Letter from the PTA President

To the Rolling Terrace Elementary School Family:

Welcome back to school! If you are new to our family: Welcome! We are glad you are here. This year, we are honored to have Ms. Arienne Clark-Harrison as the new Assistant Principal. Please welcome and introduce yourself to her.

Some other new faces are our PTA officers. My name is Anissa Green, and I am this year’s PTA President. My fellow officers are: Tim Johnson and LaTonya Abrams, Vice Presidents; Victoria Roberts, Secretary; and Parry Wilson, Treasurer.

The PTA cannot function without parents, teachers, and the school administration. We all need to work together for the betterment of our children and/or students. That’s why it’s important for you to join the PTA. I have only one important reason as to why you should join: our children need us! There are various ways you can participate in the PTA, but the first way is to sign up and pay your dues.

The membership form is included in the back of this newsletter and can be returned to the main office or at any PTA meeting. I look forward to meeting you. Remember: Leave your mark on Rolling Terrace Elementary School!

With hugs and kisses,

Anissa Green, PTA President

Letter from the Assistant Principal

Dear Rolling Terrace Families,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Rolling Terrace community as the Assistant Principal. I was very excited to first meet some of the children, families, and Rolling Terrace Staff at the ELO summer program at Takoma Park Elementary. I was even

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more excited to welcome everyone back to Rolling Terrace for another wonderful school year!

To tell you a bit about myself, I was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi where I graduated from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, a publicly funded boarding school housed on a college campus. Afterwards, I attended Brown University where I received a dual degree in Educational Studies and Public Policy and later completed my graduate work at New York University in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Throughout my schooling, I was trained in classical ballet, performing with Ballet Mississippi as well as co-directing a student-run dance company while at Brown. I also played the cello throughout my high school years.

For the past three years, I was awarded the great opportunity to serve the children of Washington, DC as an elementary school principal. I have also taught diverse communities of learners in New York City, Providence, RI, and Washington, DC in independent schools, public schools, and was part of the founding faculty of a charter school in Rhode Island. Through my experiences, I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from very talented and committed educators who have helped to shape my career as a public school educator. I am certainly looking forward to my work with the dynamic, motivated faculty and staff at Rolling Terrace.

I truly look forward to working with all of you this year as we continue to develop a nurturing learning environment in which all of our children thrive academically and socially. Thank you for offering me such a warm welcome!

Warmest Regards,
Arienne Clark-Harrison,
Assistant Principal

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Keeping Kids Safe During Morning Drop Off

In order to keep all of our students and families safe during the morning drop off, it is important that we follow the rules (and model the rules) for pedestrian safety. When dropping off students by car in the morning, please pull into the Rolling Terrace driveway where staff on duty will help to guide cars and get students safely to the sidewalk.

Please avoid dropping students off on Bayfield Street where they must cross the street and driveway to make it safely to the building. We want to ensure that when students must cross the street that they cross at designated crosswalks. Thank you for supporting our efforts at keeping every student safe while traveling to school.

--- Arienne Clark-Harrison, Assistant Principal
Student Leadership Club to Start in October

by Diana Combs

This year, the Rolling Terrace (RT) PTA has approved funding to start up a Student Leadership Club. Thank you PTA!

Why is student leadership so important? The goal of the group will be simple: Get kids involved in their school in order to promote a feeling of ownership and responsibility. The larger goal put forth by the school itself this year is: “One Community. One Dream”. How will your kids take part in that goal?

Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES) has several ways kids can play leadership roles that you may already be familiar with, such as Safety Patrols or making the morning announcements. Kids are also encouraged through character development, or “Tiger Traits” to always do their best. The hope is that this club will be an interactive addition to these leadership opportunities that are already in place.

So what can kids really do?

You’d be surprised! There are many ideas, such as a school store, reading to kids in other classrooms, fundraising for charity, actively helping out at RTES events, and more. While all of these may not occur within the first year, the hope is to build on what we begin this year.

Lastly, our goal is to begin a dialogue about what leadership means; this goes beyond charity, teacher rewards, and so on. By being a “Kid Leader” at RTES, the child commits to contributing to an all around climate of making the right choices and enhancing relationships with other students, which we hope to convey, IS being a leader. Among the goals of the group will be to give kids the tools, the language, and steps that they can take to be a good example of an RT “Kid Leader”.

