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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### **November 18, 2011**

# Ritchie Park PTA eNews Update!

A huge thank you to all the families who responded to our request to Go Paperless! 92% of our Ritchie Park community is now receiving the weekly Ritchie Park PTA eNews **every Friday**. The PTA eNews allows you to access on-line information about PTA events and activities− including links to on-line sign-ups, the MCPS monthly lunch menu and the school and PTA newsletters! If you selected to receive paper copies they will still come home in your child’s backpack. **Please for­ward any suggestions for improving the eNews to Erin Lobato,** erin\_lobato@hotmail.com, **as well**.

# Upcoming Cultural Arts Program Dates

The PTA is pleased to announce the Cultural Arts Program line-up for the 2011-2012 school year.  The focus this year is on science and history.  We are looking forward to another fun-filled year of learning through these ex­citing assemblies!

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. for Grades K-2

Baltimore Science Center Program - "Brain Benders"

www.mdsci.org/programs/Educators/TSP/BrainBenders.html

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 9:30-10:30 a.m. for Grades 3-5

Baltimore Science Center Program - "Arcs & Sparks" The Science of Electricity

www.mdsci.org/programs/Educators/TSP/Arcs\_Sparks.html

Monday, Jan. 30, 9:10 & 10:10 a.m. for Grades K-2, 3-5

Smithsonian Discovery Theater Program - "How Old is a Hero"

discoverytheater.org/family/shows/jan/how-old-is-a-hero.shtm

Friday, Feb. 10, 9:10 & 10:10 a.m. for K-2, 3-5

History Alive Program – “Margaret Brent of Maryland"

www.historyaliveshows.com/margaretbrent.htm

# PTA Membership Drive Sweepstakes Winner

The PTA is pleased to announce Jennifer Rix, who teaches first grade at Ritchie Park, is the winner of our sweepstakes.  Ms. Rix will receive a $50 gift card to Umberto’s Pizzeria and Restaurant!  Enjoy!

On a related note, we'd like to extend a continued thanks to all of our RPES PTA members; the sweepstakes and everything else that we are able to do would be impossible without your participation and continued support.  For those who have not yet joined the PTA, it's not too late!  Please consider doing so because there is still plenty of time left in the school year, and many more events to coordinate, and we could use your help!! Also, as an added bonus, the phone app and desktop access to the school directory will be coming out soon, but only for PTA members, so join now!

# Volunteer Log Book

# UPCOMING EVENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nov. 28-Dec. 2** | **Scholastic Book Fair** |
|  | Monday 9a – 4pTuesday 9a – 4pWednesday 9a – 6p\*Thursday 9a – 4p and 5:30 – 8:30 p\* Friday 9a – 12p\*Open late on Wednesday and Storytelling Night!(Children only permitted in the Book Fair with an adult or pass from their teacher - limit 5 at one time) |
| **Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m.** | **Storytelling Night** |
| **Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.** | **PTA Meeting in Media Center** |

The Volunteer Log Book is out on the counter in the school office.  Please log your volunteer hours! Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Teresa Williams, will be sending monthly totals into MCPS.  Please estimate your hours for Aug., Sept. and Oct. and put those on your log sheet.  Then please keep track of your Nov. hours.  Also, all volunteers need to fill out the Volunteer Application Form, which is re­quired by MCPS. This only takes about five minutes and blank application forms can be found in the Volunteer Log Book. You can leave your completed application form in the front of the book. Thank you!

# Staff Appreciation

Last week the staff was given individual loaves of pumpkin bread, had a fun "Turkey Match" game where two teams won frozen turkeys if they had a game piece match, and had lunch provided on Nov. 10 (a parent-teacher confe­rence day) by California Tortilla. Thank you to the PTA Staff Apprecia­tion Committee for organizing these fun events.  Thank you to California Tortilla for donating lunch for our staff.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Scholastic Book Fair** will be Monday, Nov. 28 to Friday, Dec. 2 and **Storytelling Night** will be on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 6-8 p.m.  We need help setting up on Nov. 22 (including decorating the entrance) and running the Book Fair. There are morning, afternoon and evening shifts available! It's not hard work and it's a lot of fun to help the children pick out a great book and determine how to best spend their wads of dollar bills and fistfuls of pennies! Sign up to help at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20111041/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20111041/).  For more information, contact Erin Lobato, erin\_lobato@hotmail.com, or Linda Montgomery, limontgomery@yahoo.com.

The **December PTA Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Child care will not be pro­vided for this meeting. Hope to see you there!

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Support for School Construction

Thank you to the parents that came to the RM Cluster PTA Facilities Meeting with MCPS officials on Monday, Nov. 7 to find out more about Superintendent Starr's Capital Improvements Plan recommendation to build a new elementary school in our cluster and an addition to the middle school at Julius West and. Also, the PTA would like to give a big thank you to the parents who came to the Board of Education hearing in support of school construction in the RM Cluster.  It was particularly gratifying to see parents, in Ritchie Park spirit gear, who stood during RPES parent Cheryl Moss Herman's testimony as one of the RM Cluster Coordinators.  Thank you for advocating for your children's future!

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Paige Rothfeld and Elisa Chaze for organizing Skate Night.  It was great fun for all.
* Lisa Bosse and Julie Baron and the other volunteers who delivered the Innisbrook fundraising products.
* Rosi and Rodney Peele for coordinating International Night and to all the country presenters and all the families who participated.
* All the families who participated in the Elevation Burger Restaurant Night.
* Cat Goodyear for organizing the Veteran's Day activities this year. Cat Goodyear, Mrs. Capoccia and the Commu­nity Service Committee organized the Veteran's Day Walk for Heroes. Thank you to Whole Foods for providing the Veteran's Day breakfast reception for our VIP guests, Realtor Eric Stewart for providing the flags that the children waved, and staff and parent volunteers that helped. Thanks go out to all the families who donated goods to the supply drive. The items and cards that the children made will be sent overseas to soldiers in care packages through Operation Welcome Home Maryland.