



BULLETIN

March 2008

VOL. XXXIX NO. 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Katz, President, PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.



Insurance of PTA-sponsored activities has received wide-spread attention over the past year or so,

particularly with regard to the implementation of Board of Education policy 3160 – Non-Instructional Services: School Sponsored Activities. This policy and its companion superintendent’s rule require review and approval by the BCPS Office of Risk Management of any school-sponsored event or program that involves a high-risk activity. In effect, all high-risk activities in which students could participate are now prohibited. Examples of such high-risk activities include end-of-year swim parties and trips to amusement parks connected with music adjudication.

A consequence of this action, albeit unintended, has fallen on the shoulders of some of our PTAs and parents. Consider amusement parks as a case in point. For nearly all students, these trips are the carrot before the horse, the incentive to participate, a reward for perseverance and a job well done. So in order to continue a long-standing school tradition, principals, music teachers and other school personnel have approached our PTAs, requesting PTA sponsorship of a prohibited, high-risk, previously school-sponsored activity.

Here’s the catch. If the school system will not sponsor a risky activity, then PTAs, with very limited resources, should not be asked to take on this responsibility. The liability must not shift from the school system to PTAs nor must PTAs bear the

burden of disappointment and backlash when declining a trip or other similar request.

Ultimately, the decision to sponsor or not to sponsor such an event rests with the individual school PTA. Remember that PTAs are independent organizations and therefore, are responsible for making their own decisions and assuming the consequences of those decisions. PTAs do participate in an insurance program. It appears that the terms of insurance are consistent with those of other PTAs around the country. However, we do not have access to the internal and external resources and controls in the areas of risk management, legal services and formal policies that are available to our school system. When it comes to sponsorship of certain questionable activities, PTAs have been advised to seek assistance from the insurance broker.

At our general membership meeting on January 31, BCPS risk management, PTA liability insurance and the need to minimize risk exposure for PTAs were considered. Many questions were raised; many remain unanswered. Following that meeting, PTA presidents received an explanatory letter and a copy of the insurance summary and loss control guide; that communication was also sent to principals. The discussion will continue at our next general meeting on March 13. Each PTA is encouraged to send at least one representative to this meeting.

On another note, PTA members from across the state braved cold temperatures as they gathered for PTA Night in Annapolis on February 11. Jointly hosted by Maryland PTA, Maryland counties (including Baltimore County) and Baltimore City, this annual event offers an opportunity for us

to ‘meet and greet’ and dialogue with our legislators about matters most important to us, our children and their education. It also serves as an excellent occasion to witness the legislative process in action. Thanks are extended to our PTA members and supporters in attendance!

More than 15 Baltimore County senators and delegates attended the hour-long break-out session that followed the MD PTA legislative briefing. They shared their legislative priorities for 2008 and urged citizens to get in touch with them about matters of local and state-wide significance. To find contact information for your district’s senators and delegates, go to <http://mlis.state.md.us/> and click on ‘Contact or Find a Legislator’. To find pending bills before the House and Senate, click on ‘Bill Information and Status’. Any relevant legislative information will be shared as it becomes available.

Remember, PTA...everychild.onevoice!!

Sincerely,

P.S. Other important items of interest:

- Plan to attend PTA Council’s Reflections Awards Ceremony on Sunday, March 9, beginning at 2:00 PM at New Town High School.
- Remember to submit PTA Council Awards nominations for your PTA/PTSA. The entry deadline is March 13.
- PTA/PTSA insurance premiums for 2008-2009 are due by March 31.

Highlights of the PTA Council Board of Directors Meeting - February 7, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM by President S. Katz

- Minutes of 01/03/08 meeting approved as corrected
- Correspondence folder circulated

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis—2/11, 6-8 PM
- Nomination forms for Council officers and area vice presidents—2/13 deadline
- Resignation – J. Schwartz (NW area representative) resigned from the Nominating Committee

MOTION – N. Hoffman moved to accept J. Schwartz resignation from the nominating committee. 2nd by N. Ostrow – Passed

MOTION – J. Lee moved to nominate G. Clevenger for the NW area representative on the nominating committee. 2nd by N. Ostrow – Passed

MOTION – M. Ryan moved to approve the amendments to the standing rules as presented. – Passed as amended