While planning projects, goals, fundraisers, and community building activities are wonderful ways for kids to take ownership at RTES, imparting what leadership really means as a character trait has to be a big part of the equation. I hope many parents will also see the benefits of such a club, and join me in supporting the group with volunteer time – whether attending meetings or helping the children follow through with goals they set.

We will hold monthly lunchtime meetings for children in 3rd through 5th grades. Lunch, drinks and snacks will be provided. The first meeting is planned for mid-October. Parents of younger students, we need you too! While logistically including the younger grades at meetings would be difficult, there WILL be opportunities for younger children to participate (hands on) with future student leadership activities – such as the food drive.

A co-facilitator(s) is needed to help plan meetings, make copies, brainstorm ideas, etc. Please contact: Diana Combs at dianacombs@earthlink.net for more information.
Leave the Car Behind: Walk to School on Wednesday, October 8th

by Kerri Hufford

October 8 is annual “Walk to School Day,” where Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES) and schools around the country encourage students to find safe routes to walk or bike to school. The goal is to promote more physical activity, emphasize safety in using crosswalks, identify potential hazards that prevent more people from walking or biking to school, decrease congestion of cars around schools (which can be a safety issue), and help decrease pollution.

At RTES, we will be encouraging students and parents to meet at Long Branch Garland Park (on Garland Avenue, one block down from Piney Branch Road). We will meet there at 8am, have light, healthy refreshments (fruit, water, etc.), and walk to the school together at about 8:20. We are asking everyone to wear red. (Our crowd will really stand out in the same color!).

If you live close by, try walking from your house. If it is not feasible to walk from home, here are some suggestions: Park at Long Branch Library and walk to the park (my own family will be walking from that area, leaving the library around 7:40 am): park on Domer Avenue, which is off Flower Avenue, and walk down Domer, which ends at the park. There are crossing guards in that area.

There are many other things you can do to get the message across to kids about the value of walking or biking and to promote safety: Identify some places that would be feasible to walk to instead of driving to in your area (and do it!). Emphasize how to use a crosswalk, and to obey what a crossing guard says.

Please contact Kerri Hufford (301-650-1925, bandkhuff@comcast.net) if you can volunteer on “Walk to School Day.” We need someone to take pictures, help with set up and clean up at the park, identify other routes people can walk from, and hand out trinkets. Ideas are always welcome. Hope to see you there. Remember to wear red!

Learn all about Europe & Asia!!

The Rolling Terrace PTA is sponsoring the second annual GeoBowl, a complementary geography curriculum for all 3rd through 5th graders. Last year was such a success and the students learned so much about Africa and the Americas.

This year we’re focusing on Europe and Asia. The packets were distributed on Friday, Sept 26 and they are due back by November 7. The program is optional, but the school is encouraging all students to participate. If you would like to help with this program or if you have any questions, please contact Katie Sebastian at: katieseb@gmail.com or 301-891-3653.
PTA Sub-Committee on Food Allergy Awareness Forming

by Caitlin James

From nausea, to hives to anaphylactic shock to death. This is the range of reactions a food allergy can cause. One mistaken bite of food or a trace amount picked up from a smear of food can bring about a reaction. People with food allergies must be vigilant at all times about what they are eating – or for those with severe allergies – about what trace amount of an ingredient they come in contact with. For children, dealing with all this can be a daunting challenge when their parents are not present.

Three members of the Rolling Terrace (RTES) community, including myself, Georgiana Jimenez, a 1st and 2nd grade Spanish immersion teacher, and Shana Grossman, an RTES parent, have started a Food Allergy Awareness Sub-committee of the PTA Nutrition Committee. All three of us have children with food allergies and are concerned about making RTES a safer place for children and staff with food allergies. A crucial step in this process is to raise the awareness of the community about food allergy safety issues.

The idea for the group surfaced last year when my daughter, who has severe peanut allergy, was in Kindergarten. Everyone I talked to at RTES about her allergy was extremely kind and helpful about accommodating her needs. However, with each request I made or question I raised about her safety, I often felt like I was re-inventing a wheel that should already exist, since I was certain she was not the first child at RTES with food allergies. For example, well into the school year, classmates’ parents were sending in homemade food for school celebrations because they were not aware that Montgomery County Public Schools’ (MCPS) policy is that all food items sent in for celebrations must be store-bought with labels listing their ingredients.

