

# The Goldenrod

A NEWSLETTER PRESENTED BY

THE PTA OF THE ROLAND PARK ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Issue 11 March 10, 2010

## Message from the Principal

February is always a short month, but this year, it was unusually short in the classrooms. The historic snow storms closed our schools for over a week and caused us to cancel events, but it did allow for a lot of family quality time. We made it through the ice, snow, wind, and delayed openings and early closings.

Once again, our students are fully focused on preparing for the MSA test. I hope you and your child have read and discussed the communication sent home about MSA testing.

Last week, our Middle School students hosted an outstanding Science Fair. The multi-purpose room and first floor halls were full of scientific discoveries. Also, if you missed our extraordinary Book Fair, you missed an opportunity to explore and shop for the best books at reduced prices. Our Elementary Dance Club was presented with the Full Circle Dance Company in a recital at the Baltimore Museum of Art. This was an exciting time for our students.

We are thrilled to announce that our 8th grade students are beginning to receive their letters of acceptance to Baltimore City high schools. As we begin the month of March, following testing, our entire school family will participate in a week of activities celebrating International Week.

We are proud of our students' academic success. We also applaud our parent, Elizabeth Reichelt, for organizing a successful rally to Annapolis.

Finally, make sure to review your child's progress reports and keep in touch with your child's teacher. Third quarter report cards will be distributed on **April 16, 2010.**

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

-Carolyn H. Cole

## Message from the PTA President

What a wonderful and inspiring turnout we recently had at the pep rally in Annapolis! It was great seeing many Middle School students mixed with our Elementary students fighting for the same issue. We had three buses go down to Annapolis to the front of the State House, and there were many other Baltimore City schools attending. I know we made a presence and made it clear that we care about our city and we care about our schools! I thank all of the volunteers who made it all happen!

We have a lot of exciting activities coming up in the next few months. We are starting off with the Middle School Family Fun Night this Friday night **March 12**. Next week, dine in or order out from Mamma's Cucina (1020 W. 41st Street) on Tuesday, **March 16** to raise money for our school. African Dance Night is the following **Friday, the 19th**. This is a fantastic family night, and the dancers are amazing! We hope to see you there!

-Susan English

### May Mart Uniform Donations

May Mart is a short two months away, so now is a perfect time to gather up all of your gently used uniforms your children have outgrown. Donate blue shirts and khaki pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers to the May Mart Uniform Sale. Last year, your generosity overwhelmed us, and, in addition to being able to offer uniforms at reasonable prices to our Roland Park parents during May Mart, we also were able to provide donations to other schools where there is high need for uniforms. Place donations in the school's Main Office in the box marked "May Mart Uniform Dona-

tions." And be sure to come by the booth on **May 8th** to stock up on uniforms in next year's sizes. Reduce, reuse, recycle!

### May Mart Preorder Plant Sale

Dreaming of Spring? Start planning your garden now. The May Mart Preorder Plant Sale kicks off this month. Bright green order forms will be going home with kids in early March. Extra order forms will be available in the Main Office for friends and neighbors. All order forms are due by **Friday, April 9th**. Thank you for your support!

## CALENDAR

### School Family Council Meeting

Monday, March 15, 4 pm

### Maryland School Assessment Testing (MSAs)

Monday, March 8 – Wednesday March 17

### Spring Break

Monday March 29 – Monday April 5

### Next Deadline for Submission to the Goldenrod

Friday, March 19;  
rpemGoldenrod@gmail.com

## Theater Summer Camp

Theatre Project is offering a four-week summer theater intensive for teens (ages 12-18) from June 28 to July 24. The program will focus on learning various techniques from mask-making and improvisation to clowning and dance and will culminate in an original production created by the participants. The lively program will include guest artists and field trips. Tuition is \$1000, and scholarships are available. For more information, call Roland Park School mom Anne Fulwiler at Theatre Project, 410-539-3091.

## Roland Park Dance Club

Members of the Roland Park Dance Club gave a phenomenal performance of their dance "A Scientist's Nightmare" at the Baltimore Museum of Art on February 27. Congratulations to all members of the club for their impressive and professional work!

