

# The Wood Word

February 2008

A Monthly Publication of the Earle B. Wood MS Parent Teacher Association



## President's News

For those of you who missed the Cluster Concert this past week, it was wonderful. Kudos to all who worked on the concert.

Hearing/Vision Screening for all grade 8 students, new MCPS students, and referred students will take place Feb. 6, 7 & 8. If your child has eyeglasses or contacts, please send them on the screening dates.

The most important business we discussed at the last PTA meeting was the PTA positions that will be open next year. We are in the process of creating a Nominating Committee and taking nominations for the following Board positions: President, VP of Volunteers, VP of Classroom Support, and MCCPTA Delegate. We will also need new committee chairs for the following: Directory, Hospitality, Cultural Arts, Gifted and Talented, Fall Fundraiser, Restaurant Fundraisers, Scholastic Bookfair, E-Scrap/Box Tops, Fall Fling and Auditing Committee. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Elaine Parks, [elaparks@verizon.net](mailto:elaparks@verizon.net), 301-962-0982, Sharon Beckham, [Sbeckham@jhhc.com](mailto:Sbeckham@jhhc.com), or Pauline Lamberg, [ptlmc@aol.com](mailto:ptlmc@aol.com).

Dr. Foose reported that referrals are down and Wood has made significant gains to narrow the performance gaps we've seen in the past. For example, last year we had 43% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Algebra I or higher. This year it is up to 72%. We also have Algebra in 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year.

Some notes from the school office: 1) Phones are answered daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m. The answering machine is not monitored when it is on, therefore, messages won't be replied to until the following day, 2) If you intend to pick your child up before dismissal, please send a note with your child in the morning to be brought to the main office before 1st period, and a pass will be written and given to your child. This will be less disruptive for the teacher and allow your child to be in the office, waiting for you, when you arrive.

Due to Election Day, our *next PTA meeting* will be held on *Monday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m.* in the *Media Center* at Wood. Michael Tucker will present a guest speaker, Kevin Strauss to introduce his new website, Family E-journal,

Pauline Lamberg-Karlovsky  
E.B. Wood PTA President

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### Upcoming Events

- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - PTA Mtg. @7:00 p.m. in the Media Center
- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> - No School (election day)
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> - Holiday
- Feb/ 26 - Parent Academy - Gangs/Bullying
- Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> - Early Release Day

#### Student Service Learning Hours Update

Check your student's report card for their total accumulated SSL hours. If there are any discrepancies please see the SSL coordinator.

Interested in supporting the campaign of someone running for public office? Why not earn SSL hours at the same time? Be sure to first submit an *Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity* form to the SSL coordinator for approval in advance of service. No SSL hours can be awarded for neighborhood canvassing, or solicitation for donations. Most other activities occurring in public places and under adult supervision may be counted.

For each school year (May-May), Students earning 75 or more SSL hours **outside of the** instructional day are eligible for the Superintendent's Service Learning Award. This year there is no separate application. See SSL coordinator for additional information.

PTA Night in Annapolis- Monday, Feb 11 from 6:30-8:00. 25 of 32 Montgomery County legislators have committed to attend. Topics should include proposed plans and cuts in education, maintenance and construction, and support needed for student mental and emotional well-being.

For additional information, fliers and directions go to [www.mccpta.org](http://www.mccpta.org) or [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org) or contact Victor Salazar, MCCPTA VP for legislation [vbsjpf@verizon.net](mailto:vbsjpf@verizon.net) or 240-603-3238

**Call for Nominations-** the MCCPTA is seeking people who are able to fill positions. If you are interested, please contact any Wood PTA officer.

### *Intercultural Friends Foundation*

The Intercultural Friends Foundation (IFF) is looking for families to host foreign exchange students from Spain and France this summer. Groups will be coming for three or four- week home stays in June, July and August. If you are interested in enriching your summer by hosting a student, please call IFF toll-free at 1-877-647-9500.

### *Congratulations to the following Science Expo Winners*

6th grade: Emily Kjellman, Jonaton Baginski, Sarah Gitterman, Dakota Meyer, Clare Sarsony, Abby Broadhurst, Hanna Terwilliger, Megan Glaser, Katherine Manor, Samantha Bauer, Oscar Mujica, Nicholas Brandon, Jack Berrigan

7th grade: Catherine Nguyen, Emily Janes, Megan Rider, Sarah Huang, Danielle Mehlman, Olivia Youket, Lauren Marple, Caroline Tribble, Olivia Rubbo, Garrett Foss, David Wolf, Scott Clifford, David LoBosco, John Rivera, Ivan Mobley, Iverson Tucker, Mark Sintetos, Amara Jordan, Daniel Calderon, Brandon Raymindez, Prashan Dharmasena

8th grade: Stuart Badger, Elliot Byrne, Tommy Broussard, Sandra Ledezma, Gideon Samara, Isaac Santos, Michael Aubertin, Nick Chisolm, Daneilla Mujica, Elizabeth Axley, Jennifer Morrissey, Natalie Snyder, Prisca Alilio, Rushika Athia, Nicholas Talaat, Ryan Stec, John Wambach, Brian Butke, Phillip Clifford

### RHS RADDAR/Rockville Anti Drug/Drinking Awareness Resource

RADDAR was created after the death of Kyle Williams in October 2006. He died after his car overturned on a neighborhood street on the way home from an underage party. The group was founded on the basis that we could not sit by as more of our children's lives changed due to the use of alcohol and drugs without trying to stem the tide. The goals of the group are: 1) Raise awareness in the Rockville community, especially at RHS and Wood MS, of the widespread student use of alcohol and drugs, and 2) To create a network where parents can gain support from one another and provide tools to help lessen the opportunities for use.

So far, the group has held three presentations to parents, 2 at RHS and one at Wood. Each presentation had a theme; 1) the personal consequences of drug use, 2) the medical effects on our teenagers, 3) liquor company sponsorship of family events.

The Safe Home Pledge was created to help parents take a stand and find other parents willing to stand with them. We have over 130 pledges signed and each signer can access the phone numbers, kids and parents' names, and addresses on a password-protected site. Parents are urged to contact one another when their child has been invited to another child's home.

One of the main issues we face is that when kids drink, they drink to get drunk very quickly. Once drunk, many risky behaviors ensue including driving, walking across busy roads, peer pressure to engage in risky behavior, and more. All of us are just trying to get our kids to adulthood in one piece without being touched by tragedy. We have enough local stories to know that it can happen to us, and our children. Alcohol and drug use does not have to be one of the experiences of growing up.

Additional information and the Safe Home Pledge can be found at [www.RADDAR.us](http://www.RADDAR.us) or call Steve Crowley at 301-924-4736. We welcome those parents willing to take a stand against underage drinking and drug use to join our group and carry on this important mission in the future.