As a result of such experiences, I started to think it might be a good idea to reach out to others in the school with children with food allergies so we could work together to make things easier in the future for children and staff who suffer from food allergies. Before long, I had met Ms. Jimenez and Ms. Grossman, and we discovered we had similar ideas about what could be done. For example, we realized we could encourage teachers to make parents more aware from day one of the policy (which is published in the RTES Parent/Family Handbook) about sending only store-bought, labeled food for class celebrations.

Since our main concern is that students with food allergies at RTES feel safe and included at school, Ms. Jimenez quickly pointed out that this is very much in keeping with the school’s Character Development program – the part that encourages “respect for all.” It’s important that classmates of children with food allergies understand why they shouldn’t offer food to others in the lunchroom or why a classmate with a food allergy may be sitting at a special table. The concept of “respect for all” provides a framework for teaching students about such a classmate’s situation.

Our sub-committee has other ideas as well. For example,

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we plan to use the funding the PTA has awarded us to start a food allergy library with books and videos to be used as a resource for teachers or other members of the RTES community who would like to learn more about food allergies. We also plan to provide useful information and tips to staff, parents and the PTA about preparing for school events and field trips where food is to be offered.

In addition to articles like this one, we’ve begun promoting awareness about food allergies in other ways; Ms. Jimenez made a presentation about food allergy issues to the entire RTES staff at a professional meeting at the beginning of this school year. As a result of our group’s advocacy efforts, the RTES kitchen is now peanut-free. (Students still bring peanut butter in their lunches from home, but the daily third menu option in the cafeteria this year is grilled cheese instead of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.) In addition, the RTES kitchen is seafood-free due to staff food allergies.

We also hope to get members of the RTES community, especially the new student leadership club, involved in fundraising events to promote food allergy awareness.

We plan to hold several sub-committee meetings during the school year. If you are interested in joining, please contact: Caitlin James (caitlin.a.james@gmail.com, 301-412-2633), or Shana Grossman (parryshana@hotmail.com).

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**Parents Can Help Shape the Vision for Rolling Terrace**

by Caitlin James

Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES) parents have the opportunity to get involved in the continued development of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which describes the school’s vision, mission and goals. This work is done at monthly meetings of the School Improvement Leadership Team. These meetings are held in the RTES Media Center on the last Thursday of every month at 3:15 pm. Principal Jennifer Connors requires that parents inform her at least 24 hours in advance if interested in attending.

The Leadership Team’s purpose is to develop,

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**MSA Results for Rolling Terrace Available Online**

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is an annual assessment program that tests grades 3 through 8 in reading and mathematics. The MSA results are used in the calculation of whether a school met the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets specified in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. In the next few months, MCPS will also be reporting the results of the science assessment at grades 5 and 8 and at the high school level. Science results are not part of the AYP calculation. Parents of children who took the MSA received a report in the mail. Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES) met AYP in all categories in 2008. To view RTES’ MSA results for 2008, please go to: http://mdreportcard.org/Assessments.aspx?K=150771&WDATA=School
implement and monitor the RTES SIP, according to Mrs. Connors. The plan for the 2008-09 school year will be posted on the school’s website (http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rollinges/) by October 17. In addition, the plan will be reviewed at PTA meetings and a hard copy can be sent home upon request to Mrs. Connors.

In addition to the Leadership Team’s monthly meetings, there are five sub-committees related to the goals of the SIP. All RTES professional staff sit on one of these sub-committees. Parents can also get involved in the monthly sub-committee meetings, which are held after school on the 2nd Monday of every month (unless there is a school holiday). However, Mrs. Connors asks that interested parents either commit to a year-long involvement with a sub-committee, or let her know if they would like to make a one-time presentation to a sub-committee on a particular issue. If the interested parent is not able to attend a meeting, they can still contact Mrs. Connors about the issue of concern and Mrs. Connors or a member of the sub-committee will bring it before the sub-committee. After the meeting, the parent will receive feedback.

The five sub-committees are: Family Involvement, Character Development, Math/Science, Language Arts and Gifted and Talented. The sub-committees will have their first meeting on October 13 at 3:15 pm. Please contact Mrs. Connors (Jennifer_Connors@mcpsmd.org, 301-431-7600) if interested in getting involved.

