



everychild.one voice.®

CONNECTION

A publication of the Henrico County Council of PTAs

November 2006

HCC BOARD

| | |
|--|----------|
| PRESIDENT Anne Carson | 364-3430 |
| BROOKLAND VP - Denise Russell | 261-6575 |
| FAIRFIELD VP - Kim Jones | 737-4340 |
| THREE CHOPT VP - Mirinda Lawrence | 364-4155 |
| TUCKAHOE VP Sharon Dunkum | 741-4489 |
| VARINA VP Andrea Beck | 507-0035 |
| TREASURER Kim Harris | 270-3634 |
| SECRETARY Tammy Zimmer | 222-2876 |
| ARTS IN EDUCATION Vacant | |
| BANQUET Crystal Sarvay | 264-0930 |
| BYLAWS Sarah Parkerson | 360-2662 |
| COMMUNICATIONS Helena Lythgoe | 965-5474 |
| HOSPITALITY Sandra Bennett | |
| LEGISLATION Vacant | |
| MEMBERSHIP & CREDENTIALS Claire Pollock | 740-6972 |
| PARLIAMENTARIAN Mike Griffin | 750-2095 |
| PROGRAMS Vacant | |
| SCHOLARSHIP Helena Lythgoe Lori Paxton | 965-5474 |
| VOLUNTEERS Sandy L'Esperence | 270-5020 |
| SUPERINTENDENT Fred S. Morton IV | |
| COMMUNITY LIAISON Dawn Hoppe | 652-3729 |

President's Message

You are a leader. Yes, you! Whether you are a president, officer, or committee chairperson, the staff, parents and students in your school see you as a PTA leader. Most PTA leaders start volunteering 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 or a principal. No matter how you got to your current position you are there because you believe in PTA, you were willing to put out the effort and you either have the experience or were willing to learn. Don't panic...it's OK! You are not alone. The state, district and County Council of PTAs are here to help you and it doesn't have to be complicated. 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 duties of other officers and board members. Know your school. Be sure to have a calendar and contact information for key school personnel.
- **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.** Some duties must be performed by the president or chairperson. Select tasks that can be done by other members and then choose the right person to do the job. Explain 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 lookout 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 plans for events. It's a good idea to meet 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.

One last thing...I hope to see all of the PTA Presidents or your representative at the upcoming **PTA Presidents meeting with our Superintendent, Fred S. Morton IV, on Tuesday, November 28th at 4:30 p.m.** in the conference room of the HCPS school offices on 9 mile Road. Please let me know if there is a particular topic you would like Mr. Morton to discuss. I have asked for a presentation on the new Nontraditional Programs division of Instruction headed by Dr. Lynne Thorpe.

Anne Carson
HCCPTA 2006-2007 President

President's Checklist:

NOVEMBER

- o Attend Virginia PTA's Convention on **Nov 17th-19th** at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke.
- o Remind your Treasurer that all dues must be sent to the State Office by December 1 so your Local Unit remains in "Good Standing."
- o See that your Reflections program is on track to meet County due date of November 21st.
- o **Attend Superintendents Meeting with PTA Presidents on November 28th at 4:30 p.m. at Central Office on 9 mile road.**

DECEMBER

- o Enjoy the holidays and rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the year.

National Family Volunteer Day is an annual observance that occurs the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year it is on November 18. Volunteering together will strengthen your family bonds as well as your community. Now more than ever, help from all kinds of people of all ages is needed right here at home as well as across the world. Working together can be a chance for you and your children to connect, and at the same time make a positive difference. Your kids will experience how good it feels to lend a hand, and they might learn something new in the process. Volunteering can be particularly memorable when you spend time afterwards talking about and reflecting on what happened. You can volunteer on your own or through an organization (congregations are especially good resources for finding out about opportunities). For more information and suggestions see www.1800volunteer.org.

Why is training important?

