

PTA Newsletter

every child. one voice.

December 2006

President's Corner

This week we held our PTA meeting at 8am in the RJH cafeteria. It was well attended by many people who cannot attend the 3pm and 6pm time slots. We will continue to alternate meeting times so everyone gets a chance to attend our meetings. I would encourage you to come to the meetings and hear about all the wonderful things that are going on in our schools. Both our principals always give an update, Betty Anderson gives an update from the school board and from time to time we have a REF representative and the Superintendent of Schools, George Cushing also giving updates. Many people ask what the PTA is doing with the money raised through our fundraisers. Coming to the meetings is another way for you to hear exactly what we are doing. It is also a great chance for you to get involved in the fundraising and the many activities we are organizing.

At December's meeting we discussed the following items:

- We are thrilled to give a donation of \$2,000 to the Run, Paddle, Pedal fundraiser held in October. With matching funds from Portsmouth Regional Hospital, \$4,000 will come back into our schools (split evenly between RES and RJH). This will be spent on the following three areas of wellness -- increasing physical activity, promoting nutrition education, and improving food environment. Many thanks to Holly Warden for her enthusiasm and energy with the organizing of this donation.
- The PTA members voted overwhelmingly to make a donation of \$500 to the Thomas Fogarty Memorial Fund and to also donate a Sports Illustrated baseball book from the Rye PTA to the Greenland Central School library in memory of Thomas. This is a great way to show our condolences to the family of Thomas and the Greenland community.
- Beth Kendall is continuing to do a great job with organizing the After School Clubs. This is time consuming and demanding and we all very much appreciate Beth's efficient and delightful manner in organizing this for our children.
- We agreed to a request for funds for floor hockey equipment and for equipment to be used in flag football, hyperspace and capture the flag. Eric Ross and John Wu have been offering these after-school intramural sports as part of the After School Enrichment program to Grades 2-5. There has been very little cost with this part of the After School program so we are very happy to make this contribution which fits in well with our 'increasing physical activity' policy.
- We approved a reading program in RJH submitted by Anne Gilbert. This program is called Seeing Stars and addresses many essential reading and spelling skills.
- Great news about those Rye sweatshirts. They're back! Annie Adams has kindly volunteered to get this going again. More information will be coming on how to order your sweatshirts and sweatpants from Annie, so stay tuned and keep an eye on the PTA bulletin board in the RES lobby.
- Sally Foster (or similar) fundraiser. Cindy Trainor and Christine LeCompte have come forward to take over this fundraiser for next year. We are looking at other companies such as Genevieve's. If you know of any other fundraisers and would like to share the information with us, please contact the PTA at www.ryepta.org. We plan on doing this fundraiser in October 2007.
- Mother-Son Hike. Christine LeCompte and Annie Adams are going to organize the mother-son hike for early June 2007. We will involve both schools with Christine representing RES and Annie representing RJH.
- Membership is up to 150! We have around 300 families and over 100 staff members and teachers in both schools. We aim to get 100% membership! Even if you can't be an active member of the PTA, please become a member so you can stay informed on what's happening in our schools. A membership form can be found on our website: www.ryepta.org. We are committed to working with the schools, the school board, the REF and all the staff, teachers and parents for the betterment of our children.

Finally, thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement. We hope you have a wonderful time over the holidays with your friends and families and look forward to seeing you in 2007. Rebecca Harrison, PTA President

The future depends on what we do in the present – Mahatma Gandhi

Brief Report on November PTA meeting minutes –

full report is on the PTA website, www.ryepta.org

Funding approved for:

- folders and bookmarks for the Spanish classes at RES
- a listening skills center for the Kindergarten
- an Online Math Subscription requested by Molly Rothermel, RJH

The Enrichment Assemblies Committee has been doing a great job. In October, the 8th Grade were introduced to a public speaking program, which will continue to be used throughout the year in all areas of their curriculum. In the RES, we have the Museum of Science coming in January to do two separate shows for the children. The 1st and 2nd graders will enjoy "Flight and Aircraft" while the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will enjoy "Cryogenics." And in the RJH, the 6th graders will enjoy an African Dance troupe.

Pie Fundraiser

We sold 171 pies total this year, a 50% increase over last year! Total sales this season were \$2,394.00. We made \$1059.00 or 44% profit for the PTA. A HUGE thank you goes to everyone at the RES, the RJH, and to all the community members who supported this effort. And a special thank you to Michelle Kroitzsh, Judy Esposito, and Lisa Chase who organized the pie sales fundraiser, and thanks to the Valley View Orchard Farms for baking the pies!

Teacher's Holiday Question ---

My favorite food is:

Jacquie DeFreze	Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies
Susan Detwiler	Pecan pie
Audrey Garcia	Petit Fours, Buche de Noel – elegant & traditional French Canadian desserts
Amanda Goss	Turkey and hot chocolate
Mary Ellen Grasso	Seafood Chowder from the Maine Dinner
Michelle Gwinn	Homemade sugar cookies
Katie Jarvis	Buche de Noel and potato latkes
Ann Jule	A warm cup of Chai
Hope Murray	Butter crunch candy
Eric Ross	My special rice and beans or veggie lasagna
Sally Welch	Aunt Martha's pecan pie
John Wu	Chicken Fried Frog Legs

During the holidays.....

