



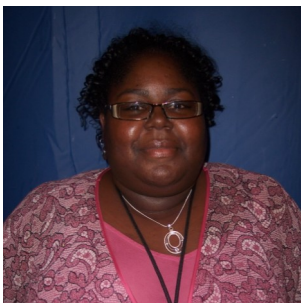
Imagine Discovery Public Charter School

The PTA Connection

E-mail: imaginediscoverypta@hotmail.com

A Busy and Productive First Quarter for the PTA!

by Carlette Flowers, PTA President



Wow, it's hard to believe that the first quarter is over. The PTA has been very busy with several activities. In the last two months, we have had Back-to-School night, the Scholastic Book Fair, Ident-A-Kid, and Muffins with Moms. I would like to personally thank Rachel Dol-

cine, Adrienne Brown, and Angela White for their leadership in coordinating these activities. November 14-18 is American Education week. Please see a copy of the class visitation schedule in the office or on the school's website.

Our general membership meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 pm in the Imaginarium. At this meeting, we adopted amendments to our bylaws and Mrs. Sara Becker (3rd grade teacher) provided Ed-

line training for those in attendance. Ed-Line is a web-based system that provides essential support and communication for administrators, teachers, parents & students (i.e. progress reports, assignments/projects/test grades, etc.).

Last, but not least, as always, it is never too late to become a PTA member. Please send your \$10 membership dues to school with your child(ren). Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!

It's American Education Week!

by Myra J. Sydnor

November 14-18 marks the time when you can visit your child's classroom to see what exciting things are being discovered. It's American Education Week, and this is the perfect opportunity for you to come and visit the school. Please sign in and enjoy the refreshments hosted by our PTA Hospitality Committee. The observation days and times are available on the [school's website](#) (News and Events) or in the main office. Listed below is a checklist of behaviors and interactions from the [Parent Support Services](#) division for the Baltimore County Public Schools to use as a guideline during your visit.

My child:

- is prepared for class (with paper, writing tools, etc.).
- has completed his/her homework assignment(s).
- demonstrates good listening skills (e.g., looking at the teacher, answering questions, taking notes when appropriate).
- follows directions.
- asks for help if he/she does not understand the directions.
- has the opportunity to talk with others about what he/she is learning.
- seems to enjoy learning.
- is able to demonstrate what he/she has learned.

Consider discussing what you see with your child's teacher during your next parent/teacher/student conference.

PTA Updates

DATES



Monday, November 14-Friday, November 18—American Education Week

Thursday, November 17—Report cards distributed

Monday, November 21—ELEMENTARY school closed only for Conference Day; pick-up for Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies/baked goods from 3-6 p.m. in the Imaginarium

Thursday, November 24-Friday, November 25—school closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

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Faculty Spotlight: Ms. Leslie Hayes

by Beverly Lofton



A kindergarten teacher serves as educator, surrogate parent and sometimes a psychologist in order to mold our children into students who are well-adjusted and eager to learn. Students' opinions and perceptions of school are shaped by what they experience during their first years of school. Imagine is thankful for the great team of kindergarten teachers we have. In this month's edition please join us as we celebrate kindergarten teacher, Ms. Leslie Hayes as the featured teacher to "Spotlight" for November!

Ms. Hayes was born and raised in Sparks, Maryland in Northern Baltimore County. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Bowie State University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Reading from Towson University.

Imagine is the first charter school in which Ms. Hayes has worked, and this is currently her fourth year teaching kindergarten here. She loves and enjoys teaching kindergarten, and she is always amazed to see students applying their learning in their everyday lives.

In her spare time, Ms. Hayes loves to travel with friends and family and would love to travel around the world someday. She also enjoys attending weekly Zumba classes with her amazing instructor, Adelia. She says,

"Music makes me smile! If you stop by my classroom one day chances are we may be singing and dancing while learning!"

Ms. Hayes says her favorite subject to teach her kindergarten students is Reading/Language Arts because she believes phonics, reading, and writing are the foundations of learning. Each day her students learn and participate in class she wants them to begin to develop a life-long love for learning and reading. As she teaches each day, she says she is reminded of a quote from a favorite children's author, Dr. Seuss, "*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*" Ms. Hayes has a desire for her students to dream and realize that all things are possible if they just believe in achieving anything in life they put their hearts and minds to. Ms. Hayes' students' classroom motto is, "*Be The Best That You Can Be!*" They often sing their song, "*I will be best that I can be! I will be the best that I can be!*"

When growing up, Ms. Hayes' grandmother was a very inspirational person in her life, because she always encouraged her to excel in school. Ms. Hayes recalls that even though her grandmother only had an elementary school education, she always told her how important it was to attend school in order to receive a higher education. Her grandmother had desires for her granddaughter to have greater opportunities in life than she was provided with-- which meant the world to Ms. Hayes.