In a 2005 PTA survey it was learned that the #1 reason that fathers become involved with the PTA was "to work to improve the school for the benefit of their children." The top 3 reasons cited that kept men from joining the PTA were 1) "lack of time" 2) "not being asked" and (3) "it is a woman's organization." That was certainly not the case at this year's HCC Leadership Training Workshop, held at Wilder Middle, drawing both father and mother PTA volunteers and teachers from across the county. As PTA leaders and child advocates we are offered many training sessions from local unit meetings to the General Assembly to the State Convention and whether you are new or have been around for years there is always something new to learn and share. After a great evening that was both informative and fun and well worth the time and energy, I would like to take a moment and share a thought with every PTA volunteer:

"As a child, I probably could not wait until I was all grown up, out of school and on my own, and then I realized that there is no magic age when I stop learning and discovering.

Well, the reality of it all is that I am forever young, forever a child who is growing, learning and discovering everyday, no matter how many years I may have invested in growing up. The good news is, each day I am given fresh opportunities with which I can stretch beyond the goals I reached the day before. I am continually increasing my awareness of myself not limited by my age or my experience and the Spirit within keeps me forever young, growing and accomplishing more".

Please remember to make every effort to take full advantage of PTA training offered at all levels. The next training session is the Virginia PTA State Convention November 17-19 in Roanoke. **Get Involved! You may never know how you might impact the life of a child.**

New E-Learning Course: Planning Your PTA Year

Have you ever been a part of a PTA project that wasn't well organized? How did the lack of organization affect your effort? How did it affect your morale as a volunteer? Disorganized volunteer projects can lower enthusiasm and make people wonder why they tried to get involved in the first place. A new e-learning course will set you up for a successful PTA year by assisting you in planning and goal setting. This course walks you through getting organized, exploring the past and present, setting shared goals, developing and implementing plans, and evaluating your progress.

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Identify your own planning preferences;
- Utilize methods for successful planning and goal setting;
- Take a leadership role in board and/or committee planning;
- Discuss methods for membership development and retention to forward your PTA's goals;
- Utilize planning tips and checklists at the beginning, midpoint and end of your PTA year.

Log in now at <http://www.pta.org/e-learning>

Note: This course will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Use user name and password on back of membership card.

County Council Banquet

The Annual County Council Banquet will be held on Tuesday, May 1st at Hermitage High School in Commons A. The theme this year is keeping in line with our Moody Scholarship walk "Footsteps to the Future." Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. The deadline for all materials, including volunteer of the year for your school will be early April prior to spring break, so be planning for that. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Crystal Sarvay or Sharon Martin, co-chairpersons at Banquet@hcpta.com

The Pupil Transportation Department for Henrico County Public Schools is experiencing a serious shortage of bus drivers at this time. The shortage is due to many reasons including unfilled vacancies, extended illnesses, daily absences, etc.

Any help you and your PTA can offer to help advertise this shortage would be greatly appreciated. These are full-time positions (7-hours per day) at \$11.04/hour with benefits (health insurance, etc.). New drivers must go through a 48-hour state certified class which takes about 2 ½ to 3 weeks to complete.

Nominate Your Leaders in Learning

Nominations for the third annual Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards, sponsored by Cable in the Classroom (CIC), are now being [accepted online](#). The application period ends on December 15, 2006.

The Leaders in Learning Awards recognize classroom and community program teachers, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers, and others who have had a major impact on educating youth both in and out of the classroom using education technology and digital content. The five award categories are

- General Excellence;
- Cable Partnerships for Learning;
- Pushing the Envelope;
- Policymaker Excellence; and
- Media Literacy Education (presented in partnership with PTA)

The awards will be judged by a panel of experts from the national education community, including representatives of PTA. Winners receive a \$3,000 cash prize and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, in late spring 2007. While in Washington, DC, award recipients will visit members of Congress to talk about their award-winning programs and attend a gala awards ceremony with policymakers, government officials, leaders of the national education community, cable industry executives, and celebrities.

Cable in the Classroom (CIC), the cable industry's education foundation, works to expand and enhance learning opportunities for children and youth. Visit their [website](#) to learn more about the resources available to your PTA.

