

A Publication of the Rosemary Hills Primary School PTA

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From the PTA Co-Presidents

What a busy November at Rosemary Hills! We had parent-teacher conferences, the Scholastic Book Fair, Potomac Pizza Night, the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the PTA meeting focusing on your child’s “specials” – art, music, media and physical education. We hope that you were able to take part in most of these activities.

Also this past month, members of the Rosemary Hills community participated in a six-week program called “Study Circles,” looking for ways to better serve all of Rosemary Hills. Topics discussed included race relations, test scores and family involvement. Now the group has broken into subgroups to look at:

- Training for Teachers (learning about different cultures, diversity, etc.).
- A Mentoring System for families who want to be more connected.
- Parent Advisory Committee on Diversity.

Our school’s involvement in this program may be featured in a *Washington Post* article, as well.

A big thank you to all the families who came out to Potomac Pizza for our first-ever dining out fundraiser! It was a big success, as evidenced by the long lines out the door of the restaurant. Potomac Pizza said it was their biggest and most fun community night ever. We would like to know how you enjoyed this event and if you have any ideas for future fundraising activities? Please email or call Holly or Emily to let us know your thoughts.

The Scholastic Book Fair was another popular event this month, and we would like to thank Joanne London, Dina Bickle and Stephanie Warlick for their dedication and hard work to make this event happen for the school! The book fair would not have been the success that it was without all that you did.

The 17th Annual Rosemary Hills Thanksgiving Food Drive took place on November 21 and was coordinated by the Community Service Committee including Kristin O’Keefe, Julie Fox, Lisa Schlager, Ilana Knab, Paula Pagano, Sarah Ford, Sheila Foran, and Varuni Dayaratna. This is such a great opportunity for families to come together to help other families in our community and our county who might need a little extra this year. Thanks to everyone who came out to make it happen and a special thank you to the families who donated money so generously to enable the purchase of turkeys and gro-

(continued on page 6)

Calendar

Trash Free Tuesday with Audubon’s Green Kids program, Tuesday, Dec. 8

“Manicures and Mistletoe” Fundraiser, Thursday, Dec. 17, 6–9 pm

Winter Break, no school, Dec. 24 – Jan. 3

Safety Reminder

In the morning, when dropping off your children at “car riders,” please wait until you have adult assistance before letting them out of the car.

Parents of walkers that cross the street by the drop-off driveway: For safety, please cross the street and driveway with your child.



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From the Principal – Ralph Viggiano

What a difference a month makes!

Most trees have lost their leaves, and the weather has gotten almost chilly. Soon that four letter

word (SNOW) will be mentioned in our weather forecasts. Please review the attached information regarding any changes to the school day because of weather related issues.

Parent conferences have been held and report cards have gone home. Just a reminder, that Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten do not receive a progress report until the end of the first semester (1/22/10).

Food Drive – Our students and community were challenged to collect canned food for a Thanksgiving Food drive. The drive was very successful and we appreciate all of your support.

Artist in Residence – The 2nd grades will be working with Molly Ross of Nana Projects Studio from November 30 through December 11, 2009. They will be making shadow puppets and videotaping stories to be presented at a future assembly.

Winter Break – The winter break is from Thursday, December 24, 2009, through Sunday, January 3, 2010. School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Winter Weather Gear – 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 racks located in a corner of the All Purpose Room.

Arrival/Dismissal – Our instructional school day begins at 9:15 a.m., so it is important for students to be in class and ready to start at 9:15 a.m. Students arriving at school after 9:15 a.m. 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 9:00 a.m. Our car rider drop off has staff on duty until 9:10 a.m. This allows 5 minutes for these staff members to get to their next duty or assignment. 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!

¿Qué diferencia puede hacer un mes!

La mayoría de las hojas de los árboles se han caído, y el clima se está enfriando. No falta mucho para volver a escuchar la palabra de 5 letras (NIEVE), en los reportes del clima. Por favor revise la información adjunta referente a los cambios en el día escolar, dependiendo del clima.

