13th and 14th in Frederick, Maryland- From Debbie, Ritchie, MDPTA President:

Convention as many of you know is the time that Maryland PTA conducts our business, like the local unit does with a general membership meeting. In order for us to do this, we need you to attend and participate. We have worked hard to keep the cost low. Please remember that this is a break even event. We do not make any money on the convention. We have negotiated with the Frederick Holiday Inn and Conference Center to get the best prices for rooms and meals for our delegate. We know how hard it is to raise money and we want to ensure that you get the best value for your local. Convention is a legitimate expense and training is required by the IRS for us to maintain our 501(c)3.

The business this year will include:
Election of Officers for 2009-2011 term
Bylaws Amendments for Maryland PTA
Review and Approval of the Legislative Platform

We have reviewed the evaluations from past convention as well as the information that was gathered during the summer leadership conference. With this input, we have tried to build the convention that you asked for: longer workshops, more time to interact with other members and opportunities to share ideas.

Sam Macer was elected during the November 2008 convention as President-Elect and will assume the duties of President at the close of the November 2009 convention.

The following members were selected by the Nominating and Board Development committee as the slate of candidates for the 2009-2011 term:

President-Elect --- Kay Romero --- Montgomery County
Vice President for Councils --- Jayne Lee --- Baltimore County
Vice President for Leadership Development --- Elizabeth Wheeler ---Montgomery County
Vice President for Legislation --- Merry Eisner ---Montgomery County
Secretary --- Donna Shaffer --- Allegany County
Treasurer --- Vacant

More Maryland PTA Convention News

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

Parent/Family Involvement Awards- Grants from Maryland PTA.

In addition, four of our local PTAs will be receiving Parent/Family Involvement Awards- Grants at the Maryland PTA State Convention Awards Dinner at on Friday, November 13, 2009. See below for more information about Maryland PTA Parent/Family Involvement Grant.

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: DuFief Reading Dragon Mural

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

BROWN STATION ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: Mornings in School

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

FIELDS ROAD ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:

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

Description: The program is designed to involve parents and guardians where English is a second language into the school and into their children's school life. Help them feel welcome and confident enough to assist their children with homework. More than 17% of the student body is enrolled in ESOL. This grant will begin an 8-week workshop for parents and guardians who don't currently speak English and therefore are not able to understand the flyers and announcements that come home

from school, nor can they help their students with homework. Professionals will teach parents how to help their children be successful in school along with 8 one-hour language sessions.

GEORGIAN FOREST ELEMENTARY PTA, Montgomery County Council:

Project Name: Conversational English Courses for Parents

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

If your PTA did not attend the awards dinner, then the grant check will be mailed to your PTA. After the convention our local PTA award winners will be added to the Maryland PTA website:

http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_parentinvolvement.html

About the Maryland PTA Parent/Family Involvement Grant

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

MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum Monday, January 4, 2010, at 7:30 pm in the Carver Auditorium

As we get ready to advocate during difficult budget times, please put on your calendars an additional special Delegates Assembly in January related to the FY11 Operating Budget. MCCPTA will host an Operating Budget Forum on Monday, January 4, 2010, at 7:30 pm in the Carver Auditorium. Board of Education members, MCPS staff, County Executive and staff, as well as members of the County Council have been invited to attend. This is a tight fiscal budget year and every dollar matters. PTA members and school community members should attend to ask budget questions of our elected officials. This is an opportunity to seek clarification about MCPS decisions as to how the budget is constructed and how decisions are made for proposed expenditures for school, staff and programs. It is also an opportunity to ask our elected officials what their plans are in advocating for budgetary needs from our Annapolis Delegation and Governor O'Malley.

