Monday, January 14, 2013

COMPTROLLER HONORS HARPORD EXECUTIVE WITH GOLDEN APPLE FOR SUPERIOR VOLUNTEERISM: WILL ALSO VISIT YOUTH’S BENEFIT ELEMENTARY

Comptroller Franchot will present exceptional volunteer Tina Mike with his inaugural Golden Apple Award for Harford County on Wednesday, January 16, at 12:30 p.m. at Edgewood High School. The new award program is designed to recognize outstanding volunteers, organizations and individuals within the Maryland public school system. Ms. Mike is being recognized for her work in providing and advocating for financial literacy education for Harford County students. For more information, please contact Christine Feldmann at 443-336-0215.

EXPLORING THE USE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN HARPORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Harford County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) invites you to attend their first meeting of the New Year for an expanded discussion on the use of assistive technology in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). Please mark your calendars and plan to join them this coming Thursday, January 17, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the A.A. Roberty Building in Bel Air (102 South Hickory Avenue). Parents, guardians, community members and educators are all invited to attend. For further information, please call 410.588.5246, email comments@harfordssecac.com, or find them on Facebook at Harford SECAC. You can sign up for their e-mail list at http://www.harfordssecac.com/maillist.

HCPS PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY NOW OPEN

HCPS would like to know what our parents think about their child’s school and the school system as a whole. Based on feedback regarding the Parent Satisfaction Survey last year, we have made improvements and updated the survey. By completing the survey, parents can provide the school/school system with important information about how we can improve your child’s educational experience. This survey is voluntary, but is greatly appreciated as it helps to improve our schools. The survey can be found in both English and Spanish on the homepage of the school system website at www.hcps.org, or a paper copy can be requested from your child’s school. The survey should take approximately five minutes to complete and one survey may be completed for each child who attends a Harford County Public School. The survey will be open through Friday, January 25. Thank you very much for your input.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold public input sessions to gather feedback for the FY14 Operating Budget on Monday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the A. A. Roberty Building Board Room and Wednesday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the A. A. Roberty Building Board Room. The public is encouraged to access the budget
information on the Budget webpage ([www.hcps.org/budget](http://www.hcps.org/budget)) and to email comments and suggestions to [budget@hcps.org](mailto:budget@hcps.org) throughout the process. Remember, all Board meetings are streamed live on the school system website at [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org).

**STEM AND BEYOND NIGHTS**

HCPS will be hosting a series of STEM and Beyond Nights that will feature approximately 40 interactive workshops to create awareness and excitement about STEM careers. Additional, an exhibit hall will be available to broaden family awareness about school and community resources, programs and activities that students can attend year round. These events are designed to motivate and engage HCPS fourth and fifth grade students, who will join sixth graders at their area middle schools to participate in hands-on STEM activities. The schedule for 2013 dates for STEM and Beyond Night for middle school attendance areas:

- Magnolia Middle – January 16, 2013
- Havre de Grace Middle – January 30, 2013
- Bel Air Middle – February 20, 2013

**HCPS RECEIVES EGATE AWARDS**

The Maryland State Department of Education and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education initiated the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Awards Program. This recognition program honors Maryland elementary, middle and high schools that offer gifted and talented programs aligned with the objectives and criteria of the Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines. Hickory Elementary School has been named a 2012 EGATE School. This year, 15 applications were submitted, and only eight were approved. The EGATE process is a rigorous one, but is a useful tool for overall school improvement. Each EGATE school submitted a comprehensive application which provided documentation of twenty-one different criteria under four program objectives from the Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education Program Guidelines. As an EGATE school, Hickory Elementary will be recognized with Governor's proclamations at a February reception, will proudly display the EGATE banner, will host celebratory visits and will serve as models for other schools seeking to achieve EGATE status. In addition, Jessica Hoover, assistant principal at Fountain Green Elementary School, was recognized as Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Teacher as Leader and will receive her award at the upcoming reception. The EGATE awards reception and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Kossiakoff Auditorium of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, MD.

