



The Key



November 2011

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA

*** Please note the new school phone # 240-406-1300*

From the Desk of the Principal, Monifa McKnight

I am sure with the arrival of October you all have noticed we are already moving quickly towards the end of the first quarter of our school year. As we approach the end of October and the end of the first marking period its important to reflect back on the start of the year and look at the progress our students have made. By taking a look back at this point, we should be able to gauge the progress our students are making towards their goals. The pace at which time seems to move is not so much a reflection of time passing, but rather a statement of how busy our lives and the lives of our children really are in today's heavily scheduled world. However, I am always amazed at how well the students adapt to change and the steady pace of progress. First quarter is always a time of adjustment for many of our students, but I believe Ridgeview's students have adjusted nicely to the many changes this school year has brought along.

We opened up this year with many events welcoming our Ridgeview families into our school. The participation at Back to School night was amazing and I would like to thank all who came out to meet the staff and your child's teachers. We were happy to host roughly 90 parents who came in to visit throughout the day on Open House Day this month. We appreciate you completing the parent feedback forms to provide us with your thoughts about how we are doing as a school. The tailgate and Ridgeview night at Quince Orchard High School has been receiving wonderful reviews from the staff, students, and parents! The sun came out just in time for the event to go over very well and everyone definitely took advantage of the fun, games, and music that were provided. Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to an unexpected medical procedure, but I was very excited to hear how much everyone enjoyed themselves. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition at our school for many years to come!

In addition to these family focused events, our students also have had an exciting month, particularly with the visit from our MCPS Superintendent, Dr. Starr, who came to Ridgeview to see our students in action while working with the Frontiers project. He tweeted about his experience at Ridgeview and spoke of how amazing it was to see our students involved in such rigorous opportunities in the field of science. Check out pictures from Dr. Starr's visit on our twitter page. (continued)

From the Desk of the Principal, Monifa McKnight (cont.)

As we look forward to the remaining few weeks of October and the month of November, we are anticipating our first school dance on Nov. 4th and looking forward to a wonderful time. We are encouraging our students to come out and participate in a nice social evening with their peers. We are also planning for our November Parent Teacher Conference days that are coming up on November 10th and 11th. We will plan to accommodate all our parents by holding parent conferences on November 10th from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity to speak with your child’s teachers to discuss their progress thus far. (continued)

As always, we truly appreciate the continued support from the Ridgeview community. Our teamwork is an important key to student success. Oscar Wilde once said, “Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result.” With our teamwork, caring educators and desire to help all students achieve, I know the conditions at Ridgeview are right for success.

All the best!

Sincerely,

Monifa McKnight
Principal, RMS
Email: Monifa_B_McKnight@mcpsmd.org

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

From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Anika Brown

As the first quarter comes to a close I continue to be impressed with how mature our 8th graders have become this year. We have an exciting year planned and I look forward to a successful school year.

We continue to have high expectations for our students this year. As we work with you and your child it is our goal as an eighth grade team to emphasize behaviors which will prepare them for high school and the world beyond. We will support students in meeting these expectations which will challenge them academically and behaviorally. As an eighth grade team we expect students:

- To ask for help when needed and learn to advocate for themselves.
- To think critically.
- To access opportunities to extend their own learning.
- To communicate and express themselves confidently and creatively.
- To show empathy, compassion and respect towards others.
- To be open to other points of view.
- To regularly reflect on their learning and personal development.
- TO ENJOY THEIR LAST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL!!!

Over the next several weeks we have some exciting events planned including our chamber theater field trip on November 30th and career day on December 16th. You should be on the lookout for information coming home about these two events.

The 8th grade team would also like to remind you of a few things. Encourage your child to come to school every day prepared and ready to learn. Encourage them to participate in our after school activities program; there's something for everyone. Be in communication with your child's teacher and check Edline for homework and grades often.

I look forward to working with you and your students this year. If you need to contact me my email address is Anika_D_Browne@mcpsmd.org.

Anika Browne
Assistant Principal



From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Dryer Thackston

Dear Ridgeview Parents,

It is difficult to believe that the first marking period is coming to a close. Friday, October 28 is the last day of the quarter, so please check your child's Edline account to make sure that he or she has completed all work. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your student's teacher in advance of the end of the quarter.

November will be a very busy month at Ridgeview. We will begin a new marking period, hold several make-up events for softball and cross-country, conduct parent conferences, present a talent show, and celebrate Thanksgiving. A great way to keep track of these events to consult the calendar on the Ridgeview Middle School website (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ridgeviewms/>).

