



**Ravensworth**  
Elementary School

OCTOBER 2009

# RAVENSWORTH REVELLE

5411 NUTTING DR., SPRINGFIELD VA 22151 (703)426-3600

## PTA/SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### From the President

#### Dear Ravens,

Wow, what a great beginning to the school year! I hope everyone is now settled into a routine after a having a long summer vacation. We are really excited for this school year and have planned some really fun-filled events for the entire Ravensworth family.

September Recap – Teacher & Staff Welcome Back Breakfast (can you say COFFEE?), the Open House (who is my teacher?), 1<sup>st</sup> day of School (rain can't stop us!), Ice Cream Social (Yum, Yum!), Back to School Night (what are you teaching my kid?), and Sally Foster (Sell-Sell-Sell! Buy-Buy-Buy!). Thank you to all of you who volunteered to make these events a success. Special thanks to Dairy Queen for donating all of the tasty ice cream and toppings.

October Events – It looks to be just as fun with events such as school pictures (6<sup>th</sup>), Columbus Day Holiday (12<sup>th</sup>), Spirit Night (13<sup>th</sup>), field day (16<sup>th</sup>) and the Book Fair. Please note Spirit Night is at the McDonald's in the Kings Park Shopping Center this year.

Remember to join us for the monthly PTA meeting on Oct 6 at 6:45pm in the library. Share your thoughts as well as listen to the PTA board, the administration, and fellow members. We are currently holding a membership drive competition - the grade with the highest membership wins a sweet prize. Please consider using your time and talents to volunteer with the PTA to better serve our kids. We can't do it

without you, but we can do great things with you!

The PTA is working hard at improving our communication with the Ravensworth community. Please check out our redesigned website and look for the weekly emails and monthly newsletter. Please feel free to contact us with your questions or visit the Ask The PTA link on the website.

**Go Ravens!**  
**George Brodie**



#### Upcoming Dates:

- 10/2 Sally Foster Due
- 10/6 School Pictures, PTA mtg 6:45
- 10/12 Columbus Day
- 10/13 Spirit Night
- 10/16 Field Day
- 10/26-10/29 Book Fair

### Administrators' Corner (continued on pg.2)

The PTA Ice Cream Social was a great success. Thanks to all workers and supporters!

Rain threatened all day and we chose to hold the event indoors. The weather did hold out and families were able to enjoy their ice cream and socialize with friends both inside and outside.

Due to budget cuts the Fairfax County Public Schools *Familygram* will no longer be provided as a print publication and will only be available electronically. The *Familygram* can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/publicat/familygram/backtoschool2009/index.html>

We are all adjusting to the earlier start time, and bus arrivals now get our students here on time for students to be in class ready for the tardy bell at 8:25 AM. Thank you to everyone who has allowed that extra driving time (traffic and hot lane construction causing delays remains a challenge) to make sure kids are here to be in classrooms by the tardy bell. Be reminded that student safety is paramount and that supervision

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## Ways to Make Money for Our School

Thanks to all who continued clipping **Box Tops** over the summer! In the first week of school we collected \$150 worth of Box Tops. Keep up the good work! If you are not familiar with the program, simply clip (neatly) the Box Top logo from participating products and bring them to the collection box in the school lobby. Place them in a ziploc bag or fill out one of the fun collections sheets. Each Box Top is worth \$.10 for our school. Information on the program, product lists and collections sheets can also be found in the school lobby. For additional information and opportunities to help our school, check out the Box Tops website at [BoxTops4Education.com](http://BoxTops4Education.com).

We also collect **Tyson Project A+** labels. Tyson will pay our school \$.24 for each label we submit. Check Tyson products for the label that says "Support Your School" (usually found on the box end tab or the portion you tear off to open pouches. Collect them and bring them to the Box Tops bin in the school lobby. For a list of products and additional information, check out their website at [Tyson.com/projectAplus](http://Tyson.com/projectAplus).

