



The ECHO

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

October 2008

The ECHO

President's Corner

The first month of school is over and we are halfway through the first marking period: that went fast!

This year the PTA will be focusing its efforts, and money generated from fundraising events, on activities or items that will directly benefit our children and help the RCV staff in educating our kids. While there are many ideas floating around on how we can accomplish these goals, I welcome any suggestions on how you think the PTA can better serve our children. Please feel free to call or e-mail me or one of the PTA officers with your ideas. The list of PTA volunteers and their positions is attached to this month's newsletter.

We still need volunteers to help out with several PTA activities. Even if you cannot take on a project, we could use your help even in small ways, such as volunteering to serve pizza at Family Fun Night or helping to make copies of the *ECHO*. Many hands make light work!

The PTA will be sponsoring several events in October. First up is the monthly PTA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m.

Thank you kindly!

The RCV PTA would like to give a huge thanks to Brian Pianalto and Martina Skoglund for all the time and hard work they put in to create the new web site. It looks great! If you see them, be sure to thank them for their quality work.

I also would like to thank Martha Curtin for organizing the Aug. 25 welcome breakfast and the dinner for the RCV staff on Back-to-School night. Thanks also go to all of the parents who made food for these events, and to all who helped set up and clean up. I know the staff appreciated all of the food and enjoyed it immensely.

Thank you to Victoria Kurtz and all the parents who helped scoop ice cream at the Ice Cream Social. Much fun, as usual!

And our appreciation to Sylvia Barnes for organizing another successful Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks also to the parents who worked at the book fair.

Important dates to remember:

Oct. 3-Sally Foster orders due

6:30 pm

Oct. 7-PTA meeting 7 pm

Oct. 13-Parent visitation day at RCV

Oct. 10-Family Fun Night

Oct. 18-RCV yard sale

in the Media Center. Free babysitting will be available.

Our annual Family Fun Night is set for Friday Oct. 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a great night of bingo for the entire family! Get you tickets early, since there is limited space. We will have a drawing at FFN for a gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Everyone who has joined the PTA by paying dues and filling out a membership form by October 9, will be entered into the drawing. At month's end we'll have the annual Halloween party and parade on Oct. 31. Start planning your scariest costume!

If you haven't already done so, please check out our new web site at www.rcvpta.org. You will be able to find contact information for all board and committee members as well as forms and dates of upcoming activities. (Note the unfilled positions and determine where your name belongs!)

I look forward to seeing many parents at the Oct. 7 PTA meeting and hearing ideas on how the PTA can better serve our school and children.

Meg Goodman, RCV PTA President

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The ECHO features a monthly **Green tip** in the newsletter to help us learn about energy conservation and recycling/reusing. It will focus on simple ways to save energy and contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. After all, it's our children who will benefit from our efforts as they will be living on this planet for many years to come.

New this year!



The RCV PTA has a web site! Please visit our site and view all that is going on with the RCV PTA at www.RCVPTA.org Issues of the ECHO are available as well as information about PTA activities and opportunities.

Green tip: save energy at home!

Here are some easy things we can do around our homes that will make a big difference in saving energy and resources at home:

- Turn your thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Lowering (or raising) it by just one degree can reduce heating energy costs by about four percent.
- Use ceiling fans in the summer AND winter. Reversing the direction of the blades in the winter causes warm air to be pushed down, keeping rooms warm.
- If you are shopping for any major appliances, purchase one with an Energy Star rating. For example, compared to a 1990 model, an Energy Star-qualified refrigerator would save enough electricity to light a home for more than four and a half months.

• Repair leaky fixtures. One drop of water per second from a leaky faucet can waste as much as 10 gallons of water each week.

• Install low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets. Low-flow faucets reduce water consumption and the cost of heating water by as much as 50%; using a low-flow toilet can save 2.1 trillion gallons of water and \$11.3 million nationwide every day.

Source: The National Building Museum's upcoming exhibit entitled, "The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design"



PTA delegate brings YOUR voice to county PTA

I accepted the position as delegate to help keep the RCV community informed about issues and events within the county, but I need help from someone, possibly you! I am unable to attend the monthly (yes, only 1 time per month) evening meeting which would afford RCV an opportunity to learn about issues more quickly, have a deeper understanding about issues, and



vote on issues at hand. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Carver Center. If you can help even sometimes it would be

great. I am happy to answer questions about the meetings and the delegate position.

Please watch the RCV e- group for current information as it becomes available. I was able to submit the responses from a few parents about the proposed school calendar. There is a workgroup looking at the many changes that happened this year to include beginning school on a Tuesday, the ½ day before Thanksgiving, and ½ days for parent-teacher conferences in middle school. I will let everyone know as recommendations from the workgroup are brought forward.

Elaine Parks, elaparks@verizon.net
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From the Reflections Chair

It's Reflections time again! This will be the 4th year that RCV has participated in this arts based competition. The theme this year is "Wow!" which has many exciting possibilities. Packets of information will be sent in Friday folders by the end of this month and will also be available in the front office.

Important things to know: Students may enter as many times as they want. They can write, draw, paint, sing, take a photo, make a video, and/or write a song or piece of music.

Entries are due at RCV by Friday, November 21. Entries will be displayed at the December PTA meeting.

They will be judged by a selected group of art experts and the top four entries in each category move on to the county level competition.

The national PTA website has a nice overview as well as links to the winners from last year at <http://www.pta.org/2032.asp>. RCV-specific Reflections information will also be posted on the RCV website as it is finalized. If you would like to join the Reflections committee and take part in this very exciting and worthwhile project, please contact me. Thanks!

Elaine Parks, elaparks@verizon.net,
301-962-0982



Reflections: a worthwhile art program to enhance your child's creativity and imagination.

Join the PTA; become a volunteer!

Families, if you haven't done so already, please consider joining the Rock Creek Valley PTA! This is a great way to take an active role in your child's elementary school experience. Membership dues are only \$12 per family or \$8 per individual. Further, everyone who joins before October 10th will be entered in a drawing for gift certificate for Outback Steakhouse!

In addition, there are many volunteer opportunities at RCV. If you

want to take an active part in making the RCV community even better than it is as well as have fun and meet some great people as the same time, then you should volunteer at RCV. Please fill out the portion of your PTA membership form with volunteer activities.

You can volunteer daily, weekly, or just for one event. You can help RCV during the school day, for evening events, or working at home. It's a great way to be a part of your child's school community.

Box tops and labels can earn RCV money!

The Box Tops for Education Program makes it easy to help our school earn the extra cash it needs. And, the Labels for Education program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school. To meet our goals, we need to collect 4000 points and \$500 in Box-Tops. Participating in the program is easy - simply save proofs of purchase from participating Campbell products and boxtops and send them to our

school. If you have any questions, or would like to help with our Box-Tops/Labels for Education collection drive, please contact our program coordinator, Jennifer Paraboschi at 240-242-4955. You can visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products or consult the list at the end of this newsletter. Thanks so much for your support.

Join Brownies!



We'd love to have you! If you have a second grade girl interested in joining Rock Creek Valley Brownie Troop 1238, you should contact Pam Loebach at pkloebach@comcast.net or call Pam Loebach at (301) 871-9469.