RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

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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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### **February 24, 2012**

# Music & Dance Night and Manna Mania TONIGHT 7-9 p.m. inGym and APR

Let's twist and shout at the RPES PTA's annual Music & Dance night cel­e­bration. Families and friends of RPES are invited to come dance and play games led by the deejays tonight, Friday, Feb. 24. This PTA-sponsored FREE event is in conjunction with the Community Service Committee's Manna Mania, which helps fight hunger in our community.

**We will be collecting non-perishable food donations for Manna Food Bank** at Music & Dance Night. Commu­nity Service Committee members will be present that evening to collect donations at the door.  Thank you to all who signed up to work at Manna as well.  Your efforts there will help feed thousands of hungry families in our own county.

# Fundraising Forum

**The Boosterthon Fun Run** We are bringing something *new* and *exciting* to RPES as our Spring fundraiser….Boosterthon’s mission is to help change the world by strengthening schools and impacting next generations through fitness, leadership, and character.

To kick off this event, there will be a Boosterthon Launch Pep Rally for students on May 14, followed by brief lessons on character building each day, and culminating with the Fun Run on May 23. We are excited and poised to have the most successful fundraising event that Ritchie Park has ever seen!

To learn more about this exciting event plan to come to the Mar. 6 PTA meeting. PLEASE come join us and hear how you can help make this event a suc­cess for our RPES students! We bet that once you hear directly from the Booster­thon team, you will be as excited as we are to bring this fantastic fundraiser to Ritchie Park!

**Elmo Update:** Four more ELMOs and we can put one in every class­room!  Also, the specialists have requested an additional ELMO, so we need to raise funds for a total of 5 more ELMOs, which equates to raising $7,500. If you would like to make a donation, please go to the PTA web­page and download the dona­tion form.  Ques­tions, contact Sharri Freedman (see sidebar).

**Restaurant Night:** Thanks to everyone who dined at Ledo Pizza in De­cember.  We earned $241 that evening!

**Interested in having your business considered for a RPES PTA fundraiser?** If you are a RPES parent/grandparent and want your business to be considered for future RPES PTA fundraisers please submit a proposal including promotional mate­rials, to the school office by Mar. 1. Mark your envelope Atten­tion: PTA Fund-raising. If you have any questions, please contact Sharri Freedman (see sidebar). The fundraising plan for the 2012-2013 school year will be determined prior to the PTA Budget meeting in June.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| --- | --- |
| **Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.** | Music and Dance Night |
| **Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| **Mar. 8, 7-8 p.m.** | Community Service Night in APR |
| **Mar. 14, 4 p.m.-close** | Potomac Pizza Restaurant Night |
| **Mar. 18** | Barnes and Noble Book Fair |

The next **PTA Meeting** will be on Tuesday, Mar. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Me­dia Center. The Booster­thon team will be presenting a short informa­tional video followed by a Q&A session.

**8th Annual "Snack Sacks for the Homeless" Community Service Night** will take place on Thurs­day, Mar. 8 at 7 p.m. in the APR. Students and their families will be making and assembling 250 meal bags for The Commu­nity Based Shelter for the Homeless, a Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Each meal bag will include a meat and cheese sandwich, a granola bar, a snack such as crackers, chips or pretzels, fruit cup or applesauce and a bottle of water. Stu­dents will also have the opportunity to make a few crafts for the Children's Inn at NIH Thoughtful Treasures Project.

Each grade is responsible for bringing items which will go into the meal bags. We are requesting children in each grade bring the following: K- granola bars; 1st- packaged sliced cheese; 2nd- packaged deli meat; 3rd- non-perishable fruit (applesauce cups, fruit cups); 4th- snacks (individual bags of chips, pretzels, or crackers); 5th- loaves of bread.

Make sure to check your child's backpack and emails for additional information about the event. When you are shopping for groceries for your own family, please pick up an extra item or two for those in need in our community. Food donations can be sent in with your child the week of Mar. 5. In lieu of shopping, if you would like to make a mone­tary donation, please make checks payable to the RPES PTA and designate "Snack Sacks for the Homeless" in the memo.

Volunteers at the event and drivers to deliver food to the shelter are greatly needed. If you are able to volun­teer your time for an extremely worthy cause, please contact Marci Maged, magedpr@aol.com or Julie Baron, [juliebaron@verizon.net](mailto:juliebaron@verizon.net). Thanks in advance for your support!

**Restaurant Night** is Wednesday, Mar. 14 at Potomac Pizza (9709 Traville Gateway Drive, Rockville). Dine-in, carry-out, or order online for delivery. RPES PTA will receive 20% of the proceeds.

**RPES Book Fair at Barnes and Noble** is coming on Sunday, Mar. 18. This year it will be at the Washingtonian Cen­ter, 21 Grand Corner Ave., Gaithersburg. Volunteers are needed. To sign up, go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/ 4090544A5AA229-barnes/. For more information, contact Ana at anatungcod@ comcast.net.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**Lunch and Recess Volunteers Needed!** The Volunteer Spot sign-up has been empty the last few weeks. We love to see volunteers helping out at lunch and recess. If you can help on a regular basis or just drop by on a day that you are free, please come help in the lunchroom. The E-News has a link to sign up or go to www.volunteerspot.com/ login/entry/6523456346936540113/.

**Chairperson or two Co-Chairs Needed for the** **Recycled Book Swap** in June. This job entails gather­ing donated books and sorting books by level, coordinating classes coming through the book exchange during school hours, and do­nating any left-over books to charity. This is a very popular event with the students and gives them a head start on their sum­mer reading, but it won't happen if no one volunteers to lead it. It’s a great first time volunteer op­portunity! For more information, contact Karla Berggren (see sidebar).

# ADVOCACY CORNER: County Council Needs to Hear From You

The campaign to convince the County Council to approve the Board of Education's recommendation to fund construction of Richard Montgomery Elementary School #5 to open in Fall 2015 and to reject the County Executive's recommendation to delay the construction of RMES #5 by two years continues.  We need you to continue the pressure on the County Council members by writing a letter to the Council members and sending it to 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 or you can send an email to county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov and it will be distributed to all Council members.  In addition, if you want to write directly to the councilmember that represents the families of RPES, you can contact Phil Andrews at [councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov). For a sample let­ter, visit the RPES PTA webpage.  Please personalize the letter, addressing your own situa­tion, as applicable.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO:

* Marquette Heaven for creating the display for Black History Month in the glass case in the lobby. Take a look!
* All the Room Parents, Grade Reps., parent & grandparent volunteers who helped with Valentine's Day par­ties.