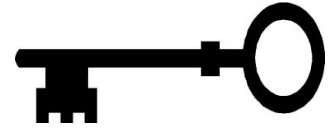




The Key



May/June 2011

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA/ 301-840-4770

From the Desk of the Acting Principal, Nancy Schultze

Well, well, well it is almost the end of the school year. Time flies when you are having fun! And fun it has been for me, getting to know the outstanding student body, the dedicated staff and the extremely supportive parent community. I have truly enjoyed my stay at Ridgeview Middle School and will miss it when July is upon us. It has been both an honor and a privilege to be the principal at Ridgeview over these past months.

With that said I would like to provide you a summary of activities planned for the remainder of the school year. Academics remain our priority and engaging students in the learning process is paramount. On May 13 interims were posted to Edline for parents with active Edline accounts and mailed to those parents who do not have accounts. Please encourage all students to complete their homework, to work hard in class, to take formative assessments seriously and to prepare for Final Exams. It is extremely important to end the school year on a positive academic note!

On Tuesday, May 18, all students in Algebra I will take the Algebra High School Assessment (HSA) which is one requirement for receiving a Maryland high school diploma. June 9 through the 16th is Final Exam Week. Students will be taking final exams, unit assessments and/or completing culminating projects for their courses on a special exam schedule. The schedule will be available on Ridgeview's home page. So please check the calendar at the beginning of June for more information. The fourth and final marking period ends June 16th.

While we prepare for finals we will also celebrate student success. Please join us on May 18 for the Choral and Instrumental Music Concerts. The concert is at 7:00 PM in the Quince Orchard High School's auditorium. On June 3rd the 8th grade will have a party to celebrate their promotion to Grade 9 and on June 15th the eighth grade will have their promotion ceremony at Quince Orchard High School before going on their Six Flags trip. (continued)

From the Desk of the Acting Principal, Nancy Schultze (cont.)

As the swirl of end of year activities proceeds, construction moves on as well. The new main office, the renovated science classrooms and the new stairway will be turned over to the school at the end of June. At that time, the next phase of construction begins. Some areas will be finished by August, other areas in this phase of construction will continue through December. In January 2012 the next phase will begin with expectations that construction will be complete by January 2013. This summer's construction will require us using Lakelands Middle School for our summer school but it is anticipated and expected that school will be ready for students on August 29. It is an exciting time, but it does require flexibility and patience. The end result will be well worth the moments of inconvenience! Ms. Myers, Media Specialist, has taken the lead on construction and has been the force behind making this a cooperative venture. She is our liaison with school staff, MCPS construction, and Oaks Contracting. What a tremendous job she has done and will continue to do throughout the entire project.

As the school year draws to a close, it is also a beginning for Ridgeview Middle School. As of July 1, the new principal will take the helm, construction proceeds and the staff will be preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. Again, I thank you for the pleasure of acting as principal at Ridgeview Middle School. I wish you all continued success.

Introducing the PTSA Officers for 2011-2012 School Year

Please welcome and support these individuals who were elected by the membership at the May PTSA meeting.

President – Julie Tittle
 1st Vice-President – Tara Murayama
 2nd Vice-President – Debra Stickman
 Secretary – Michelle Cornblatt
 Treasurer – Tom Sneeringer
 MCCPTA Representative – Paul Morrison



From the PTSA President – Tara Murayama

Dear Parents,

It was an honor to serve as your PTSA President. A huge thank you goes out to all our wonderful parents and teacher volunteers who gave their time, talent and money to support our PTSA programs and events that enrich our children's educational experience and help us build connections to our community.

We heard from you that we are lacking in social events. So next year we are planning to reintroduce dances and maybe have a Minute-to-Win-It event in the fall. If you have other ideas that you want to share or participate on a committee, please let someone on the board know. We value your suggestions. They help us meet the wishes, needs and expectations of the families in our community. Your voice counts!

At the start of the school year, I was approached by several parents asking if the PTSA would consider sponsoring an International Night. I have to admit that I had my reservations as International Nights is traditionally hosted at elementary schools. I wasn't sure how successful it would be in the middle school but they changed my mind on Friday night! I was so impressed with the parent enthusiasm and the generosity of the families who participated. It was a wonderful reminder, to me, that diversity is what makes America great! I'm so glad they put on this event and I look forward to it becoming an annual spring tradition.

You are invited to the Ridgeview Volunteer Appreciation, May 25th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Parents play an important part in the success of our school. Please come and let Feri express Ridgeview's staff member appreciation for their parent volunteers. She spends a lot of time organizing this amazing lunch. Volunteers Light the Way!

Have a wonderful relaxing summer and enjoy your family!

