

EAGLE EXPRESS



Rivers Edge Elementary School PTA
<http://www.reespta.org>, <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/es/riversedge>
October 2010 PTA Newsletter

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Calendar:

10/1	Spiritwear Deadline
10/2	REES PTA Yard Sale
10/6	Walk to School Day
10/8	Theater IV, Little Red Hen
10/11	Student Holiday Hospitality Breakfast for Staff PTA Executive Board Meeting
10/12	County Council Leadership Training
10/14	PTA Meeting: Family Fun & Fitness
10/18	Sponsor Day - California Pizza Kitchen
10/22	November Newsletter Deadline Reflections Entries Deadline
10/29	Paperless Day Fall Treat Day

President's Message

Emily Fagan



While the weather has not felt fall like, the calendar says it is now FALL! In between football, soccer, baseball and other extracurricular activities, the parents, teachers and students of Rivers Edge have been hard at work planning and implementing the fantastic programs for the 2010-2011 school year. Thank you everyone for a successful school opening and September. September is always a busy month so I thank you for your support of the PTA.

Movie Night and Yard Sale: Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make our first ever REES Movie Night a success. The PTA transformed the back of the school into an outdoor movie theatre. A good time was had by all who attended. Thank you also to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make the first ever Rivers Edge PTA Community Yard Sale a success. Parent volunteers have truly stepped up this year to make it a special year.

Back to School Night: Thank you to everyone who recently came out to Back to School night. It is always an informative and interesting evening learning about your child's school year. Thank you to the many volunteers who staffed the PTA tables promoting membership, the Eagle Fund, Spirit Wear, Memory Books and Reflections.

Reflections: The National PTA's annual arts program, *Reflections*, is underway at Rivers Edge. Students can produce an artistic rendition of the theme "Together We Can..." using literature, musical composition, film, photography, dance choreography and visual arts. Rivers Edge continues a strong tradition of participation in this national program. Please check the PTA website at www.reespta.org for entry forms and information. The deadline is Friday, October 22.

Membership: Thank you to the 600+ members who have joined the Rivers Edge PTA so far. We are close, but not quite at our goal. If you have not already joined, please print off the membership form located on page 7 of this newsletter or from the website and return it to school with your \$5 membership fee. We would love to make this our largest membership year ever at Rivers Edge. Remember the first five classes who reach 100% membership will get a pizza party for lunch from the PTA.

Eagle Fund: Our annual fundraising campaign, **The Eagle Fund**, is well underway. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this year's campaign. Our goal is to raise \$14,000 and have 55% of families participate. Many employers also participate by matching donations through corporate matching programs. The money raised goes to the wonderful programs, materials for students and teacher support that the PTA commits to each year. Without your support, we will have to look at cutting some programs. Eagle Fund donation forms are available on the PTA website and on the PTA bulletin board in the front hallway of the school.

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Rivers Edge Elementary

PTA

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Principal's Message

Johnna Riley



year!

It's such a wonderful feeling to be back "in the groove" of school. By now we have completed all of the beginning of the school year items and we are moving on with the task of helping your child to grow, have fun, and experience a successful

The month of October brings the beginning of some formalized testing for some of our students. Both 3rd and 4th graders will be taking Standardized tests this month. Our 3rd graders will take the CogAt Test (an ability test – scores are used to determine a student's ability level – scores are also used as one piece of evidence in the identification for gifted services) and our 4th graders will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (an achievement test – scores are used to compare students' achievement with their ability scored from 3rd grade – scores are also used as one piece of evidence in the identification for gifted services.) To help provide answers to questions about testing, the school will sponsor a Principal's Coffee Friday, October 1 at 8:30 a.m. This parent workshop aims to help parents understand all the assessments given at the elementary level and how the scores are used in a student's school career. I hope you can join us!

Here are a few reminders from our DARE Officer, Officer Hobbs, to help keep our students as safe as possible and to prevent traffic violations being given:

- ◆ Please respect and follow the 25 miles an hour speed limit in a school zone.
- ◆ When dropping off and picking up students in the car rider circle, be reminded that the circle is also our Fire Lane, so drivers are to stay in their cars at all

times. (That way if we had an emergency vehicle that had to use the lane, the driver would be in the car to pull out of the lane to make way for the emergency vehicle. Parking your car in the Fire Lane and getting out of your car is a traffic violation.)

- ◆ Be cognizant of the handicapped parking spaces in the parking lot. If you are waiting in line for drop-off or pick-up and see a car parked in one of the spaces, your courtesy is appreciated in letting that vehicle out of the space.
- ◆ It is not safe to drop your child off in the parking lot and then have them walk around parked and moving cars to get to the sidewalk. Make sure you have plenty of time to sit in the car rider drop-off circle in the mornings to wait and drop-off your child in the circle where supervision is provided.

