



Ridge Elementary School
 8910 Three Chopt Road
 Henrico, VA 23229

Office: (804) 673-3745

Ridge Elementary Website:
<http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/es/ridge/>

January 2, 2012

Ridge Roadrunner



Newsletter



Welcome back Roadrunners!



We hope each and every one of you had a fun and safe Winter Break!

*We're Sailing
 the S.E.A.S. of
 Success!*



*Successfully
 Educating
 All
 Students*

**January is
 Bullying Prevention Month!**



"Working together,
 we can ensure that bullying behaviors are not
 welcome at Ridge!" – Mrs. Otey

JANUARY

First day back to school from Winter Break	Mon, Jan. 2 nd
Chuck-E-Cheese Night	Tues, Jan. 10 th
WatchDog Meeting	Thurs, Jan. 12 th
Student Holiday	Mon, Jan. 16 th
General PTA Meeting, 5 th Grade Performs	Thurs, Jan. 19 th
Comprehensive Safety Audit	Fri, Jan. 20 th
End of 2 nd Nine Week Period	Fri, Jan. 27 th
Student Holiday	Mon, Jan. 30 th

- What the PTA has done this month:
- Organized and held a Holiday Bazaar, Children's Gift Shop, and Pancake Breakfast
 - Treated all Teachers with Massages from First Choice Chiropractic
 - Organized Spirit Wear information
 - Reimbursed Teachers for Classroom Supplies
 - Purchased Scholastic Magazines for three grade levels
 - Purchased Physical Education Equipment

Dear Ridge Families:

Happy New Year! Welcome to a brand new beautiful year! 2012 is looking great! So many great things are going on in the classrooms and the children are exciting about the success that they are experiencing!



January is Bullying Prevention Month!

Demonstrating our commitment to fighting bullying here at Ridge, we have implemented various measures to eliminate bullying behaviors. Bullying will be one topic of discussion in my **Code of Conduct Review Assemblies** this month. We will review exactly what bullying is . . . deliberately hurting others with words and actions. In addition, **Officer DeShazo** worked with several grade levels on preventing bullying.



Teachers are holding monthly class meetings to discuss bullying and ways to prevent it, and children are learning to recognize these behaviors and report them to adults so that all children feel safe at school and have a positive learning environment. We can't do it alone! Working together, we can ensure that bullying behaviors are not welcome at Ridge!

B-U-R-R-R - it's cold outside!!

If it becomes necessary for school to close because of bad weather or for any other reason, announcements will be made using various methods:

- Announcements on the school division's website (henrico.k12.va.us);
- Announcements on radio and TV stations, including Channel 99, Henrico County Public Schools' own TV station;
- A message on NBC Channel 12's school information line. Call 345-1212, choose 9 for school information, then choose the correct option for Henrico; and / or
- A Parent Notification broadcast.

Families should make emergency closing child-care arrangements at the beginning of each school year so that students know what to do and where to go if early dismissals become necessary. In fact, you should have submitted information to us regarding what you wanted your child to do should an emergency closing / situation arise. Please be sure that your information is still accurate and current. You never know when the bad weather will hit.

Reminders . . .

Please remember the importance of good attendance, including arriving at school on time each day. We have so much teaching and learning to do at Ridge, and we need our children here! Thank you for working hard to be sure that children are here on time each day.

Please watch your speed in the car loop. It has been reported by Tuckahoe Middle School that Ridge parents have sped through their parking lot to bring students to our school. As safety is a top concern at Ridge, we want to be sure that no students or adults are harmed. Thank you for slowing down.

Students are allowed in the building at 7:20AM. Please don't leave students unattended at the car loop before 7:20AM. Again, we want to be sure all students are safe at all times.

Our Comprehensive Safety Audit is January 20th. We are checking every nook and cranny in the building to be sure that we are as safe as absolutely possible! Please be sure to sign in and wear your visitor's sticker if you are visiting our school at any time.

Thanks for all you do to encourage and motivate your children! We appreciate you!

Mrs. Otey



P.E. IS READY TO JUMP INTO THE NEW YEAR!



