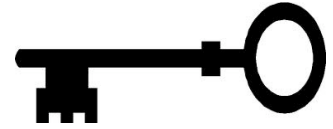




The Key



September/October 2011

Ridgeview Middle School PTSA/ 301-840-4770

From the Desk of the Principal, Monifa McKnight

The first month of school this year has been off to a great start! Students, staff, and parents have made Ridgeview Middle School community a place that thrives on support, enthusiasm, and a renewed focus. It has been a fabulous experience meeting parents and working with students and staff at Ridgeview Middle School.

As we enter into the school year, we are focused on providing an environment of high expectations for all. With this commitment in mind, we have several goals that we are looking to improve on this year. Based on various data analysis, we would like to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a school in all categories, improve our ineligibility rate for all students so that they can access all extracurricular activities, and ensure that our students are making at least a year's progress of growth in all of their subject areas. In addition we are also focusing on the instruction that is occurring in our core classes throughout the day, as we have to now start preparing our students for the new common core state curriculum that is being implemented throughout the state of Maryland. This Common Core curriculum is being rolled out into all courses over the next few years with a focus on more writing and text complexity of narrative and informational texts. With that said, some of the changes that we have made this year are based upon the vision of what our students will be taught and expected to accomplish over the next few years. It is our job to get them prepared and we are committed to doing so.

Over the past summer we have considered feedback from the staff, students, and analyzed student performance data relating to Bobcat Period. After reviewing the feedback and data, the Ridgeview Instructional Leadership Team agreed that the number of days should be decreased to increase the amount of instructional time in classes and that the focus for Bobcat Advisory period should be to address several school-wide goals. We thank you in advance for your support as we will continue to analyze our school structures and programs to ensure that they benefit all students.

As the month of October has arrived quickly, I hope that many of you are planning to join us in upcoming school events. Our first PTSA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th in the media center at 7:15 pm. Please plan to come out to be a part of an important body that supports our school. (continued)

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

We will host our 1st annual RMS Tailgate/Picnic on October 14th from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm here on the lawns of Ridgeview MS. There will be many vendors available for you to make purchases for food. Remember to bring your blankets or lawn chairs. Following the tailgate, we will proceed to Quince Orchard High School for their homecoming game. Please be sure to wear your Ridgeview gear so that we can show our support!

Within this newsletter issue, you will see information regarding Bobcat Advisory Period, extracurricular activities, and general grade level information. I hope that you will find this information helpful and that it caters to your informational needs. I look forward to the work that I know we will accomplish together for the benefit of our students. Here is to a great school year ahead!

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, Dryer Thackston

It has been a great start to the school year. Ridgeview is a much different building when it is filled with students. Getting to know them has been a pleasure.

In order to better support our students this year, we have altered the structure of Bobcat Time. Bobcat Time is our student advisory period and it occurs Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 6th and 7th periods. One day each week is devoted to MSA math preparation, academic skills and goal setting, and re-teaching/re-assessment. Teachers deliver lessons on the MSA prep and skills/goals days. We are monitoring the new structure in order to evaluate its effectiveness. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

We finished conducting the Measurement of Academic Progress in Reading (MAP-R) test last week. MAP-R is an individualized, computer generated reading test that gives information about a student's ability to comprehend both narrative and informational texts. Ridgeview staff will use the results of the MAP-R to help teachers better instruct students. It also provides us with a measure of growth over time between MAP-R administrations. We will share the MAP-R results with you soon.

While academics are important, Ridgeview also aims to develop the whole student. To this end, we have begun our fall after school activities. A full list of afterschool activities is available from our main office.

I am looking forward to the remainder of the year and serving your children.

Sincerely,

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

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*.
- Turn in documentation of all summer service to the school-based SSL coordinator by the last Friday in September (September 30, 2011).
- 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.

From the PTSA President – Julie Tittle

This first month of school has flown by for my family, as I'm sure it has for yours! One of our pending goals this year is to increase our RMS community involvement and only you can make that happen. We have a full RMS calendar looking ahead so we invite all students and families to please come out and participate. You can download our Google calendar to have at home, work or on your PDA- for directions, click on the following link:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ridgeviewms/ptsa/ptsaevents.asp>
[X](#)

A little housekeeping before we talk about upcoming events:

- Please be sure to turn in your membership forms for yourself and **your student** to the front office and email Leslie Zeid (<mailto:lzeid@me.com?subject=RMS PTSA Membership>) with any questions.
- Our PTSA Fall Giving Direct Donation Drive funds our programs and events. I'd like to thank those of you who have given so generously already and ask that everyone else search their hearts and wallets to help us reach our goal! Remember that all donations are tax-deductible and may be eligible to be matched by your employer!

