

RT is important to me

RT es importante para mi

# Rolling Terrace News

A publication of the Rolling Terrace Elementary School PTA

June, 2006

Your PTA on the Web: [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rollinges](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/rollinges)

# Summer!

*Thank you teachers, staff, students and parents for a great RT year.*

## Some End of the Year Thoughts From President Nancy Segal

What a wonderful few weeks we have had at Rolling Terrace! Many thanks to the incredible staff and parent volunteers who helped make our Career Day, Art Show, Teacher Appreciation Week, Variety Show, RT Carnival and the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion such great Rolling Terrace events. It takes the dedication and effort of many adults to make these activities available to our children. Thank you to one and all.

This has been a year full of many high points, as well as a few low points. The year started off with much change, welcoming Ms. Waheed as our new assistant principal, and Ms. Duranko as our interim principal. We struggled with traffic safety, cafeteria issues, and playground policy. Our children (and teachers) made it through another year of full scale testing. And while there was a multitude of random acts of kindness, we also suffered the tragic loss of one of our students. We have had many successful PTA events, but regrettably, nature interfered with one of our most popular activities (i.e., craft night was just not meant to be).

Since this is my last newsletter article as PTA president, I want to thank all of you who have volunteered throughout the year.. I also want to thank Dr. Baskerville, Ms. Waheed and all the other administrators, teachers and staff that give so much of themselves to our children every day.

I want to give special thanks to PTA Vice President (and future President) Nora Cartland, Secretary – Robin Pollock, Treasurer – Gary Stern (who is also my husband), and all the other executive board and committee chairs and members. THANK YOU ALL.

I also want to encourage you to give Nora and the other executive board members your full support. I have no doubt that they and the school will fare well in the coming year. As always, please let Ruth Schilling know if you are interested in volunteering on any of the PTA committees or if you have a new project that you would like to initiate. Ruth can be contacted by e-mail at [ruth4sons@aol.com](mailto:ruth4sons@aol.com) or by phone at 301- 949-8415.

Lastly, we have prepared a survey which is included in this newsletter. Please take a minute to fill it out and return it to the school. This is your opportunity to complain about where the PTA fell short of your expectations, and more importantly provide suggestions on how the PTA can more effectively meet the needs of the Rolling Terrace community.

I wish everyone a wonderful, relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

*Nancy Segal*  
*RT PTA President*

## Pomp and Happenstance

**MARK THE DATE!**

**RT Elementary School's  
Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony**  
will be

**Monday, June 12, 2006**

5:00 to 6:30 pm

in the Blair High School Cafeteria

*To volunteer or for additional  
information, please contact  
Marcy Fink Campos at 301-270-6343,  
[mf4campos@starpower.net](mailto:mf4campos@starpower.net) or  
Coletta Youngers at 301-588-7307  
[coletta@mindspring.com](mailto:coletta@mindspring.com)*

# It Takes a Village to Have Career Day

I wanted to share with all of our community that the 2006 Career Day was a tremendous success, but more importantly I want to highlight this success as an example of what can happen when school staff and parents work together for the benefit of our students.

Early in February Parry Wilson, Susie Baker and I took on the job of coordinating the Career Day. This would have been a daunting task had it not been for the work done previously by Ellyn McKay, Phyllis Rattey, and Yolanda Hilliard. These three women had previously spearheaded career day and their organization, experience, and drive helped our committee do our job in less time and with more efficiency than we would have had if we started from scratch.

Any event that involves 300 students and 18 classrooms requires support from the entire school community. This event would not have been possible without the support of Dr. Baskerville, Ms. Waheed, and all the third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers who recognized the importance of inspiring children to continue their education in order to reach their career aspirations. Anne Tredway, Menihah Araghi, Karen Mendez, Ben Jones, Kaneene Armstead, Linh Au, Taki Cooper, Ada Mejia, Thelma Lacayo, and Jean Williams were flexible, generous, and obtained equipment and materials. They helped our committee in every step of the process. Parry Wilson, Susie Baker, Robin Pollock, and my own hubby, Scott Cartland, were my pillars of strength as they helped line up presenters and work through the logistics of the event.

