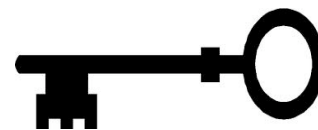




The Key



December 2011

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA/ 240-406-1300

From the Desk of Acting Principal, Carol A. Weiss

The school year is quickly passing. We have already completed our first marking period and held parent conferences. Our students demonstrated academic achievement at all grade levels. Honor Roll has recognized 164 sixth graders including 45 straight A achievers, 173 seventh grade students, including 73 straight A students, and 129 eighth graders including 37 who earned straight A grades. Behind every successful student stands a proud and involved parent and we appreciate all that you do to support your child's learning.

Our sports teams also demonstrated skill and achieved a successful season. The girls' softball team went UNDEFEATED while our boys' team, facing many challenges, had 2 wins and 3 losses. Way to go, Bobcats!

Bobcat Advisory time continues to support student learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Large numbers of students are taking advantage of opportunities for re-teaching, re-assessment and making up work after school, at lunch, and during our advisory time. Homework club is also held after school on Wednesdays. Please be sure to encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities offered by our dedicated teachers and staff.

As construction continues to beautify and improve our school building, we are planning upcoming moves. After the Thanksgiving holiday several classrooms will move into renovated spaces. In December, our Counseling Department will relocate to their new offices. The impact on students has been minimal and we appreciate the work done by our teachers, staff and building service workers to get us up and ready quickly.

As winter weather conditions approach, we need to work together to ensure safe school bus transportation, not only on our buses but also at our bus stops. Please reinforce behavior rules with your children and remind them that inappropriate behaviors can threaten their safety if the driver becomes distracted. Please also encourage your children to report any harassing, aggressive, or harmful behavior to the bus driver, school administrator, as well as share it with you. For more information about bus safety, please see the MCPS Department of Transportation website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation.

We are looking forward to enjoying our upcoming winter musical concert scheduled on the evening of December 1, 2011 at Quince Orchard High School. I have heard our students rehearsing and know that we are in for a great treat.

I look forward to working together with you in the upcoming months to continue the Ridgeview Middle School tradition of excellence. Please accept my sincere wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Anika Brown

8th Grade Happenings

As we continue through the school year I am amazed at how much our 8th graders have grown and matured since 6th grade. They are starting to be ready for that transition on to Quince Orchard HS and beyond.

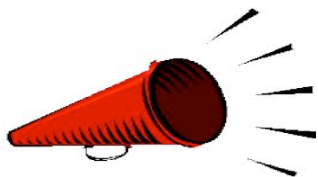
On November 30th the 8th graders attended a field trip to the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland. They had an opportunity to see a series of classic plays on stage by the Chamber Theater Production Company. Students really seemed to enjoy the experience.

Coming up this month, on December 16th our 8th graders will participate in the annual Career Day where they will have an opportunity to hear from parents and other community members about various career opportunities. Students will come to school dressed for success and will hear presentations from a variety of career fields. Currently, we have nine different panels of presenters. Students have already chosen the four sessions they would like to attend. We have individuals from the fields of Counter Terrorism, Forensics, Biomedical DNA Research, Athletics, Journalism, Law, Health Care, Engineering, and Finance coming to speak to our students. I know our students will enjoy the experience of finding out information about various career fields.

Finally, as we continue through the school year and on into the winter holidays please help us remind our students to remain cognizant of the rules for behavior and expectations for reading 20 to 30 minutes every night and completing homework, and other assignments. We have many fun activities planned throughout the year and want students to remain cognizant of our expectations to make these activities an enjoyable experience.

Have a great Holiday and a Happy New Year!!

Anika Browne
Assistant Principal
8th Grade Administrator
Email: Anika_D_Browne@mcpsmd.org



SPREAD THE WORD!!

Have announcements or important information that you would like to share with the Ridgeview Community? Please contact **Leah Haworth**, the Key Newsletter Editor and Yahoo Group Moderator at leah.haworth@yahoo.com.

