



# PGTAG NEWS

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## Upcoming PGTAG Events:

- **January 17, 7-9 pm**  
Monthly Planning meeting
- **January 24, 2006, 6-9 pm**  
Reception Celebrating Gifted Education in Maryland Annapolis, MD
- **February 21, 7-9 pm**  
Monthly Planning meeting

All meetings at Glenarden Woods Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

**Save the Date:  
January 24, 2006**

## PGTAG Officers 2005/2006

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## Show Your Support for Gifted Education Jan 24

Please join PGTAG and other supporters of gifted education for a reception Celebrating Gifted Education in Maryland on Tuesday, January 24 from 6-9 pm at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Delivery of quality gifted programs ultimately depends on funding, so let's show our legislators and other leaders that Marylanders want state support for these programs. It is especially important in this election year to make our voices heard.

### Reception Details

**Who:** Legislators, administrators, educators, parents, and students

**Where:** President's Conference Center, West 1, Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD

**When:** Tuesday, January 24, 2006 from 6-9 pm

**What:** Speakers, awards, and an opportunity to speak to other supporters of gifted education. Light fare and beverages will be provided.

### Transportation

PGTAG is offering bus service from Glenarden Woods Elementary School to Annapolis. Ride in comfort and get dropped at the door — no parking hassles. The bus will leave promptly at 5:00 and will return approximately 9:30. The cost is \$5.00 per person, and you must RSVP to the school at 301-925-1300 by January 20.

Bring picture ID for security check at the Senate building.

Sponsored by the Maryland State Talented and Gifted Advisory Council

**Directions -** From the Washington Beltway/I-495/I-95:

Take exit 19, US-50/John Hanson Highway East toward Annapolis  
Take the Rowe Blvd. South exit (exit 24) toward Annapolis (bear right)  
Stay on Rowe Blvd. past Navy Stadium

Take the next right onto Taylor Avenue and enter the stadium parking lot through Gate #5.

Free State Shuttles operate weekdays 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Trolleys arrive and depart every five minutes during rush hours and every ten to fifteen minutes at other times.

**For further information, go to** <http://www.annapolis.gov/info.asp?page=4852>, click on Trolley Shuttles or Parking

## An Introduction to PCAB

**House Bill 949 established the Parent Community Advisory Board (PCAB) in 2002. This legislation mandates that The Board and the Chief Executive Officer shall:**

- (1) regularly consult with the Advisory Board; and
- (2) Ensure parental involvement in the development

and implementation of the education policies and procedures in the Prince George's County Public School System.

PCAB's 13 appointed members serve a two-year term and meet monthly. Look for updates on PCAB activities from recent appointee and PGTAG president Laura Carriere in future newsletters.

**PGTAG now has a direct voice to the PGCPSS administration through President Laura Carriere's appointment to PCAB.**



## Summary of Meeting with Interim CEO Howard Burnett

PGTAG met with interim CEO Howard Burnett on 10/24/05 to review PGTAG activities past and present, and to discuss key issues regarding the TAG program.

- He was supportive of training for TAG teachers and was instrumental in getting some long-standing requests approved.
- He was also supportive of filling a vacancy in the understaffed TAG office, and there has been some movement in this area.
- We requested TAG liaisons in each of the five Regional Offices, which he agreed was a good idea. He identified candidates, and said they should attend TAG training. This is still being implemented.
- Mr. Burnett was presented with a summary of survey responses from TAG parents regarding reasons for staying or leaving the system.
- Rick Tyler of MCGATE updated all of us on TAG-related contents of the Master Plan and was given permission to work with the school system and the TAG office to get the required information into the document.

Laura Carriere summarized the meeting by saying "This is about as successful a meeting as I have ever had with a CEO. Of course, we need to see the promises converted into actions which is always more difficult...in a large organization like PGCPs."

## Questions for your Child's School

Thinking about what's next for your gifted learner? Consider these questions about the intellectual life of schools you're considering (excerpted from *Questions for you Child's School* by Charles J. Sykes and William G. Durden, published by Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, 1996).

Does the school honor its brightest students?

Cause for concern: non-recognition of distinctions in intellectual performance; minimal practice of flexible grouping for ability; restricted opportunities for students to test out of courses; lack of encouragement for students to seek academic challenges outside the school.

Does the school respond with sensitivity to how your child best learns and achieves?

Cause for concern: rigid tendencies toward highly structured instructional environments; rigid tendencies toward self-directed environments.

Does the school allow students to take courses elsewhere when it is in the best educational interests of the student to do so?

Cause for concern: schools that will not arrange for middle school student to take a course at the high school or for high school students to take a course at a local college; schools that will not award credit or placement for out-of-school course work; schools that do not promote distance learning opportunities via computer or correspondence.

Are students encouraged to focus on fulfilling their own learning potential by advancing at their own pace through the academic disciplines?

Cause for concern: excessive reliance on cooperative learning; the frequent practice of obligating bright students to tutor other children.

Does the school provide opportunities for enrichment that are genuinely enriching — engaging students at appropriately high intellectual levels and in substantive subject areas?

Cause for concern: enrichment that is of a "make-work" nature or that is irrelevant to a student's learning.

If a high school, does the school provide College Board Advanced Placement courses? If so, what proportion of students attend these classes, and what proportions receive 3's, 4's, and 5's on the national AP exams?

Does the school provide disciplined instruction in the arts? Does it have a reasonable class size?

## Random Thoughts

- Please send us your newsletter feedback and information for future publication via email to [treasurer@phtag.org](mailto:treasurer@phtag.org) or to the mailing address on the front of this newsletter.
- The PGCPs TAG office has a new phone number: 301-322-1729.
- Visit us on the web at [www.phtag.org](http://www.phtag.org).
- TAG magnet Glenarden Woods Elementary School was recently named a Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Congratulations to students and staff on this achievement!
- The Non-Public Student TAG Identification Package is available by calling 301-952-6044 or 301-322-1729.
- Lottery applications for CLE schools (which include TAG magnets) will now be available sometime in January 2006. Check the PGCPs website for updates.
- Something exciting happening in TAG at your school? Let us know and we'll tell the story. Email ideas to [treasurer@phtag.org](mailto:treasurer@phtag.org).