A big difference between elementary and middle school is that students have quarterly classes. With the start of a new marking period, your child's arts rotation and PE teachers may be changing. Please check with your student to make sure that he or she knows how his or her schedule will be affected.

We had a great parent meeting last night to present information to 6th grade parents about Outdoor Education. Our goal is for 100% of our 6th graders to attend Outdoor Education. Ridgeview Middle School is scheduled for Outdoor Education the week of December 5-9. Team 6-2 will attend December 5-7 and Team 6-1 will attend December 7-9. If you have any questions about Outdoor Education, please contact Laura Crittenden (Team 6-1) or Shelly Nicholl (Team 6-2).

As you can see, November will be a very busy and exciting time for your child at Ridgeview.

Sincerely,

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





From the PTSA President – Julie Tittle

Hello RMS Families!

Hard to believe that first quarter is now behind us! And what a first quarter it was! Our clubs have gotten under way. Ridgeview hosted October's QO Cluster meeting. The Staff has already enjoyed Staff Appreciation's hospitality. And we enjoyed our first RMS Tailgate and Picnic!

Looking ahead, we have a lot of activities and events to look forward to. November kicks off with a joint RMS SGA/PTSA student Halloween dance on November 4th, 7–9 p.m. November 16th is the next NAACP Parent Council Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kentlands Starbucks and we welcome **everyone**. The RMS Talent Show will feature our multi-talented students on Friday November 18th. December will bring our Book Fair and Minute-to-Win It competition!

I hope that everyone is taking advantage of all of the clubs and teams available this year. If you or your student are having trouble finding an activity join, please contact me and we will try to match you up with the right activity or committee.

Lastly, I want to wish Mrs. McKnight a speedy recovery! I know that Mrs. McKnight is still very much involved with the running of the school while she is out and the staff has continued to hold to her high standards! Thank you all!

Please contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions and I hope to see you all on November 8th for our next PTSA meeting!

Thanks,
Julie Tittle
RMS PTSA President
301-869-7710
tittle_family@yahoo.com



From the NAACP Parents' Council Chair

WHAT IS THE NAACP PARENTS' COUNCIL?

The NAACP Parents' Council is a sub-committee of the NAACP's Education Committee. The Parents' Council was created to empower African-American and other minority parents to take a more pro-active role in the education of their children. The Parents' Council is comprised of parents and guardians of minority students in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system, and other concerned residents who share the goal of equal education for all children.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE PARENTS' COUNCIL?

The mission of the Parents' Council is to provide a forum through which interested citizens may offer assistance, guidance and support to parents of minority students and minority students of MCPS to pursue the highest quality education possible through encouragement, information sharing, training, positive motivation, critical evaluation and advocacy.

KEY STRATEGIES OF THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

1. Increase attendance at local school meetings (Parents' Council, PTSA and School Improvement Plan).
2. Provide support and advocacy for parents and guardians of minority students with teachers and principals.
3. Increase enrollment for minority students in Enrichment, GT, Magnet and Honors/AP classes, and decrease participation in Special Education classes.
4. Facilitate visible participation and support, and provide feedback to MCPS on issues that impact the delivery of high quality education to the minority student population.

PARENTS' COUNCIL THEME: STEP UP! GET INVOLVED NOW!

The number one concern identified for too many minority MCPS students is **“LACK OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS.”**

As the Parents' Council Representative for RMS, I am asking you to live the Parents' Council theme. The first step in getting involved is to attend RMS Parents' Council meetings. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Kentlands Starbucks. All parents are welcome. The second step is to volunteer to assist in planning and putting on Parents' Council events. Volunteers are needed to plan Heritage Café that celebrates Black History and Culture. Heritage Café is scheduled to take place on February 17, 2012.

For more information, assistance with issues that impact the education of your children and/or to provide feedback on what types of programs you would like for the Parents' Council to sponsor please contact me, Cheryl Angeletti-Harris, at cheryl.angeletti-harris@comcast.net.

We are one people. We are one nation.

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

- Learn about the SSL graduation requirement and how to meet it in MCPS by referring to the website www.mcpsssl.org.
- Document all service on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification*.
- Students with 75 hours of service documented by the first Friday in April of a middle school year will receive 2012 Superintendent's SSL Awards.
- Seniors with 260 or more SSL hours documented by the first Friday in April will receive Certificates of Meritorious Service.



