

**FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT:**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Students:

Cookies and resolutions—the connection may not be what you think. Did you know that every year at holiday time our Staff Appreciation Committee spearheads an effort to provide our wonderful CHS staff—which includes teachers, administrative and building support, and bus drivers—with an assortment of delicious, home baked holiday cookies. It is a tradition that the staff truly enjoys. It involves quite an effort by our super Committee Chairs—Tammy Lloyd, Tanji Johnson and Pat Drutch—to coordinate the baking efforts of over 32 baking volunteers and packing helpers. On the morning that I wrote this column I had the distinct pleasure of hosting this bevy of helpers to repack all the sweet treats into bags to be distributed. Back at school our Special Services teacher Christine Brewer's students helped to label the gift bags and pass them out into the staffs' mailboxes.

This turned into a whole math/problem solving opportunity for my 5th and 2nd grade children. If 32 bakers each make 4 dozen cookies and we need to fill 190 bags, how many cookies go into each bag? (Extra credit to those of you who get this right!). Due to our incredibly generous community we not only provided cookies for CHS staff but we also provided platters of cookies to ARL (Applied Research Laboratory- many CHS students attend) and to the Homewood School. Neither of these special schools have their own PTAs. Additional cookies went to Grassroots Emergency Shelter and the Domestic Violence Center. They were thrilled when I arrived to make these deliveries- - one of the "perks" of being the PTSA President! We worked together and touched so many.

As we look forward, many people consider making New Year's resolutions. Perhaps yours can be to help one of our many PTSA committees this year. They would all welcome some new faces. You see, it is never too late to get started to support your student and our school. If you haven't yet joined the PTSA NOW is a great time. Involvement at CHS brings so many rewards—like this morning—parents meeting each other for the first time to have a cup of coffee and sharing in such a positive activity. Ninth grade parents could resolve to attend the upcoming Parent Academy on Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 PM. It will be full of important information on how best to help your student prepare for the rigors of their first mid-terms. You

⇒⇒ *Continued on page 3*

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**

Dear Families:

Happy New Year! We have turned the calendar pages once again, to begin the remainder of the school year. The end of the semester is fast approaching and mid-term exams are upon us. It's a good time to take stock and make necessary adjustments. Our teachers will be holding mid-term study sessions during regular classes and these will be prior to exams.

Also, this is the time when we begin the scheduling process for next year. The close of the 2nd quarter is a good time to discuss with your students, the progress made thus far and opportunities for success through improvement efforts. In preparation for the upcoming scheduling process, please take some time to address the following points and questions with your student:

- In which courses are you the most successful?
- Which courses present the greatest challenges for you?
- What are your special skills?
- What personal goals for academics have you set for the rest of the year?
- Have you devoted some thought to college and/or careers?

Strong consideration should be given to decisions about what your student wishes to do beyond high school. This makes proper course selection extremely important. All students are encouraged to talk with teachers, counselors, and administrators about the right courses to take next year. These faculty members are professionals in their fields of education and they are reliable sources of information. Their input and recommendations are invaluable.

We encourage students to take challenging coursework that offers adequate rigor, however, parents should also be mindful of the abilities of their student, prior to course selection.

Good News! You may be aware of the recent SAT data published by the Maryland State Department of Education, HCPSS, and the College Board. The Howard County graduating class of 2011 out performed the state and the nation in average scores. All Howard County High Schools performed better than the state and the nation in math, writing, and critical reading. Centennial High School SAT participants scored a composite of 1780 as compared to 1645 for the county, as a whole. We have much to be proud of as we work hard to prepare our students for college and the world of work.

The month of January witnessed a continuation of our New Parent Academy series. These are informative sessions that are intended to ease the transition of 9th grade students and parents

⇒⇒ *Continued on page 3*



Centennial High School



## 2011-12 PTSA Membership Form

You can make a difference at Centennial High School (CHS) by joining its Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). Here are just some of the ways CHS PTSA contributes to the students, the school and to the CHS Community...