MOTION – D. Mathieson moved to amend the standing rules motion so that the wording of Duties of Committees reads: Present plan of work to the board of directors by the September board meeting for approval. 2nd by J. Lee – Passed

- Follow up of 1/31 General Meeting - Discussion on PTA-sponsored activities and insurance issues
- The following were appointed to the ad hoc National PTA Convention Committee: J. Ryan, N. Ostrow, G. Clevenger
- Reflections Awards Ceremony – Sunday, 3/9, New Town HS, 2 PM

Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, Baltimore County Public Schools will make a presentation on:

HOW ARE BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHING
CHILDREN WHAT THEY SHOULD
BE LEARNING?

NW Area Education Advisory Council
Public Meeting — Tuesday, March 4,
2008, 7 PM, Pikesville High School

TABCO – C. Beard

- Teacher salary negotiations have ceased
- Teachers with over 25 years are not getting a raise
- Pension plan cost to teachers is increasing
- MD State HB119 – Class size is being addressed
- Federal NCLB legislation still under consideration by Congress

Family-School Partnership committee and AVP reports deferred to March meeting

BCSC – S. Katz for R. Hasan

- General Assembly meeting – 2/7
- Many new bills were passed which related to curriculum
- MASC legislative session is coming up

President – S. Katz

- C. Beard was named Middle School Educator of the Year
- Council awards packets have been sent to all schools
- Grant for \$10,000 submitted to Baltimore County Health Department for smoking awareness; awaiting decision
- SE Area Capacity Study – community forums scheduled in Essex (2/19) and Dundalk (2/20)
- NW Area Education Advisory Council meeting – 3/4, Pikesville HS at 7 PM; topic: curriculum management

Meeting adjourned 9:38 PM
N. Hoffman, Secretary

PTA/PTSA President's Calendar

MARCH

- Attend Reflections Awards Reception, 3/9, New Town H.S.
- Attend general PTA Council meeting and program, 3/13, Loch Raven HS
- Submit nomination forms for PTA Council Achievement Awards Program (deadline 3/13)
- Pay 2008-2009 PTA insurance premium, if not paid in February (payment deadline – 3/31)
- Share PTA legislative initiatives with members
- Continue distribution of membership cards
- Continue paying Maryland PTA and National PTA membership dues (deadline - 3/31)

APRIL

- Publish local PTA nominating committee's slate of officers
- Attend general PTA Council meeting that includes PTA Council election of officers and area vice presidents for 2008-2010 term and Awards Program, 4/24, Loch Raven HS
- Share PTA legislative initiatives with members
- Consider sending delegates to National PTA Convention in San Diego, California in June 2008

IN MEMORIAM

The PTA Council extends our deepest sympathy to the families, schools and PTAs of the following individuals who have passed away:

Sierra Mello
Carney Elementary School

Tammy Browning
PTA President 2003-2005
Pot Spring Elementary School

Gregory Browning
Benjamin Browning
Cockeysville Middle School

*A memorial donation
will be given in their names to the
Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund.*

Council Memorials

PTA Council provides a memorial donation to the Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund whenever an administrator, teacher, or PTA officer dies while serving the Baltimore County Public Schools. PTA Council also provides a memorial donation whenever a student in grades Pre-K through 12 dies while registered in a Baltimore County Public School. Should your school suffer such a loss, please contact the PTA Council office at 410-666-6637, so that a memorial may be prepared.

PTA Council Annual Awards



CULTURAL ARTS



The PTA Council of Baltimore County will honor the hard working parents, educators and their programs that make PTAs shine at its annual Awards Celebration on Thursday, April 24, 2008.

Nomination forms were sent to each PTA in January. The entry deadline is Thursday, March 13, 2008.

The awards packet contains nomination forms for the following awards:

Unit of Excellence Award - to honor those PTAs who perform 6 tasks that demonstrate that they are running their PTA properly.

Special Recognition Award - to give each PTA the opportunity to have one of its members, parents, teachers, staff members or volunteers receive countywide recognition for doing a great job.

"Top Twelve" Awards - to give each PTA the opportunity to showcase their best programs.

