

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm happy to see 2020 gone. All of us have been affected by COVID-19 whether by way of quarantine, loss of income, or personal loss. I have hope that by the end of this year, things will be better. I look forward to getting vaccinated and getting our youth back in the classrooms. Things won't be "normal" for some time, but, hopefully we're rounding the corner.

The physical and mental health of students, families, and school communities have been affected by this virus. Please check in with those who are alone or at risk. Check the Baltimore County Health Department, the BCPS website, and www.NPTA.org for resources for help, and feel free to contact us for ideas or resources.

On Christmas Day, PTA Council of Baltimore County suffered the loss of long-time advocate Marilyn Ryan. The Ryans, Marilyn and John, have been active child advocates in Baltimore County since moving to Parkville in 1958. Marilyn volunteered at Carney Elementary School twice a week up until Covid closed schools. Anyone in Baltimore County who has ever had a bylaws question probably worked with her. She has also put together our directory for as long as I can remember.

Marilyn was my mentor. I thought

of her as my "PTA Mom." I followed and then preceded her terms as Council Bylaws Chair. I also followed her as MDPTA Bylaws and Procedures Chair. I always looked to her for opinions on bylaws and parliamentary procedure. I also looked forward to our conversations on everything.

She is a loss to all of us, and it will take many people to handle all that she did for us. PTA Council will be offering a scholarship in her name to a high school senior who has shown exemplary community service and values volunteerism. It's our way of honoring her memory and belief in making the world better by our actions.

There is some news on the MDPTA/NPTA front. MDPTA has sent out instructions that virtual meetings where all can be seen and heard (Zoom, Webex, Google meetings, Microsoft Teams, etc.) and which allow for voting are to be considered the same as in-person meetings. If you need help with the process, please contact me.

NPTA has also informed us that they've taken action to ensure the protection of MDPTA finances and asked that we tell locals to submit their 2020-21 dues.

While things have slowed down, we are still responsible for getting all

tax forms filed. If you need help, please contact Emory Young at extension@bcptacouncil.org or feel free to contact me.

News of a Virtual General Meeting will be going out shortly; we've had to reschedule our planned January meeting due to a conflicting meeting some of us have to attend. We will be discussing PTA in a virtual year, as well as the Maryland Legislative Session.

Our Nominating Committee is looking for people willing to fill ALL PTA Council Board of Directors' positions for the coming year. Please think about stepping up.

Our Awards Committee is looking for your nominees for Educator and Volunteer recognition, as well as Seniors looking for scholarships. Information is on our website and in this newsletter.

Thank you for your commitment to the children of Baltimore County, especially in these trying times. We're here to be a resource to you. Please let us know how we can help.

Every child. One voice,

Jayne Lee

President, PTA Council of
Baltimore County

410-446-1459

president@bcptacouncil.org
baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN RYAN

We believe this article beautifully sums up Marilyn's and her husband John's contributions to Baltimore County Public Schools

FROM BCPS SPOTLIGHTS - 2/12/2016**FACEs (Family and Community Engagement) of the Week
John and Marilyn Ryan, PTA Council of Baltimore County**

For folks like Kathleen Wiles, it seems as if John and Marilyn Ryan have always been part of Carney Elementary School.

The Ryans were active in the school's PTA when Wiles, now the school's library/media specialist, was a student at Carney. Today, the Ryans are still there; Marilyn volunteers twice weekly to help Wiles organize the school's well-used library.

Wiles says of Marilyn and John, "They just see what they can do, and they go at it. They don't have any agenda other than seeing that Carney is a great place to live and raise your kids. "They just don't make them like that anymore."

It probably seems like the Ryans have always been there to a lot of people. Together, they have served BCPS and its schools for nearly 60 years; between the two, they have dedicated more than a century's worth of PTA leadership and volunteering to Parkville-area schools and the school system.

Their longevity comes as an anomaly. While many volunteers and PTA officers end their service when children move on to higher grades or graduate, the Ryans remained fixtures in their community schools and BCPS even after their youngest of four children graduated from Parkville High School in 1972.

"I don't know if quitting ever even came up," John says.

Today, they are familiar faces at PTA Council meetings, at area schools, at concerts and recognition ceremonies, and at bimonthly meetings of the Board of Education of Baltimore County.

"Their dedication to children and the PTA is unmatched," says Emory Young, president of the PTA Council of Baltimore County. "They are the perfect pair and an excellent team. . . . They are a joy to talk to about any topic, and it is a pleasure listening to some of their experiences over the years."

Establishing their 'second family'

Both native Pennsylvanians, the Ryans landed in Parkville in 1958 after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, where they met. He had taken a job working on airplanes, ships, and submarines for Martin Marietta and the U.S. Navy. She was teaching, and they both were exploring their new home and raising their four children – Pat, Cindy, Rich, and Laurie – all of whom would graduate from Parkville High. (Two, Cindy and Laurie, are now educators in BCPS schools.)

