

RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEWSLETTER

WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PARENTS

November 4, 2011

Gym Will Be Voting Location on Nov. 8

The RPES gym will be used as a voting location on Tuesday, Nov. 8 for a City of Rockville special election. We do not anticipate the election will disrupt our instructional program, but you may experience a slight increase in traffic during pick-up and drop-off. MCPS will provide a security guard to ensure that adults coming to vote do not enter any area where students are present. Grades K, 1, & 3 will enter the building via the front door, and will line up in the K hallway and the hallway in front of the computer lab. Questions? Contact the school.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Paper Copies of Newsletter!

Select your preference for paper copies or for the electronic newsletter by contacting Erin Lobato, erin_lobato@hotmail.com. Families who have not responded will start to receive the PTA eNews electronic newsletter if we have your e-mail address. The PTA eNews allows you to access information about PTA events and activities— including links to on-line sign-ups, the MCPS monthly lunch menu and the school newsletters!

Community Service Committee Update

Ritchie Park families raised \$1849.85 in our Pennies for Patients coin drive last month! All of the money goes to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help research, programs, treatment, and support for families who are affected by these illnesses. What an excellent effort we showed and your thoughtful donations will mean so much to those who need it.

The Veterans Day Walk for Heroes will be Friday, Nov. 11 at 9:15 a.m. Students will honor Special Guests, collect donations for Operation Welcome Home Maryland, make cards to send to soldiers overseas, and have a parade to commemorate this very important day. Keep an eye out for Friday's flyer with details about the Welcome Home donations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ms. Long will head a presentation on the **New Integrated Curriculum**, also known as Curriculum 2.0, on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. All parents are invited. The focus will be on the changes to the mathematics portion of the curriculum, particularly the emphasis on nurturing depth in conceptual understanding.

We have another fabulous **Restaurant Night** scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 5-9 p.m. at Elevation Burger in Park Potomac. See you there!

International Night is Thursday, Nov. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m.! Bring your children to Ritchie Park for a fun evening to learn about other countries and cultures and highlighting the diverse population of RPES. You need not have ties to a particular place to present it at International Night – just have a passion for introducing RPES students to the amazing world around us! Consider volunteering for the International Night Steering Committee to help set the stage for a great event. If you are interested in representing a country (or a U.S. state), contact Rodney Peele at rpeele@aoa.org.



2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

Rachel Hicks, President
rachelginac@aol.com
301-294-7364

Eric Williams, President-Elect
etk_williams@yahoo.com
301-861-7062
202-372-3505 (work)

Sharri Freedman, Fundraising VP
sharribeth@aol.com
301-251-4478

Karla Berggren, Programs VP
Karla_hunt_berg@yahoo.com
301-424-8878

Angie Dixson, Secretary
angiedixson@aol.com
301-340-7266

Steve Schuck, Treasurer
Theschucks@LNF.com
301-580-0177

PTA Board of Directors also includes the following members:

Jennifer Young, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Past President
young.jennifer@gmail.com
301-309-8764

Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs
theharts99@yahoo.com
301-424-3446

Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair
marquetteheaven@aol.com
301-294-6540

Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair
rwfreundlich@gmail.com
301-424-0663

Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative
Catherine_L_McCoskey@mcpsmd.org
301-279-8475

Catherine Long, Principal
Catherine_Long@mcpsmd.org
301-279-8475

Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal
MaryEllen_Dixon@mcpsmd.org
301-279-8475

Check out the Oct. 28 **Paw Prints** at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ritchieparkes/principal/newsletter.aspx

Scholastic Book Fair will be Monday, Nov. 28 to Friday, Dec. 3 and **Storytelling Night** will be on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 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/. For more information, contact Erin Lobato, erin_lobato@hotmail.com, or Linda Montgomery, limontgomery@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.	Cabin John Skate Night
Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m.	MCPS cluster meeting on CIP budget
Nov. 8, 7 p.m.	Curriculum 2.0 Presentation in Media Center
Nov. 9, 5-9 p.m.	Elevation Burger Restaurant Night
Nov. 10&11	Early Release/Parent conferences
Nov. 11, 9:15 a.m.	Veterans Day Walk for Heroes
Nov. 14, 7 p.m.	RM Cluster CIP testimony before BOE
Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.	International Night

FUNDRAISING FORUM

Thanks to all of your donations, three ELMO projectors have been ordered. We need seven more to reach our goal of one in every classroom. In order to do this, we need to raise an additional \$10,500. Currently teachers share the ELMOs. Some grade levels schedule a rotation by week and some grades work it out on a day-by-day basis. The newest ELMOs are likely to go to teams implementing the new K-2 curriculum. Consider making a tax-deductible donation and remember employer matching programs too! Go to the PTA webpage to download a donation form, or contact Sharri Freedman (see side bar).

ADVOCACY CORNER: New Elementary School and JWMS Addition Recommended

On Oct. 28, Superintendent Starr released his recommendations for school construction in the Richard Montgomery Cluster. For the complete RM Cluster section of the Superintendent's Recommended 2013 Capital Budget and the FY2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program, go to www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/PDF/CIP13_Ch4_MontgomeryR.pdf. In summary, Dr. Starr recommends the construction of a fifth elementary school, RM Cluster ES#5 on Edmonston St., off of Wootton Pkwy., with a request for funding to allow a scheduled opening of August 2015. His recommendation is for the school-only option with a program capacity of 740 students. No other ES additions have been recommended at this time because MCPS believes the new school with this program capacity will address revised projected enrollment. There will be a boundary study conducted in connection with opening the new elementary and there will be some RPES families going to the new school for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Starr also recommended the construction of the JWMS addition, which will bring program capacity from 986 to 1444 students, with a funding request to allow for an August 2016 opening. Any RPES family with a child in Grades 2-5 may be impacted by construction at JWMS.

The PTA is pleased with Dr. Starr's recommendations. We understand that families may have questions regarding how these planned construction projects will affect the learning environment for their children. If you do, plan to attend the **Richard Montgomery Cluster PTA Facilities Meeting on Monday, Nov. 7, 7:30-9pm** in the RMHS cafeteria to discuss these CIP recommendations with MCPS staff and other officials.

Also, on **Monday, Nov. 14, beginning at 7pm, the Board of Education will be hearing public testimony about the CIP**. Testimony that night will include one of the RM Cluster Coordinators, Cheryl Moss Herman, advocating for the construction needs of our cluster. The BOE must approve the Superintendent's recommendations and send them to the County Council for funding in order for the projects to stay on schedule. We need parents to attend to show the importance of these projects to our families. Plan to attend wearing your Ritchie Park shirts!

A BIG THANK YOU TO...

- All of our Room Parents for awesome Halloween parties! Thank you to everyone who helped out and came for the parade and parties.
- All the people that helped make the Directory a success, particularly coordinator Jennifer Young, Ms. Zegarra, and Mrs. Baum. It looks great and is packed with information!
- Maria Doyle and Jeanie Glasser for chairing a very successful Pizza Bingo. Thanks also to Ms. Long, Ms. Nusbaum, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Colavito, and Ms. Schuck for calling bingo numbers. We made over \$1400 and had to set up extra tables and the pizza and ice cream sold out! We appreciate everyone who stayed to clean up, especially the Hart family, the Schuck family, Sandra Mora and so many more.

Please send comments and suggestions to newsletter editor, Susan Read, zwschen@yahoo.com.