RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

rachelginac@aol.com

301-294-7364

**Eric Williams,** **President-Elect**

[etk\_williams@yahoo.com](mailto:etk_williams@yahoo.com)

301-861-7062

202-372-3505 (work)

**Sharri Freedman, Fundraising VP**   
sharribeth@aol.com

301-251-4478

**Karla Berggren, Programs VP**

Karla\_hunt\_berg@yahoo.com

301-424-8878

**Angie Dixson, Secretary**

angiedixson@aol.com

301-340-7266

**Steve Schuck, Treasurer**

Theschucks@LNF.com

301-580-0177

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

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

young.jennifer@gmail.com

301-309-8764

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

theharts99@yahoo.com

301-424-3446

**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

marquetteheaven@aol.com

301-294-6540

**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

[rwfreundlich@gmail.com](http://us.mc1121.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=rwfreundlich@gmail.com)

301-424-0663

**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

Catherine\_L\_McCoskey@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

**Catherine Long, Principal**

Catherine\_Long@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

MaryEllen\_Dixon@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PAR­ENTS

### **April 20, 2012**

# Let’s Celebrate RPES’s Teachers and Staff

During May all public schools celebrate **National** **Staff Appreciation Week.** This year, RPES’ Staff Appreciation Week is being celebrated May 3, 4, and 7-9.Our theme is “Rocketing Us to Success.”

The events planned for Ritchie Park’s Staff Appreciation week are:

* Thursday, May 3: Kick-off Breakfast
* Friday, May 4: Dessert Day - Various desserts will be provided for the staff to enjoy
* Monday, May 7: Lite and Healthy lunch will be provided for the staff e.g. various salads and healthy entrees
* Tuesday, May 8: That’s Amore - Italian Lunch
* Wednesday, May 9: Gift card raffles

If you would like to contribute to RPES's Staff Appreciation week of events please check your child's binder for information or contact Karen Watson, kmpk1969@yahoo.com.  Thanks in advance for any help you may provide.

# Arts and Science Fair is coming!

The Arts and Science Fair will be held on Thursday, May 17 at RPES from 7–8:30 p.m. The PTA- Sponsored Fair is an opportunity to showcase your talent in Art and Science in a non-competitive, fun evening.  Please remember that it’s never too early to start developing your project, but be sure to sign-up by Thursday, May 10. The Sign-up form can be found on the Friday E-News and on the PTA webpage.

Our Fair will also include student art work that was created at home! Questions? Call  Adina Topfer at 240-453-0731 or email at Adina.topfer@ gmail.com

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

The Student Council has designated April 25 as **Hat Day**. Students can wear a hat to school that day.

The next **PTA meeting with Officer Elections** will be on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. One has to be a PTA member to run for office and to vote, so if you have not joined the PTA yet this year--please send in your membership dues. If you would like to join the Nominating committee, please email Rachel Hicks (see sidebar).

**Restaurant Night** will be at Elevation Burger on May 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. Elevation Burger is located at 12525 Park Potomac Ave, Bldg G, Unit D, Potomac, MD.

**Kindergarten Orientation** for next year’s kindergarten students is May 10 & 11. There will be no school for our current kindergarten students on those two days. This enables our staff to learn a little about our incoming students and the new students have an opportunity to meet our amazing staff.

It is very helpful to the school to have all incoming kindergarten students enrolled before July 1. If you have any neighbors with children who will turn five years old by September 1, please suggest they enroll their child this spring rather than waiting until August.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **April 25** | Student Council Hat Day |
| **May 1, 9-11:15 a.m.** | Field Day |
| **May 1, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting with Officer Elections |
| **May 9, 5-9 p.m.** | Restaurant Night at Elevation Burger |
| **May 10&11** | Kindergarten Orientation |
| **May 14** | Boosterthon Pep Rally |
| **May 23** | Boosterthon Fun Run |

**Boosterthon** is coming to Ritchie Park…*AND* you will want to be a part of this! 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 will kick off with a 30-minute school-wide Pep Rally on May 14 and conclude 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. More information will come home with your child prior to the event. This is the major PTA fundraising event for Spring! Thanks in advance for your support of Ritchie Park!

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

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!

Volunteers are needed for **Field Day**, scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 (Rain Date: Thursday, May 3) from 9-11:15 a.m. If you are available to help, please call Ms. Svejda at 301-279-8475 or email her at Dana\_C\_Svejda@mcpsmd.org.

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Click to Advocate for Our Children

* Send an email to the Montgomery County Council to reduce overcrowding at RPES
* Sign the on-line “Stop the Shift” petition at www.stoptheshift.com

Send an email to the County Council members asking them to reject the County Executive's recommendation to delay the construction of RMES #5 by two years so that we can have some relief from overcrowding at Ritchie Park. A sample letter is on the PTA page of the Ritchie Park website and you can send it to **county.council@montgomery countymd.gov.**

And while you are clicking, please go to www.stoptheshift.com and www.change.org/petitions/no-pension-shift to register your opposition to Governor O'Malley's plan to shift half the cost of teacher and other pensions from the state to the counties. For Montgomery County, the proposed pension shift would cost $47 million in Fiscal Year 2013 and more in subsequent years. Counties (and the schools) should not be asked to assume financial responsibility for costs not of their making. For questions, contact Jennifer Young or Rich Hart, MCCPTA Delegates.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO

* The following businesses that generously supported Ritchie Park’s “Snack Sacks for the Homeless” Community Service Night: Drink More Water, Potomac Pizza, Whole Foods Market, Costco, Giant, Harris Teeter, Safeway, Shoppers, and The Fresh Market.