PTA Mini-grants Available for Special Projects

by Laura Kriv

Got a great idea for a school or classroom project? The PTA mini-grants committee wants to fund it! The mini-grants program offers small grants to Rolling Terrace Elementary School (RTES) parents, teachers and staff. Mini-grants can fund special projects or items for your classroom and/or grade. They can also pay for special programs, activities or field trips. Last year, PTA mini-grants funded twelve programs, such as:

• The Author Study -- which sponsored local children’s author Mary Downing Hahn to speak at RTES about writing and publication of her children’s books.

• The Extended Day Program - - after-school tutoring services focused on math, reading vocabulary and comprehension skills.

• The Latin American Dance Event -- a fundraiser in support of field trips for the fourth grade.

• RTES Puzzle Solvers -- a borrowing library of puzzles for teachers, students and parents.

The RTES PTA has approved $3,600 for mini-grants projects for the 2008-2009 school year. Applications will be sent out in early October. Classroom teachers, specialists, parents and staff can submit applications individually or in groups. We encourage all to be creative and apply!

Stay tuned for more mini-grants information to come. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the program, or just want to talk through a project idea that needs support, feel free to contact mini-grants chair, Laura Kriv (laurakriv@starpower.net).
Sally Foster and Cookie Dough Fund Raiser
Going on Now

by Simone Harris

The Sally Foster fundraising drive is one of the major sources of funding for the Rolling Terrace (RT) PTA every year, so everyone’s participation is strongly encouraged. Forms were sent home in students’ backpacks in early September, and are due back to homeroom teachers by October 8. The Sally Foster items will be available for pick up on November 11 and 12 during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Cookie Dough items will ONLY be available on November 12.

There are many incentives to motivate RTES students, staff and families to sell: The top two sellers (both top dollar and top item amount) receive grand prizes from the PTA. All students who sell 15 or more items will be invited to a pizza party. There will be an ice cream party for the homeroom class in each grade (K-5) that has the highest level of participation. The top-selling RTES staff member will receive a $25 gift card. Feel free to contact the fundraiser co-chairs with any questions: Simone Harris (simonebh27@yahoo.com (301)563-6525), or Alma Orellana: (301)649-7509.

Volunteer Needed to be Cluster Representative

by Tom Jacobson

The Rolling Terrace (RT) PTA currently has an opening for Blair Cluster Representative. I am happily filling this role, and have done so for the past few years, but would like to find someone who would like to join me in the role this year, with a view toward eventually replacing me. As each year goes by, I feel an ever-stronger need to build the capacity of our PTA and the Blair Cluster’s PTAs in general.

For those who may not know, the term "Blair Cluster" refers to Blair, Kennedy, Northwood, and Einstein High Schools, and those middle and elementary schools which "feed" into them. RTES is one of those elementary schools.

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in education and public policy, especially as it affects our school and community. Here are the basic roles and responsibilities of the position:

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Many Hands Involved in Staff Breakfast

Thanks to all who contributed to the staff “Back-to-School Breakfast” on Monday August 25. Many parents brought delicious dishes to the event, held the day before school started.

Contributors included: Sarah O’Herron, Pam Lanford, Diana Combs, Marie Broussard, Helen Johnson, Kathryn Medland, La Tonya Abrom, Anissa Green, Angela Guthrie, Gary Cardillo, Donna Peang-Meth, and Sara Cartmill. Thanks so much for your help. Special thanks also to the Four Corners Starbucks for donating 3 gallons of coffee and cream!

We’ll put together another meal for the teachers and staff when the first report cards come out in early November, so start looking for those recipes!

--- Ginger Geertsema, Staff Appreciation Coordinator
• At a minimum, the person filling this position is required to attend the monthly Blair Cluster meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month, held in one of the local schools, and to report back to the RT PTA at our monthly Board of Director meetings.

• The Cluster Representative is periodically asked to help prepare the PTA testimony on budgetary matters for the Board Of Education. This writing task rarely exceeds a paragraph or two, but does require some coordination with the RT PTA, including the Principal.

• The Representatives have the opportunity to attend meetings on issues affecting our Down County Consortium schools (Blair, Kennedy, Northwood, Einstein, and Wheaton).

