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HCCPS LIAISON Dawn Hoppe	652-3729

President's Message

All local units should pursue the grants and scholarships offered by the Virginia and National PTA.

Virginia PTA Essay Contest

All Virginia students in grades 6 through 12 can participate in the Virginia PTA Essay Contest. The 2008 theme is "Education, the Foundation of Freedom." All entries must be forwarded to our District Director by **February 1, 2008**:

Sharon Dunkum
Richmond District Director
1508 Lothbury Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23238

The following awards will be given:

- 1st Place: \$1,000 Savings Bond
- 2nd Place: \$500 Savings Bond
- 3rd Place: \$250 Savings Bond

More information is available at www.hccpta.com under "Links and Forms".

National PTA Excellence in Education

The Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Award recognizes PTAs whose collaborative efforts with parents, families, educators and family members promote parent-family involvement and promote student success. Applications should be sent to the State PTA, which will select one PTA for submission to the National PTA. The winning PTA will receive national recognition, two expense-paid trips to the National PTA convention in San Diego, and a \$2,000 gift for a parent involvement program. More information is available at http://vapta.org/Members/LURG/SECTION_VII_Special_Awards_Grants_Programs_07_08.pdf

Virginia PTA Scholarships—Deadline March 1

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

Virginia PTA scholarships are open to high school seniors who are residents of Virginia and who attend a Virginia high school that has a local PTA/PTSA that is in good standing. Applications are available on the Local Unit Resource Guide CD mailed to local and council PTA presidents last summer, school guidance departments and on the [VAPTA web site](#). Scholarship entries must be on the [official application form](#) and sent to the Virginia PTA state office, postmarked by March 1. Faxes will not be accepted.

Questions? Contact Virginia PTA Vice President, Debi Abadie at vp@vapta.org or the state office at info@vapta.org.



DISTRICT NEWS

Fairfield District News

Thanks to the PTA leaders from Henrico High School, Wilder Middle School, Fairfield Middle School and Arthur Ashe Elementary School who met on Tuesday, January 8. We talked about ways to increase PTA membership and get more parents involved in our schools. We also talked about funding for Fairfield schools. Plans for establishing a PTA at the new Harvie Elementary School were discussed. Information about establishing the new PTA will be sent home to affected parents once the principal is named. Thanks for all the hard work for Fairfield District PTAs!

Submitted by Claire Pollock and Dow Smallwood.
HCCPTA President and Fairfield District VP respectively

Brookland District News

The Watch D.O.G.S. Program at Hungary Creek Middle School

Submitted by Helena Lythgoe, Brookland VP

A new program to involve fathers, grandfathers, and other significant male role models called "Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)" is off to a great start at Hungary Creek Middle School. The HCMS PTA and school have partnered to bring more fathers and other significant male role models in our students' school lives. Because working dads often do not have the flexibility to volunteer in their children's school due to working hours, the Watch DOGS Program is designed to make this simpler. All it takes is one volunteer day every month or so, and students can see their fathers impacting their daily lives. Many companies and employers grant leave time for such occasions. Volunteers can also serve for a partial day if this suits better. We simply welcome their presence!

Those who volunteer through Watch DOGS are able to be an extra set of hands and eyes to maintain a positive, upbeat learning environment. Volunteers in the program are visible in their specialized t-shirts as they help with class exchange, volunteer in classes of interest to them, assist in the lunchroom, and greet students as they arrive and leave the school building. Students love seeing their fathers and father figures in the school, and are eager to have their father recognized on the morning announcement and on the "Watch DOGS Wall of Fame".

The program was kicked off in early November, and we have had a Watch DOG present at least several times a week since we began. All dads had to do was to share some brief contact information and complete a Henrico County Volunteer Screen Form. Interested parties who could not attend the initial meeting are encouraged to join us in making our schools a place where we are all involved! Local units that want more information should email president@hcmspta.com.

Three Chopt District News

Message from Three Chopt Elementary PTA President

Submitted by Mirinda Lawrence, Three Chopt VP

Greetings from Three Chopt Elementary PTA! We've had an exciting school year thus far! In October we kicked off the year with our 2nd Annual Pumpkin lighting. This year's winner decorated their pumpkin to look like a snowman! In November we hosted our 3rd Annual International Night. With 14 countries represented we enjoyed a vast array of international cuisine. The students were given mock passports to take to each country and have stamped. At the end of the night those that had trekked around the world received an international prize! The PTA took a rest in December but we're up and ready to roll with our next big event, An Evening to Read-In, fast approaching for February! This will be a night where we invite our Three Chopt families and friends to come read together as a group. The night will be great fun with lots of hot chocolate and treats on hand!