Outstanding Educator of the Year - to give each PTA the opportunity to obtain countywide recognition for a member of their school's staff. There will be one Primary and one Secondary Educator of the Year Award presented for the entire county. However, every educator who is nominated will be formally recognized during the ceremonies. **(Note: This award is based on performance during the 2007-2008 school year. It is NOT a lifetime achievement award.)**

We encourage all PTAs to recognize their hard working volunteers and educators and showcase their PTA programs that improve the lives of all children in Baltimore County. Email awards@bcptacouncil.org or call the PTA Council office at 410-666-6637 for more information.

The 2007-2008 PTA Council of Baltimore County **Reflections Program** had a banner year.

The PTA Council is thrilled to recognize the participation of thirty-four PTAs. The thirty-four PTAs had 1120 Reflections entries submitted by their students this year. 365 creative entries in Literature, Music, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Composition, and Film/Video Production were sent to the PTA Council for county judging.

Sixty (60) Awards of Excellence and twenty-four (24) Awards of Merit will be bestowed at the March 9, 2008 **Reflections Program** Awards Reception. Participation Certificates or Awards are given for all entries. Certificates, other than Awards of Excellence or Merit, will be distributed with returned student artwork via interschool mail.

Students earning an Excellence or Merit Award will have their artwork displayed and will receive recognition at the PTA Council **Reflections Program** Awards Reception. The program will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2:00 PM at New Town High School, 4931 New Town Boulevard, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117. Local PTA **Reflections** chairs, PTA presidents, school administrators and interested faculty as well as families and friends are encouraged to attend to show support for student

efforts. Trophies, medals and certificates not awarded at the March reception will be forwarded to local PTA **Reflections** Chairs for delivery.

Per program guidelines, all entries earning the Award of Excellence are forwarded for judging in the Maryland PTA **Reflections Program**. Entries submitted for state judging may be retained for exhibition by Maryland PTA beyond the current school year. Outstanding Interpretation winners in the Maryland PTA Reflections Program will advance to National PTA judging, with a chance to win up to \$750 and a trip to the National PTA convention in San Diego, California in June 2008.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's program. Special thanks to the 2007-2008 judges and to all local PTA **Reflections** chairs for coordinating their programs at the school level. A great job was done by all! Adult and older teen volunteers are sought to assist with the PTA Council **Reflections Program** Awards Reception. Service credit hours may be available to teens for this activity.

For further information or to give comments or observations about the PTA Council **Reflections Program** email reflections@bcptacouncil.org. The 2007-2008 results are shown on page 4 by award level, then by school.

FIRST ANNUAL BALTIMORE COUNTY CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FAIR AND TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2008
5:00- 8:00 PM

Loch Raven High School
1212 Cowpens Avenue Baltimore 21286

A Resource Fair for parents and professionals will start at 5:00 PM followed by a Town Hall Meeting, a panel-based question and answer session for parents starting at 6:30 PM. Dinner provided with Free Registration.

Jointly sponsored by BCPS, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, and others. Contact E. Leatherwood at leatherwood@mhamd.org or 410-235-1178 x202 for more information.

