



HENRICO COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTAs **CONNECTIONS**

December 2011

www.hccpta.com

PRESIDENT'S CHECKLIST

DECEMBER

- Establish dates for January newsletter deadlines (including submissions, editing, approvals & publishing)

- * First dues payment to State/National PTA due on 12/1

- * County Council Dues are due by 12/1. (.10 x each member as of 6/30/11)

- Determine late-month availability of key people; communicate availability of key officers.

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

JANUARY

- Make reservations for Virginia PTA's PTA Day at the General Assembly.

- Advertise for members willing to serve on the nominating committee.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

This year's theme is "**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore". Whether you are partnering with your school administration and families, businesses in your area and your PTA, or supporting other PTAs in their efforts, we must all reach out and connect. Our teachers, students, and schools are expected to do more and more every year yet we all know the difficulties facing all of them given our current economic climate. We need to look beyond our own communities and offer support to other schools in their efforts to succeed and I believe PTAs partnering with other PTAs in a perfect way to do this. We're not talking financially supporting here, we are talking about sharing volunteers, sharing ideas, and sharing community resources. We have hands that serve and hearts that care. Thank you all for your willingness to serve in a leadership position in your PTA. Your dedication shows in all you do – we're very thankful for people like YOU !!! Have a happy holiday!

LaShawn Payne-Robertson

Family Engagement on Facebook

Are you looking for a new way to become engaged in the life of your child? Do you want to feel connected at the touch of a button? The Virginia PTA Family Engagement Facebook page is for YOU! Simply visit the page [here](#) and 'LIKE' us. This forum is for parents and family members to pose questions, concerns, ideas and just plan

Citizenship Essay

"*Community Responsibility*" is the Citizenship Essay theme for the 2011-2012 school year. Students in secondary schools are eligible to participate. The rules and application are now available [here](#).

Save the Dates:

PTA Day at the General Assembly: Feb 13

National PTA Legislation Conference: March 6-8

National PTA Convention: June 21-24 in San Jose, CA



Win up to \$2,500 in books for your school!

Enter the *Labels for Education*® Book Bonanza Sweepstakes for your chance to win Scholastic books for your kid's school. Visit the Scholastic website at scholastic.com/bookbonanza to enter by December 31, 2011.

Henrico County Council meetings are open to all PTA/PTSA members. Your principal, president, and county council delegates have voting rights for your unit at the county council level.

**Tuesday, Jan 31 - 7:00 pm
HCPS Budget Presentation
Highland Springs High School**



Tuckahoe District News and **Highlights**

Great things happened in the Tuckahoe District these past months. For starters, **Pemberton Elementary PTA** held their annual Fall Festival. Numerous families enjoyed carnival games, Bounce Houses and karaoke. At their November PTA meeting, they held a screening of “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving”. At **Pinchbeck Elementary**, the 5th grade performed at a Veterans Day Assembly. Their Service Club, Rays Reaching Out, is collecting items for Operation Gratitude as well as coats for Puritan Cleaners annual Coat Drive. They also held a school wide Turkey Trot right before Thanksgiving. **Douglas Freeman High School PTSA** hosted a coffee hour on the subject of “Teens, Technology and Tethering” in conjunction with Jim Astrove, Director of Technology at St. Catherine’s Schools and a 21 year Henrico Educator, which gave parents and the community tips on how to navigate the cyber world for children. The PTSA also sponsored Rachel’s Challenge which promotes creating a permanent, positive culture change in the school and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. They also sponsored a coffee hour on “How to Keep Your Teen Alcohol and Drug Free” in conjunction with Commonwealth Parenting.

Way to go Tuckahoe District PTA’s and PTSA’s!!!

Elko Middle School PTSA has a new VA PTA logo. Our November PTSA meeting was Math Mania Night. We had students come and compete in Math games and the math department gave away prizes to winners. Our membership drive consists of giving away prizes from a drawing of members to a parent, student and teacher who is a PTSA member each month. Our December PTSA meeting will be a winter concert. Also the PTSA had promethan match our funds we are raising through spirit nights for 32 sets of activotes. Our Students on the PTSA board gave ideas students would like to see and the school will be implementing one of their ideas in the new future. **GO EAGLES!!!**

Twin Hickory Elementary School’s HEROES Club offers kids the opportunity to learn about and participate in community service. Classroom activities, along with volunteer opportunities outside of school, include homelessness, seniors in need, hungry kids in need, and animal homelessness. This club tackles a new project each month to reach out and help those in need.

JOHN ROLFE MIDDLE SCHOOL - **In PTA news, membership is now at 290 members, up from 57 last year! Let's hit 300 and beyond!** Thanks to the over 50 dads who attended last week's WatchDOG kickoff. All dads can still sign up at anytime, just come by the Rolfe office.

Adams is having their holiday breakfast and bazaar on 12/10.
Tables are \$10. Call school for more details.

JUST A REMINDER....#CCPTA dues are now due. If you did not receive a form that was delivered through your school, please copy one off of our website. The amount due is ten cents per member. The membership number is the total number of members reported to the state last year. Any questions please email treasurer@hccpta.com.

Please consider a donation to the scholarship fund. One scholarship is awarded to a recipient from each high school.

Apply for the \$2,000 Hearst Award!

Applications Due December 16, 2011

The National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Innovation in Family Engagement Award recognizes and celebrates achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. The PTA that receives the Hearst Award will receive **\$2,000** and will be **recognized at the 116th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition**, June 21–24, 2012 in San Jose, California. In addition, **Four Awards of Merit** will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate exemplary family engagement initiatives. Awards of Merit recipients will receive a certificate of recognition. Applicants for the Hearst Award must be a PTA in good standing and must have a valid 501(c)(3) status. They must also partner with their local education agency (e.g., school or school district) to apply.