The school itself is having a stellar year. In November the school hosted a Veterans Day Celebration. The children were able to talk one on one with our guests as each Veteran made an appearance in a class room. Also in November our school participated in our first ever blood drive. We had such an amazing turnout that the VA Blood Services representative stated it was the largest response they'd ever gotten in an elementary school! Three Chopt's Book Bowl team took 1st place in this year's Henrico County Book Bowl Competition! We finished out November with a canned food drive bringing in over 5,100 canned food items for the Henrico County Christmas Mother! The students celebrated their success by watching our Principal, Mr. Spotts, hit the roof for lunch one day!

This has been an amazing year for our little school! Let's hope 2008 continues to fill our students and family with joy!
Anne Varner Scott, Three Chopt Elementary PTA President

National PTA Involvement Standards Updated

Children do better with involved families

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice by Marion Akins, Parental Involvement Committee chairman

National PTA has long supported the need for effectively involving parents and families in their children's education. Research studies demonstrate that parent and family involvement increases student success at all levels of learning. The National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement were updated and renamed to reflect the findings of Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp.

Henderson is a consultant on education policy author and founder of National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education. Mapp has a doctorate from Harvard in education and is the President of the Institute for Responsive Education in Boston. Together, they coauthored and published *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*.

The findings presented by Henderson and Mapp provide a framework for strengthening parent/family involvement programs. The updated National Standards shift the focus from what schools should do to involve parents to what parents, schools, and communities can do together to support student success.

The updated standards follow:

1. Welcoming all families to the school community: Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class.
2. Supporting student success: Families and school staff have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to support students' learning and healthy development.
3. Communicating effectively: Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.
4. Speaking up for every child: Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that they are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
5. Sharing power: Families and school staff together inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs as equal partners in decisions that affect children and families.
6. Collaborating with community: Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Advocate through PTA Day at the General Assembly

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

Advocate through PTA Day New Sunday training session precedes annual state event

PTA leaders can learn how to be effective advocates for children with government officials and meet with state legislators at the annual PTA Day at the General Assembly, which will be preceded by an advocacy training session. The events take place Sunday, February 3, and Monday, February 4.

The advocacy training takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday, February 3, at the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Innsbrook in Glen Allen. There are a limited block of rooms reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn for Sunday night at the rate of \$89. Call 804-521-2900 prior to January 15 and mention that you are with Virginia PTA to reserve a room. There are many other hotels in the same area if no rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn.

PTA Day at the General Assembly starts at 8:30 a.m. Monday, February 4, at Richmond City Hall. Following guest speakers and orientation, the assemblage will depart for the Capitol complex and House and Senate sessions.

PTA leaders may want to make advance appointments with their legislators or their aides to discuss specific advocacy issues. Registration for Sunday only is \$20 per person, for Monday only \$10 or, for both days, \$25. Registration deadline is January 24.

For more information, check the December mailing to all local unit presidents or click on the link on the home page of the web site at <http://www.vapta.org>.

Jane Brooks
Legislation Committee chairman
legislation@vapta.org

County Council Scholarship Fund

Thank you to the following PTAs that have contributed to the County Council Scholarship Fund:

Byrd Middle School PTA	Jackson Davis Elementary School PTA
Crestview Elementary School PTA	Moody Middle School PTA
Deep Run High School PTSA	Nuckols Farm Elementary School PTA
Donohoe Elementary School PTA	Pinchbeck Elementary School PTA
Fairfield Middle School PTA	Rivers Edge Elementary School PTA
Freeman High School PTA	Rolfe Middle School PTA
Glen Lea Elementary School PTA	Short Pump Middle School PTA
Greenwood Elementary School PTA	Tuckahoe Middle School PTA
Highland Springs Elementary School PTA	Twin Hickory Elementary School PTA
Hungary Creek Middle School PTA	Tucker High School PTA

Contributions from the local units are our primary source of income for the Scholarships, which we awarded based on financial need, academic performance, and community service, to 12 graduating seniors from across the County last year.

Claire Pollock
County Council President

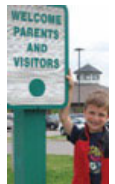
PTA Take Your Family to School Week—February 10-16

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is easy to implement, but more importantly, the event embodies one of PTA's founding principles: When it comes to children's education, the best way to get involved is to become part of the school community.

