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# CONNECTION

A publication of the Henrico County Council of PTAs

November 2005

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## President's Message - MANAGING YOUR LEADERSHIP

**You are a leader.** Yes, you! Whether you are a president, officer, or committee chairperson, the staff, parents and students at your school see you as a PTA leader. Most PTA leaders start as volunteers in their school or helping with a PTA project. Some of us rise through the ranks of PTA willingly but all too often we reluctantly agree to chair a committee or run for an office after some persuasion from a friend. No matter how you got to your current position you are there because you believe in PTA, you were willing to put in the time and you either have the experience or are willing to learn. Don't panic...It's OK! You are not alone. The state, district and County Council of PTA's are here to help you! Here are a few ideas to help you along the way. Regardless of your specific position within the PTA, these are "best practices" that will make you a good leader.

- **LEARN. KNOW YOUR BYLAWS!** Come to PTA Training. Know not only your job but also the duties of other officers and board members. Know your school.
- **LISTEN.** Be sure all members of your board or committee know that you are willing to listen to new ideas and concerns. Be sure they know that you expect them to do the same. Any parent or teacher in your school should feel welcome to attend meetings. They should know how to reach you by phone and/or e-mail if they have questions or concerns.
- **LEAD.** Conduct meetings in a business-like way. Be sure there are procedure books for offices and key committees. Acknowledge efforts and accomplishments openly and generously. Personally invite members to participate. Remind your board, committee and/or members to always keep in mind the purpose of PTA. Promote a spirit of teamwork. You set the tone for your PTA. Make it a positive and welcoming one. Set an example for other parents in the school.
- **TEACH.** Pass along what you learn at training. Copy materials and review procedures with board members so that everyone is on the same page. Appoint co-chairs to key committees so that as officers and chairs move on, there are knowledgeable people to take their places.
- **DELEGATE.** The president or chairperson must perform some duties. Select tasks that can be done by other members and then choose the right person to do the job and then provide support and encouragement. Be sure to show your appreciation and give credit where credit is due. This is the best way to identify someone to take over when you move on. Be on the look out for someone who has a spark of interest. Get them involved so they are familiar with what you do.
- **COOPERATE.** The president must work effectively with the principal. Committee chairs will find that they often need to coordinate with other staff members, custodians, cafeteria workers, etc. Remember that the principal runs the school and the president runs the PTA. They should meet often to discuss PTA matters and review the agenda for monthly PTA meetings in advance.

Leadership is about encouragement and teamwork. Saying "yes" is the first step, and you've already done that! Forge ahead now, and please contact us if you need help.

*Anne Carson*  
**HCCPTA 2005-2006 President**

## **We “Put it all Together” at the Virginia PTA State Convention -**

Over 350 people attended the Virginia State PTA Convention held November 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Tyson’s Corner, Virginia. This was the business meeting of the Virginia PTA. Delegates from all over Virginia considered bylaw amendments, elected state officers, adopted resolutions that establish the positions of Virginia PTA and attended workshops on current issues. We also heard some tremendous Speakers, including Jason Kamras, National Teacher of the Year from Washington D.C.

Several local units from Henrico County attended including: Adams ES, Rivers Edge ES, Donahoe ES, Greenwood ES, Short Pump MS, Godwin HS and Freeman HS. The County Council was also represented.

Greenwood Elementary School PTA was recognized as one of 15 units chartered since November of 2004! Several PTAs received Membership Achievement Awards. (Details listed in Membership Achievement article.)

We were also pleased to learn that Erica Smith of Henrico HS was a Virginia PTA Scholarship winner. She received the M. Frieda Koontz Scholarship of \$1,200!

State Reflection finalists from 2004-2005 who received the top State recognition - Outstanding Interpretation, were honored at the Awards Banquet and included two from Henrico County! Elizabeth Bishton, J.R. Tucker HS, was a finalist in the Visual Arts Category and Peter Brodzik, Gayton ES was a finalist in Musical Composition. Both attended the Awards Breakfast and presented/performed their entries! Both Elizabeth and Peter received recognition at the National level as well! Way to go Henrico Schools!

