

Memo to Media



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

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

February 25, 2010

***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 Lindsay.Bilodeau@hcps.org.**

Board Meetings

- **Monday, March 8th 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.
- **Monday, March 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!

- **New!** The newly revamped 2010 School Profiles are now available on the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) website, www.hcps.org, under "Schools" located on each individual school page. The link is also available under the "Parents" tab. The School Profile has been redesigned to a webpage format, rather than the traditional PDF. In addition, links have been added to the Maryland State Department of Education's website to provide consistent and up-to-date data on each school. Rather than being updated once-per-year, this fluid format allows information to be updated in real-time as soon as it becomes available. The profile includes the same basic information as in the past, with a new design. Click here to view the new School Profiles.
- **New!** More than 200 students from William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School will experience the *Growing Up Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium, a 20 x 20 inflatable dome that introduces children to the night sky while forging cross-cultural connections. Inside the dome, the students will view a special planetarium show, *One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure*, a brilliant spectacle of lights and colors as children take an imaginary trip from Sesame Street to the moon. Students attending the show can interact as they watch, draw constellations and count the time it takes the sun to set. The event will take place **Monday, March 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School.
- **New!** The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) will announce the presentation of Chairman's Awards for Achievement in Historic Preservation at the organization's board of trustees meeting on **Thursday, March 4th at 10:30 a.m.** at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. These awards are presented in recognition of individuals or organizations that have had a tremendous impact on historic preservation in their communities and regions. Educator Robert Rinehart of Southampton Middle School will be recognized for his work using historic preservation as an innovative tool for teaching civic activism. The awards will be presented by Chairman Nau, a Texas businessman who also chairs the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and is the immediate past chair of the Texas Historical Commission. The media is welcome to attend the presentation ceremony, which will occur at the opening of the board of trustees meeting.
- **New!** In collaboration with Cecil County Public Schools, HCPS is pleased to invite Harford County parents of students with disabilities to a Resource Conference on **Saturday, March 6th from 9:00 a.m. to noon** at Bay View Elementary School, 910 North East Road, North East, MD 21901. This event presents a range of special education topics focusing on the needs of children and families and includes free sessions, a continental breakfast and materials. For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center for Special Education at 410-996-5637.
- **New!** Harford County will participate in its 20th Envirothon Competition that annually challenges teams of high school students to learn and be tested about the environment. Each year, students are tested on the same four topics: aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife. In addition, a different fifth topic is selected each year by the state or Canadian province that hosts the International Competition. This year's International Competition will be in California, and the fifth topic is "hydrology and ground water impacts." The oral portion of this competition will take place at Harford Glen on **March 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Teams will come to the competition with a prepared powerpoint presentation to deliver in front of a panel of judges who will score them on related criteria, such as completeness, timing and clarity.

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• *New!* On **March 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Harford Glen will host, for the third year, the High School Student Environmental Summit. Teams of students from all the high schools will attend to report out on local projects they have been working on since the fall Environmental Summit in September. Twice a year, students and a teacher chaperone bring their environmental issues for discussion, debate and resolution to these summits. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has partnered with this activity, funds a leadership training course on Fox Island for the student leaders, and in other ways supports the spread of these kinds of student-led activities for environmental improvements.

• *New!* HCPS, in partnership with Harford Community College and the Office of Economic Development, will host the Futures 11 networking and career event on **Thursday, March 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the gymnasium of Harford Community College. Approximately 400 high school juniors will take part, coming from the following programs: Harford Technical High School, the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, the Biomedical Sciences Program at Bel Air High School, the Academy of Finance at Edgewood High School and the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program at Joppatowne High School. The event is designed to help students begin considering their post-secondary career options.

• *New!* **RESCHEDULED:** Comptroller of Maryland Peter Franchot will visit Deerfield Elementary School on **Friday, March 12th, at 2:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact the Harford County Public Schools Communications Office at 410-588-5203.

• Harford County is hosting the East Central Destination Imagination Tournament at Bel Air Middle School on **March 6th**. This tournament is poised to be the largest in the state this year. The tournament will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end with an awards ceremony around 4:00 p.m. Students from all across Harford and Cecil counties will test their abilities to think creatively and solve unique problems. The tournament is expected to draw more than 1,000 people, including students and family.

• The Harford County Public School System, as well as 23 other public school systems in the state, will participate in the 2010-11 Maryland Teacher of the Year program. As in the past, any full-time classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching is eligible. Nominations may be self-submitted, or may be submitted by administrators, parents, colleagues, students or others. For more information and a copy of the nomination packet, click [here](#). The **new** nomination deadline is: **March 8, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.**

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