



IMAGINE DISCOVERY

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

The PTA Connection

It's A New Year: It's Not Too Late To Get Involved!

by Carlette Flowers, PTA President



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday break! As we move into the new year, we have several events planned for the next few months. In February, we will have Donuts with Dad, the Reflections Award Ceremony, and Chuck E. Cheese's Night. In March, we will host a Read-

ing Night in conjunction with our General Meeting. Please look for more information in the coming weeks.

I would like to thank all the parents who have volunteered or assisted with a PTA activity and encourage parents that have not volunteered to find some time in the new year and see what's going on at Imagine. Please contact any PTA executive board member if you are interested in helping out with an event.

Lastly, we are still accepting memberships. We have a

goal of 150 members, and we are not there yet. Therefore, to encourage additional people to join we will have another membership drive. Remember that joining the PTA does not mean that you have to attend every meeting. Joining allows us to have your support and it allows us to do more for the students and teachers at Imagine. So please consider joining the Imagine Discovery PTA. Please take note of the information in this newsletter about the membership drive.

WE ARE IMAGINE!

The Board of Education Seeks Community Input for New Superintendent

as researched by Myra J. Sydnor

The Board of Education of Baltimore County has initiated its critical search for a new superintendent.

The Board has retained the services of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), a nationally-recognized consulting firm specializing in assisting local Boards of Education in finding qualified superintendent candidates. According to the Baltimore County Public School's web-

site, the search is a "four-phase process" designed to identify and select the best person from a "national pool of candidates". The new superintendent will be responsible for leading the school system which is comprised of "105,000 students in 173 schools, centers, and programs" and has some high-ranking schools in the nation.

A key step in the superinten-

dent search process is to identify the characteristics the Board should consider in selecting a new superintendent. The community's input and assistance is very essential in this process.

The public will be able to participate in this selection process by completing the **online survey** at <http://www.bcps.org/supsearch.htm> prior to January 27, 2012.

PTA Updates

DATES



JANUARY

Monday, 1/23—
Professional Development Day -
School closed for students

FEBRUARY

Thursday, 2/2—
Distribution of Report Cards

Monday, 2/13—
Chuck E. Cheese's Fundraiser at 3:00 p.m., Baltimore National Pike Location

Monday, 2/20—
Presidents' Day—
School closed

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The PTA Connection

Faculty Spotlight: Mrs. Savadra Boyce

by Beverly Lofton



Second grade teachers teach a variety of subjects and interact with students from various backgrounds, so adaptability is an important skill. They must be sensitive to cultural, racial, socioeconomic and religious differences among their students and understand how such diversity influences students' learning. Patience and the ability to soothe and communicate with children also are important qualities for second grade teachers. Having the ability to react appropriately to stressful situations and having the energy to keep up with second graders is a must. Second grade teaching is not easy, but having a well-balanced life and influence mentors in one's life is very helpful, as Mrs. Boyce will tell you. The PTA is honoring Mrs. Savadra Boyce in this month's "Spotlight". Please join us in

congratulating her on a job well done!

Mrs. Boyce was raised right here in the Baltimore area. She attended the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore to obtain an undergraduate degree and University of Maryland at Baltimore County for her graduate degree. Mrs. Boyce has worked in charter schools for seven years, this includes three years at Patterson Park Charter School in Baltimore City, and the last four years here at Imagine Discovery.

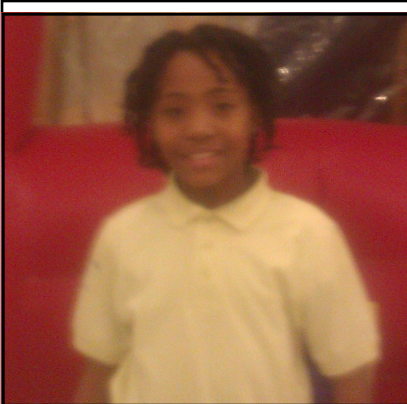
When asked, "What would you like the parents of Imagine to know about the school?" Mrs. Boyce responded by saying, "Imagine Discovery is a school that has the best interest of the children at heart. The teachers and staff are highly qualified with a passion to educate. Children are given the opportunity to learn a wealth of knowledge through a rigorous curriculum and enriching field trips. It is an inviting place where parents and families are always welcomed and given the opportunity to take part in school activities."