**Make plans now to attend the 2006 Virginia PTA Convention in Roanoke, November 17, 18, 19, 2006!**

**Anne Carson, President HCCPTA**

## **SEVERAL LOCAL UNIT PTAS IN HENRICO COUNTY WERE RECOGNIZED AT STATE CONVENTION FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004-2005**

*Congratulations* to the following PTAs who received membership awards:

### **Superior Achievement in Membership – Category 5 – 600-699 Students**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tuckahoe ES 125.84%

### **Membership Challenge Recognition – The following PTAs had a membership increase of 5% or more:**

New Bridge	Maude Trevvett ES	Chamberlayne ES	Montrose ES
Ratcliffe ES	Jackson Davis ES	Pinchbeck ES	Rivers Edge ES
Twin Hickory ES	Wilder MS	Highland Springs HS	Fairfield MS
Deep Run HS	Rolfe MS	Glen Lea ES	Carver ES

## Question and answer corner....

### September's question was....

#### **What do other Middle and High Schools do to encourage parent participation at PTA Meetings/Programs?**

From: Ellen Argenzio (President – Freeman High School)

I think this question should be "what can" schools do and that may vary greatly among schools, within school populations and the particular parent audience, level of participation, you want to reach. Obviously there is great turnout for plays and sporting events, across the board, as those are perceived to be of value. Some schools with very low participation have used "giveaways" and door prizes. There has to be the perception that you are providing value for time spent, in whatever way that is most effectively defined.

Participation at the "attend a meeting" level is so intrinsically linked to personal motivation and interest, given the time constraints so many are under at middle and high school, that the best way may be to work for smaller group participation. At DSF we have a FACT committee, Freeman Aware Concerned Together, which presents programs on various topics related to teen health, parenting, driving, eating disorders, etc. I have always thought it would be good for PTA's to keep each other informed of their schools events so that they were open to participation from other school populations, spread the resources in an informal network.

We have used the Rebel Signals newspaper, over the past two years, to at least get info out to parents on college admissions, learning disabilities, SAT/ACT tests, and received permission to reprint relevant articles from journals and the Washington Post, among others. This is not ideal participation and decidedly passive, however, the hope is that it may be at least helpful information and possibly a nudge to more active participation, action.

From Candy Wood, President – Hermitage High School PTSA

AT OUR LAST MEETING AT HERMITAGE HIGH WE HAD COMMUNITY AWARENESS ON NEIGHBORHOOD GANGS. IT WAS PUT ON CHANNEL 99, FLIERS WENT OUT TO FEEDER SCHOOLS, I HAD COUNTY COUNCIL PUT IT OUT AND ANNOUNCED IT TO EVERYONE. WE HAD MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER HAD IN THE PAST YEARS, BUT WE COULD ONLY FILL UP HALF OF THE LIBRARY. MR. TYSON WAS PLEASED WITH THE TURN OUT, BUT I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE MUCH MORE. THE PROGRAM WAS PRESENTED BY HENRICO COUNTY POLICE AND VERY INFORMATIVE. IN FACT, THERE MIGHT BE A REPEAT MEETING TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. OUR NOV. MEETING WILL BE ON COLLEGE PREP. FOR PARENTS; WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE TO GET YOUR CHILD IN. OUR GUIDANCE DEPT. WILL DO THIS ONE. IT'S NOT EASY AT ALL TO GET PARENTS TO ATTEND. JUST SAY A PRAYER AND HOPE FOR THE BEST. CANDY WOOD, HERMITAGE HIGH PTSA PRESIDENT

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I think more parents would join at the beginning of school if they could include PTA Dues in their check for school fees. Nancy bailey, PTA President, Virginia Randolph Community High School

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From: Pam Carnahan, PTA President, Moody Middle School

We're trying to have programs that either kids are involved in or that kids are invited to--that seems to be the only thing that will get parents out at night. (They don't seem to be interested in speakers or lectures, or perhaps they're just too tired to have to be one more place in the evening!) For example, last month we had an "Extra-curricular Activity Showcase" in which various kids performed or spoke. We had 100+ attendees, compared to a handful that attended last year's October meeting. In March, we're having a speaker on "The History of Rock & Roll"--our arts-in-education budget is funding this speaker. We're hoping this will draw a big crowd. Would love to hear what others are doing! Thanks for inquiring! (We also have 2 chorus/strings presentations-winter and spring.)



