



Rosemont Forest Elementary School PTA Newsletter

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November 2009

From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

Halloween has come and gone and Thanksgiving will be here before you know it. I give thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who give so much to help our students succeed in school and to our parents who work with their children at home and send them to school prepared to learn. Also I want to thank our faculty and staff who work tirelessly to provide our students the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a global world. Thank you all.

Rosemont Forest was scheduled to hold the H1N1 vaccine clinic for students on November 5 and December 12. Due to the shortage of H1N1 vaccine received by the Virginia Beach Health Department our scheduled dates will change. I have been told that I will be notified three days before the health department is ready to do our H1N1 vaccine clinic. At that time I will send an Alert Now message to all parents providing the dates of our vaccination clinic. In order for students to receive the H1N1 vaccine, a parental consent form must be received by the school. If you have a question, please call me at 648-3640. Please continue to stress with your child to wash their hands frequently and to always cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze.

If your child knows you value education, they will value education! Give them a kiss and a hug every morning before school. It makes for a much better school day.

Sincerely,

David E. Portis
Principal

From Our PTA President

Hello ROFO Bears!

Thank you for making our Ice Cream Social a resounding success! Another big THANK YOU to Mr. Tim Davern, of Mass Mutual Insurance, for the sponsorship. It made a big difference. Remember, Movie Night is November 20. Please come join us for a night of BYOPD, (bring your own picnic dinner), the movie, *Imagine That*, Tropical Smoothie drinks and baked goods. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our next PTA Board meeting is November 10th at 6:00 pm. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. If anybody has any questions and wants to join our meetings, please come. If you have not joined the PTA yet, please consider doing so. It will be the best \$5.00 that you will ever spent - you are investing it into the outstanding programs for your children. Come and join the fun!! From everyone on the PTA Board, have a Very Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!!!

Kathleen Staten
PTA President

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 3	No School, Staff Day
Nov. 5	Workshop for parents of gifted students, 12 pm
Nov. 10	PTA Board Meeting, 6 pm
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day
Nov. 13	AR Party
Nov. 17	Parenting Workshop, 9 - 11 am
Nov. 18	Educational Support Professionals Recognition Day
Nov. 20	Movie Night, 6:30 pm - <i>Imagine That</i>
Nov. 20	Holiday Lights at the Beach begins. Ends Jan. 3
Nov. 23	Report Cards
Nov. 25	Adjusted Dismissal
Nov. 26, 27	No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 30	Frosty's Wonderland begins. Ends on Dec. 5
Dec. 5	Pictures with Santa, 10am - 12 pm
Dec. 5	Holiday Craft Fair, 9 am - 1 pm
Dec. 7	December 'Round the World, Assembly 1:50 - 2:50 pm
Dec. 8	December 'Round the World, Assembly 8:50 - 9:50 am
Dec. 8	December 'Round the World, PTA Program 7:00 pm

Announcements

Gifted News

Parents of gifted students are invited to attend a workshop on November 5th at noon in Room 30. The topic is Worthy Horizons: Planning for Gifted Learner Growth. Discussion will include gifted characteristics and using Gifted Benchmarks to assess growth. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and soda will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 648-3640 ext. 50047. Those parents who want to refer their child for gifted testing (grades 2-5) may pick up a referral in Room 30. The next testing date is December 9th. All completed referrals should be turned in by Nov. 24th. Please see Mrs. Frederick's blog for more information on gifted education topics - <http://giftedresourcenews.blogspot.com>.

AR is Underway

The Accelerated Reader program at Rosemont Forest has started! Students can take an AR quiz in their classroom, or they can come to the library between 8:00 and 8:45. The AR book list is growing and we now have almost 3000 quizzes. You can find this list on the ROFO website under PTA. As students take quizzes, they earn points to become AR Bears. Busy Brown Bears earn an AR Bear pin, and Rising Sun Bears and Clever Koala Bears will be invited to an incentive party where they will choose a prize and a book!

Each week you will receive the list of AR quizzes that your child has taken. You can refer to this to find how many points they have earned in that period.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the AR program, please talk to Barbara or Linda in the library, or email Leah at 6oberleys@cox.net.

