

Helping Haiti

In the wake of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on Jan. 12, schools are undertaking a range of projects to aid in the relief effort. As it did after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and when the tsunami hit Southeast Asia in 2004, the MCPS community is raising money, collecting food and providing supplies to help those affected by the earthquake.

The Bulletin is compiling a list of MCPS relief efforts. Here's what some schools are doing to help—

- After five days of fundraising, students, staff and parents of **Belmont Elementary School** raised \$1,300 for the American Red Cross. Student government representatives have spent time in classrooms talking about community and compassion.
- **Bannockburn Elementary School** raised more than \$1,300 during a five-hour bake sale at a local Giant Food supermarket. Staff and parents organized the drive, and students volunteered by holding signs and recruiting customers. Funds will be donated to the Red Cross.
- **Lake Seneca Elementary School's** "With Cash We Can" campaign is collecting loose change for donation to Save the Children. Two fifth grade students came up with the idea, which included a letter to families, morning announcements and collection jars for each grade level.
- The Student Government Association and the National Junior Honor Society at **Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School** collected change during the school's lunch periods. The money will be donated to the Red Cross.
- **Travilah Elementary School** is collecting coins and **Bradley Hills Elementary School** students and staff are donating \$1 apiece that will be donated to the Red Cross.
- The **Poolesville Elementary School** Student Government Association is sponsoring a drive to collect "Pennies and More" for the Red Cross.
- **Seven Locks Elementary School** students, staff and parents are bringing in donations from their piggy banks. So far, they have raised \$850, which was donated to Doctors Without Borders. The next donation will be sent to Save the Children. The school plans to continue the campaign throughout the school year.
- Between Jan. 26 and Feb. 12, **Lakelands Park Middle School** will raise funds for the Maryland Kids Care Campaign by collecting pennies and more.
- **Strawberry Knoll Elementary School** students are "re-building" Haiti. Students who donate money are purchasing a paper "brick," and the bricks hang in a front hallway. The money collected will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- The **DuFief Elementary School** PTA and community have donated hundreds of dollars to the Red Cross.
- At **Eastern Middle School**, Hats for Haiti raised more than \$2,000 in four days for the Red Cross. Anyone donating \$1 or more was allowed to wear a hat for the day.
- The **Poolesville High School** Leo Club is sponsoring "Pamper a Student Day" with proceeds going to the Red Cross or the Salvation Army.
- School clubs will be collecting money at **Seneca Valley High School** until Valentine's Day. Those who donate more than \$1 will write their name on a hand cut-out of red, white or blue construction paper, which will be placed on a large banner. The hands will

eventually form the shape of the Haitian flag. Once the students collect \$1,000, principal Dennis Queen will eat escargot on the morning announcements.

- **Germantown Elementary School** is collecting items to create “care kits” for Heart to Heart International. The kits include items such as towels, shampoo, soap, adhesive bandages, tooth brushes and toothpaste. The school also is conducting a coin drive.
- The Student Government Association at **Great Seneca Creek Elementary School** is sponsoring a “Hearts for Haiti” fundraiser.
- **Roberto Clemente Middle School** is collecting contributions that will be sent to Haiti.

From the Jan. 19 issue of The Bulletin—

- Several schools are collecting coins, spare change and dollars. Among them: **Ashburton, Bel Pre, Forest Knolls, Galway, Georgian Forest, Harmony Hills, Montgomery Knolls, Oak View, Sligo Creek and Woodlin** elementary schools; **Tilden Middle School**; and **Sherwood and Wheaton high schools**. The Middle School Magnet Consortium schools—**Argyle, Loiederman and Parkland**—are teaming up to collect money.
- In two days, **Montgomery Blair High School** collected more than \$1,000 from students and staff that will be given to the Red Cross and UNICEF. A second donation will be made on Jan. 22.
- Along with collecting coins, the PTA at **William Tyler Page Elementary School** will donate \$1,000 previously allocated for indoor recess games to Haiti. The school will also collect donations at its “Hop for Haiti” Valentine’s dance on Feb. 19 for Save the Children.
- A **Drew Elementary School** parent has created a flyer detailing needed items, including money. The school will have a collection the week of Jan. 19.
- **Oakland Terrace Elementary School** is distributing flyers, informing students, staff and families of ways to donate to the Yele Haiti Foundation.
- **Westbrook Elementary School** plans to raise funds by selling wristbands with text similar to “Westbrook Cares—Supporting Haiti Relief.” A walk for Haiti is being organized and will likely happen on school ground in February. The school is designing t-shirts for the walk. Students who donate \$10 will receive a t-shirt, and the donations will go to the Red Cross.
- **Rosemary Hills Elementary School** will collect donations during International Cultures Night on Jan. 30.
- **Blake High School** met with a contingent of Haitian students and others, and formed a committee to develop an action plan. Students are researching, contacting appropriate agencies and reviewing websites to identify charitable organizations to support. Blake is also encouraging donating to organizations through email texting.
- The **Sligo Middle School** community is collecting clothes, nonperishable foods and money.
- **Paint Branch High School** held a moment of silence at its basketball game against Springbrook, and also took donations.
- **Glen Haven Elementary School** is meeting with parents and their school community to organize fundraising efforts. **Silver Spring International Middle School**, which has several students and a staff member from Haiti, are collecting donations over the next month to send to the Red Cross.
- At **Takoma Park Middle School**, students and staff are donating money, which will be sent to the Red Cross. On Jan. 19, students will write messages of encouragement to the people of Haiti on a large block of paper taped to the wall. The messages will be displayed for the rest of the month.

- **Chevy Chase Elementary School** will collect daily donations for Save the Children. Students, staff members and parents who donate will receive a paper cutout to write their names on, with the goal of stretching the “hands” together around the inside of the school.
- At **Farquhar Middle School**, fundraisers under way from earlier in the year for other purposes are being converted to support Haiti relief efforts instead. Student organizations are planning other fundraisers.
- The Student Government Association at **Wheaton Woods Elementary School** mounted a “Helping Hands” campaign. For each monetary contribution from students and staff, a paper hand will be posted in the hallways. The school’s contributions—\$735 in three days—will be sent to the Red Cross.
- **Clopper Mill, North Chevy Chase and Brookhaven elementary schools** have started Hats for Haiti fundraisers. At Clopper Mill, students who donate 50 cents and staff who donate \$2 a day can wear a hat of their choice throughout the school day. At North Chevy Chase and Brookhaven, students who donate at least \$1 can wear a hat in school for the day to show compassion and support for those in Haiti.