2007-2008 Baltimore County PTA *REFLECTIONS* AWARDS

Award	School	Area	Name	Award	School	Area	Name
Excellence	Carroll Manor ES	Film	Gabriella Gambino	Merit	Carroll Manor ES	Film/Video	Allison Monnet McLoughlin
Excellence	Carroll Manor ES	Film/Video	Leah Dickinson	Merit	Carroll Manor ES	Film/Video	Kaitlyn Jones
Excellence	Carroll Manor ES	Visual Arts	Alannah Yamamoto	Merit	Carroll Manor ES	Literature	Jacob Miller
Excellence	Cromwell Valley ES	Film/Video	Griffin Lige	Merit	Carroll Manor ES	Photography	Louise Anne Zimmerman
Excellence	Cromwell Valley ES	Literature	Julia Marcantoni	Merit	Carroll Manor ES	Photography	William Winders
Excellence	Cromwell Valley ES	Literature	Kaitlyn Delaney	Merit	Cromwell Valley ES	Visual Arts	D. J. Preston
Excellence	Cromwell Valley ES	Photography	Hannah Guanti	Merit	Dulaney HS	Literature	Chelsea Simanski
Excellence	Cromwell Valley ES	Visual Arts	Sophia Bachmann Fetzer	Merit	Fort Garrison ES	Literature	Jordan Greenberg
Excellence	Dulaney HS	Film/Video	Evan Streb	Merit	Harford Hills ES	Visual Arts	Rameen Iqbal
Excellence	Dulaney HS	Literature	David Roberts	Merit	Joppa View ES	Literature	Victoria Oji
Excellence	Dulaney HS	Literature	Hannah Saunders	Merit	Loch Raven HS	Literature	Laura Mann
Excellence	Dulaney HS	Photography	Beatrice Sorce	Merit	Pikesville MS	Literature	Jazmin Johnson
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Film/Video	Spencer Schenker	Merit	Pikesville MS	Visual Arts	Jennifer Murphy
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Literature	Isabella Lisak	Merit	Pine Grove MS	Literature	Emily Weglein
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Music	Brett Snyder	Merit	Pine Grove MS	Literature	Ji Hyeon Chung
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Music	Eli Snyder	Merit	Pinewood ES	Literature	Grace Jung
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Music	Henna Fraiman	Merit	Pinewood ES	Literature	Jessica Zhu Ye
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Visual Arts	Allison "AJ" Goldbloom	Merit	Pinewood ES	Photography	Elora Anne Strom
Excellence	Fort Garrison ES	Visual Arts	Benjamin Polyakov	Merit	Sparks ES	Literature	Nicholas Townsley
Excellence	Franklin HS	Photography	Alexia Devkasch	Merit	Sparks ES	Photography	Lucien Heilbronner
Excellence	Franklin HS	Photography	Jamie Sheedy	Merit	Sparks ES	Visual Arts	Briana Jahromi
Excellence	Franklin HS	Photography	Rebecca Myers	Merit	Timber Grove ES	Literature	Ryan Platt
Excellence	Franklin HS	Visual Arts	Chen Sheng	Merit	Timonium ES	Visual Arts	Rex McGroder
Excellence	Franklin HS	Visual Arts	Jennifer Stutman	Merit	Warren ES	Literature	Henry Harsel
Excellence	Gunpowder ES	Photography	Elizabeth Mills				
Excellence	Gunpowder ES	Photography	Nicholas Click				
Excellence	Gunpowder ES	Visual Arts	Anna Ciattei				
Excellence	Gunpowder ES	Visual Arts	Julia Ciattei				
Excellence	Halethorpe ES	Dance	Cory Peck				
Excellence	Hereford MS	Literature	Laura Lee Wight				
Excellence	Hereford MS	Photography	Celine Schmidt				
Excellence	Hereford MS	Photography	Gina Maskell				
Excellence	Hereford MS	Visual Arts	Katherine Kobbe				
Excellence	Loch Raven HS	Literature	Pam Prifti				
Excellence	Oliver Beach ES	Music	Kayla York				
Excellence	Parkville MS	Visual Arts	Austin Fillmore				
Excellence	Pikesville MS	Film/Video	Ben Snyder				
Excellence	Pikesville MS	Music	Vladimir Yuditsky				
Excellence	Pikesville MS	Music	Zev Burrows				
Excellence	Pine Grove MS	Literature	Miriah Dwyer				
Excellence	Pine Grove MS	Visual Arts	Samantha Derenge				
Excellence	Pinewood ES	Photography	Ashley Zhu				
Excellence	Pinewood ES	Photography	Claire Gracie				
Excellence	Ridgely MS	Visual Arts	Mary Catherine Morekas				
Excellence	Sandy Plains ES	Visual Arts	Raekwon Taylor				
Excellence	Seventh District ES	Literature	Caitlyn Sarudy				
Excellence	Sparks ES	Film/Video	Avery C.J. Newport				
Excellence	Sparks ES	Photography	Caeleigh Tannian				
Excellence	Sparks ES	Visual Arts	Katie Conover				
Excellence	Timber Grove ES	Film/Video	Sophia Brodinsky				
Excellence	Timber Grove ES	Literature	Cali Platt				
Excellence	Timber Grove ES	Music	Emily Ann Rosado-Cruz				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Film/Video	Benjamin Glasser				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Film/Video	Briana Briggs				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Literature	Kelsey Talley				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Literature	Sara Glasser				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Photography	Brandon Tsui				
Excellence	Timonium ES	Photography	Whittaker Friedman				
Excellence	Towson HS	Music	Will Bowie Fesperman				
Excellence	Warren ES	Literature	Emma Patron				

PTA COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2008-2010

2008 is an election year for the PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc. All PTA Council officer and area vice president positions become effective on July 1, 2008, with the exception of the treasurer who assumes his/her duties on August 1, 2008. Each officer may serve two consecutive two-year terms.

