



November 28, 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, November 28, 2011 – Board Work Session -- A. A. Roberty Building Board Room, 6:30 p.m.
- 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!

• **New!** 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>.

• **New!** Joppatowne High School's Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness (HSEP) program students and teachers were recently invited to be presenters at the Maryland State Department of Education Career and Technology Education (CTE) Counselors' Conference on Thursday, November 17, 2011. The HSEP program is a career and technology program of study integrating government and private sector training/educational initiatives to help students understand how the US worldwide interests are protected against threats to public safety. The presenters included Joppatowne High School teachers Eve Bour, Erica Kelly and Mike Zipay and Joppatowne High students Santel Paige, Sintel Paige and Jeremy Clark.

• **New!** Eighth graders interested in applying to any of the four Harford County Public Schools magnet programs, which include Harford Technical High School, the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High, the Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Program at North Harford High School and the Global Studies Program/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Edgewood High School, are reminded that the application deadline is December 2, 2011. Visit the school system website at www.hcps.org to access the applications. For questions about the application process, please contact your school counselor as soon as possible.

• 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 books, 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 come together for "A Morning Together" on Thursday, December 8, 2011, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. that 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 for whom they will support in the upcoming 90-day legislative session to 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).

- The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) recently announced that NAPT Board Past-President Dr. Linda F. Bluth and her partner Betsy Eisman endowed their 2011 field trip grant to Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). The field trip grant enables NAPT members to help bring learning to life for students in their community and enhance classroom studies in their school program. The grant covers the cost of transportation, entry fees, supplies and/or classroom resource materials so that teachers may continue using the valuable experiential learning gained from math and science, language, social studies and arts-focused field trips. Preference, this year, was given to schools that were damaged by destructive weather forces, such as hurricanes and tornadoes. HCPS was selected because of Hurricane Irene's impact, which barreled up the coast just prior to the start of the school year, leaving in its wake 75 percent of Harford schools without power, more than 50 roads impassable — due to downed trees and power lines — and power cut off to thousands of local residents. For more information, visit <http://naptonline.org/>.

- 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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