The MCCPTA Operating Budget Committee will host an operating budget testimony workshop

This workshop helps our PTA leadership prepare for testimony as well as allowing time for discussions about strategies in testifying. Anyone interested in preparing for budget testimony may attend. The workshop will be held on January 9, 2009 at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School in the Media Center, 9 AM- 12 PM. We will also develop our budget theme for the year. 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 Montgomery County Board of Education, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850. You may also submit a budget question online or review previous budget questions submitted at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/question.shtm>

Nominating Committee

MCCPTA's Nominating Committee will be seeking nominations for MCCPTA Officers for 2010-11. Please consider stepping up into leadership roles or consider nominating others. 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 27, 2009. Visit the committee's webpage at: <http://www.mccpta.com/nomComm.html>

Reflections Committee

Our MCCPTA Reflections Committee is hard at work on the 2009-2010 National PTA Reflections Program, which allows students to express themselves through original works of arts on a specific identified theme. This program was established by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson in 1969. This year's theme is "Beauty is..."

Due dates for the coming year are as follows:

Local Unit Entries due at PTA Council: Monday, January 4, 2010

Council Entries due at Maryland PTA: Monday, February 1, 2010

Submission Checklist

You **MUST** confirm that your school's PTA is in good standing. Do this by contacting your PTA president first and then, if necessary, contact the MD PTA office staff. "Good standing" means that your dues are current and your bylaws are current. Your insurance payment needs to be current as well. Council Chairs must verify **BEFORE THE JUDGING PROCESS** that all entries they receive are from PTAs in good standing. Any work from a PTA not in good standing must be disqualified. Submissions should be delivered to the MCCPTA office by the local chairperson.

For more information:

2009-2010 Reflections Handbook and Forms.

http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_reflections.html

Visit the MCCPTA Reflections Committee webpage at:

<http://www.mccpta.com/reflections.html>

Entries must be mailed or delivered to the MCCPTA office:

2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204

Rockville, MD 20850

(301) 208-0111

MCCPTA Listservs

I am implementing a new procedure this year to subscribe and unsubscribe from the MCCPTA listservs. If you could please follow the instructions found under 'to join' on this page:

<http://mccpta.com/listserves.html>

Please pass this along to any new officers, delegates, reps. Many people are confused by the name of the MCCPTA_Delegates listserv – its name is historical, and thus has been retained, but it is meant for discussion, and other items detailed in the MCCPTA website document:

http://mccpta.com/listservs_dir/listservsSummaryTable.pdf

It is highly recommended that every PTA has someone on their BOD who is subscribed to MCCPTA_Bulletin, where all meetings and official MCCPTA documents are posted.

Thanks.

Patti Twigg
Listservs Moderator

MCCPTA COMMITTEES-COME JOIN!

MCCPTA Committees need volunteers. MCCPTA has committees dealing with literally dozens of different issues. Please share the list of committees with the other parents at your school and tell them to go to the MCCPTA website or call the MCCPTA office if they want more information about joining them. As a member of a MCCPTA committee, they can learn to advocate for the issues important to your PTA and can then share what they learn with the other parents at your school. You do not have to be a Delegate to join a committee!

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 PTAs and PTSAs 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 Reference "PTA Spotlight" in the subject.

Board of Directors Meeting – November 5, 2009 MCCPTA Committee Reports

Capital Improvement Program Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Steve Augustino

The CIP Committee will hold a CIP Testimony Writing Workshop on Saturday, November 7, 10:00am, at the Rockville High School Media Center.

Communications Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Patti Twigg, listservsmc@mccpta.com

Website Coordinators: Kevin David, Sharon Goodall, webmaster@mccpta.com

1) Website:

The Website subcommittee updated the MCCPTA website with the following:

Webpages updated in October:

- MCCPTA Homepage
- MCCPTA Calendar
- Meeting Minutes
- Archived MCCPTA President's Letters & Committee Reports and Workplans
- Parenting Workshops, Seminars and Support
- Resolutions
- Areas/Clusters
- Testimonies, Press Releases, & Correspondence
- Bylaws Committee
- Spotlight Archives
- MCPS Committees, Task Forces and Projects
- MCCPTA Liaisons and Representatives
- Cultural Arts Committee
- Calendar Committee
- Safety Committee
- Special Education Committee
- Health Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- "Must Do's" for PTAs
- Blue Book

