



December 5, 2011

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 Lindsay.Bilodeau@hcps.org.

Board Meetings

For agendas, exhibits and more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203.

- Monday, December 12, 2011 – Board Business Meeting -- A. A. Roberty Building Board Room, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 19, 2011 – Board Business Meeting -- A. A. Roberty Building Board Room, 6:30 p.m. *Features the Board recognition ceremony

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

• **Reminder! Page Breakfast this Thursday at 8:00 a.m.!** Each year, HCPS sends five students to Annapolis to spend two, non-consecutive weeks serving in either the House of Delegates or the Maryland Senate, performing various tasks such as filing, running errands and sitting in on meetings and hearings. The competitive selection process for the Student Page Program, which began months ago, starts with each public and private school in the county choosing up to two applicants. Selected students completed an application and participated in a grueling interview process where they appeared before a 12-person committee made up of students and educators from around the county. From this pool of students, an ultimate five pages and one alternate are selected, which mirrors Harford County's representation in Annapolis. The high school seniors who were chosen to serve as student pages for the 2012 Maryland General Assembly - Belawoe Akwakoku, Aberdeen High School; Christina McIntyre, Bel Air High School; Adam Hiob, Aberdeen High School; Julius Halstead, Patterson Mill High School; and Erin Chase, North Harford High School - will gather for "A Morning Together" on Thursday, December 8, 2011, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., which will include breakfast and time for the free flow and exchange of ideas. During the breakfast, the pages will have the opportunity to meet with the elected officials they will be supporting in the upcoming 90-day legislative session that will take place January through April 2012. Members of the media should RSVP to Teri Kranefeld, if they plan to attend (Teri.Kranefeld@hcps.org or 410-588-5203).

• **New!** Congratulations to Fountain Green Elementary School for being selected as the "December 2011 Best Practices of the Month." In addition to being recognized statewide as a 2010 - 2011 award-winning Character Education school, Fountain Green has now been chosen by the Board of Directors for the Maryland Center for Character Education at Stevenson University (MCCE@SU) to be featured on the MCCE@SU website and newsletter because of the strength of the school's character education programs. To read more about Fountain Green's program, please visit: <http://www.mdctrcharacter.org/best%20practices.shtml>.

• **New!** Earlier this year, the Edgewood High School Dance program was awarded an Artists-in-Residency grant through the Maryland State Arts Council. Throughout the month of November and December, Clancyworks—a professional dance company based in Silver Spring (<http://www.clancyworks.org/>)—has partnered with Edgewood High and has been working with students developing technique and composition skills. Clancyworks is committed to building community, increasing academic achievement and solving conflicts through dance. They are not a traditional ballet company or a modern company, but an original, creative movement group that is gaining recognition in the world of dance on local and national levels. They were featured in Dance Teacher Magazine this past summer for their partnership with Baltimore County Public Schools to conduct the Dance Educators Training Institute. Clancyworks is working with Edgewood High students in the Dance Company and Dance I/II/III classes. Some of the students in these classes are on a certificate track, and this special experience is such an awesome opportunity for them!

• *New!* Harford County's 2012 Unified Basketball League for people of all basketball abilities, 15 years of age and older, will be held from January 12, 2012, to March 29, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Edgewood Boys and Girls Club. Special Olympics Unified Basketball is a free, fun, meaningful and competitive activity. People with and without developmental and/or intellectual disabilities of similar ages train and compete together on the same team. Through this experience, teammates get to know each other and develop friendships, all while improving their basketball skills. This program is sponsored by the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Special Olympics Harford County, Harford County Parks & Recreation and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County. For more information and to register, please call or email Chass Seymour at 410-836-7177 x 424 or cseymour@arcncr.org.

• *New!* The MD Parent Involvement Matters Award is an annual award for parents (and others with legal responsibility for a child) whose exemplary contributions to public education have led to improvements for Maryland's public school children, teachers, schools, programs and/or policies. The award was created by the Maryland State Department of Education to highlight the positive impact parents have on public schools and to encourage all parents to get involved in whatever way they can. Additional information about the program and the nomination form are available online at www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/pima. Nominations must be postmarked by Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

• Edgewood High School juniors in the Global Studies Program/International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme are working on their service learning project to raise \$1,500 to build a shelter in Afghanistan for Afghan refugees through a program called Students Outreach for Shelters (SOS). According to its website, SOS integrates a rigorous, secondary school curriculum with service-learning so that young people reading Khaled Hosseini's novels can connect classroom learning to the world beyond school, and make a positive difference for children and families in Afghanistan. The IB students are participating in this project after reading the book, *The Kite Runner*, in English class. A service learning proposal, as well as several lesson plans, was developed to use in tandem with the novel and the service learning project. To raise the money for their cause, the students are selling bricks to represent the actual bricks that will be used to build the shelters. The bricks are on sale at the school now for \$10.00, and can include a name, a family name, or an organization, club or group name. The purchased bricks are on showcase on the 2nd floor of the school. For those who wish to contribute to the cause but are not able to purchase a brick, the juniors are collecting all donations. More information on the Khaled Hosseini Foundation can be found on its website by visiting <http://www.sos4tkhf.com/index.html>.

• Help Emmorton Elementary or Hickory Elementary win a grant from Clorox! Following a competitive nomination period, voting is now open and Emmorton and Hickory elementary schools need your help to win up to \$50,000 in The Clorox Company's Power A Bright Future grant program! The grant will secure funding for creating classroom libraries. Visit www.PowerABrightFuture.com and vote once per day through Dec. 9, 2011. Please share this great news with the community! Details and official rules available at www.PowerABrightFuture.com. Thank you for supporting Harford County Public Schools!

• The Harford County Reading Council has announced the 31st Annual Young Author's Writing Contest. Students in Pre-K through 12th grade can enter an original poem or short story. Award-winning students will be recognized at a ceremony and presented with certificates, ribbons, journals, gift certificates to local establishments and other prizes and gifts. All entries are due December 16, 2011. For more information on the contest and how to enter, check out the links in the Communications box on the HCPS homepage, www.hcps.org.

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