



Robious Express

November
2008

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Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 14th**—Report Cards Sent Home
- **Nov 21st**—Caboose Camp Brochures Sent Home
- **Nov. 26th**—Fall Treat Day & Three Hour Early Release
- **Nov. 27th**—Thanksgiving—School Closed
- **Nov. 28th**—School Closed
- **Dec. 3rd**—Caboose Camp Registration Deadline
- **Dec. 4th**—Chick-Fil-A Night

Showcasing the Arts!

I'm pleased to announce that the PTA is partnering with the school to showcase our children's artistic and musical abilities. Each month, we will display a different grade level's art work in the cafeteria and the hallway leading up to the cafeteria. We hope you'll use this opportunity to join your children for lunch, so that you can view the work of all the budding Rembrandt's in our midst. On select nights listed below, the children will also participate in a music program or demonstration, showcasing

the songs they have learned in Mrs. Ellicott's class. A special thanks from the PTA to Mrs. O'Toole, Mr. Woodward, and Mrs. Ellicott for working with us to make this all possible! More information regarding your child's musical performance will come home in the Friday folders, but for now, please mark these dates on your calendar:

Kindergarten: Art exhibit in March, music demonstration March 19

First Grade: Art exhibit

in February, music program Feb. 26

Second Grade: Art exhibit in April, music demonstration April 2

Third Grade: Art exhibit in May, music demonstration May 7

Fourth Grade: Art Exhibit in November (starting Nov. 10), music demonstration April 30

Fifth Grade: Art Exhibit in December, Holiday program Dec. 18

Kathy Hostetler
PTA President

Our first Art Exhibit: The 4th Grade's Abstract Watercolors

Abstract means non-representational, so the students focus on technique and composition rather than depicting an image realistically. To begin the project the children looked at the work of Wassily Kandinsky who was the first noted abstract painter. Much of his

work was inspired by music, because he was also a musician and composer. Each student chose their three strongest works to be displayed and even traded some of their other works with their peers. This project is a precursor to our next big research project where the students will use

watercolors to paint a commemorative stamp for Virginia History. By exploring abstract painting, students will have the fundamental techniques required to make a good quality watercolor painting that is representational.

Mr. Woodward

Learning to Keyboard Efficiently—Essential for Every Student

A note from Principal Anne O’Toole

A wake-up call came for me when my son Brendan headed off to Wake Forest University in the fall of 1998. Every professor expected all assignments—including papers, lab reports, and exams—to be submitted electronically via the computer. At that time Wake Forest was one of few colleges across the country that gave each student his or her own laptop with the expectation that if you didn’t know how to do all of your work on the computer, there were plenty of tutorial sessions you could attend to learn how. No exceptions were made for any students, no matter what your level of expertise with technology. I was very grateful that Brendan had been required to learn keyboarding in the sixth grade and that from grades 7-12 all papers in all subjects were required to be composed using a computer.

It’s ten years later, and the expectations for students using technology to research, write papers, and complete reports in all classes have only increased. This year, our third, fourth, and fifth graders will be using NEO 2’s, small laptop computers, to learn how to keyboard. They will practice for at least 15 minutes a day at least three times a week for 12-18 weeks, with the goal of typing 30 words a minute with 90% accuracy by the time they complete the 5th grade. The lessons on the NEO 2’s Even in grades K-2, where hands may be too small to stretch fingers across the “home row,” our students are learning how to type numbers, letters, and using the shift key, space bar, and caps lock keys.

Each elementary school received three NEO 2 carts this year—one for each grade 3, 4,

and 5. Each cart contains 30 laptop-like keyboards. Teachers have been trained to use the NEO’s with students, and Technology Integrators—master teachers of technology assigned to several schools—have conducted demonstration lessons in all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms. Students progress at their own pace through the lessons, and this allows instruction to be individualized.

We are excited that our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are learning to keyboard efficiently using NEO 2’s, and we pledge to have them proficient in that important skill by the time they head off to middle school!

Anne S. O’Toole



Parent Coffee

We had a large turnout for our first Parent Coffee. Thanks go to Melissa Ackley for an informative lecture.

