



October 17, 2007

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**Visit our web site**

www.mccpta.com

*Greetings, we are now full swing into the school year. Your PTA should have an approved budget, a schedule of board and general membership meetings for the year, and your major activities and events should be on your school and PTA calendar. If your PTA needs help getting to this point, you can contact your cluster coordinator(s) and/or our training chair who can give you some guidance. Don't forget to sign up for our list serves so you receive all our official announcements and can participate in PTA discussions.*

If you missed our September 29<sup>th</sup> training, don't forget that our guidebooks are on our website [www.mccpta.com](http://www.mccpta.com) and that the state ([www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org)) and national ([www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)) PTA website have additional guidebooks that you can download. We are still working with Maryland PTA to see if they can offer a regional training in Montgomery County in January or February.

Membership dues should be paid to both Maryland PTA and MCCPTA by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Maryland PTA sends each PTA an invoice every month until March. Your invoice will bill you for the total number of membership cards that you received. You should only pay for the memberships you actually sell to that point. Do not throw out unused cards, as you will have to return them to Maryland PTA in the spring. Maryland PTA collects dues for National PTA, so the \$3.25 per member you pay to Maryland covers state and national dues. Dues to MCCPTA are \$1.00 per member; all treasurers were sent a dues payment form last week.

This form is also available on our web site.

PTAs are getting organized for their Reflections programs. The MCCPTA Reflections guidebook is available on our web site and both Maryland and National PTA websites have more information. If your PTA has never participated in the Reflections program, contact our co-chairs and visit the websites to find out more information and how to get started.

Maryland PTA has sent out materials regarding the November 16-17 annual convention. The convention will be held in Towson, Maryland. (Registration info available at [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org)) There are workshops Friday morning and a general convention session Friday afternoon. There are more workshops on Saturday and two more general convention sessions (the third will be cancelled if all business is finished in session two). We anticipate that the Friday session will cover the proposed bylaws changes to the Maryland PTA bylaws and the election of new Maryland PTA officers. Saturday's sessions will likely deal with approval of the legislative platform and other position statements. It is possible that someone from Montgomery County will try to add an item to the convention agenda asking Maryland PTA to change the Council Bylaws template. This would come at the end of the sessions on Saturday and would require a 2/3 vote of those present to place on the agenda.

The general convention sessions are similar in concept to our delegate assembly, although much

more formal. Each PTA in good standing as of June 30, 2007, has been sent three credential cards. Your PTA may get more credential cards at the convention—for each 50 members, a local gets one more card. To receive a voting card at the convention, you must have a local membership card and a credential card from a PTA in good standing. We are advising local presidents to bring any extra credential cards and some membership cards with you to convention in case anyone finds out at the last minute that their own PTA is not in good standing—you can join a PTA in good standing at the convention! MCCPTA Board members should ask their local president for a credential card.

All local presidents have been sent the proposed Maryland PTA bylaws changes. One of these includes removing council presidents from the Maryland PTA executive committee. One would make it mandatory that all local PTAs purchase insurance through a company designated by Maryland PTA. There will be a report on the implications of this change at our October delegate assembly. I strongly urge you to attend this convention. The registration fee is an appropriate PTA expense. If you register soon, there is a discount. Montgomery County will be affected by several issues to be voted on at convention—your vote will matter.

MCPS has set aside several dates for food services tours—more information is later in this letter. I went on a tour several weeks ago and highly recommend the black bean patty, which is coming soon to middle schools. The tours are an excellent opportunity to find out more about how this division of MCPS operates and to see what your kids are eating or not eating at school.

If you receive announcements from our bulletin list serve or have visited our web site recently, you have seen that many of our committees have set up meetings for this school year. We rely on local PTA members to join our committees and to be active participants. You do not have to be a local officer or delegate to join an MCCPTA committee so if you have members that are interested in a particular issue, be sure to pass along information on our committees. At the convention, in case anyone finds out at the last minute that their own

PTA is not in good standing—you can join a PTA in good standing at the convention! MCCPTA Board members should ask their local president for a credential card.