From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Dryer Thackston

I am amazed at the amount of talent displayed by our students during “Ridgeview’s Got Talent” show on Friday, November 18. 48 students participated in 27 acts that were coordinated by the emcee, Mr. Doggett. The acts ranged from solos to groups, from singing to dancing, to instrumentals. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of Ms. Boswell, Ms. George, Ms. Myers, and Ms. Hogan. “Ridgeview’s Got Talent” has me looking forward to our next production, Minute-to-Win-It on December 16. I hope you can make it.

As we begin December, the big event for the 6th graders is Outdoor Education. The 6th grade team has been working very hard to ensure that Outdoor Ed is a tremendous experience for your child. Our goal is for 100% participation by the 6th graders. Students will return with fond memories of Predator and Prey, the Confidence Course, the Stream Study, and many more exciting learning experiences that we can only provide at Outdoor Ed. Outdoor Ed runs December 5-7 for Team 6-2, and December 7-9 for Team 6-1. Please review the Outdoor Ed expectations and guidelines with your sixth grader in order to make sure he or she is prepared to have the best experience possible.

Once we return from Outdoor Ed, it will only be a few short weeks until Winter Break, which runs December 24 through January 2. Since students will be away from school for ten days, I strongly encourage you to help them make sure any missing work and/or reassessments are completed before the break. It will be one less concern over the holiday and it will allow students to focus on new material when they return on January 3rd.

Hopefully, we will see you here at Ridgeview in December, either for a sporting event or for Minute-to-Win-It. I hope you and your family have a fantastic, restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Sincerely,

Dryer Thackston
Assistant Principal
6th Grade Administrator
Email: Percy_L_ThackstonJr@mcpsmd.org

From the PTSA President – Julie Tittle

Happy December Ridgeview Families!

As the holidays approach, I am reflecting on all that I have to be grateful for this year! When I am counting my blessings and I get to my children, one of the things I am thankful for is the fact that they are in such a great school community.

After a very busy November at RMS, which included the wildly successful SGA/PTSA Dance, a generous SGA Manna/Food Canned Food Drive, watching our amazingly talented students strut their stuff in the annual RMS Talent Show and a delicious Staff Appreciation Thanksgiving Breakfast Feast, we are gearing up for another busy RMS month! Here are some of the events to look forward to this month:

- **Monday December 5th – RMS Restaurant Eat-In Night with Dominos Pizza.** Amy Fink has set up an **Eat-In** night during this heavy holiday time. No need to go out while you are decking the halls, order from Dominos on December 5th and have the pizza delivered right to you! See your flyer, the RMS website, the RMS Yahoo Group or Amy Fink (afinkster@comcast.net) for details.
- **Sunday December 11th - RMS PTSA Holiday Spirit Wear & Vendor Open House, 1-4 p.m. @ Becca Hallam's house 16005 Charles Hill Drive, Gaithersburg.** Shop 'til you drop at this new event! Great gifts for holidays and for yourself! Money is going back to the PTSA from the vendors, who are mainly RMS parents, past/future RMS parents or MCPS Staff so please come out to support them.
- **Tuesday December 13th – Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon.** Look for the Sign-Up Genius link on Yahoo this month to see how you can help celebrate and thank our wonderful staff!
- **Tuesday December 13th – PTSA Meeting at 7:15 p.m. in the RMS Media Center.** Join us to hear details of our upcoming events, MCPS & MCCPTA business, and the state of the school from Mrs. Weiss, our acting Principal. Please contact me (tittle_family@yahoo.com) if you have any business you need added to the meeting agenda.
- **Thursday December 15th – December 21st: Scholastic Book Fair!!!** This popular event is the perfect last stop for gifts before/during the holidays! Money from the Book Fair goes back to the PTSA and the Media Center! Contact Rhonda Haley (tinkwtude66@msn.com) for more details!
- **Friday December 16th: RMS Minute-to-Win-It!** Students need to begin getting their teams together for this fun new game show event at our school! Everyone else should plan to come and watch and shop at the Book Fair! Please contact Kristin Paolini (klpao@comcast.net) or Autumn Myers (autumn_k_myers@mcpsmd.org) for details.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the upcoming weeks! Have a great December and enjoy the Winter Break!

Thanks,

Julie Tittle

RMS PTSA President

tittle_family@yahoo.com



Minute-to-Win-It comes to Ridgeview!

