RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

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**Angie Dixson, Secretary**

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**Steve Schuck, Treasurer**

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

**Jennifer Young, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Past President**

young.jennifer@gmail.com

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**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs**

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**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

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**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

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301-424-0663

**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

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WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PAR­ENTS

### **May 4, 2012**

# Congratulations to our 2012-2013 PTA Officers

Thank you to these volunteers for putting their time and effort in making our school a better place.

President: Eric Williams  
President-elect: Paul Carlson  
VP Programs: Joanne Faulkner  
VP Fundraising: Kara Hall  
Treasurer: Steven Schuck  
MCCPTA Delegates: Jennifer Young and Richard Hart  
Secretary: Rachel Hicks

# Let’s Celebrate RPES’s Teachers and Staff

During May all public schools celebrate **National** **Staff Appreciation Week.** This year, RPES’ Staff Appreciation Week is being celebrated May 3, 4, and 7-9.Our theme is “Rocketing Us to Success.”

The remaining events planned for Ritchie Park’s Staff Appreciation week are:

* Monday, May 7: Lite and Healthy lunch will be provided for the staff e.g. various salads and healthy entrees
* Tuesday, May 8: That’s Amore - Italian Lunch
* Wednesday, May 9: Gift card raffles

If you would like to contribute to RPES's Staff Appreciation week of events please check your child's binder for information or contact Karen Watson, kmpk1969@yahoo.com.  Thanks in advance for any help you may provide.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Restaurant Night** will be at Elevation Burger on May 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. Elevation Burger is located at 12525 Park Potomac Ave, Bldg G, Unit D, Potomac, MD.

**Kindergarten Orientation** for next year’s kindergarten students is May 10 & 11. There will be no school for our current kindergarten students on those two days. This enables our staff to learn a little about our incoming students and the new students have an opportunity to meet our amazing staff.

It is very helpful to the school to have all incoming kindergarten students enrolled before July 1. If you have any neighbors with children who will turn five years old by September 1, please suggest they enroll their child this spring rather than waiting until August.

If you are available to help out, **we are looking for volunteers** on Thursday, May 10 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m.) and  Friday, May 11 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) Please email Meredith Berlin, mberlinx2@msn.com.

**Arts and Science Fair is coming!** The Fair will be held on Thursday, May 17 at RPES from 7–8:30 p.m. The PTA- Sponsored Fair is an opportunity to showcase your talent in Art and Science in a non-competitive, fun evening.  Please remember that it’s never too early to start developing your project, but be sure to sign-up by Thursday, May 10. The Sign-up form can be found on the Friday E-News and on the PTA webpage.

Our Fair will also include student art work that was created at home! Questions? Call  Adina Topfer at 240-453-0731 or email at Adina.topfer@ gmail.com.

**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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| --- | --- |
| **May 9, 5-9 p.m.** | Restaurant Night at Elevation Burger |
| **May 10&11** | Kindergarten Orientation |
| **May 11, 9:30 a.m.** | 5th Grade to JWMS |
| **May 14** | Boosterthon Pep Rally |
| **May 17, 7-8:30 p.m.** | Arts and Science Fair |
| **May 18** | 5th Grade Class Pictures |
| **May 23** | Boosterthon Fun Run |

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!

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**Recycled Book Swap.** When you are doing your Spring cleaning, please save any K-5th grade appropriate books for the Recycled Book Swap at the end of May. More details to come, but please save your books so students can swap them for other books at the Book Swap!

**Sidewalk Chalk Donations Requested.** As the days get hot, many students are looking for a fun activity that doesn't involve as much running around. If you have any sidewalk chalk to donate, our recess staff and students would appreciate the gift.

**Help needed at lunch and recess.** As the school year winds down, we still need volunteers at lunch and recess. Please come help in the lunchroom and on the playground. Donations of hand sanitizer for the lunchroom are always welcome!

# ADVOCACY CORNER: Changes to Special Education Services Burden of Proof

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) MCCPTA adopted a resolution that supported state legislation that places the burden of proof on school districts in Individualized Education Program (IEP) disputes.  All students who receive special education services requires an IEP.  Currently, the burden of proof in a dispute is on the party disputing the IEP which, in practicable terms, results in parents and legal guardians having to demonstrate a school district's noncompliance.  The Ritchie Park Delegates voted for adopting the resolution based on receiving a 2 to 1 response in favor of the resolution. For questions, contact Jennifer Young or Rich Hart, MCCPTA Delegates.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO

* Jennifer Young for working on the revisions to our By-Laws.
* Erin Lobato, for chairing, and Karla Berggren and Eric Williams for their participation on the Nominating Committee.