

RED ALL OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Rodgers Forge Elementary School Parent Teacher Association



RODGERS FORGE
Elementary School

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Susan Deise

Remember to sign-up for updates:

www.rodgersforgepta.org

Vote on the by-laws at the next PTA meeting, November 3, 7:30 PM

Learn how to help keep your children safe on the Internet

with our special guest speaker: Special Agent Marc Southland of the FBI Internet Safety Cyber Squad

before the November 3rd PTA Meeting in the RFES Library @ 6:30 p.m.

Protecting our children against the fear of crime, and from becoming victims of crime, must be a national priority. They are the brightest future for our country, and hold our hopes for a better nation. Our children are also the most vulnerable members of society.

Unfortunately, the same advances in computer and telecommunication technology that allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and cultural experiences are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer-sex offenders and other forms of child exploitation.

Please join the PTA, the Health & Safety Committee, and our special guest Special Agent Marc Southland of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Squad, to begin to understand the complexities of on-line child exploitation. This is an important subject, and unfortunately a far too common issue that we as parents need to face head on.

Please RSVP by midnight Sunday, November 1st so our speaker can have an idea of how many to expect:

Charlotte@Charlottesites.com – you are welcome with or without an RSVP however. We look forward to seeing you.

HELP WANTED...

RFES Spirit Committee is looking for a few volunteers to help with monthly spirit days. Please contact Beth Harmon at lmhbch@verizon.net or 410-377-0688.

HELP WANTED...

We are looking for people to fill the following positions: VP of Programs. If you are interested in these positions, please contact Trisha Schwab at 410-823-5175 or at trishaschwab@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

November 3

- Health & Safety Speaker – Internet Safety 6:30, Library
- PTA Meeting – following speaker, Library

November 16-20

- American Education Week

November 19

- Barnes and Noble Night 7-9 PM – come support the school

Sally Foster will arrive shortly...

Thank you to all who supported our Sally Foster fundraiser! Top sellers will be announced before the end of October. Sally Foster/Otis Spunkmeyer pickup is Thursday, November 5 3:30-6pm in the cafeteria. **COOKIE DOUGH MUST BE PICKED UP THURSDAY NOV 5**

BY 6pm because of refrigeration requirements. Unclaimed dough orders will become property of PTA. More volunteers are needed to unload the Sally Delivery that morning (Nov 5 9am-11am). Please email Amy Elbers ale1993@msn.com if you are able to help. Thanks!



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Cultural Arts Announcements

Sitting in the cafeteria on Friday morning, October 23, I was reminded why I love being involved with Cultural Arts. I got to watch the Second and Third grades enjoy a performance by Anansegromma of Ghana. The children couldn't help but move their bodies to the drumbeat. They enthusiastically responded to Mr. Kofi's "Ago! (Pay attention!)" with "Ameh! (I'm ready to listen!)". Mrs. Rickels' students had just learned these words in social studies--Mr. Kofi was very impressed. The children "danced" with their arms. Some students and teachers played the various instruments from Ghana in homage to the "king" and "queen." It was a fun and raucous time!

What sets Cultural Arts performances apart from a typical children's performance is that the performers are skilled in integrating teaching with their art, and the performances are always participatory. Anansegromma, for example,

taught words in Twi, the language of Ghana. The performances also included enactments of Anansi the spider stories. The children were asked what they learned from the story. Mr. Kofi suggested that they translate the story in words back in the classroom. In the Second grade performance, the Anansi story was performed without words, so this would be a good exercise ordering the elements of a story. The audience saw how music, movement, and facial expressions can be used to communicate ideas and emotions. The Third grade performance included more vocabulary and the performers spoke in greater detail about their instruments.

Parents are invited to attend Cultural Arts performances. Space is limited, so please contact me ahead of time at bonaberg@yahoo.com. The next performances are by mime artist Mark Jaster for Kindergarten (9:30) and First grade (10:20) on Friday, October 30.

Ready... Set... Volunteer!

Thank you to everyone for coming out to one of our five training sessions and getting trained. To date we have trained over 440 parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Your time and willingness to attend the trainings year after year and to complete the paperwork year after year are greatly

appreciated. Our next scheduled training is set for January 2010.

As a reminder, please be sure to sign in and out on the volunteer computer. Also, if you are an at home volunteer, please be sure to email your at home hours to trishaschwab@verizon.net.

What's The PTA School Store?

The PTA School Store is run by 4th grade students and is open for business in the main lobby before school on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. We sell school supplies at reasonable prices (almost everything is under \$1).

Not only is this a fun extra-curricular activity for the students it also gives them a real-life experience handling money, selling and dealing with "the public" (their peers).