A Career Day is simply not possible without people willing to take time from work, share of themselves and their life experience, and engage

sixty children in an activity. Many parents and community members stepped up to the challenge and I want to thank them for inspiring our kids. Our presenters were: Jenny Apostol, Steve Hendrix, Lois Wessel, Kerri Hufford, Kirin Smith, Mike Duffy, Veronica Davis, Rebecca Lichtenstein, HisaoYatsuhashi, Lourdes Wilson, Maria Hamburger, Teri Adams-Fuller, David Blockstein, Mike Little, Anita Weisberger, Heather Pankl, Ben Rosenthal, Anne Marie Staudenmaier, Martina Gilles, Evert Gonzalez, Chris McKneely, Andy Hamburger, and Lilo Gonzalez. It was wonderful to see students engaged in designing houses, building towers, creating a story, creating music, making jewelry, participating in yoga, studying birds, and learning about advocacy to name a few.

And many thanks to all of our volunteers who showed up on the day of the event and helped to make the behind the scenes run smoothly: Robin Pollock, Linda Goldman, Rosemary Aguilar, Victoria Roberts, Adam Davis, Sara Cartmill, Marie Broussard, Tom Jacobson, Leslie Hall, Julie Misplon, Marcy Fink-Campos, Parry Wilson, Katie Sebastian, Judy Wyman, Sean Malachi, Ruth Schilling, Kelly McKneely, Jay Keller, and Felicia Charlois.

In total this event demonstrates the efforts of 78 dedicated and generous people. What an incredible feat! As I reflect about this event, I feel assured that Rolling Terrace is a special place where everyone can come together and put children first. We really are a village. Our students are so lucky to have people like all of you in their lives. Thank you for your hard work.

*Gracias,*

*Nora Cartland, Career Day Co-Chair*

## Gardening Days, Past and Future

It was a beautiful spring day and several gardeners came out to work in the front garden this year at RT's annual Spring Gardening Day. The garden is healthy and in good shape for the summer. Thanks to all who contributed their "elbow grease" to help make the garden grow! See you in the Fall. **November 9 will be RT's Fall Gardening Day!** Mark your calendars now!

### Tengo Bingo

Alma and Carlos Orellana would like to thank all the volunteers and participants that attended the Loteria Nights. They are looking forward to continuing this event next year. They also want to remind everybody to save all those unwanted but gently used toys and donate them for prizes.

# RT Alum Returns to Fight Hunger

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Grader Edie Hopkins Brings Food Program to Kids in Need

Student Service Learning hours, also known as Community Service hours, are a graduation requirement for the State of Maryland. Edie Hopkins, a former RT student and a current 6th grader at Takoma Park Middle School, was trying to decide how to earn her Community Service Hours. Her parents told her about some of the recent postings on the PTA Listserve regarding hungry kids at RT so she decided she would try to help these students. Edie and her mom asked staff at Manna Food Center, the food bank of Montgomery County, for advice.

Manna told them about the Weekend Food Program already in place at an elementary school in Gaithersburg. Manna was very enthusiastic about expanding the program to RT if funding could be found. On the behalf of the RT PTA, and with help from her parents, Edie applied for and received a \$1,000 grant from the Takoma Foundation. Starting this Fall, the RT Manna Weekend Food Program will begin.

More than half of RT's kids are on the free or reduced priced lunch program and receive two meals a day during the school week. The RT Manna Weekend Food Program will provide food for children to eat over weekends when they do not get the meals that the school usually provides.