Do you ever shop using **Amazon.com**? If so you can help out Ravensworth Elementary by entering [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) through our PTA website. Simply go to [ravensworthPTA.org](http://ravensworthPTA.org), click on Fundraising, then Amazon and go shopping. Ravensworth will receive a rebate of 4% of your pur-

chases through Amazon Associates.

Especially keep this in mind for your holiday shopping!

Be Green and Earn Green by turning used **Capri Sun drink pouches** into money for Ravensworth Elementary.

Every year BILLIONS of drink pouches end up in dumpsters and landfills across America. **TerraCycle, Capri Sun and Honest Kids** are working together to put an end to this awful loss of resources. As an eco-friendly innovator, TerraCycle converts the used drink pouches into unique fashion bags, tote bags, pencil cases, and other items for kids and adults! TerraCycle is proud to team up with the largest producer of drink pouches in the country, Capri Sun, and a young organic entry into the market, Honest Kids, to help address this problem! Together with your help we CAN make a difference!

The **TerraCycle Drink Pouch Brigade (tm)** program allows almost any school, non-profit organization or individual to save drink pouches from taking up space in landfills. TerraCycle will donate \$.02 for each drink pouch we receive., which will go to the school or charity of your choice.

Our goal is to have a "bin" located in the cafeteria for students to place their pouches during lunch. When collecting

the pouches at home, please rinse and have your child(ren) drop them in the bin located in the cafeteria during lunch.

Should you have any questions please contact: Diane Buckner: [diane.buckner@cox.net](mailto:diane.buckner@cox.net)

**Sally Foster** is the PTA's largest fundraiser with 50% of sales going to support programs at Ravensworth. Please ask friends and family to purchase items. Along with the prizes offered by Sally Foster for different sales levels, the PTA is also offering additional prizes. Those students selling 10+ items will receive a fuzzy monkey! Selling 20+ items, gets your child a spot at the ice cream party and raffle where they could win an iPod Nano, Nintendo DS, movie passes, gift cards and more! If they sell 40 items or more, they get a turn in the money machine! There is also the opportunity to sell to out of town relatives and friends via the internet. Refer to the cover letter that came with the sales packet or to [SallyFoster.com](http://SallyFoster.com). When registering online make sure to use Ravensworth's account number: 503984. Remember the sale ends this Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make sure to put your child's name and teacher on the envelope and order form. Thanks for doing your part to help our school!

## Administrators' Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

is not available for students who arrive prior to 8:05 AM and that outside duty staff (for car pool) ceases at 8:25 AM, when school begins.

Nutting Drive can become quite congested as families are waiting to get into the carpool lane in the afternoon. If your family participates in carpool please remind your students to make every effort to get to the carpool lane quickly so that the line is not held up waiting for students. This will generate a smoother flow of traffic for the surrounding streets and help to not block driveways and crosswalks near the school.

Even in this time of economic struggles our community finds so many ways to support us. Thank you to our Ravensworth Farm neighbors who made a generous donation to the school which was used towards purchasing another SmartBoard. Through the efforts of our PTA we were also able to purchase additional SmartBoards and LCD projectors for our classrooms this year. We are so fortunate to be a part of this very caring community.



## Compacted Math

Starting this fall, Ravensworth 6th graders will have the opportunity to participate in compacted math. Students will be grouped by ability and placed in math classes accordingly. The program will be offered in immersion and non immersion classes.

For more information on the program, please visit the PTA website at [www.ravensworthpta.org](http://www.ravensworthpta.org), and read the information compiled by Lisa Daniel, VP for Outreach.

# Ravenstworth Media Center

## Jan Ramp, Librarian

This summer I had the privilege of attending Shenandoah University's Children's Literature Conference. The theme this year was "**Reading...It's a Guy Thing: Hooking Boys on Books.**" One of the sessions talked about parents being the "best coach" and how every minute you spend reading and talking with your child pays off. Here are some suggestions especially for Dads:

**SPOKEN WORDS:** Before your child ever sees a word on the page, he or she will hear thousands and thousands of words ---spoken words. Every spoken word is a series of sounds, called **phonemic awareness**. You can start working on phonemic awareness when your child is a baby. Even saying silly words like "coochie coo" begins to make language sounds more familiar.

