



everychild. onevoice.

# September 2015 BULLETIN

PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.

Established 1950

[www.bcptacouncil.org](http://www.bcptacouncil.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maryland PTA: [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org)  
National PTA: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

### Welcome to a new school year!

We look forward to partnering with you to help your PT(S)A run smoothly. Our website has been **totally revamped** with great resources to help you.

**Please visit:**

[www.bcptacouncil.org](http://www.bcptacouncil.org)

The website includes a Local Leaders' Corner where you can ask each other questions and share information. The password is: **ptacouncil1950**

**Please only share this with other officers.**

A great website feature under construction is an **online directory**. We'll let you know when it's up and running. Because of this, the blue hardcopy directory will **not be printed** and mailed this year.

PTA Council has decided to use **Constant Contact** to send reminders. We've sent our back-to-school message to local leaders who submitted contact information. If you haven't done so yet, **PLEASE** send us your officer contact information; see below for details.

One of the best resources for your use is the **National PTA's Back-to-School Kit**. It offers detailed information on membership, finances, hosting programs, fundraising, and more. **[www.ptakit.org](http://www.ptakit.org)**

PTA Council is here to help!  
All the best for a great year!

*Emory Young*  
*President*  
410-935-8927  
[president@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:president@bcptacouncil.org)

### PLEASE SUBMIT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION!

Maryland PTA and PTA Council need contact information for every local unit leader (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary) in the county. To share your information with PTA Council, please use the form on the homepage of our website or email the information to [directory@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:directory@bcptacouncil.org). To share your information with MD PTA, visit the MD PTA website and download the Local Contact Information Form: <http://mdpta.org/forms.html>

### GOING GREEN!

Last year, we published this bulletin 5 times per year. Now that our website has all you need to know to run your PT(S)A and because we plan to use Constant Contact extensively, this and possible future bulletins will be quite short.

**Please visit our website to view upcoming events and news.**

**THE POWER OF THE PTA!**

Local PT(S)As reach out to parents, school staff, and the community to build strong family-school partnerships to benefit every BCPS student.

Through training and support, PTA Council helps locals meet their members' goals as they advocate on behalf of students. Council links 154 locals to state and national PTA programs, initiatives, purposes and mission.

*PTA serves as:*

- *A powerful voice for all children*
- *A relevant resource for families and communities*
- *A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child*

**PTA COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOALS 2015-16**

- ◆ Promote the PTA as the most prominent and visible child advocacy organization in Baltimore County
- ◆ Increase PTA membership in Baltimore County
- ◆ Assist all PTA units to achieve and maintain the Standards of Continuing Affiliation (SoCA) established by Maryland PTA
- ◆ Actively recruit and welcome members to fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors

*Adopted September 3, 2015*

**2015-16 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR*****General Meetings and Special Events***

*PTAs in good standing receive 4 voting delegate cards in advance (delegates need PTA membership cards to vote)*

**October 22, 2015: Fall Reception & Workshops, New Town High, Exhibit Area 6pm, Meeting 7pm followed by Workshops (light dinner served during Reception)**

**January 28, 2016: Meeting and Program, location TBA, 7pm**

**March 13, 2016: Reflections Ceremony, location TBA, 2pm**

**March 17, 2016: Meeting and Program, location TBA, 7pm**

**April 28, 2016: Meeting & Council Recognition Awards, location TBA, 7pm**

**June 7, 2016: Council Leadership Training, location TBA, 7pm**

***Board of Directors' Meetings***

**Thursdays @ 7:30pm, Building E, 6901 Charles St.**

October 1, 2015  
November 5, 2015  
December 3, 2015  
January 7, 2016  
February 4, 2016  
March 3, 2016  
April 7, 2016  
May 4, 2016  
June 2, 2016

**PTA Council Seeks Exceptional People to Fill Board Positions!**

If you're interested in serving or know of an excellent candidate, please contact:

