



Falcon Free Press

Poolesville High School PTSA Newsletter

Issue No. 4

Dec. 2010—Jan. 2011

≡ Important Dates ≡

DECEMBER

- 14 Winter Instrumental Concert, 7pm auditorium (p.10)
- 15 College Night. 7pm at PHS
- 15 PTSA scores distributed (p.7)
- 17 Staff Appreciation Cookie Exchange
- 20 Cluster Choral Concert, 7pm PHS auditorium (p.10)
- 23 Alumni Open House, 10:30am reception, visits to 11:45am (p. 7)
- 24 **Holiday - Christmas**
- 27-30 **Winter break**
- 31 **Holiday - New Year's Day**

JANUARY

- 17 Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 2nd marking period ends
- 24 No school: prof'l. day for teachers
- 28 Class registration cards due (p.7)

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*The next Falcon Free Press will appear in early February. Deadline for submissions is **January 21**. Email the editor: dyendrey@sugarloafnet.com*

President's Message

Dear Falcon Free Press Reader,

Happy Holidays to all of you and a very happy, healthy and fruitful New Year!

2010 was a very good year for the PHS PTSA, but it can get even better. Our membership is now over 600. Last year we ended the school year with 644 members, so we are almost there. There is most definitely strength in numbers, so if you haven't already joined please do so this month... Make it your new year's resolution to become a more involved PHS parent.

If you have an engineering student or are simply a fan of our growing Project Lead the Way program, you need to know that MCPS is considering ending this program at the close of this academic year. This would be a terrible loss for a lot of reasons. Engineering is one of the most employable fields for new college grads, and this program at PHS gives our students a feel for what it would be like to work in one of the many engineering fields. Also, when the program was first established nationally, many private engineering firms gave money to support it, and MCPS should be encouraged to seek out these private sources of money from the firms who initially wanted Project Lead the Way to encourage young people to enter the field. It would be a shame to lose this engineering curriculum, so if you are concerned and would like to encourage MCPS to save it please write to our principal, Ms. Levine, and urge her to preserve and lobby for it. Once lost it would probably be gone for good, so please act now. If you have any questions regarding the program either write or call me.

We have no December PTSA meeting, so if you have any concerns or issues requiring PTSA attention, please let me know. Otherwise, enjoy your winter break with family and friends, and I will see you all in 2011.

Faithfully yours,

Stephanie Egly
PTSA President
Sallysue527@yahoo.com

Poolesville High School

17501 Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2006
301-972-7900



December 2010

Dear Poolesville Families,

As I write this letter to you, the wind is howling and the temperature has dropped sharply. But inside the halls of Poolesville High School, the energy and enthusiasm for learning continue to be high on our education thermometer. To substantiate that claim, I would like to share with you some of our most recent student data related to the Honor Roll. Our students shine in academics, extra-curricular activities and sports competitions.

Congratulations to all students who worked extremely hard this marking period! I am pleased to publish the percentage of students who made Honor Roll for the first semester.

*Grade 9	63.1%
*Grade 10	67.5%
*Grade 11	77.9%
*Grade 12	76.8%

Our school average is 71.3% for overall Honor Roll representation. We presented our Honor Roll students with a letter and a beautiful certificate along with a voucher for a free ice cream from our cafeteria. We are proud of the effort and achievement that our students demonstrate each day at Poolesville High School. Their work load is daunting, but they manage to be highly successful.

We also support the students on the ineligible list. Although we have some of the smallest numbers in all of MCPS, we strive to have 100 percent of our students eligible to participate in the many sports and activities we offer. I would like to remind you that teachers are available during lunch and after school for extra help. Working directly with the classroom teacher is the most effective way for students to receive clarification on assignments. Our teachers are so generous with their time; every day, they devote a portion of their lunchtime to working with students.

Bravo! The performances of "The Worse High School Musical " were brilliant. Our little school boasts so much talent that our director, Ms. Gail Howard, double casts our production. We had rave reviews and gales of laughter from the audiences who were fortunate to see one of the four performances. Everything our Midnight Players do at PHS is first class. Our technical crew is superb and is an integral part of the productions. Congratulations to Ms. Gail Howard for a brilliant fall play and to Mr. Matt Johnson for his technical skills when working with our crew.

Our Winter Concert scheduled for December 14 promises to be a lovely showcase of our student's musical abilities! Ken Goldsborough has worked diligently preparing his second concert with our talented PHS students. The Halloween concert at Whalen's Commons was a howling success so we are very much looking forward to this one as well. The cluster concert, showcasing all our schools, is scheduled for Monday evening, December 20.

