RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

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

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### **January 27, 2012**

# Variety Show a Big Hit

We stepped it up a notch and moved the Variety Show to the auditorium at Richard Montgomery High School this year, and what a show it was! Thank you to Tonya Greenspan for chairing this wonderful event. We sure have a lot of talent at RPES that was showcased in a very entertaining evening. Many thanks to all the children who took part in the show, the MC's, stage crew, parent volun­teers, and RPES staff who helped.  The audience was so sup­portive of all the performers--thank you for coming out to the show.

Gratitude goes out to our donors: Fitzgerald Automotive Group, Angie Dixson who donated the printing of the program, and numerous RPES families that made donations to the Variety Show. DVD recordings of the 2012 Variety Show are available for purchase at a price of $12.50. Please send a check payable to "RPES PTA" into the office to order.

# MANNA MANIA: Coming Soon

This event, sponsored by the PTA and Community Service Committee, offers students and families an opportunity to collect non-perishable food items for Manna Food Bank, and also the chance to work in the Manna warehouse!

Manna Mania food collection is held on Music & Dance Night, Friday, Feb. 24.  Community Service members will be there to collect non-perishable food items at the door.

Two Manna warehouse sorting opportunities are also avail­able for stu­dents 7 and older and their families.  The dates and con­tacts for these shifts are:  Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m., contact Lisa Bosse, lbosse@settlements. com and Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m., contact Maureen Murphy, mgmurphy3@ gmail.com.

Manna Food Bank provides food to thousands of families in Montgomery County.  Please show your support and help your community by participating in Manna Mania! Primary contact for this event is Cat Goodyear, catgoodyear@ gmail.com.

# Free Kid’s Meal at California Tortilla in Rockville

Our friends at California Tortilla in Rockville would like to congratulate RPES’s hard-working students. Bring in your student’s current report card and receive a free kid’s meal. Offer is valid Feb­ruary 1 through March 1. Rockville location only! A lot of students from RPES redeemed their free kid’s meal last time. California Tortilla hopes to see them all again.

# Cultural Arts Assemblies in January

Our next assembly will be on Monday, Jan. 30, 9:10 and 10:10 a.m. The Smithsonian Discovery Theater will present a play called "How Old is a Hero?" It is a children's Civil Rights play based

on the original play by Raquis Da'Juan Petree and adapted by Michael J. Bobbitt & Roberta Gasbarre. The link to the Teacher Guide, which includes discussion questions, can be accessed through the Friday E-News.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| --- | --- |
| **Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| **Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.** | Cluster Choral Concert at RMHS Auditorium |
| **Feb. 9, 7 p.m.** | County Council Facilities Hearing at 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville |
| **Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m.** | Manna Warehouse Sorting |
| **Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.** | Music and Dance Night |
| **Feb. 25, 10 a.m.** | Manna Warehouse Sorting |

The next **PTA Meeting** will be on Tuesday, Feb­. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Let’s twist and shout at the RPES annual **Music and Dance** **Night** celebration.  Families and friends of RPES are invited to come dance and play games led by the deejays on Friday, Feb. 24 from 7-9 p.m. This FREE, PTA-sponsored event is held in conjunction with **Manna Mania**, to help fight hunger in our community. For further information or to vo­lunteer, contact Kristen Swiggett at kswiggett@comcast.net.

**Restaurant Night** will be at Potomac Pizza on Wednesday, Mar. 14 from 4 p.m. to close.

**RPES Book Fair at Barnes and Noble** is coming on Sunday, March 18. This year it will be at the Washingtonian Center, 21 Grand Corner Ave., Gaithersburg. Look for future announcements and volunteer sign-up.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a Chairperson or two Co-Chairs 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. For more information, contact Karla Berggren (see sidebar).

# ADVOCACY CORNER: County Executive's CIP Budget Delays RM Elementary School Construction For TWO YEARS

County Executive Ike Leggett released his County CIP Budget on January 17.  While he recommended funding almost all the school construction projects that the Board of Education had approved in the MCPS CIP Budget, including an addition to Julius West Middle school scheduled to open in fall 2016, he did not recommend funding the new Ele­mentary School #5 on schedule.  Elementary School #5, located at the site of the former Hungerford ES on Edmonston Dr. off of Wootton Pkwy was approved to open in the fall of 2015 by the BOE to relieve the overcrowding in Ritchie Park and all the other elementary schools of the RM Cluster.   Instead, the County Executive recommended delaying con­struction of RMES #5 by TWO YEARS, in order to allow the Community Resource Center, currently located on the site, to relocate to a new facility they will build in the meantime at the former Broome MS in Twinbrook. The County Executive estimates that letting the CRC construct its building first saves the County $3.45 million by not having to move the CRC to a temporary location.  However, the cost of this delay to the students of our overcrowded elementary schools is beyond measure.

You may recall that, last year during the construction feasibility study of the new ES #5, the Ritchie Park PTA and all the PTAs of all the elementary schools were united in opposing a County move to locate the CRC offices with the new elementary school either as a top floor on the same building or another building on the same small site - another County cost-savings measure.  Having prevailed in our advocacy efforts with a school-only option, it seems as if the County has found another way to thwart the timely construction of this much needed fifth elementary school in our cluster by fail­ing to recommend funding to start the construction as scheduled.  The urgent need to relieve overcrowding at Ritchie Park and the other elementary schools should NOT be delayed.  If you are concerned about the continued use of por­tables taking up valuable play space at Ritchie Park and resources stretched thin with so many students, **please come to the County Council Facilities hearing on FEBRUARY 9 at 7 p.m.** in the County Council hearing room at 100 Maryland Ave in Rockville.  Wear your Ritchie Park T-shirts to support our Cluster testimony (our own Cheryl Moss Herman will be testifying as RM Cluster Coordinator) before the County Council.  This delay in construction will directly affect Ritchie Park students and we need to show the Council that our families feel that our children can't wait.  If you have any questions, please contact your MCCPTA Delegates Jennifer Young or Rich Hart.

# Parking Space Auction Winner

The Greenspan family is our winner for Dec.-Feb. Please DO NOT park in the Auction Winner space.  The RPES families that won the auction paid to have the space available at all times. Thank you!