



The Key



February 2011

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA/ 301-840-4770

SAVE THESE

DATES:

- MSA Testing
March 7-16
- Make-Up Days
March 17-23

Please do not plan to be out of town on these dates or plan any appointments where your child would need to miss school. It is very important that all students are in school on the testing dates.

From the Desk of the Principal, Dr. Carol LeVine

Principal's Perspective

As I write this article we are nearing the end of marking period 2 and students are taking semester one exams. In addition to the county semester exams for algebra, honors geometry, and Spanish, county wide exams and local school end of quarter exams are being given in a variety of other subjects. The school operates on a block schedule during exam week in January and again in June so that Ridgeview students, especially those in the credit bearing classes, have the same time frame to complete these high stakes assessments as their high school counterparts. The second marking period ends January 21.

During the first semester all students took the MAP R, an on line diagnostic reading test that yields a wealth of data that teachers use to their instruction focus on specific literacy skills. A second winter implementation will take place early in the third marking period. In February we will have a Maryland School Assessment (MSA) practice test session in math and reading. This testing simulation gives students a chance to experience a shortened version of the **MSAs** that begin **March 7**. Since the Maryland State indicators are imbedded in the MCPS curriculum for each of the core academic subjects, how well a student is doing in each of his/her courses is a good predictor of success on the MSAs. This is another important reason to help your student access re-teaching and re-assessments, get lunch or after school help, attend Ridgeview Academy, and come to school on time every day.

While the first semester has been full of activity we look forward to an even busier second semester. In a few weeks we hold the **Heritage Café on February 11th**. This is Ridgeview's annual school and community wide celebration of African American Heritage Month. Last year's event overflowed the gym and was a true community celebration. The evening will include student performances from the band, Step Team, and others, a wonderful speaker, delicious food, and other treats. We hope to see you all there.

(cont.)

From the Desk of the Principal, Dr. Carol LeVine (cont.)

We are also moving into the articulation and registration season for the 2012 school year. Ridgeview counselors have visited all 8th grade English classes to teach students about high school requirements and lead them in drafting their 4-Year Plan in preparation for high school registration. On January 19 we will welcome incoming 5th grade parents at our evening articulation meeting. Later in the month the counselors and I will visit each feeder school, speak with the current fifth graders and bring the registration forms. Ridgeview's current 6th and 7th grade families will also receive registrations materials in early February. The course offering booklet will be posted on the Ridgeview home page.

There has been ongoing progress in the Ridgeview facility improvement project. The exterior walls of the new Main Office are currently under construction. The canopy overhang at the main entrance has been removed and work is ongoing on the lower level of the building. We can begin to see hints of the new perimeter of the school, which will house the main office, and the new main entrance. It's very exciting! This continues to be a product of school and community effort and perseverance, the willingness of our school community to collaborate and work with the school system, and the efforts and endless hours of so many individuals. We are looking forward to more progress to come.

Dr. Carol LeVine
Principal, RMS
Email: Carol_K_Levine@mcpsmd.org
Phone: 301-840-4770



If you have forgotten to join the RMS PTSA, it's not too late! We are just 9 members short of reaching our goal of 400 members. Can you help us reach our goal! Remember every membership comes with a RMS Student Directory that is a valuable resource that can only be gotten if you are a member. Membership forms can be printed off the RMS website. Anyone who supports our goals can join. That includes parents, teachers, students, grandparents, aunts, uncles and the like. Your dues cover PTSA membership in the National, State and Local PTSA organizations and school directory-printing costs.

PTSA is a membership organization. Membership doesn't have to equate to a time commitment. We'd love you to be active, but we also love to have you demonstrate support through membership. We can't run without your support. By becoming a member, you are helping your child's school and we need you.

We wish you and your families all the best for 2011. PTSA in Montgomery County should be the face of every child; with your efforts and help, it will.

From the PTSA President – Tara Murayama

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a fun and relaxing holiday break.

Wow, things are really busy this year with the Montgomery County Public School System. Not only are we looking for a New Superintendent to replace Dr. Jerry Weast but we are also dealing with a budget crisis. More than ever there are continual appeals to parents of Montgomery County students for their time and involvement.

