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RITCHIE PARK PTA

September 2015

Dear Ritchie Park Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of our PTA, I would like to welcome you and your family to our 2015/16 school year. For those of you who do not know me, I am Erin Rupolo, and I have two children at Ritchie Park and I will be the president of the PTA this year.

There are so many great things about being part of the PTA this year. The PTA is planning many great activities to help enrich your child's experience at Ritchie Park. The PTA intends to advocate to benefit not only our children at RPES but all of the children in our Richard Montgomery Cluster. We will also be undertaking fundraising efforts to enrich the elementary experience of our kids. But perhaps, most importantly, simply joining the PTA is one of the easiest ways to support our teachers, our staff and ultimately our children.

As PTA President, my primary main goal this year is to continue to make our PTA more inclusive, welcoming, and engaging. I would love to see the Ritchie Park proud panther pride be so great that it is evident not only at our school but in our community at large. I would also love to hear what your goals for the PTA are. My contact information, as well as the information of the PTA board, is listed below. We also would love to get feedback and solutions so that we can make our PTA the best that it can be.

Inside this Packet you will find:

- PTA Membership Form
- PTA Calendar of Events for the Year
- School Directory Form

Full Benefits Come with Membership: Join the PTA

The PTA cannot exist without support and participation from parents and guardians and our wonderful staff. Our responsibilities range from advocating for our school and cluster to coordinating community building activities like our popular variety show. We cannot do any of these things without the support and participation of parents and teachers. One of the easiest ways to support the PTA is to **JOIN THE PTA (or renew your annual membership)**. Annual dues allow you to vote as a member of the PTA and financially help support our PTA's many activities and programs. We invite everyone to come to the **PTA Meetings at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of every other month starting in October (see attached calendar for the dates.)** Even if you know that you are not able to attend any or all of the meetings, please do not let this deter you from becoming a member.



Communication

There are so many great things happening at RPES throughout the year, and the PTA is constantly striving to improve our communication. In an effort to continue to deliver paperless communications, I urge you to fill out the **Paperless Sign-up Form** contained in this packet. This will allow us to send important PTA news and announcements electronically instead of being sent home in your child's backpack. You also will receive a bi-monthly PTA newsletter that will cover a wide-range of PTA programs and topics. To see the latest information, or to research past information, the PTA has a page on the Ritchie Park website at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ritchieparkes/parents>. In addition, we have a private **Facebook** group so that you can receive updates in your Facebook news feed, see upcoming event information, and be able to post questions and comments. To access the group, please search "**Ritchie Park ES PTA**" and request to join.

Our PTA board is excited to work with you and our incredibly dedicated teachers and staff to make this school year the best that it can be. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any Board Members who are listed below with any questions, comments, and especially solutions.

Sincerely,

Erin Rupolo | PTA President

elkaplan@verizon.net; 301-370-2688

PTA Officer & Contact Information:

Office	Name	Phone	Email
President	Erin Rupolo	301-370-2688	elkaplan@verizon.net
President-Elect	Sirina Tsai	202-549-5071	sirinatsai@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Louis Chang	917-623-7266	louis@thehouseofchang.com
VP Fundraising	Leslie Cronkhite	301-500-5853	leslie_cronkhite@yahoo.com
VP Programing	Olayinka Alexander	301-704-3103	okalexander@hotmail.com
VP Communication	Jennifer Mandel	202-422-7715	jmandel27@yahoo.com
VP Membership	Kim Harvey	703-675-8388	kimharvey@gmail.com
Secretary	Stacie Duffy	571-213-8728	stacieduffy@yahoo.com
MCCPTA Rep	Adam Berger	240-328-9484	adamb208@gmail.com
MCCPTA Rep	Rodney Peele	301-792-6370	rpeelee@aoa.org
Principal	Catherine Long	301-279-8475	Catherine_Long@mcpsmd.org
Asst Principal	Lisa Farhi	301-279-8475	Lisa_Farhi@mcspmd.org
Teacher Rep	Christine Jenkins	301-279-8475	Christine_J_Jenkins@mcpsmd.org



Ritchie Park PTA Membership & Staff Gift Contribution Form

Please help support the PTA by becoming a member. Membership dues directly support our students and Ritchie Park Elementary School. Meeting attendance is not required. PTA members will receive a complimentary school directory and access to the Facebook Group Page.

PTA Member (1) _____

PTA Member (2) _____

Email (1) _____

Email (2) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Child's name _____ Grade _____

Child's name _____ Grade _____

Child's name _____ Grade _____

Annual Membership Dues:

One Active Voting Adult----- \$15.00 \$_____

Two Active Voting Adults ----- \$30.00 \$_____

Staff Gift Contribution:

Holiday & End of the Year Staff Gifts (per child)----- \$20.00 \$_____

School Improvement Funds:

Additional tax deductible contribution to support the Ritchie Park PTA ----- \$_____

Total Amount Paid: (check payable to "Ritchie Park PTA") ----- \$_____

DUES & GENERAL PTA FINANCIAL SUPPORT ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: RPES PTA Tax ID #52-6070720

**Please return this form and payment to the school office in an envelope marked
"PTA Membership"**

Contact Kim Harvey, Membership Chairperson at 703-675-8388 or kimharvey@gmail.com with any questions.

Thanks for your support!