It's hard to believe that we are starting our registration process for the next school year. We are meeting with all Resource Teachers to determine the class offerings for next year. Counselors will be visiting all classrooms in January to share course selections for next year. Based on student interest, we try our best to offer classes that students are most interested in studying. A parent's signature is required before we finalize the schedules. Please, carefully examine the schedule your child has selected for next year. We take pride in the range of classes, opportunities and options we provide for such a small school. We are offering two new courses this year that should be of interest to our students and that were recently approved by MCPS: Culture and Literature and Musical Theater.

Congratulations are also in order to all our athletes who participated in fall sports. Our student athletes are to be commended for their excellence, spirit and commitment to our school. We had an outstanding sports season. Thank you to the coaches who work so closely with our students every day.

Winter Sports season has begun and our building is filled with students participating in the many sports we offer. From all the predictions I have received from the coaches, we are going to have an outstanding season. Again I must mention, that our student athletes are so representative of the scholar-athlete model that is a hallmark of our sports program.

Our staff is so appreciative of the strong relationship we have with the PTSA . Our parents send us the most outstanding students in Montgomery County. We find it a joy to teach and learn with them every day.

Have a wonderful winter vacation with your family. We all wish you a very happy and healthy New Year "2011"! Enjoy the winter break with your families and friends.

Sincerely,

Deena Levine
Principal
Poolesville High School

Poolesville High School Post Prom Event 2011

Friday May 20th to Saturday May 21st
11pm-3am

The PTSA and PHS will be sponsoring this year's Post Prom event, which will take place following the Prom at Germantown Community Center. This year's Post Prom admittance fee will be \$15 per student regardless of attendance at the Prom. Other high school guests are welcome when accompanied by a PHS junior or senior along with a Post Prom purchased ticket.

The purpose of this event is to find a safe and fun alternative to private parties where underage drinking and driving under the influence may occur. We strongly recommend that students and parents do not host or attend private parties and recommend that they attend the post prom event instead.

Post Prom offers food, fun activities and entertainment where students can win various prizes as well as a grand prize of a \$500 Visa Card. This event is funded by student ticket sales, parent donations and contributions from the community. If you would like to make a monetary or prize donation, please send your contribution to Poolesville High School, Attn: Post Prom, 17501 West Willard Road, Poolesville, MD 20837 or deliver to the main office (make checks payable to PHS Post Prom).

We are also seeking volunteers to make this a safe and memorable evening for our students. We need help to both organize the event as well as assist at the event itself. Please contact Lisa Guertin @ lisaguertin@mac.com, 301-349-2565 or Melanie Dahlen @ gdahlen@comcast.net, 301-349-2860 if you would like to volunteer your time.

We NEED volunteers to make this event a success!
Thank you for your support!



Poolesville High School Connections

How do you find out what is going on at Poolesville High School?

1. Frequent the PHS website for calendar events, morning announcements...
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs/>
2. Join the PHS PTSA, attend meetings, and subscribe to our free Yahoo Group by sending an email request to: PHS_PTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
3. Bookmark the PHS Athletic Boosters Club: <http://www.phsboosterclub.org>
Join the Boosters, attend meetings and subscribe to their free Listserv.
4. Sign up for free PHS Athletic Department alerts, by sport, via
<http://www.poolesvilleathletics.org/index.cfm?action=main.alerts>, and Twitter with Athletic Director Ed Ross via <http://twitter.com/phsathletics>.
5. Join the PHS Music Booster Club, attend meetings, and subscribe to their email distribution list by contacting Lisa Nubgaard, LNubgaard@aol.com.
6. Join other PHS Academic Listservs by sending an email to:
PHS_Global_Ecology-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
PHS_Humanities-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
PHS_Interdisciplinary_Studies_Program-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
PHS_Science_Math_Computer_Science-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
7. Join Facebook and link to alumni, school club, cultural event, and sports fan pages produced by student and parent groups.
8. Watch for the PHS PTSA newsletter, *The Falcon Free Press*, posted to the PTSA website and to the PTSA Yahoo Group.
9. Read *The Poolesville Pulse*, the quarterly student newspaper, circulated in print four times per year.
10. Subscribe to MCPS Quick Notes:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/welcome/english/>

Other Sources for Poolesville Area Information

Biz Net 20837	http://20837biznet.com/
The Monocacy Monocle	http://monocacymonocle.com/
The Poolesville Blog	http://poolesvilleblog.wordpress.com/
The Poolesville Gazette	http://www.gazette.net/poolesville/news/
Poolesville Cluster School PTA Website	http://www.poolesvillepta.org
Poolesville Town Hall	http://www.ci.poolesville.md.us/



Watch out!