Halloween Week Dance

Mark you calendars - you don't want to miss this! Come to dance and socialize on Friday, November 4th from 7 - 9 pm at Ridgeview Middle School. We have a great DJ and lots of fun. Tickets will be sold during lunch from 11/1-11/4: \$1 for PTSA members, \$5 for non-members (can bring \$6 and become a member plus get the reduced ticket price for this and future dances). Tickets will be sold at the door for \$2/member, \$6/non-member. Nachos, cookies, and beverages will be provided free of charge.

Note to parents: students must be picked up by an adult. The adult should come to the cafeteria at 9 pm to pick up the students they are taking home. Also, when buying tickets the students will be signing a statement agreeing to stay within the designated areas. While we will have chaperones, for any student found outside those areas, parents will be called for immediate pick up.

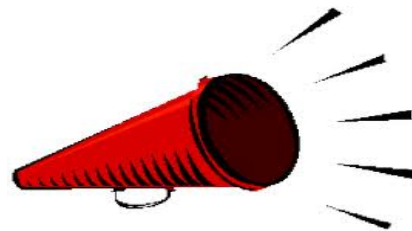


We have had another successful start to the PTSA membership drive. This year, the Ridgeview PTSA has 392 members, which is on par with last year. We raised \$3,130 in membership dues. If you paid for your membership but did not stop by the table at Back to School Night to pick up your directory, they will be forwarded to your child's first period teacher. Please be patient – it may take the office some time to distribute 80+ directories.

If you have not joined the PTSA and are still interested, adult memberships are \$10 while students and staff are \$5. PTSA members get reduced admission to PTSA sponsored activities. The PTSA membership form is available on the RMS website. Send your application and cash or check to the school in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership". I will have the directory forwarded to your child's first period teacher. Thanks for making PTSA membership such a big success.

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.

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.

CAREER 2011 DAY

**Do you love your job?
Do you like talking to kids?
If so, we want YOU to come speak to our 8th graders
at this year's amazing CAREER DAY!**

Who: Career Day Panelists

What: 8th Grade Career Day

When: Friday, December 16th from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: 8th grade classrooms at RMS

Why: To motivate and inspire our 8th graders to pursue a variety of meaningful career paths!

- If you are interested in presenting, please email Amy Lipman at amy_l_lipman@mcpsmd.org or Yun Lung Yang at YunLung_Yang@mcpsmd.org.
- We are in need of presenters from ALL career fields and backgrounds!
- Presenters will be greeted by student ambassadors with a welcome reception.
- What better way to give back to our next generation than this??!!



PTSA Fall Giving Direct Donation Drive

Dear Bobcat families,

What a great start to our year. You responded very positively to our inaugural PTA Campaign. Through your generosity we are already at 80% of our budgeted goal. Did you like not having to deal with asking your family or co-workers to buy another roll of wrapping paper or another box of chocolates? I'd love to hear from you.

While we are 80% to goal, that means we still have 20% to go. If you haven't donated, please try to send in a tax-deductible check payable to RMS PTSA. Every \$10, \$20 helps us provide activities for our children. If you have donated, thank you. If you can, please dig a little deeper and give a little more.

Also, we are thinking about doing a plant sale in the Spring. I'd love to hear from you at Jeannemcps@yahoo.com if you think it is a good idea or not and of course if you would like to help.

Here's to a great school year.

Jeanne Ellinport
RMS PTSA Fundraising Chair





Dear Parents and Families:

The Book Fair is coming to Ridgeview! This year the Book Fair will be here in December! That's right, December! What a great gift to give your child this season, the gift of reading. Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills kids learn, it is the one you can influence the most.

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

Our Scholastic Book Fair is part of a reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

Reading is vital to every child's success, and it's the door opener to the 21st century for all children. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in his/her child's education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

Book Fair Dates: December 15-21, 2011

Shopping Hours: M – F during school

Special Events: Special event to be announced

Sincerely,

Rhonda Haley and Kris Brott

Scholastic Book Fair Chairs

Email: Rhonda Haley tinkwtude66@msn.com

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports “PBIS”



This year at Ridgeview we continue to implement a program called PBIS. PBIS stands for “Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports”. PBIS is a state funded program offered to schools across the country. Ridgeview Middle School applied for an award for the school year 2010- 2011 and we did it!! We earned the Bronze award! This program has been proven to reduce the negative behaviors in schools and promote positive interactions among staff and students. Many of our elementary feeder schools and Quince Orchard High School have applied for this grant and are also participating in the PBIS process.

