



# The ECHO

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March/April 2008

## President's Corner

We had a great turnout for the February PTA meeting, where Christopher Valle, financial adviser with Ameriprise Financial Services, spoke about ways to save for college. The March PTA meeting will be Tues., Mar. 4, at 7 pm. Terri Reese and Elaine Parks will be presenting revised by-laws for our consideration. Monique Felder, the new Elementary Program Supervisor for Gifted and Talented, is our guest speaker. She will talk about global screening and the test instruments used to identify children as gifted and talented. This portion will be particularly interesting for parents of second- and third-graders.

While it seems the end of the school year is far away, the PTA is already making plans for next year. We are looking for parents to volunteer for jobs which will be vacant, as well as a few new positions for the 2008-2009 school year. Please consider what you can contribute next year to make RCV a better school for our children. I know sometimes people are afraid of the feeling of "what I have gotten myself into?" Let me assure you that whatever volunteer activity you choose, you will see the results and know the rewards. I know that I have! Because

volunteers ran a fund-raiser, the PTA was able to purchase a laptop to help teachers with curriculum planning and rain ponchos for the patrols. Other volunteers know the joy of organizing Family Fun Night, seeing the kids and their families have so much fun and screaming, "Go on! Go on!" Whatever you chose to help out with—whether it's a board position or helping to sell books at the Scholastic Book Fair—I know you will find it rewarding and your child will notice.

We have many fun PTA activities coming up. First, we have our spring Family Fun Night on Friday, March 7, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. In April, we will celebrate International Night on Sunday, April 13. Please look for fliers regarding these activities in your child's Friday folder. RCV spirit wear will be sold at all PTA-sponsored functions. And be on the lookout for the new RCV PTA website: coming soon!

As always, if you have suggestions or comments on anything the PTA is doing, don't hesitate to contact me at [enovatny@verizon.net](mailto:enovatny@verizon.net) or at (301) 871-7430 or contact a board member. Thanks!

Liz Novatny, RCV PTA President

## Thank You!

Thank you to Dawn Zambrano and Kelly Durr for organizing the class Valentine's Day parties, and to all of the parents who made their child's class party special! Additionally, thanks to Kari Moskowitz and the teachers for making Reading Night so successful and fun for the kids!

## Important dates to remember

- **Mar. 4**-PTA meeting 7pm
- **Mar. 7**-Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30 pm
- **Mar. 21-28**-No school
- **Apr. 1**-PTA meeting 7pm
- **Apr. 7**-No school
- **Apr. 13**-International Night 5:30-7:30 pm
- **Apr 14-18**-Scholastic Book Fair

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Save money and the environment with these easy steps

**Plan on a night of fun with your kids! Family fun night: March 7, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Bingo! Pizza! Door prizes! Get your tickets now as space is limited. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$6 per family and children must be accompanied by an adult. Armand's pizza, soda and snacks will be sold. Forms were sent home in Friday folders last week, so don't delay... send in your payment today!



## Green Tip: Easy steps to save gasoline!

Here are a few tips passed along in *Parade* magazine recently, reminding us that Americans use 140 billion gallons of gasoline for their cars each year. Let's cut our usage and protect the planet. Here's how:

- **Watch your speed.** Your car uses less gas at 50 mph than at 70 mph.
- **Use cruise control.** Maintaining speed saves gas; avoid jackrabbit starts and screeching stops.
- **Avoid long engine warm-ups.** Even in cold weather, today's cars don't need them.
- Shut off the engine if you're idling for more than a minute or so (especially at the drop-off at Rock Creek Valley!).
- **Keep your vehicle aerodynamic.** Remove roof racks when not in use.
- **Don't buy a four-wheel drive** unless

you truly need it. Choose the vehicle with the smallest engine you can live with.

- **Maintain your car.** Use a clean air filter and good plugs. Empty the trunk and back seat; weight costs gas and every pound counts.
- **Consolidate errands.** Organize a to-do list beforehand and plan routes to shorten travel time. Cut back on driving when possible. Once you're there, try walking for all errands you can accomplish on foot in 10 minutes or less.
- Another one: **Keep tire pressure near recommended levels.** Low tires use more gas.

Happy travels, and drive green!

Colleen Anderson  
Green Schools Coordinator

## Reflections award winners

Special congratulations to two RCV students. Joshua Wojnar's photograph was awarded an Award of Excellence from MCCPTA and selected to move on to the Reflections competition with the Maryland PTA. Megan Pianalto's writing, *Inventing Things*, was awarded an

Award of Merit, a special recognition at the MCCPTA level. All of the entries that went on to MCCPTA are scheduled to be recognized at a ceremony on April 23 at the Black Rock Center. Please watch for more details as the event draws closer!

## County PTA news from your PTA delegate

On February 11, MCCPTA representatives and others from schools across the state went to Annapolis to meet with legislators, ask questions and be sure that they have not forgotten us in Montgomery County. Reportedly, our county was well represented and those from other Maryland counties were impressed with our turnout. Dr. Grasmick spoke of her perception that the state of Maryland is on the right track and is leading the way in achieving at high levels. One big item

of interest that was shared was a bill going to the General Assembly that would give a tax credit for volunteers. This would be welcome for all who give many hours to help the PTA! The evening was complete with goody bags put together by Clarksburg 4H and presented to legislators. PTA Night in Annapolis is scheduled annually and they aim for the second Monday in February. All are welcome to attend.

Elaine Parks, MCCPTA delegate