Other additions:

- October 2009 MCCPTA President's Letter
- New item for "Spotlight"
- Upcoming Seminars and Workshops around Montgomery County related to parenting
- Minutes, MCCPTA Delegates Assembly, September 22, 2009
- Minutes, MCCPTA Board of Directors, Sept. 3, 2009
- October Committee Reports
- Showcase Flyer and updated Schedules for Showcases on Sept. 29, 2009, Oct. 5, 8, and 15, 2009
- Approved Amendments to the MCCPTA Bylaws
- Approved Resolution on FY2011 Operating Budget Priorities
- Approved MCCPTA FY2011 OPERATING BUDGET COMPACT
- Approved Resolution on the Restroom Renovation Project In the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program
- Approved Resolution on the FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program Budget And FY2011-2016 CIP
- Letter from Superintendent Jerry Weast in response to MCCPTA's letter in regards to modernizations, October 22, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release on the MCCPTA Legislative Dinner, October 19, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release on Legislators and MCCPTA members attending the MCCPTA Legislative Dinner, October 19, 2009
- Letter from Dr. Weast to the BOE in regards to the FY2011 Operating Budget Presentation, October 15, 2009
- MCCPTA followup Letter to Montgomery County Council regarding 2009 County Growth Policy, October 8, 2009
- MCCPTA Letter to Dr. Weast and the BOE in regards to modernizations, October 8, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release about MCCPTA and Advocacy activities for the 2009-2010 school year, October 1, 2009
- Thank You Letter from the Department of Family and Community Partnership, September 15, 2009

- MCCPTA Letter to Montgomery County Council, subject: Approved motion and letter from MCCPTA - Spending Affordability Guidelines, September 28, 2009
- Motion to Restructure the MCCPTA Committees, October 1, 2009

Made changes to forwarding addresses for officers as needed.

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

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

A volunteer would need the following skills:

- Knowledge of HTML
- Knowledge of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)
- Ability to create PDF documents from most file formats (Word document, PowerPoint document, etc.).

**Note, anyone who uses a Macintosh computer has the ability to create PDF documents without needing to get Adobe Acrobat Professional

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

2) Listservs:

Listsers Moderator: Patti Twigg, listservsmod@mccpta.com

As of November 1, 2009, membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Net increase/decrease from last report
MCCPTA_Board	76	+3
MCCPTA_Bulletin	640	+7
MCCPTA_Delegates	501	+4
MCCPTA_Presidents	258	-2
MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion	43	+43 (newly formed)
MCCPTA_Treasurers	209	+0

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

A new listserv was created at the request of the local PTA Presidents and with the MCCPTA President's approval – MCCPTA_Presidents_Discussion. The purpose of this list is for PTA presidents to discuss issues and share ideas amongst themselves to make their jobs easier. Membership on this listserv is voluntary. Assistance has been given to MCCPTA committee and locals listserv moderators as requested.

3) Public Relations/Publicity:

Sub-committee Chair: Lee Ann Doerflinger

Two press releases were sent this month:

- MCCPTA Press Release about MCCPTA and Advocacy activities for the 2009-2010 school year, October 1, 2009
- MCCPTA Press Release on the MCCPTA Legislative Dinner, and Legislators and MCCPTA members attending the MCCPTA Legislative Dinner, October 19, 2009

4) Spotlight:

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

Curriculum Committee Report – November 2009

Chairs: Rebecca Smondrowski rsmon@comcast.net **and Ted Willard** twillard@aaas.org

The Curriculum Committee will host the following meeting in the Auditorium of the Carver Educational Service Center (CESC) which is located at 850 Hungerford Drive (Routh 355) in Rockville.