The School Store is different than the Spirit Store. The School Store sells school supplies and is open twice a week and the Spirit Store sells RFES clothing, etc. and is open once a month.

At the end of the year, all of the profits go directly to a charity chosen by the children. For the past 2 years the School Store has raised over \$600 each year. Last year's proceeds went to the WBAL Children's Fund and The Maryland Zoo.

If your child needs a pencil, pen, notebook or other school supplies please consider having them purchase these at the PTA School Store!

- Kristie Burke & Rochelle Frank



RODGERS FORGE
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Minutes from General Membership Meeting, October 6, 2009

Attendance: Fran Brown, Kevin Burns, Lindsay Conboy, Susanna DeRocco, John Devries, Keli Emmans, Anne Ertel, Jeannine Fay, Laura Hackman, Jennifer Helfrich, Sue Howard, Paula Lackamp, Caroline Mahle, Susan Millard, Trisha Schwab, Megan Seridal, Michele Rowland, Justine Sheedy, Deborah Vaughan

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm

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Reports

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved and will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Vaughan reported that the membership dues as of this month are at \$5019 and the Ice Cream Social totals as of the meeting are at \$2294. Deborah also said the Chartable Contributions are at \$1385 and the Spirit Sales are at \$3240 as of October. In November the figures for Sally Foster will be in and that there may be changes for classroom enrichment expenses.

Administration's Report: Mrs. Deise was not present so Ms. Brown gave the report and started by saying that Ms. Fagan one of the 5th grade teachers had retired in the beginning of October and that the replacement had started before Ms. Fagan's retirement. Ms. Brown also stated that there will be a parent survey coming home called "Rethinking what we do for homework." Ms. Brown also said that the first meeting for redistricting of the new school will be on October 28, 2009 and that any questions should be directed to the school board. The list of room parents is also available from the office. The figures for the 5th grade field trip expense are in at \$1700. Ms. Rowland added that Generations Day is on Thursday 15th of October and that there will be a shuttle for the 4th grade guests at Dumbarton and that multiple siblings will get at special schedule. Ms. Hommel also added that the 1st grade wanted to thank the PTA for purchasing the new reading resources.

President's Report: Lindsay Conboy started her report by saying that there are now 700 members of the PTA – roughly 2 parents per household. The 4th grade teachers have met with the puppeteer for the Artist in Residence program. She also said the dates for the cultural arts assemblies have been set and that parents are encouraged to attend – tickets are first come first serve.

Volunteer Report: Trisha Schwab reported that there are more than 450 volunteers and there will be no new training sessions until the New Year.

New Business

Lindsay stated that a new committee will be made up for any new fundraisers and she will have more information later – she said it will either be in December or February. The Buzz Book should be going to the printer soon – mid October. Ms. Brown stated that there are officially 734 registered students as of time of the meeting. The 1st grade teachers are having a fundraiser for their grade at Barnes and Noble in Towson on Thursday November 19 – for the 1st grade reading program – details to follow when they talk to store management.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectfully Submitted

Justine Sheedy, Recording Secretary

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Baltimore County Public Schools

The West Towson Elementary School Boundary Process

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In accordance with Board Policy 1280, Baltimore County Public Schools will implement a boundary change to create a new boundary for West Towson Elementary School, which is scheduled to open in fall 2010. The existing boundaries of Riderwood Elementary, Rodgers Forge Elementary, and Hampton Elementary Schools may be affected.

As part of the process outlined in Board Policy 1280, the Central Area Assistant Superintendent has organized a boundary study committee composed of parents, teachers, administrators, and other representatives from the schools and communities involved. Meetings of the committee are open but there is no public comment or input at these meetings. All meetings will be held at Dumbarton Middle School library from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: October 28, November 18, December 2, December 16, and January 20.

The boundary process includes several opportunities for public comment, as listed below. Please encourage interested parents and community members to attend these meetings:

Public Meetings:

- **Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Loch Raven High School, Public Forum:** This forum is an opportunity for the public to review the boundary scenarios developed by the boundary study committee and to provide feedback and preferences pertaining to the boundary scenarios.
- **Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 pm, Greenwood Campus ESS Building, Board of Education Regular Meeting:** The Central Area Superintendent will recommend a boundary scenario to the Board of Education.
- **Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 7:00 pm, Loch Raven High School, Board Hearing:** Members of the Board of Education will hear public comment on the recommended boundary scenario.
- **Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 7:00 pm, Greenwood Campus ESS Building, Board of Education Regular Meeting:** The Board of Education is scheduled to vote on recommended boundary scenario.