

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

September 18, 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, September 22nd 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.

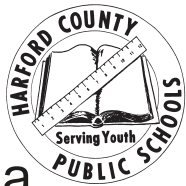
*****Board meetings can be viewed at anytime from our website www.hcps.org!**

- Check out the new Harford County Public Schools News & Events section on our website, www.hcps.org - click on "HCPS in the News" above the scrolling photos on the homepage! **NEW!**
- The Ring Factory Elementary Playground Dedication Ceremony will take place on Monday, September 22nd beginning at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call 410-638-4186. **NEW!**
- Hickory Elementary School was selected as a 2008 National Blue Ribbon for Excellence School. Hickory was one of six Maryland schools and 320 schools nationwide to receive this distinguished national honor. Visit www.hcps.org for the full press release.
- Board of Education Counsel Patrick P. Spicer is the featured author in the Summer/Fall 2008 edition of the 'Harford Historical Bulletin' with the second part of his work on the desegregation of Harford County Public Schools. The 'Decade of Delay' Part 2 is the follow-up to Mr. Spicer's 50-page account of the first decade of desegregation in the Harford County Public Schools, which was published in the Winter/Spring 2008 issue of the bulletin. The bulletin is published by the Harford County Historical Society. For more information, call Mr. Spicer at 410-638-4005.
- On September 22nd, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary in Abingdon is participating in a project called "Pinwheels for Peace". All students will be creating a pinwheel which will be displayed outside. There will be over 1,000 pinwheels displayed! Additionally, on September 25th, during the school's Good News Assembly, three more winners will be awarded from the Dare to Dream contest, totaling six winners, one of which is a \$5000.00 scholarship winner! For more information about these two events, contact Carinda Rafferty at 410-612-2033.
- Uniform Forum Community Meetings scheduled - Don't miss out on an important opportunity to participate in conversations regarding the possibilities of implementing school uniforms in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). The Committee on School Uniforms was convened after a request by the Board of Education of Harford County to assess public interest in the concept. The Committee is co-chaired by Mrs. Patricia Skebeck, executive director of elementary education, and Mr. David Volrath, executive director of secondary education, and includes representation by teachers, students, parents, community members, and the Board of Education.
In November 2007, the committee began their research with a survey that was distributed to all schools to be completed by parents and staff. In addition, numerous public comment forms have been submitted through the HCPS.org website. The next step in this research process is to take it out into the community for discussion with ten scheduled meetings to be held at each high school.

Uniform Forum Community Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, October 7 – Patterson Mill Middle/High School
Wednesday, October 8 – Harford Technical High School
Tuesday, October 14 – Bel Air High School
Wednesday, October 15 – C. Milton Wright High School
Tuesday, October 28, -- Havre de Grace High School

Wednesday, October 29 – Fallston High School
Thursday, October 30 – Edgewood High School
Wednesday, November 5 – Aberdeen High School
Tuesday, November 11 – North Harford High School
Wednesday, November 12 – Joppatowne High School



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*All meetings are held in the cafeteria from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendees will have an opportunity to receive information regarding the process to date and to engage in discussions about thoughts and opinions concerning the benefits and limitations of school uniforms. The Board of Education of Harford County has made no decisions regarding school uniforms; they are looking to the community for feedback before they start the decision making process. For more information regarding the community meetings, contact the HCPS Communications Office at 410-588-5203.

• The school counselors of Harford County Public Schools in cooperation with the Harford Community College Admissions Office, will hold their Annual Education After High School program for students and their parents on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the campus of Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland in the Susquehanna Center. There will be over 100 representatives from four and two year colleges and universities, business, trade and technical schools, and the Armed Forces. For more information, contact Laura Wade at 410-588-5245

HCPS Magnet Program Informational Presentations Set

In an effort to disseminate information to Harford County eighth graders and their parents about educational opportunities for high school, HCPS will be hosting a series of evening informational presentations within the county.

Beginning in September, a series of nine evening presentations will begin at county middle schools. The objective of these meetings is to allow parents and students to take an introductory look at the magnet programs, located at three specific schools that will be available to students throughout Harford County in the fall of 2008.

The Science and Mathematics Academy (SMA) at Aberdeen High School, the Global Studies/International Baccalaureate Programme (GS/IB) at Edgewood High School, and the nineteen career programs at Harford Technical High School (HTHS) in Bel Air will be showcased in an informational video presentation that was produced by Harford Cable Network. The schedule for the evening presentations is as follows:

Sept. 22	Southampton Middle	Oct. 7	Aberdeen Middle
Sept. 23	Edgewood Middle	Oct. 13	Patterson Mill Middle
Sept. 24	Bel Air Middle	Oct. 14	Magnolia Middle
Oct. 1	Fallston Middle	Oct. 15	North Harford Middle
Oct. 6	Havre de Grace Middle		

Presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Parents and students may choose to attend any of the presentations, regardless of their districted attendance area.

Open Houses for each of the magnet programs will be held as follows:

Oct. 21 & Oct. 29	Science & Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High
Nov. 5	Harford Technical High School
Nov. 11	Global Studies/International Baccalaureate Programme at Edgewood High

Specific times for the Open House events will be posted on the HCPS website, www.hcps.org as the dates approach. Attendance at the open house is not required for application or admission to any magnet program.

Applications to each of the magnet programs will be available at www.hcps.org, beginning on September 22nd; the county-wide deadline for submission of applications is December 5th.