RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEWSLETTER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

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### **December 17, 2010**

# Scholastic Book Fair and Storytelling Night, a Success

A huge thank you to our entire community for the tremendous support of this year's Scholastic Book Fair! The suc­cess of the Book Fair enables the PTA to put $1000 worth of new books into our Media Center and almost $4000 towards the many PTA sponsored programs that our school enjoys! In addition, our families do­nated more than 212 books to the classroom libraries of our teach­ers!   It takes over 50 volunteers to keep the doors open, and the registers ringing, all week at the Book Fair. We cannot name all 50+ volunteers, but the following people volun­teered at least two shifts to support the Book Fair and Storytelling Night: Wanda Zelaya, Maribeth O'Malley, Alpa Kaji, Sujata Finn, Kristen Swiggett, Nancy Eisner, Natalie Childs, Lisa Bosse, Cheryl Moss Herman, Susan Read, Marci Maged, Bhuvana Selvarangam, and Eileen Seligman. We truly could not do this special event with­out you!

Our 2nd Annual Storytelling Night was a resound­ing success!  We had over 100 children and their families attending both the teacher readings in the Kinder­garten wing and then Arianna Ross's performance in the APR.   We so appreciate the twelve teachers who donated their time to read some of their favorite stories that night. This year, Ms. Fontyn and Ms. Nusbaum, led a special night of Stargazing for more than 30 fifth-graders during Storytel­ling Night. We had several families bring telescopes and smartphone apps to augment the viewing. It was a huge suc­cess and, weather permitting, will be re­peated next year!  The overwhelming feed­back was that this was a very special and fun night for all. Looks like Storytelling Night is here to stay at Ritchie Park.

# A Magical Cultural Arts Assembly

Joe Romano ([www.romanomagic.com](http://www.romanomagic.com) and www.booksthemagicisreal.com) re­turned to Ritchie Park with his new magic show on Friday, Dec. 10th.  Once again, the entire school was treated to a magic show that centered on books and reading.  The magician mesme­rized the students by bringing to life the kid from Diary of a Wimpy Kid.  And then, he transformed a student volun­teer into the famous wizard, Harry Potter.  Mr. Romano also told the kids that if there's any­thing he wants to know more about, books are where he finds the answers.  Big thanks to students Ndella Fall and Giulia Testa who intro­duced our performer.   Also special thanks to all of the students who volunteered to participate in the show!  They were all fan­tastic!

Joe Romano's book and magic kit order forms went home in backpacks.  Please return orders by Mon­day, Dec. 20 to the office. Joe Romano will personalize all items for your children. Ritchie Park PTA will earn 40% profit for books and 25% for magic kits sold. "Magic Tricks to Fool Your Friends" books are $10 and Wizard Wand Kits are $20. If an­yone has questions about the PTA Fun­draiser, please email Kim Testa, [kgtesta@aol.com](mailto:kgtesta@aol.com).

The next assembly will be on Jan. 21 where Yvette Lewis will perform "So this is Opera II."  Following the as­sem­bly, there will be a workshop for the 4th grade.

# Past Events Summary

# Upcoming PTA Events

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| --- | --- |
| Dec. 24 to Jan. 2 | Winter Break |
| No PTA meeting in Jan. |  |
| Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. | MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum |
| Jan. 19, TBA | RM Cluster Testimony re: Operating Budget |
| Jan. 21, 7 p.m. | Music and Dance Night |
| Jan. 21 | Manna Mania Food Drive Kicks Off |

* Seventy families participated in Skate Night at Ca­bin John Ice Rink. The 5th Grade Promotion Committee raised $400 from selling pizza and drinks sales at the event.
* At International Night, there were 16 displays and all seven conti­nents, even Antarctica, were represented. We also en­joyed five live performances, ranging from French singing to an African dance demonstration and conga line.

# ADVOCACY CORNER

Operating Budget Forum, show County Council PTA is Watching

MCCPTA is hosting an Operating Budget Forum on Mon­day, Jan. 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carver Educa­tional Ser­vices Center, 850 Hungerford Drive in Rock­ville.  All County Council and Board of Education Members have been invited to share their views on the hard choices that a tight county operating budget, which came out on Dec. 15, means for our schools.  Please join us to hear their views first-hand and to demonstrate your interest in ensuring adequate funding for schools. Wear those Rit­chie Park t-shirts if you can.

Changes in Math and Integrated Curriculums

At the PTA meeting on Dec. 7, Ms. Long presented a three page list of recommendations from the MCPS Math Curriculum Workgroup. The main emphasis is to align MCPS’ math curriculum to the common core stan­dards, which were adopted by the State of Maryland, along with 36 other states. The common core standards adopt a “less is more” strategy and covers less topics to allow students to gain deeper understanding. The rec­ommendations can be found in the office on the handout rack and will be posted on the RPES website on the Par­ents.

Along with changes in the math curriculum, Ms. Long spoke about the Integrated Curriculum. This holistic ap­proach to teaching means that subjects such as arts, science, social studies and physical education will be wo­ven into daily instruc­tion of reading and math. For exam­ple, students can be reading a book about science and writing about the arts. The curri­culum will emphasize critical and creative thinking skills. Read more at the Inte­grated Curriculum FAQs, here www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ curricu­lum/integrated/faq.aspx

Feasibility Study of Elementary School #5 Update

A panel of 14 people, consisting of principals, par­ents and cluster coordinators, met on Dec. 13 and se­lected the architectural firm to conduct the feasibility study of ES #5. After the Board of Education approves the selected firm, the feasibility study will begin.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

# Yearbook Editor Needs Pictures

Please send in pictures to be included in the yearbook.  We want to make sure we cover all the fun things happening at RPES. We need pictures from Res­taurant Nights, the recent Scholastic Book Fair and Storytelling Night. Also, there are a lot of events coming up, including the Choral Concert, the Instrumental Music Concert, and all of the upcoming Valentine's parties in the classrooms. If you volunteer in the classroom or chaperone a field trip, take some pictures!

Pictures can be submitted by uploading them directly online or by submitting them on a flash drive or CD.  Please contact Michelle Logsdon, [michelle.logsdon @verizon.net](http://us.mc1121.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=michelle.logsdon@verizon.net), for details.

* Kim Testa and Janice Woo for organizing the al­ways entertaining and enlightening cultural arts assem­blies for our children.