

## Message from the Principal

Happy New Year to the entire Roland Park Family. As we move into 2010, we will continue providing opportunities for our students and celebrating their accomplishments. This year will bring many new and exciting events.

Unfortunately, at the last minute, our holiday events were canceled because of the winter snow storm. The storm prevented our holiday concerts, luncheons, trips, cards, and gift exchanges and many exciting activities. However, our students returned on January 4th prepared with new resolutions and ready to accomplish great things.

Now that second semester is approaching, please continue to review the school calendar for early release days, report cards, progress reports, parent conferences, and special events.

As we celebrate the New Year and all of the exciting activities in our school, we look forward to your continued participation. Parents, your participation helps us achieve great things. It is critical that we continue to work together, and we thank you for your support.

Soon the school system will begin the budget process for the next school year. We will work together to focus on how to best utilize our allocations to enhance our instructional program. This process will help us to determine our priorities for next school year. Please look for upcoming dates to review our 2010-2011 school budget.

A special reminder: school will be closed on **Monday, January 18th** for the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We look forward to your continued participation.

-Carolyn H. Cole

## Message from the PTA President

We are off to a good start on the PTA front with new initiatives in the works! There will be a new bulletin board in the front foyer soon with updates and information as to what the PTA is doing. We are going to start our very own "donors choose" with requests specifically for the classrooms. More information about this effort will be out soon!

I want to thank all of the volunteers who have assisted this year so far. We had countless individuals step up in many areas, which has been great! From the library, art rooms, classrooms, wreath sale, Evening with Arts, t-shirt sales, the Goldenrod, movie nights, after school clubs, website, to advocacy and more. I thank all of you for the many hours of volunteerism you have given to our school. We are blessed to have an active body, so on behalf of the board, thank you!

We have a busy spring ahead of us, so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact our wonderful volunteer coordinator, Christine Fischel at [cmdauenhauer@verizon.net](mailto:cmdauenhauer@verizon.net).

Speaking of volunteering, this is just a reminder that we will need to fill some positions on the PTA Executive board. The nomination process will begin in April/May so I hope some of you will consider taking your volunteerism to the next step! We will need to fill President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. Please let me know if you are interested or if you have any questions about the different positions. These are crucial posts to have, and these four positions will be empty at the end of this school year.

We are booking speakers and are just trying to figure out all of the dates. Please take note of our first speaker, Deborah Roffman, author of *Sex and Sensibility* who will be speaking on **Monday, February 1st**. The time will be announced soon, but note that it will be an evening event for parents.

-Susan English

## CALENDAR

**Schools Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday**  
Monday, January 18

**Schools Closed – Professional Development for Staff**  
Thursday, January 28 & Friday, January 29

**Next Deadline for Submission to The Goldenrod**  
Friday, January 22;  
[rpemgoldenrod@gmail.com](mailto:rpemgoldenrod@gmail.com)

## Roland Park Rallies for Education Funding

More than 20 parents and teachers gathered in November for the first meeting of the Roland Park Advocacy team. The issue at hand was State Education Funding. Given the dismal economy, we are anticipating that difficult cuts will be made in the State budget, which Governor O'Malley will release by **January 20th**. With 70% of Baltimore City Public Schools funding coming from the State, a cut in State funding will impact directly Baltimore City Schools and RPEMS. Last year, we rallied to protect cuts that would have meant the equivalent of two fewer full-time teachers at our school. We want to be sure we do not face such cuts this year.

There are several things you can do to ensure that the children of our city receive the education funding they need and deserve:

- Write, email, or call Governor O'Malley and your State Senator and Delegates. Tell them that cuts to education funding are not acceptable. Too many children in Baltimore are not getting the opportunities they deserve. For example, more than half of Baltimore City's 38 schools did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the federal achievement standard required under No Child Left Behind. Only 66% of seniors receive diplomas and 6.2% of high school students drop out of school.
- Attend the citywide education rally on **Tuesday January 26th** from 5:30-7:30 pm (location TBA). We want a strong turnout from RPEMS to show that we mean business.
- Participate in designated lobbying days in Annapolis; stay tuned for more details regarding these opportunities. *(continue)*