Mrs. Boyce says that one of the most inspirational people in her life is her Pastor's wife, First Lady Shields. She first met her when she was about six years old. First Lady Shields was Mrs. Boyce's Sunday school teacher. Because of her, Mrs.

Boyce learned to recite all 66 books of the Bible and a whole lot more. All through growing up she has always been a positive role model in Mrs. Boyce's life. Mrs. Boyce reflects on First Lady Shields's guidance and encouragement by saying, "When I'm right she encourages me, when I'm wrong she lets me know, but she does it with love." She is someone Mrs. Boyce says she can confide in, laugh with, cry with, pray with and receive good sound advice from, whether natural or spiritual.

Mrs. Boyce is very proud to not only be a teacher at Imagine Discovery, but through First Lady Shields, she is also a teacher and president over the Children's Ministry and choir at her church. Mrs. Boyce says she is grateful to God to not only have her wonderful natural mother, Michelle Ellis, but to have First Lady Shields as a spiritual mother in her life as well.

Mrs. Boyce's personal and professional goal at Imagine is to not just be a satisfactory teacher, but an exceptional teacher. Her goal for her class is to help her students achieve academic success. When you pass Mrs. Boyce by in the halls of Imagine, please thank her for her continued dedication as one of our wonderful teachers!



Congratulations to Deja Rouzer, Grade 4, the winner of the Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser's Money Machine! Way to go, Deja! Thanks to Nicole Woolford and April Epps-Bryant for coordinating this fundraiser!

Friday Football Fever! On Friday, January 27th and February 3rd, leading up to Super Bowl XLVI, students may wear jerseys and t-shirts of their favorite football team (NFL only) over their school uniform for a small fee of \$.50 each Friday. Tickets must be purchased from your child's homeroom teacher and turned in on or before that day as

proof of purchase. Proceeds will be used to support the Emergency Student Lunch Account.

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**CALLING ALL PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS, AND
GUARDIANS...**

Join the Imagine Discovery PCS Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Why should you join the PTA?

The PTA is the link between Parents and Teachers. Show your student you care about their education and get involved. With the money that you donate to the PTA in yearly membership dues and fundraising, we provide many opportunities for students and families such as, Cultural Assemblies, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Book Fairs, Spring Fair, Fifth Grade Farewell Activities, Reflections Program, and the Volunteer Appreciation dinner.

Did you know the PTA currently has 132 members? Of those members, 111 are students' parents and 31 are staff members. Imagine Discovery currently has 623 students and 53 staff members.

TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP THE PTA IS HAVING A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NOW THROUGH MARCH 30, 2012. THE CLASS WITH THE MOST NEW PTA MEMBERS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD WILL HAVE AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO CELEBRATE!

Membership forms are available in the office and membership dues are \$10, per adult, each school year. Thank you!

Imagine Discovery PCS



The Counselor's Corner

by Marisa Lynch, Imagine Discovery's Professional School Counselor



Greetings to all the parents and guardians of our wonderful Imagine Discovery students!

For those of you who have not met me yet, I am the new school counselor for Imagine Discovery, serving students at both the elementary and middle school levels. I am one of the "new kids on the block"--new to Imagine, new as a school counselor, and

new to the public education system. Before I came to Imagine Discovery, I worked for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) as a manager of career development, leadership development, and mentoring programs. I believe that my background in the public sector workforce has provided me with a background to help support one of our school's primary goals—for our students to be college ready and workforce ready!

Being a school counselor has been a long term dream of mine! About ten years ago, I participated as a volunteer workshop trainer for a *Boys and Girls Clubs of America* Teen Summit on Diversity. I liked working with youth so much that I decided to make a career change. I attended graduate school and received my Masters in Guidance & Counseling from Loyola University in 2008.

As a school counselor, I wear many hats. I provide individual counseling to students, conduct small and large-group counseling sessions on topics such as friendship and anger management. I also conduct classroom guidance sessions on topics such as responsibility, respect, bullying, decision-making etc. For middle school students, I will be coordinating the Student Service Learning Program for students who want to earn community service hours as part of Maryland's high school graduation requirement.

I am looking forward to meeting and/or talking with you during the school year. Please feel free to call me any time and/or drop me an email. I may be reached at (410) 887-2873 or via e-mail at mlynch2@bcps.org.

Happy New Year!

Take Note...