## Unified Indoor Soccer Program

We are well underway into our first season of 1st and 2nd grade unified indoor soccer. Baltimore City Schools and Special Olympics have partnered so our students can participate in a competitive league that will introduce them to interscholastic athletics, teach them new skills, and teach them to work as a team. We are fortunate to be one of five schools selected to participate in the league. Our games are held at Meyers Soccer Pavilion located at 4300 West Bay Avenue in Baltimore, MD. Games start at approximately 10:00 am.

**Thursday, March 11**  
**Wednesday, March 16**  
**Wednesday, March 23**

Come show your support! GO RAMS!!

## African Dance Family Night Kicks Off International Week

After all of that winter cabin fever, come join in an incredible aerobic and cultural workout with master African dance teacher Diedre Dawkins and guests. It is a free, fun, fit, fabulous way to launch our International Week. African dance is a high energy, athletic, community-building way to celebrate. Live music and guest performers will be on hand for inspiration. Please come join the fun.

When: **March 19, 6:45 pm.** Where: Multi-Purpose Room

Who: Our Whole School Community For information/questions, lizpelton@aol.com.

### Daylight Savings Time is Coming

Remember to turn your clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 14th.

## Book Donations

Thinking of doing some Spring cleaning?? If you have gently used books to give away, please consider placing them in the bin in the hallway near the Main Office. The bin is labeled "Book Donations for Viva House and Southwest Baltimore Charter School." All donations will be given to Viva House, a soup kitchen in southwest Baltimore, to SWBCS for their library, or to students and their families. Thanks so much!

International Week is the week of **March 22**. This is an exciting week in which all students visit the Global Village in the multi-purpose room to check out the displays, enjoy a performance, and sample international food.

The following are ways to be involved with the many exciting activities:

**International fashion parade:** Send your child to school on their scheduled International Week visitation day in ethnic or regional clothing so they can walk across the stage in a fashion parade. The schedule is listed below.

**Lend international clothing for teachers and staff to wear.** You also can loan clothing for display. Contact Betsy Huttar at ejh@nholaw.com if you have clothing to lend.

**Gifts or artifacts for display in the multi-purpose room.** Please be advised that items will be left unattended, so nothing irreplaceable please! Contact Betsy Huttar at ejh@nholaw.com if you have any interesting objects to lend.

**Contribute a global dish or snack for students to sample** at one of the nine tasting sessions. Homemade is wonderful, but store-bought goodies are great, too. Please note that there will be international foods tasting at each visit. If you do not want your child to participate in the tasting, please let her/his homeroom teacher know. Children can bring their own snacks. E-mail katy@katycouch.com to help with food.

**Help with the regional table displays.** Contact JoAnne Huey at hueyjoanne@yahoo.com to volunteer to work with the teachers and students on the table displays.

**Share your talent** at one of our nine performances – it's the highlight of the week to see all the talent in our school community. The schedule is mostly set, but you can still contact Mrs. Grizzard at cgrizzard@earthlink.net if you are interested in singing, dancing or speaking. If you have an interest in speaking to a smaller audience, please contact your child's teacher to see if there is interest in a classroom presentation.

**Demonstrate a skill:** Children love to see their name in Chinese, Hebrew, or Arabic or in another beautifully written language. You can volunteer for a session or two and interact with the students. Please e-mail volunteercoordinator@rolandparkpublic.org if you have a special talent to share.

**Daytime availability?** Set-up is all day **Friday, March 19**, and during International Week volunteers are needed from 8 am to 11:30 am and from 11:30 am to 3 pm daily. Please e-mail volunteercoordinator@rolandparkpublic.org if you are interested in volunteering.

We look forward to an enriching week for all of our students and appreciate your help in making it happen! If you have questions, please contact Clare Grizzard, Arts Integration Specialist and IW Chair at cgrizzard@earthlink.net.



## International Week Schedule

If you would like more specific times for your child's visit, e-mail volunteercoordinator@rolandparkpublic.org.

