



The Howler

Publication of the Shady Grove Middle School PTA • November 2004

*Home of the
Timberwolves*

A Successful First Quarter

The first marking period is almost behind us - where does the time go??? Our After School Activities are well underway. Please check the green Extra-Curricular Activities Booklet to see what we have available. These booklets went home on September 20. Call the office if you have any questions. The softball season is coming to end. Although the kids didn't have the winning season they were hoping for, they did an awesome job. We have some extremely talented athletes. Get ready, Magruder!!! Shady Grove Middle School will be the place to be on the evening of November 5. The best and brightest talent will be performing. We even have several staff members who will be singing and dancing! Should be a fun-filled night, so mark your calendars. The annual SGMS Book Fair will be open that evening, so come early and browse through the collection of books.

The second annual Spaghetti Dinner held on October 21 was absolutely marvelous. We had over 300 people enjoy each other's company, while having a delicious dinner. Carrabbas Italian Grill supplied the sauce. Ms. Joanne Wright, cafeteria manager, went above and beyond the call of duty acquiring eight fabulous door prizes. We started a wonderful tradition at Shady Grove, not to mention it's the best deal in town!

We were allocated an additional .6 staffing to help alleviate large class sizes. We're finally all settled in. Thank you for your patience and understanding through this period.

We had a great turnout for our Open House on October 11. I was thrilled so many parents were able to stop by and visit their children's classrooms. My heartfelt thanks to all students and families who participated in our 2nd annual PTA fundraiser. We raised \$10,200 this year. I will keep you informed with regard to the instructional materials purchased throughout the year.

We're starting something new at Shady Grove. We will be selecting a *Student of the Quarter*. The academic teams, along with the PE department, the arts department, and our special education departments will be selecting students based on the following: performance in class, behavior, and

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Important Dates

November 1 & 2	No School!
November 5 – 12	Book Fair (Staff Lounge)
November 5	Talent Show
November 9	Picture Make-up Day PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m. (Dr. Tarazi – guest speaker!)
November 10 & 11	Half Days – Parent Conferences
November 11	Report Cards
November 15	Principals' Coffee 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
November 17	<i>Student of the Quarter</i> Reception
November 18	Progress Reports
November 19	Turkey Trott through PE Classes; School Dance
November 25 & 26	No School! Thanksgiving Holiday

A Message From...

Lance Dempsey,
Principal

It's Academic

Sixth Grade News

The transition period from elementary to secondary school is now over and our sixth grade students are becoming accustomed to the increased rigor of middle school. Having received your child's interim report in the mail, all of our parents should have a good picture of their child's progress thus far in the first nine weeks. While most of our students are off to a strong start, we still encourage you to check your child's planner each evening. Many of your child's teachers will put a "Homework Missing" stamp in the student's planner if a homework is missed. More than a couple of these stamps, especially towards the end of the first nine weeks, indicates a problem and suggests that more guidance at home with homework may be necessary.

Science

We ended October applying everything we learned the first marking period to the imaginary ecosystem of The Lorax. As November begins, we will be looking to the skies. The second marking period we will be studying astronomy, focusing on the Earth, sun and moon system. We are looking for the moon daily trying to determine its pattern and what causes it. We will examine other celestial patterns such as day/night, length of year, and length of daylight throughout the unit.

Reading

In reading, 6th graders are working on text structures which helps them analyze their exposition texts, World Studies and Science texts. We will continue using reading strategies such as visualizing, predicting, clarifying, summarizing etc. to help with the comprehension of their

expository texts. We will also begin practicing the writing of BCRs which they have to know for the Maryland State Assessments. There is homework every night in reading. Students should be doing vocabulary homework, and they should be reading and filling out the reading logs which require a parent signature. All homework is collected on Thursdays; the reading log is collected on Fridays. The spelling and vocabulary test is always on Friday, unless noted otherwise.

