



# Rolling Terrace News

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rollinges>

## Thanks for Two Rewarding Years

### From the PTA President

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” The famous American anthropologist, Margaret Mead, shared this bit of wisdom with the world in the 1970s and it is still true today.

For those of us who have been part of the RTES community six or

more years, we can attest to the many changes we have seen within the walls of our schoolhouse. We have worked with three principals, one principal intern, five assistant principals, and four community superintendents. We have waved goodbye to many good staff members and parents who enriched our community with their commitment to kids, school staff, and families, seen our resources fluctuate, and the pressures of high stakes

testing squeeze the fun and vitality from the craft of teaching and going to school.

Through these changes, however, we have had the privilege of benefiting from a core group of paraeducators, teachers, counselors, staff members, community members, and parents who in spite of cuts to programs or turnover believed that RTES could live to its promise as a

[See Msg from Prez, p. 4](#)

A publication of the Rolling Terrace PTA

May/June, 2008

### May Events

12<sup>th</sup> - Study Circles  
Babysitting provided  
6:30-8:30pm Each  
Week

15<sup>th</sup> - Evening of the  
Arts (6:30 - 8:30)

17<sup>th</sup> - Flea Market

19<sup>th</sup> - Study Circles  
21<sup>st</sup> - International  
Festival

22<sup>nd</sup> - PTA Board  
Meeting (7:00 - 9:00  
p.m.); *all are welcome*

26<sup>th</sup> - No School, no  
study circles

27<sup>th</sup> - Study Circles

### June

2<sup>nd</sup> Study Circles

3<sup>rd</sup> Variety Show  
(9:10 a.m. - 10:55a.m.)  
K-2<sup>nd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Variety Show (9:10  
a.m. - 10:55a.m.) 3-5<sup>th</sup>  
grade

PTA Carnival (7:00 -  
8:30 p.m.)

10<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promo-  
tion (5:30 p.m.)

## Time To Say 'Thank You Teachers!'

**It's the PTA's Staff Appreciation week : May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Join your children in celebrating all the teachers, para-educators, administration, specials teachers, janitorial staff, cafeteria staff – wonderful people who make RT great! We'll celebrate with something different every day that week, and there are 3 days when parents or guardians are asked to provide treats, flowers, and luncheon items. **Questions? Please contact: Ginger Geertsema at 301-649-7045 or e-mail [hill2hunt@starpower.net](mailto:hill2hunt@starpower.net).** The schedule is:

**Monday:** Thank you notes

**Tuesday:** Sweet treats (homemade or personally chosen)

**Wednesday:** Flowers (single buds, blossoms, or bunches)

**Thursday:** a poem, story, or picture (made in art class or at home)

**Friday:** Staff Luncheon

## **Arts and Science: Rewarding Job Openings for Next Year.**

Creative Adventures in Art needs a Parent Coordinator for next year. This is a wonderful program and a fun, easy volunteer job. Questions? Call Debra Brink 301-270-4335, or email [dbrink@cspinet.org](mailto:dbrink@cspinet.org)

Tiger Tales needs a Parent Coordinator next year, so if you are looking for a fun volunteer opportunity.

The job entails meeting with interested 5th graders about 8 times during the year to make posters, announcements, etc to encourage students and staff to contribute; sorting through contributions; drawing simple illustrations; and a few other small tasks. Then, collecting submissions and laying them out on the computer. Taking it to the printer. It could be divided among more than one volunteer if desired.

I will be happy to serve as a resource throughout the year to anyone who takes it over.

Ann Hendrix-Jenkins,  
[annhendrixjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:annhendrixjenkins@gmail.com)

## **RT Art Show May 15th**

Please join us to see works by students from Pre-K - 2nd grade from 6:00pm - 6:45pm, works by students from 3rd - 5th grade, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

## *International Festival, May 21*

As you know, one of the big end of the year events is the Rolling Terrace International Festival. I've been working hard all year, but especially in the last few months organizing all the wonderful activities that go into this day. As you may or may not know, the festival is a day-long event dedicated to celebrating diversity and culture at our school. The day's curriculum will focus on this, with each grade level visiting the festival for activities sprinkled with food, music, presentations, and performances from all around the world. Each class will work on something to present on this day, whether it be a song, an informational booth, a craft, and more!

What a wonderful opportunity this presents for our children to learn about many different cultures with an entire day's curriculum dedicated to that end. I hope you will join me and the RT school staff, teachers, and administration in bringing a wonderful learning opportunity and experience to RT, but more importantly, just a really fun day.

Please visit [www.rtifestival.com](http://www.rtifestival.com). Forms are available at school on the PTA bulletin board, as well as online. Also look for various forms coming home in Wednesday folders. I am available at [rtifestival@gmail.com](mailto:rtifestival@gmail.com) or [dianaombs@earthlink.net](mailto:dianaombs@earthlink.net). Or call me at 301-576-1830. Please get involved today, we need lots of willing volunteers to help create a successful outcome! Thanks to everyone who has already come forward to volunteer.

*-Diana Combs, Festival Coordinator*

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***WE'VE GOT TIGER APPEAL***

Check your backpacks for RTES PTA's second annual **Tiger Appeal**. Supporting your PTA is the easiest possible way for you to support every aspect of your child's life at Rolling Terrace. Nothing to buy, no hours of volunteer work required – just the five minutes it takes to write a check to the RT PTA!

