

Memo to Media



Harford County Public Schools • 102 S. Hickory Ave. • Bel Air, MD 21014 • www.hcps.org

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October 2, 2008

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, October 6th 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!**

- Ring Factory Elementary, Magnolia Middle earn character education awards - For the 11th consecutive year, the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) recognized exemplary Maryland public and nonpublic schools for their work in positive character development, including Harford County's Ring Factory Elementary School in Bel Air and Magnolia Middle School in Joppatowne. For more information, email mccecharacter@aol.com, call Ring Factory at 410-638-4186 or Magnolia Middle at 410-612-1525. **NEW!**
- The Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee will hold a Special Education Parent Forum on Tuesday, October 7th at the Center for Educational Opportunity at 253 Paradise Road in Aberdeen. From 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. will be networking and a lite supper followed by discussion and presentations from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Rhonda Creecy, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, rcreecy@iglide.net or 410-676-7758 or call the Office of Special Education at 410-588-5246. **NEW!**
- On Saturday, November 1st, a benefit concert for the "Inscription to Hope" project will take place featuring renowned American composer, Z. Randall Stroope as conductor and a hand-picked selection of Stroope's favorite works, culminating in John Rutter's "Mass of the Children." The goal of "The Inscription of Hope Project" is to raise \$20,000 to build a school through author (Three Cups of Tea) Greg Mortenson's Central Asia Institute. The CAI, with its dedication to providing equal educational opportunities to young women in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, has inspired the choral students in the North Harford schools and their adult peers in the Deer Creek Chorale to undertake this exciting project. For more information, visit www.inscriptionofhope.org. **NEW!**
- Jarrettsville Elementary School, North Harford Middle School and Patterson Mill High School are the recipients of the Harford County Public Library (HCPL) 2007 Summer Reading Trophies. The trophies were awarded to the elementary, middle and high school with the highest percentage of students who completed the Library's Summer Reading Program, 'Catch the Reading Bug.' This summer over 16,700 children and teens registered for the program, an increase of 1,000 participants over last year. For more information, contact Janine Lis at 410-273-5601 ext. 2256. **NEW!**
- The Maryland Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) Honors & Awards Committee recently announced that Stacey Stewell, physical education teacher at Church Creek Elementary, has been selected as a 2008-2009 Simon McNeely recipient for outstanding teaching and service in dance, health and physical education. The committee will present Ms. Stewell the award on Friday, October 17th at 8:30 a.m. during the convention General Assembly at the Sheraton Hotel (Ballroom A) in Towson. For more information, contact Anna Spring at 410-313-7165.
- North Bend Elementary School will be dedicating its new Intermediate Playground on Tuesday, October 14th at 2:00 p.m. Harford County Executive David R. Craig will attend and participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. For more information, contact Principal Steve Hardy at 410-692-7815.

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- **Intent to Name Schucks Road Elementary Announced** - According to Board policy, the official announcement of the intent to name the elementary school that is being constructed off Schucks Road, near Churchville, was made at the Board meeting held Monday, September 22. The 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, November 24th Board meeting. Allowing for 60-days required prior to naming the building, the Board will take action at its December 8, 2008 business meeting (7:00 p.m., HCPS A.A. Roberty Building). To submit names for the school, [click here](#).

- The Maryland State Department of Education recently announced that Harford County Public Schools will receive a \$17,000 grant to support the implementation of the HCPS Energy Management Plan via MSDE's "Program to Promote Energy Conservation and Efficiency In Maryland Schools". Director of Facilities Management Patti Jo Beard and Coordinator of Grants Mary Beth Stapleton worked to put the application together. For more information, contact Ms. Stapleton at 410-588-5263.

- 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.

- **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.

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

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

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

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.