The Cat in the Hat has been seen heading toward Pooleville High School, and you know what a mischief maker he is! The Midnight Players will present Seussical on April 7, 8, and 9, 2011. Details to follow in the next issue of this newsletter.

PHS Pompon - 2010 - 2011 Invitational and MCPS competition schedule

Saturday, January 8th:
at Blake High School -
Division III at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 29th:
at Northwest High School -
Division III at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 19th:
at Richard Montgomery High
School - MCPS Competition
(Tickets will be sold at school
for \$4.00 and at the door before
the performance; time to be
determined).



ARTICLES TO INSPIRE US

"The Incredible Flying Nonagenarian" by Bruce Grierson from the *New York Times*, November 29, 2010.

- Olga is 91 and wins competitions against women in their seventies and eighties on the Masters Athletic Circuit.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/28/magazine/28athletes-.html?nl=to%20daysheadlines&emc=a210>

"Leonsis's Promise: 'to leave more than I took'." by Vanessa Mizell from the *Washington Post*, November 29, 2010.

- How Ted Leonsis, owner of the Washington Wizards and Caps talks about his philanthropy.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/24/AR2010112405832.html>

"National Philanthropy Day More Important than Ever." Afpnet.org, Nov. 16, 2010.

- Foundation recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of donors, volunteers, and philanthropists.

<http://www.afpnet.org/Audiences/NewsReleaseDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=4653>

"New Global Citizens are Reaching Out." Wiserearth.org, Feb. 10, 2010.

- Students work to help other cultures.

<http://blog.wiserearth.org/new-global-citizens/>

"Why Not Add Charity Shopping to the Black Friday Ritual?" by Michelle Singletary from the *Washington Post*, November 29, 2010.

- Some charities benefit those they serve for months, years.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/26/AR2010112605235.html?referrer=emailarticle>

Happy Holidays to All

Mary Ann Todd, Media Specialist

Sabrina Du Bois-De Philippis, Media Assistant

Mary Ann Lepeonka, Media Assistant

Lou Magruder, Media Services Technician



Counseling Services

Ms. DeOto, College and Career Information Coordinator; Ms. Pavlik, Resource Counselor; Mr. Cappuccilli, Counselor; Ms. Nagy, Counselor; Mrs. Martin, Counselor; Mr. Gysberts, Counselor; Mrs. Hornburg, Secretary; Mrs. Domergue, Registrar

When your child is sick

If your child is going to be out of school ill for three or more days, we can request work for you to pick up; however, we must give the teachers 24 hours notice for them to prepare the assignments. Please contact, Mrs. Hornburg, the school counseling secretary at 301-972-7909.

PSAT scores to be distributed in December

The PSAT scores will be distributed on December 15th in a special home room. Students will view a video to help them understand their scores. Please call your child's counselor if you need assistance with score interpretation.

Registration for the '11-'12 school year

Counselors will be visiting social studies classes during first two weeks of the year to deliver information regarding registration for the '11-'12 school year.

Registration cards are due in the counseling office on Friday, January 28th. Beginning on February 1st, students will be called down to the counseling office to review their course selections with their counselor.

College Night - for interested students and their parents

Mark your calendars for December 15th at 7:00 P.M. for Poolesville High School's "College Night". Parents and students will have the opportunity to hear Shelley Levine, a knowledgeable private college counselor, speak on the admissions process: finding the best college fit, important tips for visiting schools,

preparing the college application, and college essay writing tips. She will also touch on "best practices" for preparing for college admissions tests.

College Goal Sunday

Need help with the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Student Aid)? You are invited to attend College Goal Sunday **February 13, 2011**, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College. Spanish language interpreters will be available. The session will be held at the Charlene R. Nunley Student Services Building on the first floor lobby of the ST building. Computer labs will be available. For more information visit the following website: <http://collegegoalsundaymd.org>.

Scholarships/award opportunities

During senior class visits, we encouraged students to register with **FastWeb.Com** – this is a free web-based scholarship service. Students will be e-mailed information on scholarships of interest. Additionally there is a new scholarship database that all students can access. This one is sponsored by the College Board: www.SchoolSoup.com.