**Saturday March 4, 2006**

Registration starts at 7:30 am

Walk starts at 8:00 am

Awards ceremony starts 9:30 am

Prizes will be awarded for the teams with

Most spirit ~ Best Dressed ~ Oldest Walker

Most Walkers ~ Most money raised

And many more !!!

**Superintendent Morton's Challenge**

Mr. Morton will take a pie to the face for each district that achieves a 100% PTA donation to the Moody Scholarship Fund. If your school PTA has not made their donation, please do so before February 2006. If you have any questions please contact the Moody Scholarship Chair, Sharon Dunkum at [sharondunkum@verizon.net](mailto:sharondunkum@verizon.net) Presidents, you will be receiving more information soon so start forming your school teams.

See you at the walk!!!

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED**

Committee members are needed to help on the following County Council Committees:

- Arts in Education
- George H. Moody Scholarship Walkathon
- Legislation
- Banquet

This is a great opportunity to get involved and benefit the whole county. Please contact me if you are interested in serving.

**Anne Carson – President** [dcarsonva@comcast.net](mailto:dcarsonva@comcast.net)

**PTA MISSION**

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

## IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

### Attention: President's, Treasurers and Memberships Chairs

Don't forget....the deadline for your dues payment is December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Virginia PTA Dues Remittance Form is located on the Local Unit Resource Guide CD or online in the Forms and Publications area in the Members Only section of the VAPTA website at <http://www.vapta.org> . Processing this form takes care of your State and National Dues. You received a separate notice from HCCPTA for your Council dues.

***Don't delay, pay them today!***

Contact the HCC of PTAs Treasurer, Kim Harris, at 270-3634 with any questions you may have.

### National PTA's Great Idea Bank

Visit National PTA's "Great Idea Bank" online at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). Search the database by keyword, state, school district, or project categories such as student achievement, fundraiser, health & safety, running your PTA and more.

If you have a great idea, which you would like to share, you may submit it using the online submission form.

*NOTE: Members only login is required. The username and password are listed on the back of your 2005-2006 PTA membership card.*

### Be a Parent Involvement School of Excellence

National PTA's Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification establishes the gold standard for parent involvement in schools. It is designed to help schools assess their parent involvement practices, make improvements where needed, and earn one of two distinctions:

- Certification of Excellence, for schools that have outstanding parent involvement practices in place
- Recognition of Commitment, for schools that are committed to pursuing excellence in parent involvement

After a school establishes a team, it registers on National PTA's website, completes an assessment of its school's parent involvement efforts, and submits an application for consideration to National PTA. Visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for more information on how to become a Parent Involvement School of Excellence, or see the "Reproducible Materials" section of the *Annual Resources for PTA's* on CD-Rom for a brochure.

We have some schools in Henrico that are already certified. If you are already certified as a School of Excellence, please let us know. We plan to have a local seminar on the process of becoming Certified along with the Hanover County Council and would love to have you help us with this presentation.

***Anne Carson, President HCCPTA***

## Reflections & Reminders



November isn't just for Thanksgiving; it's also a time for Reflections. The National PTA Reflections program that is. It is an arts recognition and achievements program and our local participating schools are receiving entries from their students; having the entries judged; and preparing to forward the most Outstanding Interpretation submittals on to the Henrico County Council level of competition.

The Reflections Program is open to all students in preschool - 12<sup>th</sup> grade – in schools where there is a PTA/PTSA in good standing. **To qualify as a unit in good standing for Reflections:**

- 1. A PTA must submit a membership dues payment prior to or on June 30, 2005.**
- 2. A PTA must have bylaws revised since December of 2000.**

Should you have any questions regarding your local unit's good standing status, please contact your County Council Area VP.

Every PTA President, Treasurer, Membership, Reflections and Bylaws Chair, should check to make sure their PTA is a local unit in good standing in order to ensure their winning students entries can qualify for judging at the council, district, state and national level.

