***IMMEDIATE RELEASE*** Friday, April 13, 2012

###### BCPS News Tips –

###### The Week of April 14-21, 2012

*Activities, Events, and News from Baltimore County Public Schools*

***Saturday, April 14***

**BCPS to host second annual systemwide Chess Championship**

Baltimore County Public Schools will host its second annual systemwide Chess Championship on Saturday, April 14, at Cockeysville Middle School. Matches will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with registration at 8:00 a.m. and the first round getting underway at 9:15 a.m. Awards presentations will take place between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Schools can enter teams of any size from one to five members. There will be three tournament divisions: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. Official chess rules will be in effect. Trophies will be given for the top three teams and top eight individuals in each division. To date, 133 students have registered to participate from Carney, Cromwell, Essex, Hampton, Orems, Powhatan, Sandy Plains, Sparks, Stoneleigh, and Timonium elementary schools; Catonsville, Cockeysville, Dumbarton, Dundalk, Loch Raven, Hereford, Old Court, Parkville, Sparrows Point, Stemmers Run, and Ridgely middle schools; and Dulaney, Dundalk, Eastern Technical, Hereford, Loch Raven, Milford Mill, Owings Mills, and Woodlawn high schools.  Cockeysville Middle Schools is located at 10401 Greenside Drive in Cockeysville.

Contact: Diana L. Spencer, Division of Curriculum and Instruction Services, 410.887.8905

***Sunday, April 15***

**County students to prove their spelling prowess**

The Baltimore County Spelling Bee Semi-finals take place on Sunday, April 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel High School, 1706 Old Eastern Avenue in Essex. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Grade 5 students from Baltimore County Public Schools competed in the first round of the spelling bee, and the top two spellers from each school will compete in the semi-finals. Admission is $10 for adults and teens, and $5 for children 12 and under, with a maximum cost per family of $25. Admission is free for each student participant and one parent. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

 Contact: Lori Tyler, Carney Elementary School, 410.887.5228

***Monday, April 16***

**Olympic athletes to visit Pinewood Elementary School**

Olympic athletes Kimmie Meissner and Pat Winslow Connolly will visit Pinewood Elementary School on Monday, April 16, and at least one other Olympic athlete will speak to students via Skype. Meissner, a World Champion figure skater and 2006 Olympian, and Connolly, a three-time track and field Olympian who coached Evelyn Ashford and Allyson Felix, will visit the school as part of a 100-day countdown to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. Connolly is a women’s sports advocate and has been outspoken about steroid abuse in sports. Her husband, the late Harold Connolly, was a gold medalist in the hammer throw. In addition, Elise Ray, a 2000 Olympic bronze medalist in gymnastics, will join the students via Skype, and two other athletes have been invited to participate in the Skype presentation. The visits are tentatively scheduled for morning classes; please contact the school to confirm times and for more information. The school is located at 200 Rickswood Road in Timonium.

Contact: Helen Stuart, Pinewood Elementary School, 410.887.7663

**You’re invited to the wedding of “Q” and “U” at Halethorpe Elementary School**

The letters “Q” and “U” will be united in matrimony on Monday, April 16, at 2:30 p.m. in a ceremony hosted by the kindergarten classes at Halethorpe Elementary School, 4300 Maple Avenue in Halethorpe. Student attired for the nuptials will include bow ties, hats and veils to wear, and the ceremony to join these two letters in words forever will be followed by a reception, complete with wedding cake, and student gifts to the newly wed “Q” and “U” beginning with “Qu.” Wedding invitations were sent to the school staff and parents. The ceremony will be held in the school cafeteria.

Contact: Cheryl Fearer, Halethorpe Elementary School, 410.887.1406

**Japanese artist’s work on display this week at Elmwood Elementary School**

Elmwood Elementary School will sponsor a Teacher’s Discovery travelling art exhibit from Monday, April 16, through Friday, April 20, featuring the work of the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. His large panels of colorful artwork were obtained for exhibit thanks to an art fundraiser at the school earlier this year. The exhibit will be displayed in the lobby of Elmwood Elementary School during the week, including for the school’s STEM fair on Tuesday, April 17, and the parent-principal breakfast on Friday, April 20. The school is located at 531 Dale Avenue in Fullerton.

Contact: Cara Liggett, Elmwood Elementary School, 410.887.5232

***Tuesday, April 17***

**Early College Awareness Program scheduled for Grade 8 students**

An Early College Awareness Program will be held Tuesday, April 17, at Stevenson University’s Greenspring Campus. The Early College Awareness Program, which his now in its 12th year, is a partnership with the Harvard Alumni Association through the law offices of Bob Bowie and the BCPS Office of School Counseling. Grade 8 students and their parents or guardians are encouraged to attend. Please call the BCPS Office of School Counseling for the location on the program on the campus, which is at 1525 Greenspring Valley Road in Stevenson.

Contact: BCPS Office of School Counseling, 410.887.0291

**Glenmar Elementary School to host a mathematics-flavored “Mystery Night”**

Glenmar Elementary School will host a “Mystery Night” on Tuesday, April 17, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Math and reading activities will be offered for students and their families. The school is located at 9700 Community Drive in Middle River.