JANUARY HAS ARRIVED AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME EXCITING EVENTS DOWN THE ROAD THAT INCLUDE THE 5TH GRADE YMCA WATER SAFETY FIELD TRIP (FEB29TH) AND OUR MONTHLY CHICK FILA STUDENT ATHLETE WINNERS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO **JEFFREY WRIGHT** WHO WAS SELECTED AS OUR NOVEMBER WINNER!

PLEASE REMIND YOUR ROADRUNNERS TO WEAR TENNIS SHOES AND SOCKS TO P.E. CLASS AND CHECK WITH THE CLASSROOM TEACHER IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT DAY THEY HAVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS. THANK YOU PARENTS AND PTA FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR P.E. PROGRAM!!! I HOPE 2012 IS A GREAT YEAR FOR US ALL.



TRULY P.E.,
COACH ATWELL



The PTA's Beautification Team has transformed Ridge into a Winter Wonderland complete with snowflakes, snowmen and penguins. Our Team focused on the main hallways and the cafeteria. Additionally we hung green wreaths with bright blue bows at the two main entrances into Ridge. The Team has many other projects planned for Ridge.

If you are interested in helping the Beautification Team please contact Dawn Young at 929-0027 or email dawnyoung@freeagentsmarketing.com. The Team also welcomes your ideas!

Dawn Young

Student Phone Directory and Yearbook



The Student Phone Directory is a valuable tool for Ridge parents and students. If you would like to have your information included in this voluntary publication, please fill out the form that will be coming home in your child's folder.

Yearbook orders will be taken in February. If you have any pictures you would like to submit to be considered for the yearbook please send them in to Karen Cozens or email them to kcozens@verizon.net. You may also collect pictures and save them on a disc. Pictures from fieldtrips, class parties or any other special occasion will create an even more special yearbook.

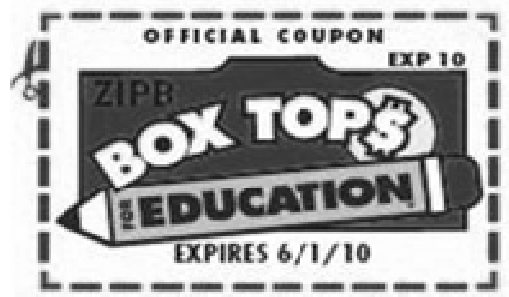
Karen Cozens

Ridge Elementary School PTA Box Tops for Education Collection Sheet

Teacher _____

Grade _____

Student _____



Use this sheet to collect and submit your Box Tops. While using this sheet is not required, having Box Tops submitted in counted groups of 25 greatly simplifies the redemption process.

Instructions:

1. Clip complete Box Top off product package along the dotted lines.
2. DO NOT cut off the expiration date. Box Tops cannot be redeemed without it.
3. DO NOT submit expired Box Tops.
4. Glue or tape Box Tops, one per square.
5. Only use this sheet for 10¢ Box Top coupons.
6. Submit special or bonus Box Top coupons separately.
7. Fill in Teacher, Grade, and Student information for contest purposes.



Save the Date for Ridge Elementary's Restaurant Nights!

Thank you all so much for coming out to Moe's last month in the pouring rain to support Ridge! We are so grateful to all of you that joined us!



Mark your calendars:

Our next Restaurant Night is at Chuck e Cheese
(9030 West Broad Street)
on January 10th from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Chuck e will be at Ridge on January 10th handing out stickers for free tokens.
Also check out <http://www.chuckecheese.com/coupons> for coupon savings!

Ridge Restaurant Nights 2011 – 2012
By Susan Lafoon (804) 270-4770

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>AMOUNT EARNED</u>
September 20 th	CiCi's Pizza	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	\$115.00
October 18 th	Chuck E. Cheese	3:00 – 9:00 p.m.	\$357.04
November 9 th	Chick Fil-A (Parham Rd)	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	\$133.50
December 7 th	Moe's SW Grill (The Village)	5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	\$60.00
January 10th	Chuck E. Cheese	3:00 – 9:00 p.m.	
February 21 st	Arby's (Quioccasin Road)	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	
March 20 th	Quizno's (Parham Road)	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	
April 17 th	Chuck E. Cheese	3:00 – 9:00 p.m.	
May 15 th	Qdoba (9460 W. Broad St)	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	
June 13 th	McCallister's Deli (Gayton Rd)	4:00 – 9:00 p.m.	



