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A NEWSLETTER PRESENTED BY

# goldenrod

THE PTA OF THE ROLAND PARK ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Issue 2 October 5, 2011

## Message from the Principal

It is always a pleasure to share our success stories. Our students have been in school 23 days and they have experienced a fantastic beginning. Arts programming continues to be an area of strength at our school. This week our eighth graders are welcoming Gayle Danley, an International Slam Poet, as an Artist-in-Residence. The students will have an opportunity to learn from her and to create original poetry.

On October 5, your child will bring home his or her first quarter progress reports. This report will guide your decision in determining whether you need to have a teacher conference. Teachers will be available Thursday, October 6th from 5:00PM – 7:30PM for parent teacher conferences.

Middle School sports teams have been organized and currently, the boys and girls soccer season has begun. We wish them much success. This year we have a new after school Glee Club and guitar club for middle school students. Also, our eight graders will begin preparing for high school and meeting with their guidance counselors and school representatives.

Some fifth graders have been selected to serve as safety patrols and class representatives have been selected from grades 4-8 to represent their peers in the Student Government Association. The Middle School Fall play is in the midst of rehearsals and preparing for opening night. Each week our students experience special activities, nature walks, gardening, and lots of opportunity for learning through play.

A special thanks to all the families who have contributed to our school with your time, donations and support of the school wide fundraiser. Thank you for your willingness to work on our behalf. Please remember that school-wide renovations will continue throughout the school year.

*-Carolyn H. Cole*

## Message from the PTA President

The PTA is constantly working to enhance the education of our children and the atmosphere at our school. One of the best ways to support the many activities of the PTA is by your membership. It's only \$10 a person, and with the 1,000+ students at our school, those \$10 memberships can really make a difference. You can join the PTA by visiting Classroom Parent, entering your name in the search, and then clicking on the "Join PTA Now" button. This will take you to a secure Pay Pal site. You can also e-mail Corresponding Secretary Deanna Kelly at [dkelly@distcomp.com](mailto:dkelly@distcomp.com).

This month alone, the PTA has helped fund an 8th grade theater trip, provided support for elementary and middle school clubs, fulfilled several teacher requests, sponsored a popular middle school movie night, and committed \$5,000 towards the 6th grade North Bay weeklong trip.

With budget cuts directly impacting services our students receive, it is more important than ever to join the PTA and support our fundraising activities, such as the upcoming Evening With the Arts. The majority of what the PTA does is to help fund teacher and parent requests for funding, and work to provide many of the extras we all wish to offer our students and teachers. As always, thank you for your support!

*-JoAnne Huey  
PTA Executive President*

## Winter Uniforms

Keep on the lookout for an e-mail with information about ordering winter uniform items, including long-sleeve t-shirts and polo shirts, sweatshirts, fleece jackets and vests.

Items will be delivered to the school once every two weeks and you will be contacted once your order arrives. Thanks so much - this recent weather has reminded us all that Fall is indeed here!

## CALENDAR

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, October 6  
5:00-7:30pm

**School Closed for  
Professional Development**  
Thursday & Friday, October 20-21

### Evening With the Arts

Friday, November 18  
6:30-11:00pm

## The Write Place

### ANNOUNCING AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING SUPPORT FOR ALL STUDENTS!

Every Monday from 2:45 to 4:00pm, the Write Place in room 305 will offer drop-in writing support to students in all grades. No appointment is necessary, and no writing assignment is too small. Stop by to get onto the "write" track! For questions, please contact Carolyn Wayner, The Write Place Liaison, at [caroline@wayner.org](mailto:caroline@wayner.org).

## Thanks from Ms. Harker

I just wanted to thank the PTA for the new listening center in my classroom they bought for me, the kids loved it! My project on DonorsChoose to get 20 more sets of four books/one CD of stories to add to the center (\$900) was funded by my class's parents/grandparents, which is simply amazing! I also have a bunch of one book/cd sets from Scholastic from when I taught kindergarten and needed books on compact disc for naptime. There is only one book, but the first grade students enjoy listening and letting one student hold the book and be the "teacher." I am so thankful to the PTA for buying the listening center, my class and I thank you so much!

*-Ms. Harker, first grade*

## Green Corner

You've probably noticed the vegetable and native plant gardens sprouting all around our school, or the parents in the cafeteria recycling empty yogurt containers, juice boxes and milk bottles, or the blue recycling bins in every classroom. But you may not know that these and many other "green" activities at RPEMS have been recognized by The Maryland Green Schools Award Program, which has named us a "Green School."

Every year, we maintain our Green School status by caring for our school environment, reducing waste, and learning how to be better stewards for the Earth. This year, we've formed a Green Team, a group of parents, teachers and administrators whose goal is to continue and build upon the many green activities that make our school a friend of the Earth.

The Green Team's focus this year will be to reduce waste in the cafeteria. Parents and students can work together to reduce cafeteria waste by packing lunches in reusable containers kids bring home each day. Parents save money by avoiding expensive single-serving packages, there's less packaging waste, and kids waste less food. Often, single-use packages get thrown away after a bite or two, whereas kids bring home the food they eat in their re-usable packages and lunch boxes, so parents can see what their kids are actually eating.