"When we came to Baltimore, we didn't know a soul. Everything was centered on the kids," Marilyn said. She and her husband began to volunteer for a variety of community organizations, figuring that involvement would be a good way to meet their new neighbors and enrich their growing family.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN RYAN (cont'd)

They agree that it was a stubborn, policy-straitjacketed school counselor at then-Parkville Junior High School who ignited their activist spark. “He swore up one side and down another that girls shouldn’t be taking Algebra II,” says Marilyn, still indignant at the thought. Marilyn, herself a college mathematics and engineering major, notes that her daughter ultimately did take Algebra II.

That difference of opinion launched the duo on a lifetime of advocacy and volunteerism in the public schools. PTA memberships led to PTA leadership positions at Carney Elementary, Parkville Junior High, and Parkville High School. In the 1970s and 1980s, John took on state PTA leadership positions, while Marilyn continued working as a substitute teacher and a volunteer at schools and with a variety of civic and educational organizations.

Marilyn gave up on substitute teaching about 10 years ago, but her volunteer efforts at Carney and elsewhere have continued uninterrupted for 43 years.

“It’s almost like a second family for us now at Carney,” Marilyn says.

Looking back, looking ahead

Today, the couple keeps busy in leadership positions with the county PTA Council and keeping an eye on state and national PTA matters. “Their knowledge and experience make them not only valuable (Council) members, but an important resource to the local PTA units in Baltimore County,” says Young.

When the Ryans are asked to look back, they see a rapidly changing school system and one vastly different from the early 1960s. “PTAs are different today, too,” Marilyn says. “When we started out, there were not so many working mothers as there are today. For women, the PTA was their social outlet. It’s really changed over the years.”

Despite what Young calls their “humble and low-key” style, the Ryans say they know they have made a difference. “Yes, it’s been rewarding,” says John. “We’ve been recognized over the years for many of the things we’ve helped with, and that’s been nice.

“Hopefully,” he adds, “we’ll be remembered for doing some good.”

**JANUARY 28 PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING/PROGRAM
RESCHEDULED ~ DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Because several board members must attend a county-level education meeting on 1/28/2021, we have to reschedule our General Meeting and Program.

As soon as a new date is chosen (likely in February), we’ll email presidents and will provide a Zoom meeting link.

The planned program will include a presentation ~ PTA in a Virtual World, followed by a Q&A session and a legislative update.

SUPERINTENDENT'S JANUARY 2021 MESSAGE

Dear Team BCPS educators and families,

First of all, Happy New Year and welcome back!

We begin 2021 with plenty of hope and optimism, but also facing the continuing impact of COVID-19 and the ransomware attack. I look forward to working alongside with you as we remain squarely focused on what's best for our students.

To that end, on January 26, we are planning to offer PSAT Day for Grade 11 students who registered to participate. This is a voluntary opportunity that allows students to qualify for college scholarships based on their PSAT score.

As you know, we are in the midst of long-term review, repair, and recovery from the ransomware attack. Thankfully, third-party experts have confirmed that there is no evidence that any data was accessed or stolen.

Our IT team is working very hard to restore our operations with support with office and school leaders and staff. It will take some time. The device reimaging process provides extra protection as we move forward, and we are prioritizing high school students and teachers. All staff and students will have the opportunity to reimage devices.

We are rebuilding core systems including payroll and benefits, and we are sharing updates on our website regarding student enrollment, report cards, transcripts, among other topics. As issues arise, please remember that families and staff have two ways to request [tech support](#) – by phone or through an online form.

We have shared our updated [Reopening Plan](#) with students grouped into four phases. Note that the timing of returning small groups of students to school buildings will depend on meeting state and local health metrics.

Phase I: Public Separate Day Schools -- Battle Monument, Maiden Choice, Ridge Ruxton, and White Oak schools (Appendix L)

Phase II: Preschool – Grade 2 -- Students in our 3-year-old programs, 4-year-old programs, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2, and Grade 3 students in a Grades 2/3 class in a special education regional program (Appendix M)

Phase III: 2 groups -- Students in Grades 3 – 12 whose Individualized Education Program includes a least restrictive environment that is primarily outside of the general education classroom setting; and students in select Career and Technical Education programs that require hands-on learning experiences for credentialing (Appendix N)

Phase IV: All students Grades 3 – 12 -- Remaining students in Grades 3 – 12 (Appendix O)

Families will find information from the Reopening Plan indexed in the [Parent University InfoCenter](#) under the headings:

COVID-19 and BCPS (general information and family choice)

Hybrid Learning

Virtual Learning.