In order to be prepared for the county turn-in, units should:

- Be sure the Official entry form is signed by (complete signature) by BOTH student and parent.
- Make sure that you complete the boxes at the bottom of the winning entries. You will need to complete them BEFORE you submit your winning entries to the County Council level. How do you complete them?
  - **Local PTA Good Standing Status** – this means that your PTA/PTSA has paid its membership dues (to both state/national and county), has paid its insurance, and that your PTA is up-to-date on your bylaws.
  - **Membership Dues Date Paid** – put the date that your Treasurer sent their Insurance payment to State/National and County Council.
  - **Insurance Date Paid** – put the date that your Treasurer sent their Insurance payment in.
  - **Bylaws Approval Date** – put the date of your last Bylaw Revision. Are you in the process of reviewing your bylaws? If so, write the words "Bylaws in revision." Don't know? Ask your PTA President.
- You must complete a **Local PTA Participation Form** (found in the Reflections Handbook)
- Send your winning entries, along with **Local PTA Participation Form**, via the internal school mail system or PONY to arrive at New Bridge School no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, Attn: Kim Jones
- You may also hand deliver them to New Bridge, which is located at 5915 Nine Mile Road, Richmond.

Please contact Kim Jones, HCC Arts in Education Chair at 737-4340 or via e-mail at [kdjones1@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:kdjones1@henrico.k12.va.us), with any questions you may have.

**\*\*The County Reflections Awards and Recognition Program will be on January 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at New Bridge School.**

## PTA Day at the General Assembly

The Virginia PTA has a long-standing relationship with the General Assembly. In January or February each year, the General Assembly hosts PTA Day when members of the PTA from across the state are invited to the Capitol.

PTA Day at the General Assembly is a day of opportunities. It is an opportunity to talk with your legislators about issues of concern to the PTA. It is an opportunity to network with other PTA members from around the state. It is an opportunity to see first-hand how your state government works. It is an opportunity to put into practice the true purpose of the PTA — advocating for all children.

**This year, PTA Day will be held on January 30, 2006.** It will start with a briefing of the PTA Issues at The Library of Virginia. Watch for additional details and a registration form on the VAPTA website by mid November.

\*\*\*Henrico County Council of PTAs is looking for someone to coordinate a group from Henrico, attending this event. Please contact Anne Carson, HCCPTA President, if you are interested in getting involved.

### President's Calendar/Checklist

#### November

- Remind your Treasurer that all dues must be sent to the State Office by December 1<sup>st</sup> so your local unit remains in good standing.

#### December

- Enjoy the Holidays and rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the year.

How do we reach you???

If you're a County Council Representative or any PTA Board member who would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please email Helena Lythgoe at [Lythgoes4@comcast.net](mailto:Lythgoes4@comcast.net)

### HCC Calendar

11/21/05	Central Office	President's Meeting with Fred Morton, 4:30 pm
12/1/05	New Bridge School	Reflections Entries due to the County
1/10/06	New Bridge School	Reflections Awards Display and Ceremony
2/8/06	Wilder Middle School	Henrico County Schools Budget (Fred Morton – speaker)
3/4/06	Regency Square Mall	George H. Moody Scholarship Fund Walkathon
4/5/06	Hermitage High School	Healthy Lifestyles – What HCPS is doing to promote this.
5/2/06	Hermitage High School	Annual Awards Banquet, 6:00 pm
5/15/06	Central Office	President's Meeting with Fred Morton, 4:30 pm
6/6/06	Greenwood Elementary	Incoming Presidents Meeting

**Please remember that Henrico County Council Dues are due on December 1st.** If you have not received an invoice via pony mail please contact Kim Harris, HCC PTA Treasurer at 270-3634 or [kd\\_harris@comcast.net](mailto:kd_harris@comcast.net).

# Happenings at our Schools....Freeman, Virginia Randolph, Henrico, Skipwith,

## Seminar of "Realities of Recruiting" in Sports

Henrico High School located at 302 Azalea Ave, will host a seminar **Thursday November 17, 7:30 - 9pm** in the schools auditorium conducted by Coach Bob Foley. Coach Foley brings 24 years of college experience in the recruiting wars. He has experience recruiting as a parent, thus giving a different perspective than most coaches and recruiting services can offer. The seminar is free of charge. All coaches, parents and student athletes (freshmen through seniors) from all schools, are encouraged to attend to receive information and answer questions regarding their college future.