Worried about how to pay for college? Take a look at the www.UPROMISE.com/ website. There are many major corporations who will help you save for college. Check the scholarship table in the career center often.

Student jobs

School work comes FIRST, but some students feel the need to have a part-time job. Here are websites to check out: www.mycoolcareer.com, www.snagajob.com, <http://www.gazette.net/> or www.studentjobs.gov.

Students should be aware of federal rules that apply to working teenagers. For example, a 14 or 15 year old can only work up to three hours on a school day or 18 hours during a school week between the hours of 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. There are 17 jobs that have been declared hazardous by the secretary of labor that are prohibited for teens under the age of 18. Visit <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov>.

Government summer jobs—apply early!

Applying for summer positions within the government is now done online. Visit <http://www.studentjobs.gov/> & <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> to see job listings and apply. A "resume builder" is built into the program to store your resume for application purposes. Some clerical positions/internships with the Dept. of Health & Human Services are listed on: www.hhs.gov/jobs/. These positions are competitive so start completing the paperwork early. Some student employment/intern programs exist within NIH (paid/unpaid): <http://www.nih.gov/>.

Alumni Open House

Poolesville High School staff and students will welcome back alumni on Thursday, December 23. Because parking is very limited, alumni are asked to park at the Baptist Church lot across from the school. A reception will be held in the Falcon Foyer at 10:30 A.M. Alumni are welcome to visit with other returning students and current students and staff until 11:45.

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Montgomery College deadlines

Students planning to apply to the MC Scholars Program and the Macklin Business School Scholars Program must have all their information turned in to the college no later than January 14. The applications for both are available in the Career Center. These are outstanding program for highly motivated seniors. MC Scholars receive a scholarship for two years of education. Students graduating from either program are accepted to the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country.

For regular admission, students who are planning to attend Montgomery College next fall should pick up an application in the Career Center. Return the application to Ms. DeOto BEFORE February 22 and the \$25.00 application fee will be waived.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ABVB)

ASVAB is a career exploration test administered free to interested eleventh and twelfth grade students. Poolesville

High School will offer the **ASVAB on February 25, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.** The ASVAB test helps identify the student's interests and aptitude in the following areas: verbal, math, science & technical skills. When the individual scores are interpreted, students learn how their interests & skills relate to the demands of more than 400 occupations, helping them to identify suitable career options. The ASVAB is an excellent career exploration tool and we encourage students to take it to determine their strengths. Taking the ASVAB in no way involves a commitment to the military.

MCPS policy: ASVAB results are released only to the student and not to the armed services. If you would like to learn more about the ASVAB or prepare for the test, visit www.asvabprogram.com and www.March2success.com. Please see Ms. DeOto in the Career Center to register and pick up a parental permission form. We need to have at least 12 students registered or the exam will be cancelled.

AP exams sign ups

Sign-ups for AP exams will be **February 7 through February 18** with Ms. DeOto

in the Career Center. Exams are \$87 each. Please contact the AP Coordinator Ms. Hillard at 301-972-7976 or e mail Elizabeth_L_Hillard@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions.

Historical Black College and University College Fair

WHO: Grades 9-12 students and parents are welcome.

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Snow date: February 17, 2011

Time: 6:00- 8:00pm

Location: Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901.

Browse information on 50 HBCU's, chat with admissions reps and speak with college graduates. To get more information visit the website hbcucf.mbhs.edu. Register: at your school's College and Career Center as well as on-line at: hbcucf.mbhs.edu.

**HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
WINTER BREAK!**

News from PHS Registrar: Mrs. Catherine Domergue 301-972-7913

Most seniors are doing a great job of getting their transcript requests turned in with enough time to meet college deadline dates. Counselors are extremely busy writing outstanding letters of recommendation. Some students have already received their acceptance letters. **A reminder:** We want to hear the good news! Please share your college acceptances with Mrs. Domergue.

It is important that transcript requests be turned in to Mrs. Domergue by the posted deadline dates. This gives the counselors and the registrar the time to process transcripts so that they can arrive at the college before the college deadline. The high school deadline dates for requesting transcripts are posted in the registrar's office, the guidance office, the career center and in senior English classrooms.

A reminder to parents: once the transcript is mailed from PHS, it can sometimes take up to 3 weeks or more for the college or university to process and get the information

into their computer systems. If you receive a notice about a missing transcript, check to see when it was mailed from PHS by contacting the registrar.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Parents, please check the address on your child's report card that will be distributed on Feb. 2, 2011. If your address has changed, you must notify Ms. Domergue as soon as possible so your child's permanent records can reflect the current address. You will need to present **verification of your new residence in the form of a tax bill, a lease, a settlement sheet for a new residence, or submit papers for shared housing in order to make an address change.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Domergue at 301-972-7913.

