



October 2013

Important Events

Thank you everyone for coming to our PTA meeting, it was great to see new folks who are interested in our PTA.

Our next scheduled PTA meeting is October 21 at 7:00 p.m. Please come and bring a friend!

In the News at Ridgely

Four major issues are on the radar of our local PTA and area PTAs:

Redistricting on the elementary schools in the area due to the upcoming opening of Mays Chapel. Pinewood and Cromwell Valley Elementary, among other schools, will be affected by this change. The PTA encourages parents to attend upcoming County meetings to find out more about the process. Please let Greg Paranzino or Sue Battle-McDonald know if you would like to be an ambassador, attend the meetings and report back with the information. There is a Superintendents Community Meeting on **Oct. 16** at Parkville at **6:30 pm**. The next County Board of Education meeting will be **Oct. 22** at **6:30pm**.

Common Core Curriculum implementation and its affect on our administration, teachers and children. There are growing concerns, including the effect on GT programs and many other aspects of our educational system. These new curriculum standards are currently being used in Math and Language Arts. Please continue to watch this newsletter as we expand information on this issue. Here are some sources where you can learn more:

www.corestandards.org
www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/ccss
www.bcps.org/academics/commoncore.html
<http://vimeo.com/75585530>

Upcoming Events

Oct. 18- School closed due to Professional Development day.

Oct. 31- School closes 3 hours early.

Nov. 1 – School closed Professional Development day.

November 18 - 22
American Education Week.

**PTA CRAFT FAIR
NOVEMBER 9th –
Please Contribute!**

Democratic election of school board members. Parents have been advocating to implement changes here. Contact Sue Battle-McDonald to get involved in this advocacy action.

Air conditioning at Dulaney High. RMS was successful in getting air conditioning because of advocacy by its PTA and parents. Dulaney still needs it in much of the building. There are no plans yet for installing it. It was identified as a sixth priority for renovation a year ago, but no apparent progress toward funding the renovation has been made. If your child is headed to Dulaney, you are encouraged to start advocating for AC now.

Craft Fair The RMS Craft fair planning is in full tilt. We would like to thank Ashley Brown and Debbie Gill for leading the Craft Fair planning committee. Silent Auction items are needed and if you have a small business or service you can donate an item or gift certificate in exchange for complimentary advertising. Vendor spaces are nearly at capacity. A wait list has begun.

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS needed for the Craft Fair. Please contact Ashley Brown 410-337-9596 if you can spare time. Students will get service hours for volunteering!! We need volunteers on **Friday Nov. 8th** between **4-6 pm** to help with set up and vendor unloading. On **Saturday Nov. 9th** volunteers are needed beginning at **8 am** for set up, food set up and service, other help as needed throughout the day and for clean up at **4-5:00 pm**. Please watch for Sign up Genius emails to fill volunteer spots.

The **School improvement team** meeting originally scheduled for Oct. 21 is cancelled. There was a miscommunication regarding the date of the meeting, which was actually held on 9/30/2013. Sixth grade/parents in particular are needed to become part of the team. Future meeting dates are 1/27/14, 3/24/14, and 5/19/24 at 5p.m. in the school library. Contact Mrs. Evans, Principal, sevans@bcps.org to express your interest.

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We are Social!

Follow us on:

Facebook: Ridgely Middle PTA. Take a minute to join now!!



Don't forget the PTA website as well!

www.ridgelymiddlepta.com

Ridgely school twitter account: @RidgelyMiddle

Here are some other sites of interest:

www.abcschoolsmd.org

New discussion forum:
www.BCPSParents.com
Great place to learn about issues and hear from other parents. All parents encouraged to join and post.