

The Wood Word

March 2009
www.woodpta.org



A Monthly Publication of the Earle B. Wood MS Parent Teacher Association President's News

Two weeks of MSA Testing will be done on March 27th! Thank you for making sure your child came well-rested, fed and ready to put pencil to paper! The students can now look forward to the MSA Party. Can you help out?

Our February PTA Meeting was about the MSA and HSA tests and what it means. Our March PTA Meeting was about Child Safety with a focus on Internet Safety, Cyber-bullying and Gang Awareness. If you were unable to attend these fantastic seminars or have any additional questions, please feel free to stop by the office to pick up additional info. We have plenty of resources, organizations and individuals available to sit down with you and explain what this means for our children and our community.

I would like to invite parents of current 6th and 7th graders, as well as incoming 6th grade parents, to participate in the Wood PTA and to run for office.

The following positions are appointed by the Executive Board and will need to be filled in the upcoming 2009-10 school year:

- MCCPTA Delegate
- Fundraiser Coordinator
- Restaurant Fundraiser
- Fall Fling Coordinator
- Box Tops/Labels for Education
- Student Directory
- Wood Website Editor
- ICB Registrar

If you or any parent you know is interested in these positions or have any questions about what the position entails, please contact:

Sharon Beckham @ 301.879.2342
<SBeckham@jhhc.com>,
Al Cooper @ 301.424.1048
<AlCooper312@comcast.net>, or
Maria Elena Salientes @ 240.644.8204
<MESalientes@gmail.com>.

Please join us once a month for a Free Parent Information Session at each PTA Meeting in Wood's Media Center: 7:00-8:15pm

April 14: Summer Resources/PTA Nominations for next year

May 12: Academic Updates for next school year

June 9: Welcome new PTA Officers; Board and Committee Members

Upcoming Events

- Mar 30th - No School- Professional Day
- Apr 6th- 13th - No School-Spring Break
- Apr 14th - PTA Meeting
- May 4th -9th - Scholastic Book Fair

For the most current Calendar of Events, please check out our website:
www.woodpta.org

You are welcome to run for any positions on the Executive Board, but we specifically have four positions that will be vacated next year:

- President
- Treasurer
- VP of Administration & Membership
- VP of Classroom Support

TEAM Middle School Teacher Excellence Award for 2009: Gerald Bush III

BALTIMORE, Maryland, January 13, 2009 - The Technology Education Association of Maryland (TEAM) selected Gerald Bush III for the Middle School Teacher Excellence Award. This award is given to the middle school teacher in the State of Maryland who best demonstrates excellence in Technology Education. This year's Teacher Excellence award winner is **Gerald Bush III, Technology Education Instructor**. Jerry is currently piloting the new standards-based course titled *Applied Robotics Engineering-Computer Aided Drafting and Design (ARE-CADD)*. This course was developed to parallel a magnet middle school program, but with Jerry in charge his course was standards-based and not just standards reflective. This new course will be available as a part of a middle school pathway program offered in other middle schools in Montgomery County. Jerry has gained enormous professional respect from cross-discipline teachers and administrators throughout his county and he is a frequent provider of county-wide professional development. At Wood he has designed and developed an efficient, nurturing, and exemplary standards-based technology education program. He models innovation in the variety of teaching techniques and uses technology enhanced teaching strategies to reach and teach all of his students. Jerry is a strong advocate for special education students and the underserved population of students especially ESOL students, who are the fastest growing population in Montgomery County Public Schools. He is a flexible and focused professional who has incredible patience and understanding for all students, but especially those who face more difficulties than the typical middle school-aged child.

Parents Needed!

April 2: MSA Party
 April 15: Career Day for 8th Graders
 May 2-8: Scholastic Bookfair
 May 8-9: Spring Musical Play (Annie)
 May 15: International Night
 June 16th: 8th Grade Ceremony

We need parent volunteers to help out at these events. Your efforts, whether ½ hour or 5 hours, make these student events run smoothly. Watch the kids play at the MSA Party, man a table during the book fair, or give one hour in the classroom to present your technical or professional field, help set up/bbq/break down for the 8th grade ceremony.

Please contact our VP of Volunteers, Ms. Tosha Dyson if you can contribute some time and your presence at Wood. Tosha can be reached by phone (240) 715-5685 or by email: toshadyson79@gmail.com.

SGA is conducting the "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser by collecting money for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. The L&L Society promotes cancer awareness, prevention and research, and also provides care packages to those that have cancer. Wood's goal is to collect \$1000 by the end of March. Throughout this month, you will be seeing advertisements created by the SGA to promote Cancer Awareness.

8th grade Students/Parents: We need your high school enrollment for the 2009-10 school year to take place correctly. If you have moved or are attending private school for the 2009-10 school year instead of Montgomery County Public Schools, please notify the guidance office asap.

GREEN TIP

The Facts: Have you ever felt colder when you sit next to your windows in your home? Does your doorway area have areas that leak in cold air? Could you have a warmer home and save some money on your home heating bills by plugging some of those air leaks? Do you want your house to be cooler in the summer? According to the Alliance to Save Energy, these leaks, although they might be small, can collectively add up to big energy losses. Many energy experts recommend plugging these leaks with caulk or other materials as the first action homeowners should take to lower their fuel costs. Sealing air leaks and installing proper insulation, especially in the attic and crawl spaces can reduce home heating costs by up to \$215-\$375 per year (in Maryland), depending on the fuel used.

And did you know that this year you can get help from the County to save energy? The County is offering Property Tax Credits for energy efficiency (and also renewable energy projects) implemented at home. Property Tax Credits up to \$250 are available for the installation of eligible energy-efficiency devices, (and up to 50% of the cost for a solar photovoltaic (PV) or geothermal system), which is limited to the amount of Montgomery County Property taxes paid over 3 years. Or, you could receive up to \$1,500 for the installation of a solar water heater.

The Tip: Plug air leaks to keep hot air in and cool air out in the winter and hot air out and cool air in for the summer!

For more information, go to: Alliance to Save Energy
http://www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers

Montgomery County Maryland Department of Environmental Protection
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/Energy/incentives>.

The application for the Property Tax Credits and more information is available on the Department of Finance Website (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govtmpl.asp?url=/content/finance/index.asp>) or by calling 240-777-8950.

THE GREEN SHOW!

THIS WEEKEND: March 28 (10am-7pm) & March 29 (10am-5pm)
 @ the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds
www.GoGreenAmericaExpo.com

BOX TOPS! An Easy Way to Give to the Cultural Arts Program

For March, April, and May, if every student brought in 20 box tops per month, Wood MS would make \$1,600 per month (\$5,800 total) to spend on the Cultural Arts Program. *See attached for more detailed description of products participating in Box Tops.*

The Jazz Academy of Music's JAM CAMP 2009

June 29 - July 17, 2009 from 1 to 5 p.m. (no camp July 3)
 Sligo Middle School, 1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902

Students who have achieved the proficiency level of advanced beginner and above are eligible to attend the camp. Students will be admitted to the camp on a first -come, first -served basis until all instrument slots are filled.

Visit www.JazzAcademy.org to learn more and to register.