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PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

**Jennifer Young, President**

young.jennifer@gmail.com

301-309-8764

**Rachel Hicks, President-Elect**

rachelginac@aol.com

301-294-7364

**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

**Carrie Hirshfield, Treasurer**

chirshfield@yahoo.com

301-605-7009

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

**Cheryl Moss Herman, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Cluster Coordinator for RM Cluster**

hermanfour@msn.com

301-610-6634

**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs** **and Past President**

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 1, 2011**

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Your Help Needed to Protect Quality Education for our Kids

It may be April Fool’s Day, but it is no foolin’ that budget times are tight in Montgomery County. The Superinten­dent’s proposed cuts total about $45 mil­lion and the County Executive’s proposed Operating Budget and the County Council’s proposed cuts are likely to be almost double.

* Cuts would mean increases in class size, reductions in sup­port teachers (e.g. counselors, lunch and recess aides, and instrumental music teachers), re­ductions in building service and security staff, reductions in special edu­ca­tion staffing, and elimi­nation of after-school ac­tivities. These are impor­tant factors in our children's education.
* Education is an investment that will only help the county in the future. With schools being the center­pieces of com­muni­ties, education must be a priority.
* During this time of national discussion on the state of edu­cation, let's prove that support for education exists and thrives in Montgomery County.

**WHAT TO DO?  
1. Send a letter to County Council members opposing cuts to education funding.** Remember to provide your name and ad­dress in your correspondence, and include concerns that are specific to Ritchie Park and to you…make it personal!The e-mail address [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov) goes, by default, to each Coun­cil member, and you can find individual Council Member e-mail addresses here: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmpl.asp?url=/content/council/ contact.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmpl.asp?url=/content/council/%20contact.asp)   
**2. PLAN TO JOIN other parents and staff from the Richard Montgomery Cluster on April 7 at a County Council Operating Budget hearing that begins at 7 p.m.** Our Cluster will present testimony that evening and we need to FILL THE ROOM with Cluster spirit gear (your Ritchie Park shirt or your child’s) and signs. The hearing will be held at the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville in the third floor hearing room (this is street level if you enter from Maryland Ave).

**PLEASE ACT TODAY!**

# Fundraising Update

The PTA tries to provide a variety of options for families to support our school. Your support is valued and greatly appre­ciated. In addition to funding the events and activities the PTA offers to the RPES community, we have used funds for Cultural Arts Assemblies ($2700) and Teacher Reimbursements ($2100) and we have spent almost $6000 of PTA funds to buy 4 new ELMOs. Our di­rect donation campaign, “An ELMO in Every Class­room” is currently on going and recent fun­draising proceeds in­clude:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Capital One | $2,132.00 | Scholastic Book Fair | $3,868.00 | Harris Teeter Vic Card | $482.62 |
| Direct from Families | $2,175.00 | Kidstuff Coupon Books | $2,733.00 | Restaurant night at Potomac Pizza | $181.00 |
| Membership | $2,126.00 | Pizza Bingo | $1,671.00 | Safeway grocery card | $348.00 |

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Apr. 1 | Last Day for Barnes & Noble Book Fair Online Shopping |
| Apr. 3 | Fundraising Survey Deadline |
| Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| Apr. 7, 4 p.m. | RM Cluster ES#5 Feasibility Study Work Session #2 |
| Apr. 7, 7 p.m. | RM Cluster Testimony at County Council |
| Apr. 11, 3:45 p.m. | Parent/Staff Kickball |
| Apr. 12, 5-8 p.m. | California Tortilla Restaurant Night |
| Apr. 12, 7:30 p.m. (note time change) | JWMS Feasibility Study Community Presentation |

**April’s PTA meeting** will be Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Mrs. McCoskey will demon­strate an ELMO ma­chine and show us why teachers value its usefulness and how it can en­hance the learning experience of our children. The agenda also includes proposed amendments to the budget to spend some of the PTA’s reserve funds on ELMOs. Child care will be pro­vided (free) in the Music Room for toilet-trained children.

**Are you ready for some kickball?!?!** The parent/staff game will take place on Monday, April 11 at 3:45 p.m. for ap­prox­imately one hour on the field located behind the school, weather permit­ting. To sign up go to [www.SignUpGenius.com/](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/) go/staffparent

**Restaurant Night will be at California Tortilla** in Cabin John Shopping Center on Tuesday, April 12 from 5-8 p.m.  Be sure to say the password "PANTHERS" to the cashier and **25%** of your order will go to the PTA. If you have any ideas for Res­taurant Nights for the 2011-12 school year, please email Suzanne Smith at [SRRN74@hotmail.com](mailto:SRRN74@hotmail.com). The Restaurant Night at Poto­mac Pizza on March 2 brought in a lot of families and 2 teachers will be awarded gift cards.

**Arts & Science Fair** will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the gym.  Start thinking about what science ex­periment or artwork your child might like to display!

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**PTA Fundraising survey:** We need to know what you think! As your Ritchie Park PTA puts together the fundraising plan for next year, we need feedback from all of our parents about what you would support. Please take **two minutes** and complete these **seven questions**.This is your chance to tell us what we should do! All surveys must be completed by 4/3.  All answers are ta­bulated by a third party and are confi­dential. Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/WCMVSV7

**Book Swap:** We need a Chairperson to coordinate this fun event for the kids at the end of the school year. Students bring in any books they no longer want and can swap for another book. Vo­lunteers are needed to help collect and sort books before the event and to work shifts to help stu­dents select their books at the event. If you would like to Chair and/or help with the Book Swap, please con­tact Jennifer Young (see sidebar).  Former Chairperson Karen Watson, [kmpk1969@ yahoo.com](mailto:kmpk1969@yahoo.com), can give some insight about the event.

**Field Day** this year will be held on Tuesday, May 3 from 9:15-11:15 a.m. and the rain date will be Friday, May 6. This year's theme is "Ritchie Park Elementary, Celebrates Physical Educa­tion!" If you are able to volunteer to help with Field Day on ei­ther of those dates, please call the school at 301-279-8475. It is not too early to volunteer!

**2011/2012 PTA Board of Directors—Open Positions Available—Volunteers Needed!** If you enjoy working with other parents to benefit the stu­dents and teachers of Ritchie Park, please con­sider serving on next year's PTA Board of Direc­tors. We are looking partic­ularly for members interested in serving as Presi­dent-Elect, Treasurer, and PTA Delegate to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, as there are currently no candidates for these offices. Officers are expected to attend monthly PTA meetings and periodic Executive Committee meetings. Please contact a cur­rent member of the Board for more in­forma­tion about their role (see sidebar) or nominating committee mem­bers:  Randi Freundlich (see side­bar), Vincent Mickens, privateairone@verizon.net or Erin Lobato, erin\_lobato@hotmail.com.

# Friday, 4/1: LAST Day for B&N Online Purchases

Couldn't make it to the book fair?   Forgot a book on your list? Visit [www.bn.com/bookfairs](http://www.bn.com/bookfairs) through April 1, enter our school ID# 10423614 at check out, and we will still earn credit.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Sharri Freedman and Paige Rothfeld for organizing and to all of the parents, grandparents, teachers, and staff who came, vo­lun­teered, and shopped at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair. Thanks also to the students who entertained the customers. You all helped make the event a huge suc­cess.