Every month throughout the school year the Weekend Food Program will give at least ten needy students a backpack filled with kid-friendly, nutritious food. Manna Food Center will provide the food for the project, and the money from the Takoma Foundation will be used to buy the backpacks. Through Manna's experience with the program in Gaithersburg, they learned quickly that backpacks are a discrete and easy way for students to get food home to their families.

Every month, program volunteers will purchase backpacks and take them to the Manna Food Center, where they will be filled with a variety of nutritionally sound food, including things like macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, tuna fish, individual boxes of cereal, crackers, oatmeal, granola bars, and carrot sticks. The volunteers will then bring the full backpacks to RT, where school staff will distribute the backpacks to the neediest families.

If your family is interested in helping with this project feel free to email Edie at [edie\\_hopkins@hotmail.com](mailto:edie_hopkins@hotmail.com). We could use drivers and perhaps people to help with an additional food drive to collect more food. Also, donations of new backpacks will increase the number of kids that we are able to help each month.

### Thanks for Raising Those Hands!

As the end of the year approaches and Rolling Terrace winds down, it is a glorious time to bask in the accomplishments of the year. There are so many things that happened this year due to the volunteer spirit that thrives at RT. Speaking from experience, volunteers get back so much more than they give. I hope all of you who have been involved at RT have felt the rewards of giving. Giving comes in many shapes and sizes, including helping your child get off to school on time, or picking up a friend's child after school, to volunteering in the classroom or at an event or sending in a quiche for the staff appreciation brunch. All these things make "RT go round". It is such a pleasure for me to work with all the parents, teachers and staff members at RT who have the same goal in common...to help our children grow and thrive. THANKS to all of you for all you do! See you next year!

*Ruth Schilling, Volunteer Coordinator, [ruth4sons@aol.com](mailto:ruth4sons@aol.com).*

# Destination Imagination

This year we ran a pilot of Destination Imagination, a nationwide program which encourages creative problem solving. Students meet in groups, and working without adult help, develop a solution and compete in regional tournaments against others in their age bracket. At RT, thirteen second graders met every Thursday after school to solve the non-competitive challenge developed for 4 to 7 year olds. Two different groups worked in a team as they each wrote and produced a play.

It was exciting to watch the children develop skills such as negotiation, prioritizing, and time management, as well as writing, plot development, and acting. DI fosters collaborative learning and challenges students to think of alternative ways of solving problems.

As the students get older, they will be faced with solving various challenges over an eight week period. Previous challenges include designing and constructing a technical device that must move from point A to point B under its own power, and then write, produce, and star in a story that involves the technical device. They make props, costumes, and everything else, and package it into an eight-minute presentation.

The challenges are designed to be fun to solve, academically-based (corresponding to education standards) and include a research component. They are focused on one or more of the following areas:

- Technical/Mechanical Design
- Structural/Architectural Design
- Theatrical/Literary/Fine Arts
- Scientific Exploration
- Improvisation

*(This information comes from the DI website. For more info, see <http://www.idodi.org>)*

Lisa Hack and Edamarie Mattei are busy organizing their notes and speaking with other schools about their Destination Imagination programs so that we can offer this enrichment to Rolling Terrace families next year. The program depends on parent volunteers to sponsor teams, so if you and your child/children are interested, save a spot on your schedule to become a Destination Imagination team member next year!

## New Books in Spanish for the Library

Thanks to the continuous effort of teachers, members of the Book Fair Committee and PTA support, on May 3rd we delivered 58 Spanish books worth around \$470 to our librarian, Ms. Araghi. All of the books have been approved and are ready to go on the library shelves for all the kids to enjoy. We would like to acknowledge the effort of reading and approving to: Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Robles, Ms. Hernandez-Johnson, Ms. Abushaikha, Ms. Perez, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Farber, Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Gama, Ms. Castellon, Ms. Yilma, Ms. Medina, Ms. Lisa Hack and Ms. Shana Grossman.

If you would like a detailed list of books donated, please contact Lourdes Wilson at 301-588-7027