RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

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**Vacant, President-Elect**

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**Steve Schuck, Treasurer**

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PTA Board of Directors *also includes the following members:*

**Jennifer Young, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Past President**

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**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs**

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**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

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**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

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**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

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### **October 7, 2011**

# We Are Looking For Our 200th Member!

Thanks to all who have joined the PTA! You are a tremendous asset to our children and to Ritchie Park, and we truly value your membership! We are just shy of 200 members, so I thought I would add a little "spice" to PTA life.  Join the PTA be­tween now and Mon. 10/31 and you can be entered to win a $50 gift card to an amazing local eatery.  If you have already joined the PTA, your name will be automatically entered.  What could be better than a PTA membership and possible "free eats”?! Send in your membership form with your dues which are $15 for each active voting adult.  Please contact Marquette Heaven (see sidebar) with any questions.

# Halloween Parade and Parties

# This year, students will celebrate Halloween at RPES on Fri. 10/28 beginning with a parade at 2 p.m. Please make sure that all costumes are appropriate.  Students will not be allowed to wear any costume deemed inappropriate by school staff (costumes that bare the midriff, etc.) and may not bring any weapons with them to school.  Classroom parties will imme­diately follow the parade.  Weather permitting, the parade will be outside and family is welcome to attend and see all the creative costumes.  Contact your Room Parents to assist with the Halloween party for your child's class.

#  “Pennies for Patients” Community Service Project

Our next service event is “Pennies for Patients”, starting Monday! This coin drive, sponsored by the RPES PAVE Team and PTA's Community Service Committee, runs through Thurs. 10/20 and is for the benefit of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.  Information about the program and individual coin collection boxes are coming home with your students today! Simply drop your coins into the boxes and have students return their boxes at the end of the week (or sooner if it fills up!).  Coins can be brought to school at any point during the 2 week event.  Coins are heavy, so donate yours to “Pennies for Patients”!

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Double Restaurant Night** on Wed. 10/12! Grab some dinner at the Rockville Town Square location of California Tortilla then head over next door to Ben and Jerry’s for some delicious dessert. Feel free to dine in or carry out, Ben and Jerry’s has a wonderful array of take home desserts. For more infor­mation, contact Suzanne Smith, srrn74@hotmail.com.

**Pizza Bingo** will be held Fri. 10/28 from 5:30-8 p.m. at St. Raphael's Trumpet Room across the street from Ritchie Park. There will be pizza and salad from Potomac Pizza, drinks and snack from the Fifth grade promotion team, ice cream sundaes for sale, and, of course, bingo games with great prizes! $15 suggested donation at the door. Enjoy a fun night out with the whole family! Wear your Halloween costume for the parade! Volunteers are needed.  Please contact Maria Doyle, maria@broadsoft.com, or Jeanie Glasser, mjglasser@verizon.net, or sign up now at: www.SignUpGenius.com /go/rpes3

**Skating Night at Cabin John** **Ice Rink** will be held on Sat. 11/5 from 6:30-8 p.m.  The Fifth grade promotion team will be selling pizza, soda and waters.  All skate tickets and pizzas must be purchased in advance so look for the upcoming flier to make your family skate night reservations.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **Oct. 10** | Start of “Pennies for Patients” Coin Collection |
| **Oct. 10, 9:30-11 a.m., 1:15-2:15 p.m.** | School Observation Day |
| **Oct. 12** | Restaurant Night at California Tortilla and Ben and Jerry’s |
| **Oct. 19, 7 p.m.** | Superintendent Listen and Learn at Wootton HS |
| **Oct. 20** | Last Day of “Pennies for Patients” Coin Drive |
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# FUNDRAISING FORUM

**ELMO Update** Thank you to Kara Hall and Seth Crothers for their $250 direct donation toward our “ELMO For Every Class­room” campaign, as well as all the other donations that have been made. To date we have raised $4,260!  We are $240 short of being able to purchase 3 new ELMO machines! Ms. Long will be placing an order in the near future, so please consider making a tax deductible donation today. Remember employer matching programs too! If you need a donation form, please go to the PTA webpage to download a form, or contact Sharri Freedman (see sidebar).

**Target Gives Back with Take Charge of Education program** If you have a Target REDcard, Target Visa card, or Target de­bit card, you can give 1% of your purchase value to RPES just by shopping in-store or online and using your Target card.Please take a few minutes to go to Target.com/tcoe to enroll. If you have problems registering, call 1-800-316-6142. Selecting "0" will transfer you to a *person* to set up the program. They will be able to find RPES by name and/or zip code. If you do not already have a Target REDcard, another benefit to using the card when shopping at Target is that you receive 5% off all purchases. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly at kellyejoyce@msn.com.

# ADVOCACY CORNER

Your feedback is requested on six resolutions that MCCPTA will be considering next month.  The resolutions can all be found on the Ritchie Park webpage under "Advocacy Corner."  Your PTA Delegates would like to hear your views on these resolutions. Ritchie Park is inclined to support them all, with the exception of the teen curfew one. As the debate on this particular resolution promises to be a heated one, we urge you to make your views known to the Delegates. The resolution that most directly affects Ritchie Park is a Resolution on Co-Location of County Services at MCPS schools.  This resolution is a result of PTA opposition to the construction of RM Cluster ES #5 with county offices that do not provide services to the students at the school or their families as a 4th floor on the elementary school.  Another resolution, also having to do with construction, discusses the proper role of the PTA in the site selection process for a new school.  The most controversial resolution is the Resolution in Support of Legislation Creating a Teen Curfew in Montgomery County.  It would support County Executive Leggett's proposal for a curfew for anyone under the age of 17 during the hours of 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday and 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.  Certain exemptions exist for emergencies and employment.

The final three resolutions relate to MCCPTA Priorities for the MCPS Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program Budget.  As the economy struggles to recover, MCPS will continue to have to stretch its resources to cover day-to-day expenses in the operating budget and the construction of facilities in the CIP Budget. In these resolutions, MCCPTA lists its priorities for areas that MCPS should continue to fund when faced with the difficult decisions of how to allocate scarce resources.  The CIP Budget is particularly important to Ritchie Park this year because MCPS has pledged to include a cluster-wide solution to address overcrowding in the Richard Montgomery Cluster, which could include a new elementary school and/or additions at Ritchie Park, other cluster elementary schools, or Julius West MS.  If you have any comments on any of the resolutions, please contact Jennifer Young or Rich Hart (see sidebar).

# Go Paper Free

It is not too late!!! Please help your school and your teacher by receiving PTA information electronically. Sign-up forms can be downloaded on the PTA webpage. Contact Rachel Hicks (see sidebar) with any questions.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Everyone who participated at the Mamma Lucia Restaurant Night.
* Eric and Teresa Williams, parent of kindergartener, Kai Williams. Eric has volunteered to be nominated for the PTA’s President-Elect and Teresa is the PTA’s new Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you for stepping up!