On December 15, Superintendent Weast presented his recommended Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12 (FY12). He recommends the Montgomery County Council provide funding at a "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE) level. This MOE is mandated by state law in order to ensure a minimum county investment in public schools. The Council indicated that they will not fund an MOE budget due to poor fiscal conditions in our county. Please consider:

- Enrollment overall is increasing as is Special Education and English as a Second Language (ESOL) populations. All place a large toll on our system
- Maintenance of Effort funding by the County is a state-mandated requirement. Not meeting MOE jeopardizes state funding of \$27 million
- MCPS is highly regarded across the nation and that status should be protected
- High quality teachers result in a high quality school system - Attracting quality teachers requires incentive and continual professional development
- The county must fund a wide range of agencies and services for our citizens, but education must be a priority. Schools are the centerpieces of our communities.
- Our youth are one of the most vulnerable populations and they are the future of our county -- it is a crucial investment.
- Montgomery County cannot slip into mediocrity during this time of national discussion on education
- Potential consequences to our families:
 - Larger class sizes
 - Less one-on-one help for struggling or accelerated students
 - Fewer or no after school activities to include (again potentially) middle school sports
 - Fewer staff and resources to maintain our schools
 - Older equipment including computers, school buses, etc
 - Teachers who don't receive updates, training, and development on changing curriculum that result from adoption of Common Core Standards
 - Overall, less assistance to those most at risk resulting in greater stress on other county agencies

(cont.)

From the PTSA President – Tara Murayama (cont.)

As a Middle School parent myself, I've experienced first hand how as our children get older our schedule gets fuller. Of course, like most of you, I love it and wouldn't change it for anything but it can be crazy overwhelming to think of carving out additional time from an already packed family and work schedule to volunteer, advocate and/or attend additional meetings but . . . we need you! Everyone's involvement is necessary for our children's success. It's true; many hands make light work and volunteers light the way! I strongly encourage everyone to find your niche and make a difference. Let's not leave it up to a small group to decide what's in the best interest of our children's education.

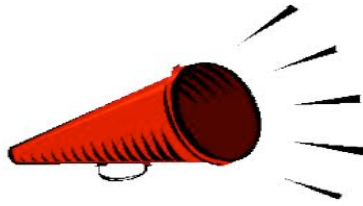
Please plan to attend our meeting next Tuesday, February 8th at 7:15 PM. This meeting's agenda includes a special power point presentation from our International Night Committee as well as a brief 5 minute discussion on Yahoo Information content distribution. We would like to hear from our members what type of information you would like to receive from your PTSA.

Also, we are looking for people who would be interested in participating on our officer nominating committee for next year. The nominating committee is one of the most important committees in our PTSA unit. It is essential that the members of the nominating committee include experienced on-going leadership as well as newer members. Any member, with the exception of the current PTSA president, is eligible to serve on the nominating committee. If you are interested and would like more information on the committee responsibilities, please let me know. We plan to elect our nominating committee at our February, 8th PTSA meeting. They will present the slate of officers at our March meeting and a vote will be taken at the May meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Feb. 8th PTSA meeting!

Tara Murayama
8th Grade Mom
Ridgeview PTSA President
301.212.9855
gmurayama@comcast.net

P.S. We are continuing our series on Internet Safety 101 with next month's topic: Predators. The DVD teaching series will be shown immediately following our PTSA Meeting.



SPREAD THE WORD!!

Have information that you would like to share with the Ridgeview Community?
Please contact the following Committee Chairs to share your announcements or important information:

Leah Haworth, Key Newsletter Editor at leah.haworth@yahoo.com

Donna Joe, Yahoo Group Moderator at djoe63@comcast.net

Michelle Cornblatt, RMS PTSA website liaison at michellec@olstrading.com.



Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes **Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference**

SSL: Develops Workplace Skills.

- Participate in school-sponsored clubs and organizations that promote service.
 - Consider getting involved in service on President's Day February 21 and the "Early Release" day on March 4.
 - Demonstrate a good work ethic when addressing real need in the community.
 - Remember: SSL is a graduation requirement. SSL along with all other requirements must be met for a high school diploma to be awarded.
 - Find meaningful, high quality service-learning opportunities by searching www.mcpsssl.org.
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NAACP Parents' Council

December Focus Group and Meeting

We had a record turnout and lots of new parents at the December African American parents' focus group and Parents' Council meeting in December. Parents discussed the schools strengths and identified areas for improvement. Let's keep up the momentum! The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19 at Kentlands Starbucks at 7:30 PM.

