

MCCPTA

November, 2011 Committee Reports

Cultural Arts Committee

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The 2011-12 MCPS Performing Arts Catalogue is now available online. To view it go to: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/finearts/showcase>; then click on 2011-12 Performing Arts Catalogue.

Performances on the final day of the Cultural Arts Showcases, held on October 12th, were videotaped and will be added to the tapes available online from last year's Showcases. These are not yet ready but as soon as I receive word that they are, I will be putting that information on the PTArts e-list.

This is a very busy time of year for use of the PTArts e-list, with many cultural arts reps from around the county sharing information about performers they are hiring or wish to hire. For the first time, membership on the e-list is now up to 200 members. However, some schools have several people using the e-list, while some have none at all. Please be sure that whoever is responsible for the cultural arts programming at your school is aware of this excellent opportunity for learning more about what performances are available for the schools. To sign up, send NAME, EMAIL, SCHOOL, & POSITION to PTArts-subscribe@yahoo.com.

ESOL Subcommittee

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A strategy to establish a Latino Organization similar to NAACP was proposed to the ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee (EBAC)/MPCS. It was considered feasible and appropriate due the major proportion of Latino Students in the area. The base organization will be PALA. For more information, see the following excerpt from MCCPTA website (http://www.mccpta.com/archived_spotlight.html):

"PALA- Padres y Alumnos Latinos en Acción- (Latino Parents and Students in Action) was formed by a dynamic group of parents who were concerned about the progress of latino students at Springbrook High School and decided to do something about it. This core group of parents, which also started the PALA group at White Oak Middle School, was energized by a program held at WOMS in the spring of 2006 called Conquista tus Sueños. PALA - Springbrook was founded in the spring of 2007."

Councilmember Nancy Navarro (D-East County) met with the Northeast Consortium PALA Group on June 16th 2011 at the East County Regional Services Center. Councilmember Navarro discussed with the group the approved County budget and heard from the parents and students their priorities, concerns and suggestions for the County and the schools. More information is available at: <http://connectedcommunities.us/showthread.php?p=45506>

PALA is now a well-established organization in several schools in Montgomery County. The purpose of this initiative is to consolidate the separated groups under an umbrella structure in order to expand their presence and impact. Latino meetings, informative and musical events proposed in the MCCPTA ESOL Workplan could be addressed by this organization in a school-by-school basis. Cultural, academic, social, vocational support and parent involvement would be issues to be covered as well.

Now, PALA representatives will be contacted to define the way in which MCCPTA and EBAC/MCPS can provide logistic support and help, as necessary.

The pilot plan for a Latin meeting (Latin Night Celebration) will be held in Rockville High School on November 11, 2011. The program will include RHS staff, Latin speakers and artistic performances. Food and music will be provided by the Latin Parents Group.

Translation of fixed MCCPTA website content is still in process. Some pilot tests are ongoing. This activity will enable Spanish-speaking parents to be aware about the activities, mission and scope of the MCCPTA.

Gifted and Talented Committee

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The GT Liaisons Fall Training Meeting was held on October 24, 2011 at the CESC Cafeteria. The meeting was very well attended (the room was full!) and robust, and we received a lot of positive feedback and new committee member information from it. Margie Lope represented MCPS's Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI), Fred Stichnoth represented the Gifted and Talented Association of Montgomery County (GTA), Michelle and Ted Willard gave a short presentation on math acceleration under Curriculum 2.0, and GCC Committee member Carole Edelstein participated with Michelle and Ted in a panel discussion about local school options for GT students. MCCPTA VP Laurie Halverson also attended the meeting.

Further developments on Curriculum 2.0 rollout:

Along with MCCPTA VP Laurie Halverson and Curriculum co-chairs Ted Willard and Amanda Graver, Michelle continues to meet with MCPS officials to discuss issues related to the rollout of Curriculum 2.0 (formerly the Elementary Integrated Curriculum) and its impact on placement options for advanced level learners, particularly in mathematics where the changes are the most dramatic.