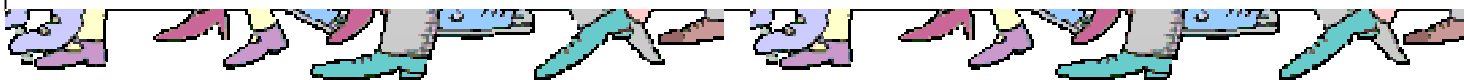
Footsteps to the Future County Council Scholarship Walkfest

In honor of George H. Moody

Date: Saturday 3/24/07, Time: 10am to 12pm

Where: Wilder Middle School

.....
This year's event will be slightly different. It's a WALKFEST not a Walkathon. We will have local schools performing, food available and some extra surprises. Watch for details! Start getting your teams together. Your PTA and school can participate! Sports Teams, SCA, PTA boards, etc. etc. Open to any Henrico County citizen.



Keep On Recruiting Members

Dianne Florence, State PTA President said in her letter in this months Bulletin -

“Membership is a year-round campaign—not just something we do in September. Throughout the year, always have a membership table set up at your events. Our parents, teachers and community members are very busy people and we need to offer them multiple opportunities to join our association. Membership is not limited to those people who have children attending your school. Be sure all members receive the benefits of membership. Some may not have a child at your school or may not live with their child and in order to be kept informed on all the wonderful events and activities your PTA is conducting throughout the year, you need to send them your newsletters and other publications by mail, either electronic or through the postal service. This is a right of PTA membership and we do not want to exclude anyone from receiving the information they should as a PTA member.” Most important of all, give them a PTA membership card. There are lots of benefits and useful information available now and even discounts that your members can obtain only if they show their membership card. They also need the passwords on the back of the card to access both the State and National PTA websites. You can get more membership cards from the State PTA Office. Call 264-1234.



Virginia PTA State Convention
“All Aboard the PTA Express” November 17-19th, 2006
Hotel Roanoke
Roanoke, Virginia

It is not too late to plan to attend the VAPTA Convention. The convention is our annual business meeting but it also is the highlight of the year as we celebrate successful programs, projects and accomplishments of PTA members. We honor students, educators and volunteers for their outstanding achievements. We have the opportunity to be energized by speakers, educated by workshops, and to meet volunteers from across the state to share ideas and success stories.

Get your VAPTA Convention Information Here
Go to <http://www.vapta.org/Members.Convention/concention-index06.html>
for your 2006 VAPTA Convention Information.

Attention Membership Chairmen!

If you are not currently registering your PTA members on the **Online Membership Dues Reporting (OMDR) System**, you should start doing so now! OMDR, required of all Virginia PTAs this year, is the method National PTA has developed to make sure that local, state and national PTAs are complying with state and federal corporation laws. For many years, local PTAs kept track of their members' names and had them available if the state or national parent organizations asked for them. Now, federal and state taxing authorities and courts have ruled that each organization must have a current list of all members. The OMDR program standardizes this information, making it possible for all organizations to access their membership with one input. The President of your local unit received information about OMDR in May. However, any passwords issued at that time expired on July 31. If the password for your unit expired, if you never obtained one or have lost your password, please contact:

Tami Loving
VA PTA Membership Committee Chair
www.membership@vapta.org

When you e-mail Tami, you should send her the following information:

- Local PTA Unit name (the name of your school)
- Local PTA Unit ID number (if you know it)
- Henrico County
- PTA President's name, address, phone and e-mail
- Your name and contact information

You will receive a member ID number, and you can then set up your own user name and password.

Tami provided a useful packet of information about OMDR at the County Council Leadership Training on October 23. If you would like to receive a copy of this packet, please contact me directly at www.membership@hccpta.com and I will send you a copy via the school pony mail. Once you have input all of your member names and information, each member will receive **one** e-mail from National PTA, inviting them to sign up for various e-news. After the initial e-mail, members will not receive any more e-mails from the National PTA unless they request to do so. In addition, once your membership information is input in OMDR, it will be very easy to generate school-wide e-mail notifications. If PTA members are reluctant to provide personal information, you should input the school's address and phone number in OMDR. Also, when the OMDR program asks for the date for the PTA officers' end of term, you should insert the end of the PTA's fiscal year, rather than the date on which the new officers take office, in order to keep that officer's information available on OMDR for as long as possible. In addition, once you have entered membership information for each member, if you enter October 31 for the expiration date, you can reuse that member's information the next year if the member renews his or her membership. You can just check the box that says "renew." This could be a real benefit for an elementary school that has the same members for up to six years!

