

A Publication of the Rosemary Hills Primary School PTA

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## From the PTA Co-Presidents

**T**he PTA wants to welcome everyone to a new school year at Rosemary Hills! By now the kindergartners are familiar with their teachers and making some new friends, and everyone has had a chance to attend Back to School Night and the Welcome Back picnic. We hope that everyone is well adjusted to the new school routine.

Our first FUNdraising event is **Potomac Pizza Night – scheduled for Monday, October 4** from 4-9 p.m. The Chevy Chase restaurant will donate 20% of all sales (dine-in or takeout) that night to the school. Save your receipts, because the class with the most receipts will earn a pizza party for their class. More details to come. We'll also be hosting other events at different locations throughout the school year.

As fall gets under way, it's time to get excited about **Super Saturday!** This year our fall carnival will be held **Saturday, October 9 from 1-4 p.m.** on the school grounds. If you've never been to Super Saturday before, it's an afternoon of fun for the family. There are inflatable moon bounces of all kinds, rides, a climbing wall, the Wheel of Wonder, arts and crafts, face and nail painting, and plenty of food. MANY volunteers are needed to make this event happen. **If you have an hour to help on Friday or Saturday, please contact Andrea Taylor at [Andrea\\_and\\_Charlie@msn.com](mailto:Andrea_and_Charlie@msn.com).** Students CAN earn SSL hours for helping too.

The first PTA meeting of the year is coming up on **Monday, October 18 at 7 p.m.** This year, we'll be hosting a spaghetti dinner and focusing on how families can help the school by volunteering. There are many opportunities to help – some at the school and some at home after hours. Please come out to learn more. This meeting will primarily be for adults, but babysitting will be provided. We **MUST** have an RSVP to provide enough food and babysitters. Email or call Holly or Emily by Friday, October 11 to let us know. Our contact

*(continued on p. 4)*

## The Rainbow Newsletter – How to Get Future Issues

**THIS IS THE ONLY PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THIS YEAR.** To receive future issues, sign up for the listserv or let us know that you do not have computer access.

**S**tarting last year, RHPS PTA communications went paperless. The monthly Rainbow newsletter and other PTA-related announcements are distributed via the RHPS listserv or on the PTA website at [www.rhpspta.org/content/rainbow.html](http://www.rhpspta.org/content/rainbow.html).

If you are signed up for the listserv, you will get an email each month with a link to the current issue.

**A paper copy of the newsletter and fliers will only be sent home to those parents who don't have access to a computer at home or work.**

All parents will still receive the Montgomery County Community mailings that are distributed in hardcopy four times during the school year.

So that you don't miss out on all of the important PTA news, we encourage you fill out the form on the back of this sheet (p. 2) and send it to school in your child's backpack. If you are already signed up for the listserv, you do not need to take any action. Thank you.





## Welcome Back from Principal Ralph Viggiano

**W**e had a terrific start to the new school year at Rosemary Hills despite the warm temperatures, the unexpected event at the Discovery building, and a few minor bus glitches. We even completed our first fire drill.

All of the Back-to-School nights held earlier in September had a HUGE turnout, and we could sense the enthusiasm for a super school year!

At the end of the first week of school our enrollment numbers are: 17 Autism students, 39 Pre-K students, 201 Kindergarteners, 205 1st Graders, and 193 2nd Graders. Along with a super group of kindergarten students joining us this year, we have added some terrific new staff. Ms. Brianna Gallagher and Ms. Erin Quinn have joined the second grade team, Ms. Mary O'Neill-Wood is our new part time Art teacher, and Ms. Rebecca McFate is our new part time Music teacher. Ms. Rodica Olariu, and Ms. Marisol Ferreras have joined our staff to support our students with Autism as special education paraeducators. Ms. Naomi Shamash has joined our staff as our new Speech Pathologist.

Two of our staff members have changed positions. Ms. Jackie Tust has moved from 2nd Grade to Kindergarten, and Ms. Elizabeth Beardall has moved from Kindergarten to Reading Initiative.

We also have one new single portable which houses a 2nd grade class, plus we moved our Pre-K class from room 103 to room 300, the old music room. Music has

been relocated to room 203.

