

Director's Report
August 2011

Get the Smartest Card

Do you know about the “smartest card?” September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) wants to make sure that everyone in Montgomery County has the smartest card of all -- a library card.

This is also a great time to remind parents and students that a library card is the most important school supply of all. A library card has always been a valuable tool for school success. Our libraries provide access to print resources, downloadable books, electronic databases, computers and Internet access; and it's all free with a library card.

Getting a library card is easy. For more information on how to sign-up for a library card, visit any Montgomery County public library or visit the library online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

Celebrate Your Freedom to Read

September 24 - October 1, 2011 is Banned Books Week (BBW). BBW is an annual observance celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment. The books featured during Banned Books Week have been targets of attempted bannings. Some of the books on the list include: *Angels* by Walter Dean Myers, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier, and *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyers. Through the efforts of librarians, teachers and members of the community, many of the books were retained in library collections. During BBW, visit our libraries, check out our diverse collection of books, and celebrate your freedom to read.

Join MCPL's Teen Advisory Group, aka TAG

Teens ages 14-18 have the opportunity to join our Teen Advisory Group. We're looking for teens who are interested in helping MCPL promote the library in the community. If you love reading and writing and have an interest in sharing your thoughts, this is your chance to work with other dynamic teens on our programming and publicity team. Applications for 2011-2012 will be accepted through September 10. Interviews will take place during the week of September 19. Participants who are selected will earn up to 40 Student Service Learning hours. For more information, contact, teensite@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Save the Date - October 4, 2011

On Tuesday, October 4, libraries across Maryland, including Montgomery County Public Libraries, will participate in the second annual Library Snapshot Day: One Day in the Life of Your Library. Snapshot Day provides a way for libraries to demonstrate all of the activities, programs and services that happen in a single day in their libraries. This initiative, sponsored by the Maryland Library Association, under the auspices of the American Library Association, is intended to increase public awareness and facilitate the collection of statistics, photos and stories about the value of libraries in communities. Stay tuned for more details.

Reconnect @ Your Library

This fall, I invite you to visit your library; check out some new books or revisit old favorites; participate in a book discussion; share a book with your child; make reading a family activity. It's time to reconnect with reading @ your library.

B. Parker Hamilton