



From the Desk of the President

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome back! I would like to extend to each of you a warm return, brief greeting and well wishes for your decision which has reunited us again for what has been predicted to be an ominous season of individual accountabilities.

During this new school year, there will be many continued challenges positioned by an overwhelming intrusion of the budgetary restraints and fiscal cut backs which seemingly will be affecting the past five (5) years successes that you have "enjoyed" as veteran educators. In this year of "more (expectations) for less (money)" you will be asked to perform exceptionally well and for less pay. The reduction in staff issues mean larger classes, means larger class sizes, and the furloughs means fewer contributors to meet more goals.

The Prince George's County Educators' Association (PGCEA) has never given up the fight for rights of teachers to control their own destinies and maintain class autonomy. We will continue in the same vein. Our concern is for teachers' interests. Your additional sacrifices will have significant meaning during this climate of austerity.

PGCEA, therefore, urges its membership to continue to focus directly on student success...success in the classroom and specifically on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) and High School Assessment (HSA) tests. As you welcome your new students into your classroom, be sure you have well developed plans to encompass their full academic potential. Also, continue to forge healthy parental partnerships and diligently seek to be the best at whatever you do, and do not hesitate to form teacher to teacher alliances throughout your building.

Again, best wishes for continued success in a potentially threatening funding crisis. This is the time to seize this opportunity to affiliate with your local association. See your building representative for additional information.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Briscoe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald J. Briscoe

President

