

## December 2008

### MCCPTA Safety Committee Report

Chair: Laurie Halverson

Visitor Management System: MCPS will be providing visitor management systems to the following schools as of July 2009:

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

\*Walter Johnson (CCTV only), \*Richard Montgomery (CCTV only)

Note: "CCTV" means "closed circuit television" cameras.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

\*Parkland, \*Loiderman, \*Sligo, \*Kingsview, \*Eastern, \*Forest Oak, \*King, \*Banneker, \*Montgomery Village, \*Clemente, \*Wood, \*Farquhar, \*Westland, \*Julius West (CCTV only)

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

\*Harmony Hills, \*Sligo Creek, \*Glenallan, \*Oakland Terrace, \*Highland, \*Pine Crest, New Hampshire Estates, East Silver Spring, Shriver, Brookhaven, Viers Mill, Weller Road, Wheaton Woods, Burnt Mills, Broad Acres, Jackson Road, Cannon Road, Greencastle, Drew, Strawberry Knolls, Gaithersburg, Goshen, Watkins Mill, Whetstone, Stedwick

\*already installed

Laurie Halverson, Kay Romero and Merry Eisner will visit Westland Middle School on December 5 to get an overview of how the new system works and will report back to MCCPTA on what they learn.

Advocacy Efforts with Elected Officials: MCCPTA board members met with our state delegates on November 10. Laurie Halverson shared safety concerns with state delegates and senators such as Rob Garagiola, Nancy King, Kathleen Dumais and Brian Feldman. Laurie also met with County Councilman Roger Berliner and BOE member, Shirley Brandman this month.

Bullying: At our November committee meeting, we discussed the current protocol for bullying as explained on the MCPS website. We looked at the bullying forms. There is a form that parents can complete to report a bullying incident, (MCPS Form 230-35, "Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form." <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>.) Once the form is completed, the administration must follow up with another form, (MCPS Form 230-36, "Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Incident School Investigation Form." <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-36.pdf>.) However, there seems to be a missing link for the parents. It appears to parents that administrators don't always follow up and parents usually don't know what action has been taken which is very frustrating. It seems there is not enough education for parents on how to communicate with MCPS when they are aware of a bullying incident affecting their child. Most don't even know that a form to report a bullying incident exists. Often, parents are not even aware that their child is being bullied. We discussed that principals aren't motivated to educate parents about the bullying form because of the pressure by MCPS to reduce incidents. The more educated parents become, the more likely forms will be completed which ends up reflecting poorly on the schools and the performance of the staff. There is not enough oversight and there is an "ostrich" affect with the bullying policy. Stronger actions need to take place and more education will help improve the current protocol. We are hoping to gain more knowledge on the current MCPS protocol at our meeting on December 18. We will try to have a guest speaker from MCPS to give us a better understanding about how MCPS is directing the schools on bullying protocol.

Incidents at a Glance: A new report is available called "School Safety and Security at a Glance" which is a comprehensive report per school that includes information on suspensions, serious incidents, safety related programs, safety incidents requiring code red or blue status, and selected responses to the school environment surveys. We will discuss this new report at our December meeting.