

## Negotiations Nearing Completion

The MCEA and BOE bargaining teams have been meeting intensively through the month of January, in hopes of reaching a tentative agreement by the end of the month. Discussions are ongoing in five different subcommittees:

- Leadership & Career
- How Systems Work
- Human Resources & Professional Development
- Time & Workload
- Economic Issues

A number of issues that surfaced through the MCEA Member Bargaining Survey, and through pre-bargaining discussions at the Rep Assembly, Councils on Teaching & Learning, and with the Bargaining Council, have been the focus of discussions. In addition, numerous professional specialty groups within MCEA have been providing input (and research) to the bargaining teams. The teams remain hopeful that they will be able to announce an overall tentative agreement soon.

### ----- State Backing Off on GCEI Funding Promises

While the new governor has proposed a massive increase in school construction funding, the news is not so good on whether the state will finally honor its commitment to fund the "Geographic Cost of Education" Index. MCPS is due \$22.7 million dollars next year under GCEI. MCEA members are encouraged to contact Governor O'Malley and their state legislators to urge support for GCEI funding. You can call the Governor at 410-974-3901 and reach legislators through [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us)

## SHORT TAKES

### Easy Access to Classroom Tools

Looking for new ideas on classroom management or keeping students more focused during instructional presentations? Try [www.interventioncentral.com](http://www.interventioncentral.com). It has a lot of great ideas and could be a useful tool.

### Don't Miss Out on Your \$250 Federal Tax Deduction!

Congress renewed (at least for tax year 2006) the federal tax deduction for out-of-pocket expenses for teachers. The IRS instructions read: ***Educator Expense Adjustment to Income:*** *Teachers and other educators (including classroom aides, counselors, and principals) can deduct as much as \$250 that they spent to purchase classroom supplies last year. The deduction can be claimed on Form 1040, line 23, "Archer MSA Deduction." Enter "E" on the dotted line to the left of that line entry if claiming educator expenses, or "B" if claiming both an Archer MSA deduction and the deduction for educator expenses on Form 1040. If entering "B," taxpayers must attach a breakdown showing the amounts claimed for each deduction.*

### Taxes & Union Dues

MCEA dues may be tax deductible, depending on your itemized deductions. Be sure to consult your tax advisor. Calendar year 2006 dues (NEA, MSTA, & MCEA combined) were: full time: \$559.35; part-time (.5 or less): \$307.77. If you worked less than the full calendar year, or were part-time, contact MCEA's Membership Coordinator, Jackie Thompson ([jthompson@mcea.nea.org](mailto:jthompson@mcea.nea.org)).

### National Board Teachers Get "Pinned"

72 MCPS teachers recently received National Board Certification (NBC); the rigorous, yearlong process resulting in what has become the "gold standard" in teaching. Across Maryland, 161 teachers achieved NBC this cycle. Earlier this month, MCEA hosting a pinning ceremony for the new inductees. 300 MCEA members have achieved National Board Certification so far.

## TEACHER TIP

### Snake Review

(math, grades 6-12)

Reviewing for tests in any subject can be boring especially if using worksheets. Try this and see if you don't get a better reaction. Write 50 problems on numbered index cards. Provide no answers but keep a master answer sheet. Students number an answer sheet from 1 to 50 where they record their answer. Arrange the students' desks in a snake pattern (or designate the flows using existing rows) and then give each student an index card. They work the problem from the card, being careful to number their work and show all the steps needed for solving the problem. Their answers are recorded on their answer sheets, and they pass the card on to the next part of the "snake." as they finish. Allow them to have two cards on their desk at a time, but if more cards are passed than they have time to do, they just pass the extra cards on to the next student. Pick up the cards from the tail of the snake and start them back through again so that students who didn't get them the first time will work them the second. Also take note of anyone who is sitting without a card to work on and feed them one. When most of the problems are worked, stop and call out answers so they can check their work. You'll see that students really work hard. One word of advice is to stress to them that they are shooting for accuracy and not for speed! You don't want to create pressure by having cards passed to them force them to work too fast.