### Monday March 22

Morning - Grades 1 and 2

Afternoon – Grades 5 and 6-25 and 6-26

### Tuesday March 23

Morning – Grade 8

Afternoon – Grade 8

### Wednesday March 24

Morning – Grade 6-21, 6-22, and 6-24

Afternoon – Grade 7-35, 7-36, 7-37, and 7-38

### Thursday March 25

Morning – Grades 3 and 4

Afternoon – Grade 7-31, 7-32, 7-33, and 7-34

### Friday March 26

Morning – Kindergarten

Afternoon – Break down (volunteers welcome)

## From the Library

The Scholastic Book Fair was a big success. Despite the poor weather, which limited our advertising time and cancelled two parent events, we topped last year's sales. Thanks to the generosity of the Roland Park Elementary/Middle School community, the library will get about \$7,000 worth of new books and materials. In addition, teachers received 236 new books for their classroom libraries that were bought by parents and the library.

The Book Fair could not have happened without the support of parents, teachers, and students who volunteered their time to set up and serve at the Friday night Family Event, set up and take down the Book Fair, and assist with selling books. Thank you to parents Darla Moses, Karen Taylor, JoAnn Huey, Dorothee Heisenberg, Martha Holleman, Angela Whitten, Bethany Ziman, Lukas Hager, Lynn Marshall, Hilary Hellerbach, Eileen Lunga, Megan Woolston, Roz McCarthy, Jack Carneal, Elizabeth Randolph, Brooke Thomas, Elizabeth Gething, Heather Buerger, Kathy Vizachero, Susan English, Alexandra Weil, Lana Brown, Vanessa Pyatt, Sarah Hoff,

Heather Franklin, Monika Springer Schnell, Jana Carey, Gabriela Villanueva, Katy Couch, Joan O'Connor, Sonia Thompson, Martha Ruffin, Molly Parker, Cat Chapman Smith, Amy Gamper, Sheila Hofert, Julie Medalis, Jackie Regales, Susan Mullenix, Emily Aubrey, Vanessa Grell, Lois Sullivan, Ann Quinn, Carol Henger, Joan Freedman, Rachel Green, Liesje Gantert, Jennifer Stefanovic, Ali Turner, Martha Ruffin, Margaret Jennings, Sandy Fink, Marion Winik, Robin Navarro, Rachel Eavenson-Filipovitz, Brenda Knox, A. Johnson, Cathy McElroy, Emily Halligan, Krissy Rifkin, Annjanette Gaylord, Leslie Kamali, Bernice Thomas, Ellen Burchenal, Jennifer Lester, and Dani Crawford. (Please let us know if we missed you.)

A very special thank you to those who made our Family Night an outstanding community event: Caroline Wayner, Julie Modlin, and Denise Guillory. Deep gratitude to Christine Fischel, who organized the volunteers who worked at the Book Fair and kept parents informed about when their children's classes would be attending the Fair.

Our student helpers also deserve a shout-out: Quimar Dupey, Jackie Munuhe, Maya Lamson, Pauline Wakudumo, Nina Regenold, Brooks Gearhart, Justin Scroggins, Rachel Brown, Isabel Stevenson, Daijah Wedington, Issia Grate, Jaelyn Moses, Jared Moses, Christopher Feldman, Harry Huntley, and James McElroy.

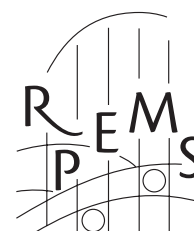
Last, but not least, a huge thank you to teachers Judy Egerton, Kathy Bacon, and Antoinette Woods who extended their long school week to help at the Friday night Family Event.

We greatly appreciate all of you.

**Community Note:** Holly Hoxter, a new Baltimore author, will present her new novel, *The Snowball Effect*, **Saturday, March 27, 4:30-6:00 pm** at the Children's Book Store on Deepdene Road.

### 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 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).



THE GOLDENROD  
A Newsletter presented by  
the Roland Park Elementary/  
Middle School PTA  
[rpemGoldenrod@gmail.com](mailto:rpemGoldenrod@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