RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

**Jennifer Young, President**

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**Rachel Hicks, President-Elect**

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**Sharri Freedman, Fundraising VP**
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**Karla Berggren, Programs VP**

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**Angie Dixson, Secretary**

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**Carrie Hirshfield, Treasurer**

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

**Cheryl Moss Herman, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Cluster Coordinator for RM Cluster**

hermanfour@msn.com

301-610-6634

**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs** **and Past President**

theharts99@yahoo.com

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**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

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301-294-6540

**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

[rwfreundlich@gmail.com](http://us.mc1121.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=rwfreundlich@gmail.com)

301-424-0663

**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

Catherine\_L\_McCoskey@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

**Catherine Long, Principal**

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**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

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### **April 15, 2011**

# "Generosity for Japan" a Huge Success! Thank You!

Wow!  The Ritchie Park Panthers demonstrated tremendous caring, cooperation, and responsibility by raising **$4,121.42**through "Generosity for Japan" for victims of Japan's tsunami.  All funds will be forwarded to the American Red Cross Interna­tional Disaster Relief Fund.  The PAVE Team and Student Council would like to

thank all of our amazing students and their families, as well as our incredi­ble staff and Bar-T for putting our school spirit into action and making this the most successful charit­able fundraiser in our school history.  Our Panthers really have something to roar about!  Way to Go! Thank you all!

# Technology Enhances Education of Our Children

Mrs. McCoskey gave a wonderful demonstration on how a document camera, called an ELMO, and projector can enhance the educa­tional experience of OUR children. She showed us how each subject (math, science, social studies, reading and language arts) can be en­hanced with the use of the ELMO and projector.

* Did you know 3rd grade was able to participate in a web cast and voted on a word that will be included in the next 39 Clues book? How cool is that?!
* Did you know that a microscope can be hooked up to the ELMO and the en­tire class can be taught a lesson at the same time?
* Did you know that the projector can be hooked to the computer and classes can utilize the wealth of informa­tion on the internet?

There is so much to be gained from having an ELMO in every classroom. Please con­sider making a direct donation to the PTA specifically for the purpose of pur­chasing additional ELMOs for OUR SCHOOL. Tax deductible contributions can be made by cash or check payable to Ritchie Park PTA. Donations greater than $25 should be made by check. Forms can be found in the office, on the PTA website or by con­tacting Sharri Freedman (see sidebar).

Cultural Arts Assembly: Just a Dream: The Green Play

Just in time for Earth Day, on April 15, 3rd-5th graders saw Adventure Theater’s production of Just a Dream: The Green Play, based on a book by Chris Van Allsburg, about a boy who doesn’t care about the Earth. He falls as­leep and has a dream about what the planet will be like in the future if he contin­ues to hurt our environment. The props used are all made out of recycled mate­rials. The study guide for this pro­gram will be posted on the PTA website.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Kindergarten Orientation**will be held at Ritchie Park on Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29. Current Kindergarten stu­dents will not have school on those two days. (Bar-T is not open during the day for K. students either.) Parents need to make child care arrangements. All other grades will have school on those two days.

If your child will be 5 years old by September 1, please call the school office to sign them up for Kindergarten Orienta­tion. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors too! If you know of anyone that has a child age-eligible for Kin­dergarten, please encourage them to sign up for orientation. Staffing for Kindergarten classes depends on the number of children regis­tered with the office by July 1.

The **Arts & Science Fair** will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the gym.  Spring Break is a great time to start thinking about what science experiment or artwork your child might like to display!

**Book Swap Reminder**--when doing your Spring Cleaning, please put aside any gently used age-appropriate books for the RPES Book Swap in June. We especially need books for the upper grades. More information to come.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**Spring Fling Carnival and Silent Auction** is May 1 from 1-5 p.m.  It will be held at Ritchie Park, rain or shine.  Join us for carnival games, bouncers, a climbing wall, craft making, soccer fun, face painting, and airbrush tattoos!  There will be a Silent Auction at the same time with an incredible array of things to bid on.  Come out and support your PTA while hav­ing a wonderful time!  We still need LOTS of volunteers in order to staff the activities and make the event a success - please go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com), password: 2011carnival or contact Lisa Bosse at lisabosse@yahoo.com.

**Staff Appreciation Week** is being celebrated the week of May 2-6. Our theme is "You're a shining star." There is a star graphic available for children to write a message to their teacher or any staff member and turn in to the office. The stars will be placed on a banner to decorate during the week. A donation form and star graphic were sent home in students' backpacks. More forms are available in the office. Themed lunches, a breakfast, gift card raffles and more surprises are featured throughout the week. Please consider donating to show your appreciation of our wonderful staff through a tax-deductible monetary donation, food donations, or gift cards. Contact Karen Watson at kmpk1969@yahoo.com for details.

**Field Day** this year will be held on Tuesday, May 3 from 9-11:15 a.m. and the rain date will be Friday, May 6. This year's theme is "Ritchie Park Elementary, Celebrates Physical Education!" There is still a great need for volunteers. If you are available, please call Ms. Svejda at 301-279-8475 or e-mail Dana\_C\_Svejda@mcpsmd.org.

**2011/2012 PTA Board of Directors --- Open Positions Available --- Volunteers Needed!** If you enjoy working with other parents to benefit the students and teachers of Ritchie Park, please consider serving on next year's PTA Board of Direc­tors. We are looking for members interested in serving as President-Elect (you would be President for the 2012-2013 school year) and PTA Delegate to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs. The time commitment varies and officers are expected to attend monthly PTA meetings and periodic Executive Committee meetings (the Delegates also attend MCCPTA’s Delegates Assembly once a month). Please contact a current member of the Board for more information about that role (see side-bar) or nominating committee members:  Randi Freundlich, rwfreundlich@gmail.com; Vincent Mickens, privateairone@verizon.net or Erin Lobato, erin\_lobato@hotmail.com.

There is still time to contact the nominating committee if you would like to be considered as a candidate for any office or you can be nominated from the floor at the PTA elections on May 3. The current slate of candidates follows:

* President – Rachel Hicks

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Apr. 28&29 | Kindergarten Orientation |
| Apr. 28, 7 p.m. | RM Cluster ES#5 Feasibility Study Work Session #4 |
| May 1, 1-5 p.m. | Spring Carnival and Silent Auction  |
| May 2-6 | Staff Appreciation Week |
| May 3, 9- 11:15 a.m. | Field Day |
| May 3, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting with Elections |

* President-Elect – Vacant
* Vice-President Programs – Karla Berggren
* Vice-President Fundraising – Sharri Freedman
* Treasurer – Steve Schuck
* Secretary – Angie Dixson
* MCCPTA Delegate – Vacant
* MCCPTA Delegate – Vacant

ADVOCACY CORNER: Share Your Views

It is not too late to share your views on education funding with the Montgomery Council.  Send a short email (include name and address) to county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Roxana Hall for coordinating the Mad Science after-school class to be held April-June.
* Michelle Logsdon for all her hard work putting together this year's RPES Yearbook. The Yearbook is at the prin­ter!