Social Studies

Our 6th grade social studies scholars have now left the early farmers and hunting and gatherers behind as we begin our studies of some of the earliest civilization. Mesopotamia and Egypt will be featured, as well as a brief side trip to the Indus River Valley. In these investigations, we will be examining the seen and unseen aspects of culture. On the last day of the marking period, October 29, all 6th graders will participate in Mummy day. On this day, students will apply what they have learned about Egyptian art, religion, burial practices and writing methods to produce a life size sarcophagus with a partner.

Math

Math A students are working on Unit 2 with "Fractions, Decimals and Percents." The first section of the unit focuses on decimal operations and applications. They will work with decimals to include the operations of multiplication and division and then extend this into fractions.

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Who's Who

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It's Academic

Continued from page 2

Sixth Grade News...

Estimation will play a significant role in developing students' understanding of algorithms for multiplication and division of fractions.

Math B students will focus on large and small numbers, using exponents and scientific notation. They will also solve one step- and two step-equations and inequalities containing integers and perform the four operations on integers.

The IM students have begun their study of Unit 2 on Relations and Finite Operational Systems. They will investigate relations and functions represented by various methods. They will apply group theory to finite systems.

English

The end of the first marking period has been a busy one in English classes. Students have

finished reading their novels, *Maniac Magee* or *The View from Saturday*. While reading the novels, students participated in literature circles and were assigned various roles within these literature circles. Students also learned to provide textual support while analyzing various themes in the novels and while formulating character traits for the main characters. As part of grammar instruction, students identified subjects and predicates in sentences. They also applied research skills in the media center to create a brochure about the day they were born; they were particularly excited about this project and put forth a great deal of effort! The next marking period's theme will center around adventure.

Douglas Jacoby, 6th Grade Team Leader

Love is....7th Grade!

Students in 7th grade are off to a fabulous start! From cell projects to scatter plots and integers to characterization, students are working diligently to meet the demanding expectations of the curriculum (and their teachers).

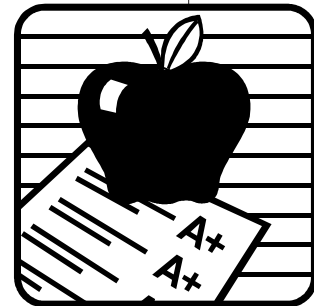
The 7th grade world studies classes have been studying the foundations of political systems in Europe. We are exploring the exciting time period known as the Middle Ages (seems appropriate for Middle School!). Students are going back in time to examine the power/class structure, castles, lords, serfs, clergy, and knights. We will be making catapults toward the end of the quarter and students can take part in various contests in class. Suggestions that can extend this unit include a trip to the Renaissance Fair in Crownsville, MD (weekends thru October), or going to Medieval Times dinner theater at Arundel Mills Mall.

The 7th grade teachers would like to remind students and parents to take advantage of <http://www.schoolnotes.com> to check the latest in assignments and class expectations.

Now that the year is well underway, teachers are noticing a growing need for organizational assistance. We do what we can in class and through the Mentoring Program, but an extra pair of hands from home can never hurt!

Parent conference dates are coming up on November 10 and November 11. Letters were sent home in October, but if for some reason you have not received yours, please call Mr. John Favazzo at 301-548-7540. Teachers will be available from 12:40-2:40 p.m. on November 10 and from 12:40-3:20 p.m. and 5:20-7:40 p.m. on November 11.

Meredith Mirkow, 7th Grade Team Leader



It's Academic

8th Grade News

In Science, students will be finishing up the Atmospheric Phenomena unit and will be starting the Introductory Chemistry unit. Students will explore the definition and properties of matter.

In World Studies, students will be finishing the unit on the American Revolution and preparing for the county unit assessment. Classes will then begin their study of the U.S. Constitution and learn how the United States begins to develop as an independent nation. We will also discuss the results of the Presidential Election and its possible effects.

In Geometry, students will be studying Polygons. In Algebra they will learn about linear equations and inequalities with two variables. In Math C, students will be studying statistics and probability.

In English classes, as first quarter closes and we move into second quarter, students will begin the "Communities" curricular unit. In addition to examining the theme of "community" through literature, students will delve into the rhetorical tools of persuasion, via literature and the media. Students will read one or more of the following: Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Rand's *Anthem*, and several independent novels. Students will also complete a written research project over the three-month period, and they will share their results in the form of a persuasive speech.

