



ROBIOUS EXPRESS



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Be sure to mark your calendars for all the upcoming events

The next Robious Express won't be published until February!!

Congratulations to Mrs. Ingoe!

Betsy Ingoe is one of the winners of the R.E.B. Award for Teaching Excellence.

These awards are given to teachers, K-12 from the city of Richmond, Hanover, Henrico and Chesterfield counties. Established in 1988, the awards recognize public school teachers who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding classroom performance. Students, parents and colleagues nominated more than 140 teachers last spring. This group was narrowed down to 31 finalists, who submitted proposals explaining what they would do with the cash award. Then 15 final winners were chosen.

Mrs. Ingoe plans to use the cash award to "embark on a culinary journey through Italy to explore the art of eating locally and the benefits of 'farm to table' foods". She then plans to implement this in her classroom by growing a garden with her students and serving the vegetables.

Way to go Mrs. Ingoe! We're very happy for you!

If you would like to nominate a teacher for the R.E.B. Award, please go to this website http://chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/news/REB_teachers.htm.

**Brooke Shepard
Leigh Deignan**

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
Dec. 8	Interim Reports, Grades 3—5	Jan. 3	Return to School	Jan. 27	Chick-fil-A Night, 5:30—8:00 p.m.
Dec. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Classroom Parties, 9am—11am • Caboose Camp Registration Closes 	Jan. 10	PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Library	Jan. 31	School Holiday
Dec. 20- Dec 31	School Closed	Jan. 17	School Holiday	Feb. 1	Robious Birthday & Treat Day
		Jan. 21—28	Scholastic Book Fair	Feb. 1—4	CoGAT Testing, 3rd Grade
		Jan. 27	Book Fair Parent's Night & Ice Cream Social, 6:30—8:30pm		



The Gift That Keeps On Giving—A Book!

A note from Principal Anne O'Toole

When I was a little girl, my older brother and I looked forward to visiting Santa at Miller & Rhoads on the first Monday night in December. We'd have dinner in the Tea Room on the fifth floor of the department store, eat reindeer cake, and sit on Santa's knee to reel off our wish list. On the way back to the car, we'd always stop at the Cokesbury book store, where my mother would allow each of us to select one book. The minute I'd enter the store, there was this magical, new-book smell that drew me in. I was in a hallowed place where hard-bound covers were brand new, pages were crisp, and my choice would forever belong to me, not the public library.

That sense of owning treasured books, not "renting" them from the library, is one that every child should experience. Here is a list of choices from a recent trip I took to BBGB (formerly Narnia), a children's bookstore at 3100 Kensington Avenue, just around the corner from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Even if your child doesn't ask Santa to include books in his backpack, I hope you'll consider slipping one of these titles—or perhaps one you loved as a child—under the tree this year. Happy holidays, everyone!

***The Christmas Cookie Sprinkle Snitcher*, by Robert Kraus (ages 6-8)**

While the village is asleep, the Christmas Cookie Sprinkle Snitcher is determined there will be no cookies for the holidays. Who will save the Christmas cookies?

***Pyramid*, by David Macauley (ages 8-10)**

Every child on the planet is intrigued by the ancient pyramids of Egypt. Macauley's intricately detailed drawings will inspire your child to learn more about these mammoth structures.

***One Smart Cookie*, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (ages 7-9)**

Worried that your child's vocabulary is too limited? Morsels of wisdom are linked to very grown-up words, such as *compromise*, *ponder*, *arrogant*, and *empathy*, nestled within the context of an hilarious story about cookies.

***Weird But True: 300 Outrageous Facts*, by The National Geographic Society (all ages)**

Three hundred wacky, wild, mind-bending facts about everything on earth and beyond—animals, food, science, outer space, weather, and more.

***The Five Chinese Brothers*, by Kurt Wiese (ages 6-8)**

One of my all-time favorite picture books...A masterfully woven Chinese fairy tale in which five brothers, each given a unique "gift," manage to escape danger.

