



February 6, 2012

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](mailto:Lindsay.Bilodeau@hcps.org).

## Board Meetings

For agendas, exhibits and more information, log onto [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org) or call 410-588-5203.

- Monday, February 13, 2012 – Closed Session Board Business Meeting -- 5:45 p.m., Board Business Meeting -- 7:00 p.m., A. A. Roberty Building Board Room
- Monday, February 27, 2012 – Closed Session Board Business Meeting -- 5:45 p.m., Board Business Meeting -- 6:30 p.m., A. A. Roberty Building Board Room \*features the recognition ceremony

**Board meetings can be viewed at anytime from our website [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)!**

- **New!** To maximize awareness and communication with parents, students and the community about cybersafety and cyberbullying, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) launched a cybersafety awareness campaign to include a new page on the school system website, brochures, professional development and a survey to parents. Below you will find a link to the parent survey. By taking a moment to fill out this survey, parents are helping us better understand the thoughts and feelings of the HCPS community regarding this important issue. Paper copies of this survey are also available in the schools.  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCPSCybersafetySurvey2012>
- **New!** GETTING PREPARED FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP) MEETING: On Thursday, February 9, 2012, the Harford County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) is hosting a special presentation by Sharon Dillon, Special Education Department Chair at Patterson Mill High School and Robin Winternitz, a Regional Educational Consultant. The co-presenters will concentrate on what can be done to prepare for a successful IEP meeting, focusing on what drives the IEP - the student's Present Levels of Performance (PLOP) - and how to align the goals and objectives to support the needs of the student as detailed within the PLOP. No matter what school or grade your child attends, you are encouraged to bring any areas of concern, questions and challenges. The meeting will be held at the A.A. Roberty Building, 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For directions, call 410-588-5246 or email [comments@harfordsecac.com](mailto:comments@harfordsecac.com).
- **New!** On Friday, February 24, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. the Ring Factory Elementary School Student Council will host a family spaghetti night to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and in honor of one of the school's kindergarten students who is currently battling childhood leukemia. The community is invited to enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner and entertainment for a nominal fee. The school will use "student power" to help serve, greet and otherwise host the evening's activities. More information and details will be forthcoming.
- **New!** Edgewood Middle School will host a Math Madness Day on March 5, 2012. Students will explore mathematical concepts all day in the classrooms and then celebrate their readiness for the MSA in grade-level pep rallies: 8th grade - 9:40 a.m.; 6th grade - 11:40 a.m.; and 7th grade - 1:10 p.m. Please join the school as they encourage high levels of achievement in mathematics!
- **New!** Students at North Harford Middle School will be participating in a hands-on, cooperative learning activity about the Oregon Trail this week. Students will research the trail, work with a family, decide on supplies and construct a wagon. Throughout the "six-month" journey, students write journal entries about the landmarks they see on the trail, keep a monthly tally of supplies/money lost/gained and keep a record of points lost/gained for each event that happens to them, their families or the entire wagon train (the class). This is a fast-paced game using several instructional methods. Since many students have played the Oregon Trail video game, this is a chance for them to work with their peers and make decisions together based on the constantly changing circumstances, instead of just sitting in front of a computer screen.

-MORE-

- *New!* In a combined effort, physical education classes in Harford County are beginning the planning stages for their service learning project. The project will be two-fold, as it will satisfy the graduation requirement and it will honor wounded veterans. The project is called "Walking for Heroes" and will include a 7.8-mile walk. The event will include financial contributions, sponsor sheets and a combined effort by all physical education classes to raise financial support and awareness for our veterans. Veterans will be invited to join students in the walk, and the entire group will be wearing red, white and blue. The event is scheduled for March 28, 2012, and will start at Edgewood High School and end at Mariner Point Park in Joppatowne. More details coming soon!
- The Northeastern Maryland Technology Council will hold its Annual Meeting Visionary Awards on February 15, 2012, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Richlin Ballroom. This event celebrates individuals in STEM education and technology. Jason Parks, teacher at Youth's Benefit Elementary School is being honored in the category, "Rising Star." There are just five award categories, and Mr. Parks is in good company along with other innovators, leaders, mentors and visionaries in the field. Mr. Park's exceptional work pioneering the first Youth's Benefit STEM night last school year, now the model for STEM Nights in four other locations over the next two months, contributed greatly to his nomination. For more information and to register (seating is limited), please visit [www.nmtc.org](http://www.nmtc.org).
- The Greater Excellence in Education Foundation, in partnership with HCPS, invites 8th - 12th grade students and their parents or guardians to attend a college and career expo on Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Edgewood High School, 2415 Willoughby Beach Road. Registration is free; however, space is limited, so don't delay! Click here for more information and the registration form.
- During the Board of Education meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012, Levin Heath will be inducted into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame for his 30-year tenure with HCPS as a dedicated teacher and administrator. The induction ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the A. A. Roberty Building. In addition, the ceremony and Board meeting will be aired via live stream on the school system website at [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org). The live stream link can be found in the Board box in the lower right-hand corner of the homepage, [hcps.org](http://hcps.org).
- The Board of Education is seeking applicants for membership on its Citizen Advisory Committees. Membership is open to all Harford County residents, including those without children in the school system. The deadline for application is March 16, 2012. For more information, view the press release.
- HCPS, in partnership with Harford Community College and the Harford County Office of Economic Development, will host the Futures11 networking and career event on Thursday, March 22, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. in the gymnasium of Harford Community College. Approximately 450 high school juniors will take part, coming from the following programs: Harford Technical High School, the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, the Biomedical Sciences Program at Bel Air High School, the Global Studies and International Baccalaureate Program at Edgewood High School, the Academy of Finance Program at Edgewood High School and the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program at Joppatowne High School. The event is designed to help students begin considering their post-secondary career options.
- You are cordially invited to attend the All-County High School Jazz Concert on Saturday, April 12, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at Patterson Mill High School. The young musicians in these concerts represent the best that HCPS has to offer, and the concert promises to be an exciting experience. It is open to the public and free of charge.

###