### Overview of the following topics, followed by a Q & A session:

How to market yourself	Academic requirements
The High School coaches' roles	The parents' roles
How to prepare for the process	What not to do in this process
The NCAA rules that apply to recruitment	What the college coach is really looking for
Lists of things to help you make a better decision	

**Please plan to attend.**

Questions may be addressed to Jim Thornton at [jim.thornton@thorntonassociates.com](mailto:jim.thornton@thorntonassociates.com)

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### **The Skipwith Elementary PTA presents**

### ***International Night***

**Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 7 pm.**

Learn about our diverse cultures from Skipwith families. Sample authentic food for \$2 per plate. Enjoy performances by the third grade and by other special groups. Support PTA programs by purchasing wristbands for \$2 each. Bid for great baskets and gifts at the Silent Auction

**Please don't miss this fun and educational event!**

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**Welcome to International Night 2005. Here is your guide to the evening:**

**Pick up a Passport for your Child:** Volunteers will be signing passports at each country visited. There are over 20 to see! Please try to visit them all. **Sample Authentic Food:** You can purchase plates for \$2 each in the cafeteria lines that will contain small portions of 6 of the several dishes prepared by Skipwith families. See the menu for explanations of what dishes might be contained in each plate. **Enjoy Live Entertainment:** The third grade will perform as well as several other special groups throughout the hour. **Purchase Skipwith Wristbands:** The popular wristbands will be for sale in the cafeteria for \$2 each. Proceeds support PTA programs. **Bid at the Silent Auction:** Visit the library where you can enter to buy super gifts and baskets.

# Happenings at our Schools....Freeman, Virginia Randolph, Henrico, Skipwith, continued...

## PARENT CONNECTIONS AT FREEMAN

### F.A.C.T

“FREEMAN AWARE & CONCERNED TOGETHER”

Freeman Aware & Concerned Together, known as FACT, is a branch of the PTSA. The primary mission of FACT is to increase parent and student awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Using a pro-active approach, FACT promotes safe and healthy behavior for teenagers despite the sometimes-overwhelming enticement from peers, advertising and the media to use alcohol and drugs.

All Freeman parents are invited to be a part of this valuable and effective network. We make the FACT PROMISE – a promise to ourselves and a promise to our children. Parents who sign the FACT promise agree not to provide underage youth with alcohol and drugs. Details of being “a part of FACT” are distributed in the “Back to School” packet in homerooms on Fee Night.

This year the Freeman PTSA supplied each family with an invaluable booklet: “**A Parent’s Guide for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Use.**” We hope that this handbook is a catalyst for communication between parents and students. The Parent’s Guide Booklet will be distributed to families only once during a student’s four years at Freeman. We hope that families will continue to use the handbook for all years of high school.

FACT will host four presentations during the 2005-2006 school year:

<b><u>Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006</u></b>	Monday 7:30pm Dr. Linda Hancock	Freeman Library “Tylenol, Twinkies and the Beer Puzzle”
<b><u>Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006</u></b>	Monday 7:30pm Presented by Commonwealth Parenting	Freeman Library “The Biggest Job”

Georgetown Prep originally prepared the booklet mentioned above and they spread the program to other schools, including many Richmond private schools. The website is good and might be useful for other parents.

<http://www.thecommunityofconcern.org/>

### **REMIND YOUR TEENS TO “BUCKLE UP” WHEN RIDING OR DRIVING**

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Please join Douglas Freeman at their production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Performances are Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. All show times are at 7:30 p.m.

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#### **Virginia Randolph Community High School**

2204 Mountain Road.....Glen Allen, VA 23060

#### **PTA YARDSALE INDOORS -- Rain or Shine**

*Come To The Cafeteria In Building B*

SAT, DECEMBER 10, 2005

9:00 AM TIL Noon

Shop for Clothes, Snacks, Books, & Household items.

Rent your own table: \$20

Donations gratefully accepted – no later than Wed., DEC. 7.

Call 261-5058 to arrange delivery!