Applications are due **Friday, December 16, 2011, 5:00 p.m. ET**. Apply online at PTA.org/Hearst.

Newsletter Update - Directory

The HCCPTA needs your help! We are still missing several PTA directories for the 2011-2012 school year. We would like to have your information listed this year, so if you could send your information in as soon as possible, that would be greatly appreciated!

You may send the information to directory@hccpta.com or log onto www.hccpta.com and submit your directory via the website. All we need is meeting date/time, list of officers and the contact information they are comfortable with publishing. A copy of this directory will be distributed to each local unit as reference once complete.

Please contact Carla Ingram @ directory@hccpta.com if you have any questions!

Now Accepting Nominations for the PTA Advocacy Awards

Applications due January 10, 2012

National PTA is pleased to honor outstanding advocacy on behalf of every child at the [2012 National PTA Legislative Conference](#). The PTA Advocacy Awards will highlight advocacy work of an individual ([Shirley Igo Award](#)), local/district/regional unit ([Local Outstanding Advocacy Award](#)), and state unit ([State Outstanding Advocacy Award](#)). Awards will be presented during a luncheon on Capitol Hill during the Legislative Conference.

All award nominations are due via the online submission process (using the below links) **Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 5:00 p.m. PT**. Winners will be notified the following week. To learn more about each award and complete the application for each award, please visit the links below.

- [2012 Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award Nomination](#)
- [2012 Local PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award Nomination](#)
- [2012 State PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award Nomination](#)

Please contact jchevalier@pta.org with additional questions concerning the 2012 PTA Advocacy Awards nomination process.

Virginia Naturally School Recognition Program

Please forward to your local units and start encouraging them **NOW** to start the process to increase their awareness and support of the environment while being considered for a great award in the process. (Schools may submit applications between May 1 and June 30 of each school year.) <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/education/school-recognition/>

On October 27, 2011, four Henrico County Schools were recognized by the School Board for the Virginia Naturally School Recognition Program.

Colonial Trail Elementary School – Henrico County Schools – 4 years

Rivers Edge Elementary School – Henrico County Schools – 4 years

Short Pump Elementary School – Henrico County Schools – 1 year

Twin Hickory Elementary School – Henrico County Schools – 1 year

Virginia Naturally Schools is the official environmental education school recognition program of the Commonwealth, administered by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with support from the Department of Education, Department of Environmental Quality and other resource agencies. The [Virginia Board of Education has recognized](#) the Virginia Naturally School program as the official environmental education school recognition program for the state. This program recognizes the wonderful efforts of many Virginia schools to increase the environmental awareness and stewardship of our youngest citizens.

If your school has already been working with its community, resource agencies and businesses to include education about the environment in the curriculum then read on and apply for the Virginia Naturally School Recognition Award. This is not a one-time award but one upon which you may build and achieve additional recognitions each year you participate.

Goal

To recognize those exemplary efforts undertaken by Virginia schools to increase the environmental awareness and stewardship of its students.

Award

A tiered recognition program has been developed to award Virginia's schools:

- First year schools meeting the minimum requirements will receive a Virginia Naturally plaque.
- Schools maintaining and continuing their efforts in upcoming years will receive a pennant featuring one of Virginia's state symbols to hang in the school. A different pennant will be available for each additional year the school participates. In addition to the annual pennant, schools will be able to choose from a list of workshops that will help continue their effort.

Application Process

Schools may submit applications between May 1 and June 30 of each school year. The recognition will be awarded in the following school year. Completed applications may be mailed to:

Suzie Gilley, Wildlife Education Coordinator
Virginia Naturally Schools Chairperson - VRUEC
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104

- [Applications](#) ↓
- [Pictures from Recognized Schools](#) (PDF)
- [List of Recognized Schools](#) (PDF)
- [Award Pennants for Years 1-10](#)

HCCPTA Membership Challenge

The HCCPTA Membership Challenge encourages Henrico County schools to increase their PTA membership by 5% over last year's membership percentage. Schools reaching this goal will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Drawings will be held for Elementary, Middle and High School PTA/PTSAs.

Have you ever wondered how the membership percentage is determined? The HCCPTA calculates membership percentages based on the "ADM" ("Average Daily Membership" or student enrollment) numbers provided by the VA. Department of Education. This year's membership percentages will be calculated using the 2010-11 ADM & the 2011-12 FINAL PTA membership numbers-those that have been reported to the VA PTA by March 1, 2012. If your school has had significant changes to your current ADM over or under last year's ADM, please contact the state office and provide them with your current enrollment information.

During the month of January, HCCPTA will compile a list of of the 2010-11 ADMs & 2011-12 membership numbers to date (as reported to the state) so that each PTA will have a better idea of where they stand in reaching their goal. This information will be given to Area VP's for distribution to their local units.

Questions? Please contact Michelle West, Membership Chair, membership@hccpta.com.

Reflections

2011-2012 Theme "Diversity Means..."



PTA REFLECTIONS

The children and teens that participated in the Reflections Program are so creative and talented. We were so impressed! We received 188 pieces of fabulous artwork! There are 44 schools that are participating. Thank you to all the Reflections chairs who put so much time and effort into this program. The submission rules changed a lot and we thank you so much for your flexibility. We will be taking a hard look at better ways to submit the artworks that will work best for our county. The following is a list of the number of entries that we received from each category:

Dance Choreography: 7
Film Production: 14
Literature: 48
Music Composition: 18
Photography: 42
Visual Art: 59

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Awards Program!

Feb. 21, 2012 at 7pm
HCC PTA Reflections Awards Program
Deep Run High School

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Linda Wettstone
Deborah Gardner
Henrico County Council Cultural Arts Co-Chairs
reflections@hccpta.com