Hospitality Highlights

By Amy Boyle

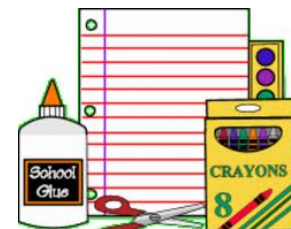


In December, PTA Hospitality was honored to have First Choice Chiropractic come in for an afternoon to treat our teachers to 10-minute massages. We are very grateful that the doctors at First Choice donate their time for this event.

In January, we will be helping the teachers restock some of their consumable classroom supplies. At this mid-year point, teachers are often running low on supplies the students use every day.

If you'd like to help by donating some supplies this month, please contact Amy Boyle at aimandbub@msn.com or 673-2242.

It's an easy way to support Ridge's teachers!



Library News

Thank you to everyone who helped make our holiday book fair a success! Our book fair not only supports our library program, it gives students a chance to choose their own books and build their personal libraries. Studies have shown what librarians have known for a long time; personal choice is a major factor in encouraging a students love of reading.

So don't be too concerned if your child loves to read Diary of a Wimpy Kid but turns up his nose at Treasure Island. If reading is fun, your child will read more often. Reading more often will make your child a better reader. With a little luck, one day they may choose to check out Treasure Island. And, maybe they will enjoy reading it!

Nancy Essid, School Librarian



Safety Tips:

Hello Parents, Did you know that our school has a Safety Committee? A representative from each grade level and department, including Mrs. Otey, meet each month to discuss how to make our school a safer place for our students. We review any incidents or potential problems and decide how to best provide the safest environment for everyone. If you have a safety concern about anything at Ridge, please contact a member of the PTA board. They will then pass your concern on to the Safety Committee. Safety at Ridge is everyone's job.

This month's safety tip is:

"Students should wear appropriate shoes." Wearing unstable shoes, such as heels, slides, clogs, etc., can cause injuries in P.E. as well as in daily recess. Sneakers that tie provide great support for every occasion at school.

Thank you!



As the year ends, the faculty and staff at Ridge have reflected on the ways that the Parent/Teachers' Association has benefitted the students at Ridge. We are so grateful to the core group of parents who are steadfast in assisting us in day to day activities, the parents who substitute so that we can have a longer holiday lunch, and the parents who volunteer to provide snacks to brighten up our days. We are very grateful for all that you do (can I say, especially the copying!) and appreciate your concern so that Ridge can be the best it can be.

thank
You

Thank you for your continued support for all of the students and thank you for all the nice presents, supplies, and food that you provide to make us feel so supported and appreciated. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

The Staff of Ridge Elementary School



Recycling Committee
Lindsay Stone



The Recycling Committee is excited to announce that we have some wonderful corporate sponsors for the recycling program this year at Ridge!

Helping Hands Veterinary Surgery and Dental Care is owned and operated by Ridge parent, Lori Pasternak, DVM. Helping Hands offers affordable options for surgery and dental care for your pet. They are able to offer these services at lower cost by limiting the practice to only surgery and dental care and cutting out office visit / consultation time and fees.

Another sponsor is my own, Home Video Transfer. I will edit your home videos or transfer each tape to a digital file and/or create a dvd. Contact by phone or email.

We also have Simpson & Schmidt Custom Framing and Photography. David has been one our most loyal recycling program donors since the beginning 7 years ago. His Framing shop is located next to Freeman High School. He is able to frame you photos, paintings, certificates, etc in the many unique ways. Stop in to see and purchase some of his original fruit photography also!



Affordable Veterinary
Surgery & Dental Care
Lori Pasternak, DVM
Jacqueline Morasco

3402 West Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 355-3500
hhvetva@verizon.net
www.helpinghandsvetva.com

**Simpson & Schmidt
Custom Framing
and Photography**

288-3937
Westbury Center



**Home
Video
Transfer**

Lindsay Stone
Owner

Video to DVD
8302 Kalb Road
Richmond, VA 23229
804.270.2691
804.350.6049

"Preserve your family's videos today"
www.homevideotransfer.com

This year the cost of recycling has dropped from \$60/month down to \$35/month. Though the price has dropped substantially, we still need more recycling donations ASAP!