The GCC is pleased to announce that Marty Creel, Director of Enriched and Innovative Programming, will make a presentation on C2.0 with a particular focus on GT issues on **November 30, 2011 at 7 p.m.** in the Carver auditorium. All interested parents are welcome at the November 30 meeting and we encourage all GT Liaisons from elementary and middle schools to publicize and attend the forum.

Parents and others wishing to familiarize themselves with the Curriculum 2.0 framework in advance of the meeting can start with the dedicated MCPS webpage:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/>

Also, the Committee is still working on preparing a FAQ about C2.0 for the MCCPTA website and encourages questions from members and local schools.

At the October 25th Delegates' Assembly, Curriculum Chair Ted Willard introduced a proposed resolution on restoring honors and GT level classes to middle school schedules, which the GCC fully supports.

At the October 26th BOD/BOE annual meeting, Michelle gave a short "hot issue" presentation about parent concerns over the unfinished parts of the Curriculum 2.0 rollout and their impact in particular on the current cohort of second grade students, who are likely to be in the "first year" of the new curriculum every year between second grade and middle school. This summary will be posted to the GCC webpage.

The AEI Advisory Committee has announced its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year for November 9th, and Michelle will represent the GCC and report back next month. The agenda has not been announced.

Michelle continues to welcome new members to the Committee and its eLists, and encourages all local PTAs to appoint a GT Liaison.

High School Committee

Dave Lechner: dave@lechneronline.com

1. HS Presidents E-list - no new actions -
2. Safe Prom Video contest - still waiting to hear from 2010/11 sponsor.
3. **MCCPTA Model United Nations (MOCOMUN)- Friday Nov 11, 3pm to 9pm.**
5 schools, about 80 students planning to participate.
Press release and VIP Invites being sent out this week.
4. Shakespeare Video contest, started sending out flyers via email. .
5. MCCPTA Web Site - no new action -
6. Creative Writing E-Books - no new action -
7. Parking Lot study - no new action - need to finalize this ASAP.
8. HS Jazz Festival and a Folk Festival, 2 different events, as approved by the MCCPTA BOD. Met with MCPS Fine Arts team - very positive discussions and good feedback. Meeting with director of Black Rock Perf. Arts Center next week, and starting to discuss with Chamber of Commerce leadership.

Membership Committee

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We continue to work with cluster coordinators and local PTA/PTSA leaders to increase our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County. Early membership numbers from the end of October were roughly 1,500 members—over 10 percent--more than the same time last year; a very good sign!

Over the past month, the Wheaton and WJ clusters included membership growth sessions at their cluster meetings. Membership tips, this past month focused on “Membership After BTSN” and the second round of membership drives were features on the Delegates eList.

Vis-à-vis Maryland PTA, we continue to participate on the Maryland PTA Membership committee. We are waiting to hear Maryland PTA’s response to a number of issues raised by MCCPTA, including the question of how they currently tabulate total prior year membership for presentation on the SoCA (the number now used is actually the previous year’s members through March 31 plus the late memberships from two years ago—a number that does not reflect the membership of a local PTA for a single fiscal year) and how statewide membership awards are calculated (this year, Maryland PTA and MCCPTA reached different conclusions on growth winners using the same data set). We continue to await Maryland PTA’s response.

Operating Budget Committee

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During the past month, the Operating Budget Committee: 1) updated the Delegates on the Operating Budget; 2) moved for passage of the Resolution on FY 2013 Operating Budget Priorities and the Operating Budget Compact, both of which were passed by the Delegates (the Priorities were amended to include support for on-line access for parents to Curriculum 2.0); 3) attended all October meetings of the MCPS Operating Budget Review Group; 4) met with current County Council Vice-President to discuss the FY 2013 Operating Budget, and also requested from the Council information about the allocation of local funding over recent years, and the sharing of revenue data; and 5) provided an overview of the newly passed FY 2013 Priorities to the Board of Education at the MCCPTA Board's fall meeting with BOE.