## Costa Rica

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with the bake sales, yard sale, and other fundraisers for the Costa Rica field trip. We are close to our goal! However, we still need approximately \$2,000 to insure that all the students who have signed up can go. And we don't have much time... all payments are due by **January 27th!** If you would like to buy some citrus fruits to help support the students still trying to raise money, please contact Ms. Mooney at [msspanishteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:msspanishteacher@hotmail.com) or [KMMooney@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:KMMooney@bcps.k12.md.us). If citrus is not your thing but you'd like to help out with (even a small) donation, please make out your check to the school, with a memo that it's for the Costa Rica trip, and send it in to your child's teacher in an envelope that indicates that it is for Ms. Mooney and the Costa Rica trip. Thank you for helping make this exciting opportunity possible!

-Kimberly Mooney

## From the Library

**Black-Eyed Susan** has started!!! So far, over 70 students have read Black-Eyed Susan books; seven students have read four or more books; and Kyle Harrison has finished all 10 middle-school books. We have already almost filled one candy jar! Students who read four or more Black-Eyed Susan books will be invited to a pizza party in the library in April, when they'll vote for the best book. Black-Eyed Susan books are available in the library. The selection changes hourly.

Everyone needs a little **romance** and **adventure** in the New Year. So, we're starting this year with two genres in our Gung Ho for Genres program. We're interpreting romance in its broadest sense, which includes stories that are mysterious, sentimental, and/or nostalgic. Besides our weekly drawing for prizes, we have a little bulletin board contest. Who will reach the top of the mountain first – boys or girls?

**Mark your calendars.** The big, boisterous, beautiful **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming soon! The Family Night Kick-Off will be **Friday, February 19**; classes will start visiting the Book Fair on **Monday, February 22**. We really will need volunteers Friday night and during the week of the 22nd. Please stop by the library, call us at 410-396-6591, or email [rolandparklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:rolandparklibrary@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

The library received many wonderful book donations last month. Thank you to Jack Overton, Lexi Bushrod, Maddie Sanzenbacher, Kobe Wolfe, Rebecca Brody, Haley Dutton, and Ms. Leubecker. Nina Regenold donated two big-demand Black-Eyed Susan books, and the Rose family donated two boxes of binders. Jordan Lampkin and Vyom Iyer both found books they had lost and paid for, but they donated their refunds. And we have a new staff member, thanks to Mia Schildbach, who donated "the old lady who swallowed a fly" doll along with everything she swallowed.

Why not start 2010 by honoring your child with a **Birthday Book** and making a contribution to the library (\$15 for a book or \$30 for a CD)? Many thanks for the following Birthday Book donations in honor of: Joey, Jessica and Julia McCarthy, Helen and Alida Schott, and Owen Briggs. Forms are available in the library.

The Library is getting new carpeting! It will not be too different from the old – just cleaner and nicer. We can use some volunteers to help us move furniture and books before and after the carpet laying. If you are interested in helping out around the end of January (or any other time), please stop by or call us at 410-396-6591.

## Pieces of Information

*Pieces of Information* is a new column for *The Goldenrod*. Each issue will feature new or well-known brief, interesting facts about RPEMS.

This issue's focus is on the history of the buildings of RPEMS.

The following information comes from the Greater Homewood Community Corporation: Roland Park Elementary/Middle School opened in 1924. After World War II, the school added a second wing to handle the crush of new baby boomer students. Over the years, the old building has been filled in – the library and other central rooms occupy a former courtyard – and expanded, with a gymnasium on the back and a new wing in the front built in the mid-1980s. More recently, donated funds paid for the swooping fish fence, a reminder of the nearby Chesapeake Bay. Parents also spearheaded fundraising efforts for new playgrounds and physical education facilities and created the beautiful gardens. Please submit your own facts for the column, or send in questions about RPEMS that can be featured in the column. Submit to [rpeGoldenrod@gmail.com](mailto:rpeGoldenrod@gmail.com).