Heritage Cafe

The NAACP Parent Council is in the midst of planning for the fourth annual Heritage Café and is working to ensure that the event will be as wonderful as it has in previous years. To maintain continuity in themes, the committee has selected "Be the Dream!" as this year's theme. This reflects a mandate that our students have to be achievers and that academic success at Ridgeview is only the beginning. The students can be whatever they want to be! Heritage Café is Ridgeview's flagship event celebrating African American history month. It consists of student instrumental, choral and step team performances, a soul food dinner, and a message by an inspirational speaker. Heritage Café will be held in the gym from 7:00 – 9:30 PM on February 11th, 2011. The snow date is February 25th.

Please come out and learn about African American culture while enjoying the vast talent that Ridgeview has to offer. You will not be disappointed!

Black Saga

Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Branch have been working hard to prepare a group of dedicated students for the statewide Black Saga competition at Towson University in March. Students have been studying a wide range of details of African American history, from landmark Supreme Court cases, famous quotes, and important persons and events. Student participants will have the opportunity to complete an artifact for a museum display to be part of an African American history month display for which they will earn SSL hours. There is a lot of material to cover and parents are welcome to assist with Black Saga practice sessions after school. Despite the amount of work involved, there is no doubt that students benefit from this new Ridgeview program. Not only do they gain from the in-depth knowledge of history but they are able to reflect on how the changes in American society over the past three hundred years are meaningful to them.

African American Expressions Sales

Sales of these beautiful bookmarks and magnets will continue into February and will be available at Heritage Cafe. A display highlighting the sale items can be seen at the school. Please contact a NAACP Parents' Council member for more details.

Miriam Mokuena
Ridgeview Middle School NAACP Representative
Email: mdmokuena@netzero.net

*"We are one people.
We are one nation."*



Be a Volunteer at your child's school!

These middle school years are a great time to stay involved with your child's school and with your child. There are over 25 committees that could use your help in making this year a success. Many committees -- such as Book Fair, 3on3 Basketball, Staff Appreciation, and signing up to be a volunteer for your child's grade to help in various yearlong activities -- are great ways to stay involved and to know the happenings of your child's daily goings-on.

Volunteer Opportunities – *You will never regret being involved!*

Many thanks to all of the parents who have already volunteered to serve as committee chairs for the coming school year. We are looking forward to a great year at Ridgeview! There are a few committee chair positions that we still need to fill. Please take a look at this list to see if you could serve in one of these positions:

Display Case Coordinator – Setting up the various display cases with student work when contacted by a teacher.

Math Club - once a week 1 hour math activities at RMS. Chairperson should work on enforcing math concepts, developing children's logic, and generally engaging children in math via interesting team games and challenges, chairperson would also train children for AMC8 Olympiad. All the literature with problems and solutions is available. Please contact Ken at karapetk@gmail.com for more information.

Please give Julie Tittle a call if you are interested in being a volunteer or if you would like to find out more information about these programs at 301-869-7710 or klquypete@aol.com.



MCPS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The MCPS Parent Academy is Back! The MCPS Parent Academy is back for 2010-2011 with an exciting lineup of workshops for parents. All sessions are free, and they're designed to help parents become better advocates for their children and to support their success in school. Interpretation services and free child care for children ages 3-12 are available. Parent Academy workshops cover topics ranging from bus safety and nutrition, to helping with algebra homework, to understanding school assessments, communicating with school staff and financing students' college education. A complete listing of the fall's Parent Academy workshops is on the web. For more information and to register, go to www.mcpsparentacademy.org or call 301.279.3100.

Search Process for New Superintendent. The Board of Education began the process of searching for a new superintendent of schools at its Sept. 16 meeting by approving a resolution to authorize a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a search firm to help with the national search process. Superintendent Jerry D. Weast has announced that he will retire at the end of the 2010-2011 school year after 12 years of leading MCPS. The Board discussed a draft timeline for the national search. The search firm is expected to be selected by the end of the year. More information on the search is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/.