At the first delegate assembly, resolutions on final exams in AP/IB/CIE courses and on MCCPTA operating budget priorities were introduced. These resolutions will come to the floor for discussion and a vote at our October 23<sup>rd</sup> DA. We will also be introducing a resolution regarding crossing guards and EFOs (educational facility officers) at the October DA to be voted on in November.

The MCPS CIP (Capital Improvements Program) will be released on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We will host, with MCPS, a CIP forum on the 30<sup>th</sup> in the Carver Auditorium. Testimony on the CIP will take place on November 14-15. If you are writing testimony or just want more information on the CIP, attend our forum.

At the Maryland PTA Board meeting this weekend, guidelines for local PTA position statements were discussed. These have not been finalized, but the discussion did highlight the need for all PTAs, cluster coordinators, and MCCPTA as well, to make sure that public position statements do not conflict with National or Maryland PTA positions. Board members of local PTAs and MCCPTA Board members have additional responsibilities. If a local PTA votes on an issue, local board members are bound to not speak in opposition to the position their local PTA has taken. If you as an individual disagree with a PTA position you must stay silent. Likewise, MCCPTA Board members must support decisions and positions taken by the MCCPTA delegates or the Board as a whole. This is more than a PTA rule; this is governed by state law regarding corporations and the members of their board of directors.

Thank you for all the good work you are doing for our children,

*Jane*

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The MCCPTA Board of Directors selected seven nominees for the Nominating Committee at their October 4 meeting. The Nominating Committee will be elected at the October 23 Delegate Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee(s). It is the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for MCCPTA elected officers and oversee the nominations of Area Vice Presidents and Cluster Coordinators. The committee's seven nominees include one from each area and one at large member:

**Blair/Einstein/Kennedy/Northwood**

Sally Taber - AVP

**Clarksburg/Damascus/Gaithersburg/Magruder/Watkins Mill**

Kristin Tribble – Damascus Cluster Coordinator

**Northwest/Poolesville/Quince Orchard/Seneca Valley**

David Lechner – PTA President Roberto Clemente MS

**Churchill/Richard Montgomery/Rockville/Wootton**

Andrea Bernardo – Wootton Cluster Coordinator

**Blake/Paint Branch/Sherwood/Springbrook**

DeBora King – Training Committee Chair

**B-CC/Walter Johnson/Walt Whitman/ Wheaton**

Deborah Missal – B-CC Cluster Coordinator

**At Large**

Cleat Kennedy – PTA President Daly ES

The above names have been submitted to PTA Presidents and delegates at least fifteen days prior to the election.

Liz Wheeler

MCCPTA Vice President for Administration

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## OPEN HOUSE DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES CENTRAL PRODUCTION FACILITY

The Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Food & Nutrition Services (DFNS) invites you to an open house, which will include a tour of the Central Production Facility (CPF). The CPF is a state-of-the-art facility utilizing high-volume production equipment to produce and package food products in a safe and sanitary environment. This facility supports the school food program by standardizing food quality and nutritional values throughout the county. During the open house you will also hear about the menu planning process, tour the warehouse and learn about purchasing practices, and have the opportunity to sample a few food products used on the student's menu.

The open houses are scheduled on Tuesday, October 30, and Wednesday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Each tour can accommodate 15 visitors. Additional open houses may need to be scheduled due to interest. Please call Mrs. Sandra Hayslett, DFNS, at 301-840-8156 to indicate which date you will be attending.

With so much attention on proper nutrition for our students, I believe this tour will prove to be enlightening and entertaining.

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## Bylaws Committee

At the fall training, Highland View picked up material and will call; Daly discussed the procedures and will be submitting revised bylaws before they are overdue; and Parklawn will be forming a committee. I will be sending letters in October to all the PTA's that need to do revisions. Diane Dickson and Vicki Rafel have agreed to join the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linna Barnes, Chair, Bylaws Committee**

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## Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee

The CIP Committee has been preparing for the annual capital budget cycle, which begins this month. The Superintendent's proposed 2009-14 CIP will be published in late October, followed by testimony to the Board in mid-November. The Board will approve the recommendation and any amendments by the end of November. After that, the CIP will be integrated with county-wide budget proposals and subject to review and approval from the County Council.