In the drop-off circle, please have your child exit the car from the right side – next to the sidewalk. Again, this prevents your child from being in a lane that could have a moving vehicle.

As we strive to provide a safe zone for arrival and dismissal each day, we ask that drivers please be aware of our walkers, and walkers...please be aware of the cars! The Edge is a great community school that cares about our children and puts their safety first!

Thank you, again, for all of your help, support, and partnership in making this year a success for your child.

Johnna Riley
Principal

Ways and Means

Megan Carter

The Eagle Fund Fundraiser

We need your help! Here is an update on where we stand with our direct donation fundraiser. **As of September 23rd, we have had only 91 of our families donate to The Eagle Fund and we are still far from our goal of \$14,000. Please consider donating if you have not.** The funds raised benefit every student, faculty member and family at REES. We need to reach our goals to implement all of our plans for this school year.



Donations forms are available on the REES PTA website (www.reespta.org), and on the PTA bulletin board. I am happy to e-mail you a form as well! Please contact me at Megancarter10@yahoo.com or 346-8672

Thank you to everyone who has donated....we appreciate it!

Membership

Allyson Mewhirter

THANK YOU to all of those who have already joined our PTA. We are closing in on our goal of 100% membership for 2010-11. If you have not taken the opportunity to join the REES PTA, please help us reach our goal by filling out the form located on page 7 of this newsletter and returning it to school. Dues are just \$5.00 per member.

Any questions can be directed to Allyson Mewhirter at ammewhirter@yahoo.com.

Yearbook

Carole Moore

WANTED: Photos of Your Kids & Their Friends!

Who would you like to see in the Yearbook? We need your help - our photographers & volunteers can't be everywhere. Send us your best photos of school events or just kids at play, and they might be published in the Yearbook! Parents and students old enough to use a camera should submit pictures. There are lots of opportunities for great photos: special events, class parties, everyday school life, field trips, etc. Simply upload your pictures online or, if you prefer, email them to the Yearbook Editor at cxmoore2@verizon.net.

To upload photos online:

1. Go to www.REESPTA.org
2. From the home page, click on "Click Here to Upload Photos for the Yearbook".



3. Browse" to select the photo(s) you want to upload
4. Click on "Upload Chosen Images"
5. Click on the small box to agree to Terms & Conditions.
6. Enter your contact information & details about the picture(s)
7. Click "Save Details"
8. Yes, it's that easy!

Please remember the PTA Yearbook team will review all photos and determine final Yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be included. Together, we can make this a topnotch yearbook!



Volunteers

Jill Kraus

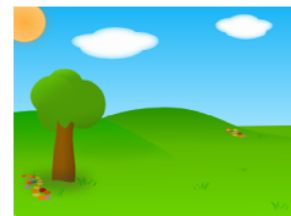
The school year has begun and already there are so many wonderful folks who've stepped up and made life for the teachers and staff here at REES run a little bit more smoothly by volunteering at school. A big thank you to everyone who helped out at Back to School Night: staffing the information tables, helping teachers get ready by making copies and donating items and setting up for the wonderful lasagna dinner for the teachers and staff. The first weeks of school have also been helped greatly by everyone who has volunteered with Lunch Bunch. Until the individual classes are assigned their weeks to help out in the cafeteria, these folks have bridged the gap and helped the newest Eagles learn how to navigate at lunch time. Every little thing that volunteers do here at REES makes it easier for our teachers and staff to do their jobs. Thank you so very much.



Thank you also to everyone who has returned the purple volunteer form to school. The forms are still being processed and the individual committee chairpersons will be receiving their lists of volunteers within the coming weeks. If you have signed up to help with a particular activity, you will be contacted by that committee's chairperson. We appreciate your patience as it takes time to organize everyone for all of the various needs and activities.



Finally, we are still in need of a Grounds Committee Chairperson and someone to lead the Destination Imagination program. If you or anyone you know has any interest at all, please contact me, Jill Kraus, VP of Volunteers, at 968-5995 or rkandjk@verizon.net.



Box Top Class Contest

Carla Samford



Beginning Monday, September 27th the REES PTA will begin a Box Top Collections contest between all of our classrooms. The contest will run from **Monday, September 27th – October 22nd** with

the class collecting the most Box Tops winning an **Ice Cream party**. While collections for Box Tops will continue all year, our objective is to start the year with a bang.



Please send all cut and neatly trimmed Box Tops with your child to be turned into their teacher. Thank you for your support of the PTA and your efforts help and feel free to call or email Carla Samford at 360-8384 or carla-samford@comcast.net.

Many local schools have been able to raise several thousand dollars annually thanks to parents' diligent efforts to cut and send Box Tops into their schools.



REES Silent Auction

Divya Verma

Help us by Volunteering Services/donating items for the River's Edge Silent Auction.



