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From the PTA Co-Presidents

It's been another busy fall! **Super Saturday**, held October 9, was great fun for the children. Thanks in particular to **Hunter Hogewood** for chairing this event, as well as to all of the parents and older students who volunteered! **Halloween** was another highlight, featuring a parade full of princesses, superheroes and ghouls, followed by fun class parties. Thanks to the room parents and volunteers for making this day such a success.

Finally, the **Book Fair** just wrapped up last week; a tremendous thank you to **Hilary Blank** and **Susanna Fischer**, co-chairpersons of this fundraiser.

Our **latest PTA meeting** on November 15 covered two hot topics – the new **Elementary Integrated Curriculum** for kindergarten and first graders, and everyone's least favorite pest, **LICE!** Mr. Viggiano and Mrs. Zimmerman gave a presentation on the new curriculum and answered questions. Karen Franco from Advice on Lice in Kensington came to give us tips on prevention and elimination of these pesky bugs. We can't stress enough the importance of taking this pest seriously. This is something to look for all season long.

We want to thank everyone who has donated to the **Rosemary Hills Rainbow Fund** campaign. We have met the goal needed for our operating expenses. Now we are working to raise additional funds to purchase technology requested by the school. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time. **We will keep the campaign going until mid November**, so check your kitchen counter for the response card and do what you can. We are so appreciative to those families who have already given so generously. All of our children will benefit!

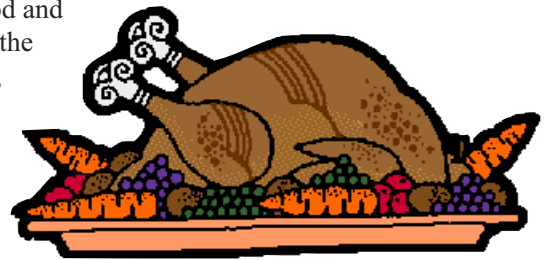
We have another FUNdraiser coming up – a **Manicures and Margaritas night No-**

(continued on p. 4)

RHPS Thanksgiving Food Drive - A Special Opportunity to Help Others

The RHPS Thanksgiving Food Drive has been an ongoing tradition at Rosemary Hills. Now in our 18th year, we collect food and monetary donations to provide a Thanksgiving meal for families right here in our Rosemary Hills community, as well as providing food and donations to Montgomery County's Manna Food Pantry through the Kids Helping Kids Program. During these tough economic times, more and more families are struggling to make ends meet. This is an important opportunity to give generously to our community and involve kids in the process.

You were incredible last year! In 2009, students and their families donated enough food, money, and support to provide 50 local families with Thanksgiving food boxes, a turkey and grocery gift cards, as well as 770 pounds of food to the Manna Food Pantry. This year it appears that even more Rosemary Hills families are facing significant financial challenges and can use our help.



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A Word from Principal Ralph Viggiano

It is so wonderful to have such a generous group of parents who have come together to support the PTA's initiative to raise funds for their operating budget and the new technology to support all of our children in the classroom.

Parent conferences have been held and report cards have gone home. Just a reminder, Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten do not receive a progress report until the end of the first semester (1/21/11).

Food Drive – Our students and community have been challenged to collect canned food for a Thanksgiving Food drive. The Thanksgiving “baskets” will be assembled Saturday, November 20, from 9 am – 11 am in the all purpose room. The drive has been very successful in the past and we appreciate all of your support in teaching children the importance of giving to others.

Book Fair – The Book Fair was a huge success. Thanks to Hilary Blank and Susanna Fischer, co-chairpersons, and all the parent volunteers who worked to ensure the success of this wonderful activity.

Artist in Residence – The 1st grades will be working with the Clancy Works Dance Company November 15 – 19 and will participate in an assembly to present some of their new skills on Friday, November 19, at 10 am. Parents are invited to attend.

Open House – Thursday, December 9, is the next scheduled Open House date for prospective kindergarten parents. The tour starts at 11 am in the front foyer. If you know of a family with a child who will be five years old by September 1, 2011, encourage them to call and sign up to attend an Open House to see what Rosemary Hills is all about.

Winter Break – The winter break is from Friday, December 24 through Sunday, January 2. School resumes on Monday, January 3.

Winter Weather Gear and Schedule Changes – Students will be going outside for recess as often as possible during the winter months. Dress your child appropriately with a winter coat, hat, gloves, and – when necessary – boots. Please label these items with your child's name. Winter is also our busiest season for items in the lost and found. Found items are placed on the rack located in the foyer near the speech room and the staff lounge.