### "You Can Do It" Challenge

(grades 5-10, adaptable)

Here is a fun way to help students overcome 'I can't do it' thinking. While students are sitting at their desks, tell them to: 1. Lift their right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. 2. Now, while doing this, draw the number 6 in the air with their right hand. 3. Their foot will change directions and there is nothing they'll be able to do about it. 4. Let them try it a few times and see if anyone finds the solution. 5. Then tell them, 'You CAN do something about it.' 6. Lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. 7. Now, while doing this, draw the number 6 beginning with **the lower circle**, progressing clockwise and finishing at the top. It shows it CAN be done and opens valuable discussion with a little humor.

These tips were gathered from "Works4me" an NEA on-line program. For additional tips, e-mail to [lyris@list.nea.org](mailto:lyris@list.nea.org). Then in the message block, type: subscribe Works4me (with no punctuation)

## ON THE JOB

### Parent-Teacher Contact: Keeping Them Productive

Providing a successful instructional experience to students is only part of a teacher's task. Sharing that student's successes and problems with the child's parents is also important. Unfortunately, it's not always easy. Knowing how to differentiate between a concerned parent who has reasonable questions and suggestions and a parent who crosses over that line — and knowing what to do in the latter case, is no easy task.

Any time a parent contacts a teacher about the progress of a child, it's the teacher's responsibility to respond. What happens when the parent request reaches such frequency that it interferes with your teaching responsibility? Request an in-person meeting with the parent and a member of the administration or guidance department to work out a reasonable and mutual resolution to the frequency and manner of communication.

### The Parent-Teacher Conference

Some strategies for successful parent meetings include: starting with some discussion about shared interests (e.g. helping improve the student's performance); listening carefully to the concerns expressed by the parent; bringing documentation of a student's performance and work product; sharing some of the student's strengths with the parent; pointing out constructive ways to improve the student's performance; and deciding what steps will be taken and by whom (especially the responsibility of the student).

At the conclusion of the conference, review the decisions and tasks that were agreed upon. It might also be worthwhile to set a timeline to reconnect (via email or phone) to see if agreed upon steps were taken and progress was being made.

If you anticipate in advance that the meeting might be a contentious one, request that an administrator facilitate it. If the parent becomes verbally abusive or physically threatening, request the administrator take control. If this doesn't happen, politely excuse yourself from the meeting.



# TRADEWINDS

MCEA's Classified Ad Service

## Tradewinds Submission Policies

Ads may only be submitted by MCEA MEMBERS or Representation Fee Payers, and must be noncommercial in nature. Service ads will only be run for services provided by MCEA members. Ads may be faxed (301-309-9563) or e-mailed to [tradewinds@mcea.nea.org](mailto:tradewinds@mcea.nea.org), and must contain your name, home phone number, and school/worksites.

MCEA reserves the right to reject any ads or edit or delay any ads submitted due to space limitations. Tradewinds can also be found online at [www.mcea.nea.org](http://www.mcea.nea.org).

Inclusion of any services, programs or goods in the *Tradewinds* does not imply endorsement by MCEA nor does MCEA assume any liability for any item included in the *Tradewinds*. For information or questions, call MCEA at 301-294-6232.

DEADLINE to submit ads for the next issue: February 5th.

## FOR SALE

**06 Yamaha 125 Vino Scooter:** 600 miles, 6 mos old, auto, \$1200. Call Joe: 301-963-8558.

**00 Mazda Protege ES:** Silver, 72K, auto, cd, a/c, sunroof, new tires and brakes \$4300. Call Rob/Tara @ 301-349-5053.

**81 Honda, CB900 LTD Prod Custom Motorcycle:** Ltd production, under 30K miles, pristine condition, garage kept asking \$3K call 301-230-0252.