Monday, December 14th, 7:30pm-9pm

Seven Keys to College Readiness

Presentation and Collection of Parent Feedback

The Washington Post published an article on May 18, 2009 that had the following description of this MCPS Initiative: Montgomery County educators are blitzing parents and students with information on what they call "Seven Keys to College Readiness." The initiative, also promoted on the Web (<http://www.mcps7keys.org>), spells out in detail the courses and tests that officials say point toward academic prosperity.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/17/AR2009051701884.html>

This meeting will review the Seven Keys and collect feedback about them from parents that MCCPTA can then convey to MCPS.

Seeking Volunteers to Represent MCCPTA on MCPS's Curriculum Advisory Committee

MCPS's Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) reviews, discusses, and advises staff in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction regarding content specific curriculum development, implementation, monitoring, and review. Curriculum Advisory Committee members also collaborate with evaluation and selection committees in related content areas for purposes of information sharing and alignment of decisions. MCCPTA sends parent representatives to the CAC's and we need a number of people to represent all aspects of the community. Based on feedback, the curriculum advisory committee has been restructured this year to focus on one or two content areas each evening session of CAC and allow all CAC members to review and advise on more than one content area.

If you are interested in representing MCCPTA on the CAC, please contact the MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Chairs (contact information above). Meetings will take place from 7-9 pm on the following Mondays: November 9, January 11, March 8, & May 10.

Health Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Susan Young

Please see the report under Safety Committee for the joint meeting held on Artificial Turf.

Safety Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Laurie Halverson, lauriehalverson@verizon.net

Athletic Turf Forum

Our Safety Committee and the MCCPTA Health Committee hosted an Athletic Turf Forum on October 7 at Carver. We had a great group of panelists:

- Joe Lavorgna, Director, MCPS Department of Facilities Management
- Dr. William (Duke) Beattie, MCPS Director of Systemwide Athletics
- Jay Nalls, Superintendent, Norbeck Country Club
- Kevin Morris, Executive Director, National Turfgrass Evaluation Program in Beltsville
- Mike Riley, Deputy Director of Montgomery County Department of Parks
- Kevin Mercer, Superintendent of Grounds, St. Mary's College
- John McShane, FieldTurf Tarkett
- Robert Patton, Turf Center Lawns.

Joe stated that schools would receive artificial turf during scheduled modernizations. The artificial turf fields cost \$1 million which he said would be "absorbed" as part of the \$100 million makeover at each school. His point was that it is only 1% of the modernization cost so it wouldn't be a problem (or a process) to include.

Replacing the Artificial Turf field after the expected 10 years costs \$500,000 at this time. FieldTurf had not replaced any of its fields yet.

The natural turf folks all discussed our area being a transition zone between warm and cold weather grasses. Bermuda seemed to be the grass to go with but it's not easy.

Duke Beattie said that starting in late August, the fields are used continuously (except for Sundays) making time for natural turf field maintenance difficult.

Per the MCPS/FieldTurf panelists: The maintenance of artificial turf costs \$10,000 per year. They noted that includes the "sweeper" to groom the rubber nuggets. That did not seem to include any type of cleaning...no one addressed that issue clearly. The issue of vomit on the field was discussed-bacteria breaks it up on a natural turf field, yet artificial turf requires staff to clean and disinfect it. The FieldTurf yearly maintenance would include "1 or 2" visits.

Vandalism of fields was discussed. Artificial Turf can apparently be quickly, easily fixed. The FieldTurf rep said artificial turf fields could also be quickly repaired/replaced and then said that he and another rep would be out game days. They went through how you could light fire to the field but only the accelerant would burn. Nobody addressed how spray painting would be handled.

Duke stated that \$10,000 was well below what the average Athletic Director was paying for natural turf maintenance. Some Athletic Directors spend upwards of \$25,000. BUT, apparently each Athletic Director is responsible for contracting out turf maintenance.

The St. Mary's college panelist stated that it costs him only \$5,000 per year to maintain his four natural fields using organic fertilizers and also said his fields are heavily used and in fantastic shape. *It should be noted that MCPS and MC Parks fields may take more wear and tear from a variety of different sports venues (a large variety of sports activities coming from the recreation department programs, private groups, nonprofit organizations, and school groups) compared to a managed college sports venue.