As we move into the cooler months, it is important for you to monitor the weather (TV, computer, email, phone alerts, etc.) in case there are changes to the school day. This is vital information if students are dismissed early due to inclement weather. Please develop a plan for these weather related closings or any other type of emergency.

Arrival/Dismissal – Our instructional school day begins at 9:15 am. It is important for students to be in class and ready to start at 9:15 am. Students arriving at school after 9:15 are marked late (tardy). It is a parent's responsibility to help students arrive at bus stops on time (scheduled bus stop times set by the Department of Transportation). If you drive your child to school, they should arrive by 9 am. Our car rider drop off has staff on duty until 9:10 am. If there is a change to your child's dismissal, please submit a note to your child's teacher or to the office. We do not allow students to arrange their own play dates. We appreciate all of your support!

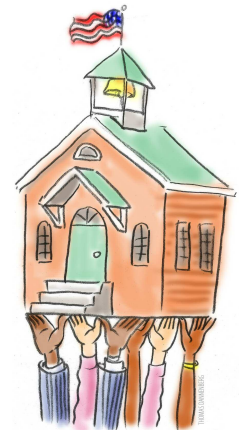
We would like to wish all of our families at Rosemary Hills the very safest and happiest of holidays!

Sincerely,
Ralph Viggiano, Principal

Volunteering at RHPS

Thank you to all the many parent volunteers that are working in classrooms, the media center, during lunch/recess and at home! There is always room for more – if you are interested, please send an email to Julie Tewksbury (julietewksbury@rcn.com) or Heather Viera (hviera@comcast.net).

Many parents don't have time in their schedule to come to volunteer on a regular basis, but your help and support is still needed during events such as International Night and field trips. Many teachers have materials that can be worked on at home. If you have the interest, we will find a job that fits your skills and time commitment schedule. Please contact your child's teacher or the office for more information!



We Need More Loyalty Card Registrations!

If you haven't already done so, PLEASE link your loyalty cards so that RHPS will benefit (most programs allow you to designate up to 3 schools).

The GIANT program began October 8, and we only have 81 designations. Those 81 people helped generate \$350 for RHPS thus far, which is terrific, but other area schools have already earned over \$1000.

The information below explains how to link your cards. With budget cuts affecting every school in MCPS, it is extremely important to have participation in various loyalty programs this year. We can raise THOUSANDS of dollars for RHPS, IF you take these simple steps to support the school:

- Register your Bonus Card at Giant (or we can do it for you – see bottom of page). Go to <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> and simply enter your bonus card number and the last three letters of your last name. Our school code is 00908. If you don't know your Bonus Card number, call 1-877-366-2668.

- Register at <http://www.eScrip.com>. eScrip's participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards (primarily SAFEWAY in our area), credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to RHPS. This program has the potential to earn the school a lot of money since you can register a variety of cards, not just grocery cards. On average, eScrip members that add credit/debit cards to the program earn 50% more for their school or group than members who only register a grocery loyalty card.

- If you have a Redcard from Target, PLEASE register it for RHPS using school ID 58186. We only have 15 Redcards currently registered for RHPS.

- Send in or drop off Box Tops to the school office. There is a box in the office labeled "Box Tops/Grocery Receipts" where they should be deposited.

- Send in receipts from Chevy Chase Supermarket and Sniders to the office.

If you complete these small steps now, RHPS will benefit all year long. If you have any questions or would like help registering, please contact Andrea Taylor at Andrea_and_Charlie@msn.com. You can also email Andrea with following information and she will register you: Giant Bonus Card number, last 3 letters of your last name, and phone number in case of any problems with registration



THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!

There's Still Time to Donate to the Rainbow Fund!

We all know that Rosemary Hills has been hit with tough budget cuts in this economic recession. More and more services that have traditionally been provided by the county or state are no longer available. Our school is operating with a reduced staff and larger classes. These budget cuts also impact the quality of our school's technology, availability of extracurricular activities, and opportunities for students to get extra help when they need it. To help fill these gaps, funds for the PTA are now more important than ever. With an annual budget of over \$120,000, the PTA helps fund cultural arts initiatives such as the

artist-in-residence program; after-school enrichment and tutoring programs; community-building events such as Super Saturday, International Night, Science Day, and Math Day; technology purchases; and grants to teachers to purchase special instructional tools.

The PTA has traditionally raised a large portion of its funds from Sally Foster gift-wrap sales, which required a tremendous number of volunteer hours. In response to pleas from parents, however, and in an effort to focus those valuable volunteer hours elsewhere, our kids will not sell gift wrap this year.

The PTA is launching a special

campaign: **The Rainbow Fund**. Our goal is to raise \$40,000. In addition to supporting the PTA's ongoing activities, the Rainbow Fund will provide critical technology upgrades with Promethean Boards and new computers for the school.

