RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

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

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### **June 3, 2011**

# Cultural Arts: Interact Story Theatre ‘Artist in Residency Program’ for 3rd - 5th grad­ers on June 1-3

Students will participate in a folk tale residency program centering on *West African folk tales –The Anansi Stories.*

For the first two days students will explore different *Anansi folk tales* con­necting to the theme, using creative drama strategies. Then, they will compare and contrast elements of the stories through Venn diagrams to uncover the con­ventions around the folk tale. On the third day the students and artists will work together to compose and dramatize their own Anansi story in­corporating the common elements uncovered along with using key elements of good story struc­ture.

This residency program is being funded by a $2000 Target grant and a $1900 Maryland State Arts Council grant obtained by the PTA in partnership with the school and Interact Story Theater. Check out www.interactstory.com/.

# Spring Carnival and Silent Auction Summary

The Spring Carnival and Silent Auction held in May was a great community event, and we even raised some money for the PTA to spend on items that benefit the students and the school. After taking out the expenses for the carnival vendors and the room rental fees, the Spring Carnival made $808. The Silent Auction brought in $2,779. If you haven’t yet paid for items you won at the Silent Auction, please send in a check, payable to RPES PTA, to the office in an envelope marked “Si­lent Auction.” If you have any ques­tions, you may contact Linda Montgomery, lmontgomery@speedeondata.com.

# PTA Communication and Grade Representative Survey

Thank you to those who completed our survey! Your feedback has provided im­portant direction on where to go with the roles of Grade Reps/Room Parents and how to better handle money collection, classroom parties, teacher holi­day gifts and improved PTA communication. Look for more specific recommendations later this month on the RPES PTA Listserv.

# Join the PTA Listserv

Stay informed this summer! If you do not already receive RPES PTA Listserv mes­sages, please consider joining the Listserv. We will be sending messages over the summer about PTA events and Back-to-School information. To join the List­serv, send an email to:  RPESPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. There is no need to write anything in the body of your email. You will get a response with directions for completing your subscription.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Book Swap** – All RPES Students will participate in our Used Book Swap next week!   Students will come with their class to choose a book to take home from our large collection of donated books.   Thanks to our community’s generosity, all stu­dents will be able to select a book regardless of whether they donated.   All extra books will be donated to classroom li­braries and needy families.  If you would like to help set up the Book Swap or help children with their selections, please sign up for a volunteer shift at www.signupgenius.com/go/2011570/.

The last **PTA Meeting** of the year will be on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the APR. At the meeting we will be voting on approving the budget for next year. Immediately following the PTA meeting, from 8-9 p.m., the Volunteer Tea will be held honoring the volunteers who helped during the school year. Come and have some treats provided by the teachers and see the banners, posters, and flowers the students make to say “thank you” for all your hard work. Complimentary baby­sitting will be provided in the Music Room for toilet-trained children ages 3 and up.

**End of Year Celebrations** will take place on Tuesday, June 14 for Grades K-2 and Wednesday, June 15 for Grades 3-5. Spe­cific party details will be sent home with your child.

The **5th grade Promotion Ceremony** will be on the morning of Tuesday, June 15 in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's.  Congratulations to our 5th graders on their graduation from Ritchie Park and moving on to Middle School!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **June 7&8** | Book Swap |
| **June 7, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting in APR, followed by Volunteer Tea |
| **June 14&15** | End of Year Celebrations |
| **June 15** | Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony |
| **June 28, 7-9 p.m.** | PTA Planning Meeting in Media Center |

The **PTA Calendar Planning Meeting** will be on Tuesday, June 28 from 7-9 p.m. in the Media Center. We will be putting dates on the calendar for next year's events and planning for a great year! If you are organizing an event or program next year for the PTA, please mark your calendars to attend the meeting. If you can’t come, contact Rachel Hicks (see contact information on sidebar) with potential dates for your event.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

This has been a great year and we couldn’t have all the fun and success without our wonderful volunteers. Here are just a few…

* **Adina Topfer** who was our PTA Correspondence and Gift Coordinator this year.
* **Christina Halpern** for organizing the grocery receipts program.
* Our Community Service Chair, **Cat Goodyear** and Cultural Arts Chairs, **Kim Testa and Janice Woo**. These pro­grams en­compass many activities throughout the school year which help the community and bring enriching pro­grams to the students. Thank you all for your hard work this year bringing these great events to Ritchie Park.
* **Erin Lobato** for coordinating the Used Book Swap. We appreciate her enthusiasm in striving to send a summer read­ing book home with every student!
* Our **Grade Reps., Room Reps., and Room Parents** for all their efforts this year. You helped enhance communication, coordinate all the fun parties, and collection of staff gift money this year! Thank you to **Erin Lobato** who served as coordinator of all these folks. It would not have been possible without you!
* **Karla Berggren** for keeping the PTA Lobby sign up to date.
* **Lauren Hetrick** who posted the fun and happy Birthday Board monthly this year.
* **Melinda Kelley** for organizing the FLES – French program of after-school classes.
* **Michelle Logsdon** for creating the Yearbook and **Sheila Correa** for organizing the preorders.
* **Roxana Hall** for collecting and sending Box Tops.
* **Mrs. Stultz** for her wonderful presentation of student art work for the Arts and Science Fair.  Parents were amazed at the beautiful presentation and the students were thrilled to see their art work on display as they wandered the halls listening to the jazz band, whose presence was also arranged by Mrs. Stultz.
* **Susan Read** for doing a great job as Editor of the PTA Newsletter this year. She kept everyone on track in publishing our bi-weekly newsletter. We appreciate her dedication and efforts to photocopy and distribute the newsletter every two weeks throughout the entire school year.
* **Suzanne Smith** who organized Restaurant Nights this year and who has been our ListServ Moderator for several years.
* **All the parents and grandparents who volunteered in the classrooms and for PTA events throughout the year!**