Joe stated that the total costs of natural and artificial turf are comparable at the end of a ten year period. Duke mentioned that some school Athletic Directors have much less, some much more to spend based on booster club funds raised by schools. MCPS relies on Booster Clubs to pay for much of the cost of maintenance, whether natural or artificial turf and plans to continue to depend on Booster Clubs for maintenance funding as more high schools are modernized and artificial turf fields are added. Concession stand profits managed by the booster clubs can be used to pay for maintenance of fields.

The recurring mantra was maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. The natural turf experts all agreed that it is important for MCPS to maintain natural turf and warned that that the track record needed to be improved no matter what type of field was installed.

Regarding the field temperature issue, Jay (a pro natural panelist) stated that similar temperatures are found on asphalt surfaces (basketball, tennis, track). The FieldTurf rep said that it might get hot at the surface but gets progressively cooler with each foot above the surface and nobody has died yet from heat exhaustion on artificial turf. Laurie Halverson spoke to the ICB Director before the forum who said that temperature requirements can be added to the contract field users sign when they rent the facilities.

The point was emphasized that they're looking at 25 rectangular fields in the county...not at middle schools...not at elementary schools...only one field at each high school to be installed over decades of modernization.

Duke elaborated how 3 games (1 1/2 hours each) every day after school could be played on the artificial turf versus how the fields are "saved" for Friday night games now.

Duke and Joe informed us how currently players are carted off site to other fields every afternoon, which aren't necessarily any better than the school field, to practice. Their counterpoint to the safety issue of artificial turf is the safety issue of all teenagers driving on the road every afternoon instead of staying on site.

The "greenness" of the turfs was discussed with the FieldTurf rep saying that cut turf doesn't provide any oxygen. The turf experts disputed that. The FieldTurf rep assured us that their product (the grass overlay) does not contain lead and there are scientific studies to back his statement, but when asked if the recycled tire infill contained harmful contaminants, he answered that soil probably contains more harmful contaminants than tire infill.

Anti Bullying Policy

On October 26, 2009, the Board of Education tentatively adopted Policy JHF, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation to comply with Maryland law and to demonstrate commitment to addressing this issue. The policy includes professional development for administrators and staff; encouraging student involvement in prevention efforts; facilitating communication with families and the community and implementing strategies for supporting their children; ensuring collaboration with community health and mental health resources; and providing a range of interventions developed to prevent bullying, harassment, or intimidation while ensuring the safety of students who are victims.

Individuals who wish to provide comments should respond in writing by January 18, 2010. All responses should be sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850 or emailed to the Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org. All responses will be shared with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools

Other MCPS Policies out for public comment:

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

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the MCCPTA Safety Committee Chair, Laurie Halverson, lauriehalverson@verizon.net

Safe Routes to School

Jennifer Cope spoke about her advocacy in improving safe access to Kensington Parkwood ES at our October 28 Safety meeting. When the school was rebuilt, the new traffic patterns were causing congestion and parents were concerned about the safety of students. Here are some things the school and PTA did to advocate successfully for improvements:

- Bringing together decision makers: By meeting together with a state delegate, an urban planner, a Safe Routes to School Coordinator, an MCPS staff member, and some actively involved parents, the need was expressed and everyone was on the same page in understanding the reason for improvement.
- Following the steps listed in the Safe Routes to School Website.
- PTA committee met regularly over the summer.
- The PTA set up a table at Back to School Night and recruited "Block Parents." Block parents sign up and volunteer to put a recognizable sign on their door or window that identifies their house as a safe haven. Kids learned through school morning announcements and posters in the school that they can go to block parents whenever they need to (such as if they fell on a bike and got hurt or if a stalker is following them.)
- The Safe Routes Coordinator created a safe walking route map for the school.
- The Principal included safe driving procedures in a letter in backpacks to stress the importance of changing behaviors.
- The PTA Committee Created "walking buses" which are groups of walkers to and from school and supervised by adults.
- Bike racks were purchased (FYI-a great fifth grade gift for schools)
- Signs were added including a right hand turn only sign to improve traffic flow.
- After the program was implemented, the committee met to assess their success.