We hope you will donate to the Rainbow Fund. Together, we can continue to provide the resources and programs that help our kids excel.

Please make checks payable to "RHPS PTA" and return them by backpack mail to the PTA mailbox (in the school office). Thank you!
—*Holly Gross & Emily Mazzella,*
PTA Co-Presidents

PTA Co-Presidents *(continued. from front page)*

November 18 at AcquaNails in Bethesda. Ladies, come out and get your nails ready for the holidays!

As the Thanksgiving holidays approach, we want to help give back to our community. At Rosemary Hills, we do this by sponsoring the **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. You should have already received a flyer in your child's backpack letting you how to donate canned goods for this cause. You may also send in checks which will be used to purchase turkeys for each box. We want to help as many families as we can, so please give as generously as you can. The highlight is **Saturday, November 20 when we meet in the All Purpose Room (9 am) to decorate boxes and sort food for each box**. The boxes will benefit families in our school community and the Manna Food Center in Montgomery County. If a family needs to request a box, please contact Mr. Seward, the school counselor, through the school office. We have a very generous community and this is a great way to teach our children to help others in need.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sincerely,
Holly Gross & Emily Mazzella,
PTA Co-Presidents

Reminders from the Health Room

Many, many thanks for the generous donations of clothing that are needed for students in a variety of emergency situations. **We are still in need of more boys' and girls' pants!**

Reminder — if your child has been treated for **head lice, they must be checked** in the health room before returning to class.



Thanksgiving Food Drive *(continued. from front page)*

Here's what you and your child can do:

Donate non-perishable food – collection boxes will be in classrooms until Friday, November 19. Please see list below for items needed.

Donate money – checks can be made out to RHPS PTA; teachers will collect money sent in through backpack mail starting November 3. Envelopes should be directed to Elizabeth Cavanagh (c/o Grace Wilkins in Ms. Wolbert's class).

Volunteer with your family on Saturday, November 20 from 9 to 11. This is a very hands-on day for the kids; they can help sort and fill the boxes of food, decorate the boxes, and write cards for the recipients. We'll need a few families to also deliver food to Manna (our local families will pick up boxes later in the day to ensure confidentiality).

The Food Drive is a great opportunity to volunteer as a family while giving back to this wonderful community where we live and raise our kids. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Cavanagh at 301-652-7152 or eacavanagh@yahoo.com or Paula Pagano at 301-933-5999 or paula.pagano1@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

The RHPS Community Service Committee

***Note:** To request a food box for your family, contact Mr. Seward, our counselor, at 301-650-6400. All requests are kept strictly confidential.*

Para solicitar una caja del alimento para su familia, entre en contacto con a Senor Seward en 301-650-6400. Se guardan todas las peticiones terminantemente confidencial.

Please contribute any of the following (no glass containers please):

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Cereal | • Cooking oil | • Boxed sugar (no bags) |
| • Soup | • Stuffing mix | • Cranberry sauce |
| • Cornbread mix | • Cake mix | • Instant milk |
| • Rice | • Canned gravy (no jars!) | • Instant coffee |
| • Crackers | • Canned pumpkin filling | • Peanut butter |
| • Noodles or pasta | • 100% fruit juice | • Canned vegetables |
| • Dried or canned beans | • Canned or dried fruit | • Cornmeal |
| • Instant potatoes | • Salt | • Canned tuna or chicken |

Lunch/Recess Volunteers

Thanks to staff, coordinators and volunteers for their on-going help with the lunch/recess hour.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions/concerns, please contact your grade coordinator:

Kindergarten: Catherine Dunn (cmdunn@starpower.net) and Tammy Shea (tammy_shea@discovery.com)

1st grade: Liz Vitchock (liz_vitchock@yahoo.com)

2nd grade: Julie Tewksbury (julietewksbury@rcn.com)

The Rainbow

This newsletter is published by the Parent-Teacher Association of Rosemary Hills Primary School, 2111 Porter Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone: 301-650-6400; Fax: 301-650-6404

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Calendar — November/December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOV 14	15	16	17	18 Margaritas and Manicures Fundraiser	19 1st Grade Dance Assembly SPIRIT DAY: Hat Day	20 9-11 am Thanks- giving Food Box Assembly
21	22	23	24 Early Release Day: Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm	25 Thanksgiving Holiday, No School	26	27
28	29	30	DEC 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 11 am Open House for Par- ents of Prospec- tive Students	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 SPIRIT DAY: Pajama Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Winter Break, No School	25 Christmas
26	27 Winter Break, No School	28	29	30	31	JAN 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY