RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

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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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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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### **December 9, 2011**

# Holiday Gift Collection for Teachers and Staff

The holidays are fast approaching and the PTA would like to offer you the opportunity to contribute to holiday gifts for the classroom teachers as well as the rest of the RPES staff. The deadline for donations is Wednesday, Dec. 14. Contact Erin Lobato at erin\_lobato@hotmail.com or Karla Berggren (see sidebar) for more information.

**Gifts for Classroom Teachers** - While any amount is welcome, a contribution of $10 per student is suggested. If you would like to participate, send your contri­bution to school, in a sealed envelope marked "Holiday **TEACHER** Gift" with your child's name and grade clearly labeled on the front.  Cash is preferred. Checks should be payable to RPES PTA.

* Mrs. Deutsch will be included in both 1st & 2nd grade collections.
* 4th & 5th grade collections will be combined and shared among the 4th & 5th grade team.

**Gifts for Non-Classroom Staff** - While any amount is welcome, a contribution of $5 per family will enable the PTA to pur­chase a small gift certificate for each of the approximately 35 non-classroom staff, such as our Art, PE, Music, and Media Center teachers, Para-educators, Secretaries, Building Services personnel, Nurse and Health Room Technician, cafeteria staff, etc. If you would like to partici­pate, send your contribution to school, in a sealed envelope marked "Holiday **STAFF** Gift Fund, Attention: PTA" with your child's name and grade la­beled clearly on the front. Cash is preferred. Checks should be made payable to RPES PTA.

# December Cultural Arts Assemblies

The Maryland Science Center will be performing "Brain Bender" on Dec. 6 for Grades K-2 and "Arcs and Sparks" on Dec. 13 for Grades 3-5. If you are in­terested in study guides for the assemblies that include pre and post activities, contact Kim Testa, kgtesta@aol.com.

# Community Service Committee Update

PAVE team 1st grade ambassadors had a nice trip to Raphael House on Nov. 22, where they made colorful Thanksgiving turkeys for residents.  Thanks to parents Marci Gutman, Kim Testa, and Laura Degnon for chaperoning and help­ing with the visit.

# FUNDRAISING FORUM

**Innisbrook Fundraiser Totals:** The fundraiser has officially wrapped up. All of the wrapping paper and gifts were delivered to families during parent teacher conferences earlier in the month.  With the help of parents, teachers, administrators, and students, we raised over $5200 for the Ritchie Park PTA.

**Three NEW ELMOs Have Arrived!** When we began the school year, we needed 10 ELMOs to put an ELMO in Every Classroom. So far we have raised funds to purchase 3 additional ELMOs. If we raise $3,000 before the end of the year, we can purchase 2 additional ELMOs and reach half our goal. Help enhance the educational experience of our children on a regular and consistent basis, make your donation TODAY! You can download a form on the PTA webpage.

**Box Tops Update**: The Box Top Lady sent in **9,000** box tops at the end of October which means RPES PTA will re­ceive approximately $900! Keep the Box Tops coming! We have one more chance this school year to send in Box Tops at the end of February.

**Restaurant Nights are a Big Success**: We raised $559 dining out at Mamma Lucia, $176.06 at California Tortilla, and $189.64 at Elevation Burger. Thank you to everyone who participated.

**PTA joins Teachers to donate Books for the Holidays**: The PTA has donated $200 and joined with our RPES teachers who have also donated their own funds to provide new books to approximately 38 RPES students for the holi­days. Ms. Fontyn will purchase the books and they will be provided as part of the Give a Gift program.

**General Fundraising**: Ever wonder where your PTA dues and fundraising dollars go? RPES PTA funds many ac­tivities and provides funds for needed supplies to our school. Items such as Proud Panther stickers, copy paper, lami­nating film, ink cartridges, cultural arts programs, the Media Center Reading Program, fun community-building activities, teacher reimbursements for out of pocket classroom expenses, gifts for the staff such as a Coffee Maker and utensils for the teachers’ lounge, and so much more. If you are looking for a charitable tax deduction, we would so appreciate a contribution to the PTA. Send your donations to school in an envelope marked "PTA Donations".  The PTA can provide a tax receipt for your donation. If you have any questions, contact Sharri Freedman (see sidebar).

**Deals from AtoZ Social Coupons Benefit RPES:** For those of you who opted to receive local deals during the School Directory verification process, Deals from AtoZ has started sending emails with local deals (like a Groupon email). Ritchie Park PTA gets a percentage of the local deal price so every time you buy, it will benefit RPES.  If you can't re­member whether you opted in or not, you can go to www.dealsfromatoz.com/d/1459/ritchie-park-elementary/ to opt-in.  If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Young (see sidebar).

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **Dec. 14** | Deadline for Teacher and Staff Holiday Gift Collection |
| **Dec. 14, 5-9 p.m.** | Restaurant Night at Ledo Pizza |
| **Dec. 19, 3:10 p.m.** | Variety Show Volunteer Meeting |

**Restaurant Night** will be Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 5-9 p.m., so plan to eat in or take out from LEDO pizza in Travilah Square, 10058 Darnestown Road. If you order take-out, PLEASE remember to mention RPES or we won’t get credited! Also, on Jan. 11plan to dine-in, take-out, or order delivery from Potomac Pizza in Traville Shopping Center.

**Variety Show Volunteers** – There will be a meeting on Dec. 19 at 3:10 p.m. in the Media Center. Anyone inter­ested in volunteering should come to this very important meeting.

The **RPES Variety Show** will be held on Jan. 20, 2012 at Richard Montgomery High School in the auditorium. **The Preview of Acts will be Jan. 3 and 4 from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the RPES All Purpose Room.** The Preview of Acts gives us a chance to view each act and decide the order in which the acts will be performed the actual night of the show. If your child or group plans to wear a costume of any sort, plan to wear it to the Preview of Acts. Bring any music needed, burned on to a CD for the sound tech to keep until the night of the show. (Once we have stored the music, we can return it to you.) You can also e-mail your music to Tonya Greenspan, tonyagreenspan@ymail.com, before the Preview of Acts. Performances are preferably no longer than 3½ minutes and a maximum of 4 minutes. To sign up for the Preview of Acts, log onto www.signupgenious.com/go/ritchie, password: varietyshow2012

**Important rules:** Everyone will be limited to one act, unless also performing with a teacher group. Example: If your child will perform with Mr. Gray’s Music Club, then it is fine to have a solo act or an act with a group of friends. But they CANNOT perform a solo act and a group act with friends and they CANNOT perform with two different groups of friends or two solo acts. NO EXCEPTIONS.We want to give as many children as possible a chance to be in the show. Any ques­tions contact Tonya Greenspan, tonyagreenspan@ymail.com.

There is **no PTA Meeting in January**. See you all on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center for the February PTA Meeting.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Brandy Carlson for organizing Storytelling Night. What a fun evening for everyone!  Thank you also to Ms. Schuck for arranging all the teacher readers and all the staff members who read stories that evening.
* Erin Lobato and Linda Montgomery for Chairing the Scholastic Book Fair. It was a wonderful week and a success­ful PTA fundraiser. Thank you to Ms. Fontyn and all the volun­teers for their help.