Contact: Rachel Ogle or Mike Parker, Glenmar Elementary School, 410.887.0127

***Wednesday, April 18***

**Parkville High School takes a trip ‘Back to the Eighties’**

*Back to the Eighties*, billed in the vernacular of the day as “a totally awesome musical,” will be presented at Parkville High School on Wednesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m.  Tickets will be sold at the door for $5 per person.  The school is at 2600 Putty Hill Avenue in Parkville.

Contact: Sharon Harris, Parkville High School, 410.887.5257

***Thursday, April 19***

**Riderwood Elementary School students will be taking out the trash at lunch**

Trash-Free Lunch Day will take place on Thursday, April 19, at Riderwood Elementary School.  Members of the Grade 3 Brownie Troop #1953 who attend Riderwood Elementary are promoting the day through posters, announcements, and demonstrations on how to pack a trash-free lunch.  The troop, which has been learning about protecting waterways from plastic pollution, initiated the idea of promoting a Trash-Free Lunch Day at school to promote environmental awareness. Please contact the school for specific times and additional details.

Contact: Mandy Ward, Riderwood Elementary School, 410.887.3568

**Students and staff perform in ‘Charlotte’s Web’**

Battle Monument School will present its adaptation of E.B. White’s *Charlotte’s Web* on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. The production will include staff members as well as students, and the community is invited to attend this performance. The school is located at 7801 E. Collingham Drive in Dundalk. Please call the school for additional information.

Contact: Margaret Cummins, Battle Monument School, 410.887.7000

***Friday, April 20***

**Elmwood Elementary School to celebrate Earth Day**

Elmwood Elementary School will celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 20, with a “United Colors of Elmwood” event. The celebration will include many Earth Day and “green school” initiatives, such as planting six saplings on school property, learning about the habitats and lives of animals from Oregon Ridge Nature Center, making pine cone bird feeders, and decorating Giant grocery bags with environmental tips for customers to see when they shop on Earth Day, which is Sunday, April 22.  Other activities promote teamwork among students from various grade levels and will involve reading and playing educational games together.  Parents are invited to participate, and Elmwood volunteers will be honored during an assembly to kick off the day. Each student, staff member, and volunteer will take home a tree seedling to plant at their homes.  The school is located at 531 Dale Avenue in Fullerton.

 Contact: Sharon Ward, Elmwood Elementary School, 410.887.5232

**Envirothon Competition to be held at Oregon Ridge Nature Center**

The Baltimore County **Envirothon Competition** will take place on Friday, April 20, at Oregon Ridge Nature Center as students from schools across the region, including Parkville High School, compete in a variety of challenges involving topics ranging from forestry and aquatics to wildlife, soil, and non-point source pollution. Oregon Ridge Nature Center is at 13555 Beaver Dam Road in Cockeysville.

Contact: Kathy McCunney or Ashlee Hart, Parkville High School, 410.887.5257

**Bowl-A-Thon will raise money for Children’s Cancer Foundation**

Students at Pine Grove Middle School will again participate in an annual Bowl-A-Thon to help raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation, a school-wide tradition that each year involves Grade 6 students in the cause. The students will bowl on Friday, April 20, and so far have collected more than $12,000 in pledges for the event. Please contact the school for specific times and location and additional details.

Contact: Sandra Reid, Pine Grove Middle School, 410.887.5270

***Saturday, April 21***

**Baltimore County Public Schools co-sponsors ‘Honestly Autism Day’ at Towson University**

The third annual “Honestly Autism Day” will take place Saturday, April 21, at Towson University from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The collaborative event is sponsored by the Partnership Project between the Baltimore County Public Schools and the Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter of the Autism Society of America. The keynote speaker is William Stillman, who will speak on “Autism and the 90 Percent Factor: Building Authentic Relationships.” He is an award-winning writer and the author of 10 autism and autism-related books. Stillman, who has Asperger’s Syndrome, is founder of the Pennsylvania Autism Self Advocacy Coalition and has served on numerous autism advisory boards including AUTCOM, the Autism National Committee. The 13 breakout session topics include “How to Talk with Your Child about Their Diagnosis and More,” “Art as Therapy for Children and Adults on the Autism Spectrum” and “Walk a Mile in My Shoes: Experiences, Insight, and Words of Wisdom from Parents of Individuals with ASD.” The event will be held in the University Union on the campus, 8000 York Road in Towson.

Contact: Suzanne Swindell, Office of Special Education, 410.887.3660

**Car show will benefit SkillsUSA at Sollers Point Technical High School**

The SkillsUSA organization from Sollers Point Technical High School will hold its third annual Car Show on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event assists SkillsUSA students as they seek to participate in state competitions. The cost to register is $15, and the event’s rain date is Saturday, April 28.  To obtain a registration form, email ptarburton@bcps.org. SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit student organization that serves students enrolled in career and technical education programs. SkillsUSA complements technical skills training with instruction in the employability skills that make a well-rounded worker and citizen. The school is at 325 Sollers Point Road in Dundalk.

Contact: Greta L. Gay, Sollers Point Technical High School, 410. 887.7075

 *“We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need to do that. Whether or not we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven’t so far.”*

-- Dr. Ronald Edmonds, Co-founder, Effective Schools Movement

*“In Baltimore County, the schooling of* all *children is of interest to us.”*

-- Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

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