- **Communication:** Twice-weekly CHS *Quicknotes* email newsletter (free sign-up at [www.chs-ptsa.org](http://www.chs-ptsa.org)), the *Eagle's Eye* monthly newsletter, the annual Student Directory and the CHS PTSA website.
- **CHS School Staff/Student Support:** After-Prom Party (*April 21, 2012*), scholarships for graduating seniors, school Staff Award, financial support to each class, Staff Appreciation meals and holiday cookies, the PTA Reflections Contest, sponsorship and funding of HC DrugFree event, School Enrichment support, College Visions Day and Student Government Association (SGA) support.
- **Community Outreach:** PTSA Homecoming Pancake Breakfast (*Oct. 15, 2011*), Centennial Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and support of Howard County PTA (PTACHC) Council Coat, Book and School Supplies drives.

Adult Members (\$10 each)			
Name*	Phone	Email	Sign me up for <i>Quicknotes</i> ?
			Already Receive / Yes / No
			Already Receive / Yes / No
			Already Receive / Yes / No
Student Members (\$5 each)			
Name*	Grade	Email	Sign me up for <i>Quicknotes</i> ?
			Already Receive / Yes / No
			Already Receive / Yes / No
			Already Receive / Yes / No
*Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if you <b>DO NOT</b> wish to be included in membership acknowledgement in CHS PTSA newsletters.			

Your membership provides funds and the strength of many voices at the county, state and national levels. Research has shown that academic achievement among students is higher in schools with active PTSA's than in schools without these associations.

*Thank you for your support!*

Total CHS PTSA membership dues (\$10 per adult; \$5 per student) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*OPTIONAL:* Additional tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this completed form along with your check made out to "CHS PTSA" (no cash please) in an envelope labeled "CHS PTSA Membership." Drop off in the CHS Front Office or mail to:

CHS PTSA Membership  
4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Membership Committee  
Use only

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Check Amount \_\_\_\_\_

# Cards Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**CHS PTSA Officer 2011-2012** (as of 8/8/11)

**PRESIDENT:** BONNIE SORAK  
410-465-0427, chsptsapres@yahoo.com

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRES.:** TERRI CHIU  
410-750-2792, tachiuc@comcast.net

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRES.:** YING MATTIES  
410-203-9020, ymatties@hotmail.com

**TREASURER:** SUE COOPER  
410-461-4599, suetcooper@verizon.net

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** TOM COMEAU  
410-750-7596, tom.comeau@gmail.com

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** KATHY SEGAL  
410-707-1750, kasegal76@gmail.com

**PTAC DELEGATES:** JAMES DOWNING  
410-461-3644, jedowning@verizon.net

NORMA RICHARDSON  
410-313-9997, normalynn3495@gmail.com

**PRINCIPAL:** DR. CARL PERKINS  
410-313-2856, carl\_perkins@hcppss.org

**SGA REP.:** JOSEPH AYOUB  
joseph.ayoub12@gmail.com

**2011-2012 Committees**

**AFTERPROM** ANNE HORSTKAMP (CHAIR)  
gregnanneh@verizon.net

**AWARDS** SHERRY STROTHERS (CHAIR)  
sherrydavid@verizon.net

**COMMUNICATIONS** JULIE NARDEI (CHAIR)  
chsquicknotes@yahoo.com

DIRECTORY: Cherie Hromek  
Cherie.Hromek@verizon.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Kylee Breedlove  
eagleseyekb@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER MAILING: Wendy Nussbaum  
wendynussbaum79@verizon.net

QUICKNOTES, PUBLICITY & WEBSITE:  
Julie Nardei, chsquicknotes@yahoo.com

**FUNDRAISING** CHAIR – OPEN

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS & SALLY FOSTER:  
Diane Bohr, vbahr@verizon.net

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Susan Fedors  
sfedors@hotmail.com  
Lisa Brown, the7brownfamily@verizon.net

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING: TBD

**MEMBERSHIP** MICHELLE JOHNSON (CHAIR)  
michellej@comcast.net

**PARENT ADVOCACY** CHAIR – OPEN

LATIN ADVANCEMENT: Sylvia Baroncini  
rbaroncini@verizon.net  
Carol Lake, carol.lakewilkens@gmail.com

PCBS: TBD

**STUDENT ADVOCACY** CHAIR – OPEN

CSA PROGRAM: Bonnie Sorak  
centennialcsa@yahoo.com

HC DRUGFREE: Tom King, tkingcka@aol.com  
Greg Poulis, nickspa@aol.com

REFLECTIONS: Leslie Stroud  
thestrouds@stroud-family.net

SAT PREP: Julie Nardei, chsquicknotes@yahoo.com

**VOLUNTEERS** EYDIE HAMMERS (CHAIR)  
410-418-9206, ehammers@hammers.com

STAFF APPRECIATION:  
Tammy Lloyd, abernathy123@comcast.net  
Tanji Johnson, tanji.letspray@verizon.net  
Pat Drutch, drutchpg@verizon.net