The Nominating Committee deadline to consider candidates for its slate of officers has passed. The committee will announce its slate of officers at the PTA Council General Meeting on March 13, 2008. At that meeting, nominations may be made from the floor. Candidates who want to be nominated from the floor must submit a completed PTA Council nomination form to either the PTA Council Secretary or the Nominating Committee Chair prior to the convening of that March 13 General Meeting.

A bio or resume brief for inclusion in the April PTA Council Bulletin should also be submitted that night for any newly nominated candidate seeking a contested office. Elections will be held at the PTA Council General Meeting on April 24, 2008.

Year 2008 Campaign Rules must be followed. The Campaign Rules were printed in the January and February issues of the PTA Council Bulletin and may be accessed at www.bcptacouncil.org.

For more information regarding elected positions and the election process, refer to the PTA Council website, www.bcptacouncil.org or contact John Ryan at 410-665-4450 or at nomination@bcptacouncil.org.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING RECAP

by John Ryan, Membership Chair and
Nancy L. Ostrow, First Vice President

There were 44 voting delegates present at the January 2008 general meeting of the PTA Council of Baltimore County. Special congratulations to Bear Creek Elementary PTA of the Southeast Area and Ridgely Middle School PTA of the Central Area. Each of these local PTAs had three voting delegates present. The Central AVP area

PTA COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2008
Loch Raven High School

7:00 pm: Registration and Exhibits
7:30 pm: General Membership Meeting
followed by

"An Evening with the Superintendent"

Superintendent Dr. Joe A. Hairston joins us to discuss the various educational issues impacting Baltimore County public schools. This is your opportunity to ask questions, get answers, and learn how to be more involved in the decision-making process that affects all of our children's education. For additional information, visit www.bcptacouncil.org or contact Nancy L. Ostrow, firstvp@bcptacouncil.org.

had the most non-voting representatives in attendance with twenty followed by the Southwest Area with four present. Eighteen board of directors members were voting delegates and eleven special guests were in attendance.

The brief business meeting began at 7:30 PM immediately followed by the featured program, "Risk Management", that included a power point presentation by the BCPS Office of Risk Management. We thank Michele Prumo, Risk Manager, and Patrick Hancock, Risk Management Supervisor, for presenting this program that explained the need for liability insurance, the importance of knowing your PTA policy coverage, and the difference between school sponsored and PTA sponsored activities. At the conclusion of the presentation there was an extended Q&A session. The evening's handouts included the current state PTA insurance carrier, RV Nuccio Insurance, Loss Control Guide. A February mailing to all PTA presidents and principals contained follow up information. The mailing also included the RV Nuccio Insurance Loss Control Guide for any PTA/PTSA not in attendance at the January meeting.

"InfoSessions" were a new addition to the meeting format. PTA Council members answered questions on PTA Night in Annapolis; electing local PTA Nominating Committees, and general PTA concerns. The BCPS Department of Research, Accountability & Assessments and the BCPS Office of School Counseling Services hosted the session on "HSA & Graduation".

Join us for our next general meeting on March 13, 2008 at Loch Raven H.S.

The meeting agenda will include an update on PTA insurance, the nominating committee's proposed slate of 2008-2010 officers and area vice presidents with nominations also accepted from the floor, and other pending PTA business. The featured program is "An Evening with the Superintendent, Dr Joe A. Hairston"; refer to the event notice in the box at the top of this page.

Contact Information:

R.V.Nuccio & Associates Insurance
Brokers, Inc 1-800-567-2685
Website: www.rvnuccio.com

Delegate Voting Cards

Every president of a PTA in good standing will be mailed four (4) Voting Delegate Cards for the March PTA Council General Meeting.

Voting Delegate Cards entitle four delegates from each local PTA to vote on all matters presented to the Council at the General Meetings. Each card, signed by the local PTA president and by the delegate, must be presented, **along with a valid 2007-2008 PTA Membership Card** from the same local PTA, at the General Meeting registration table.