Central Area: [nominationc@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominationc@bcptacouncil.org)  
NW Area: [nominationnw@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominationnw@bcptacouncil.org)

NE Area: [nominationne@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominationne@bcptacouncil.org)  
SW Area: [nominationsw@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominationsw@bcptacouncil.org)

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- ⇒ **PTA COUNCIL DUES DUE BY 10/1:** Contact [secretary@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:secretary@bcptacouncil.org) for help.
- ⇒ **INSURANCE:** Maryland PTA and your local unit are now covered by Knight Insurance Services. Please see the Finances/Insurance section of our website for details.
- ⇒ **LOCAL LEADER'S CHECKLIST:** Visit the Resources Section of the Council website to access this important list to remind you of key dates and tasks tied to running your unit.
- ⇒ **PTA CORRESPONDENCE:** When sending mail or email, do not include business information with your signature, which uses the PTA for personal gain, a violation of the non-commercial provision of our tax-exempt status and of our bylaws.

**STANDARDS OF CONTINUING AFFILIATION**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Every PT(S)A must conduct an annual financial review and send a copy to MD PTA, 5 Central Ave, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Refer to MD PTA "Cash Encounters" in the Finances section of our website for a sample report.

**IRS 990:** Every PT(S)A is required to file annually by November 15th. If annual gross income was \$50,000 or less you can e-file the 990 e-postcard. Provide a copy of 990 filing to MD PTA. For assistance in filing the IRS 990 contact MD PTA at 410-760-6221.

**INSURANCE:** Every Maryland PT(S)A must have insurance coverage through Knight Insurance Services. Enrollment forms for 2015-16 coverage were sent to all PT(S)As. This form can also be downloaded at [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org). Current coverage ends on 6/30/16.

**INCORPORATION:** All local PT(S)As must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Tax Return must be filed by April 15th each year whether or not your PT(S)A owns any property. Check your status at the Taxation and Assessment website at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us). If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact MD PTA at 410-760-6221.

**BYLAWS:** Need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to MD PTA for approval. For assistance revising, contact [bylaws@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:bylaws@bcptacouncil.org).

**LOCAL LEADER'S TO-DO LIST****SEPTEMBER**

- Conduct general membership meeting/adopt 2015-16 PTA budget
- Register for PTA Council Fall Reception & Workshops, 10/22, New Town HS
- Pay MD PTA and National PTA membership dues monthly
- Distribute cards to your members
- Pay PTA Council dues (due 10/1)

**OCTOBER**

- Send copy of annual financial review to MD PTA (due 10/30)
- Attend PTA Council Fall Reception & Workshops, 10/22, New Town HS
- Pay MD PTA and National PTA membership dues monthly
- Distribute cards to your members
- Begin work on Reflections

**PTA COUNCIL "OFFICE"**

Our all-volunteer council doesn't have an office, but here's how to reach us:

Mailing address:  
Cockeysville Middle School  
10401 Greenside Dr.  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

When using interschool mail, please clearly indicate  
Attn: PTA Council, Cockeysville MS on the envelope.

Of course you can always reach us by email. All officer and committee chair emails are on our website in the "About Us" section.

**PTA COUNCIL CONTACTS**

**President:** Emory Young  
president@bcptacouncil.org  
**Secretary:** Georgie Clevenger  
secretary@bcptacouncil.org  
**Treasurer:** John Ryan  
treasurer@bcptacouncil.org  
**Committee Chairs:** on website

**Website:** www.bcptacouncil.org  
**Facebook:** https://  
www.facebook.com/BCPTAC  
**Twitter:** Follow @BCPTA

**FALL RECEPTION, WORKSHOPS AND GENERAL MEETING****THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015****6-9:30PM****NEW TOWN HIGH SCHOOL****4931 New Town Blvd., Owings Mills 21117**