Please contact me at www.membership@hccpta.org if you have any questions about OMDR.

Claire Pollock
HCCPTA Membership Chair

Three Chopt Road began as an Old Indian Trail that was marked by making three notches on the trees. As the English colonists moved into the area, the road was called the King's Highway. Because there were so few roads at this time, it was not uncommon for a road to be referred to by local residents as the King's Highway. More often than not, however, the road was called the Three Notched Road. A map of Henrico County dated 1819 shows the road marked as Three Chopped Road. Years later the spelling of the road changed from Three Chopped to Three Chopt, as the latter spelling is used on Smith's map of 1853. Such notables as Lafayette, Cornwallis, Washington, Jefferson and Robert E. Lee have traveled down this ancient roadway that began at Powhatan's Village, a few miles east of Richmond, and ran westward into the mountains.

Pocahontas Middle School garners 2006 No Child Left Behind -- Blue Ribbon Award □□ Henrico County's Pocahontas Middle School has been named a 2006 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School. Pocahontas is one of only 10 schools in the state honored for helping close the achievement gap between students and for the number of students who achieve at very high levels. Overall, 250 schools were selected nationwide. "These schools show what wonderful accomplishments can be made when we focus on the bottom line in education –student achievement," said Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education. "All of these schools have students from all subgroups who've made impressive test gains or who scored in the top tier on state tests. They are outstanding examples of how all students can achieve to higher standards." "Pocahontas Middle School is thrilled to have been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School," said Ray Honeycutt, principal. "It is a tribute to the hard work of the students, teachers, staff and the community as a whole. While holding our students and staff to a high level of achievement, we are committed to the basic principle that learning must be fun and make a connection. Pocahontas is like many other schools in this regard, which is why we are humbled by this recognition." The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: · Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests. · Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 20 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests. Under No Child Left Behind, schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading, language arts and mathematics. Each state -- not the federal government -- sets its own academic standards and benchmark goals; because each state knows best what goals and criteria are most appropriate for its school districts. Pocahontas Middle School will be honored at a celebration at the school Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Deputy Education Secretary Ray Simon, Congressman Eric Cantor (R-7th), Henrico County School Board members and Schools Superintendent Fred Morton will be on hand for the festivities. In November, two representatives from the school will join other national winners for a presentation in Washington, D.C. Here the school will receive a plaque and a flag designating the accomplishment. Congratulations to all Hawks, both past and present! This recognition is a tribute to the efforts of the entire Pocahontas community.

Nuckols Farm Elementary enjoyed their 2nd Annual Carnival on October 20th. Our school community was brought together for an evening of real family fun!

Dear educational colleague, You are cordially invited to an evening [celebrating the cultural diversity](#) of the families and students of Skipwith Elementary School. On Thursday, November 16, from 7:00-8:00 pm in the school halls and cafeteria, we will be learning about the culture and heritage from four continents, over 20 countries in all that represent the [Skipwith Elementary community](#). Many of our students and family members will be dressed in their native costumes for the evening. Each person attending will be given a "pretend passport" so you can obtain signature "stamps" from each country your visit during the evening. Families have display boards describing the unique cultural heritage of their home country, and some will have activities for you to complete to learn more about their native land. Questions are encouraged. You are also invited to taste a sampling of cultural food items prepared by our families. Stop into the cafeteria for a tasty treat for small fee of \$2. Entertainment in the form of dance and demonstration groups will also appear on the stage during the evening for your enjoyment. Come join us for an evening full of learning and celebrating you won't soon forget! Bring the whole family!

Skipwith Elementary School
2401 Skipwith Road

John Ballsrud, Recording Secretary, ESL Advisory



On October 26 former Three Chopt student, Taylor Fox, lost his battle against cancer. Taylor was a kind and witty friend as well as a dedicated and eager learner. He had an enormous passion for the game of chess and he loved tournament play. In June, Taylor was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor which he fought with admirable courage. Through chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, and the physical effects of the tumor, Taylor's enthusiasm for the game of chess and tournament play never diminished. In fact, he continued to play competitive chess all the way up through the Twin Hickory Tournament, only five days before his passing. Last year, the Three Chopt Chess Club consisted of seven team members. They were a very tight-knit group and such close friends. Taylor was a huge part of that special group. Last year's chess club was the inspiration for

continuing the Three Chopt program and for growing it into a much larger team with its current 27 members. Without Taylor and the rest of last year's group, chess at Three Chopt would not be what it is today. On November 18th, Three Chopt Elementary will be hosting its first annual scholastic chess tournament. In honor of our dear friend Taylor, we have named the tournament The Taylor Fox Memorial Chess Tournament. Our hope is that Taylor's memory and spirit will live on in the hearts of those who share his passion for the game of chess.

