



ROBIOUS EXPRESS

April 2010

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Upcoming Events

- **April 5-9** Spring Break
- **April 12th**- Full day of school
- **April 12th**-PTA meeting in library at 7pm
- **April 22nd** Earth Day- Students wear green
- **April 22-23** EL Site Seminar
- **April 23rd**-Report cards home
- **April 24th**-10th Annual Whistlestart 5K
- **April 29th**-Kindergarten Registration
- **April 30th**-Third walking bus of the year
- **May 1st**- Whistlestop carnival from 11-3
- **May 3-7** Staff Appreciation week
- **May 5th**-Full day of school

Whistlestart 5k and Fun Run

The 10th annual Whistlestart 5K and Fun Run has been rescheduled for Saturday April 24th. The kids will run first this year with the 1/4 mile starting at 8:30 and the middle school track. The 5K will begin at 9:15. The race shirt was designed by one of our



fourth graders and will be available to the first 150 registered runners. The weather should be much warmer than in years past so please come out and join your fel-

low RES families in support of our many P T A programs! Prizes supplied by Runner Bill's will be awarded to the top three men, women, and parent-child teams (ages 11 & under, and 12-17). For further details and the registration form refer to flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Walking School Bus on April 30th

A walking-school-bus is a group of children walking to and/or from school with one or more adults—that simple. Just make sure you have adequate adult supervision, especially if you have to cross any streets... and make sure you don't walk on private property without advance permission. Please don't play on the school playgrounds (especially the

one by the bus loop) before school, and please do keep dogs away from the main entrance of the school.

See the website www.walkingschoolbus.org for more information and logistical tips.

For April 30, plan on walking with other parents/kids in your neighborhood either to and/or from school (last year, most walked to school). If you are walk-

ing from school, remember that your kids will need a note, and you will need ID for school pick-up. If you want connections to others in your neighborhood who are participating, Frank Zwemer (Roxshire, at 379-9120 or frank_zwemer@verizon.net) can help.

Robious Elementary & Robious Middle Schools to Host National EL Site Seminar



On April 22 and 23, our school and the middle school next door will host a national Expeditionary Learning site seminar for educators from across the country. About 100 teachers and school administrators will attend, coming from as far away as California. They're coming to see how we "do school" using an inquiry-based, student-centered approach to education.

Last spring, we submitted a proposal to be one of several schools in the nation to host a site seminar during the 2009-2010 school year. The criteria for selection are rigorous: full implementation of the EL model; strong community support; success among students. We were honored to be one of five sites selected to host a seminar this year.

Educators who attend will have an opportunity to observe in classrooms and to attend workshops led by teachers and administrators. Through the leadership of Mrs. Larry, a fourth grade teacher, and one of the county's Technology Integrators, Pat Cuomo, those who register will be able to go online to choose the sessions they would like to attend. A part of the two-day experience will be "field work" at Agecroft Museum, where some of our fifth graders will be dressed as historic interpreters to share their learning about Tudor England and the transfer of Agecroft from England to Windsor Farms during the early part of the 20th century.

We are especially pleased that Virginia's Secretary of Education, the Honorable Gerard Robinson, will be the keynote speaker at lunch on April 22. Secretary Robinson will be visiting our school on April 12 to learn more about Expeditionary Learning and to see it in action in our classrooms.

None of the extensive planning that has been underway since last August would be possible without the strong support of our PTA. They have taken on planning the food that will be served at the seminar, as well as the reception which we will host for seminar participants at Tredegar Iron Works on the evening of April 22.

The site seminar will be a wonderful learning opportunity for those who are our guests on April 22 and 23, as well as for those of us who are members of the Robious community! Can't wait!

--Anne S. O'Toole



Green Team News



Wow, what a great month March was for classroom recycling! This month, RES students recycled almost 600 pounds of waste, bringing our year-to-date total to over 2,500 pounds! Alternately, trash last month totaled over 1,200 pounds, landing us at a 33% diversion rate. Isn't it great to know that the classroom recycling program is consistently diverting over 1/3 of the waste generated over the course of the school year!

The March Walking Bus was a great success. If I had to guess, we probably had 75 or more students walk to school that morning. There seemed to be a lot of smiles as everyone enjoyed a brisk walk on a gorgeous Spring morning. Please feel free to share your

Walking Bus stories or suggestions with me.