In preparation for the 20-09-14 CIP, quad-clusters have met with the Department of Long Range Facilities Planning to discuss cluster CIP comments, proposed capital projects and non-capital actions, such as boundary studies. The CIP committee has reviewed notes from the MCCPTA area meetings held over the summer to identify county-wide priorities or issues. In addition, Dr. Weast invited MCCPTA, along with several union representatives, to attend MCPS's meetings in September to develop the Superintendent's proposed CIP. We have attended three meetings so far, and been briefed on the contents of a fourth. The Committee will continue to follow this process as the Superintendent develops his final recommendation.

### **MCCPTA/MCPS CIP Forum: Tuesday, October 30, 7:30pm, Carver Auditorium**

Steve Augustino, Chair, CIP Committee

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## Communications Committee

Patti Twigg, Committee Chair and Listservs Moderator

[LPTwigg@erols.com](mailto:LPTwigg@erols.com)

### 1) Website:

Website Coordinators:

Sharon Goodall      [sharon.goodall@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.goodall@gmail.com)

Lin-Lin Mao          [linlinmao@earthlink.net](mailto:linlinmao@earthlink.net)

We have been very busy keeping the calendar and information current. Please continue to send us updates.

### 2) Listservs:

Listservs Moderator:

Patti Twigg      [LPTwigg@erols.com](mailto:LPTwigg@erols.com)

As of September 29, 2007 membership on the various lists is as follows:

Listserv	# subscribed	Increase/decrease from last month
MCCPTA Board	94	+ 2
MCCPTA Bulletin	539	+ 23
MCCPTA Delegates	424	+ 14
MCCPTA Presidents	286	+ 5

There has been a lot of activity the past month, as is typical of the start of a new school year. All of the lists have increased in membership.

### 3) Spotlight:

**“Spotlight” Reminder:** If you have news and/or achievements from your school or PTA that should be highlighted in the “Spotlight” corner of the MCCPTA homepage, please notify MCCPTA (via email to [office@mccpta.com](mailto:office@mccpta.com) and/or [webmaster@mccpta.com](mailto:webmaster@mccpta.com))

Patti Twigg, Chair, Communications Committee

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### **Counseling and Guidance Committee**

#### **Report on Guidance and Counseling Meeting**

September 25, 2007

Present were: Ann Gallagher, Jackie Confrey, Debbie Fink, Risa Sandler, Joyce Wootten

The meeting lasted from 10 until 11 AM in the conference room at Carver in Rockville, Maryland.

Given the extensive information provided by Kent Weaver, of Supervisor of School Counseling Services Unit (MCPS), and our own work plan we reviewed our goals. Mr. Weaver completed 2 of our 3 goals with his documents.

Our third goal was” to explore the need for, and possible production of, a reference/ resource booklet, listing available programs linking counselors with programs”. In our action steps we agreed to “review local PTA testimony ... in order to determine if MCCPTA should lobby for more counselors”. Since the committee values the education of the whole student, both head and heart, we focused our time on considering how counselors could best reach their students.

At this meeting we considered budgeting. We were struck by the disparity in number of students per counselor at the elementary school level. As a committee we embraced the need for more elementary school counselors. We would argue that some are expected to do double to triple the work of other counselors. As a matter of equity we would like the counselors to be treated as professionals with the tools and support to meet with success. Our principal argument is that overwhelming numbers lead to burn out and disillusionment of the trained and educated counselors, a waste of taxpayer investment at the very least. Other counties in the area have established methods of reaching equity between schools with principal contribution if the ratios are still not low enough for the particular school. For example we understand that in Fairfax County each elementary school has 1 full-time counselor for up to 550 students. After that number is reached there are 1.5 counselors for 551-800 students and finally 2.0 counselors for 801-1050 students. For schools with higher needs for counseling services principals have the option to use their funds to purchase .5 time counselors and other counselors can be shared between two schools. Given that in some cases counselors in MCPS are expected to attend to 900 students this alternative appears attractive to us. We would like to have MCPS embrace this position.

Next we turned our attention to how to best assist counselors in reaching the students at any grade level.

There were several points that we considered:

- Ø Teachers need to support the counselors but re-emphasizing the counselor’s lessons.
- Ø Counselors need to review the tips from other counselors.
- Ø Counselors need assistance in identifying school based needs.
- Ø Parents need to have recourse if a counselor is too overworked to address a local problem.

