



January 15, 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.

Board Meetings

- **Saturday, January 17th at 9:00 a.m.** - Board Budget Work Session at the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. For more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203. **NEW!**
- **Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m.** - Special Board Meeting at the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. For more information, log onto www.hcps.org or call 410-588-5203.
- **Monday, January 26th 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!

- For the seventh consecutive year, the Harford County Public School Budget Office has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award." The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program is the only national awards initiative in government budgeting. The Harford County Public Schools Budget Office received its most recent commendations for its 2008-09 Operating Budget document. A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is presented by the GFOA to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. For more information, call 410-588-5243. **NEW!**
- The Harford County Public Schools Winter Cheerleading Contest will be held on January 31, 2009 at Joppatowne High School. The competition begins at 1:00 p.m. with the junior varsity squads competing first followed by the varsity teams. Tickets for the competition will be sold at each high school and no tickets will be sold at the door. Those wishing to purchase tickets need to contact the cheerleading coach or athletic director at their school. Tickets are already at each school and are for sale now. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and \$2 for elementary students. **TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. NEW!**
- C. Milton Wright High School announces the Sixth Annual College Night, to be held on Monday, February 23rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. This FREE event is open to all high school students and parents in Harford County. The snow date is Tuesday, February 24th. Over 80 prestigious colleges, universities, technical schools and military from the Mid-Atlantic region will be participating in the event. College Night will enable Harford County high school students and their parents to meet directly with college admissions representatives to learn about academic studies, campus life, the admission process and tuition. College Night has been extremely successful and is recognized as the premier event for high school students and parents in the county. **NEW!**
- The Second Annual Harford County Table Tennis Tournament, sponsored by the National Honor Society, will take place at Patterson Mill High School on Tuesday, February 24th and Thursday, February 26th. The middle school competition is scheduled for the 24th at 3:30 p.m. and the high school competition will begin at the same time on the 26th. Admission for non-participants is \$2.00. The registration fee is \$18.00 and includes a tournament t-shirt. Prizes in the form of gift certificates will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners. Register at Patterson Mill High School. Contact Krista Wilkinson (Krista.Wilkinson@HCPS.org) or Cindy Mehr (Cindy.Mehr@HCPS.org) for more information. **NEW!**
- The North-East Theatre Festival, which is a two-day celebration of theatre and related arts, will take place Friday, February



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20th from 2:00 – 11:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Bel Air High School. It is an opportunity for drama students and teachers from the northeast region of Maryland to come together and participate in a variety of activities that will showcase their love and passion for the performing arts. The snow dates will be the following weekend, February 27th and 28th. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of workshops that will help them enhance their performing and/or technical skills such as acting skills, costuming, vocal techniques, lighting design, scenic construction, improvisation, auditioning techniques, dance, etc. For students who wish to showcase their talents, the Festival will offer competitions in (7) event categories: dance, improvisation, monologues, playwriting, scenes, technical portfolio, and vocal. Schools wishing to showcase their talent will have the opportunity to perform a half-hour one act or cutting from a larger play on the Festival's Mainstage. College representatives will be present to provide information on the drama/theatre programs at each school. Representatives from local and regional theatres and businesses will discuss what their companies have to offer in the way of performing and technical work. Finally, there will be an exhibitor hall where students will have the opportunity to purchase books, shirts, and other theatrical souvenirs. **NEW!**

- Mrs. Sharon Pardew, art teacher at Joppatowne Elementary School, sponsors an Art Club at the school. The students entered a collective piece in a contest called "Together We are Better." The club's piece earned third place for the state of Maryland in the contest. Mrs. Pardew and the Art Club students will be recognized during a ceremony at Annapolis in April. Contact Mrs. Pardew at sharon.pardew@hcps.org for more information.
- Mr. Karl Tracy, strings teacher at Joppatowne Elementary School, is a member of a Jazz band called "Mood Swings." The band recently played at the Congressional Ball in Washington for over 800 people, including President George W. Bush. Mr. Tracy toured the White House, observed the Oval Office and was photographed with the Commander In Chief himself. Contact Mr. Tracy at karl.tracy@hcps.org for more information.
- Students at Bel Air Middle School are shooting hoops to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. On December 12th, BAMS officially kicked off their fundraising event. Students will raise funds for the American Heart Association, which funds cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs. Top fundraisers as well as a few 'wildcard' students, will have the chance to play basketball against their teachers, on Thursday, February 12th, at 6:00 p.m. On February 13th in the gymnasium, the school will hold its 11th Annual Hoops For Heart three-point shoot out event. BAMS has raised almost \$250,000 over the past 11 years and has been ranked #2 in the nation for their fundraising efforts. This year BAMS goal is to raise \$40,000. For more information, contact health teacher Gina Bechtel, at 410-638-4140 or gina.becht@hcps.org.

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