<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Power is in the Paper: Effective Advocacy through the IEP Process</th>
<th>Action Alert: Internet Captioning is within our Reach</th>
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| **Monday, March 16, 2009**  
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Webinar**
Sponsored by Colorado Families for Hands & Voices and Hands & Voices National, this interactive online webinar will explore effective educational practices and advocacy strategies to ensure that students who are deaf or hard of hearing are receiving an appropriate, communication accessible education. Particular emphasis will be placed on tools that parents can use in the IEP meeting to ensure that an individual student’s communication needs are met. Whether you are a parent or professional in the K-12 setting these tools can be utilized to ensure that conversations in the IEP go from ‘talking about it’ to full on implementation.

The cost to participate is $25.00 per parent and $45 for non-parent participants. Scholarships are available, however you must contact Janet DesGeorges at janet@handsandvoices.org prior to registering. For more information or to register visit: https://leadershipinstitute.webex.com

| Show Support for the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act!

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) is asking the U.S. Congress to enact “The 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act.” This Act would update the Communications Act to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind as the U.S. migrates to the next generation of Internet-based and digital communication technologies. The changes would expand accessibility to television and phone systems and equipment. A summary of the Act can be found at www.coataccess.org/node/32.

As part of the effort COAT is asking advocates and others to sign the petition supporting this legislative proposal. The petition can be found at www.coataccess.org

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**PBS Series ARTHUR Needs Your Childs Help**
Perennial PBS series ARTHUR has teamed up with CVS Caremark All Kids Can (a program dedicated to making life easier for kids with disabilities) for the ARTHUR/All Kids Can Character Search. Now through March 31, 2009, tell the young ARTHUR fans you know to submit their ideas for a new ARTHUR character. The character should show that having a unique ability, character trait, or disability might make life a little different but no less fun. Kids ages 6-12 can mail their entries, with a drawing of their character and a description of what makes the character special. The child with the selected idea will be featured with his or her new character in a live-action segment on the ARTHUR show, and will receive a visit from ARTHUR creator and author Marc Brown at school, the local library, or a PBS member station. Visit pbskidsgo.org/Arthur/allkidscan to download the entry form. Entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

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**Free Samples of Energizer Hearing Aid Batteries**
Energizer is giving away free samples of its hearing aid batteries so users can try the new perforated pack. The tabs on the batteries have also been made wider and longer. Samples are available for sizes 10, 13, 312, and 675.

To order call 866-449-EARS or visit http://offers.energizer.com/perfpack
The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) School Age Financial Aid program is available for students ages 6 to 21 years who are registered or currently enrolled in a parochial, independent or private school in a mainstream setting. Awards can be used to reduce educational costs such as tuition, room and board, books, equipment, auditory and speech language support services, academic tutoring, transportation or other school-related expenses. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2009. For more information visit AG Bell at www.agbell.org

Washington County Parent Meeting
For Families with Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Thursday, April 2, 2009
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Marshall Street School
1350 Marshall Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Presenter:
Lisa Kornberg, Director
Maryland’s Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Hear how the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can help you and your family. This will be a great opportunity to meet other families in Washington County who have Deaf or Hard of Hearing children.

Space is limited
Childcare will be provided
ASL Interpreter will be provided

For more information or to register please contact:
Cheri Dowling
Family Support and Resource Center
(410) 480-4597 v/tty or partners@msd.edu

Workshop Sponsors:
Family Support & Resource Center of Washington County Public Schools,
Family Support & Resource Center for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, and the Maryland School for the Deaf Family Education Early Childhood Department

www.deafwave.com

www.deafwave.com is a premium aggregator for the deaf community, they collect updates and events from different websites all over the internet and put them in one convenient place.
The Maryland State Parental Information and Resource Center (MD PIRC) has announced the launch of its website in Spanish (www.mdpirc.org). The Spanish section of the website is aimed at giving Spanish speaking parents and educators the tools they need to boost family engagement and achievement for all students.