Homework Hotline Live! MCPS TV's Homework Hotline Live! HHL is broadcast live on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. on Cable Channel 34 (Comcast), 36 (Verizon) or 89 (RCN). Students can watch on the web at www.AskHHL.org. Anyone can call, even if they don't have Internet or cable. The ask questions and get help from teachers, K-12 students can:

- Call: 301-279-3234
- Text: 724-427-5445
- Visit the web: www.AskHHL.org
- Post a message on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Homework-Hotline-Live/138296611133
- Email questions: question@AskHHL.org

MCPS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (cont.)

Stay Informed with Edline. Parents of middle and high school students can use the web-based Edline system to exchange emails with teachers and to track their children's progress on assignments, tests and grades. Instructions on how to activate your child's Edline account are at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/oars/.

Keep in Touch. Here are some ways to stay in touch with MCPS during the school year.

- MCPS website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mcps>
- Parent Guide: www.MCPSparentguide.org
- Ask MCPS: 301-309-6277 or email questions to AskMCPS@mcpsmd.org
- Alert MCPS (text or email emergency notices): <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/register.php>
- QuickNotes e-newsletter and emergency announcements: www.mcpsquicknotes.org



PTSA TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Considering a bigger role next year in RMS PTSA but worried you don't know enough about the position? You're Invited to attend Maryland PTA Regional Training - right in Montgomery County!

Saturday, February 26 9am – 3pm
 White Oak Middle School
 12201 New Hampshire Ave.
 Silver Spring, MD 20904

Training is free but you must register! Contact Maryland PTA at 1-800-707-7972 or 410-760-6221 or officeadministrator@mdpta.org with you name, address, email, and phone number. Breakfast & lunch provided!



HELP RAISE \$\$\$ FOR RMS!!

Many companies offer promotions that we can take advantage of to raise money for RMS. The following are various ways we can earn some cash for RMS at no cost to you and take just a few minutes of your time. Please look over this list. Please note that you must register every year to receive credit.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks -- RMS school code is 00811

-- Please stop by Giant or register online at <https://www.giantfood.com> (under Our Stores - click on register your card on the far right side) ASAP so we can start earning money. Or call Giant at 1-877-275-2758 and they can register you over the phone.

Safeway Card -- RMS school code is 6557446

-- Register online at www.eScrip.com.

Harris Teeter -- RMS school code is 6585

-- Please register your VIC card with Harris Teeter's Together In Education program so we earn 5% of your total purchase of Harris Teeter brand products. This can be done over the phone at 1-800-432-6111 or at:
http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx

Office Depot -- RMS school code is 70046665

--Give this number when you checkout and 5% will be given to RMS. If you forget, please save your receipt and contact me by phone or email with the receipt information. This has to be done within 30 days from purchase.

Target REDcard - RMS school ID 58179

-- If you have a Target credit card, please designate RMS with the Take Charge of Education Program. We currently have 13 people enrolled and our last payout was \$224.67 in August 2010. If you know anyone who has Target credit card, please have them designate RMS so we can earn free cash at no extra cost.



HELP RAISE \$\$\$ FOR RMS!!

Searching on the World Wide Web?? Try out www.goodsearch.com

Goodsearch.com is powered by Yahoo Search. First indicate RIDGEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA where it says "enter your charity here..." before begin your search. QOHS will receive one cent per search except for the following: 1) image searches; 2) video searches; 3) "search this site" searches; 4) searches for URL's (i.e., search terms ending in .com, .org, .net, .edu); 5) searches sites for which the URL is well known such as Hotmail, ESPN, Myspace, Facebook, GMail, AOL, etc; 6) searches for stock quotes; 7) searches for word definitions; 8) Yellow Pages searches; and, 9) any searches generated from fraudulent use of the site. This is a easy way we can earn some extra money. So try it out!

Do you shop online?

Try www.goodsearch.com and look for the tab for **GoodShop** where there is a list of stores/online retailers who will donate a percentage to RIDGEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA depending on the merchant. You must first go through www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx and designate your charity and it will link you to the retailer of your choice. For example, Amazon.com is one of the retailers and will donate .5-1.5% to our school.

OR try Box Top Marketplace. Please register and shop online through Box Tops link so RMS can receive from .5% - 25%.
<https://www.boxtops4education.com/registration/default.aspx>

Once you register Ridgeview (Ridgeview school code 373505), then RMS will receive earnings from Bonus Box Tops awarded online on qualifying purchase from the Box Tops Marketplace. You must use the above site to link you to various merchants. If you need help, please contact me.