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

SSL: Promotes Responsible Action.

- Verification of service performed during the first semester can be turned in throughout the semester but the deadline for turning in documentation to the SSL coordinator for service performed during the first semester is January 7, the Friday before first semester exams begin.
- Students find meaningful service learning opportunities that result from direct action with recipients. Activities such as serving food at a soup kitchen, tutoring a child in reading or math, and playing the piano for residents of a hospital are examples of direct action.
- Consider qualifying for MCPS SSL award programs. The Superintendent's SSL Award recognizes students who meet the SSL graduation requirement while in middle school. The Certificate of Meritorious Service recognizes graduating seniors who have documented 260 or more hours of service. Students must qualify for these awards by the First Friday in April.
- High school students may earn SSL hours in select elective courses. Check the MCPS Course Bulletin for classes that award SSL hours following full participation in the SSL activities and successful completion of the course.
- All SSL opportunities must be supervised by adults representing nonprofit, tax exempt organizations. For profit nursing homes and assisted living facilities are the only exceptions to the nonprofit rule.

SSL: Promotes Social Responsibility.

- Make a resolution to address real community need through involvement with pre-approved organizations and opportunities.
- Service learning activities may involve **advocacy action**. Advocacy activities may include letter writing, public presentations, and involvement in community events to promote one's views on issues of interest. Advocacy action, like all other SSL actions must be supervised by representatives from nonprofit, tax exempt organizations.
- All activities for which SSL hours are awarded must be secular (non-religious) in nature. Service learning activities sponsored by religious organizations must address real need beyond their membership in the broader community.
- All SSL opportunities should begin with a preparation phase. Students are made aware of the need they will be addressing and what is expected of their involvement.
- Get involved in meaningful service with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center on the Martin L. King, Jr. Day of Service on January 17.

Senior Cap & Gown fee due on December 21st

Dear Parents:

The time is upon us to start planning for graduation. Your senior student should have already filled out a cap and gown form and turned it in to Mr. Gysberts in the Counseling office. Please note that cost for purchasing the cap and gown is separate from the announcements and other graduation accessories available through Jostens. PHS will be responsible for ordering caps and gowns in bulk, saving you a couple of dollars. Students are permitted to re-use their sibling's black cap and gown. If you have not already done so, please make a check payable to PHS for \$23.85 to purchase the cap and gown and turn it in to Mr. Gysberts, senior class advisor. We would like to have all payments collected by December 21, 2010. Please call Mr. Gysberts at 301-972-7909 if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Connect-Ed and
Website Message
Date: December 3, 2010**

Annual Poolesville keepsake ornament now available

PTSA Promotions Chair Kim Gerdes reports that sales of this year's school keepsake ornament are well underway. Be looking for your opportunity to purchase our limited edition Poolesville Water Tower and/or Poolesville Town Hall keepsakes at the Winter Concert on December 14 and at Selby's on Saturday, December 18. The ornaments are reasonably priced and can be reserved by contacting Kim at kkgerdes@comcast.net. This year's Water Tower Ornament is being sold for \$17.00. We have a very limited supply of last year's ornaments on sale for \$15.00. Both can be purchased for \$30.00 while supplies last.



Holiday Music at PHS on Dec. 14 and Dec. 20

The winter concert season is upon us. This year, the instrumental music concert and the choral concert will be held on separate nights. The instrumental music concert, recently held at PHS on December 14, featured the band, strings, jazz and various small groups. Classic wind and string literature were included along with jazz favorites and music from the holidays.

On **Monday, December 20, at 7pm**, the PHS chorus will be performing alongside the choral students from John Poole Middle School, Monocacy Elementary, and Poolesville Elementary school in the long-anticipated return of the Poolesville Cluster Choral Concert. Come out and hear electrifying performances from each of the four separate choruses from each Poolesville cluster school and enjoy their combined selections featuring over 150 students joined in song.

Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations Delegate Report—December, 2010 ~ Jane Harris and Melanie Psaltakis

Delegates assembly

MCCPTA delegates met on November 23, 2010. Delegates considered and passed two resolutions. Details about these two items, The Resolution on Parent Involvement in the Development and Implementation of the Elementary Integrated Curriculum, and The Resolution on School Resource Officers, are below. Homework Hotline, the Operating Budget Forum, and Reflections were other topics discussed at the meeting. One new proposal was presented, The Resolution on Edible Gardens on School Grounds, which will be discussed and voted on at the next Delegates Assembly.

