

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maryland PTA: www.mdpta.org
National PTA: www.pta.org

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. This has been a great year for our advocacy efforts. After working hard with other education advocates to obtain a partially elected school board, the first hybrid school board is in place.

The new board has pledged to work together allowing all voices to be heard and has agreed to respect the opinions of the minority with the same respect shown to the majority. What a great example of working together they have shown our children.

For anyone who shrugs and asks if our efforts and time are wasted advocating, the answer is NO; we are seeing the fruits of our hard work! Twice a month, council spokespeople have been addressing the board of education. We

have spoken about the need for additional services, voiced concerns over childhood hunger, behavior issues, bullying, transportation problems, healthy environments, adequate facilities, a better balance between screen time and growing interpersonal relationships, school start times, and better communication. At the January 8 Board of Education meeting, the preliminary budget presented showed that we have been heard. A reduction in money spent on STAT will mean more support staff, smaller class sizes, and many other issues being addressed. That being said, our children need us to keep up fighting for all that they need to succeed in school and at home.

Join us on January 31st at Loch Raven High School for our General Membership Meeting at which we will discuss

all things health and safety. After a few guest speakers get us started, the discussion and the direction we go will be controlled by YOU. Come prepared with questions or areas you want discussed. We welcome all!

Watch for news on Reflections winners and our Awards Ceremony. As always, feel free to contact any board member for help. We are here to be a resource to YOU.

NOTE: Due to PTA Night in Annapolis on February 7, our February Board Meeting is canceled.

Every child. One voice.

Jayne H. Lee

President

president@bcptacouncil.org

410-446-1549

PTA COUNCIL AWARDS

We will honor the people and programs that make local PTAs shine at our **Annual Awards Celebration on May 23 at 7pm, location to be determined.**

PTAs having paid Council dues can submit nomination forms, which will be sent soon or can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

Available Awards:

Unit of Excellence Award

Special Recognition Award

Top Program Awards

Outstanding Educator of the Year

NOMINATIONS DUE May 2nd ~ please email awards@bcptacouncil.org for more info

**PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019**

Loch Raven High School Cafeteria
Doors open at 7pm; meeting and program 7:30 to 9pm

Free and open to the public. This event will be canceled if schools are closed.

Four voting delegate cards for each local unit will be at the registration desk. Presidents who have predetermined delegates should forward names to President Jayne Lee at president@bcptacouncil.org, otherwise we will give delegate cards to the first four people from your PTA who sign in and present their membership cards. The PTA Council President will allow all attendees to participate, but our rules specify that membership cards must be presented to obtain a voting delegate card and that only four members from each PTA can vote. **THANK YOU!**

FEATURED PROGRAM: HEALTH AND SAFETY**Come hear from the following experts:**

- ~ Dr. Amy Wolfson, Loyola University Psychology Professor, will discuss child/adolescent sleep
- ~ National Alliance on Mental Health Metro Baltimore will discuss mental health issues and supports it provides
- ~ Dr. Lahila Ojeda from the Maryland Teen Safe Driving Coalition will discuss their work
- ~ Pediatrician Dr. Scott Krugman will discuss the work of the Baltimore County School Health Council

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- ~ Hear an update on legislation affecting education
- ~ Network with other local PTA leaders
- ~ Raise questions and issues for discussion; PTA Council board members will do their best to address them

BCPS FY2020 OPERATING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

January 15, 2019 at 6:30pm (snow date 1/16/19)
Building E , Room 114, Greenwood Campus

Public may also comment on the budget at the Board of Education's Operating Budget Work Session on January 22 and at the BOE's February 5 meeting.

The budget was presented at the January 8th Board of Education Meeting.
Watch the presentation here: <https://vimeo.com/310474641>

Review the proposed budget here:
<https://www.bcps.org/budget/FY20/FY2020-Proposed-Budget.pdf>

**MARCH FOR OUR SCHOOLS!
MARCH 11, 2019, 6pm to 8pm
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
<http://marchforourschools.com/>**

From Maryland State Education Association (MSEA):

The Kirwan commission was created to give a thorough look at school funding in Maryland and to make recommendations on how to make our schools world-class. The core of that work is the creation of a new school funding formula which will determine the resources each of our schools receive from the state and our county. Other critically important commission work regards teacher pay and retention, expanding pre-kindergarten and increasing teacher planning time.

The school funding formula is going to cost a lot of money - statewide schools are 2.9 billion dollars underfunded. Because the formula work is so difficult, lawmakers in Annapolis have put it off until next year. But the other policy work - teacher pay, planning, pre-k, and the down payment on that expensive funding formula work - will happen this year during our 90-day legislative session.

MSEA is all-in fighting for the best policy changes we can get for our students and for the critical down-payment on the funding formula. If we don't win this year, we won't be able to win next year. **We need our partners in the PTA to join in this fight.** We share a goal: a world-class education for all the children of Baltimore County. Only by getting involved and staying involved in the legislative session this year can we win together.

We will be loud and proud making the voices of educators and parents heard.
RSVP to Kmelfa@mseanea.org and we will sign you up.