***Every Second Something Happens*, by Christine San Jose and Bill Johnson (ages 6-10)**

Young readers will learn to appreciate the five senses, as they listen and read to discover the joys of poetry.

***Too Many Turkeys*, by Linda White (ages 6-8)**

Fred's adopted turkey uses his own brand of magic to save Belle's vegetable garden. Magnificent illustrations.

***Great Migrations*, by The National Geographic Society (ages 7-10)**

Animals everywhere migrate to survive—butterflies, wildebeests, jellyfish. Exquisite photography captures the motion of migration, and facts capture the journeys.

***All in a Day*, by Cynthia Rylant (all ages)**

Poetic text, along with stunning cut-paper art, invites readers of all ages to appreciate a day as a perfect piece of time in which to live fully.

***How Do Dinosaurs Laugh Out Loud?* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague (ages 5-8)**

Riddles and jokes play on the scientific names of dinosaurs and include lift-up flaps with answers.

***The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*, by Kristin Levine (ages 9-11)**

Set in 1917 in Alabama, this is the poignant story of a brave friendship between an African-American boy and a white girl who challenge the perils of small-town justice.

***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, by Rodman Philbrick (ages 9-11)**

Homer's older brother is illegally sold into the Union Army, and now Homer must run away from Pine Swamp, Maine, to find his brother and save him from the Civil War.

--Anne S. O'Toole

All Aboard! Caboose Camp On-line Registration is Open

Rock climbing, tree climbing and chocolate making, oh my! We are gearing up for another exciting year of Caboose Camp.

Come join us! Classes are filling up quickly, so please visit www.respta.org and follow the link to secure your child's spot for their first choice class. If a class is already full, you can choose to be placed on the wait list and/or sign up for an alternative class. Registration closes on Friday, December 17th at midnight.

To submit payment, just print out your Caboose Camp registration receipt and send it in to school with your check made payable to **RES PTA**. Please note "**Caboose Camp Payment**" on the envelope. Payments will be collected through Friday, January 7th. After that, if payment has not been received, spots will be made available to the children on the wait list. Please also keep in mind that it may take a few days for your payment to travel from your child's backpack to the PTA Caboose Camp mailbox, so please send your payment in today.

We would like to give a special thanks to those who have already offered their time to volunteer. We still need more volunteers once a week to help with sign-in and sign-out and classroom volunteers. Also remember that this is a great opportunity for middle school and high school students to receive volunteer hours. Please contact **Luan Doniger** at linhluan@hotmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

We look forward to seeing you at Caboose Camp.



Committee Chairs:
Liz Coleman
Luan Doniger
Bentley Keso
Sydney Mago

Scholastic Book Fair Week Coming in January!

Mark your calendar for the Annual Book Fair and Ice Cream Social. This year's theme is "Book Fair Carnival- Your ticket to Read!". Family Night will be Thursday, January 27, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Preview week is January 21 – January 28. During part of their library and PE time, the children will be previewing the book fair, making their wish lists, and will be allowed to make purchases. Look for email blasts and flyers after the holidays.

We need lots of Volunteers to make this run smoothly. If you would like to help contact **Ivy Pressendo** at ipresendo@verizon.net.



Community Service News

Thanks to all who supported the Central Virginia Food Bank during the month of October by feeding the monsters. We have not yet received confirmation of the total amount of food we collected, but it was HUGE! It seemed like we collected even more food than last year and your efforts were appreciated.

Our next community service opportunity is to pair with the Chesterfield – Colonial Heights Christmas Mother program. This year, they are asking all Chesterfield County schools to collect food for needy families in our area. So we will again be collecting canned and/or dried foods during the week of November 29 – December 6. Please send your donations to school in a paper bag, if possible, as the Christmas Mother program does not provide bins for the collection. We will collect the food in the same area where the "monsters" were located in October.

If you have any questions about community service, or about this project, please contact **Angela Schneider** at schneiderhouse@verizon.net.



