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# PAW PRINTS

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## **From the Principal's Desk** **Catherine Long**

### *Happy Thanksgiving*

A very special holiday is soon upon us. This is a time to reflect on the many people, programs, and supports that make the Ritchie Park community such a special place. Our society has not commercialized this holiday to the extent other holidays promote purchases. This makes it easier for me to focus on the tremendous gifts we continuously receive. Just looking at the November calendar it's difficult to list all of the ways parents support the school- coordinating the Veterans' Day Walk, leading International Night, and providing a fabulous lunch for teachers on a busy conference day are just a few of the "extra" events on top of the vast number of volunteers laminating, copying, fundraising, tutoring students, monitoring lunch and recess and passing on words of encouragement. This holiday I am truly grateful for the gifts of this community. If I were to list the contributions my staff makes to our students and families, our computer server would go on memory overload!

### *Information from MSDE*

Last week a booklet titled *A Parent's Guide* was distributed to all students in kindergarten and grade five. The Maryland State Department of Education created this document to explain to parents the state's testing and reporting processes, programs available to support student achievement, ways parents can be involved in their child's education, and programs to help parents plan for their child's future. Due to budget limitations, it was not possible to print and distribute copies for every student. It may be possible to obtain a copy by contacting MSDE at 888-246-0016.

### *Thank You Whole Foods*

The Whole Foods store in Rockville graciously donated the refreshments for our Veterans' Day celebration. This is a wonderful way to show our appreciation to those who served our country in the armed forces. This donation will be a great contribution to this special day.

### *New Component of our Security System*

Sometime in the near future, we will receive a new electronic Visitor Management System (VMS). This will replace the paper/pencil sign-in and out procedures we currently use. All visitors will be required to present a driver's license or other ID to the office staff to be scanned or entered in to VMS. The system will generate a visitor badge to replace the pink stickers we currently use. Visitors are expected to return the badge to the office before they leave the building. This system will make it easier to identify who is in the building during a crisis or emergency. The VMS will also cross reference IDs to local and state sex offender registries for even greater protection of our students. This is one component of the school system's comprehensive plan to ensure a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. We haven't received the equipment or training yet. We'll keep you posted as we learn more about it.

## **America Recycles Day**

In honor of Recycling Day, November 15, Montgomery County is hosting two paper shredding/recycling and reusable clothing/household donation collection events in November. The location closer to our community is Wootton High School on Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm. It is open to all Montgomery County residents and is free of charge- rain or shine.

## Student Corner

**Proud Panther Awards** are awarded to students (K-5) who demonstrate outstanding character by modeling the six PAVE values (responsibility, respect, cooperation, caring, honesty, and moral courage). The following students were **October** winners: **Cali Chao, Jillian Hilwig, Jillian Holmes, Tyler Coune, Caroline Doyle, Gabriela Cabrera, Mya Jones, Kelly Romero, Natalie Mintz, Molly Winchenbach, Zain Ahmad, Sofia Christiana, Trinity Hill, Jared Scheinberg, Evan Papier, Nicole Eisner, Megan Harrington, Maya Dubensky, Justin Chow.**

**Excellent Effort Awards** are given to students (K-5) who have positive attitudes toward school work, use feedback to improve their work, and complete work thoughtfully and on time. **October** winners were: **Daniela Parra, Logan Chung, Daniel Pereira, Heath Forster, Kelsey Lee, Jasnoor Lubana, Angelina Vu, Naima Choudhury, Gael Linares, Daniel Jordan, Carly Gershoni, Andy Song, Emily Romero, Alexander Crabill, Victoria Chazin, Annika Meng, Karthik Saravanan, Nicholas Olano, Chloe Weiss, Esofi Nunyi, Raven St. Clair.**

**Awesome Achievement Awards** are given to students who meet all or most of the grade level indicators in all major subjects each month. The following students were **October** winners: **Jean Pierre Linares, Ashley Hays, Ryan Crothers, Ashley Woo, Christian Testa, Michael Ilie, Zaira Matin, Katherine Tylor, Samantha Jayasundera, Sarah Moy, Michael Gauthier, Oksana Mikhaylenko, Alexis Crawley, Christina Mazza, Isaac Van Essen, Kian Afkhami, Lucy Cole, Anjali Finn, Noam Dubensky, Allison Mintz.**

### Upcoming Events

Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	p.m. Board of Education Meeting regarding over enrollment
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mock MSA Grades 3-4
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mock MSA Grade 5
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	International Night
Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28-Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Book Fair Week
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Story Telling Night

## Meet the Ritchie Park Staff- Lifelong Learners

*Each edition of Paw Prints will include a short article by a member of the Ritchie Park staff. They will describe something new they have learned to do over the summer, or since the school year started. The Ritchie Park staff is committed to continuous growth!*

### Meet Linda Deutsch

“Determination is the key to success.” My parents always used to say this to me as I was growing up. I did not realize the power of these words until I learned to ski. I have never been very good at sports. I never could get the ball over the net in volleyball or score a goal in soccer. I hit homeruns while playing tennis. Learning to ski was no different for me. At age 19, I was invited to go skiing with a college friend. I was told that all I needed to do was take a lesson and I would be able to ski. Although I was skeptical, I went and gave it a try. It was a disaster! I could not stand on skis, much less, move down the small hill that I was expected to master by the end of class. My ski instructor told me to go inside and watch. She said that skiing was obviously not for me. I was discouraged and angry at the teacher for not working harder with me. I was a nuisance to her and she felt that I needed to go away. What kept me going was the strong belief that I had in myself that I could learn to ski if I just kept trying. I left the class determined to show my instructor that she had made a poor decision to give up on me. The day was long and hard. It took all day for me to feel comfortable enough to attempt a ski lift. Even though I looked awkward, I kept trying through the next day repeating the same motions until I got it. Then I would try something harder. By the next day, I was skiing down the mountain with my friends. I made it a goal of mine to find the instructor and show her what I could do. I also advised her never to give up on people. Today, I ski every winter. I can ski intermediate trails with ease and it does truly feel like I am flying.