Flu Guidelines in School

Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, headache, body aches, chills, and fatigue. An H1N1 Flu vaccine will be available in November.

- Sick children should stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or with your elbow.
- Clean surfaces and items that have frequent hand contact.

Box Tops for Education

We have collected over \$400 in Box Tops for Education so far this year. October 31st was the first mail-in deadline, and we will receive a check from General Mills in December. So far, five classes have made it across the first region of Virginia on the Box Tops map in the lobby, and several others are close. Every class which makes it across all five regions of Virginia will get a pizza party. The next school-wide collection will be Nov. 22, but every student who brings a completed map of Virginia to the library will get a small prize. Extra maps are always available in the library. Please send in all Box Tops for Education, Farm Fresh receipts and Campbell's labels.

Holiday PTA Program - "December 'Round the World"

The 3rd grade classes and the Fifth Grade Chorus will perform in the program. Assemblies are Monday, December 7th from 1:50 - 2:50 pm and Tuesday, December 8th from 8:50 - 9:50 am. The PTA Program is Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm.

Come to the RoFo PTA's Holiday Craft Fair!

Saturday, December 5th 9 am-1pm.
Lots of different vendors with great Holiday Gifts to buy. Frosty's Wonderland will be open and Santa will be there! Look for more information coming home soon. If you have any questions or would like to participate as a vendor please email Kira Cubin at cubin3@verizon.net or call 748-1985. Thank you!

Counselor's Corner

Parents of 5th Graders

Beginning November I will be meeting with all 5th graders to prepare their "Academic Plan for Middle School."

Each student will choose 6th, 7th, and 8th grade core courses, which includes English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Sixth grade exploratory courses will also be chosen. The plan will be sent home for parent input and approval. Parents may wish to consult the Student Guide to Secondary School Curriculum for Students of Virginia Beach City Public Schools at www.vbschools.com/curriculum/guides/secondary_2009-10. This guide is designed to assist students with course selection and planning. Parents, please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Parenting Workshop Offered

"1-2-3 MAGIC" is a discipline program that can be a very effective tool for parents of children between the ages of 2 and 12. This program will be held on Tuesday, November 17th from 9:00 – 11:00 am in Room 39.

This program offers simple steps to effective child management. Learn how to get your children to STOP doing what you don't want them to do and START doing what you want them to do. We will also address how to control sibling rivalry, misbehavior at home and in public, and how to respond to children's attempts to test and manipulate their parents.

Call the school counselor at 648-3640 to register or for further details.

New PTA Check Policy

The RoFo PTA accepts checks, for your convenience, however, if your check is dishonored or returned for any reason, we will electronically debit your account for the amount of the check plus a processing fee of \$35.00.

SCA

The SCA is busy raising donations for the United Way. Bake sales and guessing jars have been a huge hit. We're still waiting of the classroom with the most donations to see who wins the ice cream party! The canned food drive will begin soon and candy grams will be sold in December. Help the SCA help others in need. Thanks for your support!!

Volunteer

The **October Volunteer of the Month** is Bonnie Murdoch.

Fundraising

Holiday Lights at the Beach

You can purchase discounted tickets for the Holiday Lights at the Beach through the Rosemont Forest PTA. The tickets are only \$7 per vehicle. That is a \$3 per ticket savings and is good for use on any night of the week, including weekends. The Holiday Lights display will run from November 20, 2009 to January 3, 2010. To order tickets, please download a form from the PTA section of the school's website at www.rosemontforestes.vbschools.com. Please complete the form and return to your child's teacher. Please make checks payable to ROFO PTA.

Entertainment Book/Sally Foster

Way to go ROFO! Our Entertainment Book fund-raiser was a huge success. Thank you, parents, for your participation. All orders have been delivered to students. Our Sally Foster fund-raiser began October 27th and runs through November 12th. If you have any questions regarding either fund-raiser, please contact Kristin Osborne at (757) 560-3387. Thanks again for your continued support.