Questions: 261-5058

Proceeds of PTA fundraising efforts are used to provide scholarships for VRCHS graduating seniors.

*In 2004-2005, VRCHS PTA awarded SIX \$250 scholarships.*

## TUCKAHOE DISTRICT TARGETS MEMBERSHIP

Tuckahoe Elementary School, ranked #1, has been awarded the Superior Achievement in Membership for category 5 schools (600-699 students) reaching 124% of membership. In addition, Carver and Pinchbeck were also recognized in their respective categories for the Membership Challenge Recognition, as a result of increasing their membership 5% or more over last year. Godwin High sent a delegate to the State of Virginia PTA convention to attend workshops on "Effectively Marketing PTA Membership" and "Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers." Godwin has also been using their automated phone system to remind and encourage their members' attendance at monthly meetings. Some other ways the district schools are attracting members is to get the community involved, like Maybeury's Friendly's Night. The others are also looking for new ideas and ways to be there for their members and some are inviting "feeder" schools to attend their activities. The # 1 reason why people do not join the PTA is "*they were never asked*".

Some tips from the Tuckahoe District on increasing membership are:

- *Commit* to asking people to join.
- *Have* knowledge of the # increase needed to be recognized.
- *Invite* the community to be involved.
- *Listen* to other local units' ideas in the county.
- *Develop* some of the programs offered by state & national PTA's.

Remember your "*child*" when looking for new members to join the PTA.

## PINCHBECK ELEMENTARY ADOPTS!

Through the Adopt-A-PTA, D'Iberville Elementary PTA in Mississippi has been adopted. The students of Pinchbeck are hard at work teaming up with the PTA to get parents, teachers and the community involved. Their 1<sup>st</sup> goal was to collect socks and personal items for the students at D'Iberville and then new books for the library. Every Friday, the students donate change and the SCA helped raise over \$130.00 from a bake sale. The community has also rallied behind the PTA and the students with their time and donations. Next weekend the Adopt A PTA chairperson of Pinchbeck will personally deliver the donations to the D'Iberville PTA.

Submitted by: Mike Griffin, HCC Vice President, Tuckahoe District

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## BROOKLAND DISTRICT NEWS:

HI, this is Regina White with Lakeside Elem. PTA. This year, the PTA purchased a popcorn machine and did... "Pop Into Membership". As each class gets 100% membership, they receive a popcorn party. We offered a free bag of popcorn to everyone who joined at "Back to School Night". (Cost was about \$40.00 or less) We took a large bulletin board and stapled popcorn bags to it and cut out of construction paper pieces of "popcorn". Underneath each bag is the teacher name and the number needed for 100 % membership as well as the number of members that each class already has. This is updated weekly. (Cost is less than \$2.00 per classroom). Comes out to .05 cents a bag of popcorn. We also use it for the ROAR Program that we help to sponsor. The ROAR Program is a good behavior incentive program. R = RESPONSIBILITY, O = OUTSTANDING BEHAVIOR, A = ATTITUDE IS POSSITIVE, AND R = RESPECT. The children for good behavior, gets a piece of paper with a PAW PRINT (we are the leopards after all) and the teacher's name on it. They write their name on it and collect paws to purchase items from the school store. (Mostly homework passes, maybe pencils, or artwork with the art teacher after school). Hope some of this helps somebody else.

## Three Chopt District News – Busier than Ever!

PTA's of the Three Chopt District hit the ground running from the first day of school and haven't stopped yet to even look back. Just a small sampling of PTA-sponsored events and services at our schools: Family Fun Night; back to school packets; Fall Festival; Veterans' Day assemblies; International Night; student directories; after-school clubs; teacher appreciation meals during parent conferences; Reflections!; school bus safety week education; Ghoully Ghosts Gala; yearbook orders; Spirit Wear; Turkey Queen/King. Wow!! Tiring just to read the list, let alone organize and hold such a wide variety of events to benefit our students and their families, both at school and at home. We are a busy group, with plenty of other events planned for the upcoming holidays and on into 2006.

