



The Rolling Terrace Tiger

April 2010

Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, April 14
- Report cards distributed
- Monday, April 19, 2010 - Spanish Immersion Program Open House
- Thursday & Friday April 14 & 15: Kindergarten Orientation (no school for current RT Kindergarteners)
- Thursday, April 22 - Math/Science night
- Tuesday, April 27th - PTA Meeting
- Friday, May 7th: Family Fun night
- Friday, May 14th: Art Show
- Monday, May 17th: evening Music Concert
- Wednesday, May 19th: International Festival
- Thursday, May 20th, 7pm: PTA Executive Board Meeting (all are welcome)
- Thursday, May 27th: Reading Night
- Thursday & Friday June 3 & 4 (tentative): RT Variety Show



Dear RT Families,

Hello from the tail end of an amazing winter! As I navigated through February's unprecedented snowfall, I was faced with the stark reality that sometimes we have to accept the circumstances we are dealt:

"Nature has no mercy at all. Nature says: 'I'm going to snow. If you have on a bikini and no snowshoes, that's tough. I am going to snow anyway'." -Maya Angelou

And so it snowed . . . and snowed. All the house "rules" that normally bind our family slowly faded as the T.V. called out with jingles and video games, and instead of the classroom, we had hands on physics lessons of speed versus resistance on sledding hills. It was a long, but good week.

We ate every meal together, and when we got low on supplies, we ate breakfast for dinner twice.

Letter from the PTA President

to plan or attend, I had time to think. And for a few precious moments, didn't think at all, but felt the joy of snow tunnels, girls against boys snow battles, and the moments of still silence that only come just after the snow has stopped and everything is wrapped in white.

Like these recent storms, we are sometimes all faced with circumstances we neither expected, nor needed at the moment. Yes, it was cold . . . yes, I washed snow pants repeatedly, and yes, my back, along with my poor husband's back, were strained from lifting the snow. But you just do it, somehow. (Even if you were smart and paid a nice teenager to do it for you!). You do, however, get it done. The challenge of caring, as I do, about this community, is answering the constant question of: "How do I get this done?"

I chose to see the joy in our snowed-in week, and simply accepted the unexpected trials that appeared (a few well taken Tylenol helped too!). That is how I will proceed as we move into

("Letter from the PTA President" continued from page 1) the latter end of this year at RT. We have funds to raise for the 5th grade, a leadership club character play to perform, courtyards to fix, mosaics to install, an international festival to celebrate, a variety show to organize, and much, much more. And we will always continue the work of making this community the best it can be, negotiating as we go to do what is best for our students and families.

So join me, the PTA, and your kids to make the remaining school year at RT dynamic and when the unexpected hits, have some tea, a cup of coffee, or a well-timed Tylenol, and make the best of it. Thirty inches of snow had to teach me something right? Be present, don't miss it!

All the best,,
Diana Combs
PTA President

Students Compete in Annual RT Geo Bowl

by Ginger Geertsema



On Tuesday, February 23rd, 12 teams of 6 students representing third, fourth and fifth graders competed in the Third Annual GeoBowl. The students began preparing for the event by completing an information packet distributed by the PTA back in October. All students who wished to test their knowledge of geography took a test in November, and the top 6 students in each English class became class team. The teams then chose a name and team color to begin their journey to the GeoBowl.

Fast forward to January. Each team had the chance to get together and practice, and they all decided on a captain or co-captains, team scribe and speaker. Students practiced during their library time, school time, or during indoor recess, which we know was often this snowy winter!

Each student did their best and the GeoBowl Committee was blown away by the enthusiasm and positive energy of the children, starting at the kick-off assembly in October. Every student who participated was recognized for being a part of this great event. The top scorers were as follows:

- 3rd grade - Golden Gaters of Ms. McElhennon
- 4th grade - The White Water Mississippi of Ms. Scarato
- 5th grader - Mean Green GeoBowl Team of Mrs. Vas

The PTA would like to continue to hold this worthwhile event every year, so if you're interested in volunteering to support it, please stay tuned for more information. Thanks to everyone who made this event possible. It took over 20 volunteers, and many very hard working students to make it happen, and every second of it was well worth it!



Second graders Josie Lisset, Sho Takeshita, and Leila Derstein smooth grout between the mosaic tiles.

RT Students Have a Big Hand in New Mosaic Mural

by Jennie Sniderman

The entire Rolling Terrace student body participated in creating the mosaic mural that is to adorn the entrance to the school. According to RT art teacher Elizabeth Leighton, "Every kid placed a piece. That's a goal. If they're absent it will be hard (but) participation is everything."

