

## Message from the Principal

On Friday the 5th, report cards were distributed to all of our students. I hope that you have reviewed and discussed the report with your child. If you see room for improvement, feel free to call or email the teacher to schedule an appointment to discuss interventions, coach classes, or other ways that might help your child find success.

In just a couple of weeks, the Maryland School Assessment Test (MSA) will be given. The MSA is a reading and math test given to students in grades 3-8. For our third graders, this will be their first time taking the MSA. There is no doubt in my mind that our students will be well prepared.

As always, there are countless reasons for us to be proud of all our students. First, our school contributed \$2,000 to the Red Cross in support of "Operation Haiti," and \$1,800 for "Pennies for Patients." Please congratulate our students.

February was a month filled with many exciting events and celebrations. On February 11th, our Middle School students participated in the Roland Park Science Fair. Also, the Student Government sponsored a Valentine sale of special treats.

Other great activities this month were Black History celebrations, the publication of the second quarter honor roll and principal's lists, the Book Fair, the RPEMS Dance Club performing at the Baltimore Museum of Art, Family Reading Night for grades K-3, and Hoops for Heart.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that, on **April 10th**, we will be honored with the Visionary School Award by Young Audiences/Arts for Learning of Maryland. The event will be held at the American Visionary Art Museum, from 7:00-11:00 pm. Please plan to join us for this grand gala.

-Carolyn H. Cole

## Message from the PTA President

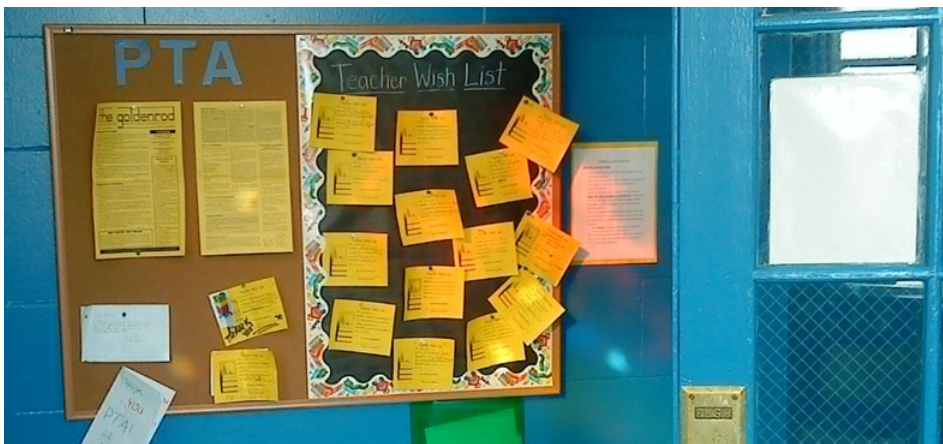
We had a very successful speaker come visit our school on February 1st. Deborah Roffman, author of *Sex and Sensibility*, came and spoke with parents who have Elementary School-aged children. We had a great turnout, so mark your calendars for the Middle School session on **March 9th** from 6-8 pm in the multi-purpose room. We are looking into having another speaker come on another topic, so keep your ears open!

We are starting to gear up for May Mart. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and to invite community members to be a part of this spring event.

So far, the Book Fair has been a huge success, and the PTA board is taking advantage of the Fair by purchasing \$500 worth of books for Westside Elementary. With a new energetic librarian at their school, we thought it would be great to add to their library. Our library will also benefit because every dollar spent brings a percentage back to our shelves.

I thank those who have contributed to our Teacher Wish List Board! Between individual families and the PTA, we have been able to grant many wishes. Keep looking on the website and on the board inside the school for more wishes!

-Susan English



## CALENDAR

### Early Release Day

Friday, March 5;  
Elementary 11:30 am, Middle 11:45 am

### Maryland School Assessment Testing (MSAs)

Monday, March 8 - Wednesday March 17

### School Family Council Meeting

Monday, March 15, 4 pm

### Next Deadline for Submission to The Goldenrod

Friday, March 5;  
rpmgoldenrod@gmail.com

## Class Pictures

Because of the inclement weather last week, class pictures have been rescheduled for **Wednesday, March 3rd**. Students wishing to purchase pictures should bring payment with them on picture day. In addition, all Elementary students will be photographed individually for the new Elementary yearbook. Order forms may be picked up in the main office. Questions regarding pictures may be directed to Mrs. Vakoutis. Questions regarding the yearbook should be directed to Ms. M. Carter or Ms. S. Johnson.

Middle school class pictures will be scheduled for a later date.