- ♦ Exhibit area opens at 6pm; learn from BCPS personnel and community groups
- ♦ Meet other PTA leaders
- ♦ Light dinner served during reception
- ♦ General Meeting begins at 7pm
- ♦ Workshops begin after meeting; all workshops geared to learning how to better run your local unit
- ♦ Bring Voting Delegate to vote during meeting
- ♦ Bring your PTA membership card to register
- ♦ Registration fee is a legitimate PTA expense

**NATIONAL PTA'S ANNUAL REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**  
*2015-16 Theme: "Let Your Imagination Fly"*

Reflections offers students Pre-K to Grade 12 the opportunity to create original works of art in 6 categories: **dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, visual arts, and photography.**

A total of 4 entries per age division (Primary (Pre-K-Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle (Grades 6-8), High (Grades 9-12), Special Artist (All Grades)) in each of the 6 categories can be submitted to PTA Council for judging in early January.

Entries receiving County Awards of Excellence are forwarded to Maryland PTA for judging. The state forwards Outstanding Interpretation entries to National PTA for judging. Participants are recognized at each level.

**Visit [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org) and click on "Reflections" for more information.**

*Send your Reflections Coordinator's name/email/number to*

*[reflections@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:reflections@bcptacouncil.org)*

**PTA COUNCIL  
MEMBERSHIP TOOLS**

Please visit the Committees/Membership Section of our website for valuable membership information and tips! Find a sample easy-to-fill-out (and read) membership form to give to your school community!

<http://www.bcptacouncil.org/resources/membership/>

**NATIONAL & MARYLAND PTA  
MEMBERSHIP TOOLS**

**National PTA Membership Toolkit**  
<http://www.pta.org/members/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3107>

**MDPTA Membership Information**  
[http://www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_membership.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_membership.html)

**MARYLAND PTA MANDATORY ONLINE FINANCIAL TRAINING**

[http://www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_training.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_training.html)

**BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 410-887-3828****Parents – Preventing Substance Abuse is No Minor Thing: Take Action!**

The start of another year of school brings excitement for both parents and youth, however, research shows that every year a student progresses in school, is another year that he or she is closer to being introduced to alcohol or drugs and their associated risks. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, by senior year in high school, almost 70% of students will have tried alcohol and 50% will have taken an illegal drug. Although adolescents are “biologically wired” to seek new experiences and try new things, they are also at risk when it comes to consuming alcohol or ingesting drugs. Studies cited by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. indicate that **young people who start drinking alcohol before age 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol abuse or dependence than people who first used alcohol at age 21 or older.** Research for drug use and drug addiction have found similar results.

The human brain doesn't finish developing until the age of 25, and according to the National Institute of Mental Health, the last portion to grow is the prefrontal cortex, the area critical to a person's judgement, impulse control and ability to assess risk. As a result, youth who are exposed to alcohol, drugs and tobacco in their teen years are making decisions that neither they nor their brains are adequately prepared to make.

**Help your teen make the right decisions. Use these tips to prevent substance use:**

- Spend time with your child and know what's happening in his or her life.
- Know your child's friends. Having friends who avoid cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs may be your teen's best protection from substance abuse.
- Maintain open communication that involves non-judgmental conversation (listen more than you talk).
- Keep your teen busy with meaningful activities, such as sports, faith-based programs, or other groups.
- Practice scenarios where your child can say 'no' to using or trying drugs or alcohol.
- Be clear on your limits and expectations regarding your child's nonuse of alcohol and other drugs. If your child thinks that you will allow substance use, he or she is more likely to try drugs or alcohol.
- Expect your child to follow the household rules. Set reasonable consequences for behavior that needs to change, and consistently carry out the consequences.
- Praise your child for even the little things he or she does well.

Laying the groundwork now for alcohol and drug prevention is the best way to start your child or teen out on the “right” course for both the school year and life. For more information, visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration websites:

<http://toosmarttostart.samhsa.gov/families/help/howtofindhelp.aspx>

<http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/parent-resources>