Las conferencias con los padres ya terminaron, y los reportes de calificaciones ya han sido enviados a sus casas. Cabe recordar que Kindergarten y Pre-Kindergarten no reciben un reporte de calificaciones hasta el final del primer semestre (1/22/10).

Recolección de Víveres – Nuestra comunidad y los estudiantes han sido motivados para reunir comida enlatada para el Programa de Recolección de Víveres del Día de Acción de Gracias. Esta actividad ha sido todo un éxito, y apreciamos el apoyo brindado.

Artista en Casa – Los estudiantes de 2do grado estarán trabajando con Molly Ross, de Nana Projects Studio, desde el 30 de noviembre hasta el 11 de diciembre de 2009. Se fabricarán marionetas de sombra y se grabarán sus historias para futuras presentaciones.

Vacaciones de Invierno – las vacaciones de invierno comenzarán el jueves 24 del diciembre y terminarán el 3 de enero de 2010. Las clases se reiniciarán el lunes 4 de enero de 2010.

Ropas para el Clima de Invierno – Durante los meses de invierno, cada vez que sea posible, los estudiantes saldrán al patio durante el receso. Vista a su hijo apropiadamente con un abrigo de invierno, gorra, guantes y – cuando sea necesario – con botas. Marque las prendas con el nombre completo. Invierno es la estación en la que se pierden más prendas de vestir. Todas las prendas de vestir perdidas se colocarán en estantes ubicados en una esquina del Salón Multipropósito.

Llegada/Salida – El día de instrucción escolar comienza a las 9:15 a.m., de ahí la importancia de que los estudiantes estén puntuales en sus salones de clase para comenzar a las 9:15 a.m. A aquellos estudiantes que lleguen a la escuela después de las 9:15, se les marcará un retraso (tardanza). Es responsabilidad de los padres asegurar que sus hijos estén en las paradas de bus a la hora exacta (estas horas son agendadas por el Departamento de Transporte). Si usted trae su hijo/a a la escuela en automóvil, debe llegar a las 9 a.m. La estación donde se reciben estudiantes que vienen en automóvil tiene personal disponible hasta las 9:10 a.m. Esto le permite al personal un margen de 5 minutos para reubicarse en su puesto de trabajo habitual. Agradecemos todo su apoyo en este sentido!

Les deseamos a todas las familias de Rosemary Hills, unas felices fiestas!

Artist-in-Residence Program for Second-Graders Arrives!

The Cultural Arts Committee of RHPS is excited to present what for many of our art-loving second-graders is the highlight of the year: the Artist-in-Residence Program. This year's project will be led by artist Molly Ross who is known for her Magic Lantern Shows and her Lantern Parades which are performed across the region for schools and communities alike.

Molly Ross will engage the students in the creation of a series of their own Magic Lantern Shows utilizing the technique of overhead projector shadow puppetry. Students will be introduced to the idea of storytelling through puppetry and to the beginnings of modern cinema. Using simple paper cutouts and overhead projectors, students will create collaged images that spring to life as if animated. Momentum will build as each class makes storyboards for their ideas, design slide backgrounds, and create the shadow puppets themselves. Classroom performances by each class of its collaborative Magic Lantern Show will mark the culmination of the creative process – and the performances will be videotaped and compiled into a DVD to be left with the school. Students will be treated to one of Molly Ross' own puppetry performances after the close of the residency, later in December.

We are looking forward to watching the creative juices flow from the imaginations of our Rosemary Hills

second-graders. The residency will take place over the course of the first two weeks of December: November 30 – December 4 and December 7–11. Ms. Ross welcomes parent volunteers to help with the project; more information about volunteer opportunities will soon be announced on the RHPS list-serve.

We hope to have a celebratory viewing of the Magic Lantern Show videos for all of our students during RHPS's Earth Week celebration in the spring. The videos' focus on environmental "green" themes will express and contribute to our school's pride in being named a Maryland Green School.

Thank you to the PTA and the MSAC (Maryland State Arts Council) for funding this exciting program and to the RHPS teachers, staff, and parent community for your interest and enthusiasm in celebrating the arts at Rosemary Hills. Let the fun begin!

