RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEWSLETTER

2010-2011 RPES PTA Officers

**Jennifer Young, President**

young.jennifer@gmail.com

301-309-8764

**Rachel Hicks, President-Elect**

rachelginac@aol.com

301-294-7364

**Sharri Freedman, Fundraising VP**   
sharribeth@aol.com

301-251-4478

**Karla Berggren, Programs VP**

Karla\_hunt\_berg@yahoo.com

301-424-8878

**Angie Dixson, Secretary**

angiedixson@aol.com

301-340-7266

**Carrie Hirshfield, Treasurer**

chirshfield@yahoo.com

301-605-7009

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

**Cheryl Moss Herman, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs and Cluster Coordinator for RM Cluster**

hermanfour@msn.com

301-610-6634

**Richard Hart, Delegate to MoCo Council of PTAs** **and Past President**

theharts99@yahoo.com

301-424-3446

**Marquette Heaven, Membership Chair**

marquetteheaven@aol.com

301-294-6540

**Randi Freundlich, Communications Chair**

[rwfreundlich@gmail.com](http://us.mc1121.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=rwfreundlich@gmail.com)

301-424-0663

**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

Catherine\_L\_McCoskey@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

**Catherine Long, Principal**

Catherine\_Long@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

MaryEllen\_Dixon@mcpsmd.org

301-279-8475

WWW.MONTGOMERYSCHOOLSMD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RITCHIEPARKES/PARENTS

### **February 4, 2011**

# PTA IN ACTION: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM

The PTA sponsors a Cultural Arts Program to bring in assemblies and other activi­ties that enhance the edu­cational expe­riences and achievements while making learning fun. The committee members attend showcases put to­gether by MCPS to evaluate performances and workshops. The committee identifies the pro­grams that can best rein­force the materials taught in the classrooms such as math, science, lan­guage, history, etc., or those programs that can enhance other skills, such as team building, respect for alternative viewpoints, and awareness and ap­preciation of dif­ferent cultures and tra­ditions.

The Cultural Arts committee, in collaboration with the administrators and teachers, selects the performances and workshops that will be brought to RPES. The committee works with the various vendors to arrange and schedule the per­formances. When possible, the committee also applies for grants to ob­tain addi­tional fund­ing to stretch the Cul­tural Arts Program budget even further. The out­comes are quality assemblies by artists such as Brian Curry, Joe Romano, and Yvette Lewis who transform the arts, math and reading into something fun and ex­citing.

Coming on Fri., Feb. 18, Interact Story Theatre (www.interactstory. com) is returning to present **"Two Tone Tale"**-- an exciting tale celebrating diver­sity and tolerance. This will include assemblies for K-2 and 3-5th grade along with play­writing workshops for 3-5th grade on Feb. 22, 24, and 28. Each class will partici­pate in three- 45 minute workshops. Students will invent and perform their own play.

The Interact Story Theatre program is being funded primarily with a $2000 grant from Target and a $1900 grant from Maryland State Arts Council. 

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Variety Show Previews** are Tues. and Wed., Feb. 8 and 9 in RPES’ APR from 6:45-8:45 p.m. Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/rpes and enter pass­word: RPES2011, to sign up for a time slot for Previews.  Please limit your rou­tine to 5 minutes.  Ar­rive 15 minutes before your scheduled time and bring your materials with you. Contact Tonya Greenspan at tonyagreenspan@ymail.com with questions.

A Show needs more than performers!! We need ushers, a stage crew, stage decorators, program designers, and more Parent Volunteers to help. Stage decorators and program designers may also be asked to sell snacks during inter­mis­sion on show night. Sign up to help put the show on and see you at Previews!

**Valentine's Day parties** will be held in the classrooms at 2 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 14. Contact Class Room Parents if you would like to help with the parties. Help is also needed before the party in pur­chasing and preparing items, so contact your Room Parent if you would like to help with preparations or during the party.

**7th Annual "Snack Sacks for the Homeless" Community Service Night** will take place on Thurs., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the APR. Students and their families will be making and assembling 350 meal bags for area homeless. The Chase Shelter and the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless will be the benefi­ciaries of this year's project. Students will also have the opportunity to make a few crafts for the Children's Inn at NIH Thoughtful Treasures Project.