The next Delegates Assembly is Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 PM, Carver Auditorium. A Program on the Superintendent Search Process will precede the assembly at 6:30 PM.

Resolution on parent involvement in the development and implementation of the elementary integrated curriculum

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has been developing an Elementary Integrated Curriculum that should be fully implemented in kindergarten through second grade in the 2011-2012 school year and in third grade to fifth grade in the 2012-2013 school year. The new curriculum combines existing elementary curriculum, Common Core State Standards, and Thinking and Academic Success Skills. Teachers will access the curriculum online via the myMCPS portal, rather than through printed curriculum guides that had been previously used, but currently there are no plans for parents to access the portal.

Instead, printed curriculum guides have been available in school libraries to any parents who wished to review the curriculum.

MCCPTA voted that MCPS should provide continued opportunities for parents to provide meaningful feedback in the development of the elementary integrated curriculum throughout the development and implementation process. Also, MCCPTA desires that all parents in all schools have regular access to the curriculum, and that MCPS develop a reasonable timeline for parent access to the myMCPS portal.

To see the resolution in full: http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/Adopted_Resolution_Parent_Involvement_EIC.pdf.

School Resource officers proposal

Prior to last year's budget cuts, the Educational Facilities Officers Program (EFO) existed in Montgomery County schools. A nationwide outreach program, EFO was sponsored and funded in Montgomery County by the Police Department, in partnership with MCPS, which assigned 33 officers to our high schools and a few middle schools. The cuts, however, caused the program to be replaced with a School Resource Officers Program (SRO) that included funding for only nine police officers to serve as liaisons with high schools in their police districts. SRO functions include crime prevention, intervention, outreach and enforcement efforts regarding alcohol and/or drugs, gangs, thefts, assaults, and other offenses.

The likelihood of more budget cuts is extremely high, and the entire SRO program could be in jeopardy. Though no hard data are yet available, incidents at schools are increasing. Therefore,

MCCPTA passed The Resolution on School Resource Officers, calling for at least one officer to be assigned to every high school, with the expectation that this program would be expanded to provide support to middle and elementary schools as needed.

The full resolution is available at http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/Adopted_SRO_Resolution.pdf.

Homework hotline

Homework Hotline is in its 25th year! A service of MCPS, it was originally just a call-in show, but now it's available via phone, on cable TV, the website (AskHHL.org), texting, Facebook, and Twitter. David Frey from MCPS Department of Communications has offered to come to local PTA meetings to show parents how to utilize Homework Hotline. See: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/>.

Operating budget

Plan to attend the MCPS Operating Budget Forum on Monday, January 3, at 7:30 PM at Carver Auditorium. County Council members, Board of Education members, and the County Executive's office will join MCCPTA to discuss operating budget issues. It is important that council members support that public education funding is not an optional item in the budget.

The MCPS operating budget funds the day-to-day operation of the school system. The largest component is salaries for teachers, central office staff, building services, etc. It also includes supplies, utilities, and transportation. This budget affects class size, the number of teachers, and support for teachers and students in the form of academic interventions, new

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curriculum, and materials.

MCCPTA previously passed The Resolution on FY2012 Operating Budget Priorities, which focuses advocacy attention on a few agreed-upon items. This resolution is on the MCCPTA website at: http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/Approved_ResolutionFY2012OperatingBudgetPriorities.pdf.

MCCPTA also previously passed its FY2012 Operating Budget Compact, which is a comprehensive document meant to represent MCCPTA's vision of the expected requirements for an adequate public education. View this document at: http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/OpBudgetCompFY12_Aproved.pdf.

It is crucial that we have a solid turnout at the MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum on January 3. In the words of MCCPTA President Kristin Tribble, "Please join us and bring a few additional parents along as well."

MCPS hosted its own formal public presentation of the Fiscal Year 2012 Operating Budget Recommendations on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, in Rockville. Child care was provided free of charge to parents of children ages 4 through 12. Interpreters were available to assist parents and community members with translation services in Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett calls for \$19 million mid-year budget cut to the Montgomery County Public Schools

Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) President Kristin Tribble issued the following statement on December 3 following news that Montgomery

County Executive Ike Leggett has called for a \$19 million mid-year budget cut to the Montgomery County Public Schools:

"While we understand the predicament facing our county, it is important right now for our elected officials to prioritize those programs which must be protected. Our county youth is one of the more vulnerable populations and one upon which the future of our county relies. Education must be a top priority. Our school system attracts taxpaying citizens and businesses to our county. While our children's teachers struggle daily with decreasing resources and increasing enrollment, our PTAs will step up to help in any way possible. I encourage all parents to get involved in your school community. This is the time. And I encourage our elected officials to embrace and support our county public education. We are all one county and we all need to work together to find the necessary solutions without hurting our county's children in the process."

