

August 19, 2010

***NOTE: To help us track the usefulness of the Memo to Media, we ask that you inform us if you will be covering any of the events or information listed in the memo. Please send all correspondence to Amanda.Warfield@hcps.org.**

Board Meetings

• **Monday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.** - Board Business Meeting at the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. For agenda, exhibits and more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203.

Board meetings can be viewed at anytime from our website www.hcps.org!

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• ***New!*** The 2010 Open House and Back to School Night schedules are now available online. Visit www.hcps.org for the complete schedules.

• ***New!*** Karen Zello, physical education teacher at Bel Air Middle School, was recently awarded a \$2,000 ING Unsung Heroes Award for her innovative teaching idea, called "Raise Your Hearts." Karen is one of just 100 applicants to receive the award. She now has a chance of winning \$5,000, \$15,000, or \$25,000 more in grant funds if her entry is selected as one of the top three innovative ideas in the nation! Click here to read about her winning entry.

• ***New!*** Deerfield Elementary School will host an informal Open House for the community to walk through the new building on self-guided tours and check it out first-hand on Thursday, August 26, 2010 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

• ***New!*** Due to difficult economic times throughout the country, more households are expected to apply for meal benefits this year. All parents will receive an application for meal benefits in the mail the week of August 23rd and are encouraged to complete it as quickly as possible. Free and reduced price meal applications are also available at every school office and downloadable at www.hcps.org. Completed applications can be submitted to any school office, faxed to 410-638-4201 or mailed to: HCPS Food and Nutrition Office, 101 Industry Lane, Forest Hill, MD 21050. In addition, www.cafeprepay.com will be available as an alternative way to put money on student meal accounts. Payments can be processed through a secured site with debit or credit card free of charge. For more information, contact the Food and Nutrition Office at 410-638-4078.

• Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Superintendent, Dr. Robert M. Tomback, will attend a bus ride along with students on the first day of school, Monday, August 30, 2010! Driver of bus #944, Mr. Dave Stout, which services Havre de Grace Elementary School, will provide the transportation this year. The trip will begin and end at Havre de Grace Elementary School. If you plan to meet at the school to board the bus, you **MUST** be there by 8:30 a.m. The school will have ample parking available for your vehicles. **Please contact the Communications Office at 410-588-5203, if you plan to attend.** You can also meet the bus at a stop along its route for your photo op, if you prefer. Contact the Communications Office for more information.

• To view the press release regarding the 2010-11 bus schedules and routes, click here. School Bus Safety Educational Tools from the HCPS Transportation Department, as well as the 2010-11 bus routes, can be found on the HCPS website by clicking here. For more information, contact the Transportation Department at 410-638-4092.

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• HCPS Magnet Program informational presentations set! In an effort to disseminate information to Harford County eighth graders and their parents about educational opportunities for high school, HCPS will be hosting a series of evening informational presentations within the county beginning in September. The objective of these meetings is to allow parents and students to take an introductory look at the magnet programs, located at four specific schools, that are available to students throughout Harford County. The Science and Mathematics Academy (SMA) at Aberdeen High School, the Global Studies/International Baccalaureate Programme (GS/IB) at Edgewood High School, the Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Program (NRAS) at North Harford High School, and the 19 career programs at Harford Technical High School (HTHS) in Bel Air will be showcased. The schedule for the evening presentations is as follows:

Sept. 15th, Aberdeen High School
Sept. 23rd, North Harford High School
Sept. 28th, Harford Technical High School
Oct. 6th, Edgewood High School

Presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Parents and students may choose to attend any of the presentations, regardless of their districted attendance area.

Open Houses for each of the magnet programs will be held as follows:

Oct. 20th - Science & Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 26th - Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences Program at North Harford High School, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Nov. 4th - Global Studies/International Baccalaureate Programme at Edgewood High School, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 10th - Harford Technical High School, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Attendance at the open house is not required for application or admission to any magnet program. Applications to each of the magnet programs will be available at www.hcps.org.

• The kick-off event for the Third Annual Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week (Sept. 13-17, 2010) will be held Friday, September 10, 2010, at Edgewood Elementary School. Edgewood Elementary School is the only school in the state to host this very special honor this year! There will be three components to the event: a short formal program, classroom visits and activities by local farmers and special guests, and lunch featuring locally-grown produce. This week-long education and awareness activity is part of the Jane Lawton Farm to School program. The program was created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly when SB 158 Farm-to-School Program - Activities and Promotional Events, sponsored by Senator Jamie Raskin and Del. Sheila Hixson, was signed into law by Governor O'Malley in May 2008. The program is designed to help educate students about where their food comes from, how it is produced, the benefits of a healthy diet, as well as to expand markets for Maryland farmers. The Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Department of Education, along with many partners, help coordinate events each year.

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