



The ECHO

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

October 2009

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 fund-raising events, on activities or items that will directly benefit our children and help the RCV staff in educating our kids. 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. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. Free babysitting will be available. At the meeting, Mrs. Gail Valle (formerly Ms. Handwerker), the school's counselor, will discuss changes to Peace Program and the new Second Step program. Mr.

Ben Goldberg will lead a tour of the school's new science center; the PTA provided funds to get it up and running.

Our annual Family Fun Night is set for Friday, Oct. 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a great night of bingo and pizza for the entire family! Get you tickets early, since there is limited space. We will have a drawing for a gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Everyone who has joined the PTA by paying dues and filling out a membership form by Oct. 8 will be entered into the drawing.

The PTA will sponsor a Halloween costume exchange table at the RCV Yard Sale on Oct. 24. Bring your gently used costumes and trade for a new look. A week later, we'll have the annual Halloween party and parade on Oct. 30. Start planning your scariest costume!

If you haven't already done so, please check out the PTA's 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. 6 PTA meeting and hearing ideas on how the PTA can better serve our school and children.

Meg Goodman, RCV PTA President

Thank you kindly!

The RCV PTA would like to give a huge thanks to Martha Curtin for organizing the Aug. 26 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 fair.

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Important dates to remember:

- Oct. 2:** Sally Foster orders due
- Oct. 6:** PTA meeting, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 9:** Family Fun Night, 6:30 pm
- Oct. 12:** Parent visitation day at RCV
- Oct. 24:** RCV yard sale
- Oct. 31:** Halloween parties and parade at RCV



Love your planet!

Check out our Web site!



Did you know that the RCV PTA has its own 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.

RCV works to remain a Green School

Rock Creek Valley's SERT (School Energy and Recycling Team) efforts for the new school year are under way. Fall is the time to make sure the right practices are in place to save energy and recycle as much as possible, as well as plan new initiatives to keep our school green. When we do so, MCPS rewards RCV with funding for eco-minded projects.

Among the projects and goals this year are:

- Two teams of students: one to carry out the weekly recycling, and another to monitor and lessen energy use.
- Planting more trees and exploring the planting of a butterfly host garden along the new fence at the top of the amphitheater in back of the school.

- Sending all-school handouts to youngest and only children in the family, thus reducing our paper use to families with more than one student at RCV.

- Eco-minded efforts aimed at renewing our Green Schools designation, such as celebrating a Green Schools Day and implementing no-waste lunches and Walk-to-school Wednesdays. We're also looking into more field trips to Sycamore Creek so students can retain their connection with our local waterway.

Do any of these projects interest you? The team welcomes more parents to help.

The team, led by Assistant Principal Karen Halverstadt, includes staff members as well as a PTA representative.

Colleen Anderson, PTA SERT liaison

From the Reflections Chair

It's Reflections time again! This will be the 5th year that RCV has participated in this arts based competition. The theme this year is "Beauty Is..." 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. Here are some 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; and entries are due to the office at RCV by Friday, November 20. Entries will be displayed in the media center beginning December 3 at the PTA meeting. The top 4 entries in each category move on to the county level competition. All students will be recognized for their effort. If you would like to help on the Reflections committee, please contact Elaine Parks, elaparks@verizon.net, 301-962-0982.

MCCPTA news

RCV PTA is represented at the county level, MCCPTA on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The MCCPTA addresses many issues and offers information about events throughout the county. To best keep up to date, we recommend that you join the RCV PTA list serve where current information is passed along. If you have any

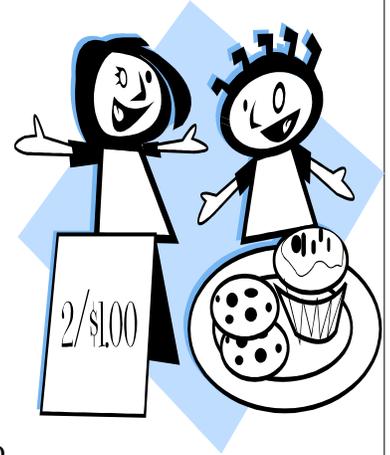
questions or concerns for the MCCPTA, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Co-delegates, Elaine Parks, elaparks@verizon.net, 301-962-0982
or Greg Williams, g-williams@nga.gov, 301-942-0037

Membership

Thanks to the over 70 families and individuals who joined the RCV PTA! For those of you who haven't joined yet, what are you waiting for? Come join this fun group that does so much for our school. Forms are available in the office or on the RCV PTA

website. We will also be sending home forms at least one more time in Friday folders. If you joined and have not received your membership card, or if you have questions about membership, you can e mail Patricia Warnock-Safford at potriciaaws@yahoo.com



Join the PTA and volunteer!
We need your help.