Another change occurring this year is the system through which parents and visitors will be monitored when entering the building. The front door and side door will be locked after student arrival in the morning, and with a camera in place outside, the office staff will see who is at the door on our computer monitors when they ring the bell. With the ability to verbally communicate, visitors can state their business and be buzzed in using a button that disengages the door lock. Additionally, all visitors will be required to sign in using the new computer system on the counter in the office. This system will help PTA calculate the hours that our parents contribute in volunteer work and also ensure the safety of all students and staff.

We appreciate all the support our families offer and will again need your help during lunch and recess, as well as in the classroom. We also appreciate your support in acclimating your child(ren) to the school routines such as getting to the bus stop on time or arriving at school on time (9:00 am). Our breakfast program starts at 8:50 am and ends at 9:10 am. This allows students to arrive to their classroom before school starts at 9:15 am. We also have a recess routine that was established last year and has worked well. The first whistle blows and students are to freeze. The second whistle is a long blast that signals students to WALK to a line. Recess staff have been practicing this routine with all students. This routine is very important and would also be used at any time during recess in the case of an emergency. Please talk with your

*(continued on p.4)*

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**\*\* Parents: Please return completed form to school by backpack mail. \*\***  
**\*\* Teachers: Please send completed forms to the PTA Mailbox in the office. \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please sign me up for the RHPS listserv** to receive the Rainbow newsletter and other important announcements electronically. My email address is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NOTE: You can also start the sign-up process yourself by sending an email with your child's name and grade to RHPS-Net-subscribe@yahoo.com. You will receive a subscription message. Just reply to the message and your subscription will be complete.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I do not have computer access and need a paper copy of the Rainbow.**

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My child's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are already a member of the RHPS listserv, you do not need to fill out this form.**

## Bring the Kids to Super Saturday on October 9th!

**S**uper Saturday, a festival for the RHPS community, will be held **October 9 from 1-4 pm**. The kids will enjoy all kinds of fun activities including games and rides, arts and crafts, face painting, live music, great food, balloons and more!

Our volunteer need for this event is significant. We need at least 200 volunteers to take one-hour shifts in order to make Super Saturday a success! If you can't help during the event itself, we could use help with set-up on Friday afternoon (Oct. 8) or clean-up Saturday afternoon.

**WHO CAN VOLUNTEER:** Parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, siblings (older than 10), and area students all are welcome to help! Middle and high school students CAN EARN Student Service Learning hours by volunteering for Super Saturday.

**WHAT:** Take tickets, oversee games and rides, serve food, help with arts and crafts, set-up and clean-up.

**HOW:** Send an email to Andrea Taylor at [Andrea\\_and\\_Charlie@msn.com](mailto:Andrea_and_Charlie@msn.com) or send a note via backpack mail (c/o Alyssa Taylor - Droggitis). Please note your time preferences.



*THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!*

## From School Counselor Al Seward

**W**elcome to a new school year! I hope that you have had a great and restful summer. I know that I have, and I am looking forward to the start of a great new school year. I want to share a little bit about myself and what I do here at Rosemary Hills.

My name is Mr. Seward, but you can call me Al (no pun intended from the Paul Simon song; Al is really my first name) and I am the school counselor at Rosemary Hills. I was born and raised in the Metro area. I graduated from Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. I went to undergrad at Howard University and graduate school at Bowie State University. Some of my hobbies include going to the movies – I am an avid moviegoer and have been spotted several times at the Regal Theater in



Rockville (my favorite theater). I also really enjoy the martial arts and spend a lot of my spare time training in the art of Tien Shan Pai which is a form of Shoalin Kung Fu.

I feel like I have the best job here at Rosemary Hills. It is my job to foster your child's social and personal development, and to be a resource for families who have questions about the social and/or personal development of their child. Each month I teach guidance lessons in the individ-

ual classes. These lessons are designed to teach various social or personal skills to the students. I also hold small group and short term individual counseling sessions for students that need that type of forum to have their needs met.

I love working with the kids and we have a lot of fun in the process. There is nothing more rewarding than helping a child learn a skill and seeing them put that skill into action. If you ever have any questions for me please don't hesitate to ask. I am here for you and your children, so if there is a need please let me know and I will try my best to help. I can be reached through the school office at 301-650-6400 or by email: [al\\_j\\_seward@mcpsmd.org](mailto:al_j_seward@mcpsmd.org).