Adopt-A-Book Program A Success!

On behalf of Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Pavlik a HUGE thank you to all the families that supported the Adopt-A-Book Program this year. Due to your generosity, the goal was surpassed and every single penny raised will go towards buying new books for our library. Books were adopted on behalf of:

Adair Breeden	Colin Look	Hope Look	Maggie Shepard	Thomas Adams
Aidan Magee	Colton Canfield	Jack Justus	Makenzie Tate	Thomas Bailey
Aiden Peter Moore	Connor Doyle	Jack McCarthy	Mallory Premock	Thomas Domer
Ainsley Wiederhorn	Connor Gibbons	Jack Pavia	Marc McCarthy	Thomas Pearson
Alex Clark	Connor Love	Jacob Snidow	Margaret Marcocchia	Trinity Brooke Tannous
All RES children!	Conor Murphy	Jada Moore	Mary Abbott Pearson	Turner Landrum
Amanda Krepps	Cooper Vengrove	Jamie Reeder	Mary Deignan	Virginia Warren
Amanda Schneider	Cosmy Pellis	Jessica Lain	Mason Cox	Wes Bowers
Andrew Misdary	Daniel Huggins	Joe Schneider	Matthew Eaton	William Diefenthaler
Andrew Swenson	Doyle Ennis	Jonathan Misdary	Matthew Farris	Zach Overstreet
Anna Grace Dorsey	Dylan Dise	Jonathan Zwemer	Matthew Pavia	Zoe Brown
Anna Gregorio	Dylan Overstreet	Joshua Bowling	Matthew Rumsey	Zora Dunlap
Anna Hartmann	Eli Russell	Julia Lain	Meg Dunkum	
Anna Osterhout	Eliza Harrison	Kaelyn Bender	Meghan Breslin	
Anya Pressendo	Ella Bender	Kate Hanna	Meghan Henry	
Archer Cox	Ella Kirksey	Katelyn Roberts	Melanie Warren	
Ashley Grace Scioscia	Ella Williams	Katherine Armstrong	Mitch Davis	
Ashton Koontz	Ellie Caldwell	Katie Dunn	Mitchell Larro	
Aubrey Premock	Emily Angelino	Katie Schneider	Nate Broughton	
Ben Doniger	Emily Cale	Kayla Quigley	Nathan Ruland	
Ben Harrison	Emily Dorsey	Kayla Shepard	Nicholas Contessa	
Ben Hurlocker	Emily Green	Kayla Siddiqi	Nick Wilson	
Benjamin Roberts	Emily Rice	Kayla Tate	Nicole Davis	
Ber vanderMeer	Emily Swenson	Kaylee Phan	Noah Landis	
Breleigh Brewer	Emma Kate Shepard	Kaylie Puccinelli	Noor Rafiq	
Brennan Murphy	Emma Koch	Keira Doyle	Parker Bradwin Forrest	
Brian Flood	Emory T. Bishop	Kelly Breslin	Peter Squarzini	
Brooke Bingenheimer	Erika J. Johnson	Kesiah Dodson	Rebecca Fielding	
Brynn Guerette	Erin Bergin	Kesiah Rose Dodson	Reed Haske	
Camille Weinberg	Evan Cale	Kyle Puccinelli	Reid Hanna	
Caroline Fredette	Evan Pope	Lauren Beachy	Riley Blaha	
Caroline Hollomon	Evie Pellis	Lauren Contessa	Riley Magee	
Cassidy Doyle	Fallon Parrish	Lauren Maloney	Robbie Dunn	
Charlie Boykin	Frederik Schneekloth	Lauren Phan	Robert Coleman	
Charlotte Walmsley	Fulton Landis	Lauren Pittard	Sam Gans	
Chloe Aboujaoude	Gavin Wolfe	Lily Beirne	Samantha Dise	
Chloe Wicks	George Maragos	Lily Dumont	Samantha Green	
Christopher Starlin Forrest, Jr.	Ginny Fielding	Lindsey Copeland	Sarah Coleman	
Claire Gibbons	Graham Fearington	Lizzy Thurnher	Sarah Eaton	
Claire Mattes	Graham Guerette	Lucas Franke	Sarah Eid	
Claire R. Mattes	Grayson E. Fox, III	Luke Reeder	Shay Campolongo	
Colby Scioscia	Griffin Graham	Mack Pellis	Skya Ennis	
Cole Carman	Hannah Garthright	Madelyn Strom	Sophia Maragos	
Cole Simons	Hannah Ward	Madison Bruster	Sydney Rusin	
Colin Flood	Harrison Phan	Maggie Deignan	Tessa Shepard	