Recycling ink and toner cartridges -- Please bring in empty ink or toner cartridges. We can turn trash into cash for teacher supplies. Drop the cartridges in the PTSA box at the main office. If you have a large quantity, please call so I can make arrangements to pick up the cartridges. Please check with businesses you encounter that might have empty cartridges. This will also help the environment.

Box Tops -- Keep collecting Box Tops from various products. Each Box Top gives RMS 10 cents and adds up! Please put them in an envelope or a baggie with your child's name and his or her first period teacher. This will count towards our Box Top contest to see which class collects the most (minimum required 300 Box Tops which is \$30.00).



HELP RAISE \$\$\$ FOR RMS!!

Tyson Project A+ -- Continue collecting Tyson Project A+ labels from various frozen foods and lunch meat. Each label is worth 24 cents that RMS can earn. Please have your child bring them to his or her first period teacher.

Campbell Soup -- Keep collecting Campbell Soup, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, V8, Market Day, Prego Sauce, and Franco-American products UPC barcodes. Please deposit them in the box in the main office or give them to your child's first period teacher. We no longer need the label, just the UPC code.

If you don't have your Safeway Club card, please call Safeway at 1-800- SAFEWAY. For a Giant Bonus Card call 1-877-275-2758 and for Harris Teeter call 1-800-432-6111.

Feel free to email your Giant, Safeway, or Harris Teeter card # information to buspromos@yahoo.com and I will process your registration so RMS will receive the benefit of the various promotions.

Ask your friends and family to enroll their shopping cards so our school can reap the benefits even if they don't have children at RMS. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Karen Chen at 301-963-6399 or Louise Moroney 301-963-1343.

Thank you for your support.

Karen Chen and Louise Moroney
Business Promotion

buspromos@yahoo.com

Imm114@yahoo.com

FATHERS' GROUP



The goal of the RMS Fathers' Group is to connect fathers (step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, etc.) with the School in order to leverage the collective skill set of this underutilized resource with pressing priorities of the School. The group will be sponsoring several events and taking on various activities throughout the year. Those interested should contact Tom Sneeringer at 301-296-3642 or tom.sneeringer@mcgladrey.com.



RMS 2011 Yearbooks

Order early and save! Students can pre-order RMS 2011 Yearbooks the week of December 6 through 10 at their lunch time. The December “Holiday Gift” special purchase price is \$38. This price is only available until December 31, 2010. The price will increase to \$40 after this date! The yearbook will include 68 full color pages with autograph pages at the back of the book. Order forms are available in the office and will be at the yearbook table during lunch from December 6 through 10. Payment can be cash or check made payable to Ridgeview Middle School, with the child’s name on the memo line.

One difference from last year’s yearbook is that there will be no color “Current Event” section at the end of the yearbook. This section was dropped to keep the price of the yearbook reasonable. This section can be purchased for an additional price online only and is called “World Beat.”

Yearbooks can also be ordered online with a credit card at www.jostens.com. Click on “Buy Your Yearbook” and select “Ridgeview Middle School Gaithersburg, MD.” Personalization of the yearbook is available online only and must be done by February 25, 2011, which is the last day to order yearbooks online.

If the 2011 Yearbook is ordered after the week of December 10 through 16, the form and cash or check should be given to Mrs. Hogan, Financial Secretary, or the form and payment can be turned in at the office. Remember, the special “Holiday Gift” purchase price of \$38 is available only in 2010!



Ridgeview Community Night at the Kennedy Center Opera House

Shen Yun Performing Arts is coming back to Kennedy Center Opera House on January 26, it will present six shows from January 26 to 30, 2011.

Shen Yun celebrates traditional Chinese culture, and is a performance of five thousand years in the making. It has won remarks from the world's well known artists, like the production designer of Avatar, Mr. Roberts Stromberg, Richard Connema, the theater critic for Talkin' Broadway, and many others, for more information, please visit www.DCspectacular.com.

Please join the RMS Community Night Event to experience this extraordinary show. For every five tickets ordered, Ridgeview Middle School will receive a \$50 gift card, which will be used to help fund Ridgeview's music department. Please apply the RMS special code of "Dennis" when ordering the tickets at www.WebTicketCenter.com/dc (only this website will take the code and count the tickets). The code should be typed in the box where it says "if you have special offer code, enter here", and then click the button "Apply Coupon".