**81 Yamaha Seca XJ750RH Motorcycle:** 16K orig miles, black, garage kept, recent carb and brake work, new battery, runs great, engine sound, king/queen seat, will deliver \$1000, call Dirk @ 301-471-2977.

**Baby Stuff:** *Ocean Wonders Aquarium Cradle Swing* \$45; *Aquarium Take Along Swing* \$30; *Deluxe Symphony in Motion Mobile* \$25; *Baby Bjorn Baby Original Carrier* - City Black \$40; *Pump In Style Breast Pump* \$100; *Simplicity Convertible 3-in-1 Bassinet* \$50. Call Denise @ 301-570-1821.

**Beach Home:** waterfront dble wide mobile home in *Rehoboth Bay DE*. Newly renovated, fully furnished and equipped, many extras. Close to golf, marina, and tax free shopping. Asking \$165K. Bob 301-528-7048.

**Bicycle:** Girl's *bicycle* with 24 inch wheels (for ages 8-12) call Dave @ 301-593-3727.

**Desk:** Antique mahogany school *desk*, 1st grade size. 2 pts w/lifting bench, inkwell, and wrought iron decorative sides \$100 cash only, call 301-598-3842.

**Dryer:** 04 GE Gas *dryer* asking \$100, you haul call 301-460-8613.

**Drums:** Black pearl EX (5) piece *drum set* w/ stool and 4 Sabian cymbals asking \$300 call 301-253-4834.

**Furn:** Girl's 6 drawer *dresser w/mirror*, cream color w/light oak top. Small pink & blue flowers on top drawers. Julie: 301-502-5552.

**Furn:** 5 pc lr set. *Sofa*, oversized *chair*, *coffee table* and 2 *end tables* and *lamps*. Neutral cream color asking \$500. Lisa: 240-832-5643.

**Furn:** *Entertainment Center* all wood, 3 pcs incl shelves, lights, drawers and TV armoire asking \$400; *Futon* w/wooden frame, full size, black cover \$25, and *arm chair* wood w/2 *cushions* \$5 call Denise @ 301-570-1821.

**Heater:** Baseboard *heater and thermostat* 8' 220V ready for installation, filled with silicone fluid, safe and efficient. Never used, pd \$330, will take reasonable offer, 240-687-3000.

**Condo:** *Pompano Beach FL* close to Ft Lauderdale airport. 2br/2/ba, screened porch/balcony. Many amenities and upgrades. Pets allowed, asking 12K OBO. Contact Melissa @ 301-589-1618 for more info.

**House:** *Germantown* 3br/2f/2.5 garage, deck and finished basement. Two minutes from I-270 asking \$345K, call Marc @ 301-404-2246.

**House:** *Rockville* sgl family split level 4br/2.5ba, hardwood floors throughout, 3 schools close by. asking \$485K. Faith: 301-774-6497.

**House:** *Courtyards @ Rio/Washington Center TH* \$489,999. 3 levels, 3 brs (Mbr w/ vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet), 2ba (Mba w/ jacuzzi tub, dble vanity) and 2.5baths, gas fpl, fin basement, deck, 2-car garage. Walk to shops, restaurants, theater, 301-807-1784.

**House:** 4br/3.5ba end unit TH in *Germantown* offered @ \$365K, new carpet and Pergo floors. Many upgrades/amenities. Call Jeannie/Parfait: 301-972-6262.

**Townhouse:** *Germantown* 3br/3ba updated appliances, gas/woodburning fpl, oversized deck, fenced yard, backs to trees and more asking \$379,900 call 301-601-0343.

**Kindergarten Materials:** Most materials starting at \$.50, some items free call 301-947-3353/301-910-6562.

**Lawn Furn:** *Brown Jordan*, 8 *chairs*, 2 *lounges*, 1 *table*. Needs re-meshing (materials included) \$75 for all. Call 301-469-5856.