Take care,  
Al

## Show Your Rainbow Spirit!

**W**e 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 October 15 by backpack mail to the PTA mailbox (in the school office).

*–Holly Gross & Emily Mazzella,  
PTA Co-Presidents*

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

information is below. Food will be provided by Potomac Pizza. Translation services will be provided.

The Halloween parade and parties will be coming up on **Friday, October 29**. You will get more information from your child's teacher, but each year the school hosts a parade of classes around the playground, followed by class parties. Only parents who have signed up to be a party host will be allowed in the classroom. You should send your child to school with his/her costume for the parade. For families who do not celebrate Halloween there will be a fall celebration in the All Purpose Room.

We would like to thank some of the many people who have worked hard to make this year's back to school run smoothly. A big thank you goes to **Heather Birks** for organizing the kindergarten bus helpers in the morning and afternoon for the first two weeks. The kindergartners

caught on quickly, but seemed to appreciate the help for the first few days. Also thanks to **Jill Gallagher** for organizing the Welcome Back picnic. There was a great turnout on a beautiful night to celebrate being back at school. Also thank you to **Lisa Hermes** for keeping the PTA webpage updated throughout the summer. We have a new webmaster, **Ferrell Dietrich**, who is stepping in to take on this important role. Finally thank you to **Maureen Carr**, who is handling our membership this year. If you have already joined the PTA for this year, you should be getting your card through backpack mail soon. If you haven't joined yet this year, you need to renew your membership each year.

We look forward to seeing you at school!

*Sincerely,*

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

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### From the Principal *(continued. from p. 2)*

children about the importance of these routines and why we have them in place at our school.

I would also like to ask that you refrain from signing students out after 3:00 p.m. After this time, please wait for the normal dismissal time. 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!

Thank you to everyone who has made the beginning of this school year a success! Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that your child has a successful year. We are looking forward to the opportunity to work with your child and your family this school year.

*Sincerely, Ralph Viggiano, Principal*

## How Can You Raise Money for RHPS at No Cost to You? ...By Registering Your Loyalty and Credit Cards!

**W**ith budget cuts affecting every school in MCPS, it is more important than ever to have participation in various loyalty programs. 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 below). Go to <http://www.giant-food.com/aplus> and simply enter your bonus card number and the last three letters of your last name Our school code is 00908. Out of approximately 600 families, we currently only have 41 registrations for RHPS. You can designate up to three schools to benefit from your Bonus Card.
- 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 register by the end of September at eScrip, all of your previous purchases this month (and future months of course) will benefit RHPS. Giant's A+ program starts early next month. So please register now!

If you have any questions or would like help registering, please contact Andrea Taylor at [Andrea\\_and\\_Charlie@msn.com](mailto:Andrea_and_Charlie@msn.com), or call 301-718-3738.

You can also email your Bonus Card information to the address above, and we will register for you. We just need your Giant Bonus Card number, the last 3 letters of your last name, and a phone number in case of any problems with registration. Thank you!

## Lunch/Recess Volunteers

Thanks to staff, coordinators and volunteers for their ongoing 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](mailto:cmdunn@starpower.net)) and Tammy Shea ([tammy\\_shea@discovery.com](mailto:tammy_shea@discovery.com))

**1st grade:** Liz Vitchock ([liz\\_vitchock@yahoo.com](mailto:liz_vitchock@yahoo.com))

**2nd grade:** Julie Tewksbury ([julietewksbury@rcn.com](mailto: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 — September/October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPT 26	27	28	29	30	OCT 1 Early Release Day: Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm	2
3	4 Potomac Pizza Night 4-9 pm	5	6	7	8	9 <b>SUPER SATURDAY,</b> 1-4 pm
10	11 Classroom Open House (morning)	12	13	14	15 MSTA Convention: NO SCHOOL	16
17	18 PTA meeting and Spaghetti Dinner 7 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Parade and Class Parties	30
31	NOV 1 Teachers' Profes- sional Day: NO SCHOOL	2 General Election: NO SCHOOL	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Early Release Day: Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm; Parent Conferences	12 Early Release Day: Students Dismissed at 1:00 pm; Parent Conferences	13