The Reopening Plan, Parent University InfoCenter, and health metrics are also available from our [home page](#).

(message continued on next page)

SUPERINTENDENT'S JANUARY 2021 MESSAGE (cont'd)

Looking ahead, I presented to the board my [proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year](#), which invests in our staff while continuing the work of *The Compass: Our Pathway to Excellence*. The budget process includes public input, the board's proposed budget, and a budget proposal from County Executive John Olszewski to the County Council, before the final budget is approved by the County Council.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge two of our outstanding educators. Deana Giannelli of Perry Hall Middle School was named Maryland Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. Taylor Boren of Logan Elementary was named Maryland Elementary Art Educator of the Year. These statewide honors showcase the excellence of our staff even during these challenging times.

As always, I want to thank this community for withstanding one obstacle after another, yet always thinking first of our students. We are certainly looking ahead to better days. Let's have a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Darryl L. Williams
Superintendent

Dr. Williams' Compass - Our Pathway to Excellence

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcps/Board.nsf/files/BQ7LBR51D3E0/\\$file/Strategic%20Plan%20Presentation%20BOE.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcps/Board.nsf/files/BQ7LBR51D3E0/$file/Strategic%20Plan%20Presentation%20BOE.pdf)

PARENT UNIVERSITY'S FACETIME NEWSLETTER
Home Edition, 1/21/2021

<https://www.smore.com/ceb91-parent-university>

BCPS PARENT UNIVERSITY

Full schedule of events on its website:

<http://www.bcps.org/parentu/schedule/fullSchedule.pdf>

BCPS E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive this weekly information-packed newsletter!

<http://www.bcps.org/news/TeamBCPSNewsletter.html>

NATIONAL PTA'S 2021 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
MARCH 9, 10, 11

During this event, you'll expand your knowledge of the ins and outs of federal law, grow your advocacy skills, explore National PTA's legislative priorities for the 117th Congress, virtually meet with your federal representatives on Capitol Hill, and more! Your voice is a powerful force for change. That's why, March 9-11, PTA will take action together for every child.

Please let PTA Council know if you're interested in attending. We must complete and pay for registrations by February 4th!

**NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS:
2021 VIRTUAL STUDENT ARTS SHOWCASE**

YouTube.com/National PTA
January 26, pre-show 6:45pm, showcase 7:00pm

The virtual showcase will feature select artists and recognize all participating artists from the 2019-2020 Reflections year.

This is an open invitation. Please share this event with friends and family and celebrate with us!

RVSP to tell us you'll be attending and we'll send you an art activity and event reminder so you don't miss a moment of the excitement.

[2021 Reflections Showcase RSVP Page \(informz.net\)](#)

PTA COUNCIL REFLECTIONS UPDATE

From PTA Council Reflections Chair Hope Metzler (reflections@bcptacouncil.org)

Local unit PTA submissions are now at the county level for judging and will be submitted to Maryland PTA in mid-February. MDPTA will announce recipients in mid-March, and National PTA will announce recipients in May ~ winners attend the NPTA Convention.

The PTA Council Reflections Ceremony is planned for Sunday, March 21 at 2pm and will most likely be a virtual event (we'll keep you posted!)

Find Reflections on Social Media:

Slogan: "Reflect, Create, Celebrate!"

Website - bcptacouncil.org with a link to <https://sites.google.com/view/bcreflect/home>

Facebook - @bcreflect

Twitter - @bcptareflec

PTA COUNCIL PARTICIPATES IN COUNTY TASKFORCES

The Baltimore County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Taskforce, created by the County Council in August 2020, is evaluating methods to improve the Baltimore County APFO as it relates to development and the need for adequate infrastructure, particularly public school facilities. Visit <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/boards%20and%20commissions/apfotaskforce.html> for more info.

Baltimore County Government and BCPS have initiated the **Multi-year Improvement Plan for All Schools (MYIPAS)** to develop a long-range plan to address school-construction needs and allocate resources equitably. MYIPAS is being facilitated by CannonDesign, a national architecture and planning company.

MYIPAS will develop a capital improvement program that maximizes state funding, defines facility priorities with community input, and assesses existing facilities based on three factors: enrollment projections, capacity and utilization; educational adequacy and equity; and facilities conditions. For more info, visit <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/myipas.html>

PTA COUNCIL AWARDS

It's not too early to start thinking about nominating an outstanding volunteer, staff member, or educator to show how much your unit appreciates them!

Because PTAs/PTSAs have been operating virtually all year, we won't be recognizing Top Programs or Units of Excellence this year.

Recipients will be recognized at the annual awards celebration held during the PTA Leadership Training Event on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7pm (likely a virtual event; if in-person, location will be determined)

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

- ⇒ **Special Recognition Award** to give each PTA the opportunity to have one of its members, parents, teachers, staff members or volunteers receive countywide recognition for doing a great job
- ⇒ **Outstanding Educator of the Year** to honor one primary and one secondary educator

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE ON APRIL 30 and can be submitted via US mail or email.

