RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

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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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**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PAR­ENTS

### **March 23, 2012**

# Community Service Night a HUGE success!

# Thank you to all who donated food and participated in this year's Community Service Night on Mar. 8. Your excellent teamwork made an easy job of lunch- and craft-making for a local Women's shelter and the Children's Inn at NIH.  A gigantic Thank You to Marci Maged and Julie Baron who chair this wonderful and very important event!

# Thanks Everyone for Coming to the Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Thanks to the co-chairs of the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, Deb Purtell and Ana Tungcod, for making our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair a huge success. Thanks also to Mrs. Deutsch, the teachers, staff, and all the families who came out to support RPES, Ms. Davis and Ms. Kanowith, the students who played in the band and those who sang in the chorus.  If you are interested in Chairing or Co-Chairing the Barnes and Noble Book Fair next year, please contact Sharri Freedman (see side bar)  or this year’s chairs for more information.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

The April **PTA Meeting** will be on Tuesday, Apr. 10, the day students return from Spring Break. Please come out for the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

The next **Restaurant Night** will be at Mamma Lucia (Fallsgrove location) on Wednesday, Apr. 18. The May Restaurant Night will be at Elevation Burger on Wednesday, May 9 from 5-9 p.m.  We receive 10% of total sales. Hope to see you there!

It’s time for **Kindergarten Orientation.** Ms. Zegarra is taking names of children who will be incoming Kindergarteners at RPES next year. If you have a child who will be coming to RP, or know a friend or neighbor who will--please have them call into the office. Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for May 10 & 11.

**Boosterthon** is coming to Ritchie Park…*AND* you will want to be a part of this! The Boosterthon Fun Run program is a healthy alternative to traditional product sales that raises much-needed funds for our school. It has been proven to raise more than 50-150% more than other PTA fundraisers! The nine-day Boosterthon also promotes three specific values during the fun-filled program: Fitness, Leadership, and Character.

Boosterthon Fun Run Basics:

* The event will kick off with a 30-minute school-wide Pep Rally on May 14 and conclude on May 23 with the Boosterthon Fun Run event.
* Students get pledges towards the number of laps they will run at the Boosterthon Fun Run.
* Every student participates in the Fun Run, regardless of pledges raised, and receives a “Boosterthon All-Star” t-shirt.

How Can You Support Ritchie Park in this year’s Boosterthon?

* Connect your child to sponsors—friends & family—who can give a pledge.
* Come and cheer on your child at the Boosterthon Fun Run on May 23!

Go to www.boosterthon.com to learn more about the Boosterthon Fun Run. Or contact Laura Degnon, laura@degnon.org, or Jodi Gershoni, jgershoni@hotmail.com. More information will come home with your child prior to the event. This is the major PTA fundraising event for Spring! Thanks in advance for your support of Ritchie Park!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| **Apr. 18** | Restaurant Night at Mamma Lucia |
| **May 1, 9-11:15 a.m.** | Field Day |
| **May 9, 5-9 p.m.** | Restaurant Night at Elevation Burger |
| **May 10&11** | Kindergarten Orientation |
| **May 14** | Boosterthon Pep Rally |
| **May 23** | Boosterthon Fun Run |

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a Chair or Co-Chairs for **Ice Skating Night** next year. Planning and application submission starts this Spring for next year. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Eric Williams (see sidebar).

Volunteers are needed for **Field Day**, scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 (Rain Date: Thursday, May 3) from 9-11:15 a.m. If you are available to help, please call Ms. Svejda at 301-279-8475 or email her at Dana\_C\_Svejda@mcpsmd.org.

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Click to Advocate for Our Children

* Send an email to the Montgomery County Council to reduce overcrowding at RPES
* Sign the on-line “Stop the Shift” petition at www.stoptheshift.com

Send an email to the County Council members asking them to reject the County Executive's recommendation to delay the construction of RMES #5 by two years so that we can have some relief from overcrowding at Ritchie Park. A sample letter is on the PTA page of the Ritchie Park website and you can send it to **county.council@montgomery countymd.gov.**

And while you are clicking, please go to www.stoptheshift.com and www.change.org/petitions/no-pension-shift to register your opposition to Governor O'Malley's plan to shift half the cost of teacher and other pensions from the state to the counties. For Montgomery County, the proposed pension shift would cost $47 million in Fiscal Year 2013 and more in subsequent years. Counties (and the schools) should not be asked to assume financial responsibility for costs not of their making. For questions, contact Jennifer Young or Rich Hart, MCCPTA Delegates.

#  A BIG THANK YOU TO

* **Karen Watson** **and the Staff Appreciation committee** who held a Spring luncheon for the staff on Friday, Mar. 16.

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| Last Chance to check the Lost and Found The Lost and Found, located by the stage, in the APR/lunchroom is overflowing--4 boxes of coats, jackets, hats, gloves, etc.! Do they belong to your child? Any items not claimed by the end of the day on Mar. 26 will be donated to the Interfaith Clothing Center.  | Parking Space Auction WinnerThe Young/Winchenbach family is our winner from March until the end of the school year. Please DO NOT park in the Auction Winner space.  The RPES families who won the auction paid to have the space available at all times. Thank you! |