-Britta Wolfe, Three Chopt Chess Team Coach

For more information about participating in the Taylor Fox Memorial Chess Tournament, please email Britta Wolfe at wolfe.mom@comcast.net

Spotlighting a Varina District PTA Unit

This year the Ward Elementary School PTA has challenged its students, teachers, and parents to get moving in a year-long focus on family fitness. They are each working toward the goal of achieving the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award, which requires recipients to meet a target of 60 minutes of daily activity for children, 30 minutes daily for adults, at least 5 days each week for at least 6 of 8 weeks. The first fitness period began on October 22 and will run until mid-December, and two more 8-week periods will also be promoted after the new year starts. They are excited about developing a lifestyle of increased activity, and know that families benefit from the time spent being active together.

The PTA theme at Ward this year is "Race to Fitness", and the Ward Colts had a kickoff event at the October PTA meeting with approximately 175 students and their parents playing together in the gym, as well as gathering health information from community resources and using a BMI Machine to evaluate their Body Mass Index. It was a night full of excitement and energy!

In November, the students will be running or walking their Final Mile in a fitness challenge to log 26.2 miles and accomplish their own marathon completion, right on the campus of Ward Elementary. All students, grades K through 5, have been logging their miles after recess and working toward their marathon goal. Approximately 400 students are expected to complete their personal marathon! It's exciting to see the enthusiasm for personal fitness at Ward!

Written by Cathy Westerman, VP of Programs at Ward Elementary

Tdap vaccination deadline nears

The deadline for all sixth graders to have up-to-date tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccination is one month away. Virginia State law requires that all sixth grade students who have not had a tetanus-containing vaccination in the past five years, be vaccinated on or before Monday, Dec. 4.

Students who do not receive the booster before the deadline will be excluded from school beginning Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006. Students who have recently received a tetanus-containing vaccine should forward a copy of the vaccination, signed by the health-care provider, to the school nurse no later than Monday, Dec. 4. Parents who have questions about the vaccination should contact their child's middle school nurse.

American Heart Association's Jump Rope For Heart Hoops for Heart Programs

Is your PTA unit offering a Healthy Lifestyles program? Here is a way to incorporate information on a healthy lifestyle and exercise and help our community....The American Heart Association offers two programs; Jump Rope For Heart and Hoops for Heart. Details on these two programs can be found at www.americanheart.org. You may want to consider partnering with your schools PE teacher and offer this as an afterschool event. Below is some information on each of the programs. They provide all of the materials for you including educational materials and incentives.

What is Jump Rope For Heart?

Jump Rope For Heart promotes the value of physical activity to elementary school children while showing them they can contribute to their community's welfare. This is a time when children can establish the foundation for movement skills. These are also the years when positive learning experiences can help establish a positive attitude and appreciation for participating in regular, daily physical activity for life. By jumping rope and securing sponsors, students raise money for the fight against heart disease and stroke while learning about

- the seriousness of heart disease and stroke
- the lifelong benefits of physical activity
- the importance of living a heart-healthy lifestyle

Hoops for Heart

The Hoops for Heart Program is designed for Middle school students. It is a fun and exciting event that promotes community service and is educational and promotes fitness. It also helps students learn basketball skills.

If your PTA is interested in participating in one of these programs, please contact Cassandra P. Chabwera via e-mail at: Cassandra.Chabwera@heart.org She is the local VP of the Youth Market for the American Heart Association

Reflections 2006-2007 Reminders

It's getting to be that time of year....Reflections County Level Recognition.