Each grade will bring certain items to go in the meal bags. We are requesting each child bring the following: Kin­dergar­ten - Granola bars, 1st Grade - Sliced deli meat, 2nd Grade - Loaf of bread, 3rd Grade - Sliced cheese, 4th Grade - Fruit (apples, oranges, fruit cups, applesauce cups), 5th Grade - Snacks (individual servings of pretzels, chips, or crackers).

# Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 8&9, 6:45 p.m. | Variety Show Preview of Acts |
| Feb. 10, 7 p.m. | Family Math Night |
| Feb. 14, 2 p.m. | Valentine’s Day Parties |
| Feb. 15, 7 p.m. | RM Cluster ES Chorus Concert RMHS |
| Feb. 17, 7 p.m. | Snack Sacks Community Service Night |
| Feb. 25 | Last Day To Turn In Box Tops |

Check your child's backpack for a flyer and additional informa­tion about the event. Food donations can be sent in with your child the week of Feb. 14. If you would like to make a cash donation to the chari­ties, please make checks payable to the Ritchie Park PTA and de­signate "Snack Sacks for the Homeless" in the Memo.

Volunteers at the event and drivers to deliver food to the shel­ters, which are located off of Gude Dr., are greatly needed. If you are able to volunteer your time for an extremely wor­thy cause, please con­tact Marci Maged, magedpr@aol.com or Julie Baron, [juliebaron@verizon. net](mailto:juliebaron@verizon.net). Thanks in advance for your support!

**SAVE THE DATE:  3RD ANNUAL BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR** will be on Sun., Mar. 27 at the store on Rockville Pike. There will be guest readers, choral and band performances, games and more!   Online sales will run Mar. 27 to Apr. 1.  Plan to be there to support our school!  Look for flyers in back packs.

# ADVOCACY CORNER: CONTINUING FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The Feasibility Studies for an addition at Julius West Middle School (JWMS) and for new construction of RM Elementary #5 have begun. Architect selection is complete and dates have been set for the Feasibility Advisory Committee public meet­ings. Each meeting builds upon the last, and they are open to all even on an intermittent basis. The committees will work with the architects to provide a series of options that will meet the program needs of the schools. The com­mittees will also select preferred options at the end of the process. These committees will not be discussing potential boundary changes for our cluster.

While MCPS’ usual plan is to work with existing PTAs/PTSAs at schools where additions or construction is con­tem­plated, this is not possible for RM Elementary #5 as it is a new school. Moreover, since the composition of the school population will not be known until a boundary study is completed in the 2013 timeframe, representatives from all four elementary schools and their communities are being invited to participate. Similarly, while MCPS is working pri­marily through the JW PTSA, the reality is that the prospect of an addition at JW will affect most of us. This is because a majority of our current elementary students could be at JW during construction, or for those in the lower grades, would benefit by an addition at the school. **The Feasibility Advisory Committee meetings and/or the final Community Pres­entation are an excellent way to stay informed and participate in the process.**

These two new feasibility studies join an already completed Feasibility Study for an addition at RPES and on-going studies for additions at Beall and Twinbrook ES. MCPS intends to take all of these studies and its new enrollment projec­tions this summer and make a “comprehensive RM cluster” recommendation next fall.

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| **RM Cluster ES #5 Feasibility Study (all meetings at Hungerford site at 322 W. Edmonston Dr.)** | | | **Julius West MS Feasibility Study (all meetings at JWMS)** | | |
| Work Session #1 | Mon., Feb. 28 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #1 | Wed., Feb. 2 | 3 p.m. |
| Work Session #2 | Mon., Mar. 21 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #2 | Thurs., Feb. 24 | 7 p.m. |
| Work Session #3 | Thurs., Apr. 7 | 4 p.m. | Work Session #3 | Wed., Mar. 9 | 3 p.m. |
| Work Session #4 | Thurs., Apr. 28 | 7 p.m. | Work Session #4 | Wed. , Mar. 23 | 7 p.m. |
| Community Presentation | Thurs., May 12 | 7 p.m. | Community Presentation | Tues., Apr. 12 | 7 p.m. |

**The County Council will be hearing testimony** on its Capital budget on **the evening of Feb. 8**. Watch your e-mail for addi­tional details; community support is essential. Questions? Contact Cheryl Moss Herman, see sidebar.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

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| * Julie Mintz for chairing and all the volun­teers for a fun Music & Dance Night. | * Karen Watson and the Staff Appreciation Committee for hosting a "Halfway to Summer" luncheon for the staff. |