If you have paid your Council dues bill and have not received your Voting Delegate Cards by February 28, email Georgina Clevenger, Financial Secretary, at financialsecretary@bcptacouncil.org.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools



In many ways, we are in the center of the school year, a period when all of us must focus on instruction of the highest caliber.

This far into the school year, students are settled into their routines, and teachers are well aware of each student's strengths and challenges. This is the time for all of us to work together to support the teaching and learning process.

As a school system, Baltimore County Public Schools is focused on strengthening the quality of its curriculum, increasing academic rigor for all students, and

enriching professional development for all staff. We know that our students are eager and capable learners who can and do achieve at higher levels when we establish higher levels of expectation for them.

Parents and community members can support this process in countless ways – from encouraging students to take on more difficult assignments and coursework to celebrating their academic achievements.

The lives of our students are increasingly complex, with extracurricular, social, athletic, family, and employment opportunities and obligations competing for their time and attention. But the essential work of our young people must be academic. It is our responsibility to help them maintain their focus and to reinforce to them that they are engaged in this work

not to achieve higher test scores and report card grades but for a more important purpose: to prepare for success in college, careers, and life.

It is also our challenge to help students find joy in the process of learning and discovery. For all of us, learning is a way to discover our talents, develop our interests, and satisfy our curiosity. Learning is a way to connect to other times and places, and learning is a way to establish a common bond with each other.

We can perhaps best convey this positive attitude to our students by demonstrating it ourselves – by having them see us as lifelong and joyful learners.

BCPS SCHOLARSHIP LOAN PROGRAM

The BCPS Scholarship Loan Program is being offered to encourage and assist high school seniors of Baltimore County Public Schools to consider a professional career in education. The program has been revised this year. In addition to the critical shortage areas of math, science, and special education, technology education has been added. After earning a degree from an approved Maryland teacher education program, these BCPS students will return to BCPS as teachers and role models for students. This program will provide a \$4,000 scholarship loan to four (4) award recipients. Brochures and applications will be available at www.bcps.org and in schools as of February 2008. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 4, 2008.

"PROMS PLUS" BOOKLETS

"Proms Plus" booklets were delivered to high schools in February for distribution to all juniors and seniors. This free planning

and resource guide is designed to promote safe and sober school celebrations in the school community and assist families, educators, and others involved with planning these events.

MARYLAND PTA SCHOLARSHIP

The Maryland PTA offers scholarships at a minimum of \$300 to high school graduates who plan to pursue a career in education in the public schools of Maryland. There are no restrictions placed on the selection of the college or university. The following factors will be considered with each application:

Scholarship Achievement
Financial Need
Community Involvement
Character
Local PTA Sponsorship

An application may be downloaded from <http://www.mdpta.org/documents/ScholarshipApplication2008.doc>. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2008.

DR. BRAD SACHS

THE GOOD ENOUGH FAMILY: PROMOTING THE PARENT-TEEN DIALOGUE

Free Event 7 PM
Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Catonsville High School Auditorium
421 Bloomsbury Avenue, 21228

Sponsored by CHS PTSA, SGA, and Department of Social Services

CCBC AND BCPS 2008 COLLEGE FAIR

Showcases more than 100 universities and colleges from the Mid-Atlantic region. Information sessions will focus on financial aid and tips for choosing the right college. Free and open to the public.

March 12 -CCBC Essex, D Building
March 13 -CCBC Catonsville, L Building
6 - 8 PM

For additional information, call 410-455-4394.

*News from the
Bureau of Substance Abuse*

**DANGER LURKING IN YOUR
MEDICINE CABINET...**

**Part II - Prescription Medicine
Abuse, A Growing Problem**

Do you know where your prescription drugs are? Chances are your teen does. Many adolescents believe that taking prescription drugs is safer than taking "street drugs" because they have legitimate uses. What they don't realize is that taking them without a prescription can be just as dangerous and addictive.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health recognizes four types of prescription medications that are frequently abused by young people – pain relievers, stimulants, sedatives, and tranquilizers. The abuse of prescription meds by teens and young adults is a growing problem in the U.S., with children as young as 12 experimenting with prescription meds to get high or to self-medicate. There are now more new users, 12 and older, of prescription drugs than any other illegal drugs, even marijuana.

