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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WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PAR­ENTS

### **March 4, 2011**

# Spring for Technology!!

 Our on-going Direct Donation Campaign is to put an ELMO and projector in every classroom at Ritchie Park. Check your child’s back pack for a letter and do­nation form. Forms can also be found in the office.

 An ELMO is a type of document camera that displays documents and other objects that are not translucent, and uses a projector to display the image on a large screen. In other words, it replaces the old overhead projectors but is much more versatile in the items it can display. **An ELMO in every classroom means all students and teachers will have access to cutting edge technology to enhance their educational experience on a regular and consistent basis.**

Each ELMO and projector costs approximately $1,500.00. To reach our goal of putting an ELMO and projector in every classroom, the PTA would need to raise $25,500.00. As of Jan. 31, we have raised $1,720.00 in direct donations and $2,111.00 in corporate donations. We are off to a good start, but have a long way to go.

# Silent Auction Update

We’ve already received some terrific retail and restaurant donations for our Silent Auction on May 1, during Spring Carnival. What’s more, we have some really interesting offerings tapping the talents and enthusiasms of RPES par­ents. **Kristen Swiggett**, who is a wonderfully accomplished photographer, will donate five 5” x 7” matted black and white children’s silhouette portraits. Kris will most likely take the pictures for the silhouettes on auction day. **Susan Koester** is do­nating a “turnkey” learn to knit kit (lesson, needles and yarn)—thus enabling you to transform hours spent by the soc­cer field/poolside/courtside/on Metro into something beautiful for yourself or a gift for someone else. **Ajay Chitnis** will give an Indian cooking lesson at the Koester/Chitnis home where you’ll prepare din­ner for your family (up to 6 members, date and time to be mutually agreed upon). And Ajay can work with your dietary preferences.

Can their donation ideas inspire any of your own? Talents, or treasures -- antiques/collectibles, sports memora­bi­lia? Of course, we always need help spreading the word to your favorite businesses/service providers. Extra donation forms are available in the office, and will soon be available online. Not only do businesses appreciate the publicity, but the initial request. And last but defi­nitely not least, their donation is 100% tax-deductible according to the law. Ideas, ques­tions, want to help? Contact Holly Winzler Mulderig at holly@ heliosmarcom.com.

# Directory Phone App Available!

PTA members now have the ability to access Ritchie Park Directory infor­mation from their iPhone, Droid, or Blackberry.  The company that produced the Ritchie Park Directory, School Directorease, has created an app with RPES Di­rectory information that they are providing to us for free!  If you are a PTA member, you should have received an email with directions on how to download the directory app.  If think you should have received an email, but did not, please let Jennifer Young know, see sidebar.  If you are not a PTA member, now is a great time to join!  Not only can you help sup­port the school and the students with your membership, you get a free di­rectory app as well!  Membership forms are in the office and can be downloaded from the RPES website at www. montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ritchieparkes/parents/.  For more information on membership, please con­tact Marquette Heaven, see sidebar.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# Upcoming Events

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mar. 15 | Last Day to submit yearbook photos  |
| Mar. 27, 12:30-4:30 p.m. | Barnes & Noble Book Fair In Store |
| Mar. 27-Apr. 1 | Barnes & Noble Book Fair Online Shopping  |
| Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| Apr. 28&29 | Kindergarten Orientation |

**Kindergarten Orientation** will be held at Ritchie Park on Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29. Ask friends and neighbors who may have a child coming to Kindergarten at RPES next year to register with the office.

**3rd Annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair** will be held on Sunday, March 27 from 12:30-4:30p.m.at the store in Montrose Crossing-Rockville Pike. In the past we have earned over $1,000 which has been used to purchase new books for our li­brary and classrooms. Volunteers will be needed the day of the event. Look for information coming soon on how to sign up with signupgenius.com. Plan to come out and support RPES.

You can also help RPES by shopping at ANY Barnes & Noble all day during store hours. Just use a voucher (com­ing soon) or our ID #**10423614** when checking out. You can also shop online March 27-April 1 and use our ID # at check­out for RPES to receive credit!

Book Fair Schedule on Sunday, March 27

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 12:30-4:30 p.m. | Think Fun GamesCrafts, including an American Girl Doll craft, while supplies last |
| 1:00-1:30 p.m. | RPES Band performances |
| 1:30-2:30 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt with teachers & staffTeachers and staff will be available for recommended reading suggestions |
| 2:30-3:00 p.m. | RPES Chorus performance  |
| 3:00-4:00 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt with teachers & staff Teachers and staff will be available for recommended reading suggestions |

**Yearbook Photos due Tuesday, March 15--**If you have any pictures that you would like to see possibly included in the Yearbook, please email them to Michelle Logsdon at michelle.logsdon@verizon.net.  Mar. 15 is the deadline for any events occurring after Mar. 1, particularly the Variety Show.  If you have a few pictures, you can email them directly to Michelle. If you have several pictures, please ask Michelle for directions on how to upload them to the photo editing website, Picasa.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

The **Staff Appreciation Committee** is hosting a Mardi Gras luncheon for the staff on Mar. 8. If you would like to contri­bute a salad, or a dessert please contact Karen Watson, kmpk1969@yahoo.com.

**Nominating Committee--**In preparation for the May 1 PTA officer election for next school year, we are forming a three-member nominating committee to prepare the list of nominees for elections, to publicize the candidates nominated, and generally to make sure that the nominating process is fair and objective.  We still need one more member of the commit­tee.  You must be a PTA member to serve on the committee, but there is not a large time commitment ex­pected.  If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Young, see sidebar.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

The following vendors who so graciously donated items to our "Snack Sacks for the Homeless" Community Service event:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drink More Water | Potomac Pizza | Whole Foods | Costco |
| Giant Foods | Harris Teeter | Safeway | Shoppers Food and Pharmacy |