For more details, please contact Jennifer Cope at jencope@hotmail.com.

Our next Safety Committee will be on Monday, December 7 at 7:00 PM. We planning to invite some Educational Facility Officers to be our guest speakers.

Special Education Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Jeanne Taylor

On October 10, 2009, I attended the 5th Annual Buddy Walk sponsored by the Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County. Despite the wind and the rain it was a fun event and a good number of people turned out. What an inspiring event! During the last Board of Directors meeting I presented Kay Romero with the All Kids Count plaque honoring the late Blair Ewing. AKC would like for MCCPTA to continue to honor Blair's legacy of advocating for children, particularly children with special needs. On Monday, October 5 we had our annual kick off meeting. Gwen Mason and Judy Pattik, Directors of Special Education in MCPS, introduced themselves to the group. Several representatives from other advocacy groups presented information about their organizations. The sharing of information was very useful for many of the attendees. Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 7, 2009 when we will hear from Dr. Susan Hammond of Stixrud and Associates. She will be presenting information on learning disabilities.

Technology Committee Report – November 2009

Chair: Linda White, lindabwhite1@aol.com

The Technology Committee spent the last month assisting Carol Salsbury, VP Programs, in coordinating the October Delegates Assembly Technology Program with the MCPS Office of Technology & The Chief Technology Officer, Sherwin Collette. The program was very insightful and Mr. Collette used a Promethian Board to demonstrate and review some of the more compelling programs that MCPS is promoting to improve student learning, professional development and productivity for the 21st century classroom. The one hour program was taped on Channel 33 and was well attended at the delegates assembly. A survey was done at the end of the program and it received very high marks. The team is considering doing a more in depth program at a later date.

From Maryland PTA - Is your local a Unit in Good Standing?

(Refer to Article IV of your local bylaws) - Can you report the following?

Current Bylaws - Bylaws have been reviewed and/or amended and submitted to MDPTA for approval within the last three years. The bylaws template is available on line at www.mdpta.org.

Payment of Membership Dues - Maryland PTA (state) = \$1.50 per PTA member and National PTA (national) = \$1.75 per PTA member - Membership cards are sent by MDPTA in sheets of 10. Dues (\$3.25 per member-total) are remitted to the MDPTA office on a monthly basis; state forwards national portion. Individuals can/should be encouraged to join at any time. PTA's must pay for each card or return unused cards to MDPTA office.

Maintain membership of at least 25 members - Only members of a local PTA who have paid dues for the current year may participate in the business of that PTA.

Current incorporation in the State of Maryland - Contact MD PTA for incorporation status or check online at www.dat.state.md.us; click on Business Data Search, then Business Entity Information and follow search instructions.

Submit name and address of PTA President to the MDPTA office

IRS and Taxes - File the appropriate tax form with the IRS, 4.5 months after end of fiscal year. Form 990N (new effective FY07/08) - if average gross income <\$25,000 over 3 years. Form 990EZ - if average gross income >\$25,000 over 3 years. Form 990 - if average gross income >\$100,000 over 3 years

Insurance - Bonding, liability and directors and officers liability insurance are required. In order to meet the requirements for bonding insurance, a financial audit must be completed at the close of each fiscal year or upon a change of Treasurer

Being a unit in good standing allows your local unit to be eligible for membership awards, credential cards for National PTA Convention and Maryland State Convention and/or participate in the business of the organization.

Have you checked the status of your unit's incorporation?

If you are not considered "In Good Standing" by the Maryland Department of Assessments, you need to contact them (410-767-1350) to find out what is required to bring you into Good Standing. Not being in good standing can result in the loss of your incorporation and the protection it provides. It will cause your local to not be in good standing, and thus not be able to participate in several of our programs and benefits. This loss of standing by the MD Dept of State is usually a result of not filing your property tax report.

