RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

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**Steve Schuck, Treasurer**

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PTA Board of Directors *also includes the following members:*

**Jennifer Young, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Past President**

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**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs**

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**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

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**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

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**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

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WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PAR­ENTS

### **May 18, 2012**

# End-of-Year Parties and Teacher Gift Collection

Stay tuned for dates and times of the 3rd and 4th Grade parties! Also, more information will be forthcoming from your Grade Rep. about Teacher Gift Collection. Kindergarten – June 6, 1:30 p.m.; 1st Grade – June 6, 2 p.m.; 2nd Grade – June 7, 11 a.m.; 3rd Grade – TBD; 4th Grade – TBD; 5th Grade – June 11, 11:30 a.m.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Boosterthon** is here! The Boosterthon Fun Run program is a healthy alternative to traditional product sales that raises much-needed funds for our school. It has been proven to raise more than 50-150% more than other PTA fundraisers! The nine-day Boosterthon also promotes three specific values during the fun-filled program: Fitness, Leadership, and Character.

Boosterthon Fun Run Basics:

* The event kicked off with a 30-minute school-wide Pep Rally on May 14 and concludes on May 23 with the Boosterthon Fun Run event.
* Students get pledges towards the number of laps they will run at the Boosterthon Fun Run.
* Every student participates in the Fun Run, regardless of pledges raised, and receives a “Boosterthon All-Star” t-shirt.

How Can You Support Ritchie Park in this year’s Boosterthon?

* Connect your child to sponsors—friends & family—who can give a pledge.
* Come and cheer on your child at the Boosterthon Fun Run on May 23!

Go to www.boosterthon.com to learn more about the Boosterthon Fun Run. Or contact Laura Degnon, laura@degnon.org, or Jodi Gershoni, jgershoni@hotmail.com. Pledge packets came home with your child this week. This is the major PTA fundraising event for Spring! Thanks in advance for your support of Ritchie Park!

**PTA 2012-13 Budget Meeting** will be on Monday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Chairs and board members are encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to all. Also, the **June PTA Meeting with Budget Approval** will be on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

**Volunteer Appreciation Reception :** Please plan on attending the Vol­unteer Reception on Tuesday, June 5 from 8:30-9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. The school staff would like to say thank you to our many and marvelous volunteers. The students’ experiences this year were greatly enriched by all the helping hands our volunteers provided. We hope you can come so the staff can say THANK YOU in person!  All volunteers are invited--classroom, lunch & re­cess, field trip chaperones, Room Parents, etc.--to stop in the staff lounge.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **May 18** | 5th Grade Class Pictures |
| **May 23** | Boosterthon Fun Run |
| **May 24** | Spring Instrumental Music and Chorus Concert |
| **June 4, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Budget Meeting |
| **June 5, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting with Budget Approval |
| **June 5, 8:30-9 a.m. & 11:30-1 p.m.** | Volunteer Appreciation Reception |

**Communications Team:** We’re looking for editor(s) for the Friday eNews and/or PTA Newsletter. The PTA newsletter will be similar to this year’s eNews and will alternate with the eNews each week. This is a great opportunity to volunteer from home. If interested, please contact Susan Read, zwschen@gmail.com.

**School Improvement Team:** Members help develop a School Improvement Plan by analyzing data from a vari­ety of sources to set our goals for the school year and determine a plan of action to meet those goals. Summer meet­ings are the mornings of Jun. 14, Jul. 25, and Aug. 15. Meetings during the school year are held on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested, please call the school.

**Recycled Book Swap:** When you are doing your Spring cleaning, please save any K-5th grade appropriate books for the Recycled Book Swap at the end of May. More details to come, but please save your books so students can swap them for other books at the Book Swap!

**Help needed at lunch and recess:** As the school year winds down, we still need volunteers in the lunchroom and on the playground. Donations of hand sanitizer for the lunchroom are always welcome!

# ADVOCACY CORNER

**Congratulations to the 2012-2013 MCCPTA Officers:** On April 24, MCCPTA Delegates elected the new MCCPTA officers for the 2012-2013 school year: President – Janette Gilman; Vice President for Educational Issues – Lynne Harris; Vice President for Administration – Jaimie Jacobson; Vice President for Programs – Shebra Evans; Treasurer – Susan Burkinshaw; Recording Secretary, Board of Directors – JoAnn Burl; Recording Secretary, Delegates Assembly – Richie Yarrow.

As of now, the **Richard Montgomery Cluster does not have any Cluster Coordinators**.  He/She advocates for is­sues important to the RM Cluster, including giving testimony before the BOE and the County Council on the Operating and CIP Budgets. The Cluster Coordinators were instrumental in coordinating advocacy efforts between the different Cluster elementary schools to relief over-crowding in our schools. These efforts helped our Cluster win the decision from MCPS to build the new ES#5 elementary school. Anyone interested in this position should contact the RPES PTA Delegates, Jennifer Young or Richard Hart (see sidebar).

**MCCPTA Leadership Conference:** Plan now for the upcoming school year, whether you are an experi­enced leader, an incoming officer or chair, or just want to learn more about how to make your time more effec­tive. Interested in enrichment programs? Special sec­tion on FLES, Hands on Science, and the new Big Learn­ing Engineering. Need money? Learn about "painless" fundraising programs that require so little effort IF you know how they really work. And how to best budget to make your funds worth the most. Times have changed, learn how your advocacy can be the most effective, your communication targeted, your PTA structure to work FOR you, and so much more.

The FREE Conference is on Wednesday, June 6 at Walter Johnson HS cafeteria at 6:30-9pm. A listing of topics is at SignUpGenius.com, sign up for sessions in both time slots at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/ 60B054FA5A82E5-mccpta1/.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO

* Karen Watson and the Staff Appreciation volunteers and donors. Karen organized a fantastic week of food and fun for the staff culminating with gift card raffles. The PTA was able to purchase a new paper cutter for the staff as a Staff Appreciation Week gift.
* Meredith Berlin and Jennifer Cohen for chairing Kindergarten Orientation. Eighty-nine incoming Kindergarteners were welcomed to our school community.
* Adina Topfer for chairing a wonderful and enriching Arts & Science Fair and to all the students and parents who par­ticipated.
* Mrs. Stultz for showcasing the fabulous student artwork at the Arts & Science Fair.
* Ms. Svejda for her hard work on Field Day 2012. Thank you also to all of the many parent volunteers who assisted.