We understand that counselors have methods of: identifying problems within the school, finding programs to address these problems, networking with the county counselors for advice, and reaching to parents for suggestions. Therefore we are searching for ways to increase the effectiveness of these already existing support structures. Under consideration are:

- Ø Using the county’s SIP process for solidifying counseling goals
- Ø Taking Baldrige goals to hold counselors accountable to local needs

- Ø Constructing feedback loops keeping counselors, administrators, and parents connected to solve problems
- Ø Re-instituting local Guidance Advisory Committees

Before proceeding with any one plan the committee is considering the various directions we could take. We have a few questions that could be answered by MCPS and would influence our future plans. At the moment we are processing how parents would like to see counselors address local problems combined with how counselors are already able to address these problems with an eye to finding areas that are particularly weak.

Lastly please note that counselors of middle and high school students have stated that they have serious problems with the county's (computer?) programs to assign children to classes. This is further complicated by staffing shifts during the summers when classes are supposed to be created.

Ann Gallagher, Chair, Guidance and Counseling Committee

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### **Cultural Arts Committee**

On Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, I met with Howard Spector, Director, Arts in Education, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, to learn about the organization and future plans. I will be attending meetings of the AHMC when time permits. I took part in the Committee Fair at the Delegate Assembly on Tuesday, 9/25.

Three Cultural Arts Showcases have taken place on Thursday, 9/27; Monday, 10/1; and Thursday, 10/4. The last Showcase will take place on Thursday, 10/11 and has all new artists performing.

A Cultural Arts workshop was offered from 12:45-2pm during the MCCPTA Fall Training at Rockville High School on 9/29. Only two people came in from the gorgeous weather to attend, but Liz Wheeler stopped in and we had a very productive session.

Between the Showcases and the workshop, I have had about 35 new people who asked to be added to the Cultural Arts listserv. If your Cultural Arts Chairs/Committee has not joined this listserv, please remind them it is extremely helpful. They can join by sending their name, school, and email to me (see address below).

Patti Twigg very kindly spent time one Sunday giving me computer lessons so I could take over the PTArts Listserv.

On Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, I spoke briefly at the MLK Middle School staff meeting about Cultural Arts and ways to get more artists into the school (i.e. in-school field trips, some available grants, sharing costs of a residency, etc.) without using up the Cultural Arts budget. The Principal also is encouraging the staff to try some of these methods.

Randy Chin, Chair, Cultural Arts Committee

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### **Gifted Child Committee**

The MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee is preparing for our first meeting on October 17, 2007 from 7:30 – 9:00pm at Walter Johnson High School. The meeting will include presentations by

- ❖ Erick Lang, Associate Superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, The OCIP manages the development and implementation of rigorous curriculum, programs, assessments, instructional resources, and grading and reporting.

- ❖ Steve Bedford, Chief School Performance Officer, The mission of OSP is to maximize student achievement by ensuring a quality education for all students. The office monitors school performance and evaluates principals in the context of shared accountability.
- ❖ Dr. and Mrs. Harris, Destination Imagination, Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways.
- ❖ Kay Williams, Director of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, will present information regarding programs available at every grade level for students who need advanced instruction in Montgomery County Public Schools.

The meeting is open to all interested parents and community members.

Holly Gaut, Chair, Gifted Child Committee

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## **GRADING & REPORTING COMMITTEE**