Uniforms

Please take note that the white dress shirts for Imagine can be worn on any school day of your choosing. Currently, there is no designated day for students to wear the dress shirts.

Also, please note that any pants worn by the girls of Imagine at the elementary (navy blue pants) or middle school (gray pants) levels, should be loose-fitting attire appropriate for the school setting. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Ed-Line

Ed-Line is up and running for parents to access their scholar's grades online. Each family has been given the website address (www.edline.net) as well as their password to access the information. If you have any

questions about the Ed-Line program, please contact the school's main office.

Chuck E. Cheese's Fundraiser

There will be a Chuck E. Cheese's Fundraiser night on Monday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m. at 5912 Baltimore National Pike. Please join us for pizza, games, and fun while raising money for Imagine Discovery's PTA!

Imagine's Spring Fair Is Coming!

-When: Saturday, March 3rd, 10am - 2pm
 - Where: Imaginarium
 - Why: To raise funds to support the planning and execution of our annual Spring Fair (which will be held at the end of the school year)

Details: ONLY our Imagine "Family" will be able to rent space which will cost \$20/ space. The event will be opened to the

community and will be FREE to enter. For anyone interested in purchasing space, please send an email to Adrienne @ brown626@msn.com and write "Spring Yard Sale" in the subject line. Please include your name, email address, phone #, child's name and teacher's name, # of spaces requested. More detailed information will be emailed to those interested during the first week in February. If you would prefer to volunteer during this event, please send an email to brown626@msn.com with "Spring Yard Sale Volunteer" in subject line.

Pennies for Patients

Imagine is currently conducting a Pennies for Patients Drive to donate to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Please have your child to send in their change. Thank you!

The PTA Connection

The Resourceful Nurse

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



Happy New Year Imagine Discovery Parents and Guardians! Your involvement is the key to resolving all health concerns regarding our children. Please discuss eating breakfast and lunch with your child. These meals decrease some of the headaches and stomachaches experienced by our children. I would like to ask you to take their temperature at home when they feel ill before school and at bedtime. Students with fevers of 100.0° or greater may not remain in school. Policy demands our children to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication to return to school.

Medications: Physician orders are required for all prescription medication including medication for asthma and daily by mouth medication administration. Students may not carry medication on their person from home for colds, headaches, etc. **Please call with any questions you may have regarding medications to discuss your concerns.**

Hearing & Vision Screenings: February 21st, 22nd, 23rd, in the a.m. and 24th, with a retest on March 5th. Pursuant to state law, the following students will be screened:

1. Grades Pre-K, 1st, 4th and any kindergarteners that were not previously screened in Pre-K.
2. Special Education (age-appropriate in self-contained classes Pre-K, 1st, and 4th).
3. Any students who were absent and not screened in the previous year.
4. Any referral student from other grades with a suspected hearing and/

or vision problem, **not already under medical care**, and all students **new to Baltimore County School System.**

This does not include transfers from Baltimore County Schools, who have a SR) 5/SH-1 (pink card) that is up to date.

I appreciate all of your recommendations, suggestions and advice with improving the health care of our children.

Internet Resources on Health Issues: Parents' Top 9 Questions About Back-to-School Health: <http://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/parents-top-9-questions-for-back-to-school>

Learn more at WEBMD - the nation's most trusted health and wellness resource: <http://www.webmd.com/>

* Symptom Checker: <http://symptoms.webmd.com/>

* Search WebMD: <http://www.webmd.com/search/>

* Drug Information: <http://www.webmd.com/drugs/index-drugs.aspx>

* Health Video Library: <http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/videos/default.htm>

* Find a Doctor: <http://doctor.webmd.com/>

* Personal Health Manager: <http://www.webmd.com/health-manager>

* Free Newsletters: <https://member.webmd.com/newsletters/newsletters.aspx>



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!

To be added or removed from our e-mail distribution list for The PTA Connection, kindly forward your request to myrasydnor@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Imagine That!

There are currently 132 members of the PTA! We continue to strive to meet our goal of 150 members—it is still not too late to join! Please see the flyer for details!

Imagine's character trait for the month of January is *responsibility*. The character traits for the rest of the school year are as follows:

- February- Tolerance
- March- Determination/Perseverance
- April- Trustworthiness/Integrity
- May- Citizenship



"Diversity Means" 2011– 2012 PTA Officers

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