There's a lot to look forward to in April. The 40th anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated nationwide on Thursday, April 22. In Chesterfield County, activities will be kicked off at the 2010 Environmental Fair at John Tyler Community College. At Robious Elementary School, we're planning to display student photography of nature. Check your child's April 2 Friday folder for details on how he or she can participate. We're also planning to sponsor another Turn Off Your TV week, and the NWF Green Hour program. Check your child's April 16 Friday folder for those details. And, finally, we'll

be doing our April Walking Bus on Friday, April 30. Same as always, make sure you have adequate adult supervision, especially if you have to cross any streets... and make sure you don't walk on private property without advance permission. Also, please do not allow students to play on the playground equipment (especially by the bus loop!) before school, and please remember that some kids tend to be timid around dogs. Please keep dogs away from the main walkway to the front door.

Hope to see you out walking at the end of April!

Bryna Dunn
brynadunn@comcast.net



Reflections Wrap-Up

The 2009-2010 Reflections program was a huge success for Robious Elementary, with students submitting over 50 entries in categories including literature, visual arts, photography and even musical composition. The staff appreciation and hospitality committee provided a wonderful reception for participants on January 15, with parents and grandparents on hand as well to share in the fun as Mrs. O'Toole recognized each participant individually.

For all who attended the school Reflections assembly and were able to view

some of wonderful entries on display, it will come as no surprise that our school-wide winners did a wonderful job of representing Robious Elementary at the county reception. The winners from all county schools gathered at Meadowbrook High School on February 20th, and by the end of the afternoon, many had even more reason to celebrate. All participants were recognized individually of course, but to add to the day's excitement, five of our Robious Elementary winners received special recognition at the county-wide ceremony. Nicole Beachy and Lydia Morgan both received Honorable Mentions for their Visual Arts and Literature entries, while Christopher Donaldson received 3rd place for his Visual Arts entry and Nicholas Hogge

received 2nd place for his Musical Composition submission. Last but certainly not least, Cosmy Pellis received 1st place at the county level for her Literature entry, and moved on to the next level of competition.

Congratulations once again to our winners, and to all of our participants! What an amazing group of young artists we have here at Robious!

And for everyone looking for a good project, it's time to start considering ideas. The theme for 2010-2011 has been announced: Together We Can. For complete rules and entry forms, please visit the Virginia state PTA website, www.vapta.org, and select State Committees, Arts in Education. Good luck!!



Robious Elementary School Whistlestop Festival

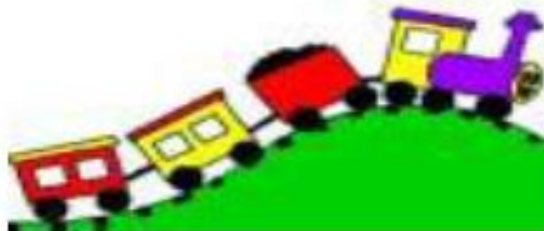
Saturday, May 1, 2010
11 am – 3 pm (RAIN or SHINE)

A Message from the Conductors!!

The much anticipated Whistlestop Festival is approaching on Saturday, May 1st from 11am-3pm—RAIN or SHINE. The afternoon will be filled with Games, Inflatable Rides, DJ Music, Food, and more! Past favorites such as the Cake Walk, Book Sale, and Toy Walk are returning! Wristbands are currently being sold to allow unlimited passage to the new Obstacle Course Slide Combo, the Rock Climbing Wall, and Moon Bounces. Bring younger siblings to enjoy a special Toddler area and Kiddie Land.

Thank you in advance for your help and support! We look forward to seeing you May 1st!

Suzie Hampton 378-7519
suziehampton@mac.com
Jennifer Jung 464-2686
jennifer_jung@comcast.net



Last Call on Pre-event Tickets ORDER TODAY!

Tickets and Wristbands are currently on sale with *PRE-EVENT DISCOUNT* through April 24th. Wristbands will include unlimited rides on ALL Inflatable Ride and some great savings will be available in the new "Fun Pack" wrist band/ticket combination.

Avoid ticket lines the day of the event and save money with the Pre-Event Sale!



Mary Beth McCabe
379-2611
mccabeva@yahoo.com

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR WHISTLESTOP COMMITTEE!

Cake Walk:	Pat Cobb
Book Sale:	Angela Schneider
Decorations & Signs:	Erin Doyle
Food:	Gretchen Broughton
Games:	Suzie Hampton
Operations:	Mark Bergin
Prizes:	Heather Crane
Publicity:	Valerie Wiederhorn
Tickets:	MaryBeth McCabe
Volunteers:	Janiene Quigley

Book Sale (DONATIONS NEEDED)

We are looking for your used adult and children's books to donate. This is always a HUGE hit with kids and parents. Collection boxes are outside the library at the school. If you have a large pile to donate; don't worry, we will PICK THEM UP FOR YOU!

Angela Schneider
330-5750
schneiderhouse@verizon.net

Toy Walk (DONATIONS NEEDED)

Please consider donating your new and/or gently used stuffed animals for the Toy Walk. Collection boxes are outside the library at the school.