A few notes on Upcoming Events:

- **Monday October 10th @ 7:15 p.m.** - QO Cluster meeting @ RMS -get an RMS construction update & find out the goings on in our Cluster.
- **Tuesday October 11th @ 7:15 p.m.** - RMS PTSA meeting. Come out, vote on our budget and hear reports from our chair people.
- **Friday October 14th from 4 pm to 6 pm-** RMS Tailgate and Picnic for QO Homecoming game. Fliers to come out this week with details. This is a family event so show our students the importance of being involved in your school community by coming out!
- **Fall Dance** - the date for this event has been changed. The tentative date now is November 4th (pending approval) Please encourage your student to come out for an evening of socializing, music, games and a little dancing! Remember all PTSA student members will receive a discount on admission. (continued)

From the PTSA President – Julie Tittle (cont.)

- **Math Club**- a big thank you to Javier Isassi who will be chairing our Math Club. We are still working on details, but please feel free to contact Javier to volunteer your help or get more info!
(<mailto:javierisassi@gmail.com?subject=RMS Math Club>)

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings, events and volunteering in our school!

Thank you,

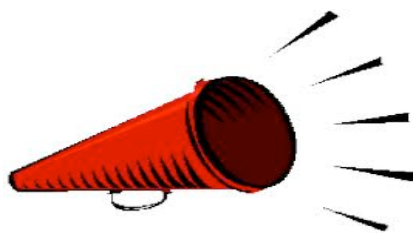
Julie Tittle
RMS PTSA President
tittle_family@yahoo.com



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.

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



A **HUGE** Thank you goes to the following chairpersons who have stepped up to fill our empty volunteer spots:

Cultural Arts - Tracy Weinstein
International Night - Diana O'Keefe & Mary Zaccola
Math Club - Javier Isassi
Membership - Leslie Zeid
Music Liaison - Jill Worley

Also, a special thank you goes out to -

Alan Nelson for putting together and helping to maintain the PTSA electronic calendar
Kristin Paolini for organizing Minute-To-Win-It
Michele Campbell for stepping up as PTSA liaison for the Talent Show

We are still looking to fill the following Chairperson positions:

Spelling Bee
Web Master

If you are interested in possibly chairing, please contact Tara Murayama at 301.212.9855 or gmurayama@comcast.net

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: to help, please contact

Tailgate & Picnic - Julie Tittle, tittle_family@yahoo.com
Halloween Dance (NEW night - November 4th) - Debbie Randall, creatmemories@comcast.net
Talent Show - Michele Campbell, Michelle.Campbell@hacdlaw.com
Book Fair - Rhonda Haley, tinkwtude66@msn.com; Kris Brott, kbrott65@gmail.com
Minute-To-Win-It - Kristin Paolini, KLPao@comcast.net



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



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>

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

Looking Ahead to Quince Orchard HS for 8th Graders:

There is a correction to information from this summer's mailer about the Quince
Orchard High School email group for families of 8th graders who are looking
ahead. To join at this time:

- * Go to the QOHS website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/qohs/>
- * On the R hand side, click on PTSA/Booster Club Email Distribution
- * On the R hand side of that page, click on Join This Group

NOTE THESE KEY DATES



September

- 28 – ½ day for students
- 29 – School closed for Rosh Hashanah
- 30 – Individual student portraits
- 30 – SSL forms due for summer through present hours to Ms. Lyvers

October

- 10 – RMS Open House
- 10 – QO Cluster Meeting, at RMS, 7:15pm
- 11 – PTSA meeting, 7:15pm Media Center
- 14 – 1st Annual Ridgeview Family Tailgate/Picnic 4-6pm
- 16-22 Montgomery County Community Service Week
- 18 – Eat out night at 5 Guys in Kentlands
- 19 - NAACP Parents Council Meeting, 7:30pm at Kentlands Starbucks
- 21 – MSEA Conference – No School
- 28 – 1st marking period ends

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT YES WE DO!!

The Ridgeview Spirit Shop has restocked and has new magnets, t-shirts, jewelry and hoodies. Contact Becca Hallam (kiwiinusa@verizon.net) or Barb Textoris (textoris5@hotmail.com) to order Spirit Wear.