This year we are offering you an opportunity to hand deliver your entries the night of November 21st, the County Reflections deadline. We have also added a tracking form which you will complete so that we know which entries you have sent and how many. This form will be returned to the Reflections Chair indicating that we have received these entries. Complete instructions as well as copies of the forms that the Reflections Chairs are being sent separately to the Reflections Chairs with a copy to the PTA Presidents.

Here are the details: The Henrico County Council turn-in for Reflections is Tuesday, November 21st, 2006, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Short Pump Middle School in the commons area or **via the schools pony mail that week only** to the attention of: Anne Carson, Acting Reflections Chair, Henrico County Council of PTAs at Short Pump Middle School. You must have completed **Local Form A** (found in the Reflections Handbook on the State PTA website www.vapta.org and on our website www.hccpta.com) and a completed **Tracking Form** (found on our website www.hccpta.org). If you are able to assist with the turn in process, please let me know. I will need several volunteers to help me accept and organize the 1400+ entries I am expecting!

The Reflection Program entries for the 2006-2007 school year should be **dropped off** on November 21st at Short Pump MS from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. or **sent** that week from your school to Short Pump Middle School via the “Pony” mail to the **Attention of: Anne Carson., Acting Reflections Chair, HCCPTA**

Each participating PTA should bring/send their “Outstanding Interpretation” (first place) entry for each appropriate age division and category to the Drop-Off location.

Our Reflections Recognition, Display and Reception are scheduled on January 22, 2007 at Deep Run High School at 7:00 p.m. The Outstanding Interpretations for each age division and category for the whole County will be displayed. **Those entries being recognized at the County level for Outstanding Interpretation will be recognized with a certificate of participation and a ribbon.**

At the conclusion of this program, Reflections Chairs and or students will be allowed to take home the entries that will not be going on to the District level.

****PTA Presidents and Reflections Chairs: HELP!**

We are still in need of volunteers and a chair to help with this committee and to handle the following tasks:

- **Receive** Entries at Short Pump Middle School on November 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 - **Communications** – Prepare communications with Reflections Chairs and Outstanding Interpretations being recognized at the County level, prepare Program distributed at night of event.
 - **Judge Coordination** – Help find and confirm judges needed for each category and handle process.
 - **Awards** – Order and prepare County level recognition
 - **Display Set Up and take down** – Help to display all of the entries 2 hours before Program night of January 22nd and help dismantle and pack up entries left.
 - **Reception** – Sandra Bennett our Hospitality Chair, will need people to help set up and serve.

Current Reflections Chairs...we especially need your expertise on this committee. Please contact Anne Carson at reflections@hccpta.com or call at 364-3430 if you can help in any way. Please plan to attend a planning meeting on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs Café area of the Ukrop's at Crossridge on Staples Mill Road

The address for the send to/Drop-off Location is:

Short Pump Middle School
4701 Pouncey Tract Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

If you have questions regarding the Reflections Program, please contact HCCPTA Acting Reflection Chair, Anne Carson at reflections@hccpta.com or Virginia PTA Arts in Education Chair, Patricia Franck at artsineducation@vapta.org.

Did you Know -

The County Council is an advisory body that assists with the efforts of local units.

- Provides conference (programs and leadership training) and cooperation of efforts for local units within the council.
- Provides advisory assistance to local units and assists school educators and PTA presidents in understanding their partnership roles as leaders in education.
- Assists in organization of new local units.
- Serves as a communication link between local units and district by relaying news, information, and instruction from school officials, District PTA, Virginia PTA, and National PTA.
- Bylaws are based on Council Bylaws of the Virginia PTA

Henrico County Council:

- Established in 1960
- Coordinates the National Reflections program throughout the county.
- Maintains a directory of all the PTA units in Henrico County to facilitate networking.
- Publishes the **Connection** Newsletter and communicates via e-mail on timely topics of information and of interest.
- Mobilizes PTA membership throughout the county on county wide, state, and national issues affecting children and youth.
- Communicates positions on proposed state legislation and works with our elected officials in Richmond.
- Arranges a Henrico County delegation to PTA Day in Richmond, an annual gathering of parents and teachers from around the state.
- Presents workshops for local PTAs on topics of interest
- Works with HCPS to provide parent representatives for task forces, study groups, and committees, and disseminates information about changes in the school system, about school board policies, and state actions.
- County wide Scholarship Fund for graduating Henrico County senior high school students primarily based on financial need and hosting of an opportunity for students of local units to get together every year and contribute to that fund currently in the form of a Walk fest.
- Annual Recognition of local PTA unit efforts including membership awards and recognition of each volunteer of the year at our Annual Banquet.