Mark your calendar!

Our next parent coffee will be Wednesday, December 10 on the topic of “Sibling Rivalry”. Whitney Kern will be our speaker.

On January 21st, Lorisue Hammond, from the Gifted office, will speak on the topic of “Gifted vs. Bright Learners”

Green Team News

This has been both a busy and an exciting month for all of our young eco-heroes at Robious Elementary School, who have officially been busy weighing all of the recycling leaving the classrooms each week! Each grade level is assigned a particular day of the week to weigh their recycling before one of the five teams of two fifth graders come around to collect it the next morning. We started weighing in early October, and this month we have already diverted over 500 pounds of recyclables out of the Chesterfield County landfill! Each month we are also picking one day to weigh all the trash coming out of the same classrooms. On the October 15 trash weigh-in, 57 pounds of trash left the classrooms. Over the course of the 23 school days in October, that would mean approximately 1,311 pounds of trash went into the landfill (not including cafeteria waste). Over the course of the year, the students

will be studying trends in their waste streams... and we're hoping to see a few notable trends. We're hoping to see the ratio of recycling to trash trend in favor of recycling. We're hoping to see the weight of the trash weigh-ins go down. But most importantly, we're hoping to see the total weight of both recycling and trash also go down... because that would mean we are REDUCING and REUSING *before* we're RECYCLING.

The exciting part of the month is that this pilot program was highlighted in the Midlothian Exchange. (<http://www.midlothianexchange.com/index.php/news/article/three-elementary-schools-go-green-together/16960/>), CCPS Schools Today (http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/news/Schools_Today08/Oct_14.pdf), and the Richmond Times Dispatch. Then NBC12 showed up at Robious Elemen-

tary and interviewed some of our students and teachers about going green! If you haven't seen it, you can view it on the web at <http://www.nbc12.com/global/story.asp?s=9189258>. I was so proud to see how poised, articulate, and eco-savvy all of the students and teachers were in this piece, and I'm sure you will be, too!

This pilot program that we're running at Robious Elementary parallels programs running concurrently at Bettie Weaver Elementary and at J.B. Watkins Elementary. As we continue to collect data at all three schools, we may come up with some more interesting statistics to share. And remember, America Recycles Day is on November 15. Maybe you and your young eco-hero can think of something special to reduce, reuse, or recycle.

Bryna Dunn

Spotlight on Mrs. Debbie Powers, Fifth Grade Substitute



My husband and I have lived in Midlothian for 13 years and I have 5 children (ages 11 - 16) (two sets of twins:) who all attended Bettie Weaver ES and now are in sixth grade at Midlothian Middle School, 9th and 11th grade at Midlothian HS and 11th grade at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. I graduated from Duke University with a degree in Psychology, and have been substitute teaching for five years in Chesterfield County. I am completing my Masters in Teaching degree from Mary Baldwin College this Fall and hope to teach full-time in 5th grade or in middle school in Chesterfield County this Spring. I have thoroughly enjoyed Mrs. Pfeifer's 5th grade class and appreciate her trusting me with her students while she enjoys her time with baby David! I thank the Robious family for their warm welcome and unending support, especially my students for their love of learning and the fifth grade team who have ALL taught me how to be a better teacher.

Spotlight on Mrs. Emily Swain, New Fourth Grade Teacher



Emily Swain was born in New York and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attended The University of New Mexico and received a degree in Elementary Education. After graduation she moved to Austin, Texas and received a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas. She taught 6th grade and 4th grade in Austin before moving to Virginia with her husband Bryan. Emily taught two years of fourth and fifth grade Language Arts and Science at Good Shepherd Episcopal School before coming to Robious. Emily loves traveling, playing the cello and cheering on the Longhorns!

Shop Till You Drop

The Holidays are quickly approaching and so is **Polar Bearzaar**, our annual Shopping Extravaganza for Robious families.

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 12 from 6:00pm – 8:30pm.