### Recent Grading and Reporting Announcements

1. Ebony Y. Langford promoted to Director ES Curriculum and Instructional Programs
2. Erick Lang promoted to Associate Superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs
3. Jody Leleck promoted to Chief Academic Officer
4. Regulation IKA-RA is being re-drafted to comport with standards-based grading and reporting and with Policy IKA; workgroup to convene this fall
5. OARS Project Team developed standard templates and suggested use by teachers in 2007-2008. OARS team will collect information from secondaries regarding use of templates selected and info will be used to develop recommendations for FY 2008-09
6. OneText team has been convened and will meet from September 2007 through February 2008 to discuss and to suggest procedures on the following topics. Stakeholder groups represented include Central Office staff, teachers, resource teachers, principals, and parents. Student representatives are being sought.
  - a) quarter-end grade category calculations;
  - b) OARS categories - labels and numbers;
  - c) OARS assignment and category weights and
  - d) semester grade calculation method
7. Added security measures implemented since Magruder grade book system was compromised last spring
8. OCIP to convene a workgroup in 2007-2008 to develop recommendations for standards-based grading and reporting in Grade 3
9. Parent/Student feedback gathered by listserv, at meetings of the Grading and Reporting Committee (GRC), through MCCPTA Bulletin communications and by discussion and votes taken at Delegates Assemblies. These are the mainstay of methods for comment and input with the MCCPTA and for offering feedback at meetings of a) the Grading & Reporting Implementation Team (GRIT), b) One Text Committee and c) IKA-RA Workgroup meetings, among others

### Discussions

Weighted Grade Point Averages: The GRC discussed and decided against requesting WGPAs to be printed on MCPS HS Report Cards and on use of the WGPA to determine athletic eligibility

- Some grades reported as "M" on final report cards at the end of FY 2006-07. How widespread was this issue across the county?
- Procedures for Answering G/R Questions From Parents in Regard to a Specific Grade: Adding Step 4 (Parent Meeting with Principal):
  - > The GRC will question for whom these Procedures were intended. If the Procedures are intended to support and guide staff, then the GRC will revisit the Procedures and will decide at its next meeting, whether to seek addition of Step 4: If grade issue is unresolved, a parent meets with the school Principal
  - > If the GRC finds that the Procedures were intended to guide both staff and parents, then the GRC supports addition of Step 4: If grade issue is unresolved, a parent meets with the school Principal
- Final Exam Workgroup - Draft Recommendation of the Final Exam Workgroup:
  - The GRC does not support the Draft Recommendation that, “[a]ll students enrolled in AP/IB/CIE courses during semester B are exempt from the traditional 2-hour final examination but will complete an end-of-course, locally-developed culminating activity/assessment that counts as 25% of the semester grade (same as final examination).”

Grading and Reporting Committee Meetings will usually be held on the first Monday of each month. The 2007-'08 meeting dates are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday, October 17, 2007	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, November 5	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, December 3	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 127
Monday, January 7, 2008	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, February 4	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, March 3	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 127
Monday, April 7	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, May 5	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120
Monday, June 2	7-9pm	Conf. Rm. 120

Offer input on matters pertaining to Grading and Reporting outside of Committee meetings and Delegate Assemblies. To join, send an e-mail with your name and school affiliation to [MCCPTAGradingAndReporting-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCCPTAGradingAndReporting-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or contact Beth Kennington, Chair, Grading and Reporting Committee at [bkenn@starpower.net](mailto:bkenn@starpower.net).

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### **Health Committee**

#### *Health Education Curriculum:*

Tuesday, October 10th: the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled against the Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum, PFOX, and Family Leader Network, who had asked the court for a stay that would overrule a decision by the State of Maryland Board of Education that allowed implementation of the new sex-ed curriculum. The stay has been denied and the new sex-ed curriculum will be implemented in MCPS 8th and 10th grade classes.

#### *Health Room Coverage:*

MCCPTA delegates passed a resolution (introduced and spearheaded by Rich Edelman) last Spring urging that more funding be provided to increase health room coverage. That has happened! Here are the specifics:

School nurses and school health room aides who are in 5 and 6 hour/day position are increased to 7 hours/day. This went into effect for most of those positions when school began in August. The rest will move to 7 hours



on January 1, 2008. This increase provides coverage when school is in session--and some time beyond for elementary schools. This information was provided by:

Judith R. Covich, MA, BSN, RN, Director, School Health Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, Ph 240 777 1626  
Judith.Covich@montgomerycountymd.gov

Tracy Fox, Chair, Health Committee

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### **Membership Committee Update**

The Membership Committee has continued to pull information from local school on membership status and field calls regarding membership questions. Several documents were produced for use in the 9/29/07 Membership Recruitment workshop and will be posted to the web. We would like to get the message out that Membership is a year-round activity.