Please continue to check your student's planner and www.schoolnotes.com for 8th grade updates!

Amy Hilliard, 8th Grade Team Leader

Health Education

In health class at Shady Grove, students are learning about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco products and other drugs. They have been practicing decision-making and refusal skills. They have also been learning communication skills, stress management, crisis management, violence prevention and safety skills. Many valuable skills are taught in health education. When your child brings their health education folder home for your review, take a close look, see what we are learning and read some of your child's thoughts about these issues.

The first quarter health education students will have their last day in Health on October 29. They will be returning to PE on November 3. All those students will need to have their PE clothes and athletic shoes, as they will be returning to physical education for the remainder of the year. On November 3, all Health and PE students will be participating in a class walking activity. All students will change into their PE clothes and sneakers. Students may choose to participate in The Walk for the Homeless during this same class period.

Students who have health education during the second marking period will begin Health on November 4. They will remain in health education until January 30. During this time, they will not have PE and will need to spend some of their own time on fitness activities. They will receive no grade for PE and a separate report card grade for Health education. If parents have any questions about the statewide health education program, please feel free to contact me at school.

Judy Jaskolski, Health Education

Visit SGMS PTA on the Web

www.familynetsource.com/sgms

On our site you will find: Calendar of events and information, PTA Board members and contact information, Meeting information, PTA and MCPS news, The Howler in PDF format, Volunteer Opportunities and a link to the SGMS school web site. PTA Webmaster: Jennifer Boudrye (webmaster@familynetsource.com)



It's Academic

Physical Education

It is getting cold outside and we will be out through Thanksgiving. Make sure that your children are aware of the temperature when they leave the house so that they are dressed appropriately for school, as well as for physical education class. They may wear blue, gray or white sweats, and may wear layers of clothes, hat, and gloves to keep warm. If your child has sweats that were on back order, they should be coming in very soon.

Dates to remember:

November 3 (raindate November 4)- Walk for the Homeless ~ This fundraising event will raise money for the Dwelling House. We encourage all students to raise money and participate in this activity. Parents are invited to walk with your child during his/her PE class. Please refer to the handout given on October 18.

November 10 and 11: 7th grade Scoliosis testing. This is a free screening for all 7th graders in the county. Please only return the sheet if you DO NOT want your child to be screened.

November 19: Turkey Trot. Feel free to come run with your child for our annual Turkey Trot. The top male and female student winner from each grade will win a turkey!

Lisa Martin, PE Resource Teacher

How Physical Activity Impacts Health (from the Centers of Disease Control)

- * reduces the risk of developing diabetes
- * reduces the risk of high blood pressure
- * reduces feelings of depression and anxiety
- * helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints
- * helps control weight
- * promotes psychological well-being

Physical activity can be anything that requires the body to move for a given period of time.

- * walking briskly
- * using the stairs instead of an elevator
- * going on family walks
- * parking farther away from a store

ESOL

Shady Grove Level 1 ESOL students are having fun and learning at the same time. Students are using subject pronouns and present tense verbs to talk about themselves and to interview one another. They are describing actions and events using the present continuous and are expressing themselves through a variety of writing and speaking activities.

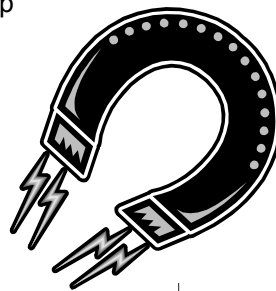
Level 2 and 3 students are being introduced to irregular verbs. They are applying reading comprehension and word attack strategies to identify main ideas and supporting details in several texts. These students are being challenged to think analytically, and are being equipped with the language to express their logic.

All students are building their own reference and vocabulary folders for self-study and independent learning. The theme for our quarter, for all levels, is "Identity."