When schools open their doors to all families, and parents put aside their other commitments, children get to see that their education is valued, families earn a unique perspective on students' school days, and educators gain a new way to build positive partnerships with entire families.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 10–16, 2008, is just one of the PTA programs revitalizing parent involvement in education. PTA has worked to bring families and schools together since its founding on February 17, 1897. As we celebrate our founders' vision during Take Your Family to School Week—and support its implementation with awards of \$1,897—be sure you take time to connect families and schools on behalf of children, right where it matters most—in children's own classrooms.



Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President

For more information and ideas visit www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool_landing.html

Take a Fresh Look at the Budget

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

For many PTAs, now is the mid-point of their budget year. PTA units are advised to take a second look at their budgets to avoid ugly surprises. Did membership and fund-raising revenues come in on target? Was a program more costly than forecast? Or was a big expense item cancelled? The general membership needs to approve any budget transfers larger than the amount specified in each local unit's PTAs bylaws. Making mid-year adjustments now will ensure your PTA complies with this important accounting procedure and has a clean audit at year's end. For more information, contact treasurer@vapta.org.

Welcome School Board Members

The County Council welcomes the following new and returning School Board members:

Brookland District:	Linda McBride
Fairfield District:	Lamont Bagby
Three Chopt District:	Diana Winston
Tuckahoe District:	Lisa Marshall
Varina District:	John Montgomery

The County Council will sponsor an informal reception to give parents an opportunity to meet their new School Board representatives on Tuesday, February 5, at 6 p.m., at Elko Middle School. Following the reception, the School Board and Superintendent will present the 2008-2009 HCPS Budget.

HCCPTA Reflections

Submitted by *Reflections* co-chairs: Wendy Logan and Kelly Powell

The HCCPTA Reflections program will be on January 15, 2008 at 7 p.m. It will be held at Pocahontas Middle School. The program will be followed by a reception with cookies and punch. All the entries submitted to County Council will be on display. The Outstanding Interpretation (1st place) winners will be announced that evening. We will also announce the winners of the Award of Excellence and Award of Merit.

Students and Reflection chairs will be able to take home entries that evening. We encourage everyone to pick up the entries at that time.

The Outstanding Interpretation winners at the county level will move on to the District level. The Richmond District will have an Awards Ceremony on Sunday, March 9th at 3 p.m. at Atlee High School in Hanover. The winners at the district level will be announced at the ceremony, but not beforehand.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Wendy Logan wplogan@verizon.net or

Kelly Powell kelpow@aol.com

Opportunity to Get Involved in Richmond District

The Richmond District PTA is seeking nominees for the 2008-2010 term for the following positions:

- District Director
- Assistant District Director
- 2nd Assistant District Director
- 3rd Assistant District Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Districts are geographical divisions of the state designated by the VAPTA state board to carry on state work effectively. The state bylaws govern the work of the district and must be approved by the state Bylaws Committee. The district PTA also helps to integrate council and local unit work with state and national programs and activities. Elected to a two-year term by the district membership, the district director and Assistant Director represent the district on Virginia PTA's Board of Managers.

The Richmond District includes the following counties/cities: Charles City County, Fluvanna County, Goochland County, Hanover County, Henrico County, Louisa County, New Kent County, and the City of Richmond.

This is a great opportunity to continue PTA work on a District Level! Please contact a member of the nominating committee below if you are interested in serving:

Lakeesha George	Keesha247@aol.com
Doug Smith, Jr.	dougsmithjr@yahoo.com
Debbie Coats	dbcoats@hotmail.com
Anne Carson	dcarsonva@comcast.net
Kimberly Allen Clement	Kimberly_allenclement@yahoo.com

State PTA Appoints Liaisons to Organizations

Virginia High School League, Virginia Middle School Association



Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

Appointed representatives from the Virginia PTA attend regular meetings of the Virginia High School League (VHSL) and Virginia Middle School Association (VMSA). Virginia PTA representatives act as liaisons between the state PTA and these educational partners, providing an invaluable parent's perspective into decisions that affect our middle and high school students across the commonwealth.

Dan Phillips, Secondary Committee chairman, is PTA's appointee to the VMSA; Denise Bowman-Scott, Public Relations Committee chairman, serves on the VHSL executive committee.

For more information, or if you have concerns that might be addressed by these organizations, please contact the Secondary Committee at 2ndarypta@vapta.org.