Membership Committee Members include liaisons from each cluster and other interested volunteers. Our meetings are held once every six weeks, or as needed. The Monday, **October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** will focus on brainstorming ideas and strategies. It will be held at the Olney Caribou Coffee (Rt. 108 and Village Mart Dr.) from 7:30-9:00 p.m. For further information, contact Susan Stavenhagen [s.stavenbury@comcast.net](mailto:s.stavenbury@comcast.net) , (301) 260-8660

Susan Asbury Stavenhagen, Chair, Membership Committee

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### **Parent Involvement Committee**

The Parent Involvement Committee held their first meeting on October 10th 2007 in Room 127 of The BOE Building. We discussed various issues that PTAs face in getting parents involved in the school. One of the issues discussed is the iciness parents receive in the main office of the schools. We all agreed that if you do not think that you are welcome in the office you wouldn't think that you are welcome in the classroom.

We discussed the possibility of getting some guidelines of the beliefs and rules that govern various cultures and religious beliefs that are represented in our community. Before we can create an atmosphere of Inclusion we need to know what hinders a person from feeling that they are included in our community. One parent shared that at Wheaton Woods Elementary School, when they wanted to increase parent involvement, a meeting was first held with the men at one Apartment Complex to introduce to them what was being done, and to get their permission for the women to participate and become involved in the school. The people of this community are from a culture where men are the head of the household, and have to give permission to the women to engage in activities.

Utilizing Parent Outreach Coordinators also came up in our discussion. Offering training for volunteers and creating an atmosphere where parents, staff and administration all work together and respect each other will work for everyone. Having meetings for parents in their native languages without the need of interpreters could be a step in breaking down barriers and creating an atmosphere of "Inclusion". Three 4 Me was suggested to the parents as a program to look into to boost parent involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10th 2008.

Elisia George, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee

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### **Safety Committee Update**

A new School Safety Report is under development by MCPS.

Responding to a requirement by the County Council Office of Legislative Oversight, MCPS has been developing a template to provide information about school safety for each school community. Office of School Performance Director presented a sample report to the Safety Committee meeting held September 25. The current plan is to develop a one-page summary of statistics about suspensions, serious incident reports,

safety-related climate survey responses, and available programs and resources for each school in MCPS. The format is modeled after Schools at a Glance. Some safety committee members expressed reservations about including demographic breakdowns of incidents on the report. But the committee otherwise felt that parents will appreciate having access to this information on a school-by-school basis. MCPS has been gathering input from "stakeholder groups," include various parent groups. They intend to bring it to the BOE in early November. We will keep you informed as the process continues. They are targeting summer of 2008 for the publication of the first report. The report will cover statistics from the immediately preceding year.

We are working with the operating budget committee on an initiative to increase the number of crossing guards and Educational Facilities Officers. These positions are funded and distributed by the Montgomery County Police Dept. Each HS has an educational facilities officer, and 2 middle schools; Argyle and Roberto Clemente also have one each. The middle schools are selected based on the number of incident reports in and around the schools. Although there are 32 funded positions, only 28 of them are currently filled. Because EFOs are commissioned police officers, these positions compete with patrol positions from the pool of officers. The operating budget chair, John Hall, sent out a request to cluster coordinators to let us know of needs in your clusters for more EFOs and crossing guards. Response has been very light so far. Please let us know your needs.

We are working with April on the October and November delegates' assembly programs on gang awareness and bus safety respectively. We will also probably be submitting an amendment to the proposed MCCPTA operating budget priorities calling for more emphasis on facilities repair and indoor air quality.

As we reach the thick of homecoming season, please remind parents to be vigilante about drug and alcohol use. Check the MCCPTA website, under the Safety Committee links, for several resources on this subject.  
Pam Moomau, Chair, Safety Committee

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### **Special Education Committee**

The Special Education Committee will be distributing packets to the chairs during the week of October 1st. Training for new and returning chairs will be held on October 10 from 7:30-9:00 pm at Hungerford Drive. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Meetings and Topics: (All meetings open to the public)

*Wed, Nov 14, 2007* – Panel Discussion of Home School Partnership & Communication.

