

## **In Appreciation of Jobs Well Done**

*Mark R. Adelman, 3206 University Blvd. W, Kensington, MD*

Too often I have felt compelled to criticize you. Tonight I am happy to appear, as a private citizen - a resident of Kensington Heights - to comment on jobs well done. As a member of our neighborhood citizens' association, I have had the pleasure of touring three of the schools that serve the children of our community: Einstein HS, Oakland Terrace ES, and - most recently - Newport Mill MS. Each of us who toured those schools was impressed by what we saw and heard. Welcoming facilities. Friendly and informative support staff. Each Principal (or assistant), obviously proud of the school, eager to show us around, and to answer each and every question. Teachers pleased to have us enter their classrooms, observe what was going on, and witness their knowledge and dedication to their students - our kids. And the children - happy, engaged, and interested in learning. We were delighted to leave behind the message of how impressed we were - and of our standing offer to help, in any way we can. Because we all know that parents - and the entire community - are crucial to the process.

We reported on these tours in our citizens' association newsletter. And our own Education Committee has asked parents for any complaints they might have about our local schools. We have received none. The tours we took tell us why. The schools that serve the children of Kensington Heights certainly seem to be doing a very good job. We recognize the primary importance in this of the Principals, their support staff, and - above all - the teachers. But I would be remiss not to recognize YOUR role in this "job well done". And to acknowledge you for that. We ALL have a role to play in this vital process and we ALL must keep in perspective the enormous expectations we have of our system of public education.

Are there things that can be done better? Of course, probably even at the schools that so impressed us. There will always be room for improvement, and in some areas the current need is especially pressing. I look forward to the day when we ALL can say that we have done the job well at EVERY school and for EVERY kid in Montgomery County.

*3/27/06; Copyright Mark R. Adelman*