**EAGLE'S EYE ARTICLE SUBMISSION DUE DATES:**

Nov. – 10/14; Dec. – 11/11; Jan. – 12/9; Feb. – 1/20;  
Mar. – 2/17; Apr. – 3/16; May/June. – 3/29

# DRIVER'S EDUCATION

**Centennial High School Band Backers** in coordination with **Greg's Driving School** offers certified and knowledgeable driving instructions, including six hours behind the wheel training. Registration for classes are open. **Next Sessions begin January 2 and February 6.**

- No permit is necessary.
- Students must be 15 years old.
- Classes held from 2:45–6:00 pm.
- 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hrs of behind the wheel training.
- Students meet at CHS. Students are to be picked up promptly at the end of each class.
- No deposit is required to register.
- Payment due on first day of class.
- Total cost = \$330

**SESSION DATES** Each class is two consecutive weeks at CHS

- #4 January 2 – January 13, 2012
- #5 February 6 – February 22, 2012
- #6 March 12 – March 23, 2012
- #7 April 16 – April 30, 2012
- #8 May 7 – May 21, 2011

**For additional information or to register call:** Greg's Driving School at (410) 442-4028 or go to [www.gregsdrivingschool.net](http://www.gregsdrivingschool.net)

*From the PTSA, from page 1*

could contact our After-Prom Committee and make a commitment to help them in their important work to keep our students safe for that swiftly approaching and sure to be memorable event. So, while you might be making a resolution not to eat so many cookies this year—it might be easier to come lend our CHS PTSA a hand!

— BONNIE SORAK, *PTSA President*  
*chsptsapres@yahoo.com*

*From the Principal, from page 1*

into high school. The focus for the most recent session was “Mid-Term Mania!” Students and parents received valuable information on everything from stress reduction to available study sessions.

December was a busy month! We enjoyed wonderful winter concerts by our talented musicians, dance performances that captivated audiences, and we had a great start to the winter athletic season for all teams. Hopefully, you were able to attend a few of these events.

You have made the first half of the school year a very successful one. I thank you for all that you do to enhance the strong home/school partnerships that we enjoy. I also look forward to all that we can accomplish together in the months to come.

**GO EAGLES!**

— *Carl S. Perkins*

**PLEDGE FORM**

**Centennial High School PTSA  
2011-2012 PARENT PLEDGE**

The Centennial High School PTSA believes that parents should promote a Drug/Alcohol Free policy in their homes. By signing the Parent Pledge, parents help students understand that drug and alcohol use is not acceptable in their home. Please join the list of concerned parents and sign the Parent Pledge.

As the parent of a Centennial High School student, I pledge the following:

- There will be adult chaperone(s) present and visible when I have a student-attended party or gathering in my house or on my property.
- No students will be allowed to consume alcohol or other drugs while in my home, on my property or under my supervision.
- I will not permit parties or gatherings in my home when I am not present.

Parent Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) printed \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Students' Name(s) & Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The names of parents who sign the pledge will be published periodically in the CHS PTSA *Eagle's Eye* Newsletter. A complete list is available on the CHS PTSA website at [www.chs-ptsa.org](http://www.chs-ptsa.org) and will be updated regularly. Initial and date here if you DO NOT want your name included in this list \_\_\_\_\_ .

Questions? Contact Ying Matties, CHS PTSA 2nd Vice President at [chsparentpledge@gmail.com](mailto:chsparentpledge@gmail.com).

**Please fill out this form and mail it to: CHS PTSA Parent Pledge, 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042 or return it to the CHS main office, ATTN: Ying Matties, 2nd Vice President.**

**PLEDGE SIGNATORIES 2011-2012**

Cynthia K. Adams  
 Cristina Amaro  
 Lisa Bellor  
 Diane S. Bohr  
 Tracey Burk  
 Susana and Harry Burrell  
 Mary and Kenneth Cooley  
 Signe Dahlgren  
 Phil and Sandra Deming  
 Juls Dickerson  
 Pam Evans  
 Petra and Evangelos Fachios