## "Teacher Wish List"

The new PTA board on the left wall of the main entranceway features the PTA's new program, "Teacher Wish List." Parents can choose to fund specific wishes of RPEMS' teachers. Visit the board (it is on your immediate left as you enter the building) and pick a wish to donate towards or to fully grant!

## Reserve Your Seat on the Bus to Annapolis

More than 30 representatives from Roland Park Elementary/ Middle School gathered on January 26th at the Cathedral of the Incarnation to support the mission of the Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC), an organization dedicated to ensuring that all children in Baltimore City receive an excellent education. The evening was energizing. BEC's mission is commendable and invigorating and holds tremendous value for our children and for our city. It was apparent from the community turn-out on January 26 that Baltimore City is mobilized. More than 30 advocacy groups joined forces and committed to organize and advocate on behalf of Baltimore City schools.

Under Governor Martin O'Malley's proposed budget, Baltimore City Schools are slated to receive an additional \$30 million in state funding. This is wonderful news for our children and community. However, it is necessary for us to bear in mind that this is still only a proposal. State budget committees, under direction from

House and Senate leaders, will be combing the budget for areas to cut. With education comprising over 40% of the state budget, it is sure to be a target for cuts. We, as advocates for our children, must make certain that this proposal becomes a reality. With \$30 million at stake, we have a lot to lose.

There is one major action we can all take that is absolutely critical to this mission. Attend the BEC's Rally in Annapolis on Monday, **March 1, 2010**. Buses will be leaving RPEMS at 4:30 pm on March 1, 2010. RPEMS is dedicated to creating a united coalition of parents, students, teachers, and community members that will be a visible force in Annapolis. To reserve your seat on the bus or to volunteer with planning, please contact Elizabeth Reichelt at [ereichert@comcast.net](mailto:ereichert@comcast.net) or (410) 435-6152. Come help us give our children a voice in Annapolis and make certain our schools stay funded!

- Jamie Caplan  
(Mariana LaSalle's mom)

## The 2010 RPEMS Creative Writing Program

The 2010 RPEMS Creative Writing Program is in operation despite two weeks of weather-related cancellations. The focus of this semester's program is playwriting. In early February, six RPEMS seventh graders under the supervision of Frankie Sherwood created original plays for submission to the Center Stage Young Playwrights Festival. In addition, 12 sixth- and 18 eighth-grade students are currently writing plays with Johns Hopkins students Jane Klene and Erica Hellerstein. Plays from these two workshops will be submitted in April to the Johns Hopkins Seminars faculty for review and comment. Also, a new JHU student, Allie Rosenwasser, has joined the program. Allie is working with Ms. Saar's eighth grade drama classes to create one-act plays for production on a date TBA.

### 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 listserv (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).

Along with these playwriting initiatives, Ms. Sherwood is exploring forms of poetry with a small group of fourth and fifth graders in an after-school workshop.

The 17th annual **My Word! Literary Festival** is scheduled for the week of **April 12, 2010**. An impressive number of Roland Park parents already have agreed to host a variety of writing and writing-related workshops, including fiction, poetry, journalism, movie reviews, playwriting, songwriting, and cartooning. The keynote address will be delivered by Roland Park parent and eminent poet Lia Purpura. Student registration for My Word! will take place the week before Spring Break. As always, we are grateful to the RPEMS PTA, administrators, and faculty for their support of the festival.

## Free Concert for Children and Families

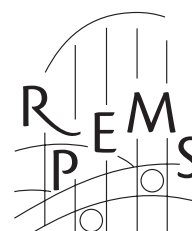
The 18th Annual Free Concert for Children and Families will be held on Saturday, **February 27th at 1 pm** at Johns Hopkins University Shriver Hall. Jay Gaylin will be the conductor. The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra will be performing: Igor Stravinsky, Fireworks and Ludwig van Beethoven/ P.D.Q. Bach, Symphony No. 5, Allegro con brio, with play-by-play sports commentary by Jonathan Palevsky and Milton Kent. After the performance, the audience is invited on stage to meet the musicians and see their instruments up close. No tickets or reservations are needed.

## Baltimore Child's Summer Camp Program Fair

Are you confused about which summer camp to send your child? The Summer Camp Program Fair will take place Sunday, **February 28th from 12 to 3 pm** at the Crowne Plaza in Timonium. For more info, call 410-367-5883 or visit [www.BaltimoreChild.com](http://www.BaltimoreChild.com) and click on Camp Fair.



Grace (2nd grade) and Isabelle Pula (4th grade)  
Take On the Massive Snowfall



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