

## MCCPTA Cultural Arts Committee Report - October 4, 2008

On Saturday, September 6th, a Cultural Arts workshop was held during the MCCPTA Fall Training at Rockville High School. Attendance was good (despite the rains from Hurricane Hannah that day!) and we had 15 people sign in for the workshop. Liz Wheeler came to talk about grants, and Randy Chin (the 2007-08 Cultural Arts Chair) and I gave tips on how to get started to those who are new as Cultural Arts reps, and information on how to join the PTArts listserv, how performers are chosen for the Cultural Arts Catalogue, and how to get free performances at schools.

On September 11th and 15th, the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS held auditions for performers hoping to be hired by our county's schools. This year we had 16 new performers audition and 14 were approved. Most of these will be performing at the annual Showcases coming up in October, along with many others who have already been approved in past years.

I was present for the Committee Fair held at the Delegate Assembly on Wednesday, September 24th, and answered questions from many delegates interested in what information they could pass along to their school's Cultural Arts reps. I distributed many information flyers about the upcoming MCPS Cultural Arts Showcases as well as the schedule of performances; and I also passed out information on "Cultural Arts Committee Basics" (how to hire performers for your school), and on how to join the PTArts listserv.

The dates for the 2008 MCPS Showcases are:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

The Showcases will be held at Carver Educational Center in the auditorium from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. each day. A different performer will be presented every 15 minutes. Most of the new performers will be presented on October 7th. The Showcases are a marvelous opportunity for representatives from the schools to see the wealth of talent available to us in this area, to preview and decide which performers would be best for their own schools.

I am fortunate to have had four people offer to serve on the Cultural Arts Committee: Randy Chin (last year's chairperson), Lorna Sykes (from Julius West Middle School), Joni Williams (from Beverly Farms Elementary School), and Pam Malmgren (from Great Seneca Elementary School.) One or more of us will be working at the sign-in desk all day at the four days of Showcases.

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