This session will focus on improving the home-school partnership. Effective communication among teachers, school administration, students and parents is critical for student success. Come listen to what the "experts" have to say on this topic. For more information or to register please contact Teresa Jones at [tjones983@md.northwestern.edu](mailto:tjones983@md.northwestern.edu)

*Wed, Jan 9, 2008* - Transitioning from School to Employment.

This meeting will focus on preparing young adults with disabilities for careers. For more information or to register contact Reda Sheinberg at [rjsheinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:rjsheinberg@yahoo.com)

*Wed, Feb 6, 2008* - Reserved for Secondary Learning Center Update.

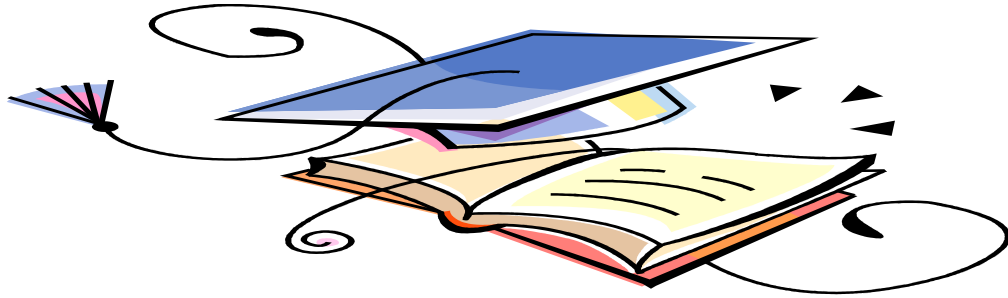
*Wed, Mar 12, 2008* – Rick Lavoie Video Showing and Discussion, "It's So Much Work to be Your Friend: Helping the Learning Disabled Child Find Social Success".

Join us as we learn practical strategies to help children navigate the social situations they face in school, home, and community.

*Monday, May 5, 2008* at Rockville HS-MCCPTA Special Education Committee

Recognition Award Ceremony

Jennifer Zaranis, Chair, Special Education Committee



## High School PTSA President's Fall Interactive Forum Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

This is a forum for current high school PTSA presidents and their guests to discuss prevailing issues and concerns in our high schools. Most of the meeting will be devoted to listening to you.

Featured Speaker:

MCPS Dept. of Family and Community Partnerships  
on the topic of the new PARENT ACADEMY

Some topics of concern:

- Revamping of HSA exams
- Long-term picture regarding graduation venue
- Rollout of High School Plus
- SSL Information and Local Opportunities
- Dealing with the media
- Anything topic you want to bring to the table!!

### Sherwood High School Media Center (Lunch will be provided)

Please RSVP how many will be coming from your school by October 20<sup>th</sup> to: Sharon St.Pierre at [stpierre619@comcast.net](mailto:stpierre619@comcast.net) or 301-774-3613 (Sponsored by the MCCPTA High School Committee)

Sharon St.Pierre, Chair, High School Committee

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  
**MCCPTA**  
**2096 Gaither Road**  
**Suite 204**  
**Rockville, MD 20850**

**Pony Mailing**

**OCTOBER 2007**

**MCCPTA Calendar 2007-2008**

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

**October**

17	7:30pm	Gifted/Talented Liaison Training, Walter Johnson HS Caf�
17	7:00pm	Grading and Reporting Committee meeting, Carver Rm 120
23	7:00-8:00pm	Program: Gangs
	8:00pm	Delegate Assembly
24	7:30 pm	MCPS BOE dinner with MCCPTA BOD, Carver Cafeteria
30		Joint MCPS-MCCPTA CIP Forum

**November**

1	7:30	BOD Meeting
		Membership Dues due to MD PTA and MCCPTA
5	7:00-9:00pm	MCCPTA Grading and Reporting Meeting, Carver 120
12	7:30pm	Curriculum Committee
14	7:00 pm	BOE CIP Hearing
	7:30 pm	MCCPTA Special Education Committee, Carver Caf�.
15	7:00 pm	BOE CIP Hearing
27	10:00 am	Guidance and Counseling Committee, Carver Rm 120
	7:00-8:00pm	Program: Transportation
	8:00pm	Delegate Assembly
29	7:30pm	MCCPTA Gifted Child Com. Mtg. Walter Johnson HS Cafe