



February/March 2014

Important Events

Our next scheduled PTA meeting is March 24 at 7 p.m. Please come and bring a friend!

Upcoming Events

Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis- Thursday, March 6th 6-9 p.m. Room 170 at the Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

We are Social!

Follow us on
Twitter: @RidgelyMiddle

Facebook: Ridgely Middle PTA

Take a minute to join now!!
Don't forget the PTA website as well!

www.ridgelymiddlepta.com



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.

In the News at Ridgely

Congratulations Ms. Sue Evans!



Ms. Evans was selected as the MASSP (Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals) principal of the year. The award is a state recognition and now Ms. Evans goes on to the national competition. The PTA presented Ms. Evans with a flower planter as congratulations for her award.

Notes from our Principal: A special thank you is extended to everyone who participated in our school fundraisers. One of our major purchases will be an additional set of risers for arts performances. The "learning cottage" has been renovated for Spanish and now has AC. The entire school is in the process of being wired for WiFi. This means that students will be able to use their devices in school for instructional purposes without having to use the cellular data plans. The project should be completed by the end of June 2014. In addition, it is expected that all teachers will receive a new computer device after

Spring break pending BCPS funding.

Eighth grade students took the College Board Ready Step Test in the fall of 2013. Results show that 64.3% of eighth grade students are on track to be college and career ready. This is 1.1% increase over last year's results. Teachers are analyzing the data and answers with students. They will work with students to address the identified deficit areas between now and the end of the school year. PARCC testing, MSA tests and MAPP testing are all underway in the next few weeks. Edline will be replaced next year with SharpSchool.

Our RMS Basketball team had a great season. Congratulations everyone! Kasey K. won the Geography Bee for the second time in two years. Congrats to Kasey and also the runner-ups who showed incredible sportsmanship during and after the event.

A few weeks ago BCPS put out a challenge for students to come up with a slogan for the anti-bullying week. Giuliani P. an eighth grade student from RMS had the winning slogan. The slogan was "Loving is Louder." Here is a link to an article about the anti-bullying campaign kick-off at RMS.
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/lutherville/ph-tt-bullying-prevention-0312-20140304,0,2395077.story>

Congratulations to Sue Wilson and the talented students who competed in the Solo/Ensemble Festival. Students were judged by high school teachers from other counties, private teachers, university professors, members of military bands or musicians with the Baltimore Symphony. Of the 35 students-30 received a superior rating (96-100%) and 5 received an excellent (90-95%). Those who received the superior rating, now have the opportunity to play again at the state level in May. The strings also sent 4 soloists to the Festivals.

Ms. O'Melia reports that STEAM Night was a great success, with robotics competition having 15 teams. Two RMS teams won the robotics competition. Five plastic and three metal teams will be attending the state competition on Saturday March 8.

PTA Announcements: We had 37 entries in the PTA Reflections contest this year and 7 went on to the county competition. There will be an awards ceremony in March for those being recognized at the county level.

PTA Council Award of Excellence

Literature/Middle School Level: Rebecca R.

Music Composition/Middle School Level: Samantha E.

PTA Council Award of Merit

Literature/Middle School Level: Tate S.

Photography/Middle School of Level: Geonna P.

Visual Arts/Middle School of Level: Lily Q.

Do you have a few hours you can give your children each month? The PTA would love for you to become involved in all of the activities we do. Even if you can only help once, or as needed, we all make the PTA great. Please contact Alice Rhodes, Communications Secretary at 410-560-0093 to find out what positions are available for next year and how your gifts can best help us!

The PTA has an annual luncheon for RMS teachers and staff. We provide them a nice thank you lunch and small gifts. If you work for a company that can donate gift certificates or small door prizes, we would appreciate your contributions. Please drop off donations at the main office and label "PTA Teacher luncheon." The tentative date for the luncheon is March 28.

The 8th grade dance is May 16.

The 8th Grade Farewell is planned for June 12.

Arts in Action will be April 19th.

Volunteers will be needed for these events.

ADVOCACY

Please see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308298089187358/> for current information (and meeting times) about issues affecting our schools and school system. Many issues are being addressed right now and information is continually changing. You need to learn more about these issues, before the opportunity to give your input is over.

Hybrid BCPS Council- Hybrid School Board Bill Hearings Your Support is Needed!

The many parents and advocates working on this issue still need lots of help from you to get this bill passed. Did you know that unlike 97% of the school boards nationwide, including most in Maryland, Baltimore County's school board has ZERO elected members? Many school advocates believe a lack of accountability is at the root of many troubling issues affecting BCPS. Our school system is run by the Superintendent with the oversight and guidance from the Board, which is not accountable to the citizens.

Ridgely parent Sue Battle-McDonald can provide more information about this and other issues, and welcomes hearing your concerns; you can reach her at suebattle@yahoo.com.

Redistricting due to Mays Chapel school opening:

The public is also welcome to address new boundary lines proposed for several elementary schools in the Lutherville-Mays Chapel area. The proposed boundary line changes, create an attendance zone for the Mays Chapel Elementary School and help reduce overcrowding in schools along the York Road corridor. The Board is scheduled to take action on the proposed boundary line changes on March 11.

Four period A/B day for high school:

There has been considerable backlash on this schedule change due to take place next year. Several articles have been in the Baltimore Sun and protests have also taken place. Please see our Facebook page for links.

Parent Input needed on GT Language Arts:

Parent input and/or questions are needed regarding the GT Language Arts program for an upcoming county meeting. Please email Alice Rhodes with questions for this meeting at alwriter@comcast.net