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Suparna Shah, suparnashah@hotmail.com, 301-990-9754 or Aileen Hu, ayh9999@yahoo.com, 301-728-4740.

MCPS Board of Education to Host Public Forums Superintendent Search



Montgomery County citizens are invited to attend a series of public forums designed to gather community comment on the educational priorities and desired leadership qualities of the next superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools.

The forums will be held throughout the county on three consecutive evenings at two locations each evening. Representatives of the executive search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, employed by the Montgomery County Board of Education ("Board") to assist in the superintendent search, will facilitate the forums and receive community comment.

MCPS Superintendent Search (cont.)

The date for the public forum to be held in the Quince Orchard cluster is Monday, January 31, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Northwest High School, 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD. Translation/interpretation services will be provided in the following languages: Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

If child care or translation/interpretation services will be required, please contact the Board of Education office at 301-279-3617 by January 24, 2011. For sign language interpretation, please call 301-517-5539 by January 24, 2011.

Community members who are unable to attend a public forum are invited to provide input on the attributes and characteristics desired in the next MCPS superintendent by completing an online superintendent profile survey which will be available mid-January through early February 2011. Information from the public forums and surveys will be shared with the Board of Education members. The Board plans to name a new superintendent this spring to ensure a smooth transition.

For additional information about the search process and to access the online survey, please refer to the Board's search web site at:
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/superintendent-search/index.shtm.

Safety & Health Committee Meeting

Please mark your calendars and join the Safety & Health Committee at its next meeting on January 31, 2011, at 7:00p.m at the Carver Building, located at 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville MD 20850.

The evening's speaker will be Nadji Kirby - coordinator for Safe Routes To School Program (with Montgomery County's Department of Transportation). The meeting will be held in Carver Room 50. The best way to access this room is to drive around the BACK of the building. Once you're around the back, you'll see lobby doors in the middle of the building. Room 50 is slightly to the left once you enter the lobby. It's very easy to find as long as you remember to park around the back.

The County's Safe Routes to School Program is an effort to use a variety of education, engineering, and enforcement strategies that help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school. The program involves the whole community; parents, children, neighborhood groups, schools, law enforcement officers, community leaders, and transportation and public health professionals to help identify issues and work together on solutions.

For more information please contact MCCPTA Safety & Health Committee Chairs, Donna Pfeiffer (donnapfeiffer@gmail.com) and Susan Burkinshaw (susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net)



Screening of film "Race to Nowhere" at Quince Orchard High School

The Quince Orchard HS PTSA, in partnership with Lakelands Park MS PTSA and Rachel Carson PTA, is pleased to bring you an exclusive screening of the film *Race to Nowhere*, a new documentary that "explores the strains of competing in a pressure-packed academic culture that is highly test-driven and pushes some students to the edge." (Wash. Post) The film has been gathering significant national attention since its release last fall.

Details of the screening are as follows:

What: "Race to Nowhere" film screening followed by expert panel discussion

When: Thursday, February 10, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Where: Quince Orchard High School auditorium

Who: Parents, students, teachers and administrators in our cluster communities and the greater Gaithersburg/Montgomery County area as well

How Much: Tickets are \$10 per person, plus a small process fee (available online beginning 1/17/11)

More Info: <http://racetonowhere.com/>

There will be a facilitated discussion immediately following the film with a panel of experts who have graciously volunteered their time, including:

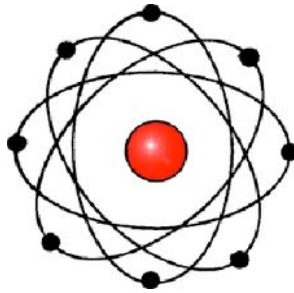
- * Mr. Gil Thompson, Staff Development teacher and meeting facilitator at QOHS who will lead the discussion and keep things on track

- * Ms. Judy Bass, founder of Bass Educational Services in Rockville, is a higher education consultant specializing in assisting children with learning differences in finding the right college. Ms. Bass brings her 30 years of experience in understanding what's necessary for kids to be successful in their college quest

- * Ms. Jenni Pfeiffer, Sr. Assistant Director of Admissions at George Washington University, brings her valuable insider's knowledge of the college admissions process.