**HOW DAD CAN HELP:** Play games with words. If you see a boat, say to your child, "Hey, look at that coat in the water!" Of course your child will know it's a boat and tell you so. At dinner, ask your child to pass you his fish and he will correct you right away that it is a "dish." This makes playing with sounds a game.

**WRITTEN WORDS:** The leap from talking to reading happens when a child starts to see how written letters stand for the sounds of speech. It's like learning a code. This is called **phonics**. Phonics is a knowledge of how letters represent sounds.

**HOW DAD CAN HELP:** Words are everywhere. Think of every word as a chance to help your child become a better reader. Look for words on signs, maps, billboards, cereal boxes, money, and birthday cards. Point out words to your child wherever you see them. Say them out loud. Take time to sound them out and show how the letters and combinations of letters make sounds. When you're standing at a street corner, watch for the sign to turn from "WALK" to "DON'T WALK", and see who can shout the word "DON'T" first. Play changing words to other words like **kitten** into **mitten**.

**WORD POWER:** If your child lives to 100, he or she can learn more than 20 new words a day and never know them all. No human being knows every single word of English. But the more words a person knows, the better he can read and speak and write. This is called **vocabulary**. You start building a child's vocabulary from day one, when you say your child's name or point to a picture of a giraffe in a book and say the word "giraffe" out loud.

**HOW DAD CAN HELP:** Building vocabulary is like building a strong foundation, brick by brick. See a helicopter flying overhead? Having spaghetti squash for dinner for the first time? Going to Cincinnati to visit your brother? Point all of these new words out to your child. Try adding three new words every day (when you go for walks together, read the newspaper together, or watch a movie). The world is full of new things to learn and explore. Dad can be the best tour guide out there.

**READING SMOOTHLY AND EASILY:** Remember when you first tried driving a stick shift? How the car stalled? The jerky motion you thought would tear the engine apart? That's what early reading is like. You might have heard your son or daughter trying to read a page, getting stuck on words. That's normal for young readers, but, like driving, the goal is to move ahead smoothly and easily. This is called **fluency**. Fluent readers recognize lots of words on sight, without having to sound them out. This way the reader can focus on the meaning of what he or she is reading, rather than trying to decode word by word. Young readers need coaches, like you, to get them through the rough spots.

**HOW DAD CAN HELP:** The way to fluency is to listen to your child read the same pages repeatedly until your child smoothes out all the "bumps in the road." Reading those favorite books over and over again---as you've been doing all along---moves your child down the road. Sometimes, you can take turns reading sentences in a book.

**KNOWING WHAT IT MEANS:** We read for a reason. Maybe to get swept away by a great story, or find out what happened in last night's game. We read to figure out how to put together a bicycle. There is no point to reading if it doesn't help us understand something. This is called **comprehension**. Does your child understand the details, the meaning, and the ideas behind what he or she is reading?

**HOW DAD CAN HELP:** Ask questions. It's a great way to know whether your young reader really understands what he reads. And it stimulates his brain to think and ask questions himself. When you're reading a story with your child, stop and ask questions once in awhile: Why did the character do that? What do you think would happen next? What would you do in that situation? And don't just ask questions about books---do it with the movies you see together, the TV programs you watch and what the coach should do on the next play.

For further information, see the National Institute for Literacy at [www.nifl.gov](http://www.nifl.gov)

Have a great year of reading!

## From the Counselor

The Salvation Army provides assistance to families in Fairfax County that need help with presents for children and/or food for holiday dinners. They are accepting applications from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> (for help at Thanksgiving) and from October 26<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup> (for help at Christmas). You must go to the Salvation Army offices at 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 to register. Call the office at 703-385-8700 to find out when to go. For help, you can contact Judy Morsberger, (703)385-8700 ext. 23 at the Salvation Army or Fran Lewandoski, (703)340-6184, the Social Worker at Ravensworth ES.