The Kisses For Kids PTA Auction **“Auction Update ”**

With the help of our wonderful parents and community, this auction is really coming together! A big thank you to the parents that have already stepped up to donate their services and areas of expertise to be auctioned, and for the merchandise that has already been donated! We've got some exciting things lined up for you at the auction and we are still working hard for donations. We've got a great team coming up with such fun ideas for the evening as well. Our kids worked hard to finish their donated art work, thanks to Mr. Woodward, Karen Pellis and Sherry Wortman. And let's not forget our wonderful school teachers and staff- they are a committed group that plan to give their time in meaningful ways. More info to come!

As you are shopping for the holidays, please consider picking up a donated item for the grade level baskets:

Kindergarten	Arts and Crafts	Examples: beads, markers/crayons/art pens, paper/scrapbooking, craft kits, glue/glue sticks/glue gun
1 st grade	Culinary Cool	Examples: utensils/gadgets, spices/herbs/seasonings, cookbooks, kitchen towels/mitts/potholders
2 nd grade	Family Unplugged	Examples: board/card games, puzzles/legos, books, activity/coloring books, snacks, outdoor games, craft kits
3 rd grade	Gotta Have It	Examples: your favorite coffee/mugs/products, beauty items, kitchen gadgets, cleaning products/tools
4 th grade	Chocolate Lover's	Examples: candy/snacks, fondue, flavored coffee, hot chocolate/smoes, candy dishes, cookbooks
5 th grade	UVA or VA Tech	Examples: apparel, logo items, blankets/tailgate stuff, books, orange, maroon or blue stuff, pictures/prints

We are still accepting donations from businesses, organizations and individuals so if you have an item or service you would like to donate, please contact **Elaine Bowling** at losbowlings@verizon.net or **Betsy Cutler** at my4cutlers1@verizon.net. You may also call Elaine at 423-5794 or Betsy at 464-2955. We are most grateful!

Your invitation to the auction will be coming to you in early January just as school gets back into session so save the date for February 5th 6pm at Salisbury Country Club!

Happy Holidays from your PTA Auction Co-Chairs!

Elaine Bowling and Betsy Cutler



SAVE THE DATE!

Community-Wide Parent Coffee
Wednesday, February 16th
Robious Middle School Forum
10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Parent representatives from Bon Air, Crestwood, Greenfield and Robious Elementary are all working together to provide two informative sessions on Expeditionary Learning for us laypeople. A panel of teachers representing each school will be moderated by Dr. Steven Levy, a nationally recognized EL School Designer to field your questions.

Please mark February 16th on your calendars!

**EL Co-Chairs:
Beth Hanna
Heidi Montemurro**

Robious Elementary Running Club

RERC started on October 13th. On that 1st Wednesday the amazing number of 70 runners showed up and ran their laps. As of last week RERC had 89 runners, that is more than 10 % of the school population! I was thrilled to see many runners return from last year, and even happier to notice many new runners, among them 19 Kindergartners. It was unfortunate I had to cancel twice because of rain and a tornado threat, but apart from that we have enjoyed the beautiful fall colors and the company of each other. The Halloween Candy Run – a piece of candy for every lap -- was fun, and motivated the runners to run the extra lap.

