RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

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### **January 13, 2011**

# It’s Time to Get Things Started! The most sensational, inspirational, celebrational….RPES 2012 Variety Show!!!

The Variety Show is here and you don’t want to miss it! This year, we are stepping it up a notch and moving the show to the stage at Richard Montgomery High School’s auditorium. There will be dances, songs, piano solos, skits, and even a new ex­citing act called “The Diablo”. Come see your friends shine as they perform their greatest talents! It will be a night you won’t want to miss!!!

When: Friday, January 20, **6-9 p.m.**

Where: Richard Montgomery High School Auditorium

\*\*5th Grade Promotion Committee will be selling refreshments during intermis­sion.

# Cultural Arts Assemblies in December

In December, the students at RPES were treated, courtesy of the PTA, to some terrific assem­bly programs from the Maryland Science Center.

K-2 students enjoyed a program called Brain Benders where the scien­tists performed numerous demonstrations that were discrepant events.  Out­comes were unexpected and astonishing, and these events did not appear to follow basic “rules of nature.” Can you pick up a bottle full of rice using only a skinny wooden stick?  How about turn over an open flask full of water and not have water fall out?  The scientists performed these seemingly impossible tasks with little effort and explained how these things that looked like magic are ac­tually science. Brain Benders program was a wonderful way to get the kids ex­cited about science and left each student with a scientific eye for everyday ob­jects.

Grades 3-5 viewed a different program called Arcs and Sparks.  The stu­dents learned all about electricity – how it is created and how to control it by using insulators and conductors.  We learned that humans can conduct electric­ity, so can hot dogs and even a pickle. Water is an insulator but the salt in the water makes it a conductor.  Student volunteers constructed a model of how electrons move through a wire and even participated in a hair-raising experience involving a 125,000 volt electrostatic generator. Thanks to the Arcs and Sparks program, we now know the truth about why the inside of a car is safe during a lightning storm.  It is NOT the rubber tires.  Rather, it’s the metal caging around the car that keeps us safe inside. Who knew that learning about electricity would be so shocking!!! Our next assembly will be on Monday, January 30. The Smithsonian Discovery Theater will present a play called "How Old is a Hero," ex­ploring the civil rights movement.

# FUNDRAISING FORUM

**ELMO UPDATE:** Due to curriculum changes, Ms. Long has additional funds in her budget that she has decided to use to purchase 3 additional ELMOs and projectors.  These 3 additional ELMOs will be put in the K-2 classrooms and will enable every K-2 teacher to have an ELMO in their class! We still need 4 additional ELMOs and projectors so that the Grades 3-5 teachers will have an ELMO in every classroom. Ms. Long said “They are in constant use!” Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.  Remember employer matching programs too! If you need a donation form, please go to the website where you can download the form, or contact Sharri Freedman (see side bar).

**Restaurant Nights:** Ledo Pizza night was a huge success earning us $241! Look for more exciting Restaurant Nights in the months to come.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **Jan. 18** | Operating Budget Hearing at Carver Educ. Services Building |
| **Jan. 17, 5:30-9 p.m.** | Variety Show Rehearsal |
| **Jan. 20, 6-9 p.m.** | Variety Show at RMHS Auditorium |
| **Jan. 26  2 p.m., 7 p.m.** | Winter Instrumental Music Concert |
| **Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting in Media Center |
| **Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.** | Cluster Choral Concert at RMHS Auditorium |

The next **PTA Meeting** will be on Tuesday, Feb­ruary 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

**Music and Dance Night** will be on Friday, Febru­ary 24 from 7-9 p.m. in the RPES APR and Gym. It's cold outside, so come warm up and have fun dancing with your friends to the DJ's music! Also, we’ll be collecting canned food donations for **Manna Mania** that evening.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Variety Show: We still need ushers, joke writers and other parent volunteers to help the show run smoothly. Any ques­tions contact Tonya Greenspan, tonyagreenspan@ymail.com. Sign up at www.signupgenious.com/go/ritchie, password: varietyshow2012

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Operating Budget Hearing January 18th

On Wednesday, January 18th, Cheryl Peirce, one of the RM Cluster Coordinators, will testify before the Board of Education on the MCPS FY2013 Operating Budget.  You can find a copy of the Budget at www.montgomeryschoolsmd. org/departments/budget/. The $2.13 billion budget request represents a 2% ($41 mil­lion) increase over last year's budget, and is the lowest requested increase in more than a decade.  The budget meets the state's "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE) law, which requires a county to fund education at the same per pupil level as the year before (taking into account increases in enrollment) or face a penalty. This proposed budget assumes the same level of local per pupil funding as last year. The proposed budget protects the classroom, with no reduction to school-based staff.  The majority of the $41.4 million increase falls into four areas:  growth in enrollment of 1.7 percent; em­ployee benefit and insurance costs; inflation, materials, and other expenses; and employee salaries and compensation.  While the budget does not contain any new initiatives, it underscores the Superintendent's intent to optimize funding for professional development, intervention for under achieving students, and community engagement.

The RM Cluster supports the Superintendent's budget and will urge the BOE to do the same.  The testimony will identify budget priorities for our cluster and provide information on how each school in the cluster, including Ritchie Park, has been affected by previous budget cuts.  We cannot afford to reduce per pupil spending any further.  We need you to come out on January 18th to the Carver Educational Services Building to support our cluster testimony by wear­ing your Ritchie Park shirts and making known our commitment to high quality education.  The time of the testimony has not yet been announced, but we will let you know when it is and it should take no more than an hour of your time.  Please contact Jennifer Young or Rich Hart, your MCCPTA Delegates, for more information.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

**Parking Space Auction Winner:**  The Greenspan family is our winner for Dec.-Feb. Please DO NOT park in the Auction Winner space.  The RPES families that won the auction paid to have the space available at all times. Thank you!

* **Lauren Hetrick** for keeping the Birthday Board updated every month!