



April 2, 2009

Here are some story ideas in which you may have an interest:

***NOTE:** 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 Amanda.Spencer@hcps.org.

NOTE NEW TIME!

Board Meetings

- **Monday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m.** - Board Business Meeting at the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. For agenda, exhibits and more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203.
- **Monday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m.** - Board Business Meeting at the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. For agenda, exhibits and more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203.

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

Save the Date

The 2009 HCPS Teacher of the Year Banquet will be Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace!

- The 2009 Commencement Ceremony schedule has been revised. **View the new schedule here.**
- Edgewood High School Senior Larry Tucker recently won first place in the poetry category of the Baltimore CityLit Maryland Young Writers Contest. As part of the award, Larry, along with the other winners in the contest, will be acknowledged in the May issue of Baltimore's Child magazine and will receive a congratulatory certificate in the mail. In addition, each writer is invited to read his winning piece at CityLit Festival, Baltimore's premiere public event in celebration of literature. The Festival will take place Saturday, April 18 at Enoch Pratt Free Library. The reading takes place as part of youth events at 12 noon in the library's Central Hall. In addition, first place winners will have their writing published in the May issue of Baltimore's Child and receive free registration to the Maryland Writing Project's Student Writers' Workshop Summer Program. **NEW!**
- A local Edgewood High student was recently selected by the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute (PCI) as a winner of the Third Annual Le Cordon Bleu Schools North America Market Basket Competition. Ten future PCI students participated in the semi-annual event that took place on March 21; and three received scholarships to attend the Pittsburgh culinary school. Second-Place winner Gladys Kemp, from Edgewood High School, Maryland, will begin her culinary education at PCI in September. Gladys, 17, has attended Edgewood High School for four years. The Le Cordon Bleu Market Basket Competition takes place twice yearly at 14 of the Le Cordon Bleu Schools North America locations. This year's pastry competition began with an essay and concluded with an intense kitchen challenge at Pennsylvania Culinary Institute. The Le Cordon Bleu Market Basket Scholarship Competition is two-phased. First, future students submit an online entry form which includes a 75 - 150 word essay demonstrating their interest, desire and passion for becoming a chef; a team of judges select the finalists and invite them to compete in the kitchen challenge. Then, on the day of the scholarship competition, future students are given a market basket containing key ingredients. They have 90 minutes to prepare and present two identical plated desserts (one for presentation and one for judging). **NEW!**
- For just two weeks during the month of March, students at Riverside Elementary School participated in a Pennies for Playground drive in an effort to raise funds to support plans for a new playground at the school. As part of the contest, second grade students raised the most funds and earned a pizza party and an extra half hour of free play. The culminating total for the Pennies for Playground drive was over \$4,500 towards the cost of a new primary playground for the school, for grades one and two. The fundraiser was supported by the Riverside Elementary Parent Teacher Association as well as the faculty, staff and students at the school.

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• Fallston High School Senior Lindsey Puckett signed a letter of intent for field hockey with University of Maryland in March. Ms. Puckett has played field hockey for 13 years including her Strikers club indoor team in addition to four years of Fallston High School varsity. She plans on majoring in Marketing at the University of Maryland. Pictured left to right, back row, Fallston High School Principal Joseph Schmitz, Varsity Field Hockey Coach Megan Koons, Athletic Director Dave Cesky, front row, father Mark Puckett, Lindsey Puckett, Coach/Mother Alice Puckett.

NEW!



• Five students from North Harford Elementary School were selected to attend the Maryland Music Educators Association Conference held at the Baltimore Convention Center on Saturday, February 28th. During this conference, the Demonstration Elementary School Chorus of Maryland performed a musical selection under the direction of Mrs. Sandra Cunningham. The students were nominated for the Demonstration Chorus by directors throughout the state of Maryland were selected based on the director recommendations. Five students from North Harford Elementary School were selected for this honors choir and performed during the conference along with other students from across the county. These students, from top left, are Andrew Barstow, Jack Reaves, Brandon Daugherty, Emily Roush and Elizabeth Kaminkow, all fifth graders at North Harford Elementary School.

NEW!

- The Maryland State Department of Education is recognizing 24 local Harford County public schools for the academic performance of students. The recognition program honors schools for their performance on the 2008 Maryland School Assessment (MSA) or the High School Assessment (HSA), and for improving the performance of special populations of students for two years. Only schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2007-08 were eligible for the award. School recognition, a feature of the federal No Child Left Behind program, helps states recognize the achievement of schools, as well as their students and teachers. [Click here to view the entire press release including all 24 schools.](#)
- The Harford Branch of the American Association of University Women will host the 23rd Annual Judith Resnik Educational Foundation Awards Luncheon honoring outstanding Harford County eleventh grade female mathematics-science scholars on Saturday, April 25th at 11:45 a.m. at Harford Community College's Chesapeake Center. The guest speaker for the event will be Becky Halstead, executive director for leader development at the Praevus Group and retired general, U.S. Army. One eleventh grade female excelling in mathematics or science will be honored from each Harford County high school. The cost of the luncheon is \$16.50 and registration is due by April 16th. For more information, contact Shirley Moore at 410-838-8179.
- The Harford County Public Schools Title I Annual Parent Conference will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The event will feature guest speaker Mrs. Allyn A. Watson, Supervisor of Compensatory Education, as well as performances by the Hall's Cross Roads Elementary Chorus and the Edgewood Elementary Chorus. Additionally, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick is scheduled to present at the conference. There will also be a sharing of Title I quilts and a unity poem presentation. For more information, contact the Office of Compensatory Education at 410-588-5278.