

PTA NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2007

Hi Everyone,

This year my son Jonathan is in 5th grade and ‘we’ are learning about recycling. For those of you who have already had a 5th grader you know what I mean and for those of you with this still in front of you, trust me by mid-October you will be recycling everything in your house! So on that note, I am going to continue with my plan to do as much communication as possible from the PTA electronically. For some of you this may mean getting this newsletter twice, and I apologize for this, but just think we may have saved 10 more trees.

Our October meeting was well attended as always and we have the following to report.

The members at the meeting agreed to grant funds for the following items this month.

- ⌚ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program - Jeanne Moynahan, PTA Representative on the SRTS Town of Rye committee gave us an update on their progress. The PTA members agreed to match the REF fund of \$250 which will go towards the work needed to qualify for the Federal Grant. The Safe Routes to School programs hope to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation choice. For more information, go to news@saferoutesinfo.org.
- ⌚ Bonnie Vadala requested \$235.85 for much needed Labsonic headphones for use in the RES. This will enable computer lessons to be more productive and quiet!
- ⌚ David Glidden requested funds for a New Hampshire history traveling program to visit the 4th grade classrooms. They will do a presentation in each classroom called “Going to School” which will give the children a taste of what it was like to attend school during the era of the one-room school-house in New Hampshire. The total cost is \$221.94.
- ⌚ Phoebe Guarnaccia requested funds for a shed to house the copious amounts of corrugated cardboard which passes through the RES every week. Rye Town recycles this for the school, however, we have not had anywhere it can be stored in the meantime.
- ⌚ Each year the PTA is very happy to give the teachers each a check for \$75.00 to help in some small way to reimburse them for the payments they make towards their classrooms. This payment goes towards supplies, educational games, books and other items for the classrooms.

As many of you know, the After School Enrichment Programs are run completely by PTA volunteers with the help of Donna and Brandy in the front office. A lot of care and thought goes into this program and I would like to take this chance to reiterate the following points.

- ⌚ The After School Enrichment Programs we offer are reflective of what the parents and children have suggested or requested. Sometime, we offer clubs that do not fill up with enough children and cannot run the club because it would not cover expenses.
- ⌚ We try to keep the costs as low as possible.
- ⌚ We ask that everyone be respectful of the people running the club and please pick your children up promptly at 3.45pm.
- ⌚ We do not offer after school enrichment to Kindergarten because our experience is these children are too young and too tired at the end of the day.
- ⌚ Our philosophy, as guided by the School Board, is not to offer this opportunity of After School Enrichment to outside profit making organizations.
- ⌚ We do not pay instructors' travel expenses, overtime or anything extra as a way of keeping our costs to a minimum.
- ⌚ We are always open to new ideas for the After School Enrichment. If you have anything you would like to offer please contact Beth Kendall, Judy Ward, Kellie Prial and Amy Suchocki, who are all working hard to make this opportunity available to our children. You can find their contact details on our website www.ryepta.org

Our Boxtops coupons collection program was well received by the Elementary School parents. Lucretia Schafroth and a team of mothers went into the lunch-room on Friday to explain to the children about the program. We hope that this collection program will go towards helping children appreciate the value of money (those little coupons are worth 10cents each!) and also help give them a sense of community building – the prize for the ‘winning grade’ is a chance to help Mr Ross choose a new fish for the fish tank (and name him or her too. So have fun cutting out those coupons where you can!

The Boxtops coupons collection is also being carried out in the Junior High. Please contact Sue Rhodes for more information at suealimac@verizon.net

Please visit our website for the list of our expenditures from December 2006 to the present. We are so pleased we were able to fund all these projects and we hope to do the same again this year and more if we can.

We were so happy to have the Rye Junior High Student Council members, Chloe Walton and Harrison Moran, come and make a presentation to us about their upcoming activities. We also appreciated three members of the 5th grade recycling team, Reed Williamson, Ana Vigueras and Shae Bisbee come and give a 'recycling' presentation in support of the purchase of the shed.

Both the Principals gave us extensive updates on both schools. I encourage you to come to the meetings to hear their news. It is a particularly good way for parents of 5th graders to get a feel for what Junior High will be like next year! Also, for Kindergarten and Grade 1 parents to hear what is ahead of them in the Elementary school.

Marty Random, the RJH PTA Representative gave us a brief update on our activities in the Junior High. She would like to mention the following.

A big thank you for the following.

- ⌚ All the parents who helped out with the Magazine drive.
- ⌚ All the parents who helped with the planting on Garden Day.
- ⌚ Parents who volunteered with the 6th grade team.

And just a few more items to remember.

- ⌚ Dianne Crisp and Melisa Syracuse, Co-Editors of the RES Yearbook are looking for photographers. Please contact them via the PTA website.
- ⌚ Orders for Genevieve's wrapping paper and goods are now closed. Please visit our website if you missed out and need to order something.
- ⌚ Kathy MacAlpine and Julia Madden are still looking for someone to step into their shoes for the February Spaghetti Dinner in 2009. If you are interested you could 'shadow' them this year (2008) in preparation. Please contact Kathy and Julia via our website.
- ⌚ We discussed fundraising ideas and decided against 'Dutch Mill Bulbs.' Most members prefer the idea of a fundraiser that brings the community together. Please come to the next meeting to hear more about the fundraisers/activities we are

planning. One fundraising idea was brought to the meeting by Robin Husslage. It is a very interesting 'locker' organizer that will not only be practical for Junior High students but also Moms, Dads, or anyone who needs some help with their organizational skills.

And lastly, some dates to remember.

- 🕒 Friday, October 19th – RJH Dance – 7-9pm
- 🕒 Tuesday, October 23rd – RJH Principal morning coffee – 7th grade parents – 9-10am.
- 🕒 Wednesday, October 24th - Safe Routes to School kick-off – 6.30-7.30 at RJH library.
- 🕒 Friday, October 26th – RES Principal morning coffee – all grades parents - 9-10am.
- 🕒 Tuesday, October 30th – last day for 5th graders to take in their material for yearbook ¼ page.
- 🕒 Tuesday, November 13th – last order for Thanksgiving pies (forms coming home soon).
- 🕒 Tuesday, November 13th – Next PTA meeting 6pm RJH library.

Once again thank you to everyone for your wonderful support of the PTA. We appreciate all the hard work by the members of the association and we also appreciate the positive and encouraging feedback. As always, please come to our meetings, Members and Non-members. And remember '**Join the PTA and have your say**'!!!

Your sincerely,
Rebecca Harrison
PTA President