PTA membership in our 16 schools is very healthy and continuing to increase every day. Eleven schools reported their membership, with an average of 94% participation (comparing memberships to total number of students)!! Four schools already have over 100% participation! Remember, parents can become PTA members at any time during the year, not just in September during our traditional membership drives. Encourage your families to join the PTA – one of the best returns on investment you will ever run across!

In the Three Chopt District we are working on increasing our awareness of “passing it on to the next board”. In volunteer organizations, turnover is such that knowledge and experience gained is often shortly lost when board members rotate out of office and their replacement is not informed of the original knowledge. Some schools have started writing informal (sometimes even formal!) operating procedures guides – “how to” manuals outlining what, when, and how their PTA's are conducting themselves. Others are scheduling specific events for turning over materials, knowledge, and experience from one board member to the next. We are trying to live the three most important factors for operating more effectively: communication, communication, and communication!

Submitted by: David Johnson, HCC Vice President, Three Chopt District

### Get To Know Your Henrico County Council Area VPs –

Each magisterial district in Henrico County has an Area VP that is elected to the HCCPTA board and is there to help local unit PTAs in each of those magisterial districts. They can help you with any questions you may have and if they don't have the answer, they will refer you to the right person or office. Also, all of them have experience as a PTA President. They are:

Brookland	Mirinda Lawrence	364-4155	<a href="mailto:mirindalawrence@comcast.net">mirindalawrence@comcast.net</a>
Fairfield	Lula Lamb	321-6838	<a href="mailto:llamb@trane.com">llamb@trane.com</a>
Three Chopt	David Johnson	527-0650	<a href="mailto:david.w.johnson@suntrust.com">david.w.johnson@suntrust.com</a>
Tuckahoe	Mike Griffin	750-2095	<a href="mailto:mg8633@comcast.net">mg8633@comcast.net</a>
Varina	Nina Palmer	236-2999	<a href="mailto:nina.palmer@comcast.net">nina.palmer@comcast.net</a>

### UPCOMING PTA TRAINING EVENTS

- Election and Bylaws Clinic presented by Richmond District PTA  
January 12, 2006, Mary Munford ES 7:00 p.m.

## VIRGINIA PTA CITIZENSHIP ESSAY PROJECT

Virginia PTA is proud to sponsor a Citizenship Essay Project. The 2006 theme is *"The Legacy of Jamestown"*. This Essay Project allows students to express their views and opinion on "Character or Citizenship". Virginia PTA is committed to promoting a sense of citizenship and responsibility in the lives of our children – tomorrow's leaders.

### Who can Enter?

All Virginia students in grades 6-12 presently enrolled in schools with PTA/PTSA units in Good Standing. A PTA in Good Standing is one who has paid state and National Dues by December 1, and bylaws are current, having been revised within the past five (5) years.

### Criteria

- Students in grades 9-12 must write a minimum of 750 words, typed and double-spaced using Times Roman, 12 Font, using 1" margins.
- Students in grades 6-8 must write a minimum of 500 words, typed and double-spaced and using Times Roman, 12 Font, using 1" margins.
- In both age categories, adherence to the theme, originality, clarity, thought, and skill in standard written English will be judged.
- The theme, *"The Legacy of Jamestown"* must be used as the essay title and cannot be changed or altered in any way.

### Awards

Awards will be given in both age groups (Middle School 6-8 and High School 9-12).  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1000 Savings Bond.....2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500 Savings Bond...3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 Savings Bond

### Deadline

February 1, 2006 (Postmarked) to:  
Virginia PTA....Citizenship Essay Chair...1027 Wilmer Avenue...Richmond, VA 23227

### Application

Application for the Citizenship Essay Project are located on the Virginia PTA website at [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org) or the Virginia PTA Local Unit Resource Guide (LURG) or you can contact the Virginia PTA at [info@vapta.org](mailto:info@vapta.org).

## MOODY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**At this time we would like all PTA units to consider making a direct donation to the George H. Moody Scholarship Fund. Please make your check payable to:**  
Henrico County Council of PTAs. **Please mail your check to:**

Henrico County Council of PTAs  
c/o Kim Harris, Treasurer  
4682 Rollingwood Lane  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Please contact our George H. Moody Scholarship Chairperson,  
**Sharon Dunkum** at 741-4489, with any questions you may have.