In the next couple of weeks the runners will get a number bead

for every five miles they completed, so look for the RERC runners at school who wear a bracelet or necklace with number beads and take a moment to congratulate them on a job well done so far. It is never too late to join, please consider coming out on Wednesdays to get some exercise before school and have fun running with friends.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and will enjoy the Holiday Season.

Please keep running over the holidays!

Rita Siemers
rsiemers@aol.com

Study Buddies

Study Buddies has started this fall and we are in need of a few more Buddies! Buddies are adults who have time (about 30 minutes) weekly to work with a child. These children are identified by their teachers. Then they meet weekly with a Buddy to read, practice math facts or work on an assignment the teacher has provided. Buddies should be interested in helping a child learn, no additional training or skills needed!!



If you have questions or are interested in becoming a Study Buddy, please contact **Brooke Shepard** at hammershepard@comcast.net.

Run for Robious 5k

Already thinking about New Year's resolutions???? Well here is another one to add! I will run or walk in the Run for Robious 5K on Saturday, March 12th. This is a great way to shape up, train for the Monument Avenue 10K, have fun, and support RES and RMS at the same time! Mark your calendars!

If you have any questions or want to help in the planning, please contact **Mary Beth McCabe** at 379-2611 or mccabeva@yahoo.com





Green Team News



TREX CHALLENGE DETAILS

collect at home from Nov 15,
2010 – April 22, 2011

ACCEPTED MATERIALS

[Note: All material must be
clean and dry]

- Plastic grocery bags
- Plastic retail bags (remove string ties & rigid plastic handles)
- Plastic dry-cleaning bags
- Plastic cereal bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Plastic bread bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Plastic produce bags (must be dry with ALL food residue removed)
- Plastic wrap from paper products (paper towels, etc.)
- Plastic stretch/shrink wrap
- 6-pack holder rings

Colors good to recycle:

- clear!
- light or translucent yellow
- light or translucent orange
- light or translucent red

NOT ACCEPTED

- Plastic bags with food residue
- Plastic bags with strings
- Plastic soil or mulch bags
- Plastic zipper bags with rigid plastic closing mechanism
- Plastic bubble wrap
- Plastic food containers
- Plastic bottles

Colors not good to recycle:

- blue
- black
- green
- white

It was a chilly morning for the November 19 walking bus, but that didn't keep many of our young eco-heroes from walking to school for the last walking bus in 2010. The rest of the walking school bus dates for this school year are February 18, March 18, April 15, and May 20. Mark your calendars now, and we'll send out reminders in future newsletters.

Our Green Team volunteers have been working hard on figuring out how to reduce waste coming out of the lunchroom. If you'll recall, we did a "waste audit" last year, and determined that there are a lot of things being thrown away in the lunchroom that could maybe follow a different path. As a result the kitchen staff and janitorial staff have been working together to recycle food packaging waste this year. And, beginning on America Recycles Day on November 15, we had several parent volunteers observing in the lunchroom throughout the course of the week. They reported back a number of interesting findings... for instance, a lot of food gets thrown away that is unopened and untouched (common explanations from students included "ran out of time (because I was talking to friends)", "I was already full", or "I didn't like it"). Please consider having a conversation with your child about whether they are throwing food away... if they are, maybe they can come up with menu items and other solutions to help "right size" their lunch (and save you some grocery bucks!). Another observation made was that a lot of plastic bags are also thrown away. An official count was not made, but if half of our students bring their lunch on a given day, and they each throw away 2 or 3 plastic bags, that would be over 600 baggies

going into the landfill every day. That's up to 3,000 a week, and over 12,000 a month. In fact, 600 bags a day multiplied by 180 school days a year means over 100,000 plastic baggies a year are used for just a few hours before residing a great long time in a landfill. That's why the Green Team has also been promoting Boomerang Lunches this school year. Boomerang Lunches are packed in reusable containers that "boomerang" back home so they can be used again the next day. Think of the money you might save just by right sizing and boomeranging your child's lunch!