## Spring Elementary After School Clubs

The PTA is currently in the process of organizing Elementary after school clubs for the Spring semester. Because of the success of the Fall on-line lottery registration process, we will be doing registration on-line again for the Spring clubs through our website, [www.pta.rolandparkpublic.org/after-school-clubs](http://www.pta.rolandparkpublic.org/after-school-clubs). We are hoping to have clubs up and running by the week of **February 8**. Below is the timeline for of-

ferings and lottery registration:

**January 14**

Deadline for club leader submissions

**January 18-29**

Open on-line lottery registration

**February 1**

Notification of club placement

Please contact Heather Franklin at [hfranklin@verizon.net](mailto:hfranklin@verizon.net) for additional information or questions.

## Roots & Shoots Bake Sale

RPEMS Roots & Shoots is an after school club focused on sustainability and environmental issues for 2nd and 3rd graders of RPEMS. The club is affiliated with Jane Goodall's international Roots & Shoots organization. The Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen—for communities, for animals and for the environment.

To that end, the R & S club is participating in the World Wildlife Fund's Adopt an Endangered Animal program. The club has chosen to adopt the bald eagle as its mascot and will be having a bake sale in the courtyard on **Thursday, January 21** from 2:45-4 pm to raise money for the eagle. Come get some sweets and help the bald eagle!

## Education Funding (cont'd)

• Talk to your friends about this issue. We need as many people to be engaged as possible. It is sure to be a battle in the session, and we need the Baltimore community to be strong and vocal that we demand the best for our children.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Elizabeth Reichelt at (410) 435-6152 or [ereichelt@comcast.net](mailto:ereichelt@comcast.net).

## Professional Performanceto Feature RPEMS Dancers

Baltimore's Full Circle Dance Company will present *Aqueous: Awakening Our Connections to Water* on **February 27** at 2:30 and 7:30 pm at the Baltimore Museum of Art. These two performances feature work by five different choreographers, each creating a different dance about water. The dances are dynamic and varied, addressing such themes as conservation, water in myth and legend, water as a spiritual symbol, and water as a source of inspiration for artists.

The **February 27** matinee performance will feature a guest appearance by students of our own Roland Park Elementary School Dance Club, who have collaborated with Full Circle to create a dance about the Chesapeake Bay. This action-packed student dance, called "A Scientist's Nightmare," is surreal and jazzy and features scientists, crabs, and jellyfish.

Please come see our student dancers on a beautiful stage and support the professional company that regularly donates time to our school. All dances in the performance are appropriate for school-age children as well as adults. (The **February 27** evening performance will not feature students but will include a guest performance by American Indians of Maryland. If you want to see RPEMS dancers, purchase matinee tickets.)

Tickets are \$15 and are available at <http://www.freewebs.com/fullcircle-dance/> or 410-235-9003.

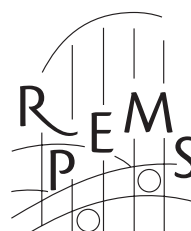
The Aqueous Project has been partially funded by the Howard County Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts and has the special support of the Irvine Nature Center.

## A Note About Goldenrod Distribution

The RPEMS Goldenrod is distributed a number of ways. First and foremost - by e-mail. If you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail and would like to, please let us know! E-mail Pablo Jusem at [pablo@thearraygroup.com](mailto:pablo@thearraygroup.com) and request to be put on the distribution list.

Hard copies of the paper can be found in the two newspaper boxes in front of the school.

Also, each issue is posted to the Roland Park list-serv (go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rolandparkpta> to subscribe). Each issue also is posted to the RPEMS website at [www.rolandparkpublic.org](http://www.rolandparkpublic.org) <<http://www.rolandparkpublic.org/>>.



THE GOLDENROD  
A Newsletter presented by  
the Roland Park Elementary/  
Middle School PTA  
[rpeGoldenrod@gmail.com](mailto:rpeGoldenrod@gmail.com)  
5207 Roland Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
410-396-6420  
[www.rolandparkpublic.org](http://www.rolandparkpublic.org)  
Editor: Karen Homann  
Design: Sonia F. Thompson