



January 29, 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

- **Monday, February 9th 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.

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

- The Office of School Counseling for Harford County Public Schools in partnership with the Office of Advising, Career and Transfer Services at Harford Community College, will host the Tenth Annual Career Opportunity and Information Fair on Tuesday, March 31st from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center at HCC. This career awareness program for high school and community college students and parents will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from local educational, business and military communities. For more information, call 410-588-5245. **NEW!**

The Third Annual Harford County High School Chess Tournament will take place on Friday, March 6th from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Aberdeen High School Media Center. This chess tournament will feature 40-minute games, as well as individual and team championships with trophies awarded to the top players and teams. It is open to any high school student in Harford County. To register or for more information, contact Mr. Wardle at Aberdeen High School at 410-273-5500 or william.wardle@hcps.org. **NEW!**

- Students at Bel Air Middle are shooting hoops to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. On December 12, 2008 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 'wild-card' students, will have the chance to play basketball vs. their teachers, on Thursday, February 12th, at 6:00 p.m. On February 13, 2009 in the school's gymnasium, the school will hold its 11th annual Hoops For Heart three-point shootout event. BAMS has raised almost \$250,000 over the past 11 years and has been ranked #2 in the nation for our fundraising efforts. This year BAMS goal is to raise \$40,000. Attend the student-faculty basketball game on February 12th at 6:00 p.m., or join BAMS and the Abingdon Chick-fil-A, on Monday, February 9th, for dinner and special giveaways. Hoops For Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. For more information, contact Gina Bechtel, health teacher at 410-638-4140 or gina.bechtel@hcps.org. **NEW!**

- Intent to Rename Campus Hills/Schucks Road Elementary Announced - According to Board policy, the official announcement of the intent to rename the elementary school that is being constructed off of Schucks Road, near Churchville, was made at the Board meeting held Tuesday, January 20. The school was originally approved to be named Campus Hills Elementary School by the Board on Monday, December 8, 2008. The motion to rename the building was brought forth by Board member Robin Rich, who suggested the facility be named after the late Dr. Jacqueline C. Haas, HCPS superintendent of schools from 1999 - 2008. Board policy suggests that the name of a public school facility should "give proper recognition to the community which it serves," but also provides for a building/ground to be named for a person, living or dead, who has made "significant contributions to education in the Harford County Public Schools." The policy further requires the intent to name be widely publicized in the community with an invitation for the public to submit names in writing or in person during Board meetings in the 60-day interim between announcing the intent to name and action being taken. The Superintendent will provide the Board with a complete list of names suggested along with her recommendation at the Monday, March 9th Board meeting. Allowing for 60-days required prior to naming the building, the Board will take action at its March 23, 2009 business meeting (6:30 p.m., HCPS/A.A. Roberty Building). Click here to submit a suggestion to rename the school. **NEW!**



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- Forty intrepid members of the Aberdeen Middle School Concert Band gathered on Saturday, January 17th to perform for President Obama's Whistle Stop train tour as it roared through the town of Aberdeen. Three days earlier, the band had received an invitation to play for the historic event from the City of Aberdeen, and quickly geared up to rehearse new music for the performance. With the support of Principal Chandra Krantz, as well as the faculty of Aberdeen Middle and some serious practice on the part of the seventh and eighth grade students, the band was able to hold two rehearsals and prepare their music into performance level. As the train flew by, the band played "A Tribute to America" and "You're a Grand Old Flag" to the delight of many spectators in the area. For more information, call 410-273-5510.
- Artwork from four 12th grade students, Colleen Billing (honorable mention), Katherine Ramos, Kelly Campbell and Jessica Nassner, at Fallston High School who participated in the First Maryland High School Art Exhibit sponsored by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (RFLM) and the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA), was selected to be showcased in this exhibit. The artwork will also be featured in the RFLM's publication, "Journey" as the cover page of MSTA's brochure for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast program celebration. The exhibition will be featured at the RFLM in Baltimore January 24, 2009 – February 8, 2009 and at the MSTA in Annapolis February 16, 2009 – March 16, 2009. The artwork reflects the meaning of courage in each student's community. An opening reception to commemorate the winners will be held Saturday, January 24th at the RFLM. For more information, call Fallston High School at 410-638-4120.
- Prospect Mill Elementary students collected many gifts and letters of support that were sent to the United States military in Baghdad. On November 11, 2008, exactly 90 years after the end of World War I, Prospect Mill students were honored for their efforts by the flying of the American flag over Baghdad, currently the center of one of two American war efforts. Prospect Mill Elementary School also received a beautiful handmade shadowbox containing the actual American flag that was flown over the American Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. For more information, contact Mark Etzel at 410-638-3817.
- Nicholas W. Hancock, a 17-year-old senior at Havre de Grace High School was recently notified by an official letter of appointment of his acceptance into the Naval Academy. Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, who nominated Nicholas, called to congratulate him on this prestigious honor on January 10th. Nicholas is the son of Lisa Buonaugurio and Wayne Hancock and has always dreamed of being a member of the Academy since he was in second grade. Compelled by the military lifestyles of his uncle and grandfathers, Nicholas worked hard and excelled both academically and personally, earning him an impressive spot in the Naval Academy. A member of the SMILES program, volleyball and baseball teams, a peer mentor, mock trial participant and a member of the Havre de Grace Marching Band/Symphonic Band/Pit Band, Nicholas credits his parents, family, excellent teachers and staff with his success. He is also a National Honor Roll student, Who's Who among American High School Students, Johns Hopkins CTY participant, a member of National Honor Society and the recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award in 2002 and 2005.
- 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. 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.**
- 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

Memo to Media



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has been extremely successful and is recognized as the premier event for high school students and parents in the county.

- 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.

- The North-East Theatre Festival, which is a two-day celebration of theatre and related arts, will take place Friday, February 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.

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