We still need to raise **\$280** to pay for this year's recycling program. Please let me know of any businesses in our area that would like to be highlighted for making a **tax deductible donation** to this program.

Thank you to the many other sponsors this year! The Ridge PTA appreciates that you have taken an interest in helping our students make a worthy recycling contribution to the environment, the community, and to the earth!

Lindsay Stone, PTA Recycler
270-2691 or Lindsay@codepath.net



Art to Remember

All Art to Remember items went home on Monday, December 5th. This fundraiser was a great success, and the children get to see their artwork on neat objects that can be used every day. Thank you for your support, excitement & participation in this fundraiser!

Heather Williford



Thank you to everyone that helped organize, participated in, and joined us at our 2nd Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Bazaar last month! What a wonderful turn out! We had so many volunteers from Dads cooking pancakes, to vendors selling items at tables, volunteers in the classrooms making crafts, Holiday Shop cashiers, people making popcorn, etc. The kids especially loved seeing Santa and having their pictures taken with him! Thank you again!

We appreciate you all!



Be on the lookout for paperwork coming home in your Red Folders soon about the WATCH D.O.G.S. program! We will be having a meeting on Thursday, January 12th.

Please mark your calendars!

**We've Got Spirit; Yes We Do!
We've Got Spirit; How About You?**

Keep an eye on your Red Folders for
RIDGE SPIRIT WEAR
order forms going home this month!



- Have you misplaced a previous Newsletter?
- Need another copy of a volunteer form that was in the Newsletter? Does your child need an extra "Box Top" sheet?



- Well, we now have our Ridge PTA Newsletters available ONLINE!

- Special thanks to Mrs. Essid for uploading our Newsletters each and every month onto the Ridge Elementary Website!

- Please go to <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/es/ridge/> and click on the PTA link to pull up our "Activities Schedule" and Newsletters!



Ridge currently has 164 PTA Members and counting...

We are still hoping to get 100% participation from the teachers and staff, as well as our parents, so please pick up an envelope in the office or from me, and join if you haven't already done so!

Please note that PTA Membership dues are now \$6.00!

Join your PTA Today!

Melissa Smith
melsbuzz@aol.com

THANK YOU

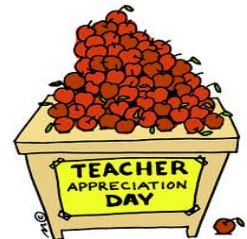
A great big THANK YOU to all of our Volunteers that covered classrooms during Café Cheer last month!

We are so grateful to have such wonderful volunteers that take their time to help out so that the Teachers can enjoy a special treat!

We will be having another luncheon for the teachers during "Teacher Appreciation Week" in May, and will need class coverage for that as well. Information will be sent home later in the year on this event. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you again for making these events happen for our wonderful teachers here at Ridge!

Diana McDonough
Room Ambassador



Attention Parents of MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS and HIGH SCHOOL students!

Is your child looking for extra Service Hours?
Ridge Elementary can help them out, while they help us out!



Please send in your child's information to Robin Young at youn65@aol.com.



We are always in need of extra hands around the school!



From the Editor

I would like to thank Cassandra "Sani" Calara-Johnson, a special volunteer here at Ridge for assisting me each and every month by making 600 copies of the Ridge Roadrunner PTA Newsletter! Sani comes in the office for several hours each month to make sure that the Newsletter reaches our Roadrunners' Red Folders on time. Thank you Sani for all you do!

If you would like to help with making copies or volunteering in any other area, we ask that you make sure that the Office has your completed Volunteer/Mentor Application Form on file (you should have received one in your child's red folder at the beginning of the year, or you may pick up a copy from the office).

Thank you to ALL of our WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Cori Pike, PTA Newsletter



Our Exceptional Education teachers here at Ridge could always use some extra school supplies.

If you come across any #2 Pencils and Pencil Toppers, and would like to donate them to our Exceptional Ed teachers, please leave them in the PTA Box in the office, and we will make sure they get to them!

Thank you again for helping our Teachers!

We appreciate YOU!



Ridge Elementary thanks our COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



Ridge Baptist Church