Reflections

Reflections is a PTA sponsored arts recognition and achievement program for students in preschool through grade 12. Works of art are submitted in four areas: literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts.

This school year the Reflections county competition will be held on January 8, 2011, with the location still to be determined.

PHS PTSA does not have a Reflections Chair. Please consider supporting this vital program. Contact PHS PTSA President Stephanie Egly at sallysue527@yahoo.com.

MCCPTA is also without a Reflections Chair. If interested in this position,

contact MCCPTA President Kristin Tribble tribble4@verizon.net.

Resolution on edible gardens on school grounds

The Resolution on Edible Gardens on School Grounds was introduced at the November MCCPTA Delegates Assembly. Currently, MCPS does not allow the planting of edible plants on school property because of concerns due to children's potential for allergic reactions to plants, maintenance, of gardens, and rodent control. By contrast, a number of school systems around the country have built vegetable gardens on school grounds and successfully implemented models of teaching that incorporate the garden into school curricula.

MCCPTA will make a decision whether or not to support the establishment of edible gardens on school grounds by students, teachers, and parents, and whether or not to seek the elimination of current MCPS policies that prohibit such gardens.

Please view the proposed resolution at http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/Proposed_MCCPTA_Resolution_Edible_Gardens_School_Grounds-1.pdf. For more information, contact the author of the resolution, Jennifer Chambers at jennifer@hikingalong.com. Then, let PHS PTSA know your opinion of this resolution either at the next meeting on January 18, or by emailing PHS PTSA Delegate Melanie Psaltakis at psaltakis5@earthlink.net. MCCPTA will discuss and vote on this resolution at the January 25 Delegates Assembly.

MCPS-Board of Education Boundary and Facilities hearings

On November 11 we were fortunate to have three speakers testify to the Board

(continued)

of Education at the Facilities Hearings on behalf of Poolesville High School: Jerry Klobukowski, representing the Commissioners of the Town of Poolesville; Sarah Defnet, representing the Poolesville Cluster, and Stephanie Egly, PHS PTSA President. All three spoke eloquently and emphasized the need for modernization at PHS. Of interest to the Poolesville Cluster, also testifying were Barbara Davidson, Town of Barnesville; Dawn Albert, MES PTA President; Caroline Taylor, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, and Delores Milmo, Audubon Naturalist Society. These speakers emphasized the need to have a rural schools policy for the four schools in the Poolesville Cluster that recognizes the schools special status in the Agricultural Reserve. Such a policy would accept lower enrollment levels. View the testimony on the Board of Education website.

Search for new superintendent underway

From MCPS QuickNotes: The Board of Education has begun the search process to replace Dr. Jerry D. Weast, who will retire at the end of this school year. The Board has issued a formal request to hire a search firm to assist in conducting a national search for a new superintendent. The Board will select a search firm by the end of the year. The search for a new superintendent is expected to take about six months. To get more information about the search and to keep track of its progress, check the [Board of Education's website](#).

An open community discussion on choosing a new superintendent, sponsored by the Montgomery County Civic Federation, was held on December 13th at the County Council Office Building (First Floor), 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Confirmed panelists included: Lyda Astrove, Special Education Advocate; Emily Barton, Executive Director, Teach for America, DC Region; Phil Kauffman, Board of

Education, member of the BOE ad hoc group, Superintendent Search Process; Neal McLuskey, Associate Director, Center for Educational Freedom, Cato Institute; and Fred Stichnoth, President, Montgomery County Gifted and Talented Association.

Bill that would have allowed MCPS to charge magnet students for transportation is withdrawn

In early November, Gazette.net reported on a proposal by Senator Richard S. Madaleno (D-Dist. 18) of Kensington that would have provided a method for MCPS to charge students in optional regular education programs for transportation provided by the school system. This included magnet and immersion programs. A public hearing before the Montgomery County delegation was scheduled for December 6. Article at: http://www.gazette.net/stories/11052010/montnew162833_32586.php.