Sincerely,

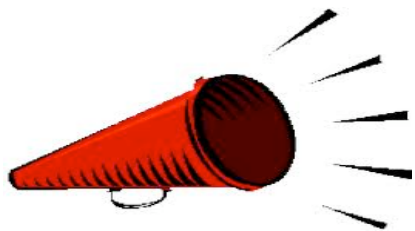
Tara Murayama
PTSA President
301.212.9855
Email: gmurayama@comcast.net



Thank you for your RMS PTSA 2010 - 2011 Membership! We achieved over a 10% membership growth for last year and Ridgeview MS was recognized at the 2011 Presidents and Principals Dinner on May 18th for our accomplishment.

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 helped your child's school and we needed you. PTSA in Montgomery County should be the face of every child; with your efforts and help, it is.

We look forward to continuing our 10% membership growth annually with a new goal of 430 members. Together we can achieve this! Spread the word for next year, anyone who supports our goals can join. That includes parents, teachers, students, grandparents, aunts, uncles and the like. Their dues cover PTSA membership in the National, State and Local PTSA organizations and school directory printing. We will be rolling out incentives for joining. Stay tuned.



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 and Yahoo Group Moderator at leah.haworth@yahoo.com

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

NAACP Parents' Council



Study Circles

In April we continued participation in the county level Study Circle with representatives from the NAACP Parents' Council, the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA), Hispanic parent groups, Asian parents, and staff from the MCPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships. The focus on the Study Circle is identifying best practices for increasing parent involvement in the education process with the goal of improving all students' experiences and performance in school. We are seeking ways for parents from different backgrounds to work together to achieve these goals, particularly through the creation of an organization that truly allows for diverse representation and builds on the strengths of existing community organizations.

As an offshoot of the Study Circles, the Ridgeview NAACP Parents' Council representative participated in a May 12th meeting on "Innovative Ways to Engage Multicultural Families." Several strategies were identified to help increase multicultural involvement and these were shared with Ridgeview PTSA President who also attended the meeting. Plans for implementing strategies will begin immediately, and to ensure continuity, information gained will be shared with the 2011-12 Parents' Council representative and the Ridgeview Hispanic Parents liaison.

"America I Am"

In April the NAACP Parents' Council families visited the "America I Am" exhibit at the National Geographic Museum. This amazing traveling exhibit was created through broad partnership: It was developed by journalist and political commentator, Tavis Smiley, and co-funded by Wal-Mart, Microsoft and with contributions from several community sponsors. The exhibit included displays of documents, photos, multimedia exhibits and artifacts dating from the 1600's through the 1990's. Examples of artifacts include the doors to the Cape Coast castle in Ghana (the Doors of No Return), Alex Haley's typewriter which was used to write *Roots*, a diary of Malcolm X, the door, key and stool from the Birmingham jail cell that held Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., sports memorabilia from Michael Jordan, Arthur Ashe and Muhammad Ali, and clothing items from entertainers Etta James, Michael Jackson and Prince.

(continued)

NAACP Parents' Council (cont.)

New Principal Search

In April, a NAACP Parents' Council parent participated in the preparatory meeting with Community Superintendent Dr. Laverne Kimball to learn about the process for identifying a new principal. The parent also participated in interviews of the shortlisted candidates for the position.

Career Day

It is important for African American children to have role models. On May 13th, a NAACP Parents' Council parent participated in the Business and Finance panel of 8th grade Career Day. This was a wonderful opportunity to directly interact with students, teachers, parents and other community representatives. We hope that Parent Council participation in this annual event will increase in the future. (continued)

International Night

This past Friday, the NAACP Parents' Council collaborated with the PTSA on Ridgeview's first International Night. In addition to promoting the representation of African and Caribbean cultures, we developed a display of African American culture, based on the premise that Americans are not only significant in global culture, but African Americans' unique history includes ties to many world cultures. The theme we chose for our display was "Family Reunions." When Africans were brought to the Americas in the 17th century, family ties were broken and new ties and traditions were created. Family reunions have been a way for African Americans to celebrate the importance of family. The central feature of our display was a family tree depicting roots in West Africa, South Africa, Mexico, Cuba, Italy, the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina, and the states North Carolina and West Virginia. We also had paraphernalia from our family reunions, photos of relatives going back several generations, and books by African American authors based on family. Visitors to the booth were served traditional Southern American foods: fried chicken, Hoppin' John, cornbread and sweet tea. The event was an excellent opportunity to interact and learn with our fellow Bobcat families and we look forward to participating next year.

The Best and the Brightest Recognition

On May 21st, there will be a celebration to thank those who have supported the Montgomery County Branch NAACP Parents' Council throughout the 2010-11 school year. Guests will include Parents' Council Representatives from the schools, members of the Board of Education, NAACP Montgomery County Branch, and MCPS officials and teachers.

