RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

**Jennifer Young, President**

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

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

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

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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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### **Febru­ary 18, 2011**

# Or­der Year­books Now!

Don’t miss out on your Ritchie Park Yearbook for this school year.  The yearbook is filled with your children’s individual and classroom photos as well as lots of club photos and candids.  You won’t want to miss it.  The PTA is taking pre-orders for the yearbook now.  Each yearbook is $20 and orders are due **Tuesday, March 1st**.  An order form came home in your child’s backpack and there are extra cop­ies in the office.  If you don’t pre-order, you might not get a yearbook because we will have only a very limited number of yearbooks to sell on a first come first serve basis when they are delivered at the end of the school year.  Don’t delay.  Order Now!

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Feb./Mar. PTA Meet­ing**, with Guest Speaker on Bullying, is on Tues­day, Febru­ary 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center.  This is the day we come back af­ter being off school for Presi­dent's Day. Af­ter the busi­ness part of the meet­ing, Mrs. Capoccia will make a presen­ta­tion on the subject of bullying. Child care will be pro­vided. Hope to see every­one there!

**Va­riety Show--**Please plan to at­tend the Ritchie Park ES Va­riety Show and ap­plaud the ta­lented stu­dents who are per­form­ing in and putting on the show. The cur­tains on the Va­riety Show will open at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs­day, March 3 in the Ju­lius West Middle School APR. Come support your friends. Don't miss the show! Stu­dents who plan to be in the Va­riety Show need to be availa­ble for re­hearsal at Julius West MS APR on Febru­ary 23, 24, and 28 from 6:45-8:30 p.m., and on March 1 from 5-8 p.m.

**3RD AN­NUAL BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR** will be on Sun­day, March 27 at Montrose Cross­ing on Rockville Pike. We will have Story Time with teachers and staff, Choral and Band perfor­mances, Suggested Reading Lists, Think Fun Games, Sca­venger Hunts (new this year), Prizes and a Craft!   Also, on­line sales will run March 27 through April 1.  Mark your ca­lendars, tell your friends and family, (they can shop at any store or on­line with our special ID which will be coming soon) and plan to be there to support our school!  We will need vo­lun­teers the day of the event.   If you are in­ter­ested, or have ques­tions, please contact Sharri Freedman, see si­de­bar, or Paige Rothfeld, paigerothfeld@gmail.com.   Look for flyers in back packs soon.

# AD­VO­CACY COR­NER

Op­er­at­ing Budget Cuts on the Ta­ble: Sig­nifi­cant cuts in staffing and pro­grams are possi­ble if Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) does not re­ceive all the funds for FY12 that it has re­quested from Montgomery County. The depth of the cuts will de­pend upon a num­ber of fac­tors that in­clude access to federal and state funds, as well as de­ci­sions that will be made by our Montgomery County Council. In prepa­ra­tion for po­ten­tial cuts, Su­perin­ten­dent Weast re­leased a list of possi­ble budget re­duc­tions, which can be found at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/de­part­ments/budget/fy2012/pdf/ PotentialFY12BudgetReductions.pdf. We will not have any in­di­ca­tion of how po­ten­tial cuts will af­fect Ritchie Park un­til early staffing projec­tions are re­leased some­time in March. But the po­ten­tial for cuts across the county, com­men­su­rate with an in­crease in maxi­mum class size, is real. Watch this space and the list­serv (join if you have not!) for info on how to contact your elected of­fi­cials (County Council; State Sena­tors and Dele­gates) to let them know how these cuts would im­pact your child­ren.

Feasi­bil­ity Studies be­gin­ning/Open to the Com­munity: Please con­sider joining us at some or all of the upcoming feasi­bility study meetings to show MCPS and local elected officials that our community thinks new construction is needed to alleviate overcrowding in our current schools. It is perfectly fine to come to some (or even one!) of the meetings and not commit to all of them. They do build on each other and the last meeting for each study will provide a summary of the options for each project.

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| **RM Cluster ES #5 Feasibility Study (all meetings at Hungerford site at 322 W. Edmonston Dr.)** | **Julius West MS Feasibility Study (all meetings at JWMS)** |
| Work Session #1 | Mon., Feb. 28 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #1 | Wed., Feb. 2 | 3 p.m. |
| Work Session #2 | Mon., Mar. 21 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #2 | Thurs., Feb. 24 | 7 p.m. |
| Work Session #3 | Thurs., Apr. 7 | 4 p.m. | Work Session #3 | Wed., Mar. 9 | 3 p.m. |
| Work Session #4 | Thurs., Apr. 28 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #4 | Wed. , Mar. 23 | 7 p.m. |
| Community Presentation | Thurs., May 12 | 7 p.m. | Community Presentation | Tues., Apr. 12 | 7 p.m. |

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**RPES Silent Auction is on Sunday May 1,** during the Spring Carnival. More details and “official” communication are soon to come, but it’s not too early to think about how you can help with the most pivotal aspect of the auction itself – the donations! Think about items you might like to donate – for example: gift cards/certificates to restaurants or retail, tick­ets to cultural or sporting events, even personal or professional services. And as you patronize local establishments or service providers, mention the auction (again, we’ll have more “official” communications soon, but it’s never too early to put in a word and take a business card to follow up – or, to make it easier for you we’ll be happy to send the info out on your behalf). It’s great publicity for a great cause (all proceeds benefit RPES PTA programs), and remember, dona­tions are 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For now, just remember: *“Ritchie Park PTA Silent Auction, Sunday May 1st.”* It’s that easy. Ideas? Questions? Want to help? Email Holly Winzler Mulderig at holly@heliosmarcom.com.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* The Room Parents and other volunteers for fun Valentine's Day parties in the classrooms.
* Marci Maged and Julie Baron for chairing “Snack Sacks for the Homeless" Community Service Night.
* Marquette Heaven for the Black History Month display in the front lobby.
* Kristen Swiggett and Cat Goodyear for coordinating Manna Mania Month. Also thank you to the RPES families for collecting 430 pounds of food for Manna Food Bank! More than 40 students and parents volun­teered time and energy at the Manna Warehouse in support of this Community Service event.  Well done Ritchie Park Panthers!  Your commitment to service is outstanding.

# Reminder

Send in Box Tops by Friday, Feb. 25. Place Box Tops in plastic baggies or envelopes and give to your teacher.



# Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting |
| Feb. 23, 24, 6:45-8:30 p.m. | Variety Show Rehearsal |
| Feb. 25 | Last Day To Turn In Box Tops  |
| Feb. 28, 6:45-8:30 p.m. | Variety Show Rehearsal |
| Mar. 1, 5-8 p.m. | Variety Show Rehearsal |
| Mar. 3, 6:30 p.m. | Variety Show at JWMS |
| Mar. 27 | Barnes and Noble Book Fair |