The Maryland State PIRC was launched in October, 2006 as part of a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. The grant was awarded to the Bethesda-based Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAC), which oversees the project, in collaboration with community partners.

The Spanish website, which can be accessed by clicking the “en Espanol” link on the homepage, has a wealth of information for Spanish speaking parents. Currently, only the “Parents & Families” section of the website is available in Spanish. The English website, which has been fully functional since September, 2007, features two additional sections intended for Advocates and Educators. In the near future, the “Advocates” section will also be available in Spanish. The Maryland PIRC already offers a bilingual, toll-free Parent Hotline.

Spanish speaking parents and community members will find an abundance of useful information spanning a range of topics that include, but are not limited to: Achievement Gap Issues, the No Child Left Behind Act, Early Childhood Education, Literacy & Reading, Health & Wellness, Learning Disabilities, Social Services, Legal Issues, School Reform, and Learning Tools for Children. Users can browse answers to frequently asked questions; consult insightful studies, reports, and guides; access a list of helpful websites and organizations; and read relevant news articles from a variety of local and national publications.

The goal for the Spanish website is for it to be a one-stop destination for Spanish speaking families and partners. The website’s content will be comprehensive, features content that is up-to-date, and reflective of current educational and parental involvement issues.

**Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) represents the Governor and his goal of promoting equal access for all Marylanders, by providing expertise that enhances the general welfare of Maryland’s deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind residents.

Their vision is that all Maryland citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind will have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities for participation in all aspects of community life.

ODHH was established to:

- Promote the general welfare of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals in Maryland.
- Serve as a coordinating agency that reports directly to the Governor’s Office.
- Works with various state and private agencies to ensure appropriate delivery of services to all of Maryland’s diverse

- Supports the development of public policies, regulations and programs that will benefit the community.
- Works to improve access to communication to existing services and programs.
- Advises State government and the General Assembly on the needs of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals.
- Coordinates with other units of the State and federal governments about the services provided to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Marylanders.

ODHH is located at 217 E Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. Contact them at 410-767-6290 voice or 410-767-7756 vp/tty or email at ODHH@gov.state.md.us

Visit their website at odhh.md.gov for more information.
**Cochlear Implant Family Support Group**

**Mapping Cochlear Implants**

What parents really need to know!

Presented by:
Regina Presley, Au.D., CCC/A
Senior Cochlear Implant Audiologist
Great Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC)

Maryland School for the Deaf
Main Building
8169 Old Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Space is limited … Please register by March 16, 2009
Babysitting available
For more information or to register contact:
Cheri Dowling,
Family Support and Resource Center
(410) 480-4597 v/tty or (410) 480-4598 fax
or cad800@aol.com

Family Support and Resource Center

Maryland School for the Deaf
Steiner Building, Room #100
8169 Old Montgomery Road
PO Box 894
Columbia MD 21044
Phone: 410-480-4597 (v/tty)
Fax: 410-480-4598
E-mail: partners@msd.edu

A statewide support service for families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and the professionals who support them

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**DILA’s Camp Adventure (Ages 5 - 17)**
Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9, 2009
Camp Pecometh, Centerville, MD.
A summer camp for deaf and hard of hearing children, their siblings and children of deaf parents. For more information contact DILA at 410-742-5052

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**Curious how stories are told in British Sign Language visit www.signedstories.com to find out.**

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**2009 ASL Storytelling Events At the Hearing and Speech Agency**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**
“Enough … But Not TOO Much”

**Thursday, April 16, 2009**
“BIG HANDS … Little Hands”

**Thursday, May 20, 2009**
“COOL ASL Stories” and Ice Cream Social

All storytelling events will be
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
The Hearing and Speech Agency
Auditorium
5900 Metro Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215

For more information, please contact Amy Bopp at abopp@hasa.org or 410-318-6780