

# Green Happenings



## A Cleaner, Greener Ride

Harford County Public Schools has been awarded a \$264,000.00 grant by the Maryland Department of the Environment as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (economic stimulus money). Most of the grant funds will be used to retrofit the latest emission control technology onto older diesel engines in an effort to reduce diesel emissions and provide a cleaner atmosphere both in Maryland and around our schools. The plan is to install Diesel Particulate Filters (DPF's) and Closed Crankcase Ventilation Systems (CCVS's) onto our pre-2007 school busses. In addition, grant funds will be used to purchase a filter cleaning machine that can be used on our diesel busses to keep them running as pollution free as possible and reduce our operational costs.

A Diesel Particulate Filter is a filter which goes into the exhaust system of the bus and greatly reduces the amount of pollution or particulate matter that escapes into the atmosphere through the exhaust system. The bus then uses a process called "regeneration" which generates high temperatures within the exhaust system to burn the soot out and keep the exhaust system functioning properly. The Closed Crankcase Ventilation System is a device which keeps fumes from exiting the engine into the atmosphere. After the vapors pass through the device, the filtered oil is then returned to the crankcase of the engine for continued use.