Dan Phillips
Secondary Committee chairman

Membership: Mid-Year Push is Key

- Take a look at your membership goal from the start of the school year. How close are you to reaching that goal? What goal will you set for membership recruitment in January? (Remember the challenge for eight new members in 08?)
- Check in with your treasurer about the collection and deposit of membership fees. Are the current procedures working well? Is information being input into the Online Membership Data Reporting (OMDR) system in a timely manner? Thank current PTA members for their commitment. Tell them why you're organizing a January Membership Campaign and how they can help make it a success.
- Ask your PTA board to explain to potential members what your PTA does for the children of your community.
- Align your goals with the needs and interests of your members and community
- Make sure you have the support of your principal and school staff
- Tell your school community about the new opportunities to get involved in the new year.
- Send membership forms and fliers home with report cards and school reminders.
- Design a visual representation of your growing membership (e.g., a celebration wall to which party favors with new-member names can be added, a cardboard or illustrated tree to which leaves for new members can be added, a jar to which beans, marbles, or ping pong balls can be added) for display in your school.
- Ask people to join your PTA -- don't wait for them to offer.
- Make it easy for people to join: Have all the sign-up materials close at hand.
- Set up your membership table at every PTA and school event (maintain a current list of members in case people forget whether they have already joined).
- Publish a list of PTA members in your newsletter.
- Regularly include articles about membership and a clip-out membership form in your newsletter.
- Publish your current membership count in your newsletter. Check it against your goal often.

Save the Date

Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice

January 10: State Board of Education meets, 9 a.m., Richmond

January 18: Deadline for General Assembly 2008 bill introduction

February 1: Citizenship Essay Project application deadline

February 2: Board of Managers meeting, Glen Allen

February 3: Pre-PTA Day Advocacy Training, 6:30 p.m., Glen Allen

February 4: PTA Day at the General Assembly, Richmond

February 13: General Assembly bill "crossover day"

February 21: State Board of Education meets, 9 a.m., Richmond

March 1: Virginia PTA Scholarship application deadline

March 19: State Board of Education meets, 9 a.m., Richmond

May 1: Outstanding Newsletter Recognition Program application deadline

June 21-23: National PTA Convention, San Diego

July 11-12: Virginia PTA Leadership Training Conference, Deep Run High School, Glen Allen





SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Training Conference

JULY 11- 12, 2008

**Deep Run High School
Glen Allen, Virginia
(Richmond Area)**

We heard your “Voice” and made some changes:

- We have shortened it to 1 ½ days
- We have planned workshops, round tables, and other opportunities to network and receive program ideas, guides, membership cards, and other valuable resources
- We have given you time to visit an extensive exhibit hall and to network with PTA leaders from around the state
- A wide variety of workshops will be offered for both new and veteran PTA leaders
- We are currently working on reducing the cost of attendance as well

This “**new and improved**” one and a half day Leadership Training Conference (LTC) is the most important training offered by Virginia PTA and is a must for all officers and many committee chairs!

Proposed Schedule:

Friday: 1-5 p.m. **

****Followed by Scholarship Dinner and Auction**

Saturday: 9-5 p.m.

Keep connected:

- Talk to your current board members.
- Find out who is interested in attending.
- Review your budget to ensure there is a line item for training.

Look for the registration information, which will be posted very soon!

Mark your calendars and begin making plans now to attend the Annual Leadership Training Conference July 11 & 12, 2008. This highly charged and exciting event has every PTA leader in mind. We look forward to seeing you there in July!

***Ensure the success of your PTA and motivate your members –
Plan to attend LTC now!***



*Henrico County Council of PTAs
Scholarship*

In honor of Dr. George H. Moody

LOCAL UNIT DONATION REMITTANCE FORM

School or PTA Name: _____

Amount Donated: _____

Please submit your donation via PTA check made out to: HCCPTA – Scholarship Fund

Send to the HCCPTA Treasurer no later than **Friday, February 1, 2008,**

so we can access how many scholarships can be given.

HCCPTA Scholarship Program

c/o Ingrid Johnson

HCCPTA Treasurer

4509 Argonne Court

Glen Allen, VA 23060

Thank you in advance for all your support of this very worthy cause.

“Together As One”, we can make a difference in a graduating senior’s future!

HCCPTA Scholarship Committee

Kim Jones	kjones7122@email.vccs.edu	Home: 737-4340
Anne Carson	dcarsonva@comcast.net	Home: 364-3430
Denise Russell	scholarship@hccpta.com	Home: 261-6575