PARENT UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS: Conscious Discipline Strategies

Understanding & Managing Behaviors at Home for Pre-K and Elementary Parents
Workshop series beginning January 8 from 6-7pm at Battle Grove ES
Workshop series beginning January 10 from 6-7pm at Campfield Early Learning Center

Using Conscious Discipline at Home
February 5 from 6-7pm at Gunpowder ES

See Page 16 of the Parent University Schedule for more details!
<https://www.bcps.org/parentu/schedule/fullSchedule.pdf>

What is the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education (GT CAC)?

The GT CAC is a community-run committee established by Baltimore County Public Schools to seek meaningful input from parents, students, and advocates on issues related to gifted and talented education within the school system. The GT CAC partners with BCPS to facilitate positive change in the delivery of GT services and in the achievement of students receiving Advanced Academic/GT services.

Meetings are open to the public and are usually held at 7pm on Wednesdays in Building E, Room 114 at the BCPS Greenwood Campus, 6901 Charles St., Towson, MD 21204. Upcoming 2019 meetings: February 6 ~ March 6 ~ April 3 ~ May 8 ~ June 5

Chair Julie Miller-Breetz ~ bcpsgtcac@gmail.com
www.bcpsgtcac.wordpress.com or “like” us on Facebook

Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis, Thursday, February 7, 6pm - 8pm

Maryland House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 170, Annapolis, MD 21401

Come out and meet your Legislators! Let your voice be heard!

RSVP: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efzxx82eb7471e7d&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Email info@mdpta.org with questions

NOTE: DUE TO THIS EVENT, THE FEBRUARY PTA COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING IS CANCELED

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S TOWN HALL MEETINGS

In January and February for all 7 Councilmanic Districts

Find your meeting here:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/executive/townhallmeetings.html>

2018-19 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR***General Meetings and Special Events***

*PTAs in good standing eligible to use 4 voting delegate cards
(cards available at meeting registration table)
Delegates need PTA membership cards to vote*

January 31, 2019: Meeting & Program, Loch Raven HS, 7pm

March 24, 2019: Reflections Ceremony, Cockeysville MS, 2pm

March 28, 2019: Meeting & Program, Loch Raven HS, 7pm

May 23, 2019: Meeting & Recognition Awards, location TBA, 7pm

June 10, 2019: Council Leadership Training, location TBA, 7pm

Board Meetings

Thursdays @ 7pm, Greenwood Mansion Boardroom, 6901 Charles St., Towson

January 3

February 7 (canceled due to PTA Night in Annapolis)

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6

PTA COUNCIL CONTACTS**Mailing address:**

c/o President Jayne Lee, 2311 Sugarcone Rd., 21209

Website: www.bcptacouncil.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCPTAC>

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Area VP Southwest: Vacant

Secretary: Leslie Weber

secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan

treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

LEADER'S TO-DO LIST**JANUARY**

- Pay MD PTA and National PTA membership dues monthly
- Attend the BCPS FY20 Operating Budget Hearing, 1/15, Greenwood Building E, 6:30pm
- Review Council Awards packet
- Review bylaws to determine date and process for selection of local PTA Nominating Committee
- Start thinking about filing MD Annual Report and/or Personal Property Tax Return (see <http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/> for details)
- Attend PTA Council General Meeting, 1/31, 7pm, Loch Raven HS

FEBRUARY

- Pay MD PTA and National PTA membership dues
- Review Council Awards packet
- Federal 990 form due if extension was filed in November
- PTA Night in Annapolis, 2/7, 6-8pm

JANUARY 2019 SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear BCPS parents and educators,

Happy New Year and welcome back!

Let's get this year off to an amazing start by continuing to focus our energy and enthusiasm on our students. We jump right in with major milestones in our annual budget process.

I will propose the operating budget for the 2019-2020 school year to the Board of Education at its meeting on January 8, 2019. You are welcome to provide input during board meetings on January 15 and 22, as well as February 5, when the board is scheduled to vote on the proposed budget. The full operating budget schedule includes a public hearing this spring to be held by the County Executive in preparation for his budget request to the county council.

On January 10, our entire community will celebrate Team BCPS Day, an opportunity for unabashed support for our students and schools. Express blue in any way you can, and share photos using hashtag #BCPSblue.

One of the ways that you can help shape the BCPS budget, staffing, and programs in less than five minutes is by completing our Stakeholder Survey, available online from January 18 through February 24. The survey will be available in 16 languages for parents, community members, and students in Grades 3-12.

If you have not had a chance to subscribe to our Team BCPS weekly e-newsletter, there is no better way to stay in the know. I hope you will stay in touch!

Sincerely, **Verletta White**, *Interim Superintendent*

**BCPS PARENT
UNIVERSITY**

Full schedule of
community events
on its website:

[http://
www.bcps.org/
parentu/schedule/
fullSchedule.pdf](http://www.bcps.org/parentu/schedule/fullSchedule.pdf)

**BCPS 2019 Stakeholder Survey
Open January 18 to February 24!**

Survey data guides school improvement, staff training, office safety, and staff organization. Students in Grades 3-12, parents, community members, and staff may take the brief, anonymous survey at <https://www.bcps.org/teamBCPS/stakeholder/> (available in 16 languages)

If you are a BCPS parent and employee, or if you have children in more than one school, you can take the survey more than once to reflect these experiences.

**BCPS E-
NEWSLETTER**

Sign up to receive this
weekly information-
packed newsletter!

[http://www.bcps.org/
news/
TeamBCPSNewslet-
ter.html](http://www.bcps.org/news/TeamBCPSNewsletter.html)