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.

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 klguypete@aol.com.



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.

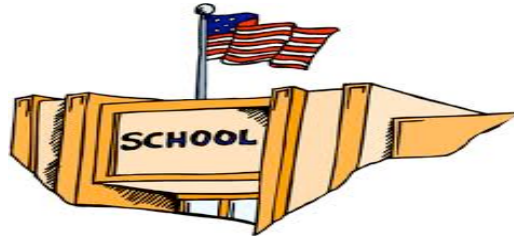
Thank you for your support.

Karen Chen and Louise Moroney
Business Promotion

buspromos@yahoo.com

or

Imm114@yahoo.com



QUINCE ORCHARD HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION ESPECIALLY FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

** Now's a good time to get "in the know" with what's going on at Quince Orchard High School. Sign up to be on the parent email list now so that you start receiving information.

Go to the QOHS website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/>
Scroll down the left side of the home page and click on "Parent Email List Join Today"

** If you want to play a Fall sport, note that Fall try-outs start on or about August 15th, so plan vacations accordingly. Students also need very specific paperwork completed, including a physical exam, before participating in try-outs. From the QOHS home page of the website, click on "Athletics" to get more information (Fall sport information should be posted soon). Some teams also participate in camps this summer, before try-outs, so you may want to contact the team Coach this Spring to find out details.

Sue Wingate
sjwingate@comcast.net

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>



Things to Celebrate!



The PTSA has had a great year and we have accomplished so much. Here is a list of some of the things that the PTSA volunteers were responsible for or helped with this school year:

- summer mailer
- 6th grade open house
- continuous messages on the Ridgeview sign
- school directory
- new spirit wear designs
- monthly teacher appreciation events
- volunteers, volunteers, volunteers
- monthly Key newsletters
- fundraising to support a \$24,000 budget
- Spelling Bee competition
- box tops, soup labels, and ink cartridge collections
- spring & fall book fair
- yummy restaurant nights
- volunteers and even more volunteers
- 3 vs 3 basketball tournament
- MSA snacks
- Reflections program
- Heritage Café
- International Night
- presents for all of the staff birthdays through the year
- weekly Yahoo group messages
- pictures for the yearbook
- 8th grade end of year party
- Giant bulletin board
- Music department liaison
- Black Saga participation supported by the NAACP parent council
- play matinee fundraiser
- volunteers and even more volunteers!!!

The North Potomac – Darnestown MD Patch Local Trusted Source for Community-Specific information!

The North Potomac – Darnestown, MD Patch is our local source for community-specific information. Check out their web site <http://northpotomac.patch.com/>.

The Patch provides comprehensive local coverage on news, events, business listings, discussions and announcements that pertain to our community.

Have a press release, story idea, want to share your opinions, post photos and announcements or add an event to the community calendar? Email, [Jillian Badanes](mailto:jillian@patch.com), your local editor at jillian@patch.com

** STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE **

In honor of staff appreciation week that was held the first week of May, the Ridgeview staff enjoyed a catered lunch courtesy of our wonderful parent volunteers and the PTSA. One highlight of the luncheon was the gift card raffle. Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, we were able to raffle off over 20 gift cards ranging from \$10-\$25. They also received special treats in their mailboxes throughout the week.

The staff appreciation committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers that have donated items or their time this school year. The staff looks forward to our monthly treats and we wouldn't be able to accomplish this without the help of these individuals.

Chilo Bonilla*	Susan Cassell*	Michelle Cornblatt*	Katie Czworka*
Pearl D'Cruz*	Denise Feldman	Michele Feuer	Amy Fink*
Fran Finkelstein*	Minti Froh*	Jana Goodwin*	Holly Gross
Kelly Grossberg	Rhonda Haley*	Michele Hodges	Lisa Horowitz
Gail Isaacson*	Beth Johnson*	Nancy Kelly*	Joanne Levitt*
Becky Loftus	Brie McCabe*	Theresa McKnight*	Amy Mircoff
Susan Muma	Tara Murayama	Candace Niesen	Kristin Paolini*
Janet Poetzschke*	Randi Poli	Gretchen Potter	Mary Poulson*
Debbie Randall	Diane Schmid*	Dohi Shin*	Jane Webster*
Kathy Willard	Kim Wong		

*Contributed 4 or more times this year.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE RIDGEVIEW STAFF!

Kerri Moyer and Valerie Fuster
RMS PTSA Staff Appreciation Committee



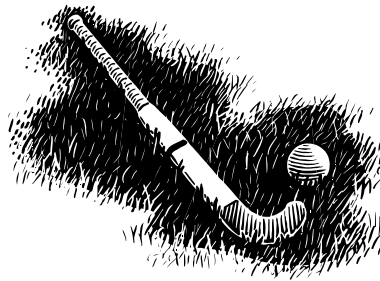


Quince Orchard HS

Presents the 2nd Annual

“Skills & Drills”

Field Hockey Clinic



Come join us for a 2-hour clinic on

Tuesday, May 24th

3:15-5:15

on the QO field hockey field.

