

## **MCCPTA Committee Update – May 2007**

### **Safety Committee Report**

5/10/07

#### **Prom and Party Safety**

As the end of the year approaches, we wanted to remind you that there are resources out there to help you work with your kids on avoiding the dangers of teen alcohol abuse, and particularly the hazards of drinking and driving. You might want to start at the MCCPTA website, where there are several links to prevention information:

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

The first link at that spot is a brochure called "Parents Who Host," which talks about liabilities parents face when they allow alcohol to be served to underage kids at parties in their homes, and tips for avoiding alcohol in these parties. There are also links to videos on the dangers of drinking and driving. There is also a link to a Montgomery County Government website that has sample parent teen driving agreements and other tips on this issue. See also this issue of the "Safenet" newsletter, which provides tips for parents about prom, as well as a list of limosine companies that have received prom night training: [http://www.mccpta.com/safety\\_dir/SAFEnet13doc.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/safety_dir/SAFEnet13doc.pdf)

Finally, you might want to work with your principal on making sure that the MCPS no-tolerance rule for alcohol is enforced at school events. See the MCPS policy COF-RA on this at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/cofra.pdf>

Please pass this information on to your high school list serves and have a safe and happy graduation season!

**Pedestrian and Traffic Safety around Schools** At the March Delegates' Assembly, Fred Lees of the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation gave a presentation on how Montgomery County determines placement of traffic controls such as school speed zones, crosswalks, and traffic lights around schools. Raymond Trout of the MCPS Division of Construction gave a presentation about the MCPS "safe access" program for improving traffic flow patterns on and around school sites. Copies of their presentations are posted to the MCCPTA website under the Safety Committee tab. If you have concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety around your school, you should begin by checking with your principal about any plans for improvements. To initiate a study of conditions around your school, your principal and/or PTA can start by contacting DPWT/Traffic Engineering and Operations Section at [trafficops@montgomerycounty.md](mailto:trafficops@montgomerycounty.md) or at 240-777-6000 the MCPS/Division of Transportation at 301-840-8130. Since resources for this issue (as for many others) are scarce, it is likely that response will be slow and measured. In addition, Delegate Bronrott gave a presentation about pedestrian safety programs within Montgomery County. In particular, the State of Maryland and Montgomery County are encouraging local school participation in "International Walk to School Day" to promote pedestrian safety training. Go to <http://www.walktoschool.org/> for information about this event, and to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/PIO/news/pedestriansafety/index.asp> for information about other Montgomery County pedestrian safety programs.