For more information about Molly Ross, go to her website at www.nanaprojects.com.



WONDERS AT ROSEMARY HILLS ...right under your nose!

Our before and after school programs, right here at Rosemary Hills, offer a place for kids to learn, play and enjoy the supportive Wonders community. Wonders' programs provide an environment where school-age children can safely grow through self-guided and structured play. Our programs connect the children with peers and adults to stimulate their intellect and imagination and expand their social and emotional development.

Before school program: 7:30 am to first bell

Designed as a gentle transition time between home and school. A child can go to the gym, read, finish homework, play board games or create artwork.

After school program: dismissal bell to 6:00 pm

Includes an hour of supervised play and a healthy snack, after which children can choose to do homework, join in an art project or participate in an organized, active game.

Full-time, part-time or drop-in

When full-time or part-time care is not needed, children can be registered as drop-in only. The drop-in option is automatically available to children registered in a part-time program. Drop-in is also available at a reduced cost for children who would like to attend Wonders once the Rosemary Hills after school clubs end at 4:30 pm.

For more information, contact Jennifer Williams at 301-588-7494 or jwilliams@wonderschildcare.org.

*Did you know... that a goat can provide a poor family
in India with over 250 gallons of milk each year?*

*Did you know... that one chicken can provide a family in Cameroon
with around 400 nutritious eggs in its lifetime?*

*Did you know... that Heifer International has helped over 9 million families in
over 125 countries with gifts of animals that provide food and income?*

*Did you know... that in January, Rosemary Hills families will raise money for
Heifer International as part of our annual celebration of cultures?*

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Rosemary Hills Primary School
International Cultures Night

January 30
(snow date February 6)
5-7 pm



Here are some things to look forward to:

- An Olympic-style parade of nations as RHPS students showcase dresses from many different countries.
- An international pot-luck dinner.
- Display tables where RHPS families share diverse cultures with the whole school.
- A celebration of the work of Heifer International and how RHPS helped donate animals to needy families all over the world.

Here's what YOU can do:

- Ask your child what country he or she would like to represent in the parade of nations.
- Consider setting up a display table to show your family's background or a place you've lived.
- If attending International Night, plan a dish to contribute to the international potluck dinner.
- Start saving your pocket change for Heifer International.
- And, of course, consider volunteering to make this night a success! Please contact Maria (mchirikov@gmail.com).

Green Space

December is a big month for greening Rosemary Hills!

On Tuesday, December 8, we'll be holding a TRASH FREE TUESDAY event with Audubon's Green Kids program. We're hoping for **full participation** to help educate the kids about reducing waste. Please plan to pack a trash-free lunch and talk to your child about it! (We will also need extra volunteers – please consider volunteering for lunch that day – it will make a HUGE difference).

The Green Committee is also wrapping up the fall Eco Challenge and sending the crayons off to be recycled. Each child's classroom will receive a package of the recycled crayons so they can see the results and learn about the recycling process!



And finally, we'll be launching the Winter Eco Challenge – Plastic Bags and Polar Bears! Please visit the PTA website's Green Page for more information about that and other green news and programs:

www.rhpspta.org/content/greenspace.html.

On a personal note ... this will be my last Green Space at RHPS, as our family is moving to Boston over the holiday break. I've really enjoyed working with our committee and teachers to find new ways to green Rosemary Hills and get the children engaged, and urge everyone to keep things going!

Best wishes,
Karen Graziani
Chair, Green Committee

Help RHPS Go Paperless – A Quick Guide To Joining The Listserv

Much of the information that was formerly distributed on paper will now be emailed or posted on the PTA website. To receive this information, you need to be signed up for the listserv.

The easiest way to join the listserv is to sign up at www.rhpspta.org. Click on the "subscribe" link and in the message provide the name of your child and teacher so that your request can be approved. Anyone in the RHPS community is welcome to join. The listserv is part of Yahoo groups. A Yahoo email address is not necessary, but you will be prompted to create a profile with a user name and password and to choose the way you would like to receive messages.