A few days before the scheduled hearing, however, Senator Madaleno withdrew the bill. His office provided the following comment: In light of the advice he received from the Office of the Attorney General, Senator Madaleno has decided to withdraw MC 10-11. The bill, as currently written, is insufficient to provide the Board of Education with the authority to enact a bus fee. No decisions yet about resubmitting the bill at a later date. There will certainly be no changes before next school year.

More info at: http://www.gazette.net/stories/12022010/montnew131723_32547.php.

MCPS 2011-2012 calendar approved

School will begin on Monday, August 29, 2011, and end for students on June 13, 2012. The 2012 spring break will begin on April 2. The school year

will consist of 184 instructional days, including four contingency days for emergency closings. Teachers have 193 duty days, plus 16 hours of unscheduled professional time, per MCPS. The complete calendar is posted online at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/>.

Help wanted: volunteer translators

MCCPTA is looking for volunteers to translate MCCPTA items into Spanish or any other needed languages. Contact Kristin Tribble at president@mccpta.com

Sale of former Peary School site

The Montgomery County Council approved the sale of the former Robert E. Peary School to its current tenant, the Berman Hebrew Academy. The Board of Directors of MCCPTA opposed approval as premature. A good summary of the hearing, and the MCCPTA BOD position, is provided in the Rockville Patch article, which is available here: <http://rockville.patch.com/articles/council-gets-an-earful-on-proposed-peary-sale>

Upcoming workshops and seminars

MCCPTA offers numerous workshops and seminars throughout the year for students, parents, families, and professionals. For a complete list: <http://www.mccpta.com/speccedCal.pdf>.

What's up next: MCCPTA calendar - January 2011 at Carver Auditorium

- * Monday 1/3/11 MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum - 7:30pm
- * Thursday 1/6/11 BOD Meeting - 7:30pm
- * Saturday 1/8/11 MCCPTA Operating Budget Workshop
- * Wednesday 1/12/11 BOE Operating Budget Hearing - 7:00pm
- * Wednesday 1/19/11 BOE Operating Budget Hearing - 7:00pm
- * Tuesday 1/25/11 Delegates Assembly



Poolesville High School PTSA Volunteer Me!

Yes, I would like to serve on the following PTSA committees (circle as many as you would like).

Cultural Arts

Electronic Communication

Grade Level Liaison

Membership

Newsletter

Promotions

PTSA Webpage Management

Reflections

School Improvement Plan

Staff Appreciation

Student Directory

Volunteer Recognition

Our PTSA is looking for a few additional committee chairpersons. Please let us know if you are interested in chairing or co-chairing...

_____ Cluster Representative (to represent our cluster before the Board of Education and MCCPTA)

_____ Nominating Committee (to develop slate of officer nominees and committee chair recommendations for the following year)

_____ Promotions (to organize and manage our direct donations and buy a brick program)

_____ Post Prom (to organize and manage our after-prom program)

Feel free to contact me/us if you need help with any of the following school events (circle as many as you would like).

Awards Night

Graduation

General Help

Homecoming

Prom

Senior Citizen's Prom

Other Special Events

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ **Email** _____

Ideas, questions? Write them here!

Mail to: PHS PTSA Volunteer Form, 17501 West Willard Road, Poolesville, MD 20837
Questions? Please visit the PTSA page on the PHS website for committee contact info.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvilleHS/>



Pooleville High School PTSA Membership Form

Parents, students, and staff may join at any time.

We encourage you to join at the beginning of each school year.

Membership Dues

Parent/Guardian & Community Members – \$10.00

Student & Staff Members – \$5.00

(Dues include your membership in the County, State and National PTAs
and a copy of the PHS Student and Staff Directory to be distributed this Fall.)

Tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Please make checks payable to Pooleville High School PTSA. Mail check and completed form to:
PHS PTSA – Membership, 17501 W. Willard Road, Pooleville, Maryland 20837

Parent/Community Member Last Name	First Name	Street Address City, State, Zip (if different from student)	Phone Number	Email Address

Student/Staff Last Name	First Name	Grade	Street Address, City, State, Zip	Phone Number	Email Address

Membership Dues:

Parent/Guardian Community Member	\$10.00 each # _____	\$ _____
Student/Staff Member	\$ 5.00 each # _____	\$ _____
Tax-Deductible Donation		\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed		\$ _____

___ Yes ___ No **Please add the above email addresses to the PHS PTSA Yahoo Group.**

Questions? Please visit the PTSA page on the PHS website for membership chair contact info: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolevillehs/ptsa