Team up with a friend from any grade level to compete and have fun on Friday December 16th, 2011. This fun event as seen on the hit NBC TV show involves a series of 60-second challenges using household objects. The competition begins immediately after school and runs until 5pm. Make your own team tee shirts, create a team cheer, practice your skills so you can "Win it in a minute. To be part of this awesome experience—you must register –forms available after Thanksgiving. Pick up forms and return them to Mrs. Myers in the media center!

Prizes for team spirit and top 3 scores. If you are coming to support your friends, don't forget to fill out the permission slip!

Students will participate in several events and the winners will go head to head in the final competition. Games will be announced soon so teams can practice!

RMS Dough-Raising Days With DOMINO'S PIZZA!



Monday, December 5 & Monday, March 5

**** ALL DAY!! ****

Order 2 Medium 2 Topping Pizzas for only \$5.99 Each!!

Ridgeview Middle School students fall into TWO delivery areas:

To find out which location to order from & to place an order visit
www.Dominos.com

OR

For the Gaithersburg location: Call 301-990-2400
274 N. Frederick Ave

OR

For the Potomac location: Call 301-330-0000
12962 Travilah Rd

Delivery or Pick-Up

When placing your order.....don't forget to mention Ridgeview Middle School!!

20% of the school's sales will be donated to the school!



RMS PTSA
Spirit Wear and Vendor
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: Sunday December 11TH

TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: Becca Hallam's House, 16005 Charles Hill Drive Gaithersburg 20878

WHAT: Bring your friends, neighbors and families to shop for holiday gifts with vendors that are giving back to our PTSA! No purchase necessary to enter and win door prizes!

Some of our vendors include:

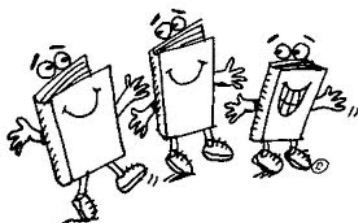
- ❖ Divine Designs by Diane
- ❖ My Sweet ZIN Chocolate
- ❖ The Barrette Lady
- ❖ Beadelighted: Wear-able Handmade Jewelry by Marsha Seiniger
- ❖ Red Letter Days Stationery & Invitations by Debra Strickman
- ❖ Thirty-One Gifts
- ❖ Pampered Chef
- ❖ Avon
- ❖ Scentsy
- ❖ And more...

Extra, Extra...Read All About It!!

Check out the new student newspaper...

The Prowler

Available online from the RMS web site!



BOOK FAIR

It is almost time for the Book Fair! The Fair will be at our school from Thursday, December 15th through Wednesday December 21st. What better way to celebrate the holidays and the long winter break than with a book from our fair. Every purchase helps our school! Here are some fun Book Fair facts:

Fact #1: Every book you buy helps the PTSA. That's right! With every purchase, we are able to use the money we earn to go back into the budget to help fund the amazing programs the PTSA provides. Some examples are the school dance, cultural events and snacks for testing.

Fact # 2: Every book you buy helps the Media center. A portion of what we sell goes directly to Scholastic dollars. These dollars are used by Ms. Myers to buy needed materials for the Media center. In the last year, Ms. Myers has been able to purchase books, maps and reading incentives for all the students at Ridgeview.

Fact #3: Each fair we have promoted the "One for Books" campaign. So far we have done this with contests at the fair. The last contest for the BOGO fair was a friendly "Boy VS Girls" contest. We collected extra change from any purchase made and although it was close, the girls won! The One for Books campaign is "extra" money for our fair. Any money collected here is used **immediately** to buy books for the Media Center. Also, Scholastic matches all money we collect and they provide books to programs like "Toys for Tots."

So please, take some time out of you busy holiday schedule and visit the fair. The fair will be open during school hours each day, 7:45AM – 3:30PM, and will also be open during the "Minute to Win It," game show on Friday, December 16th from 3-5:50PM. Anyone who visits and makes a purchase during the show will be entered into a drawing for **FREE BOOKS!** We are looking forward to seeing you!

Warmly,
Rhonda Haley and Kris Brott
Book Fair Chairs