Nina McCord
794-7854
ninadane@comcast.net

OTHER DONATIONS NEEDED

Please consider donating your generators, canopies, and power cords for the day. Make sure to label with your last name.

Contact Mark Bergin at
markbergin@hotmail.com



Robious Elementary School Whistlestop Festival

Saturday, May 1, 2010
11 am – 3 pm (RAIN or SHINE)



For a \$10 tax-deductible donation, your child, business or teacher's name will be placed on a Hollywood star during the Whistlestop Festival on May 1st. Please complete this form and return it to school with your \$10 donation per star made out to RESPTA

Hollywood Walk of Fame

How many stars would you like?: _____

Name(s) to be displayed on star(s): _____

Your
name: _____

Child's
Teacher: _____

Cake Walk

The Whistlestop Festival crew are in search of bakers and buyers to contribute to the Cake Walk. We will gladly accept any home baked or store bought goods: small hand-held goodies such as cookies, brownies, and cupcakes as well as breads, cakes and pies. Thank you for your help!

Pat Cobb, 379-3292, cobbqts@comcast.net

Cake Walk Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Baked Good(s): _____

Volunteers Still Needed!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Please circle one: Parent HS Student Other
(High School Students can earn volunteer hours)

You can also sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/RESWhistlestop>

Please circle availability:

10:30-11:30

11:30-12:30

12:30-1:30

1:30-2:30

2:30-3:30

Set Up/Clean Up

Cake Walk



Woo-woo!
Get ready for a good time!





CARNIVAL TICKETS FOR SALE!!!!

Whistlestop Carnival-Saturday, May 1st 11-3 p.m. (rain or shine)
Pre-event sale runs March 26th - April 23th

Don't miss your chance to purchase pre-event tickets for the Whistlestop Carnival at a discounted rate. Tickets and/or a wristband will be needed for all inflatable rides and games. Most games will cost 1-2 tickets.

Avoid ticket lines the day of Whistlestop, and take advantage of the pre-event discount pricing. Purchase the tickets in advance! See the options below:

Option #1 - Kid Pack

\$20/ per child (\$29.50 value) - includes one wristband and 35 tickets (a chance to play every game once). The wristband allows for unlimited inflatable rides.

**The wristband does not include monkey motion

Option #2 - Wristband

\$10/ per child (\$12 value)

Unlimited inflatable rides only

**The wristband does not include monkey motion.

Option #3 - Tickets Only

\$.40/ per ticket (\$.50/per ticket the day of the event)

Day of Event Pricing

1 wristband & 35 tickets - \$29.50

1 wristband - \$12

Individual Tickets - \$.50/each

All Proceeds benefit Expeditionary Learning & PTA Programs

Pre Event Ticket & Wristband Order Form

Please complete this order form and return to your child's teacher in an envelope marked WHISTLESTOP TICKETS. Orders must be received no later than Friday, April 23th. Please do not send cash. Checks should be made out to the Robious Elementary PTA. Tickets and wristbands will be distributed through your child's backpack the week before Whistlestop. Sorry, there are no refunds.

Name _____ Phone _____

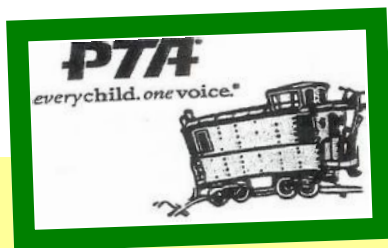
Child's name & teacher _____

of Kid Packs _____ @ \$20 each = \$ _____

of Wristbands _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

of Tickets _____ @ \$.40 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



2801 Robious Crossing Dr.
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!*

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is the week of **May 3rd -7th**. We will be sending out reminders as the date approaches, but please mark it on your calendar and help us show our wonderful teachers and staff how much we appreciate all they do for our children! Be on the lookout for volunteer forms in your child's Friday folder to see how you can help and put your creative talent to work. If anyone would like to volunteer to bake items or prepare salads/appetizers, help set up, decorate or clean up during the week, please contact:



Kiem Acosta
lily_kiem@hotmail.com
Kristi Turner
fishqueen2007@gmail.com

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

Staff Appreciation Car Wash



Spring weather makes you want to wash a car, right?!?!?

Ok, ok... that might be stretching it a bit. But we *know* you'd like to make a teacher smile. The Staff Appreciation Car Wash is happening May 4th, so save the date and volunteer to help. We had so much fun running this last year, we're doing it again. Come join us! More information coming soon.

