



The ECHO

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2008

The ECHO

President's Corner

What a beautiful spring day! Finally, we have some warm weather and it reminds me that we are fast approaching the end of the school year. With that in mind, the PTA is looking for some parents to volunteer to fill positions for the 2008-09 school year. Please take a minute to look at the attached list and descriptions of positions which are open. If you enjoy working on the computer, then be our website coordinator! Want to know more about what is happening county-wide with the Montgomery County PTA, then volunteer to be our MCCPTA delegate! If you have any questions about these positions, please don't hesitate to contact Colleen Anderson, 301-603-0240, soleillune@verizon.net or Martha Curtin, 301-871-6655, kmcurlin@comcast.net who are on the nominating committee.

There have been many fun activities recently at RCV. I hope that everyone enjoyed experiencing the different cultures that our RCV families come from at International Night. I know that I enjoyed the great variety of foods from around the world. Scholastic Book Fair was again another great success, giving our students an oppor-

tunity to purchase some interesting books for their summer reading.

Thank you to Ms. Gail Handwerker, RCV school counselor, for being our guest speaker at the April PTA meeting. She spoke to us about learning to listen to our children and handling conflict with them. I told her that I could have used that lesson while my children were on spring break.

Next month's PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, May 6th. Since this is our last official PTA meeting of the school year, we will be officially voting on next year's PTA officers as well as discussing new ideas for the coming year. Our slate of officers for the coming school year are: Liz Novatny, PTA President; Colleen Anderson, First Vice President, Social; Meg Goodman, Second Vice President, Fundraising; and Susie Van Gieson, Secretary. We are still looking for a Treasurer which is a critical position within the PTA. The executive board also agreed to combine the recording secretary and corresponding secretary into one position. Please join us at this very important meeting!

Liz Novatny, RCV PTA President

Thank You!

Thank you to Colleen Anderson for organizing the Family Fun Night with me! The Armands' pizza was great and everyone enjoyed Bingo!

Thank you so much to Rosa Hall for coordinating this year's International Night! It was so exciting to see all of the cultures represented at RCV and to eat the great food!

Thanks to Sharon Beckham and Sylvia Barnes for organizing the April Scholastic Book Fair and Pizza Night. Thank you to all of the parents who worked at the book fair.

Important dates to remember

•**May 2**-RCV Treasure Island auction, 6:30-8:30 pm

•**May 6**-PTA meeting, 7pm

•**May 20**-RCV career day

•**May 3**-multi-school environmental clean up, 10-1

•**May 26**- NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day



Inside

Stream clean-up 2

Green tip: reduce use of plastic bags 2

Idea for family fun: Maryland Day 2008 2



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Join us May 3 to clean up our stream

Here's your chance to make a difference as we mark Earth Day 2008. Rock Creek Valley is spearheading the effort of numerous groups in our neighborhood to clean up our stream, Sycamore Creek, which leads into Rock Creek.

We'll meet at the Russett Road entrance to Rock Creek Park for the clean-up on Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring your own water bottle. We'll have gloves for you—but you could reuse your own. Wheelbarrows are welcome.

Among the groups taking part, in addition to RCV's SERT Team and the RCV PTA, are: Aspen Hill Civic Association, Barnsley ES PTA, Wood Middle School PTA, Millian Methodist Church, and Girl Scouts Junior Troop 968 and Brownie Troop 2929.

See the flier that went home in the Friday folders on April 18.

For more information, contact Colleen Anderson at soleil-lune@verizon.net or (301) 603-0240.

See you May 3!

Colleen Anderson
Green Schools Coordinator

10th Annual Maryland Day at University of Maryland

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a day of learning, exploration and fun with 400 hands-on exhibits, workshops and live performances all on the campus of our world-class university. Plus, 50,000 cupcakes will be served!

Saturday, April 26,
10 am to 4 pm, rain
or shine. U. of MD
campus

Parking and admission are free. Visit www.marylandday.umd.edu for more information.



Green Tip: One action for Earth Day: Cut our use of plastic bags

Your actions count! Here are some tips to help you reduce the consumption of single-use plastic and paper bags. Here are some easy steps, courtesy of www.reusablebags.com.

Top tips to reduce plastic (and paper) bag consumption:

- Start using reusable shopping bags. Find the right styles and designs to suit your taste and lifestyle. Take a look at the web site for ideas.
- Refuse a bag. Cashiers are programmed to keep the line moving and don't always stop to think or bother to ask if you need a bag. If you don't need one, don't take a one.
- Reuse plastic bags you have accumulated as garbage liners.
- Start using Ultra Compact bags,

which are great since people tend to forget their bags when they go shopping. Ultra Compact bags are small enough to stash in your purse, jacket, backpack, or car, so one is always handy.

- Get stores to offer cash credits if you bring in your own bags.
- Open your eyes to how many bags you consume: keep count. For instance, if you have a giant plastic bag holding plastic bags in your closet, take 5 minutes and count how many you have. OR, count how many plastic and paper bags you go through in a week.
- Cut down on plastic produce bags by bringing your own reusable produce bags.

For more information, see www.reusablebags.com.