RITCHIE PARK ES

PTA NEW­SLET­TER

2011-2012 RPES PTA Officers

**Rachel Hicks, President**

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

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

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

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**Catherine McCoskey, Teacher Representative**

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**Catherine Long, Principal**

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**Mary Ellen Dixon, Asst. Principal**

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### **October 21, 2011**

# PTA Reached 200 Members Goal!

Thanks to all of our Proud Panther parents and staff who have joined the PTA; we are over 200 members strong.  If you have not yet joined, please remember that if you join the PTA by Monday, Oct. 31, you will be entered to win a $50 gift certificate to an amazing local eatery. Membership forms are available on the PTA webpage.

# Halloween Parade and Parties

# This year, students will celebrate Halloween at RPES on Friday, Oct. 28 beginning with a parade at 2 p.m. Please make sure that all costumes are appropriate.  Students will not be allowed to wear any costume deemed inappropriate by school staff (costumes that bare the midriff, etc.) and may not bring any weapons with them to school.  Classroom parties will imme­diately follow the parade.  Weather permitting, the parade will be outside and family is welcome to attend and see all the creative costumes.  Contact your Room Parents to assist with the Halloween party for your child's class.

# MARK YOUR CA­LEN­DARS

**Pizza Bingo** will be held Friday, Oct. 28 from 5:30-8 p.m. at St. Raphael's Trumpet Room across the street from Ritchie Park. There will be pizza and salad from Potomac Pizza, drinks and snack from the Fifth grade promotion team, ice cream sundaes for sale, and, of course, bingo games with great prizes! $15 suggested donation per family at the door. Enjoy a fun night out with the whole family! Wear your Halloween costume for the parade! Volunteers are needed.  Please contact Maria Doyle, maria@broadsoft.com, or Jeanie Glasser, mjglasser@verizon.net, or sign up now at: www.SignUpGenius.com /go/rpes3

The **November PTA Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Babysitting will not be pro­vided for this meeting. Come out and hear all the programs and events the PTA has planned along with important advo­cacy information. Hope to see you there!

**Skating Night at Cabin John** **Ice Rink** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 6:30-8 p.m.  The Fifth grade promotion team will be selling pizza, soda and waters.  All skate tickets and pizzas must be purchased in advance so look for the up­coming flier to make your family skate night reservations.

We have another fabulous **Restaurant Night** scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 5-9 p.m. at Elevation Burger in Park Potomac.  Hope to see you there!

**International Night** is Thursday, Nov. 17!  Please put this date on your calen­dars and plan to bring your children to Ritchie Park for a fun evening learning about other countries and cultures and highlighting the diverse population of RPES.  If you are interested in representing a country (or a U.S. state), please contact Rodney Peele at [rpeele@aoa.org](mailto:rpeele@aoa.org).  You need not have ties to a particu­lar place to present it at International Night – just have a passion for introduc­ing RPES students to the amazing world around us!  Whether or not you desire to attend or present at International Night, if you would like to help coordinate the International Night activities, then please consider volun­teering for the International Night Steering Committee to help set the stage for a great event.  Again, contact Rodney Peele at [rpeele@aoa.org](mailto:rpeele@aoa.org) for more information.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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| **Oct. 28, 2 p.m.** | Halloween Parade and Parties |
| **Oct. 28, 5:30-8 p.m.** | Pizza Bingo at St. Raphael’s |
| **Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m.** | PTA Meeting |
| **Nov. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.** | Cabin John Skate Night |
| **Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.** | MCPS cluster meeting on CIP budget |
| **Nov. 9, 5-9 p.m.** | Elevation Burger Restaurant Night |
| **Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.** | RM Cluster CIP testimony before BOE |

# FUNDRAISING FORUM

 We have raised $4,820 in our campaign to put an ELMO in every classroom!  Thank you to everyone who donated so far!  These funds will enable Ms. Long to purchase three ELMOs this Fall. We now need to raise money to purchase 7 more to reach our goal of one in every classroom - 25 in all! Please consider a donation (with a corporate match!) today. You can download a donation form from the PTA webpage.

# WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

**Yearbook** Help us capture memories for our children to last a lifetime! We are looking for the following:

* **Marketing/Sales** - responsible for all marketing re­lated to the sales of the yearbook, including the collec­tion and ac­counting of orders and sales. Marketing will begin in January and the sale will begin in March. This person(s) will also assist in distribution of the yearbook in June.
* **PHOTOGRAPHERS** - We must have pictures to make a yearbook!  Please, please, please take pictures at all events!  There are so many things coming up we need pictures for...Pizza-Bingo, Restaurant Nights, Ice-Skating Night, and all other school-sponsored activities, classroom activi­ties, cafeteria, field trips, recess, etc. If you are at school, bring your camera! Superior quality pictures are not necessary -- only a minimum 3MB is required. E-mail Michelle Logsdon at [michelle.logsdon@verizon.net](mailto:michelle.logsdon@verizon.net) for direc­tions on how to e-mail or import your photos.

# ADVOCACY CORNER

Please mark your calendars for two meetings that you will want to attend.  The first is Monday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Richard Montgomery HS at which MCPS will have staff present to answer any questions RM Cluster parents have about the Superintendent's recommendations to the Capital Improvements Program Budget that he will be releasing on Oct. 28.  The CIP Budget will contain the comprehensive solution that MCPS is proposing to deal with the overcrowding in the RM Cluster.  It may include the new elementary school off Edmonston Dr., a new addition to Julius West and a new addition to Ritchie Park, Beall and/or Twinbrook.  In this fiscal climate it is unclear what the recommendation will include and when the construction will start.  Come to this meeting on Nov. 7 to find out!

If you can come out for only one night to support an end to overcrowding at RPES, Julius West, and the other schools in the RM cluster, please come Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. to the Carver Educational Building for the RM Cluster testimony before the Board of Education on the Superinten­dent's CIP recommendations.  Ritchie Park's own Cheryl Moss Herman, one of the RM Cluster Coordinators, will be testi­fying.  It is crucial to have a huge turnout of parents to show the BOE that these CIP projects matter to our families and that we urgently desire a solution to the overcrowding that has stressed our schools, staff and students.  We do that by filling the seats with RPES parents wearing their RPES shirts!

  Finally, check the RPES website for the links to the resolutions that your Ritchie Park Delegates to MCCPTA will be voting on at the next Delegates Assembly.  There are now two resolutions regarding the teen curfew in Montgomery County proposed by County Executive Ike Leggett that may be offered -- one in support of the curfew and one in opposi­tion to the curfew.  You can make your views known on this issue by contacting Delegates Jennifer Young or Rich Hart or President Rachel Hicks.

# A BIG THANK YOU TO…

* All the parents and grandparents who attended a **Volunteer Orientation** session.  Over 100 people have been trained to volunteer in-school this year. Your time and effort are tremendous contributions to our school.