Our core values at Ridgeview are what drive PBIS...Respect, Responsibility , Building Relationships and Being Ready To Learn. Students are rewarded “Catcash” for going above and beyond what is already expected of them. Catcash may be redeemed at our CATCASH MEGAMART! Our Megamart has not opened yet but stay tuned for details!

We will have some great prizes for our students. We really need your help to keep our Megamart fully stocked. Students love small gift cards, sports items, playing cards, etc. If you are able to donate anything to our Megamart we would greatly appreciate your assistance! Please bring your donation to the main office with your name and PBIS labeled on a slip of paper. We truly appreciate your help. We’re seeing positive differences already with our students!!! If you have any questions please contact Debra Levy, Health Education teacher, either by email or at 301-840-4770.

Deb Levy
RMS Health Education Teacher
240-406-1300

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



This is a reminder to please send in your **Box Tops** by **Friday, October 28th** for our Fall submission. Our count is low and we need to get it get higher. Please put the name of your child's first (1st) period on the baggie before submitting. The class with the highest collections will win a class party, but please note that there is a minimum of 300 unexpired Box Tops needed in a class in order to win. Once the collection is completed, we will announce the winning class.

Please register your Giant Club card, Safeway Club card, and Harris Teeter VIC card so Ridgeview can receive funds from your purchases. If you would like to register them for QOHS and other schools, just mention it in your email. Just email your Club card number (entirety), full name, and address (only for Safeway), and phone number (only for Safeway) to karenchen1@gmail.com and we can get you registered. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Chen at 301-963-6399 or Louise Moroney at 301-963-1343. We currently have under 50 numbers registered so we have lots of room for improvement.

Something new this year...

We are collecting Coke products bottle tops, end of carton, or wrappers that have the Coke Reward codes. If you drink any of the Coke products, please collect the tops and submit them in a baggie with your child's fifth (5th) period teacher's name on the baggie. The class with the highest collections by June 1st, 2012 will win a classroom party. The Coke Rewards will help the school with merchandise for their school store and the Ridgeview's reward program. You can also donate your Coke Reward points to Ridgeview via the internet at

http://www.mycokerewards.com/mcrSchools.do?WT.ac=mnuS_DTS#search_and_donate

Ridgeview currently has 282 Coke Reward points. We need more if you can help. Check with your friends, family, and neighbors. Perhaps we can collect them from your work place or anywhere that might have a lot to collect.

Please drop off Box Tops and Coke Rewards lids and codes to the front office. We have a container located in the mailroom in the office. Thanks for your support!

Karen Chen and Louise Moroney
Business Promotions
Email: buspromos@yahoo.com or lmm114@yahoo.com



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>

Do you have a SMARTPHONE? Did you know that RMS PTSA has an electronic version of the PTSA Calendar available that you can download on the PTSA events page on the Ridgeview Website?

Questions or need help downloading? Please contact: Alan Nelson
at email:
AlanNelson437@yahoo.com



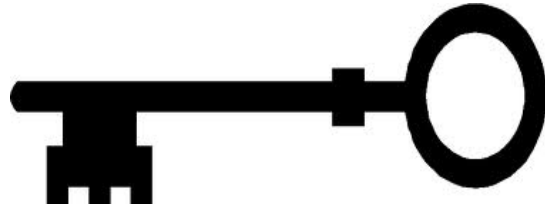
WE'VE GOT SPIRIT YES WE DO!!

The Ridgeview Spirit Shop has restocked and has new magnets, t-shirts, jewelry and hoodies. Follow this link for pictures and prices:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/ridgeviewms/news/Spirit_Wear_Flyer_2011.pdf

Contact Becca Hallam (kiwiinusa@verizon.net) or Barb Textoris (textoris5@hotmail.com) to order Spirit Wear

NOTE THESE KEY DATES



October

- 28 – 1st marking period ends
- 28 - Boxtops due
- 31 - Professional Day for Teachers - No School

November

- 4 - Halloween Week Dance 7-9pm
- 10 & 11 - Parent-Teacher Conference Days - 1/2 days for students
- 16 - NAACP meeting 7pm, Starbucks Kentlands
- 18 - RMS Talent Show
- 21 - Eat Out Night at Panera in Kentlands
- 23 - 1/2 day for students
- 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving - no school