# Editor's Note

I want to thank everyone on the Newsletter committee. Steve Hendrix has been an amazing mainstay and our 'publisher' for 5 years making our PTA News readable and fun. Andrea Castillo is our talented Spanish translator with able help from Shana Grossman. Monica Velasquez is our wonderful Distributor. I have enjoyed everyone I have met through this process and will miss the RT community in all its diversity, energy and generous spirit.

Our new Editor next year is Cait James, who can be reached on "Cait James" [cjames@speak--up.com](mailto:cjames@speak--up.com).

Thank you! Jenny Apostol

The Rolling Terrace Carnival will be Friday, June 6th from 6:30-8:30. We need lots of help to continue to make this community event fun:

**-MONEY** Did you know that the Dunk Tank and Moonbounces have been donated each year by generous Rolling Terrace families? Those families have moved on to middle and high school, and we are looking for other families who would like to offer their monetary support. Each moonbounce will cost about \$175, so any contributions would be appreciated. If you know of a local business or association that would be interested in sponsoring a moonbounce or the dunk tank, please let us know. If you know of a local moonbounce rental company willing to give us a good price, also please pass on this info.

**-GOODIES** Low on cash? Do you like to bake? We need about 120 cupcakes, that is 10 volunteers making a dozen cupcakes each, at least.

**-IDEAS** Are you creative? Do you have a favorite game your family plays? We need at least 12 game booths - if you don't have an idea but would like to run a booth, call me and I'll help you think of something!

**-VOLUNTEERS** We need people to staff the moonbounces and dunk tank, we need face painters, temporary tatoosers, hair sprayers, food sellers, and people to run booths

Please contact Shana Grossman, [parryshana@hotmail.com](mailto:parryshana@hotmail.com), 301-946-9634 if you'd like to help out.

## Snack Smart with Smart Snacks

The Smart Snacks Program provides weekend food to more than thirty Rolling Terrace students every month. Volunteers stuff backpacks full of kid-friendly, nutritious food for kids to take home on weekends to make sure they get enough to eat during the days that they can't eat at school. The food is all donated by Manna Food Center, the County's largest food bank. The program needs donations of new or new-looking backpacks. If you would like to donate a backpack for the Smart Sacks program, please deliver them to Wesley Hopkins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grader in Mr. Cancel's class or to the Linkages to Learning Portable. Please note "Smart Snacks" on the backpack. Call Edie Hopkins at 301-431-4355 if you would like more information on the Smart Snacks program.

## Msg from Prez, from p. 1

thriving and excellent multicultural school for ALL. These courageous, generous, creative, and intelligent people have carried our school through its many transformations and built bridges over challenges, barriers, and lines of difference in order to move us in a continuum towards a thriving and excellent community school.

Just this past Monday, twenty-one parents and seven staff members came together for our first RTES Study Circle—an opportunity to discuss how issues of race, class, and ethnicity may be hindering our ability to move our school, but most importantly our children, forward—thus our journey towards success continues. As we walk this walk, there are moments when we falter and think we have not made enough progress or that perhaps the progress we have made is not the kind we should be making. That is okay too. For in order to make progress, all of us—school staff, parents, and community members—must be willing to listen to each other and loosen the reins of control and be open to the possibility that better answers may be within our reach.

This journey in which we have embarked upon is not for the feint of heart, however, I cannot in good conscience tell you differently. This journey takes perseverance, humor (lots of it), community (no one can do it alone), and a strong belief that you can make a difference. How you make a difference is up to you, but we all must make it in our own way if we are continue this path towards excellence. When I started at RTES I believed in sweeping reforms—now at the end of my stay here, I am a firm believer in the “butterfly effect.” For those not familiar, the “butterfly effect” is simply the belief that even when a butterfly flaps its wings the ripples from that action cause a shift in our world. In other words, even the smallest of steps makes a difference.

For those of you who aren't convinced, let me simply say this—I am the homeless child, the welfare kid, the single-parent raised, the poverty stricken, ESOL child who made it to college due to my mother's incredible guidance AND a community of people just like you who took a small step in their lives to help me, but that to me meant everything. Small steps make a difference. I am living proof of that.

It has been a deep pleasure and my most profound honor to serve as your PTA President these past two years. I cannot begin to thank all the wonderful people who helped me learn, make mistakes, and give back to my community. Thank you so much for believing in me and giving me this chance to serve you. It is time for the new leaders to step up, bring fresh ideas, energy, and passion to our school. I strongly believe that these new leaders are among us—they are you, your friends, your neighbors, your relatives. You do not need a Ph.D. or affluence to be a PTA officer or volunteer. You simply need the will.

The slots for President and Co-Vice Presidents are open. Talk to your friends and encourage each other to work as a team to continue our path to make our school successful. If you are interested in these positions call or email me and I will share with you why taking on the extra work can change your life in profound and meaningful ways. I will share with you many experiences of kindness, teamwork, and friendship.

*Abrazos and best wishes,*

Nora Cartland

PTA President 2007-08, 240-281-7768, [rtpta\\_pres@yahoo.com](mailto:rtpta_pres@yahoo.com)

## **RT Parents Group Honored**

PADRES LATINOS EN ACCION and THE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE at Rolling Terrace was selected as the winner of **Impact Silver Spring's BUILDERS AWARD** this year. Participants who will represent the partnership will be **Jennifer Lane** our Title I Coordinator, **Haydee Puertas** our legendary former Family Room Coordinator, and parents **Maria Guadalupe Rodriguez, Alma Orellana, and Jacqueline Gutierrez**. The Builders Award honors partnership between emerging and established leaders who together take risks and act collaboratively to improve the quality of life for all.