

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

June 26, 2008

***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.

Board Meetings

• **Monday, July 7th at 7:00 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. **NEW!**

• Meadowvale Elementary School in Havre de Grace has been selected to receive a Ben Carson Reading Room. The official check giving ceremony will take place on Friday, June 27th at the Stack and Store, 1744 Pulaski Highway at 12:15 p.m. Mayor of Havre de Grace Wayne H. Dougherty recommended Meadowvale Elementary for the award and will attend the ceremony in addition to the County Executive David Craig. For more information, contact Principal A. Blaine Hawley at 410-939-6622. These Reading Rooms are designed to encourage young people to discover the joy of independent reading in a warm, inviting atmosphere, with rewards given for minutes read. For more information on the Ben Carson Reading Room program, visit www.carsonscholars.org/rooms.php. **NEW!**

• Ring Factory Elementary students in Bel Air are learning real-life business and financial lessons from a Junior Achievement program being delivered from the kindergarten through 5th grade. Ring Factory classroom teachers, volunteer parents, and community volunteers joined Freedom Federal Credit Union employees to dedicate their time to a 5-session class, designed particularly for each grade and age level. This is the ninth year that Ring Factory has participated in the in-class portion of the Junior Achievement (JA) program, but this is only the second year that every grade participated during the same year. Six other schools in Harford County are participating in JA programs during the 2008-09 school year. For more information, contact Kathy Farrand at 410-420-2648.

• Harford Youth Tobacco Use is Down - The recent Department of Health and Mental Hygiene survey polled 82,500 students in Maryland on areas related to cigarette smoking, secondhand smoke, and related topics. The survey is done every two years and data can be compared to results from previous surveys. In Harford, all middle and high schools (with the exception of the Alternative Education Center) were sampled.

Results were very encouraging for Harford County's progress in decreasing the number of young people involved with tobacco use compared to the survey two years earlier. Harford County was one of two counties which saw a reduction in the initiation of tobacco use by under-age youth. The 32 percent reduction was the highest in the state. Harford County was third in the state for significant declines in tobacco use among under-age youth with a 38 percent reduction. The county also showed significant declines in the percentage of under-age youth who smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days (down 48 percent). Out of 40 categories surveyed, Harford County showed decreased rates greater than the state rate in 34 of those categories. Harford students surveyed reflected significant declines in 22 of those categories. For more information, contact Don Morrison at 410-588-5203.

• C. Milton Wright High School was rated among the top 1400 high schools in the United States by 'Newsweek' magazine. Call CMWHS Principal Marlene Molter for more information, 410-638-4110.

• The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) will honor 36 schools as new "Maryland Green Schools". This year, Aberdeen High School will join the ranks of other schools in Maryland, be-



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coming a Green School for the first time. In a three year effort by a dedicated group of students that call themselves the "Green Team", this vision was realized following an extensive application process and documentation through MAEOE. The Maryland Green School program recognizes and supports public and private schools that use their campus and the local environment as a place to learn, model environmental best management practices and work with community partners to enhance learning and stewardship. For more information, contact Linda McDonough at 410-273-5500.

- The 2008 Harford County Public Schools Teacher Night at Ripken Stadium will be held on Saturday, August 30th. On that evening, the Ten 2008-09 Harford County Public School Teacher of the Year Finalists will be honored and the Teacher of the Year will throw out the first pitch. It is also the Harford County Education Association (HCEA) night at the Stadium. Forty tickets have been reserved for Harford County Public School teachers – 20 each at \$9.50 per ticket in the Reserved Section and \$12.50 per ticket in the Loge Section. The price of admission includes a free Ironbirds cap, a game program, and free parking. To purchase tickets, call Jenna Raglani, Ironbirds Account Executive, at 410-297-9292, ext. 317.

- The Maryland Summer Center for Action Investigation is currently accepting applications for their program July 14-25th. The program is located at Harford Glen Environmental Education Center. This is a day program running from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Students entering grades 5th-8th are encouraged to apply. The program develops primary research skills using Harford Glen as its focus. Last year students conducted research on the pine tree infestation and whitetail deer population. To view last year's reports, go to www.hcps.org/gifted. Parents can register online at www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters. For questions, contact Eric Cromwell at 410-588-5354 or eric.cromwell@hcps.org.