**PATTERSON MILL HIGH STUDENT NAMED “CHAMPIONS OF COURAGE” CONTEST FINALIST**

Samantha Herman, a Patterson Mill High School sophomore, is one of just 20 Baltimore-area students who will appear on WBFF-TV FOX 45 and WNUV-TV The CW Baltimore saluting their personal heroes during Black History Month this February. The students are the finalists in the 26th annual “Champions of Courage” Black History Month Essay Competition presented by M&T Bank. More than 3,500 entries were received from middle and high schools – public, private and parochial – throughout the Baltimore metro area. The competition challenged students, grades 6 through 12, to write a brief essay saluting their personal “Champion of Courage” as positive role model who has touched their lives by sharing the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, each finalist will be honored at a Gala Awards Program at the Tremont Grand on January 26, 2013. At the
awards breakfast, the top three essayists will be announced and will win more than $3,000 in scholarships and cash prizes for their schools.

**HARFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTRATHON COMPETITION THIS SPRING**

This spring, the rolling hills will whisper with a silent hum instead of the roar of engines at the Maryland State Police Drivers Training Facility on Slacks Road, in Sykesville, Maryland. On April 8 and May 7, the Upper Chesapeake Electrathon Association will host its second official Electrathon Competition at the highway course. There are currently four veteran teams and two rookie teams – all from Harford County Public high schools – planning to compete in the one-hour-long endurance race on the closed course that winds through the hills of middle Maryland. For the complete story, click here.

**JANUARY HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE – DONALD R. MORRISON**

Donald R. Morrison will be inducted into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame on Monday, January 28, at 6:30 p.m. during the Board of Education meeting. Please join us in celebrating Mr. Morrison’s 23 years of extraordinary service to the students, staff and community of the Harford County Public Schools as a teacher and administrator.

**MARYLAND PARENT INVOLVEMENT MATTERS AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN**

Know a parent who deserves statewide recognition for his or her work to improve public education? Nominate him or her today! The Maryland State Department of Education is currently accepting nominations for the Sixth Annual Maryland Parent Involvement Matters Award (PIMA) Program. The Maryland PIMA 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. To learn more about the program and how previous winners were involved, and to download an application, go to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/pima. Completed applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2013.

**2013-14 TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION PACKETS AVAILABLE ON HCPS.ORG!**

HCPS, as well as 23 other public school systems in the state, will participate in the 2013-14 Maryland Teacher of the Year program. As in the past, any full-time classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of their time teaching is eligible; school counselors are ineligible to participate. Teachers who intend to retire during 2013-14 are not eligible to be Teacher of the Year. Nominations may be self-submitted, or may be submitted by administrators, parents, colleagues, students or others. For more information and a copy of the nomination packet, visit www.hcps.org. The nomination deadline is: February 4, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. Nominate that special teacher in your life today! In addition, HCPS is soliciting support in providing gift cards or certificates to be given to a finalist in the HCPS Teacher of the Year program. If you are able to provide a donation, either one for the Teacher of the Year winner, or five (one gift for each finalist), please call us at 410-588-5203 to arrange for pick-up. Thank you for your support of our teachers, students and school system. Without the outpouring of support by our generous business community, this recognition program would not be possible.
THIRD ANNUAL HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (HCPS) MUSIC COMPETITION CONTEST
Students in grades 9-12 of any Harford County public school are invited to submit an original, unpublished composition for entry in the third annual HCPS Music Competition Contest. All materials must be submitted to Mr. Shane Jensen at Patterson Mill High School by April 19, 2013. The winner’s name will be announced on the HCPS website and on the Harford County Cable Network and he or she will receive either a Pro Tools SE package (valued at $199.00) or a Sibelius Student Package. For contest details, rules and the entry form, please click here.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings*:
- Monday, January 14, 2013: Board Budget Input Session – A. A. Roberty Building Board Room, 6:00 p.m.; and Board Business Meeting, 8:00 p.m.

*For agendas, exhibits and more information, visit www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203. Meetings can be viewed live on the school system website. An archive of all meeting videos also is available on the website. In addition, the meetings air Tuesdays, at 8:00 p.m., on Harford Cable Network.