Also in honor of America Recycles Day, we launched our participation in the Trex Challenge. The folks at Trex need plastic bags to make their plastic lumber, and they are challenging schools across America to collect up used plastic bags. Please save your plastic AT HOME in 30 gallon "trash" bags (a 30 gallon trash bag will hold 1,000 plastic grocery bags!). Check the sidebar for what is, and what is not, acceptable. We will have a school collection day in April to see how many plastic bags our one school can keep out of the landfill. Remember, keep your bags at home until we call for them in April. There is no room to store them at school.

As always, if you have any questions or any suggestions about Green Team initiatives, please drop me an email.

Bryna Dunn
brynadunn@gmail.com





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Visit us on the web
at www.respta.org

*We are crew,
not passengers!*

Get Moving! Fitness Tips for Kids

Here is the rule: get 1 hour or more of physical activity each day! The good news is that your kids' 60 minutes of physical activity doesn't need to happen all at once. Just help them get active for 10 or 15 minutes a few times a day.

You don't need fancy equipment or a health club to help your kids get their daily physical activity. All you need are some regular household items and a little imagination. Combine a few of these tips, and they'll quickly add up to a fun and healthy 60-minute routine. Naturally, the best way to get your kids moving is to get up and go with them. So make daily activity part of the program, and you could enjoy the health benefits too!

At-Home Gym

- **Step to it:** Take three trips up and down the stairs with your child, or do 20 step-ups on one step.
- **Kangaroo Jump:** Tape a shoelace to the floor in a straight line. Have your child stand on one side of the string with both feet together. Count to three, and cheer as he or she jumps over the string and back 10 times. Take a short break—and do it again!
- **Crab Crawl:** Sit with your feet flat on the floor, knees bent. Lean back and place your hands flat on the floor behind you. Lift your seat off the floor, putting your weight on your hands and feet. Now, crab crawl around the room with your kids!
- **Can Do:** Go to the kitchen and find two of the heaviest cans your child can hold. Have him stand with his feet flat on the floor, with the cans in his hands and arms at his side. Show him how to lift the cans up to his chest, bending his arms at the elbows. Have him hold for two seconds, and then slowly lower his arms. Repeat 10 times.
- **Reach for the Sky:** Grab a small textbook and hold it by the spine. Make an "L" with your arm—with your upper arm at shoulder level and your forearm pointing toward the ceiling. Now extend your arm straight over your shoulder, pushing the book toward the sky. Return to the bent-arm position. Repeat 10 times, and then switch arms. Have your kids follow along with their own books (and arms).
- **Get On Down:** Start with two bottles of laundry detergent (or any large bottle with a handle). Have your child stand with her feet flat on the floor, shoulder width apart. Place the bottles on each side of her feet. Watch as she bends her knees, grabs the bottles, and stands up. Repeat 10 times.
- **Hoop it Yourself:** A trashcan (or even a box) makes a great indoor basketball goal— perfect for a quick game of one-on-one.

This information is provided by the American Heart Association

In Case of Inclement Weather

At the beginning of each school year, families should make emergency closing child-care arrangements so that students know what to do and where to go if schools close early.

If it becomes necessary to close schools because of bad weather or for any other reason, such as power failure, announcements will be carried on the school system's web site (chesterfield.k12.va.us), made on Comcast Channel 96, submitted to local radio and TV stations or communicated via ParentLink.

Chesterfield schools use ParentLink to communicate with parents via phone or e-mail. So that this communication tool can work effectively, parents need to make sure their school has their correct phone numbers (home, work and cell) and e-mail addresses. In addition to emergency closing information, ParentLink is used to notify parents about children's absences and to share information about upcoming school events.

The Chesterfield County public school system does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, religion, disabilities or national origin in employment or in its educational programs and activities.

More info: http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/About_CCPS/compliance_guidelines.htm
