



Rachel Carson PTA eNews September 2009

www.rces-pta.org

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Upcoming Events

September PTA Meeting: Tuesday 9/1, 7:00pm

Please join us after the 6:30 New Parent Welcome with Mr. Chep for our first monthly PTA meeting. The agenda will include reviewing and approving the annual budget, discussions regarding upcoming events, programs and activities; and opportunities to volunteer for a wide range of PTA activities.

Family Night: Back to School Picnic: Thursday 9/3, 5:00-7:30pm

Come meet and greet your classmates and teachers! Bring your own picnic dinner or purchase food and drinks from local restaurants. Enjoy music, games and activities for the kids. Contact Kimberly Hall (kmhall@rcn.com) to volunteer!

Back to School Nights: Wednesday 9/9, 7pm (Grades 3-5) and Thursday 9/10, 7pm (Grades Pre-K-2)

Meet the teachers, volunteer for school, classroom and PTA activities and learn about Rachel Carson.

6:30 p.m. Instrumental Music *Parent Meeting – *(For Parents of Children in Grades 4 & 5)

RCES Night at the Star Diner: Monday 9/14, 5- 8pm

Meet your family and friends for dinner, and the Star Diner will donate a percentage of the proceeds to the PTA. This will be one of our many restaurant nights throughout the year.

Dads and Donuts: Friday 9/18, 8am, RCES All Purpose Room

All dads, step dads and granddads are invited to have a free breakfast with their kids.

RCES Night at Five Guys: Tuesday 9/29, 5-8pm

Enjoy dinner at Five Guys, and they will donate a percentage of the proceeds to the PTA.

News You Can Use & Program Updates

PTA Membership Drive

Our membership drive is off to a great start! Your membership dues provide numerous benefits to our children's educational experience including financially supporting classroom needs, sponsoring free social events, funding after school enrichment activities and directly supporting teachers.

Regular membership is \$20 per year or \$15 for single parent households. Join online at <http://rces-pta.org> or fill out the Membership Application found in this week's Friday Folder.

Our PTA website (<http://rces-pta.org>) is a great place to register/renew your membership; make donations to PTA-sponsored programs and fundraisers; use the online membership directory; import events into an outlook calendar; view class rosters and other school information, read PTA meeting minutes; and much more.

Schedules & Changes

We have made several changes to our PTA calendar. We do our best to minimize changes but it will happen from time to time. Please check the school and PTA websites periodically, review the Heron Herald from Mr. Chep and listen for Connect Ed announcements.

School Tool Box

We are aware of a few boxes and backpacks that were not delivered to your children's classrooms. Please email Monica Parsons at mayohai@aol.com with any order discrepancies so she can get your missing supplies ASAP or arrange for any refunds.

Giant Bonus Bucks

Last year we earned \$6600 for our school from 250 families that registered their Giant Bonus Cards. Help us reach our goal of \$7,000 by registering your card today. Even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for Rachel Carson to receive credit. Register online at https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?execution=e1s1



You can also return the registration card that will be posted on the PTA website and sent home in this Friday's folder. The class with the most participation in each grade level will win a class party. To receive credit in the class party contest, you must register by returning the form (Giant doesn't provide a list of participants). Contact Kelly Scherr at kelscherr@comcast.net with any questions.

Harris Teeter shoppers can register their VIC cards for their Together in Education program at <http://www.harristeeter.com> (use school code 6327).

Yahoo Listserv

The Yahoo listserv still serves a vital purpose. Please make sure at least one family member is signed up for Yahoo. You may continue to receive duplicate emails in some instances as the PTA website is outbound only (as opposed to Yahoo being available for parent postings) and the current version only allows one email per family. Sign up for Yahoo by sending an email to: RCES-PTA-subscribe@yahogroups.com.

Sponsorships/Advertising

Last call for advertising in our School Directory – the deadline is Friday 9/4. We are also looking for businesses that can make in-kind donations (school supplies, misc. services, etc.) or sponsor an event or activity. Please contact Mark Ezrin at mark@ezrinfamily.com for school directory rates and details.

Donations

Instrumental Music is in need of any lightly used band or orchestra instruments. The instrument needs to be in playable condition and not need major repair (re-padding or overhauls), new sets of strings for violins and cellos (3/4) size for both. Contact Terri Moraca at Terri_L_Moraca@mcpsmd.org or bring your items into school.

Pre-K is in need of jump ropes, any size balls, Velcro catch mitts, beach toys (buckets, shovels, etc.). Please contact Sebastian Sayegh at Sebastian_Hand@mcpsmd.org or bring your items into school.