Jack Chen, ESOL

High School Magnet Programs

Applications to Montgomery Blair's mathematics and computer science magnet or Richard Montgomery's IB program are due December 3, 2004. Interested 8th grade students can pick up application packets from the guidance office. Please allow teachers at least a week to complete any referral forms you request. More information can be found at on each school's website, go to www.mcps.k12.md.us then search by school.



Enrichment

For parents who are interested in enrichment opportunities for their child, check the Shady Grove Middle School website for regularly updated postings.

Counselor's Corner

Donnie Gamble-Poole, Guidance Counselor

The Shady Grove Guidance Department would like to extend a big WELCOME to all of our new students and parents. The year has gotten off to a great start and we look forward to getting to know all of you this semester.

We would also like to welcome our wonderful new 6th grade counselor, Mrs. Melissa Finch. Mrs. Finch will be working with our 6th grade class on a part-time basis. When Mrs. Finch is not in the office, Mrs. Gamble-Poole and Mr. Favazzo will be available to answer questions and meet with students.

The Guidance Department would like to remind parents to notify the Guidance Office if there are any changes to addresses or phone numbers. If you are moving, please let the Guidance Department know when your child's last day will be at Shady Grove Middle School. Students need to clear obligations with teachers before leaving. Giving enough notice will make the transition from Shady Grove to the new school much easier.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 301-548-7534.

If you are interested in any of the following services/workshops, please contact the numbers provided:

Nov. 3, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Childhood Health - Fitness versus Obesity.* Discussion about what can be done to create an environment that helps children stay healthy. Be pro-active instead of reactive. Adventist the People's Community Baptist Church, 31 Norwood Rd., Silver Spring. Sponsored by Councilman George Leventhal 240-777-7811.

Nov. 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Anger Management for Parents* (\$33/person). Learn how to keep a longer fuse on your triggers for a calmer household. Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg. MCPS Adult Education, course # 5509, sec. 22. Register by using the form in the MCPS Adult Education Catalog available in public libraries www.mcps.k12.us/adulted. 301-517-5005.

Nov. 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Secrets of Paying for College Without Compromising Your Financial Future*, \$33. Designed for parents and their students exploring their options on how to pay for education beyond high school. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Offered by MCPS Dep. of Adult Education, 301-517-5005, Also Dec. 8, Gaithersburg High School, Gaithersburg.

Nov. 10, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. *Grading and Reporting Policy Revisions and Implementation – What Does it Mean for Students with Disabilities?* Discussion of how the new MCPS Grading and Reporting Policy will impact on students with special needs. Get the facts straight. Rock Terrace School, 390 Martins La., Rockville. Sponsored by the MCCPTA Special Needs Committee, call Kay Romero, 301-946-2190 to register or for more information.

Nov. 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. *How to Make the Best Parent/Teacher Team*, \$25/prepaid; \$28/at the door. Professionals at all levels will be given guidance on how to create a cooperative relationship with parents in all situations. TLC, 9975 Medical Center Dr., Rockville. Offered by the Treatment and Learning Centers, 301-424-5200.

Nov. 20, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. *Who's In Charge Here?* (Members, FREE; non-members, \$10/person; \$15/couple, \$5/child, \$25/family). Complete families (ages 9 & up) learn how to foster greater cooperation and harmony in your home. PEP, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Offered by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) as an Open Forum Session, registration required by calling 301-929-8824. Pre-registered child care available - \$9/1st child, \$6/additional children.

Nov. 30, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. *Knowing When to Listen and When to Talk* (in English & Spanish). 2301 Kansas Ave., Silver Spring, 301-585-6767. Sponsored by the YMCA Bethesda Youth Services, 301-229-1347, [mailto:parenting@ymcadc.org] parenting@ymcadc.org

Nov. 30, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. *Sabiendo Cuándo Escuchar y Cuándo Hablar* (en español y inglés). 2301 Kansas Ave., Silver Spring, 301-585-6767. Sponsored by the YMCA Bethesda Youth Services, 301-229-1347, [mailto:parenting@ymcadc.org] parenting@ymcadc.org

Nov. 30, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. *MCCPTA Grading & Reporting Committee - Making Sense Out of the Report Card* Learn detailed information about the changes being implemented in grading and reporting both this year and next. Smaller grade level groups for question and answer session. Einstein High School. Sponsored by MCPS Grading and Reporting Committee, Rock Palmisano, 301-279-3094.