As an educator, Ms. Hayes believes that all students should be given the opportunity to receive an enriching

education. She has vowed that each morning as she enters into her classroom, she strives in making learning fun and exciting for all students as they explore and discover new skills and information. She says, "As a teacher, I will forever be a student as I seek new knowledge and strategies that can be utilized in the classroom to benefit the learning of my students."

She says, "Imagine's shared values of *integrity, justice and fun* are at the heart of who we want to be as a school. Imagine is a school where we are set apart because we are allowed to think outside of the 'box'." Ms. Hayes is excited about this school year and the positive changes that will happen to strengthen our school under our new leadership.

In December, she plans to start inviting parents into the classroom to be "Mystery Readers." Parents will be given the opportunity to visit the classroom and read one of their favorite children's stories to the students. Ms. Hayes also serves on the Character Education Committee, and she is excited about the new ideas the committee has for strengthening the program. She believes it is an amazing opportunity to teach students how to be diligent scholars and leaders within our school community and world.

As you congratulate Ms. Hayes when you pass her in the halls of Imagine, please also give her wonderful birthday wishes, as this is also her birthday month— November 19th!

The PTA Connection

Volume III, Issue III

Editor:

Myra J. Sydnor

Contributors:

Beverly Lofton
Charles E. Sydnor III

PTA[®] Reflections unleashes your artistic talents



Dance Choreography

Photography



Visit <http://www.mdpta.org/documents/StudentEntryForm2011.2012.pdf> to download, complete & print an entry form. All entry forms must be typed and signed by a parent or guardian.



Literature

Visual Arts



2011-2012 Theme: "Diversity Means..."

Student Entry Form Due by
Tuesday, 11/29/11
(Get entry form online at
ptareflections.org/cs/student_entry_form)

Reflections Entry Judging Event
Tuesday, 12/20/11

Student Reflections Entries due by
Thursday, 12/15/11
(Late Entries will not be accepted.)

Winning Entries Announced by
Wednesday, 12/22/11
(1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place winning entries in each age
division will be advanced to the County Level of the
Competition)

**For more information, rules and/or to submit your form and entry, see
the following Reflections Committee Members:**

Dance/Choreography: Ms. Brumbalow
Visual Arts: Ms. Ellis

Literature: Ms. Sellers
Photography: Mr. Sydnor
(put in PTA mailbox)

National Media Sponsor of PTA Reflections Program

parenting


PTA REFLECTIONS

Imagine Discovery's Inaugural Reflections Program

by Charles E. Sydnor III

Next month, the Imagine Discovery PTA will sponsor its inaugural Reflections Program for our scholars coordinated by parent volunteer, Rachel J. Barrett-Dolcine! It has been found that when children express themselves through the arts, they grow intellectually as well as learn to analyze their thoughts and feelings. The Reflections Program provides students with the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition as well as serving as an outlet for students to creatively explore what they may be learning in the classroom.

The Reflections Program, which has been in existence since 1969, will offer our scholars the opportunity to create original works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film/videography, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Each year a new theme is selected for the program. The theme for this year's program is **"Diversity Means."**

The Reflection Program will be open to all of our scholars. Entrants will be

Take Note...



Have you ever thought to yourself, "Why didn't I know about this event?" or "I didn't know there was a meeting." Do you feel like you are not "in the loop?" Well, Imagine Discovery has a Connect-Ed communication system so that you can know what is going on at the school for special events or emergency closings.

Connect-Ed is a communication system that automatically contacts parents via telephone/email to advise them of im-

placed into three age divisions: **Primary** – kindergarten through grade 2; **Secondary** – grades 3-5; and **Middle** – grades 6-7. They will compete only against those in their age division. Since this is our inaugural program, we will be offering our scholars four of the six areas in which to participate. Those areas are: dance choreography, literature, photography and visual arts. If your scholar is interested in participating, be sure their [application form](#) is completed (typed or neatly handwritten), printed out for signing, and returned to the PTA no later than Tuesday, November 29.