No application will be accepted unless all items listed below are presented at the time of registration: Current Photo ID (if address is different, bring a document with the correct address), Birth Certificates or Refugee Cards for each child, Social Security Cards for all household members or proof that you have applied for them, Proof of Income (school letter, pay stub, income tax return, papers from Social Services, or letters from income sources if these are not available). Gifts will only be provided for children up to age 16 and only those that live in your household. Each family must know American clothing sizes of their children or clothes will not be provided. If an interpreter is needed, then the family must provide one for assistance. A Fairfax County address must be provided as well as an amount for monthly expenses (rent, phone, utilities, and credit cards).

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book fair is coming to Ravensworth Monday, October 26 through Thursday, October 29. This is a great opportunity to stock up on presents for the holidays, and is a great way to Support our school!

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Book Fair, please contact Dave and Brenda Tobin at [Brendaanddave@yahoo.com](mailto:Brendaanddave@yahoo.com).

## It's Band Time!

Greetings from the band department. All fifth and sixth grade students are eligible to be in the band program. Band classes meet once per week, and all band classes will start during the week of September 28. Registration forms were sent home following instrument demonstrations during the first week of school. Classroom teachers may also have extra forms if yours has been misplaced. Students new to the band program will be given the opportunity to try several instruments to help determine which would be the best for them. Instruments can be rented or purchased at several reputable music stores in the area. Students who are on the free or reduced-price lunch program are eligible to receive an instrument from the county at a nominal cost. Some larger instruments are also available for rental through the school. Please have your child turn in a band registration form as soon as possible if you are interested in him or her being a part of this year's band. Please contact Mr. Boltz via e-mail at [dboltz1@fcps.edu](mailto:dboltz1@fcps.edu), or call him at 703-426-3606 if you have any questions concerning the band program. Mr. Boltz is at Ravensworth only on Thursday afternoons and is being assisted this year by Mrs. Jaime Holscher.

## Strings News

Any student in grades 4, 5, or 6 may learn to play a String Instrument this school year. Free group lessons are available during the school day. Music books are also provided by the school. Local music stores have instrument rental plans for Violin, Viola, Cello or Bass. This fee may be applied toward the purchase of the instrument. By the way, do you have an unused violin, viola, cello or bass sitting at home? Please consider donating it to our school. A letter acknowledging your donation can be furnished upon request for tax purposes.

# Advanced Academic Program

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The Advanced Academic Programs Office (formally GT) is holding four parent information nights. After a brief overview of Advanced Academic Programs grades K-12, there will be break-out sessions for parents interested in learning more about each of the following: the screening process for full-time advanced academic programs, part-time advanced academic services, and middle and high school advanced academics opportunities.

Thursday, October 8 McLean HS 1633 Davidson Road, Mclean, VA 22101

Tuesday, October 13 Oakton HS 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Thursday, October 15 Annandale HS 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

Monday, October 19 West Potomac HS 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Meetings will be held in the auditorium from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and are open to the public; no registration is required. Directions are available at [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com).

For additional information contact Ravensworth Elementary, the Advanced Academic Programs Office at Lacey Center 703-846-8670, or the Advanced Academic Programs Office web site: <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt>

## What is GRACE Art?

GRACE Art is a parent-run art enrichment program created by the Greater Reston Art Center. The purpose of GRACE Art is to bring parents into the classroom to enrich the students' learning experience. **You do not have to have any art or teaching experience to volunteer**, only the desire to have your children see you in class as a source of learning. Volunteers participate in the program by bringing art and art history into the classroom with teachers and students. All materials and training are provided by the program and GRACE Art coordinator Donald Willcox.

For 2009 we have five presentations scheduled for October, November, January, February and March. We will meet the first week of each month with a presentation. The purpose of this meeting will be to learn about the artist and discuss ways to teach the kids at each grade level. After that meeting, parents sign up to help teach in the classroom that month.

Please contact Don Willcox for more information at [don.willcox@gmail.com](mailto:don.willcox@gmail.com).