**Misc:** Delta wood planer w/accessories \$250 OBO - 12" portable planer model #22-540 w/ tool stand, dust collection hood, and extra knives call Mike @ 301-916-0261.

**Misc:** *Sofa bed* (queensize) and *Love Seat* \$350; *telephone booth* \$2000; *Bally Space Invader commercial pinball machine* \$2300; dining room octagonal *table w/6 chairs & buffet* \$300 call 301-603-9579.

**Misc:** *Battenberg Hand-Made White Lace Curtains* 100% cotton, 3 windows incl 84" panels, valances, 1/2 panels w/tie backs. \$100 OBO; *Antique parlor sofa/loveseat*, dark wood, orig red/beige velvet fabric, nail heads \$1K OBO and Solid *pine table/chairs* 48" rd pedestal table and 4-6 *Mexican style chairs* \$500 OBO call 301-926-6207.

**Pool Table:** 6ft, green felt, light brown hardwood trim. Includes balls, sticks, & rack. Will include wall mount for sticks. Must sell \$300, located in Rockville. John: 301-335-4267.

**Router:** *Linksys* Wireless-G Broadband *Router*, compatible with Wireless-B (802.11b) and Wireless-G (802.11g) asking \$30.00. Call 301-253-4834.

**Time Share:** *Myrtle Beach* oceanfront time share for sale at the Yachtsman. King bed, queen sleeper, & youth bunk beds. Full kit and DR. White time frame March thru Mid-

April and November. Looking to sell for \$4K call 301-845-7289.

### WANTED

**Outer Bank property:** Prof MCPS couple looking to rent 2-3x/year. Will check on property, relate concerns, oversee repairs/contractors in exchange for fixed reasonable price. Would visit on a regular basis. Call 443-414-1948.

**Pet Sitter:** Seeking pet sitter to stay in home, caring for 2 dogs and 1 cat March 30 thru April 8, Silver Spring near Glenmont Metro. Gabriela: 301-760-8479.

### SERVICES OFFERED

**Acupuncture Services:** Natl Bd Certified Acupuncturist. Free initial consult. Call Lisa Marie Price, 240-780-9130.

**Custom Furniture/Cabinets:** Built-in cabinets, bookcases, hutches, mantels and more. call Steve @ 301-502-8624.

**DJ Svcs:** All types of events with excellent ref. special price for Feb- Mar, lighting included, Matt @ 301-482-1404.

**Handyman:** Int/Ext house painting, drywall and light carpentry, and deck cleaning. Free est call 240-252-0491.

**Legal Services:** Discount for MCPS employees by fellow teacher/attorney. Estate Planning, Incorporations, General Business Matters, Powers of Attorney, Wills and Name changes, call Mike Brady 301-330-5011.

**Legal Services:** Reduced fees for MCPS employees. Family law, wills, bankruptcy, misc. Eve & wknd appts. Judi Bluefeld Amick @ 301-279-7817.

**Magician:** Entertainment/great fun for your special party! Amazing illusions. MCPS disc, Wendy 301-738-2127.

**Makeup Artist:** Weddings, special occasions, traveling svcs avail., disc for teachers. Call Hollie @ 301-468-1745.

**Personal Fitness Trainer:** A program can be designed for your home or at certain facilities. Special rates for educators. Call 301-212-9309.

**Photography:** Professional photojournalistic photography for weddings, special events and portraiture contact [shawn@sdbphotos.com](mailto:shawn@sdbphotos.com).

**Stationery:** Customized invitations, announcements, kids/adult stationery, note cards, more! Up to 25% discount, addtl MCPS discount, call 301-806-8568.

**Tax Return Preparation:** CPA prepared tax returns. \$79 for most singles and \$109 for most married couples. Returns include Schedule A. Call 301-947-3115.

**Web Design:** Professional design at reasonable prices. Custom svcs offered. Web hosting included in most plans. Contact Matt @ 301-946-8836.