Mary Copeland maryc169@aol.com & Beth Hanna b4hanna@aol.com

Caboose Camp Conclusion

A tremendous thank you to everyone that supported Caboose Camp this year. Our participants enjoyed their classes, our volunteers did a superb job and our teachers and staff helped make it all run so smoothly. A program such as this does not run well without the help of many volunteers. A huge thanks to those that took time from their personal schedules to help get our students signed-in/out and to their classes. The following deserve many, many thanks: Ian Adamson, Abby Bane, Christopher Benos, Michael Benos, Ms. Beyer, Cameron Camilleri, Jacob Camilleri, Katie Copeland, Mitchell Copeland, Aubrie Cundy, Braeden Fearnley, Luke Fernandez, Michaela Forbes, Mrs. Friedel, Parker Friedel, Kaleigh Fuentes-Fuller, Lauren Garofolo, Stephanie Gozzo, Lucy Grinnan, Kirby Gundlach, Mrs. Hanna, Caroline Henry, Taylor Honaker, Melissa Kouri, Brian Maloney, Sydney Mance, Emily Marcy, Michael Marcy, Jordan Moghanaki, Mrs. Moore, Kaitlyn Morrison, Lauren Morrison, Maddie Olszewski, Ben Outland, Matt Outland, Stuti Patel, Steven Pressendo, Haley Randall, Chris Russotti, Mrs. Schneider, Emma Shepard, Jenny Steward, Katie Swenson, Delaney Thomas, Peyton Thompson, Nathaniel Tombes, Susannah Tombes, Kira Tomenchok, Natalie Weinberg, Chris Wesdock, Adam Wicks, Catherine Zwemer and all of the Teachers for Tomorrow from James River High School!

As is evidenced above, Caboose Camp relies on many volunteers for its success. Anyone who may be interested in helping to plan/run next year's program, please contact one of the committee members.

Patricia Beyer, Donna Jamison, Julie Larro, Lara Nichols and Christine Overstreet





**Get off your Caboose and come to Robious Elementary Schools 10th Annual Race:
April 24th, 2010**

- PLACE:** Race starts and finishes at Robious Elementary School, 2801 Robious Crossing Drive, Midlothian. Behind the Bellgrade Shopping Center (at the Robious/Huguenot intersection), off of Polo Parkway, near the fire station.
- TIME:** 5K: 9:15 am 1/4 mile: 8:30 am 1 mile: 8:45 am
- COURSE:** Mostly flat course through the surrounding neighborhoods.
1 mile and ¼ mile course is on the track.
- RACE FEE:** **On or before April 17th, 2010: Individual: \$15.00 Adult/child(<18yrs old) team \$20:00. After April 17th, Individual: \$20, Adult/child team \$20.00.** Registration on race day begins at 7:30 a.m. Shirts available to first 150 entries. Fun Runs (1 mile and ¼ mile) are free. Kids shirts available on race day for \$10.00
- AWARDS:** Prizes to top three male and female winners; top 3 adult/child teams (11 and under, and 12-17) in the 5K..... and more. Participant ribbons for all in ¼ and 1mile race.
- REGISTRATION:**
- 1) Online at www.raceit.com.
 - 2) at **Runner Bills**, Midlothian, Fri 4/23, 5:00-7:00 pm.
 - 3) Race day registration begins at 7:30 am.
 - 4) or, complete application on reverse side.

Applications can be mailed to: Whistlestart Fun Run, 2801 Robious Crossing Drive, Midlothian VA 23113, or dropped off at Robious Elementary School. Please make checks payable to:
Robious Elementary School PTA.

PACKET PICKUP: Pick up packet at **Runner Bills** on Fri April 23rd (5:00-7:00 pm) or on race day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: please contact Mary Beth McCabe at 379-2611 or mccabeva@yahoo.com

TO VOLUNTEER: www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/37-62263801898

Whistlestart 5K Run

1 MILE AND 1/4 FUN RUNS

April 24th, 2010

Please send payment and this form to 2801 Robious Crossing Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113 Attn: Whistlestart 5K

Name: _____ Age on race day: _____ Sex: M F

Address: _____ Parent/child team ? Y N

City: _____ Zip: _____ Robious Elem. Student/Staff? Y N

5K _____ (\$15.00 until April 17th, \$20 after April 17th) Shirt size: Youth S _____ Youth M _____
Adult S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ or \$20 parent/child team)

1 mile _____ (free) 1/4 mile _____ (free)

Waiver:

I know running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and have properly trained. I agree to abide by decisions made by the race officials relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running this event, including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the affect of weather, including high heat or humidity, traffic and the conditions of the road. Having read this waiver and knowing the facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release Robious Elementary School, the PTA, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the County of Chesterfield and all other sponsors or directors, their representatives and successors from any claims or liability of any kind that may arise out of my participations in this event, even though the liability may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I grant permission to all photographs, motion picture recordings or any other recording of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or guardian Signature (under 18 yrs old): _____

Application must be signed for participation in 5K, 1 mile or 1/4 mile!!!!