PTA 2015-16 Calendar & Events

August

Wednesday, August 26
Thursday, August 27
Monday, August 31

Kindergarten Back to School Night @ 7:00 pm
New Family Orientation @ 3:00 & Sneak Peek @ 3:30
First Day of School

September

Wednesday, September 2
Thursday, September 3
Monday, September 7
Tuesday, September 8

Thursday, September 10
Monday, September 14
Friday, September 18
Tuesday, September 22
Wednesday, September 23
Tuesday, September 29

Volunteer Orientation @ 2:50-3:20
Volunteer Orientation @ 9:10-9:40
No School - Labor Day
Back to School Restaurant Night (Fundraiser for 5th Grade Promotion)
Back to School Night @ 7:00 pm
No School for Students and Teachers
Pizza Bingo Night
Variety Show Informational Meeting
No School for Student and Teachers
Fall Individual Picture Day | Restaurant Night

October

Friday, October 2
Tuesday, October 6
Friday, October 16
Saturday, October 24
Tuesday, October 27

Early Release for all Students- planning/grades/interims
Volunteer Orientation @ 7:00 | PTA Meeting @ 7:30 pm
No School for Students and Teachers
Skating Costume Park @ 6:30 pm (Cabin John Skating Rink)
Restaurant Night

PTA Meeting Guest speaker Wendy Taylor, M.Ed. from Learning Essentials EDU, to discuss the topic of Homework

November

Monday, November 2
Wednesday, November 11
Thursday, November 12
Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, November 24
Wednesday, November 25
Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27
Monday, November 30

No School for Students | Professional Day for Teachers
Early Release – Conferences/ Veterans Day/ Heroes Walk
Early Release – Conferences
Fall Picture Retake Day
RMHS Cluster Concert @ 7:00 pm | Restaurant Night
Early Release for Thanksgiving
No School – Thanksgiving
No School – Thanksgiving
Scholastic Book Fair

December

Tuesday, December 1 – 4
Tuesday, December 1
Wednesday, December 2
Thursday, December 3
Tuesday, December 8
Tuesday, December 8
Wednesday, December 9
Thursday, December 10
Friday, December 11

Scholastic Book Fair
PTA Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Donuts with Daddy | or Special Guest @ 8:30 am
Story Telling Night @ 6:00 pm
Yearbook Candid and Group Pictures
Variety Show Preview of Acts (Ritchie Park APR)
Variety Show Preview of Acts (Ritchie Park APR)
Variety Show Preview of Acts (Ritchie Park APR)
Parents' Night Out



Friday, December 18
December 24 - Jan. 1

Parent Child Winter Dance (5th Grade Promotion Fundraiser)
Schools Closed for Winter Break

PTA Meeting Guest speaker Lauren Salzberg, Potomac Lice Lady, to discuss winning the war on lice

January

Monday, January 11	Variety Show Dress Rehearsal (RM Auditorium)
Thursday, January 14	Variety Show (RM Auditorium)
Monday, January 18	No School – Martin L. King Day
Thursday, January 21	Winter Concert Chorus and Instrumental Music @ 7:00 pm
Monday, January 25	No School – Professional Day
Tuesday, January 26	Restaurant Night Snow Date for Winter Concert

February

Tuesday, February 2	PTA Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Thursday February 11-12	Vision & Hearing screening for K and new students to MCPS
Monday, February 15	No School – President's Day
Friday, February 19	Music & Dance Night
Tuesday, February 23	Restaurant Night
Friday, February 26	Early Release – Planning and Grading

PTA Meeting Guest speaker Steve Chaikin, Sr. Assistant State's Attorney to discuss internet safety for ES students.

March

Friday, March 4	Parents' Night Out
Friday, March 18	Vision & Hearing Screening (make-up date)
Monday, March 21	Spring Individual and Homeroom Group Pictures
Thursday, March 17	Community Service Night
Thursday, March 24	No School – Professional Day
March 25-April 1	Spring Break

April

Friday, April 1	Spring Break
Tuesday, April 5	PTA Meeting @ 7:30
Monday, April 18-22	Boosterthan *Date Subject to Change*
Thursday, April 21	Cultural Heritage Night
Tuesday April 26	Schools Closed – Primary Election Day Restaurant Night

PTA Meeting Guest speaker from Expressive Therapy Center, to discuss: The 4 C's of Parenting: Caring, Communication, Consequence, and Compliance

May

Monday, May 2	Gr. 5 Departing Class Panoramic Picture @ 9:30 am
Tuesday, May 3	PTA Meeting @ 7:30 pm (Elections)
Monday, May 2 - 6	Staff Appreciation Week
Tuesday May 10	Field Day
Thursday, May 12	Field Day (Rain Date)
Thursday, May 19	Arts & Science Night @ 7 pm
Thursday, May 26	Spring Concert Chorus and Instrumental Music @ 7:00 pm
Monday, May 30	No School – Memorial Day



Tuesday May 31

Restaurant Night

June

Thursday June 2-3

Book Swap

Tuesday, June 7

PTA General Meeting @ 7:30 pm (Budget Approval)

June

5th Grade Party

June

5th Grade Promotion Ceremony

Friday, June 17

Last Day of School

School Directory & Electronic Communications Sign-up

Each fall the PTA publishes a school directory with family contact information and other useful information. Only PTA members will receive a print and online directory. Respond by **Monday Sept. 14** to be included in the directory.

RETURNING PARENTS: If your email was in last year's directory, you will receive instructions on how to verify/edit your family information. Please check your SPAM folder if you can't find it or contact Directory Coordinator, Renee LeVine, reneeski123@aol.com.

NEW PARENTS: Go to www.schooldirectoryupdate.com and click "Join as a New Family".

Your information is only shared within the Ritchie Park community and is useful when setting up playdates with classmates.

Your email will be added to the PTA email list because PTA communications and Principal Long's Paw Prints are ONLY sent by email.