Parents, plan to come prepared to do a little shopping of your own! Look for many **new** and returning vendors with a great variety of merchandise including:



Beaded Crystal Jewelry & Watches

Hair Ribbon & Headbands

Homemade Fudge & Candy

Decorative Glassware

Monogrammed Tumblers & Stationery

Handbags & Accessories

Flags

Holiday Ornaments

Baked Gift Baskets

Wind chimes

As always, there will be a bake sale and a **FREE** gift wrapping station for the kids. We need lots of baked goods and plenty of help manning the gift wrap station so please sign up for one or both at www.respta.org. Donations will be accepted again this year for Connor's Heroes. Any questions? Contact Sandy Zabel at vazabel@comcast.net.

Order Your Yearbook Today

By now, you should now have your yearbook order form! The ordering deadline is November 14th. If your child would like a yearbook do not wait, please purchase one now. We have a new publisher, and feel that our overruns will be very limited this year. We may not receive any over-runs at all - different from past years. The yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school. For the first time, yearbooks may be purchased online at www.jostensyearbooks.com with your credit or debit card. If ordering online, please make a separate order/transaction for each child. This will ensure each child receives their yearbook to their classroom. Also, when ordering online, for the "Homeroom" selection, please fill in your child's teachers last name. If you prefer to write a check, you may fill out the form and return it to your child's teacher. For ease of distribution, we ask that you fill out a separate order/order form for each child. Remember, your child's name - as it appears on your order form - will be the way that it appears in the yearbook.

Remember that we need pictures, pictures, and more pictures! You can email us a great photo, send a picture CD to school in an envelope marked "yearbook", or direct upload to the Jostens website.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.jostens.com>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username:1205178 and password:robious
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click 'Save Details'.

Remember that only photos of Robious Elementary students will be used - no relatives or friends, please.

If you have any questions, need help submitting photos, ordering your child's yearbook, or would love to volunteer, please contact Holly Strom at 897-4710, Dawn Delano at 794-9270, or robiousyearbook@hotmail.com.

Library Volunteers and Birthday Books



Our library volunteer schedule is in full swing and we want to thank again the many people

who are giving their time to help our library run smoothly. The volunteer schedules were emailed, so please let me know if you have not received yours.

Thank you to all our Robious parents who have enrolled their children in our Birthday Book Program. It is much appreci-

ated and a great way to help our school library. We will be celebrating our September, October, and November birthdays this month with our new books!

So let's wish a Happy Birthday to:

Blake Adamson, Nicole Beachy, Michael Benos, Madison Bruster, Cole Canfield, Katie Copeland, C.J. Cosby, Nicole Davis, Maggie Deignan, Jenna Dorsey, Meg Dunkum, J.D. Etz, Madison Fearnley, Matthew Gelozin, Connor Goodwin, Davis Hampton, Grace Hummelberg,

Lauren Kate Hurlocker, Chloe Hoyle, Emily Kalp, Lauren Kalp, Kahner Kirsh, Quinn Lilly, Connor Love, Riley Magee, Kelly Mansfield, Claire McClintick, Emma Moore, Zach Overstreet, Matthew Pavia, Evie Pellis, Mack Pellis, Harrison Phan, Katie Schneider, Emma Shepard, Kayla Shepard, Benjamin Stacy, Casey Stoll, Nicholas Stoll, Matthew Stone, MaKenzie Tate, Pete Watson, Isabel Wilson and Lily Zabel



Caboose Camp: On track for February

Our Caboose Camp committee chairs have been working hard to get ready for this year's enrichment program. Along with our long standing and fun classes we've added new and exciting classes to our



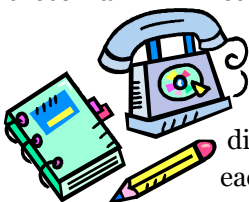
line up like Beginning Guitar, Tree Climbing, and Kidz R Cookin'. Caboose Camp will run Tuesday thru Thursday beginning February 3rd until March 12th. Look for our brochure to arrive in the Friday folders on

November 21st. We need your help to make this program a success. Please sign up on PTO manager to volunteer to be a classroom helper or to help with organization and sign in.

