

# RITCHIE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 16, 2009

2009-2010 Ritchie Park

PTA Officers

Richard Hart, President  
theharts99@yahoo.com  
301-424-3446

Jennifer Young, President-Elect  
jeneric@comcast.net  
301-309-8764

Laura Degnon, Vice-President  
lauradegnon@yahoo.com  
301-309-8955

Cheryl Moss Herman,  
Vice-President  
hermanfour@msn.com  
301-610-6634

Sharri Freedman, Secretary  
Sharribeth@aol.com  
301-251-4478

Linda Montgomery, Treasurer  
Limontgomery@yahoo.com  
301-762-6057



- **Raffle at Pizza Bingo—win a FREE Netbook! (p. 1)**
- **PTA events and meeting updates (p. 1-2)**
- **Join the Community Service Committee (p. 2)**
- **Volunteer needs (p. 2)**

## NEW: RAFFLE AT PIZZA BINGO!

Mark your calendars for Ritchie Park's annual Pizza Bingo night on Friday, October 23rd at Saint Raphael's Trumpet Room. The doors will open at 5:30pm, with pizza, subs and salads for sale by Potomac Pizza, sodas and popcorn sold by the 5th grade, and dessert sold at our popular ice cream sundae bar. In addition, we'll be raffling a brand new Netbook, generously donated by Best Buy on Rockville Pike and made by Asus, one of the leading Netbook manufacturers. It has a 8.9" screen, a 160 gigabyte hard drive, a 3.5 hour battery life, and Wi-Fi connectivity; it retails for \$250. As

with last year, we are not selling the bingo cards, but we simply ask for a suggested donation of \$15 per family. For details on how to make your donation, raffle ticket pre-sales, menu prices, and most importantly, volunteer positions for the evening, please see the information flyer sent home in your child's backpack.

For further information, please contact Reema Guegel at ReemaJG@aol.com or Jan Spencer at jspencer2@aol.com.

## FALL 2009 PTA SCHEDULE

October 23rd	Pizza Bingo @ St. Raphael's
<b>November 3rd, 7:30pm</b>	<b>PTA Meeting</b>
November 17th	International Night @ RPES
November 21st	Ice Skating @ Cabin John
Nov 30th - Dec 4th	Scholastic Book Fair @ RPES
<b>December 1st, 7:30pm</b>	<b>PTA Meeting / Mixer</b>

### The Ritchie Park Listserv

Don't forget to sign up for the Ritchie Park PTA listserv today! **Simply send an email to: RPESPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.**

There is no need to write anything in the body of your email. You will receive a response with directions for completing your subscription.

### What has our PTA been up to lately?

The Staff Appreciation Committee prepared dinner for the entire staff on Back to School Night. Thanks to everyone on the committee who participated!!

The Ritchie Park Elementary School PTA: Working together to make a difference

Visit our web site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ritchieparkes/>

## RITCHIE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER

### PTA MEETING UPDATE

On October 6th, the PTA held its second meeting of the school year; look for a full set of minutes to be posted next month on the RPES website, but here a few highlights:

- The flu vaccination clinic, originally scheduled for 10/5, will not be rescheduled for several reasons, including insufficient supplies of vaccine.
- Please give generously to the Back-to-School PTA fundraiser; all proceeds support student activities, with 80 percent going directly back to the school.
- MCPS is considering an expansion of the current RPES school building. PTA President Richard Hart and parent Don Wynne are representing

the PTA at the discussions with school board staff. Updates will be provided at future PTA meetings.

- MCPS is also considering making a change to its math curriculum; and we have an opportunity to voice our opinions. To review the relevant materials, see: [http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA\\_news/mathflyer1.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA_news/mathflyer1.pdf) AND [http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA\\_news/ptasummarysheet1.pdf](http://www.mccpta.com/MCCPTA_news/ptasummarysheet1.pdf). Comments must be received by Cheryl Moss Herman, the RPES representative to the MCCPTA, by October 21st ([hermanfour@msn.com](mailto:hermanfour@msn.com)).

### HELP RPES SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Hello! Every year, Mrs. Capoccia and a group of devoted parents help to plan and carry out wonderful community service projects with the students of Ritchie Park. Last year, this group of parents coordinated several projects, including Raphael House visits, Celebration Bags, Dr. Bear's collection, and a bagged lunch assembly line. Obviously, these events are important opportunities for RPES students to learn about service.

The community service committee is working with Mrs. Capoccia to develop ideas for projects. The time commitment is whatever you can spare and any help you

can give is welcome. There are so many wonderful ideas floating around and we would love to have your input and energy! Think of the values you will be instilling in the children: to serve and to help; to be patient with others; and to look outside yourselves. Imagine the possibilities!

Sincerely,  
Cat Goodyear  
Mom to Will, 1st Grade, Mrs. Rix  
(h) 301-762-1707 (c) 301-775-6687

### TIPS FROM THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- Always sign in, wear a visitor badge, and log your hours
- RESPECT student confidentiality
- Be reliable; inform the school office if you cannot make your designated time
- Practice good cell phone manners
- Communicate effectively with staff
- Be positive, encouraging, and enthusiastic with the kids
- Have patience
- Follow correct emergency procedures
- Allow staff to have priority when making copies
- Help students “de-bug” when someone bugs them

### URGENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS!

- **4th grade room parents desperately needed!**
- Co-chair for the Spring Fling
- Co-chair for the Arts and Science Fair
- Recycled Book Swap — 2 co-chairs needed
- 4th grade parents to “train” to run the 5th grade promotion next year
- Proofreaders for the directory