I like to:

Relax and spend time with my boys, we hope to ski and ice skate
Dive deep into my book, <u>Pride and Prejudice</u> this year
Ski w/ family & friends at Sunday River in ME
Enjoy holiday gatherings and Christmas music
Paint and create anything
Travel to see my family
Eat, walk, read, and relax with friends and family
Walk through the beautiful winter woods with my family
Sit by the fire and read a book
Ice skate and go sledding with my children
Visit our good friends in Richmond, Virginia
Go skiing at Wildcat Mountain

Christmas Trivia

1. What small east coast state was the first to ratify the Constitution on St. Nicholas Day in 1787?
2. What did the Grinch use as a substitute for reindeer?
3. In *Miracle on 34th Street*, what does Susan teach Kris to do?
4. What fruit is St. Nick's nose like?
5. Who first recorded "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"?
6. In "The Night Before Christmas," St. Nick is clothed not all in red, but in what?
7. In the *Nutcracker*, who leads the toy soldiers against the Mouse King?
8. Jose Feliciano scored a big hit with this song.
9. What is Charlie Brown's complaint about Christmas?

If there are any suggestions / comments / ideas for future newsletters, please feel free to contact Dianne Crisp, srfrmm@comcast.net.

Christmas Trivia Answers: 1. Delaware. 2. His dog. 3. Blow bubble gum. 4. A cherry. 5. Gene Autry
6. "All in fur, from his head to his foot." 7. The Nutcracker. 8. "Feliz Navidad" 9. It is too commercialized.

RJH News

The Student Council Spotlight

Canned Food Drive – We collected over 500 cans for Family Services Association for the holidays.

Toys for Tots for the Rye Fire Department – We collected unwrapped toys and gift cards to support the local community as well as other area agencies during the holiday season.

Gift Wrapping – We wrapped books at Barnes and Noble, the money raised from donations given to Toys for Tots.

Holiday Gift Giving Drive – We collected hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to send to the Red Shirt School in South Dakota. We adopted this Native American Reservation two years ago.

Web Page – We have a link for the Student Council on the RJH webpage under 'students' that is updated weekly.

Family Services – We adopted the Family Services in conjunction with RES, and will be supporting them by collecting various items needed throughout the year.

Pease Greeters – The students will be stuffing goody bags to give to the troops as they stop on at Pease on their way overseas. After the holidays, we will be holding a used / new paperback book drive to give to the troops as well. If you would like more information, contact bhughes@sau50.k12.nh.us at RJH.

Thank you to all for your support of the student council efforts!
Bridget Hughes, Advisor

RES News

Student Council Spotlight

The first trimester Student Council members are winding down with their duties. New homeroom reps will be voted from each homeroom before the holiday break. "I would like to thank them for their hard work", said Mrs. DeFreze.

In December, they have collected:

Personal Hygiene products for Family Services of Portsmouth, which includes families in Rye. The special shelf for donations is "almost" full.

Toys for Tots for the Rye Fire Department – to date we have three huge boxes full of toys!

The Mitten Tree is filled with hats, mittens, and scarves for the Cross Roads House. We have put up a second tree because of the overwhelming response from our community!

Please note that the RES notepads are available throughout the school year, through Student Council. To order, please put \$3.00 per pad in an envelope, send to Jacquie DeFreze. With your order, include your name, your child's name and his / her teacher. She will take care of it for you.

The Student Council members and Mrs. DeFreze would like to thank everyone who has helped with our Community Service projects this year. We are very fortunate to live in such a wonderful community full of very generous people. Happy Holidays!

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

Choose to live a life that matters.

Michael Josephson

Box Tops for Education Reminder

We would very much like to increase our participation in this program since it is basically "free money" for us to spend as we see fit for the children. The list of participating brands is quite a long one--everything from General Mills cereal, granola bars and fruit snacks to baking mixes, taco supplies, frozen biscuits, Kleenex tissues, Ziploc bags, and more! Please take a few moments to check the full list that is posted in the lobby. Thank you. Box Tops coordinator for RES/RJH:
Lucretia Schafroth schafbach@aol.com
<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

Websites of interest

Child Safety
www.familywatchdog.us

Get enough Z's
www.kidshealth.org/media/kidspoll/sleep.html

Brain Teasers
www.eduplace.com/math/brain/index.html

Family Fun
www.familyfun.com

PTA Calendar – upcoming dates - 2006 – 2007

Check the PTA website for full calendar activities and monthly schedule
www.ryepta.org

January

Tuesday	1/16	3:00 p.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library
Wednesday	1/24	9 – 10 a.m.	Morning Coffee with 8th grade Parents RJH café – with Jan Yost, Sponsored by the PTA RES After School Enrichment Classes

February

Tuesday	2/13	6:00 p.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library
Wednesday	2/14	9 – 10 a.m.	Morning Coffee with 6th grade Parents RJH café – with Jan Yost, Sponsored by the PTA
Thursday	2/22		Spaghetti Dinner

March

Tuesday	3/13	8:00 a.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library Original Artworks Fundraiser
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April

Tuesday	4/10	3:00 p.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library TV turn off week After School Enrichment Classes
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May

Tuesday	5/8	6:00 p.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library Father / Daughter / Someone Special Dance
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June

Tuesday	6/12	8:00 a.m.	PTA meeting RJH Library Mother / Son Hike
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