Key Operating Budget Dates are as follows:

- Wed., Dec. 7, 7 pm - Presentation of Superintendent’s Recommended Operating Budget (Carver)
- Wed., Jan. 4, 7:30 pm - MOE Forum (Carver)
- Thurs., Jan. 5, 5:30-7:30pm, Workshop on Writing Operating Budget Testimony (Carver, Room 120)
- Wed., Jan. 11 and 18, 7 pm – Board of Education Operating Budget Hearings (Carver)
- Feb. 2012 - Annapolis Trip (TBD)
- Wed., Feb. 15, 7pm – MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum, with Board of Education and County Councilmembers (Richard Montgomery Auditorium)
- Apr. 2012 County Council Operating Budget Hearings (TBD)

Parent Involvement Committee

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MCCPTA Parent Involvement Committee invites you to Rolling Out The Red Carpet to Welcome and Engage Multicultural Parents on November 9th 6:30 to 9pm at the Carver Auditorium in the BOE Building. Present will be a panel of Principals sharing their best practices and parents sharing the barriers faced in our school system. Dinner, child care and interpretation will be provided, as well as information that will increase parent involvement in your school. See you there!

Presidents and Principals Dinner

Dale Ryan: dalejryan@yahoo.com

Marriott, Golden Bull, Montgomery Ag. Center, and UMD quotes received.

Marriott price has increased from last year, by \$3+ per dinner; also parking package adds \$1.25 per person, and soft drinks are no longer free... costs

\$6 PER DRINK

Appetizers are up \$2 per person also.

Golden Bull can hold only 300 persons and cost would be around \$50 per person for Dinner only.

MC Ag center received cost to rent facility only/

UMD - Cost to rent auditorium - \$1000 (6 - 10PM) cost for Dinner (salad and desert/ coffee tea service) and silverware - \$11K for 400 plus tax

Need to determine if there is a cost for servers, and cost for stage. Also need to determine if MCPS should tape banquet - cost is around \$600 for dinner for 8 team members.

Need to determine if having cash bar is important

Reflections Committee

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The month of November is a busy one for Reflections Chairs. Most local PTAs and PTSAs are drawing closer to their school deadline for submission of student entries. The schools will have their entries judged for winners (three per category) and honorable mentions. The winning entries then move on to the county level.

The yahoo site has been relatively quiet, but is expected to pick up this month. Chairs will find that they have more to do this year to ensure that student entries qualify for county, state and national levels as they must check all of the paperwork for compliance under the new rules and regulations. Although the work seems a bit tedious and repetitive, it is consistent with changes on the state and national levels as well.

A summary of the new rules and regulations have been posted on the Reflections Yahoo Group site, along with many links to necessary forms and guidelines.

The Yahoo site and the MCCPTA website both note that the deadline for all chairs to bring their school's winning artwork to the MCCPTA office will be December 14-16, and December 19th. Hours will be posted to the Yahoo Group in the near future. Winning entries from local schools/PTAs cannot be accepted by the MCCPTA after December 19, 2011.

It is imperative that every participating local PTA is considered "In Good Standing" by the Maryland PTA. The Reflection Chair and the PTA President must be sure that their PTA is in compliance with the Maryland PTA Standards of Continuing Affiliation requirements in order for a winning entry to be accepted at the County level. The details and due dates for these requirements are noted on the Reflections Yahoo Group site. All PTAs have the ability to check on their standing with the Maryland PTA by either calling the MDPTA office, or checking the Yahoo Group site, where they can view the most recently provided Standards of Continuing Affiliation list. Individual questions regarding Standards of Continuing Affiliation should be directed to the MDPTA office or the MCCPTA office (office@mccpta.com).

Questions from chairs, PTA presidents or entrants are welcome and should be directed to the Yahoo group or the MCCPTA Co-Chairs. To join the Reflections Yahoo Group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReflectionsMCCPTA/>.