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# Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

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February 13, 2007

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I have spoken at previous meetings about some of the many ways that we develop our students to take their places in the new global community. This evening, I would like to share with you information about an initiative that will involve Baltimore County students with other American, African, and European students in an Oxford-based international art project during the 2007-2008 school year.

The project is titled **MY...** and is sponsored by the Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire schools, Modern Art Oxford, and the Arts Council of Oxfordshire. Through this project, students will develop projects that can be shared digitally, experimenting in a range of media including sculpture, film, photography, and video. Elementary students will create art based on the theme of their favorite things, like parents, pets, schools, and homes. High school students will be asked in their work to explore deeper themes, like their fears, loves, memories, and hopes.

The elementary schools that will participate include Cromwell Valley, Fifth District, Halstead Academy, Lansdowne, Riverview, Sandy Plains, Sparks, and Woodholme. Participating high schools are the Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Catonsville High School, Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts, and Towson High School.

Planning for the exhibition is underway this school year. Students will create artwork during the the 2007-2008 school year, and in September 2008, this artwork will be displayed at Modern Art Oxford, the largest modern and contemporary art gallery in southeast Britain. Student artwork will be also posted online at [www.oxonart.org](http://www.oxonart.org).

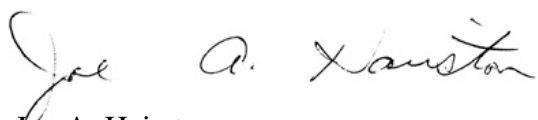
Through this initiative our students will have the opportunity to interact as members of the global community and to learn more about the differences and similarities in the lives of other young people around the world.

Baltimore County Public Schools will also be showcased internationally this spring in another forum. In May, Lansdowne Elementary School, the Maryland State Exemplary Reading Program Award winner for 2006-2007, will represent Maryland at this year's International Reading Association Annual Convention in Ontario. At this conference, our educators from Lansdowne will have the opportunity to share their best practices with schools around the world.

Congratulations to Principal Anne Gold and the staff of Lansdowne Elementary School. As the *Blueprint for Progress* proclaims, all children can learn and achieve. At Lansdowne Elementary School, dedicated staff, hardworking students, and supportive families and neighbors prove this every day as they facilitate skill-building and inspire students to become lifelong learners.

Aside from international awareness and involvement, another enduring topic in our school system is the importance of uninterrupted instructional time. In various discussions, I have stressed and the Board has stressed the importance of our students being in their classrooms to learn. Students spend more time out of school than in school, and the requirements for what they must learn during their in-school hours make each of those hours increasingly precious.

However, some circumstances necessitate the delay or cancellation of school, both to protect student safety and to accommodate the needs of our greater community. I would now like to yield the remainder of my report time to Transportation Director Linda Fitchett, who will discuss the complexities involved in emergency closings.



Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

## **Review of Superintendent's Calendar**

### *Past*

- 1/24            **Maryland Board of Public Works Appeal, Annapolis**
- 1/24            **Public Hearing on FY 2008 Operating Budget, Ridge Ruxton School**
- 1/29            **Visit to General John Stricker Middle School with Governor O'Malley**
- 1/30            **Board Work Session on FY 2008 Operating Budget, ESS**
- 1/31            **Visit to Deep Creek Middle School with Area Assistant Superintendent Jean Satterfield**
- 2/1             **Presentation to Senate Budget and Taxation Committee with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Annapolis**
- 2/1             **Presentation of Capital Budget to County Planning Board, County Courts Building Room, Towson**
- 2/2             **Address to Baltimore County Delegation in Annapolis**
- 2/3             **Black Saga County Finals and Awards Presentation, Randallstown High School**

- 2/7            **Student Advisory Board Meeting**
- 2/9            **Human Resources Retreat, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 2/12          **Maryland State Department of Education Blue Ribbon Panel Breakfast, St. Joseph Hospital**
- Upcoming*
- 2/14          **Principals' Meeting, Holiday Inn**
- 2/15          **College Board Forum, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore**
- 2/15          **Baltimore County Delegation Hearing on SB 79 / SB 82 / SB 99, James Senate Building, Annapolis**
- 2/16          **Maryland Blue Ribbon School celebration at Hereford Middle School with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick**
- 2/21          **Presentation to Towson Rotary, Café Troia**
- 2/21          **Presentation to Southwest Area Advisory Council, Lansdowne Elementary School**
- 2/22          **Compulsory Attendance Task Force Meeting, Loyola College, Columbia Campus**
- 2/22          **Board Dinner with state legislators, Harry Browne's Restaurant, Annapolis**
- 2/23          **Maryland School Assessment Awards Breakfast, Padonia Park Club, Cockeysville**
- 2/26          **Maryland State Department of Education Steroid Awareness Kick-off, Towson High School**
- 2/27          **Principal Center Workshop (for Secondary Principals), Loyola Graduate Center, Timonium**
- 2/27          **Lunch with County Council, Council Chambers, Towson**
- 2/28 – 3/6    **American Association of Secondary Administrators (AASA)/ - Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI) Conference, New Orleans**