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

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October 7, 2008

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This past weekend I had the pleasure of participating in two events that highlighted the excellence of our teachers, students, and principals. First, at a statewide gala, John Billingslea of Franklin High School was honored as one of eight finalists for the 2009 Maryland Teacher of the Year award. Next both Debbie Phelps, principal of Windsor Mill Middle School, and her son, Towson High graduate Michael Phelps, were celebrated during Towson's Parade of Gold.

The parade also featured: the eight student winners of Windsor Mill Middle School's "Read Your Way to Beijing" contest; marching bands from Milford Mill Academy and Dulaney, Parkville, Towson, and Loch Raven high schools; Principal Sue Deise and staff from Rodgers Forge Elementary School; Principal Nancy Fink and staff from Dumbarton Middle School; Principal Jane Barranger and staff from Towson High School; the Windsor Mill Middle School JROTC Color Guard; and Towson High School Cheerleaders.

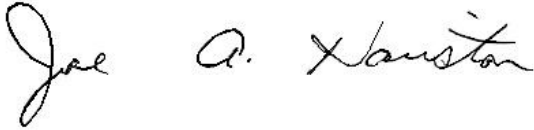
Debbie Phelps continues to bring national attention to Baltimore County Public Schools. Yesterday, her school was visited by a crew from "60 Minutes." Over the past few months, media from around the world have sought interviews with her, and she has used those opportunities to promote the importance of student achievement and the role of our principals.

The school system attracts national attention in other ways, too. A team from "NBC Nightly News" came to Dumbarton Middle School last month to film a story about that school's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. The story, expected to air on October 13, will be part of a series NBC News is producing on the impact of the nation's changing demographics. The series will begin with the Dumbarton piece, focusing on how the school and Baltimore County reflect both the new face of American education and how a school and school system can successfully prepare all children to contribute to and prosper in an ever-changing global society and economy.

At Dumbarton's ESOL center 122 students from 38 nations speak 32 languages. The NBC News producer who coordinated the visit said that NBC came to Dumbarton because it "is a model for the rest of the country."

We are also seen as a model for the country because of our success in raising achievement in schools serving low-income communities. Because of this, tomorrow, a researcher from the Panasonic Foundation will spend a few days studying our schools and programs. The Panasonic Foundation aims to improve public education in the United States,

Finally, I had the honor, last week, of participating as a panelist at the Association of American Publishers 2008 Summit on Technology Trends and Innovations in K-12 School Publishing, held in Pentagon City. Baltimore County Public Schools continues to be invited to such national forums because of the strength of our reputation as a school system working to ensure that all students receive a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "A." before the last name.

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 9/11 **Offered greetings at kick-off event for Good News Ambassadors, New Town High School**
- 9/11 **Visited schools**
- 9/11 **Offered greetings at Baltimore County Public Schools/Community College of Baltimore County Partnership meeting, ESS Building**
- 9/12 **Visited schools**
- 9/13 **Attended the Children's Cancer Foundation Celebrity Ball, Towson Center**
- 9/15 **Visited Victory Villa Elementary School**
- 9/19 **Made presentation at Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 9/20 **Offered greetings at African American Festival, Court House, Towson**
- 9/23 **Offered greetings at Safe Schools Conference, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 9/23 **Interviewed by Arin Gencer, *The Baltimore Sun***
- 9/24-25 **Participated in Maryland Association of Boards of Education Conference, Ocean City**
- 9/25-9/26 **Participated in Blackboard Conference, Washington, D.C.**
- 9/27 **Offered greetings at Baltimore County Student Councils Leadership Workshop, Camp Ramblewood, Darlington**
- 9/29 **Offered greetings at Rigorous Instruction Workshops (one for high school teachers and one for middle school teachers), Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 10/2 **Made remarks as a "Educators in a Time of Transformation" panel member, at Association of American Publishers 2008 Summit on Technology Trends and Innovations in K-12 School Publishing, Arlington, VA**

- 10/3 **Attended Maryland Teacher of the Year Awards Gala, Martin's West**
- 10/4 **Participated, along with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick and Windsor Mill Middle School Principal Debbie Phelps, in the Parade of Gold (honoring Michael Phelps and other Maryland Olympians), Towson**
- 10/6 **Offered greetings at meeting with education officials from area colleges and universities, organized by the Baltimore County Public Schools Department of Human Resources, Greenwood**
- 10/7 **Greeted students and parents at Stoneleigh Elementary School as part of International Walk to School Week celebration**

*Upcoming*

- 10/8 **To be interviewed by Scott Thompson of the Panasonic Foundation**
- 10/10 **To visit Imagine Discovery Public Charter School, along with Board President JoAnn C. Murphy and Board Vice President Ed Parker**
- 10/13 **To make school visits**
- 10/13 **To offer greetings at United Way Kick-Off, Loch Raven High School**
- 10/13 **To meet with the Diversity and Achievement Steering Committee Meeting, Greenwood**
- 10/14 **To meet, at their request, with Governor Martin O'Malley, Mike Miller, Speaker Busch, and Senator Currie, Annapolis**
- 10/15 **To meet with League of Women Voters, Greenwood**
- 10/15 **To participate in Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities luncheon, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 10/15 **To host meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**
- 10/15 **To attend 2008 Frederick Douglass Award dinner for UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, Hidden Waters**
- 10/16 **To participate in official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Vincent Farm Elementary School**
- 10/17 **To offer greetings at State Gifted and Talented Conference, New Town High School**

- 10/23 **To participate in Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland Retreat, Ocean City**
- 10/24 **To participate in Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce Principals' Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn**
- 10/27 **To visit schools**
- 10/27 **To be interviewed by Arin Gencer, *The Baltimore Sun***
- 11/6 **To host meeting of Superintendent's Student Advisory Board**
- 11/7 **To participate in Association of Elementary School Administrators Executive Board Meeting, Seven Oaks Elementary School**