Under the direction of mosaic muralist Arturo Ho, the 4th and 5th graders came up with drawings for the theme of "The Four Seasons" at Rolling Terrace. The mosaic consists of two eight-foot diameter circles which will be mounted on either side of the main entrance to the school.

Each circle is bisected by a tree with one season on each side of the circle. Fall has leaves and books fluttering down from the tree, while spring sprouts letters and flowers. Squirrels and birds scamper and flit through the scenes.

Students were assigned specific tasks by grade level, which they carried out during art classes. The Kindergartners sorted blue and green tiles by tone; first graders placed the tiles into the design, and 2nd and 3rd graders glued the tiles to the backing board.

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(Mosaic, continued from page 3) "I like that we get to work with tiles, and that it's realistic, and it doesn't have to be perfect." said Katalina Kastrong, a 3rd grader. On March 9, 1st and 2nd graders began the grouting process, spreading blue tinted mud-like grout between the tiles with sponges. Even the Pre-K students were able to contribute by using cookie cutters to stamp out shapes from clay. The pieces were fired, then glazed by the 1st graders. The handmade tiles, in the shapes of fall leaves, books, flowers, insects and alphabet letters are drifting, growing or flying throughout the four panels of the mosaic. The children completed their work on March 12 and parent volunteers then helped with the grouting.

The Mosaic Project has received a \$1250 grant from the Takoma Park Small Community Grant Program and a PTA mini-grant of \$400. The Rolling Terrace Community contributed \$524. These funds will pay for materials and the artist's fee. However, funding is still needed for

installation of the mosaic. The Department of Facilities Management will install the pieces on the exterior walls of the school later in the year. The Mosaic Committee has applied for additional funding from the Takoma Foundation, and Rolling Terrace will have a fundraising dinner on Tuesday, June 15 at Mark's Kitchen to raise money for the installation of the mosaic. If you would like to donate to the project before then, please send a check written to "RT PTA" with "mosaic project" on the memo line to the PTA Treasurer: Donna Victoria, 1104 Merwood Dr., Takoma Park, MD 20912. In addition, a volunteer is needed to make a flyer for the June 15 fundraiser, If interested, please contact Lois Wesel at: lois.wessel@gmail.com If you'd like to donate tiles or volunteer for next year's mosaic project, please contact Jennie Sniderman at: jenniesho@hotmail.com

Leadership Club Holds Helping Hands Campaign

by Diana Combs, PTA President

Thanks to every family who sent in small change during the "Change for Change" coin drive for Haiti Earthquake relief. We collected roughly \$2000!! Spectacular job! Leadership Club students helped collect change from each classroom along with sorting and wrapping coins. Who imagined we could collect so many coins? I really tried to stress to them the importance of every penny. When they saw such large amounts, I think it hit home that even the smallest penny, when combined with so many, can make a big difference.

Due to the unprecedented snow fall and school closures, the Leadership Club meetings for February were cancelled. The Washington Animal Rescue League's visit was rescheduled from February. The Leadership Club is currently working on a character education short skit for an assembly in April. Parent volunteers for hands-on work with kids are always needed. Please contact me at dianacombs@earthlink.net for details.

Again, thank you for supporting earthquake relief funds for Haiti.



Additional opportunities to donate can be found at:

<http://clintonbushhaitifund.org/>

<http://www.usaid.gov/haiti/>

<http://www.redcross.org/>

RT Immersion Program Lottery Now Underway

by Georgiana Jiminez, Spanish Immersion Coordinator

The elementary immersion lottery process for the school year 2010-2011 started on February 1, 2010 with a deadline of April 23, 2010. If you are interested in the immersion program we invite you to visit the website for more information, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms. Please note that siblings of current immersion students in grades K-4 interested in attending also need to submit an Immersion Interest Form. If you have any questions, please call Georgiana Jiménez at 301-431-7600.

El proceso de lotería para asistir a programas elementales de inmersión para el

año escolar 2010-2011 comenzó el 1 de febrero de 2010 y tiene fecha límite del 23 de abril de 2011. Si están interesados en el programa de inmersión les invitamos a que visiten la página de internet para más información,

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms. Importante: los hermanos de estudiantes en el programa de inmersión en los grados K-4 que están interesados en asistir al programa, también necesitan someter la forma de pedido, Immersion Interest Form. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame a Georgiana Jiménez al 301-431-7600.

Help Wanted

Wanted: Editor for PTA newsletter to begin Fall 2010. If interested, please contact Cait James at: caitlin.a.james@gmail.com.

The Rolling Terrace Tiger

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Please send items for the next issue to
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