Parents can help raise money for RPEMS's green efforts by purchasing re-usable lunch boxes, food containers and water bottles from One Small Step. Simply go to the website [www.onesmallstep.com](http://www.onesmallstep.com), and 30% of the price of your purchase will be donated to RPEMS during the next three weeks. It's a win-win proposition for the environment, your food budget, and our school.

But there's no need to buy reusable containers. Look around your kitchen and you'll probably find containers, bags and take-out packaging you can use to pack your child's lunch. Containers for hummus and yogurt, zip-top bags for granola or rice are among many packaging materials you've already bought, and they are small enough to fit into lunch boxes. You can snap sandwiches into plastic boxes with lids (look for #5 plastic), or tuck cookies or crackers into small take-out containers. Use your imagination, and you'll find yourself reducing waste both at school and at home. And best of all, you'll save money while you're at it. What's not to love about that?

Watch the Green Corner in the Goldenrod for more news about the Green Team's efforts in the gardens, in our classrooms, and all over RPEMS to make our school and our planet, cleaner, greener and healthier.

-Jane Walsh-Huth

## Athletics

Our middle school students have several opportunities to participate in athletics at Roland Park. Mrs. Furno coaches the girls' soccer team in the fall, and in the past has coached a girls volleyball team in the winter, which we hope will continue. Ms. Heggins, the middle school girls' phys. ed teacher, coaches girls basketball in the fall, and our co-ed track and field team in the spring. Mr. Wais coaches boy's soccer in the fall, and a co-ed lacrosse team in the spring (although no girls have tried out in 3 years!) Mr. Seipel coaches the boy's basketball team in the fall. Our RPEMS Rams teams have done really well. The girls' basketball team won the city championship last year for the second consecutive year. The boys soccer team has won the city

championship for 3 consecutive years, and the lax teams have been champions for two consecutive years. Middle school running competitions involve 21 schools, and our team was the champion in 2009 and 2010.

All middle-school teams consist of 6, 7, and 8th graders. Most teams must make cuts, due to the large turnout of students trying out. Academics and positive character are stressed in our athletic department. All team members must sustain a minimum "75" G.P.A., and demonstrate great character in school and the community in order to participate. Thank you to all the coaches! Go Roland Park Middle School Rams Athletes, we are proud of you!

-Majju Lehmijoki-Gardner

## Winter Coat Drive

Please donate winter coats and accessories to Baltimore City students in need - infant through adult sizes. We are partnering with our friends at Armistead Gardens Elementary/Middle School to provide their children, and their families, with much needed winter coats. Before we share the coats with Armistead Gardens, Ms. Hart, our school social worker, makes sure that all of our students are outfitted for winter. If you would like a coat for your child, please let her know by calling 410-396-6420.

We have a great box set up in the Main Office for you to drop off your clean coats, hats, mittens (please pin together) and boots (please put in plastic grocery bag). Thank you for helping us provide coats to those in need!



## Seeking Visual Artists

By now, you all have marked your calendars for Evening With The Arts, our bi-annual PTA fundraiser, being held on Friday, November 18th.

We already have many talented parents and faculty lined up to perform for us. We will also have a silent auction of donated works of art, featuring pieces from our parents and faculty. Even if you aren't a performer or visual artist, you too, have an opportunity to donate your talent to this fun-filled event. It is a long held tradition to give all of the adults of our school the chance to create a work of art and donate it to the silent auction part of the event. Here is how it works: We buy unfinished framed mirrors, you pick up a mirror from us, decorate it as creatively and beautifully as you can and then return it to us with your donation form describing the materials you used. We then auction it off to raise money for our PTA, which helps to sustain the great programs we have at RPEMS.

If you would like to decorate a mirror, or donate a work of art, please e-mail Betsy Huttar ([ejh@nholaw.com](mailto:ejh@nholaw.com)) and Cortney Chaite, ([cortneychaite@gmail.com](mailto:cortneychaite@gmail.com)). Thank you!

-Betsy Huttar

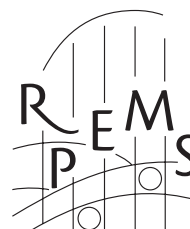
-Cortney Chaite, EWTA Donations Chairs

## Seeking Performing Artists & Technicians

We are busy planning the line up of fabulous acts for the Evening with the Arts, and we are seeking members of our school community who can contribute in one of the following areas: Jazz drums or piano, Step dance, Caribbean, African or Irish dance, African (or other ethnic) drumming or Steel drums. We are also looking for people who would like to share their talents on the acoustic stage in the library. Would you like to do a poetry reading, play the acoustic guitar and sing, perform a monologue? Let us know if you have a talent we can showcase in the quieter (library) venue. And finally, we need a tech crew to run lights, sound, and mics in the multi-purpose room and a stage manager for the acoustic stage. All this excitement happens on Friday, November 18. Contact Karen Saar ([krsaar@yahoo.com](mailto:krsaar@yahoo.com)) and Bob Friedman ([folk.and.blues.project@gmail.com](mailto:folk.and.blues.project@gmail.com)) if you are able to help out. Thank you!

-Trish Pilla,

-Val Perez-Schere, EWTA Chairs



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A Newsletter presented by  
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