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Principal's Report...

leadership. Our first reception will be held on November 17, during the day. Parents will be notified in advance so they are able to attend.

We've had a great beginning. Together we do make a difference. Please stay involved with your child and the school. We value our partnership. Speaking with your child every day about school is very important. Look in his/her student planner, check binders and backpacks regularly, and help your child stay organized. The middle school years are full of change and growth. Our children need our support consistently. Homework is vital to the academic success of students and has two distinct purposes. When homework is for practice, it is reported as a learning skill separate from the grade. Students who do not complete practice homework are at a disadvantage, because they are not practicing the skills necessary to be successful on quizzes and tests. Homework that is assigned after instruction, practice, and feedback from the teacher can be graded and will become a part of the evidence used to determine the grade reported. I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open with your child's teacher and counselor. We always need your help and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Don't forget schoolnotes.com to check on their homework any other information pertinent to their classes.

I will be having my first *Principal's Coffee* on Monday evening, November 15 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. It should serve as an opportunity for me to get to know my parents better and discuss school matters in an informal setting.

At our next PTA meeting, November 9, Dr. G.J. Tarazi, Director of Middle Schools, will be our guest speaker that evening. Dr. David Steinberg, principal of Magruder High School, will be our guest speaker at the December 14 PTA meeting. I'm hoping to reschedule Officer Luis Hurtado for our January PTA meeting.

I'm also setting up a Family Portrait Night. Blanton Studios will come in and take family portraits. As soon as I am able to confirm a date with Blanton Studios, I will send home a flyer. Reservations will be required.

In this early part of the school year, it is important for me to take a moment to provide some information related to school safety. The

purpose is not to alarm, but rather to allow parents/guardians to be proactive and prepared in case of unforeseen circumstances.

- **Yellow Emergency Cards** – Please make sure that you have turned in your yellow emergency cards. This information is critically important to enable us to contact you in case of a medical or other urgent matter. You must keep this information up-to-date. If there are any changes to the address, home, cell, or work telephone numbers or other emergency information, contact the Front Office immediately to ensure that our school records are up-to-date. 301-548-7540

- **Early Dismissal/After School Dismissal** – If your child needs to be picked up from school, the school will only release him/her to an individual whose name appears on the yellow card. If you choose to give the school permission to release your child to any adult not listed on the card, including neighbors and other family members, you must send in a letter that day with the name(s) of those individuals.

- **Parent/Child Reunification Plan** – It is important for you to know where and how to pick up your child in the event that schools close early for any unforeseen reason. At Shady Grove, parents will enter and exit the school through the rear entrance. They will follow signs to the cafeteria, check in with staff, and wait while staff members bring the children to the cafeteria. Parents then sign their child/children out and exit through the courtyard to the back parking lot. Reunification sheets were sent home the first week of school. It is critical that we have this information on file. If we need to be evacuated off site, all staff and students will be transported to Magruder High School. A similar process would be in place at Magruder.

I appreciate your continued support and confidence as we work together to provide an excellent educational experience for all our children at Shady Grove. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. 301-548-7539 or email me at: lancellotti_dempsey@fc.mcps.k12.md.us.



PTA News

It's About Family

Thanks to all of you who turned out for our first PTA meeting. For those present on Tuesday October 12, two main themes surfaced. We need to build our Shady Grove community into something stronger and deeper. We need to find ways to increase the enrollment in the PTA.

The two issues are closely related, but there are some differences worth mentioning. We all come from pre-existing elementary school communities, church communities, sports communities and dozens of others. But we are all now part of the Shady Grove Middle School community, as well. Even if we don't join the PTA we all need to be aware of and act on the fact

they we are all working toward the same goal; helping out the educators who are teaching our children.

Part of that process is getting involved in the PTA and therein lies the need for increased enrollment. I know it sounds trite, and believe me I'm aware of all the time constraints we have as parents, but even an hour a month from each of us can help. Many hands make light work. The Middle School years are critical. We all know that.