When teens were asked why they believed the use of prescription meds were on the increase among their peers, they reported that they were easy to get. With drugs available in their medicine cabinets at home, young people don't have to seek someone outside the home who uses or sells drugs to get high. In addition, many young people believe that prescription painkillers are non-addictive.

Parents can, inadvertently, contribute to the problem when they fail to discard meds once they've recovered from the illness or injury that required them to take the meds, frequently forgetting that they are in their home.

Prescription drugs have another appeal – selling them can be quite lucrative. According to one source, the estimated street value of just one OxyContin® is approximately \$40. "Pharm parties" are an alarming trend whereby youth bring various prescription drugs to a party, dump them in a bowl and proceed to share them with their peers.

**Partnership for a Drug Free America
found that:**

- One in five teens has abused a prescription pain medication.
- One in five report abusing prescription stimulants and tranquilizers.
- One in ten teens have tried prescription stimulants Ritalin® and/or Adderall® without a doctor's order.

What can parents do?

- Discard all prescription drugs not currently being used for a legitimate illness.
- Let your child know that without a doctor's supervision, prescription drugs can be just as dangerous as taking illicit drugs or alcohol.
- Abusing painkillers is like abusing heroin – the ingredients are very similar.
- While pills may look alike, their effects can vary from mild to lethal depending on the drug and dosage.
- Prescription drugs can cause dangerous interactions with other drugs or chemicals in the body.
- Take an inventory of prescription and OTC medications in your home. Pay attention to quantities.

For additional information on prescription medicine abuse, contact the Bureau of Substance Abuse at 410-887-3828 or at substanceabuse@baltimorecountymd.gov.

More information may be accessed at http://www.theantidrug.com/drug_info/prescription_drugs.asp.

**SUMMER TRANSPORTATION
INSTITUTE**

Morgan State University will host its 11th Annual Summer Transportation Institute (STI) dedicated to educating local 9th and 10th grade area high school students about Transportation Related Careers.

The National Transportation Center will help to foster education and awareness in the professional field of transportation by extending its reach to the youth of Baltimore with its Summer Transportation Institute. Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and administered on the campus of Morgan State University, the non-residential program will be held July 7-August 1, 2008.

For more information on the National Transportation Center at Morgan State University, visit www.eng.morgan.edu/~ntc.

**The Citizens Advisory Council
on Gifted & Talented Education
presents:**

***PARENT - TEACHER
PARTNERSHIP***

Information will focus on enhancing the parent-teacher relationship to fulfill the child's potential in the Gifted and Talented Program.

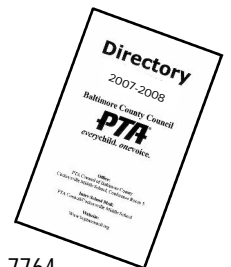
Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 7:00 PM
Location to be announced

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

- Page 9 - Nominating Committee - Northwest - remove info for Schwartz and insert Georgina Clevenger
- Page 20 -Dundalk Middle President - insert Debbie Smith
- Page 24 -Hillcrest President - insert Dean Tippet
- Page 25 -Lansdowne Middle President - insert Kris Bury
- Page 28 -Oliver Beach President - insert Stephanie Williams
- Page 32 -Riverview President - insert Marguerite Cox
- Page 32 -Sandalwood President - insert Kristine Alexander
- Page 36 -Windsor Mill school phone - change to 410-887-0618
- Page 40 -Executive Director - Wesley L. Boykin - change phone to 410-887-7764

Email directory@bcptacouncil.org for detailed address and phone number updates.

Notify Marilyn Ryan at directory@bcptacouncil.org regarding any errors in directory information so that accurate records can be maintained.



BULLETIN

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Calendar Reminders

Thursday	Mar	6	PTA Council Board of Directors Meeting, ESS Building, 7:30 PM
Sunday	Mar	9	Reflections Awards Reception, New Town HS, 2:00 PM
Tuesday	Mar	11	Board of Education Meeting, ESS Building, 7:30 PM
Thursday	Mar	13	General PTA Council Meeting, Loch Raven HS, 7:30 PM, doors open at 7:00 PM

PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.
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**PTA Council
GENERAL MEETING**

March 13

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and Voting Delegate Card**