This year's sock hop in February will feature a silent auction to raise money for the PTA. Every dollar we raise during this silent auction will go towards funding great programs through our PTA.

We need lots of great auction items to make sure our Silent Auction is a roaring success. We are looking for all types of auction items. Could you turn your skills into an experiential package? (Personal Training sessions anyone? Golf, skating lessons? A portrait, a painting, jewelry or artwork?)

Do you have something that other people wouldn't mind getting their hands on? (Toys, gift certificates and tickets are always a winner!) The possibilities are endless! Note: Your donations are tax deductible.

Please contact Divya Verma (Sonu.verma@gmail.com) or Sherry Springer (sherryspringer2002@yahoo.com) for additional information.

President's Message - continued from page 1

Emily Fagan

PTA Proposed Legislation: The PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the country. Part of the mission of the PTA is to lobby on behalf of children and schools on issues central to needs. Please look for your ballot and description of Proposed Legislation that the Virginia PTA will focus on during this year's General Assembly session. The ballots will come home through the backpacks on Friday, October 1. Voting will also take place on Thursday, October 14 at the PTA meeting.

Family Fun & Fitness Night: Our next PTA meeting is Thursday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. The program is the perennially popular Family Fun & Fitness Night. Rhett Rutman, REES PE teacher, has some exciting plans to get your heart rates up and your bodies moving. Mark your calendars today to join us at this fun family event.

Thank you for your hard work and continued support of the Rivers Edge PTA.

Reflections

Michelle Wharrell

The National PTA's annual arts program, Reflections is underway at Rivers Edge. Students can produce an artistic rendition of the theme "**Together We Can...**" using literature, musical composition, film, photography, dance choreography, and visual arts.

Rivers Edge continues a strong tradition of participation in this national program and we strongly encourage the students to participate and let their creative juices flow! All participants will be honored at the November PTA meeting.

Please check the PTA website at www.reespta.org for entry forms and information. The deadline is **October 22, 2010**. All final products should be placed in the Reflections Box located in the front office.



Please contact Michelle Harrell at mwharrell4@aol.com if you have any questions.

Henrico Education Foundation

Shannon Hodges

Thanks to the generous work of the Henrico Education Foundation, we have been awarded a \$1,000.00 grant for sets of children's books. We requested funds to purchase leveled book sets that will be used to improve small group reading instruction and enhance our teaching of specific writing traits. The use of quality children's literature that offers just the right level of support and challenge will provide our teachers with resources to improve student achievement and illustrate the reading-writing connection.



Below are just a few examples of how our books may be used.

- By reading the vivid descriptions of a wintry owl hunt in *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, teachers can more easily model what a difference a single word or phrase can make. This book is also great for teaching the comprehension skill of imagery as the author describes the moonlit snow.
- *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera Williams can be used to help students identify topics, main ideas, and supporting details as well as how to organize their own stories to include strong beginnings, middles, and ends.
- The family experiences illustrated in *Dandelions* by Eve Bunting work well for teaching the skills of making inferences and drawing conclusions. In addition, this book illustrates a strong example of individual voice in writing as the characters move through their journey.
- In *Brave Irene*, author William Steig establishes a strong character through which students can identify the conflict she faces as well as the steps Brave Irene takes to settle that conflict. It also provides inventive descriptions that are effective for showing students how they can apply their own imaginations to words.

Thanks to Henrico Education Foundation's support of our project entitled *Using Children's Books to Enhance Reading and Writing Instruction*, we have been able to acquire two innovative resources in one that we're sure the students will enjoy. More information about the Henrico Education Foundation can be found at <http://www.henricofoundation.org>.



Birthday Board

Christine Kroll

Back by popular demand...the REES PTA Birthday Board!

Welcome back, everyone! The birthday board is up and showcasing all of our September (and soon to be October) birthdays. The children so enjoy walking by the board on their way to lunch or PE and finding their names and photos displayed. It is a great way to celebrate your child's birthday (or 1/2 birthdays for those born during the summer). Last year we had hundreds of children's names on the board throughout the school year. This year, we would like to encourage our wonderful teachers to participate as well.



The birthday board forms were sent home in your child's blue folder during the first week of school. Please give us **1 week** to get the photos and names up on the board. Please put your child's name, grade, DOB, and teacher on the back of all photos so they can be returned. Photos will be returned to your child's teacher at the end of their birthday month.

If you have any questions about the birthday board you may contact Christine Kroll at ckrollrn@aol.com, or Julie Klose at jjandabby@yahoo.com. Thank you so much.

ORDER Your Child's Yearbook TODAY!