Classroom Happenings

Kindergarten

October has been a busy month of learning and fun, and November will be just as exciting! We are learning new beginning sounds and new words for our word wall. Our days are filled with rhyming words, letter and word sorts, and working with sounds at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of words. In math we continue to build and recognize patterns, count orally by one's, five's, and ten's, and learn all about those "tricky teen numbers". We have been introduced to coins and their values. Very soon we will learn about Powhatan and his beautiful daughter, Pocohontas, and the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims and Indians. We are

planning a special Thanksgiving Feast and information will be coming home soon. For that special day, we will be making our Indian and Pilgrim costumes. (If you have not already done so, please send in a pillowcase for your child.) Thanksgiving is just around the corner—Enjoy this special time together!

1st Grade

November is a short but exciting month filled with fun activities. We will be talking about the Pilgrims, Native Americans, and the many things that we are thankful for. Please continue to practice counting money (combinations of pennies, nickels, and dimes) with your child until the skill is mastered. We are enjoying our first reader, "Take a Closer Look". We look forward to discussing your child's progress with you at Parent Teacher Conferences this month. We are so proud of the achievements of our students this grading period. Congratulations on your success! Our wishes for a PLENTIFUL THANKSGIVING!

Second Grade

We are looking forward to conferences this month as we approach the end of the first quarter. The students seem to be adjusting to the pace of second grade now. This month we are finishing up our study of some famous Americans and will begin Geography in Social Studies. We are learning about how plants and animals adapt to seasonal change in Science. The students have all written at least one paragraph by now...please remind your child to use correct punctuation and capitalization. Encourage them to carefully sound out unknown words one syllable at a time. Continue to have your child read aloud nightly asking them to make a connection with what they are reading ("What does this remind you of?" "How is the character like you?"). Thanks again for all your continued support.

Third Grade

The Third Graders are extremely Thankful demonstrating their writing skills by sending a special secret Thanksgiving Surprise to their loving families over the Holidays. In Mathematics, we relate shapes to tilting areas, and construct triangles using straw lengths and then find their perimeters. Using the concept of area is easy by counting the squares, and relating circumference and diameter through the about three times rule method. Our new unit of study for Social Studies is Economics. Economic specialization and interdependence existed in the production of goods and services in the past and exist in our present-day communities. We are planning a Fantastic fieldtrip to learn first hand how Economic Specialization really works at Cal's Pizza. "It's Amore'!" In Language Arts we are enthusiastically reading in Wonderful Novel Study Circles, writing Pumpkin Similes that are the Sights and Sounds of Autumn Leaves Falling, and creating the most marvelous Creative Writing Stories that would even scare the Bravest Heart. Parents please continue to encourage your child to read nightly for twenty minutes in a well lit and quiet place. Reviewing your child's planner every night will help keep you notified of important work and special activities happening around Rosemont Forest Elementary. Much appreciation for your continued support and guidance with your child's education. You truly play an important role in the education of your child and you are Greatly Appreciated for your encouragement and assistance during reinforcement activities at home.

Fourth Grade

In social studies the fourth graders have been studying the five regions of the great state of Virginia! It has been fun learning about different places in our state, and where some of our classmates have visited. We will shortly begin our trip around the United States, beginning with the Southeast Region. In science we are learning about weather and how and why it occurs. We are looking forward to sharing our weather knowledge with family and friends. In math we are reviewing multiplication facts and we will learn some new ways to multiply numbers. Please review facts at home to help with memorization and accuracy. All the fourth grade students should be reading chapter books and will have opportunities to take AR tests when they finish reading. Students should be focusing on comprehension and critical thinking skills, and making inferences on what they have read. Nonfiction books are great for mastering these skills, so read, read, read! We hope all the Rosemont Forest families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Fifth Grade

An appreciation for poetry is being developed as our fifth graders read a variety of examples and create their own works of poetry. Reading continues to be enhanced as the Read About program is implemented into classroom activities. Ask your student what he or she has "read about" lately. Learning the five kingdoms and their characteristics is as easy as singing a song. You don't have to believe me, ask your student, he or she should know the words. Soon they'll be diving into the deep depths of the ocean. Jamestown is off to a rocky, yet successful, start, and things are looking up. The key factor of its success depends on a new cash crop. Geometric patterns are the focus of math. Using protractors and measuring and identifying angles make math "right."