## Second Grade News

Welcome back to Ravensworth, second graders! We are excited about this upcoming year and we hope the students are, too! We feel like Back to School Night was a great success, and that parents were very welcoming of all the information we provided. This quarter, the students will be diving into matter and magnets in science; addition, subtraction, and place value in math; reviewing student rights and responsibilities and geography in social studies; and continue to practice writing complete sentences with details in language arts. Your child's PM teacher will be starting spelling and reading groups during this quarter as well. Homework started the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> so please be on the look-out for their homework packet in your child's red Homework folder.

The Spanish Immersion students will be starting their Palabras de la Semana program (learning weekly math and science words to build their Spanish vocabulary).

As always, please be aware of the days your child has PE. It is very important that the students wear tennis shoes on these days, so they can participate.

Thank you for all your support to help make this year a success for your child!

**Principal: Pam O'Connor**

**Assistant Principal: Tim Paper**

**PTA President: George Brodie**

**Editor: Kate Thurgood**

[www.fcps.k12.va.us/RavenworthES](http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/RavenworthES)

[www.ravenworthpta.org](http://www.ravenworthpta.org)

## Join the PTA!

The PTA wants ALL Ravensworth families to join its ranks in support of our school. As part of our fall membership drive, we are holding a competition for each grade to show its school spirit by having parents sign up for PTA membership. The grade that has the most PTA members by November 6 will win a sweet surprise for all. Your membership will count toward all students in your family.

Membership dues are only \$10 per person and membership envelopes are available in the school office. If you are unable to stop by the office, please contact Sally McColl at [sallymccoll@gmail.com](mailto:sallymccoll@gmail.com) or 703-644-4611 to have an envelope sent home with your child. All members receive a complimentary student directory.

Track the progress of our membership drive by checking out the poster in the cafeteria or visiting the Ravensworth PTA website!

## Spirit Night

Bring your family and join your friends on Tuesday, October 13 from 5-8 pm at **Kings Park McDonald's!** Enjoy a fun night eating with the teachers and staff of Ravensworth while raising money for the school. 15% of all sales goes to Ravensworth school. Guaranteed to be a great time! Wear your Ravensworth Spirit Wear and meet us at the **Kings Park McDonald's, located at 8976 Burke Lake Road in Springfield.** (Corner of Burke Lake Rd. and Rolling Rd.). Questions? Contact Donna Karlinchak at [dsk91898@aol.com](mailto:dsk91898@aol.com).

(Please note the change in location from years past — this is the McDonald's at King's Park, not the one across from West Springfield HS.)

## Chess Club

*"It is not difficult to combine a very strong attraction to chess with work and study. My own experience was that not only did chess not hinder my studies at school and in college, but even proved to be helpful as it played a part in development habits of logical thought."*— Alexander Kotov, Soviet GM and chess teacher

Join the Ravensworth Chess Club and see the wonderful benefits playing chess can have on education!

The Chess coach this year will be Arkadiy Frenkel, a trained professional, who has over 35 years of international chess experience. In the United States he holds the title of National Chess Master. He has over 15 years of domestic chess education.

The club will meet the following Wednesdays from 3:15 until 4:30 in the cafeteria: November 11 and 18; December 2, 9 and 16; January 6; April 14, 21 and 28; and May 5.

The cost is \$80 per child, or \$140 for two children in the same family.

To enroll your child, please contact Patricia Salinas [psalinasi@verizon.net](mailto:psalinasi@verizon.net) or Suzanne Amra [suzanne.amra@verizon.net](mailto:suzanne.amra@verizon.net), parent coordinators.

To read more about the benefits of playing chess, please read the article "Chess and Education" by John Artise online at ChessHouse.com or at our PTA website at [www.ravenworthpta.org](http://www.ravenworthpta.org).

**The next issue of the Reveille will be published October 28. Articles should be approved and submitted to [Thurgoods6@aol.com](mailto:Thurgoods6@aol.com) by October 21.**