Parents/students will need to bring their completed entry form to the appropriate committee member and receive a written version of the contest rules. Committee member category responsibilities are as follows: Ms. Ellis- Visual Arts, Ms. Sellers- Literature, Ms. Brumbalow-Dance & Choreography & Mr. Sydnor-Photography (please leave all Photography entry forms in the PTA mailbox in the front office). Entries are due no later than Thursday, December 15. Late

portant information, events and attendance. If you have not received communication via Connect-Ed to date or you would like to change your current contact number, you can do this in the main office. Only **one** phone number and email per child can be selected for this purpose. *Mrs. Leah Ward, 3rd Grade Teacher*

The PTA exists because of the tireless efforts of parent/grandparent/guardian and teacher volunteers. There are a lot of wonderful events the PTA has

entry forms or entries will not be accepted after the due date.

Judging will occur on Tuesday, December 20. All participants will get a certificate and our winners will be notified on Wednesday, December 21 that they are selected to represent Imagine at the Baltimore County PTA Council level for county-wide judging. Entries winning county awards of excellence will be sent to Maryland PTA for state judging.

The Maryland PTA will honor its winners with monetary awards. Other entries may receive Honorable Mention, which is not a monetary award. In addition, the Maryland PTA will forward a total of 24 state entries to National PTA for national judging.

So, please encourage your scholar to consider what "Diversity Means," enter this year's Reflections Program, and have fun being artistically creative in the process!

planned and will be planning in the future; however, these events cannot be possible without your support. For many of these events, an RSVP may be required. The PTA needs an accurate count of those who will be in attendance so that appropriate supplies are available.

Please remember to RSVP by the indicated date. There is a lot of time and effort on the part of our volunteers making these events a success. You do not want to miss out! Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

The PTA Connection

The Resourceful Nurse

by Hazel Randall, RN, BSN, MSN—Imagine Discovery's School Nurse



We are approaching the cold and flu season. There are a few important notes to keep in mind. Please contact the nurse prior to sending medication to be administered in the health suite. A physician's order is required for all prescription medications and daily over-the-counter medicines. Cough drops are considered a medication and may not be carried by students in school.

COLDS AND SORE THROATS

It is in the best interest of our children to minimize the spread of germs. Parents are asked to check their child's temperature when he or she complains of a sore throat, cough, headache or stomachache to identify fevers early. Some other recommendations are to change the tooth brush, gargle with warm salt water, drink hot tea, soups, and inform your physician within 24 hours if the discomfort continues. The following websites are available resources:

www.commoncold.org
www.coldcure.com
www.sorethroat.com
www.cdc.gov

ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory respiratory disease that interferes with airflow in the bronchial tubes of the lungs. With proper care and treatment, asthma symptoms such as difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, wheezing/chest discomfort can be controlled and emergencies reduced. Parents are asked to contact the nurse

about required physician orders for medication administration during school hours. A new physician order is required every year. Please review the following resources:

www.lungusa.org
www.marylandlung.org
www.asthma.com
www.controlasthmasymptoms.com
www.treatmyasthma.com

DIABETES

Diabetes destroys the body's insulin production cells which means that the body cannot convert food into energy. Management and control is possible by following your treatment plan recommended by your physician. These resources may be helpful:

www.diabetes.org
www.childrenwithdiabetes.com
www.joslin.org

Lastly, please wash and return clothing borrowed by your child to the health suite as soon as possible for other students to be able to use in case of emergency.

As always, please feel free to recommend how we can assist you with improving your child's health. Additional resources are available on the school's website at www.imaginediscovery.org and click on the FAMILIES link (Health Suite Info). Thank you for your support!



Great news happening around Imagine? If you have ideas about articles for events (K-7) happening at Imagine, please submit your article to myrasydnor@yahoo.com. You may be selected as a guest writer for a future edition! Here is your opportunity! Remember, you are the catalyst to bring about a positive change to your child's school! To be added to our e-mail distribution list for The PTA Connection, kindly forward your request to myrasydnor@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Imagine That!

Ms. Turbiak's 4th grade class won the PTA Membership drive. They will have pizza to celebrate on 11/17. Since Ms. Turbiak is a PTA member she will receive a special token as well. Congratulations!

There are currently 109 members of the PTA! We continue to strive to meet our goal of 150 members—it is still not too late to join!

The Kindergarten classes are collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Maryland Food Bank through Monday, December 19. Their goal is 500 lbs (10 or more boxes). Please drop off your food items in the box near the Kindergarten classrooms!



"Together We Can!" 2011– 2012 PTA Officers

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