So, I'll leave it at that, thanking everyone once again and encouraging you to pitch in and help out.

A Message From...

Brian Karem,

PTA President

November PTA Meeting
Tuesday, November 9 ~ 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center
All are encouraged to attend

MCCPTA Delegate's Report

My name is Patty Winters, and I am a new mom to Shady Grove, with a daughter in 6th Grade. I served as delegate at her elementary school and am happy to serve in this capacity for our PTA. (Delegates are members of the PTA Executive Board, and are limited to a two-year term at any one school.)

For those of you who are not familiar with the Montgomery County Council of PTA's, this is the body that unites all MCPS PTAs at the county level, and collaborates with Dr. Weast's staff and the Board of Education to support our public schools on matters that affect all of them. These matters include a range of subjects, such as regulation of the use of cell phones by our older students, what radio station or music a school bus driver can play with children on board, Special Education and ESOL issues, and what foods are served in the cafeteria.

The Delegates' Assembly is held the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Carver Auditorium at 850 Hungerford Road, at 7:30 P.M. These are

open meetings, and provide a good opportunity to get information first-hand on current concerns of our schools. If there is a particular issue you would like MCCPTA to address, I would be happy to facilitate that (there is a committee for the most popular concerns).

As your delegate, my role is to keep you informed about what takes place at the meetings, what is planned for future meetings, and resolutions that are coming up for a vote. At PTA meetings, I will solicit your views on current resolutions, so you can tell me how you want me to vote on them at the subsequent assembly. If you are not able to attend a PTA meeting, please watch this column in *The Howler* and contact me with your input.

So...What happened at the September Delegates' Assembly?

The meeting began with delegates voting against two questions, Questions A and C, that



PTA News

The Scholastic Book Fair ~ Coming 11/4 "Student Exchange"

Soon, Scholastic will deliver our fair, and volunteers will position book cases, arrange tables and create inviting displays. Some students will get to school early, eager to be the first of many to crowd into the Book Fair. Others will stay late after school, leisurely leafing through anticipated treasures. All are anxious to see what new and enticing books are waiting for them at the fair.

This is the 10 (and, unfortunately, the last) year that I'll watch this sequence of events unfold. In fact, most of us on the book fair committee have seen our own—as well as many of *your*—children literally grow up reading and enjoying books.

The Book Fair is, of course, a fundraising event for the school. But, for us, it's more than that: It's an opportunity to broaden perspectives, spark new ideas, and encourage creative thinking—all in the context of reading for the fun of it!

I mention this now to emphasize the importance of supporting the Book Fair—not just by attending it, buying a raffle ticket or making a purchase (although we *certainly* appreciate you doing so!)—but by volunteering your time. Volunteers (parents like you) are what make book fairs succeed. We'd like to count on you to help make this one the best yet!

Other Important Information...

Student Wish Lists: Got Books?

Students visit the book fair "Student Exchange" with their English classes, during which they receive a two-sided flyer: On one side is a Student Wish List and on the other side is a Book Fair Order Form. Students fill out their Wish Lists with the titles and prices of books and other items that they would like to purchase. Parents unable to visit the fair may use the Book Fair Order Form to purchase any of the items. Just follow directions on the form, **enclose payment** (cash, check, or credit card information & signature) — **including 5% sales tax** —and have the student return it to the book fair.

Teacher/Team Wish Lists: Give a teacher an apple and he'll eat it!

Give a teacher a book and she'll plant a seed! The gift of a book is a great way to make a lasting contribution that ultimately benefits many

students. Please stop at the cashier's desk for additional information on Teaching Team Wish Lists.

Gift Certificates: The solution to your confusion!

Can't remember what your student wants? Not sure what to get a favorite teacher? No problem! Gift certificates are available at the cashier's table. They may be used to purchase anything at the fair, and must be used during this current Fall Book Fair. **All gift certificates expire on November 12, 2004.**

The Daily Raffle: The buck stops here!

