March 2009

MCCPTA Technology Committee Report
Chair: Linda B. White

The Technology Committee is in the process of gathering updates from MCPS staff Division of Career and Technology Education on integration of the Maryland Technology Standards into the curriculum and staff development. We are also working to set up a meeting with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to get an update on their goals and vision for the next three years.

Some interesting News Clips related to Technology in the classroom and schools which reflect how quickly technology is changing the way we teach our children and how teachers will operate for the future:

The phrase "21st-century skills" is everywhere in education policy discussions these days, from faculty lounges to the highest echelons of the U.S. education system.

Broadly speaking, it refers to a push for schools to teach critical-thinking, analytical, and technology skills, in addition to the "soft skills" of creativity, collaboration, and communication that some experts argue will be in high demand as the world increasingly shifts to a global, entrepreneurial, and service-based workplace.

Spending Law Offers Educators Several Options for New Aid
By Michelle R. Davis and Kathleen Kennedy Manzo

Technology experts are advising school officials to look closely at the new federal economic-stimulus package for indirect as well as direct sources of aid for technology projects.

The $787 billion stimulus bill, signed into law last week, includes $650 million for an existing educational technology program and opens additional opportunities to find money for such purposes as improved broadband access for rural schools and enhanced data-management systems.

Handheld Electronic Device Helps 5th-Graders Learn
By The Associated Press
Searcy, Ark.

Class is in session and the children are at their desks ... except for that one student reclined on a beanbag in the corner with his thumbs on an electronic gadget.

But wait, he's not goofing off, he's learning.

What fifth grader Logan Glewen, 11, calls a "learning video game" is a big hit in the classroom of David Pietzman, who teaches math and science at Southwest Middle School. The device, which looks at first like a Gameboy or other gaming device popular among young people today - a toy forbidden in most classrooms - is the latest way technology...

Mobile technology for teachers soon
By Vasudha Kamat.

For teachers across the country, access to the latest information could soon be just a phone call -- or SMS -- away. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is all set to launch mobile technology to enable teachers to get the latest know-how in the teaching domain.

In an interview to *Education Plus*, Vasudha Kamat, Joint Director of Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) of the NCERT in New Delhi, said the mobile technology for teachers would be launched this year. "Almost all teachers have mobile phones. We will be creating a mobile phone portal for the purpose at CIET and create a database of teachers across the country," said Ms. Kamat, who was in Puducherry for a seminar on Information and Communication Technology in education.