All of our board members are volunteers like all of you. We are here to serve and help your unit be the best it can be. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to further help you as PTA leaders in your local unit. **Additionally, we are always looking for others to join our board. Current opportunities include: Programs, Reflections, Technology and Legislation Chair and committee members.**

Anne Carson, President, Henrico County Council of PTAs

**All dues must be sent to the State Office by December 1
so your Local Unit remains in "Good Standing."**

HCPS Parent Resource Center – Upcoming Workshops

Program: Protecting Your Child on the Internet

This program will give parents tips on things they can do to protect their children when using the internet.

Presenters Detective Craig Harver, Henrico County Police
Location Rivers Edge Elementary School
Date & Time November 14, 2006 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Workshop: Strategies to Enhance Creative Writing for Advanced Students

This session will focus on how parents can help and support their child's writing abilities by using various techniques at home.

Presenter Nancy Squire, Gifted Education Teacher, Retired
Location Greenwood Elementary School, Discovery Lab
Date & Time November 14, 2006 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Location Twin Hickory Elementary School Library
Date & Time November 14, 2006 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Event: Exceptional Education Night

Exceptional Education & Support Services present three educational opportunities for parents of special needs children. A team of professionals providing pertinent information with practical suggestions for parents will present each topic. Parents should plan to attend one workshop. A light snack will be provided.

Location Moody Middle School
Date & Time November 16, 2006 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Understanding the Special Education Process

Presenters: Ray Heatwole, Educational Specialist, and SEAC member

Inclusive Recreational Opportunities and Services for Children with Disabilities

Presenters Elaine Olay, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator, Henrico Recreation & Parks

Vocational Training for the Student with a Disability: Taking Steps Towards Gainful Employment

Presenters Vicki Dowdy, Special Education Consultant, Dennis Alsheski, HSPS Transition Coordinator and John Stewart, Tucker High School COWEP Coordinator.

Event: College Quest 2006

A free college preview event for students with disabilities and their parents. This all day event allows high school students with disabilities to ask the necessary questions about going to college. Call 827-1403 or visit www.vacollegequest.org for more information.

Location Virginia Commonwealth University, Student Commons
Date & Time November 18, 2006 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.

Workshop: Identifying Students for Gifted Education Services

The guiding principles of identification of the gifted, as well as the nuts and bolts of the process, will be discussed.

Presenter Judy Williams, Educational Specialist for Gifted Programs
Location Brookland Middle School Library
Date & Time November 20, 2006 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Meeting: Special Education Advisory Committee

Meet the Exceptional Education Specialists

Location Brookland Middle School Library
Date & Time November 28, 2006 6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Important Dates to Remember

November 17-19
Convention 2006, Hotel Roanoke

November 21
County Reflections Deadline

November 28
PTA Presidents Meeting with Superintendent, Fred Morton IV

December 1
Dues must be sent to the State Office and to Council

Henrico County Council of PTAs General Meetings 2007

Monday, January 22, 2007 7:00 p.m. Deep Run HS
“Reflections Awards, Display and Ceremony”

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007 7:00 p.m. Godwin HS
“HCPS Proposed Budget Presentation”
Joint Meeting with Lay Advisory

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 6:00 p.m. Hermitage HS
“Annual Meeting, Awards and Recognition Banquet”
*6:30 p.m. Meet and Greet before these meetings.

DIRECTORY UPDATES NEEDED!

If your school is not in the County Council directory or if you have updates or corrections, please let us know no later than 12/1/06. We will make one update of the directory! Thanks! Email Helena at Newsletters@hccpta.com

Check out our Website!

Check the HCCPTA Website (www.hccpta.com) for useful information.

**PTA President's Meeting - with Superintendent, Fred S. Morton IV
Tuesday, November 28th
4:30 p.m.
Multi-purpose room – Central Office**