Committee Chairs
Angela O'Toole
Tonya Johnson
Sarah Peabody

School Directories

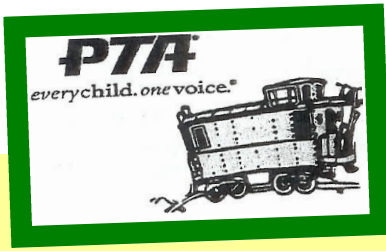
School directories will be distributed in the next few weeks via the Friday Folders. For those families new to the school, a paper directory is distributed to each family



listing the children by grade and classroom, along with their address, phone number, and parent's names (with the exception of those families who do not want their information included or did not respond to our requests for information.) The directory is an invaluable tool,

and the PTA is proud to provide one to each Robious family, whether you've joined the PTA or not. If you would like an extra copy, you can purchase one for \$10 by contacting me at 379-2611 or mccabeva@yahoo.com.

Mary Beth McCabe



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Midlothian, VA 23113

Phone: 804-378-2500
E-mail: info@respta.org

Visit us on the web
at www.respta.org

*We are crew, not
passengers!*

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/

Fundraising Success

THANK YOU Thank you to everyone for participating in our Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser Sale. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and once again the Robious community pulled through. The dollars raised from this sale will go into the PTA budget to help fund programs that directly bene-

fit your children. A special THANK YOU goes out to Leigh Deignan who counted and tallied all of the orders.

Fall fundraising orders are expected to arrive to school the week of November 10th. You will need to stop by the school to pick up your order. Watch for more information coming soon with specific pick-up times.

Hopefully by now you have

scanned your Kroger card to benefit Robious. The barcode is in the October newsletter, which can be found on our website. We redeem these points at the end of the year to buy art and office supplies for our school.

Finally, keep sending in your Box Tops for Education. All of those box tops added together help to earn cash for Robious.

Celeste Alcorta

Monster Mash Success

Thank you for your generous support of the Central Virginia Food Bank. It was fantastic to see so many children excited about helping our community. Overall, the entire school fed the "Robious Elementary School Monsters" 1,793 pounds. **That will provide 1793 meals in Central Virginia.** That is amazing!!! Third grade had the "Best Fed Monster" and won the contest. They each received a small treat. Be watching for the monsters next year!

A great big thank you to **Casey Perkins** from Mrs. Carwile's class. She did a fabulous job with the posters and announcements for Monster Mash!!!

Study Buddies Needed!

We are off to a great start with our Study Buddy program! Thanks to some wonderful teachers and parents, our program is underway. It is so successful that we need more tutors to fill the needs of more students. Please consider spending thirty minutes a week helping a child in need of 1:1 tutoring. Contact Mary Copeland at MaryC169@aol.com or at 323-0231.

**Help
Wanted**

Memo from Chesterfield County



News Release

October 28, 2008

For additional information contact
Jane Carlson, Executive Director
Chesterfield Public Education Foundation
(804) 379-1551

Chesterfield Public Education Foundation Bravo! Awards Nomination Deadline is November 17

The Chesterfield Public Education Foundation is seeking graduates of Chesterfield County Public Schools who have made remarkable contributions to their professions and communities. Five graduates will be selected to receive the first Bravo! Awards, which honor the outstanding accomplishments of the approximately 100,000 living alumni of Chesterfield County Public Schools. Graduates from every Chesterfield County high schools are eligible.

Nomination forms are available at every Chesterfield County high school, at the School Administration Building at 9900 Krause Road and via the foundation's web site, www.cpefound.org. Nominations may be e-mailed to bravoawards@cpefound.org, faxed to (804) 379-2209 or mailed to Bravo! Awards Nominations, c/o Chesterfield Public Education Foundation, P.O. Box 3883, Richmond, VA 23235.

Nominations are due to the foundation by 5 p.m. Nov. 17.

Recipients of the first Bravo! Awards will be announced in the spring of 2009 and honored at a gala dinner in November 2009.

About the Chesterfield Public Education Foundation

The Chesterfield Public Education Foundation provides private support for the public schools of Chesterfield County through classroom grants, scholarships, teaching awards, project start-up funds as well as through the expertise and knowledge of professionals in the community. The foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1989. For more information, visit www.cpefound.org.