For more information, email awards@bcptacouncil.org or visit our website: <http://bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

PTA Council offers scholarships (\$500 on average) to high school seniors in Baltimore County Public Schools! The following factors will be considered with each application:

Student's membership in a Baltimore County PTA in good standing ~ Financial Need
Academic Record ~ Student Resume ~ Essay

PTA Council grants two special scholarships:

- ⇒ **The Georgie Clevenger Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating BCPS senior planning on a career in nursing
- ⇒ *New this year:* **The Marilyn Ryan Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating BCPS senior with exceptional volunteering or community service

Applications are due **April 30, 2021!**

The PTA Council Scholarship Committee will make selections in May and recipients, principals, and sponsoring PTA units will be notified.

Application and details here: <http://bcptacouncil.org/scholarships/>

2020-21 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR*General Meetings and Special Events*

January 28, 2021: Meeting and Program ~ RESCHEDULED, TBA

March 21, 2021: Reflections Ceremony, 2pm

March 25, 2021: Meeting and Program, 7pm

April 29, 2021: Meeting and Elections, 7pm

June 14, 2021: Council Leadership Training & Awards, 7pm

Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursdays @ 7pm in
Greenwood Mansion Boardroom
6901 Charles St., Towson
(virtual til further notice)

2021:

January 7, February 4, March 4,
April 8, May 6, June 3

HOW TO FIND US!

Mailing address: c/o President Jayne Lee
2311 Sugarcone Rd., Baltimore MD 21209

Website: www.bcptacouncil.org

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

Twitter: Follow @BCPTA

President: Jayne Lee, president@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Central Area Christina Pumphrey
avpcanc@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Northeast Area Frances Craig
avpnenc@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Northwest Area: Ryan Coleman
avpnwnc@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer
avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org

Secretary: Leslie Weber
secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan
treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

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

- Pay MD PTA and NPTA dues
- Review 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)
- If not yet done, file 990 and MD Charitable Form (for help, contact Jayne Lee or MDPTA office (410-760-6221); forms must be filed to retain status as active PTA and fundraise in Maryland)

FEBRUARY

- Pay MD PTA and NPTA membership dues
- Review Awards packet
- 990 form due if extension was filed in November

PTA COUNCIL ELECTIONS, SPRING 2021

All officer positions are open (President, 1st VP, VP for Leadership, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area VPs (Central, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest). Nominations will be presented at our March General Meeting and elections will take place at our April General Meeting.

If interested in serving, please contact

Nominating Committee Chair Frances Craig at nominatrice@bcptacouncil.org

MARYLAND PTA BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments meeting criteria are considered by the Maryland PTA Bylaws Committee and forwarded to the Maryland PTA Board of Directors. Amendments may be submitted by individual members, local PTAs, or council PTAs. Each must include:

- ⇒ Submitter's name and association (if an individual, the PTA at which he/she is a member; if a local PTA, the local and council PTA names, if applicable; or the council PTA name)
- ⇒ Contact name, PTA position, email address, and telephone number (for possible questions)
- ⇒ Amendment number
- ⇒ Current bylaws wording addressed for amendment (complete article and section)
- ⇒ Motion to amend the current wording with the action (to insert or add, strike out, strike out and insert, or substitute word or words)
- ⇒ Proposed wording as it would read as amended
- ⇒ Rationale for the amendment
- ⇒ Any additional amendments proposed associated with the motion (if adopted, the motion would affect other wording in the bylaws)
- ⇒ Comments (either related to the additional proposed amendments or any other information)

Submit proposed amendments:

- ⇒ Maryland PTA Bylaws Amendment Submission Form: [Form-Proposed-Bylaws-Amendment-Submission.pdf \(mdpta.org\)](#)
- ⇒ Email: bylawamendments@mdpta.org
- ⇒ Mail: Bylaws Committee c/o Maryland PTA, 5 Central Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Submissions to be considered at the 2021 Maryland PTA Annual Meeting must be received no later than **February 28, 2021**.

REVISED MARYLAND PTA GUIDANCE ON MEETINGS!

The Maryland PTA Board of Directors and National PTA-assigned Support Team have amended previous guidance on PTA operations ~ specifically holding meetings ~ during the COVID-19 Emergency.

Virtual meetings where all can be seen and heard (Zoom, Webex, Google meetings, Microsoft Teams, etc.), and which allow for voting, **will be considered the same as in-person meetings**.

Maryland PTA and the Support Team will provide detailed guidance about conducting virtual meetings. Until that guidance is published, you may request assistance from virtualmeetings@mdpta.org.