

# PTA Newsletter

*every child. one voice.*

*June 2007*

Hi everyone,

Our last meeting for this school year was held on Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8am in the RJH cafeteria. As always it was productive and well attended. It was a chance to summarize the PTA year and reflect on our goals. In addition to achieving these goals, we are happy to report that all of our activities and fundraisers have also been overwhelmingly successful.

Our main goals in 2006/2007 were to:

- increase communication between the PTA and school and home
- increase the membership as a way of making more people feel included and fulfilled in their involvement in the PTA
- assist the schools wherever we can in our children's education.

In May 2006 the PTA gave a grant of \$10,000 to an All Schools Enrichment Assembly committee. This committee lead by Jules Grant has involved the Principals, teachers and parents' input to bring a wide variety of enrichment into both schools. By giving this large grant upfront they are able to book ahead many of the artists and educators, who are extremely popular. At our April meeting the members agreed to again fund this grant at the request of both Principals and the parent-teacher committee as a way of continuing to educate and inform our children outside of their normal classroom activities. Personally, every time one of these assemblies have been held in the RES, my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have both come home full of conversation about what they had just learned!

As well as enrichment in school, the PTA has been active in organizing after school enrichment through the unbounded enthusiasm of parent volunteer, Beth Kendall. Beth has organized and coordinated a fantastic line-up of classes for children to partake in after school hours. Keeping in mind the New Hampshire Healthy schools program, we have offered many physical activities, which we will continue to do so in the next school year.

Our Father-Daughter-Someone Special Dance was once again a huge success thanks to Karen Nadeau and Rebecca Hoag. These ladies are 'retiring' this year from this event, so if you have any interest in taking on this fantastic event, please let us know.

Also, our Mother-Son-Someone Special Hike was a huge success with the only complaint being 'it wasn't long enough'!!! Unfortunately, we mothers didn't get to put on our party dresses, but we all enjoyed our hike anyway!

As many of you know our volunteers in both schools work tirelessly alongside the administrations to help the teachers and staff where necessary. In conjunction with the REF for example, we were able to support the Tile Project that they generously funded in the Elementary school. This is just one example of the excellent communication between the REF and the PTA and the school.

There have been many sad moments in the past year with the passing away of people closely connected in our community. The PTA members have been unanimous in their support of donations to the Thomas Fogarty fund and other families in need. The feedback from these donations has been extremely positive.

We agreed at this meeting to donate \$500 to RES in memory of Kymberlee Lawton, the mother of two young boys, who recently passed away. Kim's husband, Michael and Lane Richardson will meet later in the year to decide how the funds will be used in the school. Kim widely supported in-school enrichment and this will honor her memory.

And finally a few brief but important points,

- We say farewell to Jan Yost, RJH Principal and wish her all the best in her retirement. We welcome in Chris Pollet, our new RJH Principal, who comes to Rye from the Oyster River schools district.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 at 6pm in RJH library.
- Thanks again to volunteers and organizers of the Staff Appreciation Lunches in both schools. All your efforts were greatly appreciated by staff and teachers, particularly the neck and hand massages!
- Look out for PTA people on Curriculum nights in September who will be more than happy to explain all the volunteer opportunities in both schools. We are always interested in welcoming new people and new ideas.
- The school board requests again for all parents/children of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to return their 'Exit' surveys to the school board as soon as possible.
- The bus surveys were very helpful. Thank you to everyone for returning these and we look forward to shorter, more enjoyable bus rides for all children in September!
- Money donated to Destination Imagination went towards the cost of the crate and freight of the props needed for the two teams, the shipping costs and the airport transfers at both ends for all the team members and team managers.
- Original Artworks fundraiser – we're still chasing those missing magnets or checks. On the whole, the fundraiser was once again highly successful and we look forward to continuing it next year. Thanks to Susie Reaney and Lydia Meade for this.

I wish you all a happy and healthy vacation and look forward to seeing you at our first PTA meeting of the year on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2007, at 6pm in the Rye Junior High library. I encourage you all to come to meetings as often as you can, it is a wonderful way to keep in touch with the school community as both Principals give their updates, Betty Anderson updates us from the School board and it is a chance to hear about all the volunteer opportunities. Thank you again for all your encouragement and support.

All the best, Rebecca Harrison, PTA President

# \*Happy Summer Vacation!\*

# RES

A final word of thanks  
from the Student Council  
and Mrs. DeFreze

Where has this year gone?

I want to start by thanking all of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Student Council members for all their hard work. This has been quite a year for Community Service projects. We have helped the communities from Rye, NH to Mazatlan, Mexico! None of the projects would have been successful if it wasn't for the generosity of our school community, thank you for that. Have a safe and fun-filled summer.

*Seek first to understand  
before you seek  
to be understood.*

*- Steven Covey*

# RJH

Congratulations to the new  
Student Council Officers for  
2007-2008

President: Chloe Walton  
Vice-Pres: Kathryn Weston  
Secretary: Campbell Probert  
Treasurer: Harrison Moran

I am very proud of the work that the Student Council accomplished this year, among those things: Support for the troops, Soles 4 Souls shoe drive, school supply drive, Dance and movie night held for Leukemia, food pantry collection, Toys for Tots collection, wrapped books and gave money to charity.

- Thank you to all parents for their support
- Good luck to the graduating eighth graders.
- Homeroom reps. will be chosen in September.

Have a great summer.

Bridget M. Hughes  
Student Council advisor

*Surf's  
Up!*

## Thank you

- to the PTA Board Members for their leadership and encouragement
- to all of the volunteers who have stepped forward and have done their best to make a difference for all of our children
- to the Administrative Staff at RES / RJH and the teachers for their help, support, hard work and patience each day

Live simply.

Care deeply.

Speak kindly.

Love generously.

*- unknown*

**Portsmouth High announced their Top 10  
Graduates and four of these graduating seniors are  
from Rye!**

Brian Harning  
Elisa Inger Loeser

Micheline Labrie  
John Szmyd

The PTA would like to congratulate them on their achievements. It may seem a long way to those of us in Elementary School, but I'm sure their parents would say 'it passes quickly, enjoy time with your children while you can!'