Scholastic has traditionally donated books, activities and materials to use in our Book Fair Raffle. We use the money from the raffle ticket sales to buy books for students who are unable to purchase a book at the book fair. Tickets are \$1.00 each (or 6 for \$5.00), and winners will be announced each morning and during the Talent Show on Friday, November 5.

Got Ideas?

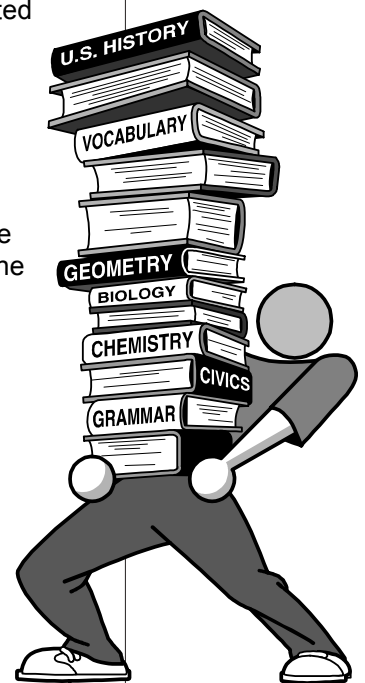
This year, Scholastic has drastically reduced the amount of its donation. So, we all need to put on our creative "thinking caps" and come up with alternative resources for raffle prizes so that we can continue this program.

These could include local business donations, such as tickets to a local performance or sporting event, coupons for a local restaurant, a free limo ride for a birthday or special event, computer software or supplies, free passes for bowling, a movie or movie rental, and whatever else you can think of! Please contact me at **301-926-4760** or **dcmilder@comcast.net** ASAP if you can help!

To volunteer for the book fair, please contact Karen (Glendening) Harvey at 301-869-0470 or **kjteam@joimail.com**. Call **NOW!**

See you at the Scholastic Book Fair Student Exchange!

Debbie Milder and the Book Fair Committee



November 2004

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1 NO SCHOOL Professional Day	2 NO SCHOOL Election Day	3 Health/PE Walk	4	5 PTA Book Fair Talent Show 7:30 p.m.
8 PTA Book Fair	9 PTA Meeting 7:30p.m. PTA Book Fair Picture Make-up Day	10 EARLY RELEASE Parent Conferences PTA Book Fair	11 EARLY RELEASE Parent Conferences PTA Book Fair	12 PTA Book Fair
15 Principal's Coffee 6:30-7:30 p.m.	16	17 Student of the Quarter Reception	18	19 Turkey Trot School Dance 3-5 p.m.
22	23	24	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
29	30	1 Dec	2	3

* B=boys, G=girls, H=home, A=away

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MCCPTA Delegate's Report...

will appear on the ballot on Election Day; this means the MCCPTA officially oppose what these Questions support.

Question A is the latest effort by Robin Ficker to limit the revenue collected by Montgomery County, regardless of our needs. Adoption of Question A would prevent the County Council from allowing property tax revenues to exceed the rate of inflation....If Question A had been in effect for Fiscal Year 2004, there would have been a \$12 million reduction in '2004; this sum would be quadrupled in '05, and a projected \$94 million reduction in FY '06'.... The MCPS Operating Budget accounts for approximately 46 to 48% of the County's Operating Budget, so the reduction in revenues resulting from the passage of Question A would mean a reduction in the Schools' budget. The delegates voted to not support this question, as it could lead to severe funding cuts for MCPS.

Question C proposes to eliminate the four at-large seats on the County Council. The delegates voted against this proposition.

The next Delegates' Assembly was held October 26 at 7:30 in the Carver Auditorium. The agenda was a Board of Education Candidates' Forum. Details of the meeting will appear in the next newsletter.

Also, the Rockville Cluster sponsored a meeting about bullying issues, in their new High School auditorium, on Thursday, October 14. Chief of Police Manger was the keynote speaker, and the discussion panel included our 8th Grade counselor and Drama Club facilitator, Mr. Favazzo.

Having covered introductory matters this round, my future articles won't be so long. I look forward to hearing from you, and supporting our kids and PTA in any way I can!

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