(located behind the football field)

The introduction of field hockey will be demonstrated and taught by our very own Quince Orchard field hockey players and coaches.

No stick? No worries.....bring it if you have one or we will provide one for you. Mouth guards and water bottle required. Shin guards if you have them.

RSVP to: Coach Williams at Laura_S_Williams@mcpsmd.org

Board of Education Unanimously Selects Connecticut Educator as New MCPS Superintendent and Approves Four-Year Contract

The Montgomery County Board of Education officially appointed Dr. Joshua P. Starr as the next Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and approved his employment contract on Tuesday. Dr. Starr, who is currently the Stamford (Conn.) Public Schools superintendent, will begin his MCPS tenure on July 1, 2011 when he succeeds Dr. Jerry D. Weast, who is retiring after 12 years as MCPS superintendent of schools.

“Josh Starr has the vision, the experience and the passion to lead our great school system into the future,” said Christopher S. Barclay, president of the Montgomery County Board of Education. “I know that Dr. Starr will bring tremendous energy and commitment to Montgomery County and will continue to build on the outstanding work that has been accomplished here over the past 12 years under Dr. Weast’s exemplary leadership.”

The Board conditionally appointed Dr. Starr on April 25, pending agreement on the terms of employment and approval by the state superintendent of schools, as required by Maryland law. State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick has certified Dr. Starr’s credentials and the Board completed negotiations on the terms of a four-year employment contract with Dr. Starr last week. Dr. Starr visited Montgomery County on May 11 and signed his contract.

“My family and I are thrilled to be coming to Montgomery County, which places the highest level of importance on public education,” Dr. Starr said. “MCPS is a world-class school system and I look forward to working with the exceptional staff, the students and the community to continue this journey of excellence and raise it to the next level.”

Under the terms of the contract, Dr. Starr will earn a salary of \$250,000 per year and will also receive \$35,000 in deferred compensation as well as a contribution of \$18,750 toward his retirement. Dr. Starr also will receive other benefits including health, disability and life insurance, moving expenses and the use of a vehicle.

Dr. Starr has been the superintendent in Stamford since 2005, where he has distinguished himself by increasing student achievement for all subgroups, emphasizing increased academic rigor, standardizing curriculum, advancing the use of technology, creating business and civic partnerships, and emphasizing community and family engagement efforts. Previously, he served at the executive level in the New York City Department of Education, the largest school system in the nation, where he held the position of Director of School Performance and Accountability. He began his career as a special education teacher in the New York City Public Schools working with severely emotionally disturbed adolescents and has also served in administrative roles in Plainfield, New Jersey and Freeport, New York. (continued)

New MCPS Superintendent Selected (cont.)

Dr. Starr holds a doctorate degree in administration and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and has published articles in many journals in the field of education. Dr. Starr and his wife, Emma, have three children, who will attend Montgomery County Public Schools.

Dr. Starr will visit Montgomery County before the end of the school year to meet students, staff and members of the community. Details pertaining to any public events will be announced soon.

Calling all Green Thumbs!

The RMS Courtyard Committee is in need of volunteers to help maintain the inner courtyard. Enjoy the warmer weather with us as we pull weeds, prune and mulch to make the gardens a beautiful place to picnic or just relax at RMS. Any time you can give is most appreciated!

SSL hours are available

Please contact Kim Gleason (igleason@msn.com 301-367-0422)



Important Note from the PTSA Treasurer



To all Committee Chairs: Please submit any and all reimbursement requests no later than June 8th to Dohi Shin. If you anticipate having expenses after that date, please contact me as soon as possible. I can be reached at dohi.k.shin@baesystems.com or 240-338-2358. I must close out the annual financials for the 2010-2011 school fiscal year by June 30, 2011 so all payments must be completed by then. Thank you!

NOTE THESE KEY DATES



May

- 18 – Math HSAs periods 1-4
- 18 – Instrumental and Choral Concert Quince Orchard HS 7pm
- 25 – Volunteer Luncheon – 11am to 1pm
- 30 – Memorial Day – No School

June

- 8 – Exam Review Day
- 8 – Reimbursement forms due to PTSA treasurer
- 9-16 – Exams
- 16 – Last Day of School – ½ day
- 23 – Report Cards Mailed

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 25th for the volunteer luncheon at school from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful luncheon, with fabulous food that is planned by Feri Jahanmir. Please plan to come and celebrate the many achievements of Ridgeway volunteers this year.

