

## President's Message



Mary Jo Neil, President

We are in the home stretch of our PTA year!! PTA's are having their end of year celebrations, volunteer appreciation events, spring parties and recognition events.

The end of the year is a great time to inform your membership of all of your successes! Maryland PTA has had many joys to share with you. On the advocacy front, our legislative committee was busy keeping tabs on the bills coming forward and providing testimony when necessary. This year we implemented 5 Regional Trainings (the basic information) and were able to train 370 local leaders in PTA basics. Hopefully, this has encouraged them to continue training and asking for support

and resources. We've fielded many local unit calls and were able to provide assistance either in person or by phone when contacted. Our goal is to help local units work more effectively to better serve their units and ultimately, the students of Maryland.

Our Reflections program has been a huge success this year!! We have had almost double the number of entries than we had in the past from fourteen counties. We'd love to grow this program even more. If you didn't have a program at your school this year, don't despair. We'll be sending out a guide on how to implement a program when we send out our fall distribution packet. This is a terrific opportunity to bring the creative arts to the students.

Maryland PTA is always looking to grow and work with up coming leaders. If you have completed your term at your current level and are looking for a challenge, then we need you! If you have a talent or an interest in a particular area - newsletter writing, internet safety, health and safety,

etc. Please let us know because we are always looking for members to serve on committees either through Maryland PTA or on a task force. Remember the only requirement is that you have to be a PTA member to serve on Maryland PTA. We'd love to work with you.

Come to the regional training and summer leadership conference to help you grow the PTA at your school and help increase your leadership skills.

Maryland PTA wishes you a safe and relaxing summer.

Mary Jo Neil  
Maryland PTA  
President 2005-2007  
*everychild.onevoice.*  
*cadaniño.unavoz.*

## PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST

Maryland PTA selected Van Bokkelen Elementary School as the State Level winner of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Excellence in Education Partnership Award. The national winner and honorable mention recipients will be notified in early June 2007.

## 2007 NATIONAL PTA TOOL KITS

The Back-to-School Kit contains quick reference guides for unit leaders in membership, finance, program resources and membership drive tips to help you kick off your new school year and make your PTA unit stronger.

Look for the toolkits from National PTA to arrive at your school in early July....

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### Mission of the PTA

To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;

To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and

To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

### Purposes of PTA:

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education..