• The Representatives also help with some of the administrative tasks related to PTAs, such as coordinating with their PTA on updating the bylaws, being sure that the PTA insurance is paid and that the treasurer and membership chair have submitted membership dues to the county and state PTAs.

The Cluster meetings are very informal affairs. If you think you may be interested, you are encouraged to join me in attending a meeting or two to learn more. To discuss the position further, please contact: Tom Jacobson (tjacobson@starpower.net, 301-589-0966).
FREE MONEY FOR ROLLING TERRACE!
Compiled by Ann Treadway

Here are some easy ways to raise money for Rolling Terrace when you shop:

**Giant**  October 3, 2008- April 2, 2009  Cash/ based upon sales
If you shop at the Giant please register to support Rolling Terrace (ID#00918) at your local store or on the internet at [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com). Last years registration is no longer valid so please re-register for the current school year. The Media Center staff will register for you if you fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to Rolling Terrace.

**Safeway**  October 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009  1%-3% powered by escrip
Safeway’s program will be powered by escrip. To register on line go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Please designate Rolling Terrace (ID#6559057) as your school to support. While registering for Safeway at escrip check out the other stores that are also part of this program. Some are Macys, Eddie Bauer, Payless Shoes, Orvis and TruGreen Chemlawn.

**Food Lion**
Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to Rolling Terrace. Please register at [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) and select Rolling Terrace Elementary School.

**Target**  On-going program 1% Back to Schools
Each time you use a Target Visa or a Target Card at a Target store or online a donation equal to 1% of the sale will be donated to the school you have selected. Please register at any Target store using Rolling Terrace ID#58185. You may also register on line at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com). Select Company/Community giving, and then School fund raising program.

**Office Depot**  On-going 5% to be used for school supplies
When you shop at Office Depot, tell the cashier you would like to support Rolling Terrace Elementary School (ID#70047456) and 5% of you purchase will be assigned to the school. You can also make purchases on line.

**Box Tops for Education**
When you buy General Mills products clip the box tops for education label and bring it to school for collection. The collection box is located in the main hallway, on the concrete bench by the Health Room.

**Other Ways to Raise Money**
For information about other ways you can raise money for Rolling Terrace when you shop online, visit the following link: [http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/](http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/)

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Welcome to another terrific year at Rolling Terrace Elementary School. The teachers, staff, and our children work hard and learn together throughout the year. As parents and families, we can show our support and help out by joining the PTA. Your membership is a great way to participate and make this year successful.

Your PTA dues money helps pay for MANY programs and events during the school year. This past year, PTA dues helped provide:

- Mini-grants to support teachers’ special projects and/or classroom materials
- Family events including the Kindergarten picnic, Craft Fair, Family Fun Nights, & carnival
- Geography Bowl, a PTA-sponsored enrichment program for our kids

This year, our PTA goals include:

- Scholarships to support wider participation in after school programs like Hands on Science
- A Student Leadership Program to encourage our kids to take an active, positive role in the school community

Help make these programs and many others possible, and show your school spirit by joining the PTA. Please feel free to contact our PTA officers or membership coordinator with questions.

Thank you,
Rolling Terrace Elementary School PTA

Officers: President: Anissa H. Green, Home: 240-450-0761, Cell: 301-648-4969 rtpta_pres@yahoo.com
Co-Vice Presidents: LaTonya Abroms, 240-988-3943, skekenikki@aol.com
Tim Johnson, 301-408-4117, twjohnson61@aol.com
Treasurer: Parry Wilson, 301-946-9634, parryshana@hotmail.com
Secretary: Victoria Roberts, 301-562-1150, victoria.a.roberts@gmail.com
(Membership coordinator: Sara Cartmill, 301-585-6604, saracart@comcast.net)

Your Name: ____________________________
Child’s Name: ___________________________ Grade: ____________
Phone Number: _________________________
Email Address: _________________________ (please print carefully)

By providing us with your email address, you will receive notices on the Rolling Terrace PTA Listserve.

Please make checks payable to RT-PTA

Membership Categories: (please circle one – dues are paid one time per year)

Basic Member: $10/Year Contributing Member: $25/Year Sustaining Member: $30/Year

May we contact you to help with an event this year? YES NO

Please return your completed form and payment to the Rolling Terrace Front Office, or mail to:
Sara Cartmill, 2403 Holman Ave, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910