Apply to Become a JASON National Argonaut!

Applications due Feb. 28



Apply to Join the JASON National Argo Team to Explore Oceanography!

The JASON Project is seeking a diverse, creative, and adventurous group of students and teachers to venture into the field with scientists to perform cutting edge science explorations. The Argonauts will embark on a journey starting in Summer 2011, during which they will:

- * Work side by side with scientists in the field, completing a JASON field experience around the topic of oceanography
- * Serve as a mentor and role model for the JASON Community
- * Regularly interact with the entire JASON community through speaking engagements, message board postings, web casts, pod casts, chats and more!

Student and Teacher Argonauts will spend up to 10 days in the field during the summer of 2011. Additional participation in JASON activities such as message board discussions, speaking at events, and contributing to online content will continue after the field experience. JASON will pay for all travel, lodging, food (meals and snacks), and programming/equipment costs related to JASON Argonaut activities.

Applications are being accepted now, with a deadline of **Monday, February 28, 2011**. Student and teacher selection will be finalized by mid-May, 2011. Students should be 14 or 15 years old by June 1, 2011 to apply. Teachers need five years of classroom experience and continuation as an educator in 2011-2012. All Argonaut candidates should be willing and able to travel to an international location.

For more information or to apply, log in and visit the Argonaut Application page in the JASON Mission Center to download complete application guidelines, instructions and forms. If you haven't been to the JASON Mission Center before, you can register now for free. Additional questions regarding the JASON National Argonaut program can be sent to argo@jason.org.

How Do I Get the News From RMS??



Sign up for the Ridgeview Yahoo Group
To subscribe send an e-mail to the following address:

RMS_PTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(There is an underscore between RMS and PTSA)

This is a closed group for members of the RMS school community only. Messages for school and PTSA are the only thing posted on this group – this is NOT used for group discussions or forums.

Visit the RMS Website

<http://mcps.k12.md.us/schools/ridgeviewms>



RMS PTSA to Sponsor 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

March madness will take over RMS after MSA testing on **Friday, March 18th, 2011** when RMS will hold its second annual **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament!** This event's goal is for participants and supporters to have fun, display sportsmanship and develop school tradition. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to build their co-ed team of three to play and compete in an afternoon of games while other students will choose to wear red, white or black t-shirts and cheer on their favorite team! We have built a tradition from the first whistle last year when we allowed our 8th grade student teams to play basketball with our very own RMS selected staff. Prizes for the winning teams will be presented, gift cards given away during the games, concessions will be sold throughout the event, game day shirts for the participating teams and intermission entertainment are all part of March Madness at RMS!

Please look for more information on the RMS 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament throughout January and February. It takes many parent volunteers to make this event a success! We look forward to a wonderful afternoon of basketball at RMS so please do not hesitate to get involved!

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NOTE THESE KEY DATES



January

- 19: NAACP Parents' Council Meeting, 7:30pm, Kentlands Starbucks.
- 19: Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information Meeting at Ridgeview MS, 6:30pm to 8:30pm (Gym).
- 20: Incoming 9th Grade Parent Information Meeting at Quince Orchard HS, 7:00pm (Auditorium).
- 21: 2nd Marking Period Ends.
- 24: NO SCHOOL – Professional Day
- 25: Girls Basketball vs. Shady Grove MS (Home)
Boys Basketball vs. Shady Grove MS (Away)
- 25: Spelling Bee Club, 3pm to 4pm (Room 203)
- 26 - 30: Ridgeview Community Night Event - Shen Yun Performing Arts at the Kennedy Center (see below for more details).
- 27: Girls Basketball vs. Lakelands Park MS (Away)
Boys Basketball vs. Lakelands Park MS (Home) 7 p.m. Incoming 9th Grade meeting at Quince Orchard HS

February

- 2: Report Cards Distributed
- 8: PTSA Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 11: Heritage Café 7-9:30pm, RMS Gym
- 11: Newsletter articles due
- 15: LEDO's Pizza at Travillah Shopping center
- 16: NAACP Meeting, 7:30pm Starbucks in Kentlands
- 21: No School – President's Day
- 25: Heritage Café Snow Day

