

RED ALL OVER

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



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Elementary School

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Remember to sign-up for updates:

www.rodgersforgepta.org

Upcoming Events

March 29- April 5 Spring Break

April

6 School Reopens

9 Spirit Day

19 Kindergarten Registration

20 New grade 1 Registration

23 Volunteer Breakfast

Calling all volunteers!

by Lindsay Conboy, President

RFES is a terrific place for our kids to learn and grow. The PTA strives to make the family part of this.

Studies show the more involved the family is, the better the students do. The family is the pillar of strength behind the child.

As a PTA, we work hard to find different ways parents, grandparents, and caregivers, can be involved. We collaborate with the school to ensure our volunteers are best utilized.

Lately, I have been a bit perplexed as to why we are always short volunteers when we have over 500 people trained. What worries me is our population will be cut in half next year; how are we going to find volunteers to take on all of the jobs?

This year we still need your help. Not only are volunteers requested for activities around the school, we currently need 2 people to serve on the nominating committee (the committee that nominates candidates for the executive committee) and we need to replace most of

the officers (president, vp of chairmen and programs, vp of volunteers, treasurer). All of the officer positions listed are vacant due to term expiration or redistricting. Who is going to step into these positions?

I am not trying to be a gloomy Gus, or guilt you into helping out. There is always something else to do, we are busy and overscheduled. There is work, errands, the day to day activities that have to get done. But volunteering is a feel good thing. Admit it, it feels much better to help out in school than do laundry.

On the home page of www.rodgersforgepta.org there is a list of openings for next year. Take a look. Is there something you are interested in doing? Do you have a friend you would like to co-chair with? Do you want to ensure that you have the best PTA possible next year? Join the nominating committee, or recommend yourself for an officer position. It takes an entire community to build a PTA, come take an active roll.

Tech Trek 2010: A Night to Remember

by Cathi Forbes

**. Friday, April 16 at Towson University's Unitas Stadium
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Walk begins at 6:30 p.m.**

For 14 years, Rodgers Forge Elementary School's annual Tech Trek has raised more than \$275,000 to bring new computers and technology into our school. Students sign up friends and neighbors to sponsor them in this exciting walkathon at Towson University's track. Local businesses contribute by becoming corporate sponsors.

And for the first time ever, Tech Trek will be held at night! This great family event will be filled with music, food, fun and a silent auction of amazing prizes – including many one-of-a-kind goods and services donated by RFES families.

Lots of events lead up to the big day. The T-

shirt design contest is underway. The winner will be announced at the Tech Trek Pep Rally on March 19th. And look for a flyer about our always-amazing Camp Auction – where you can bid on a large variety of fun summer camps. It should be sent home March 15th.

This year, we're adding an extra-healthy component to our walk and will host the RFES PTA Healthy Kids Expo. We'll have lots of booths, activities and kid-friendly information about taking care of every member of the family.

The Tech Trek committees have been working tirelessly to make it a great event, but it takes an army of volunteers to make Tech Trek a reality.

If you'd like to help with set-up, registration, silent auction, check-out or clean-up, please contact Cathi Forbes at 410-321-0460 or cathiforbes@comcast.net.

Coming Soon!
Get Ready For the 4th Annual RFES
Summer Camp Auction
Look For The Camp Flyer and
Auction Bid Sheet in Your Child's
Take-Home Folder

Auction dates: March 15-19, 2010

How are Tech Trek and the RFES Summer Camp Auction connected?

This year the Rodgers Forge Tech Trek takes place on April 16th at the Johnny Unitas Stadium at Towson University. This walkathon has been a school tradition for over 12 years and has raised over \$250,000 to supplement technology which our children use each day.

The fast-paced changes in technology are difficult for any school to keep up with. Tech Trek raises funds to improve the technology at our school each year, and keep current with the best that educational technology has to offer.

Tech Trek raises money in three ways: the children get sponsors and participate in the Tech Trek **walkathon**; area businesses donate outright gifts as **Corporate Sponsors**; and, lastly, there is a **Silent Auction** at the walkathon where families bid on various goods, professional services, entertainment gift certificates, sports tickets, and faculty gifts which are donated to the school. All of the funds collected go directly to the Tech Trek Fund.

The RFES Summer Camp Auction takes place in mid-March when many families make their camp decisions. Though separate events, the Camp Auction is technically part of the larger Tech Trek Silent Auction.

How does the Summer Camp Auction Work?

RFES parent volunteers call area camps and ask for donations of camp tuition to the school. In return, the summer camps get promoted to our 600+ families via a descriptive take-home flyer to each student (The Summer Camp Silent Bid Sheet). In addition, each camp website is linked to our RFES website. Also, participating camps have the opportunity to make their brochures available at a Summer Camp 'thank you' table at the Tech Trek walkathon in April.

This year, during the week of Monday, March 15- Friday, March 19, we will distribute a Summer Camp Auction Bid Sheet in your child's red take-home folder.

The names and descriptions of each camp will be listed, along with their website addresses, dates and times, as well as the market value of each camp and the starting bid amount for each camp up for auction. RFES Families may review the bid sheet and research the different camps. Last year we offered a wide range of camps including technology camps, art and writing camps, and a variety of sports camps ranging from fencing and soccer, to football, tennis and lacrosse.

How Do I Bid on a Summer Camp for My Child?

THE RFES SUMMER CAMP AUCTION IS A SEALED BID AUCTION. This means that **you have one chance** to make a bid on the camp(s) that you are interested in. Make your best bid! Last year bids went for as low as 50% of the value to as high as 110% of the camp value. **Remember that All Dollars Go Directly To RFES, so make your best bid!**

Fill out the Summer Camp Bid Sheet (last page of the flyer) and enclose your Bid Sheet in the Summer Camp Envelope attached to the back of the flyer. **Send the envelope to school with your child between March 15 and March 19, or drop it off in the TECH TREK BOX in the front office.**

THE DEADLINE IS 4:30 ON FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH.

At 4:30 on Friday, March 19, **all bid envelopes collected during the week will be opened at the same time** in the school office, with a faculty representative present. The top bidder for each camp will win and be notified no later than Monday, March 22. (Please remember to include your cell phone number.)

Any questions? Please contact Susan Mealey at 410-321-4407 or e-mail smealey1@verizon.net. Thank you for supporting the technology program at RFES.