### VACATION RENTALS

**Bethany Beach:** Summer '07, walk to boardwalk and beach or take the Bethany Trolley. 2 br/2ba + sleep sofa in den. 1 level w/screened porch, deck, quiet Bethany neighborhood. \$875/wk + sec. deposit, call 301-540-1726.

**Myrtle Beach SC:** 2br/2ba condo in great area. Call 240-683-3834 for rates and more info.

**North Fenwick Island DE:** Lovely TH located directly on the bay with priv ocean beach, boat dock on the bay, pool. 3br den with futon, 3.5ba, screened porch with deck, slps 8, sunset view call 301-493-8605.

**North Myrtle Beach SC:** 3br deluxe condo for week of June 30 – July 7 – oceanview, slps 10; full kitchen, w/d, across street from beach \$2250/wk contact Faith @ 301-774-6497.

**North Myrtle Beach SC:** 2 units-duplex beach rentals. Each 3br, spacious kit, lr, dr, slps 10-12, ½ block beach & shopping district. NP. Wooded lot and priv drive, call 301-320-6543/240-461-1842.

**Ocean City MD:** Ocean front 84<sup>th</sup> St 2br/2ba spacious kit. Slps 6, pool, right on beach. Call Linda @ 301-490-6379.

**Outer Banks NC:** 4br, semi ocean front in Corolla. Wwalk to the *Currituck Club Golf Course*, shopping, and restaurants. Hot tub, priv pool, highspeed wireless internet, unltld long distance. Avail Jun-Sept and Oct-May. Contact Larry @ 301-424-0757 for special MCPS rates.

**Outer Banks NC:** Semi ocean front 7 br beach house located in the Villages of Ocean Hill, private pool and hot tub. Avail Jun-Sept for summer rental and Oct – May for winter rental. Contact Larry @ 301-424-0757 for special MCPS rates.

**South Bethany Beach:** Sleeps 8. South 5<sup>th</sup> St., ocean block, 3br/2ba and shower downstairs. Call Linda @ 301-490-6379

### FOR RENT

**Apartment:** 2br/1ba basement apt in Silver Spring, avail immed, kit, \$800/mo incl util. Call Sara @ 202-498-0324.

**Apartment:** Basement apt 5 min from Seneca Valley HS (Germantown) fireplace, glass dble doors, full bath, shared kitchen \$650/mo+ ½ util. Call Nomi 301-528-3887. Separate room avail in June. Couples welcome. References required.

**TH:** Silver Spring/Colesville area 3br/1ba/1.5ba, pool \$1600/mo. Avail immed, call 301-572-4429.

**Roommate:** 1br/1ba avail in 2br/2ba apt in Reston VA, newly renovated. Complex features workout room & pool, plenty of free parking. Bus to West Falls Church Metro, N/S call 301-467-5815.

**Roommate:** Share TH in Gaithersburg. Master br w/walk-in closet. W/D, pking, convenient to Mtgy Village Ave, Mid-County Hwy, I-270 and Metro. Mo-to-mo or 6 mo lease avail, N/S \$500/mo + ½ util, avail immed call 301-385-6721.

**Roommate:** Silver Spring, N/S F teacher to share 3 br Glenmont TH w/MCPS teacher. Plenty of pking, convenient to busline and Metro, and use of all household amenities. \$825/mo + 30% of util, avail immed call 240-997-2272.

**Roommate:** Share 2br condo in Bethesda, near Mtgy Mall and I-270 \$875/mo+util call Ann @ 240-687-0908.

**Roommate:** Silver Spring, NS F tchr to share 3br TH. On bus line to either Silver Spring or Wheaton metro. Furnished master br/ba avail. Rsvd prkg space, use of all household amenities \$725/mo+1/3 util. Discount for fellow tchrs. Avail immed. Lynn 201-367-4971.