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

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### **May 6, 2011**

# ADVOCACY CORNER

**PTA Adopts Resolution Against Office Space at New Elementary; Your Participation Needed on May 12**

At its May 4 meeting, the Ritchie Park PTA adopted a resolution strongly opposing the co-location of County-owned office and training facilities on the site of the proposed Richard Montgomery Elementary School #5 (RM ES #5). MCPS is conducting a feasibility study for this school to be built at the site of the current Children's Resource Center (CRC), 332 West Edmonston Drive (off Wootton Park­way).  If built, this school will serve students from throughout the RM Clus­ter, in­cluding Ritchie Park.  CRC currently houses early childhood programs staff, a par­ent resource center and a daycare.  Current proposals under discussion include plans for a jointly-developed site that would include BOTH RM#5 and CRC of­fices and adult-training facilities (but not the daycare), either as separate stand-alone buildings and a multi-story parking garage or with the offices as a 4th story added to the school building.  Please read the separate flyer coming home with details on the feasibility study, the PTA's resolution against co-location, and how you can vote for a school-only option at the final Facility Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. held in the CRC multi-purpose room.

**Contact County Council to support Education Funding**

The County Council recently withdrew its request to waive state "Main­ten­ance of Effort" requirements.  This is a signal that education spending in the County will be lower than it has been in the past. Watch the listserv for additional details and contact the County Council at: County.council@montgomerycountymd. gov to share your views before May 16.

# NEW PTA OFFICERS for 2011-2012 School Year

#  At the PTA meeting on May 3rd, PTA members elected the PTA Officers for next year. We are still, however, search­ing for someone to serve as President-Elect next year and then move on to President the year after (2012 -2011 school year). We need to have someone in place by the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition and continued suc­cess of the PTA. The PTA Officers for next year are: President, Rachel Hicks; President-Elect, Open; Vice-President Programs, Karla Berggren; Vice-Presi­dent Fundraising, Sharri Freedman; Treasurer, Steve Schuck; Secretary, Angie Dixson; MCCPTA Delegate, Vincent Mickens; and MCCPTA Dele­gate, Jennifer Young. Congratulations to the new officers and thank you to the Nominating Committee, Erin Lobato, Randi Freundlich, and Vince Mickens, who worked hard to ensure a smooth election process.

# Final Cultural Arts Assembly: Just a Dream

Adventure Theatre’s play Just a Dream was the final assembly of the school year.  Through Walter’s journey of dreams, we learned how our actions can impact the Earth.  When people use Earth’s resources unwisely, our world be­cause polluted and resources are depleted. Walter wakes from this nightmare and becomes determined to prevent his

terrible dreams from coming true.

At the end of the assembly, the cast of Adventure Theatre presented a certificate to Ritchie Park for being envi­ronmentally aware.  They also presented an Eastern Concord Grape Vine to be planted on RPES grounds.  Ms. Dobridge happily accepted the certificate and plant on behalf of everyone at Ritchie Park. A big thank you goes out to Julia Robins for her great introduction to the performance! The study guide for this program is posted on the PTA website.

# Beautifying Our School on Clean-up Day

The Community Service Committee and Green Team organized an After School Clean-Up Day on Friday, April 15 on school grounds. Thank you to all students and families who participated in this first-ever event! There was a terrific tur­nout and lots of work was accomplished.  Participants col­lected trash, recyclables, and yard waste from around our school property, and also planted Black-eyed Susan seeds and perennial flower bulbs. Many faculty and staff members stopped by to help as well!  We hope everyone celebrated Earth Day in their own way during the month of April.  Re­member, every day is Earth Day!

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| --- | --- |
| May 12, 7 p.m. | Feasibility Study for RM Cluster ES#5 |
| May 19, 7-8:30 p.m. | Arts and Science Fair |
| June 7&8 | Book Swap |
| June 7, 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting in APR, followed by Volunteer Tea |

The PTA is happy to present the **2011 Arts and Science Fair** on Thursday, May 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the gym. There will be displays from each grade along with individual science and art projects. Mrs. Stultz will display the children's artwork at the fair as well. Mad Science will also have a table at the fair.

We are still looking for parents/grandparents who are scientists and would like a chance to display their work and teach our children about what they do. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer please contact Adina Topfer, adina.topfer@gmail.com, or Kristen Swiggett, kswiggett@comcast.net.

**Calling all Book Lovers!** The Ritchie Park Book Swap is back and we need books! Please set aside any gently used K-8th grade level books that could be donated to our Book Swap! *We are in particular need of books suitable for older readers (think 5th – 8th grade*). Our goal is for each student to take home a “new” book for the summer regardless of whether they donate one, but this requires some generous donations!

Books will be collected at the end of May (more later) and the Book Swap will take place during school hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7 and 8!  Please con­tact Erin Lobato, erin\_lobato@hotmail.com, with any questions or to volunteer to help!

The last **PTA Meeting** of the year will be on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the APR. At the meeting we will be voting on approving the budget for next year. Also, a Volunteer Tea is planned after the meeting to honor the volunteers who helped during the school year.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* Karen Watson for organizing Staff Appreciation Week this week. The PTA was able to purchase a coffeemaker and flatware set for use by the staff in the Teacher's Lounge. Many thanks to the wonderful staff we have here at Ritchie Park!
* Kim Testa, our Cultural Arts Chairperson, who referred the Joe Romano program we had this year to Lake Seneca ES and earned our PTA a $100 referral check for her efforts.
* Cat Goodyear, our Community Service Chairperson, who along with the Green Team, organized an Earth Day after school grounds clean-up and planting event. The playground looks great! Thank you to all who participated in this fun, productive event.
* Nancy Eisner and Meredith Berlin for organizing Kindergarten Orientation. We had about 80 families come through with new little Panthers that will be here for Kindergarten next year. Thank you also to the many volun­teers that assisted with the Orientation.
* Lisa Bosse and Stephanie Hart and Holly Mulderig for organizing the Spring Carnival and Silent Auction. It was lots of fun in spite of the weather.
* All of our great Field Day volunteers! There were over 35 parents helping with Field Day on Tuesday. Your help sup­porting a super Field Day experience for our children is greatly appreciated.