Susan and Bill Fidel  
 Serina Gbaba  
 Leslie D. Goldsmith  
 Eydie Hammers  
 Anne Jepsens  
 Jeffrey Kudisch  
 Jay Jay Lavine  
 Christine and John Lederer  
 Mark Abernathy and Tammy Lloyd  
 Ying and Mark Matties  
 Janette and Steve McAnallen  
 Leah and Terry McIlvain

Caroll Melton  
 Angel and Rosemarie Molina  
 Julie Nardei  
 Deb and Rich Newman  
 Linda and Godfrey Ng  
 Cynthia Ouellette  
 Satish and Prerana Patel  
 Laura and Bob Richardson  
 Debbie and Mark Richmond  
 Kathy and Rick Rockefeller  
 Alison Routt  
 Carol Schenk

Yuying Shu  
 Stephanie Silver  
 Bonnie and Art Sorak  
 Keri and Steve Stone  
 Juline and Fred Tasker  
 Steve and Pam Vallanyi  
 Jennefer and Michael Walden  
 Jacquelin Walker  
 Sydney and Brian Wallace  
 Jia Bei Wang  
 Kelly Wilson  
 Wayne Wysocki

## Save the Date CHS Boosters Gala and Silent Auction March 17, 2012

Save the Date—March 17, 2012—for a fun evening of socializing with the CHS community while raising funds to support CHS extra-curricular activities. There will be dinner, unlimited beverages, a DJ, dancing, and a silent auction with great items to bid on. You can even try your luck at a gaming table or two. Mark the date to join the fun and help support CHS activities on March 17. See you there! For more information, check the Boosters website: [www.centennialboostersonline.com](http://www.centennialboostersonline.com).

## After Prom Update APRIL 21, 2012 AT LIFETIME FITNESS

The After Prom Committee met on December 7, and both Christie and I are encouraged by such a strong showing of committed parents. Please join us for **our next meeting on Monday, January 9, at 7 pm at Christie Hunter's home** (3608 Platte Court). As the New Year begins and you evaluate your priorities, please consider the gift of time on the night of April 22 from 12 midnight to 5 am. **We need 100 parent chaperones** throughout the course of the event to ensure the safety and well-being of our guests, your students. If you can no longer pull an all-nighter, no problem. Come early in the evening to set-up, decorate, check-in students, work the coat check, or preside over the prize table. **Also, if you were given any gift baskets, please save them and re-gift them to us!** We need approximately 80 baskets in order to make the prize baskets that are so popular with the kids. Finally, I will again shamelessly ask for monetary donations for this party. Think of all the things you do for your community—and do one more, knowing that your gift goes towards the lives of our children. What better way to start off the year?

*Anne Horstkamp & Christie Hunter, After Prom Committee Co-Chairs*

(Please make checks payable to "CHS PTSA After Prom Party" and send to: Centennial High School, 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Thank you!)

## REGISTER NOW FOR OUR UPCOMING SAT-PSAT PREP COURSE

This course helps students prepare for the SAT/PSAT examinations. Results have been EXCELLENT! Parents, this is a REAL OPPORTUNITY you don't want your son or daughter to miss. This course supplements the curriculum and will focus on improving test-taking skills, tips for answering each type of question, a math review, vocabulary development, essay writing, and building confidence. Please register early, as space is very limited.

**LOCATION:** Centennial High School

**DATES:** FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 1, 6 & 8, 2012 (7-9:15 PM)

Students should attend ALL DATES. If students have a conflict with these dates, they may attend at another location. Please see the website, [MarthaGagnon.com](http://MarthaGagnon.com), for the full schedule.

**FEES:** \$225 (includes tuition, materials and \$25 non-refundable registration fee). The course is open to students from any high school. A portion of the fee benefits the PTSA.

**INSTRUCTORS:** Dr. Martha Gagnon and/or her instructional team. Dr. Gagnon has been offering this course for more than a decade. Dr. Gagnon is the former Dean of Admissions at Western Maryland College (McDaniel College). She was Director of Admissions at Loyola College. She held the position of Staff Consultant to the College Board (makers of the SAT and PSAT) for 18 years. Currently she maintains a private practice in Howard County, specializing in test preparation and college placement.

**TO REGISTER:** Please see the website: [MarthaGagnon.com](http://MarthaGagnon.com)

**QUESTIONS?** E-mail: [MarthaGagnon@aol.com](mailto:MarthaGagnon@aol.com) or call 410.442.1600