THIS REPORT NEEDS TO BE FILED WHETHER YOUR PTA/PTSA OWNS ANY PROPERTY OR NOT!!!

Check your status at www.dat.state.md.us - Click on Business Data Search – Click on Business Entity Search - Then enter either the PTA name as originally submitted OR enter the Incorporation number for your PTA. When you see your PTA, click on general information. This will give you an overview of the status of your PTA.

National PTA Launches Healthy Lifestyles Month

CHICAGO – As statistics show that more children today are suffering from obesity and developing diabetes than ever before, PTAs nationwide are making a difference to improve child health, nutrition and physical fitness through family engagement. Parents are getting more creative and developing clever initiatives that make eating and living healthy fun in spirit of National PTA’s **Healthy Lifestyles Month**.

In celebration of Healthy Lifestyles Month, this year PTA is proud to announce the unveiling of the [Healthy Lifestyles](#) grant recipients on November 9th in a fun-filled, fruitful fashion with plenty of surprises in store for National PTA. So stay tuned in for the exciting news waiting to be revealed! Throughout the month of November, PTAs nationwide participate in PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month through activities they have planned to: promote health and wellness through parent involvement in their schools; emphasize the link between involvement and student achievement; and further PTA’s mission.

“Every year during Healthy Lifestyles Month, we are seeing new and original ideas created by parents in efforts to prevent childhood obesity by teaching their children how important it is to start living a healthy lifestyle now.” said Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor, National PTA President. “We’re proud to see parents at the grassroots level helping out schools and other parents remember that a healthy child is more likely to succeed.” Knowing that a healthy child can achieve and learn more, PTAs are encouraging families to increase their physical activity and learn to eat healthier year round by cultivating gardens for communities to grow produce, introducing new fruits and vegetables to children weekly, compiling healthy recipe books with recipe contributions from their school community, developing intramural sports programs for youth, and strengthening school wellness policies.

MCCPTA DUES PAYMENT VOUCHER FOR 2009-10

Return bottom portion to the MCCPTA office at: MCCPTA, 2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850. Keep the top portion for your records. Please note, PTA membership is
open all year and dues are to be paid monthly as new members come in.

*****KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

*****RETURN THIS PORTION TO MCCPTA*****

MCCPTA Dues - Due Monthly

Name of PTA: _____

Federal Tax ID Number: _____

Number of Member: Adults _____ Students _____ Teachers _____ Total _____

Amount Remitted (\$1.00 per member): \$ _____ Check# _____

PTA Treasurer: _____ Phone Number _____

For MCCPTA Office Use Only:

Delegate Card Numbers:

Date:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MCCPTA
2096 Gaither Road
Suite 204
Rockville, MD 20850

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

November - December 2009

MCCPTA Calendar 2009-2010

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

Upcoming Calendar Items:

November

- 5 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 7 MCCPTA CIP Testimony Writing Workshop at Rockville HS 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 13 MD PTA Fall Convention, Frederick, MD Holiday Inn & Conference Center
- 14 MD PTA Fall Convention, Frederick, MD Holiday Inn & Conference Center
- 24 MCCPTA Program "Curriculum (Special Focus: Math Curriculum & Process Development)"
6:30pm - 7:30pm
- 24 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm

December

- 3 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 7 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7pm - 9pm
- 7 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9pm
- 9 MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7pm - 9pm

January

- 4 Reflections submissions due to MCCPTA Office
- 4 MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 7 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 9 MCCPTA Operating Budget Testimony Workshop
- 26 MCCPTA Program "Men in PTA" 6:30pm - 7:30pm
- 26 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm

February

- 1 MCCPTA Special Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 4 MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 10 MCCPTA Safety Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- 23 MCCPTA Program "Student Service Learning (SSL)" 6:30pm - 7:30pm
- 23 MCCPTA Delegate Assembly 7:30pm - 9:30pm