- The price will go up Nov. 1! Make sure you get yours for \$23.00. Students love getting their yearbooks and having their friends sign them at the end of the year. Online ordering with a credit card is easy at www.REESPTA.org or you may send in a check with the form that was included in your child's blue folder.
- Would you like your child's name embossed on the front cover of his/her yearbook? Personalization is available for additional fee (online orders only).
- If you have questions about ordering, please contact Courtney Headley, 217-9766 or ctheadley@aol.com.



Community Fundraising

Jessica Benson

Congratulations REES Families! You have kicked the 2010-11 school year off to a great start! Our first Sponsor night at Firehouse Subs and Dairy Queen was a huge success bringing in \$130.01! Thank you all for bearing with the confusion early on at Firehouse Subs – there was a bit of a miscommunication among the staff there, but we quickly resolved it and had a really great night.

Our next Sponsor night is actually an **ALL DAY** event at **California Pizza Kitchen** at Short Pump Town Center on **Monday, October 18th**. Flyers will come home in student folders the Friday before and please remember to take them with you, as they are **REQUIRED** for your purchase to count for the fundraiser.



Last, but not least, if you haven't already, please remember to link your Food Lion MVP card, and/or Kroger Rewards Card to Rivers Edge. These cards must be re-linked each new school year in order for us to earn the rewards. In addition, don't forget you can link your Target or Target VISA card to Rivers Edge and earn cash for our school that way as well. And, make sure your logging in all of your COKE points at mycokerewards.com and donating them to Rivers Edge. Each of these programs has given our school great benefits that we wouldn't have received without your support!



If you have any questions or need additional information on any of these programs, please don't hesitate to email me at jessica@creativeadvising.com with REES Fundraising in the subject line.

Community Service Update

Shannon Hodges

Many thanks to all of the families who donated school supplies for Montrose Elementary School. Several boxes and bags were delivered on Monday, September 20, and everyone at Montrose was very appreciative.

Our next community service project will be a canned food drive for Henrico Christmas Mother. We will be combining our efforts with the families of Montrose and publishing total numbers of can collected by combined grade levels. Specific details and collection dates will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Plans for our December Winter Parties are also in the works.

- Kg.-2nd grade students will be decorating gift bags and filling them with candy.
- 3rd-5th graders will be making fleece scarves.

All of these items will be donated to the Daily Planet, a health services and activities center that serves the homeless and underprivileged of greater Richmond.

Thanks in advance for your continued support!



PTA Membership Form

**VIRGINIA PTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT
2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR
RIVERS EDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**

Member's Name _____

Member's Name _____

Address _____

Glen Allen, VA Zip Code _____

Telephone (804) _____

Email Address _____

Child's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Memberships are \$5 per members. Please make checks payable to the Rivers Edge PTA.

Return this form and your payment to school.

PTA Use Only _____

Paid by: ____Cash ____Check Check Number _____

Membership Card Issued? _____



Programs

Sara Lewis

First of all, I would like to thank all the volunteers who made our first Movie Night a huge success. We couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you also to all the families who came out and showed their support by attending this event. It was a beautiful night, and what a wonderful sight to see so many children snuggled up with blankets and enjoying the show.



The next PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. It is our ever popular Family Fun & Fitness Night, so wear comfortable workout attire and bring the whole family for lots of running and games with Mr. Rutman.



REES will be celebrating Walk to School Day on October 20th during our Success Week. We encourage all students and their families to participate that morning by walking from their homes (or designated meeting areas for non-walkers) to REES. There will be water to fill up your water bottles, a healthy snack and valuable information by Anna-belle's Angels, who is sponsoring this event.



October 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Spiritwear Dead- line	2 REES PTA Yard Sale
3	4	5	6 Walk to School Day	7	8 Theater IV - Little Red Hen	9
10	11 Student Holi- day Hospitality Breakfast for Staff PTA Executive Board Meeting	12 County Coun- cil Leadership Training	13	14 PTA Meeting: Family Fun & Fitness	15	16
17	18 Sponsor Day: California Pizza Kitchen	19	20	21	22 Reflections Entries Deadline November News- letter Deadline	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Paperless Day Fall Treat Day	30
31						

EVENTS AROUND TOWN IN OCTOBER

Richmond Folk Festival	Harvest Festival	Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival	Monster Mash
Date: October 8-10 Time: Varies	Date: October 16 Time: noon—4 p.m.	Date: October 23 & 24 Time: Varies	Date: October 29 Time: 6-9 p.m.
Place: Downtown Richmond Riverfront	Place: Meadow Farm/Crump Park	Place: The Meadow Event Park (next to Kings Dominion)	Place: Dorey Recreation Center
Admission: Free	Admission: Free	Admission: Varies	Admission: Free 501-5134
More Info: www.richmondfolkfestival.org	More Info: www.co.henrico.va.us/rec/ (See <i>Special Events</i>)	More Info: www.meadowceltic.com/	More Info: www.co.henrico.va.us/rec