Gaithersburg HELP

This year the RCES PTA will again support Gaithersburg HELP, our local food pantry. At each of our PTA sponsored events, including meetings, Back to School Picnic and Back to School Nights, we are requesting each family bring a few food items.

Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA): <http://mccpta.net/>

MCCPTA is a County wide umbrella organization for school PTAs. They have useful parent and student information and updates about ongoing issues and news for MCPS. For a listing of events please refer to: <http://www.mccpta.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl>

Volunteer Opportunities

If you plan on helping or have questions, please confirm with us so we can track volunteer hours, recognize our volunteers and confirm we have enough help for each activity. Unless otherwise specified, please contact Ailene Renzi, our Volunteer Coordinator, at arrenzi@gmail.com or 240-631-6536. There are other opportunities in addition to the list below.

Specific Volunteer needs for September:

Back to School Picnic:

We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- set up (starting at 4:15)
- clean up (approx. 45 minutes after the event)
- running/helping with various activities/booths (such as crafts, face painting, moon bounces, helping food vendors, etc.) It would be great if we could get volunteers for 60 or 90 minute shifts.

Kindergarten Recess/Lunch Recess

Kindergarten parents can volunteer during the first 2-4 weeks of school for lunch and recess. Parents will help children get to/from bathrooms, find assigned cafeteria tables, direct children where to purchase lunches, guide children through the lunch line, carry their trays, get napkins & condiments, open lunchboxes, snack packs, clearing tables & carrying trays to the trashcans. During Recess, help is needed for bathroom duty, letting children in and out and providing general additional supervision. Contact Deborah Schwartz at deborah_ws@yahoo.ca.

Instrumental Music

8-10 volunteers are needed to man tables at the instrumental recruitment music assembly on Wednesday 9/9 from 1:35-3:00 p.m. The adults do not have to perform...just be willing to help students and be positive as students try out instruments.

Committee Chairs

Please continue to check the website for open positions. <http://rces-pta.org/committees>. There are many opportunities to help run fundraisers, family nights and various other activities.

Childcare help

We need 2-3 middle or high school students to provide free babysitting during PTA meetings and events. SSL hours will be earned.

Thank You! Thank You!

As always, the PTA and school staff are grateful for our volunteers' help! The PTA would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time. They were instrumental in the many behind the scenes activities getting ready for the first day of school!

August mailing: Heath and Wilson families

Bulletin Board Prep: Dayna Ingrassia, Heath and Benedict families

First Day Folders: Ezrin and Lilyestrom families and Olivia French

Courtyard Cleanup: Ingrassia Family, Michael Draghici and John McFadden

School Tool Box: Parsons, Minkoff, Freedman, Hoch, Pearlstein and Baumgartner families
Spirit Wear Merchandise: Emmert and Moran families as well as Shannon Smith, Rae Ritter, Katie Ferguson and Emily Lilyestrom

Staff Appreciation Back to School Lunch: Michelle Freedberg, Cara OConnor, Rebecca Smondrowski and Barb Winderlich, as well as the many parents who donated items for the lunch.

We also want to thank our many fantastic middle school (and former RCES) students that helped make the start of school possible as they earned SSL hours: Annika Salzberg, Sophia Mallus, Emily Baumgartner, Micah Levey, Max Salem, Noah Pearlstein, Sarah Kettl, Andrew Smondrowski, Jenna Wilson, Andy Fleischer, Emily Benedict, Samantha Fleischer, Alyssa Winderlich, and Danny OConnor.

Thanks to [Bar-T](#) for providing a bus to drive families from Governor Square apartments to the MCPS Back to School Fair.

Thanks to [Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis Club](#) and Brian Fankhauser, Director of Tennis, who generously provided tennis balls for the bottom of our chairs.

Please thank them if you see them. We apologize if anyone was inadvertently left off the list.

PTA Meeting Recap

Minutes and recaps from the summer planning meetings will be posted on the PTA website within the next week.

PTA Contact Info

President	Mark Ezrin	301-502-8990	mark@ezrinfamily.com
Vice President, Fundraising	Melissa Wilson	301-330-5636	misunc@comcast.net
Vice President, Social Functions	Kimberly Hall	301-208-3231	kmhall@rcn.com
Treasurer	Jennifer Coulson	301-926-2666	jenniferlcoulson@gmail.com
Secretary	Indu Levine	301-987-7141	isubbiah@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Ailene Renzi	240-631-6536	arrenzi@gmail.com

For more information and other updates, please visit: www.RCES-pta.org

In our attempt to reach as many families as possible, you may be receiving this twice if you are a subscriber to both the Yahoo! Message Board and the PTA website. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

If you cannot read this newsletter, you can download a PDF version of it from the PTA website (<http://rces-pta.org/archives>).