Volunteers

Thanks to all of those who checked off volunteering boxes on the PTA membership form. The Volunteer log book is in the office for you to use when you volunteer, or you can just keep track of your hours and e mail them to potriciaaws@yahoo.com at the end of the month. Volunteering is not only a good

way to support our school, it is also a fun way to get to know people in our school community. If you would like to be on the volunteer list, but did not check off any volunteering boxes on your PTA membership, you can e mail Patricia Warnock-Safford at potriciaaws@yahoo.com.

RCV PTA Positions for 2009-2010 school year

Board of Directors

(one vote per office or committee)

OFFICERS (Executive Committee)

President:

Meg Goodman, 301-871-8957, meg@presidential.com

First Vice-President, Social Activities:

Colleen Anderson, 301-603-0240, soleillune@verizon.net

Second Vice-President, Fundraising: Terri Reese, ter.jmr@verizon.net

Treasurer: Todd Breach, 301-460-3628, tjbreach@verizon.net

Secretary: Sylvia Lee, 301-933-0661, sylvia_b_lee@hotmail.com

OTHER MEMBERS

Cluster Representative:

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

MCCPTA Delegate (2 allowed):

Greg Williams, G-Williams@NGA.Gov

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

Principal:

Catherine Jasperse, 301-460-2195, catherine_A_jasperse@mcpsmd.org

Vice Principal:

Karen Halverstadt, 301-460-2195, karen_L_halverstadt@mcpsmd.org

STANDING COMMITTEES (one vote per committee)

Gifted and Talented: Martina Skoglund, (301) 871-0721, martina.skoglund@gmail.com

Health and Safety: Vickie Dols, 301-252-2239, vpc@comcast.net

Special Needs: Beth Morey, 301-933-1766, suburbanmom@verizon.net

Membership: Trish Safford, 301-962-3331, Patricia_Warnock-Safford@mcpsmd.org

Multicultural Liaison: OPEN

Volunteer Coordinator: Trish Safford, 301-962-3331, Patricia_Warnock-Safford@mcpsmd.org

Staff Appreciation: Martha Curtin (301) 871-6655, kmcurtin@comcast.net

Party Coordinator: Kelly Durr, 301-460-5165, jkdurr@hotmail.com

Cultural and Academic Enrichment Chair: Elaine Parks, 301-962-0982, elaparks@verizon.net

Cultural Arts: Orit Golan, 301-871-3233, ojmoves@gmail.com; Pam McHugh, 301-946-2446, mcq72@verizon.net

FLES: Denise Weisman, 301-946-1445, dsugarloaf@yahoo.com

After school Science: Michelle Brami, 301- michelle.l.brami@lmco.com

Green School: Colleen Anderson, 301-603-0240 soleillune@verizon.net

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

Group Piano: Paul Loebach, 301-871-9469, pkloebach@verizon.net

Young Rembrandts: Beth Morey, 301-933-1766, suburbanmom@verizon.net

Activity Committees

(no vote on board of directors)

Reports to First VP (social)

Ice Cream Social: Victoria Kurtz, 301-460-5257, vgkurtz@juno.com

Fall Dance: Colleen Anderson, 301-603-0240 soleillune@verizon.net
Patty Walker, 301-603-7252, kcpw@comcast.net

Family Fun Night: Colleen Anderson, 301-603-0240 soleillune@verizon.net
Patty Walker, 301-603-7252, kcpw@comcast.net

International Night: Rosa Hall, 301 460-3612, elenabart@yahoo.com

Talent Show: Juya Werking, 240-669-8318, juyateeth@hotmail.com

Reports to Second VP (Fundraising)

Scholastic Book Fairs: Sylvia Barnes, 301-949-5539, sylvia_M_Barnes@mcpsmd.org
Kari Moskowitz 301-460-5969, khmosko@yahoo.com

Sally Foster: Pam Loebach, 301-871-9469, pkloebach@verizon.net

Spirit Wear Coordinator: OPEN

Receipts Programs

Giant: Pam Loebach, 301-871-9469, pkloebach@comcast.net

Safeway: Pam Loebach, 301-871-9469, pkloebach@comcast.net

Box Tops: Jennifer Paraboschi, 240-242-4955, Jennifer.paraboschi@gmail.com

Campbell's: Jennifer Paraboschi, 240-242-4955, Jennifer.paraboschi@gmail.com

Reports to Secretary

Echo: Martha Curtin, 301-871-6655, kmcurtin@comcast.net

Directory: Beth Morey, 301-933-1766, suburbanmom@verizon.net,
Vickie Dols, 301-252-2239, vpc@comcast.net

List Serve Moderator: Lisa Bowes-Brenan, 301-460-5354, lisabee@io.com

ICB Coordinator: Pam Loebach, 301-871-9469, pkloebach@comcast.net

Website Coordinator: Martina Skoglund, (301) 871-0721, martina.skoglund@gmail.com
Brian Pianalto Pianalto@gmail.com

Reports to the President

Nominating Committee:

Auditing Committee: For the year ended June 30, 2009

Patty Walker

Terry Reese

Martina Skoglund