RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

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

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### **March 18, 2011**

# 3rd Annual Barnes & Noble In-Store Book Fair

When: Sunday, March 27, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Where: Barnes & Noble, Montrose Crossing-Rockville Pike

What: Shop all day at ANY Barnes & Noble location. Use a voucher (coming soon in backpacks and on RPES’ website) or our ID# **10423614** when checking out.

Plan to come out and support RPES. In the past we have earned over $1,000 which has been used to purchase new books for our library and classrooms. Volunteers are needed the day of the event. Interested? Go to www. signupgenius.com/go/barnes31, password BN2011.

**Schedule of in-store events:**

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| --- | --- |
| 12:30-4:30 p.m. | Think Fun Games  Crafts, including an American Girl Doll craft, while supplies last |
| 1:00-1:30 p.m. | RPES Band performances |
| 1:30-2:30 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt with teachers & staff  Teachers and staff will be available for reading suggestions |
| 2:30-3:00 p.m. | RPES Chorus performance |
| 3:00-4:00 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt with teachers & staff  Teachers and staff will be available for reading suggestions |

Can’t attend the book fair in-store? You can shop online between March 27-April 1 and use our ID# at checkout for RPES to receive credit! Please let friends and family know about our book fair!

# Variety Show a Big Success!

Wow! What a great turnout, over 500 people, at the Variety Show! It was standing room only in the back of Julius West's APR. Thank you to all the performers and crew--you all did a great job! We so appreciate the help and support of many parent volunteers and teachers. A huge THANK YOU to our Variety Show Chairperson, Tonya Greenspan, who coordi­nated so many varied aspects of pulling the show together. Her enthusiasm and dedication to this year's show was in­spiring! It was great to see the many talents of Ritchie Park students shine at the show!

# *Two-Tone Tale* Assembly and Study Guide

In February, students assembled to watch *Two-Tone Tale*, a play about two kingdoms that have been enemies for years, even though the only differences between the people were the colors of their hair and clothing.  One day, Princess Tangerine of Orange Valley and Prince Cobalt of Blue Mountain, accidentally met. They discover that many of the terrible and hateful things they were taught about each other’s kingdoms were not true.  In the end, the Prince and Princess’ love and friendship break down the walls of hatred and unite the two kingdoms in peace.

*Two-Tone Tale* was more than just an exciting play to watch.  Using playful and fictional scenarios to make the point, the story weaves in valuable lessons about diversity, tolerance and acceptance.  Unfortunately, due to the many snow days and the MSAs in March, the follow-up workshops were rescheduled to June and the theme will not be linked to *Two-Tone Tale*.

However, if you have a teaching moment to discuss diversity and tolerance with your children at home, bring up *Two-Tone Tale*.  Ask why the people of the Orange Valley and Blue Mountain hated each other.  Are there people in to­day’s world who hate others because of the color of their hair? Is that a good reason for hating someone? Follow-up questions like these are on the study guide that Interact Story Theatre (www.interactstory.com) provided. It is posted on the PTA website, click “Download the Study Guide Here”, for parents and teachers to reference

The final Cultural Arts assembly for this school year is scheduled on Friday, April 15 at2 p.m. for 3rd-5th grades.  Adventure Theatre will present a play called "Just a Dream" celebrating Earth Day.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mar. 21, 7 p.m. | RM Cluster ES#5 Feasibility Study Work Session #2 of 4 |
| Mar. 23, 7 p.m. | JWMS Feasibility Study Work Session #4 of 4 |
| Mar. 27, 12:30-4:30 p.m. | Barnes & Noble In-Store Book Fair |
| Mar. 27-Apr. 1 | Barnes & Noble Book Fair Online Shopping |
| Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting in Media Center |

**Parent/Staff kickball** will take place on Monday, April 11 at 3:45 p.m. on the field located behind the school. Come out and join a combined staff/parent team to support our wonderful parents and staff. By signing up, you’ll get the chance to be on a team with one of your favorite staff members, have your children cheer you on, and have fun. We’re also looking for umpires, in addition, to team members. For more informa­tion contact Karen Watson, kmpk1969@yahoo.com. Help spread the word about this fun event.

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Tight Budget Proposes Education Cuts; Get Involved!

On March 15, County Executive Ike Leggett proposed a county budget for next fiscal year that reduces the Board of Education's FY2012 funding request by $82 million.  Of the $4.3 billion county budget, public schools would receive $1.4 billion. While this is the same amount of school funding as this year (FY2011), due to the large increase in student popula­tion and resulting expenses, the County Executive's proposal is, in effect, a reduction to the school system's budget.

If this cut to the school system is approved by the County Council, we will be faced with the potential conse­quences that are included in the Superintendent's List of Potential Reductions: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ departments/budget/fy2012/pdf/PotentialFY12BudgetReductions.pdf. The potential reductions include counselors, staff develop­ment teachers, paraeducators and lunch aides, instrumental music teachers, media assistants and many oth­ers.  To review the budget: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ombtmpl.asp?url=/content/omb/fy11/psprec/index.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ombtmpl.asp?url=/content/omb/fy11/psprec/index.asp).

**How can you express your views?**  Contact the County Council by e-mail and attend the Council's budget hear­ings.  Most of the Ritchie Park community resides in Council District 3, represented by Phil Andrews, while those who re­side in Montgomery Square, generally south of Aqueduct Road, are in Council District 1, represented by Roger Berliner.  We are also represented by four at-large members of the Council.  You can provide comments by e-mail to: c[ounty.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ounty.council@montgomerycountymd.gov), or regular mail at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, or by calling the Council's budget hotline at 240-777-7802. BE SURE TO PERSONALIZE YOUR LETTER AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS!  We have been told that the Council disregards letters that look like form letters or chain e-mails.  Tell them why public education is important to you and why the cuts that would need to be taken are not acceptable to you.

The Council’s public hearings on the FY12 operating budget are scheduled for April 5-7. The Richard Montgomery Cluster is expected to testify one of these evenings (likely the 6th or 7th) and we will be looking for school supporters to join us in spirit gear and with signs to show the County Council that quality education matters.  Also, individual residents may sign up to speak by calling 240-777-7803. (There are a VERY limited number of slots.)

Look for additional information in backpacks, on the listserv (have you joined yet?) and the next PTA Newsletter!

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Music and Arts on Rockville Pike for donating the use of an electric piano keyboard for the Variety Show.
* Fitzgerald Toyota for their generous donation to the Variety Show.
* Xavier Porter and Brad Jordan for their fantastic introductions of the *Two-Tone Tale* performances!
* Karen Watson and the Staff Appreciation Committee for organizing the staff Mardi Gras luncheon.