Alternatively, you can fill out a form and the listserv moderator will send you an automated Yahoo invitation to join. To do so, follow these instructions: Click on the "join" button. A description of the listserv comes up. Click on 'Join the Group' or choose 'mailing list only' option at the bottom of the page.

For 'Join the Group,' follow three simple steps:

1) Provide your profile information;

2) Choose how you would like to receive messages (individual, digest, special notes, web only); and
3) Choose fully featured or traditional.

For the 'Mailing List only' option, this means you are subscribed to the group's email list but do not have access to the group's web features. You can choose to access web features for the group and all of your other groups later if you so choose.

Yahoo Groups web features include:

- Message management — easily control the frequency of email messages you receive.
- Membership management — easily join or leave groups, all in one place.
- More — get access to message archives, photos, files, calendars, polls and more.

Problems or questions? Contact Ilaya Hopkins at ilaya-hopkins@verizon.net or 301-907-9878.



Volunteering Counts

It turns out that volunteering counts in more ways than just helping your child and his or her school. Volunteer hours are also an important way for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to better understand how each school operates. Therefore, in many schools, logs are taken and submitted to MCPS to see which schools have the most volunteer hours. In recent years, volunteers have signed in and out but no one has been keeping track of the tally. Thanks to the hard work of PTA co-president Holly Gross, that is changing.

Beginning December 1, when you come in to volunteer you still check in at the office. The new volunteer log book is different. Each volunteer has his or her own page

arranged alphabetically. Please go to your page, sign in, and most importantly don't forget to sign out. If it is your first time volunteering, simply make a new sheet and file it under the appropriate letter. Each month we'll tally the hours and have an annual total to report for the school as a whole at the end of the year. If you volunteer outside the school and want to submit your hours, please send estimates to Holly.

Thanks again to Holly for getting us up to speed. If you know you have volunteered but do not have a sheet, please contact Holly. Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Ilaya Hopkins at 301-907-9878 or ilyahopkins@verizon.net.

Please join us for "Manicures and Mistletoe"

A fundraiser for Rosemary Hills Primary School

When: Thursday night, December 17, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: AcquaNail Salon, 7845 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda

What: Please join us for an evening of camaraderie and holiday cheer at AcquaNail Salon in Bethesda. Wear your holiday attire and join us for festive Poinsetta Cocktails, holiday cookies and appetizers while you enjoy a manicure and pedicure!

How Much: \$75 per person – which includes a manicure and pedicure

RSVP: Open to the first 30 who respond to ajablon@jablon.com.

Have great nails for the holidays and travels to warm climates!



PTA Message *(cont. from p. 1)*

cery gift cards to be added to the food baskets.

The PTA would also like to encourage everyone to support the Toys For Tots collection organized by Mrs. Wolbert. The U.S. Marines collects these toys to donate to families in need. Collection boxes will be in the office and in Mrs. Wolbert's first grade room.

The PTA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Karen Grazani. Karen spearheaded the "Green Team Committee" and worked on so many important green projects for our school. Rosemary Hills is a lot more "green" because of Karen's efforts (Waste Free Wednesday for example). Karen and

her family are moving, but we will continue on the green path. Best wishes Karen!

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and we'll see you in the New Year!

Holly Gross Emily Mazzella
PTA Co-Presidents

Calendar — December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Open House for prospective Kindergartners, 10:30	4	5
6	7	8 Trash Free Tuesday with Audubon's Green Kids program	9	10	11 Hanukkah begins at sundown	12
13	14	15	16	17 "Manicures and Mistletoe" fundraiser 6-9 pm	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Winter Break Begins	25 Christmas →	26 First day of Kwanzaa
27	28 Winter Break →	29	30	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day →	2

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 (11:30-12:30): Marion Levy, writersml@yahoo.com

1st grade (12:05-1:05): Julie Tewksbury, julietewksbury@rcn.com, and Lynn Cantwell, lynnhcantwell@comcast.net

2nd grade (12:40-1:40): Amy Blair, amy_blair@comcast.net

The Rainbow

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