



# ROBIOUS EXPRESS



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## Community Service Project— Books on Wheels

We have discovered another wonderful community service opportunity right here in the Richmond metropolitan area. A local organization called Books on Wheels, collects gently used books and bicycles and distributes these items to low income families. This is an opportunity for our children to donate items they

have enjoyed, but outgrown, to children who could still enjoy them. We will be collecting gently used books in a bin in front of the library **during the week of February 10-14th**. We could explain to our children that these donations are another way of showing our love to others in our community. Anyone with a bicy-

cle to donate should contact **Angela Schneider** at [schneider-house@verizon.net](mailto:schneider-house@verizon.net) to arrange for pickup of the bicycle that week. If you have questions about Books on Wheels, visit their website at [www.booksonwheels.com](http://www.booksonwheels.com).

**Upcoming Events**

- Feb. 5 Kisses for Kids Auction, Salisbury Country Club
- Feb. 7 PTA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library
- Feb. 8 Caboose Camp begins
- Feb. 11 Report Cards
- Feb. 16 EL Parent Coffee, 10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m., Robious Middle Forum
- Feb. 18 Walking School Bus
- Feb. 21 School Closed
- Feb. 23 Dad's Night, 7:00 –8:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- Mar. 2 Interim Reports, Grades 3—5

## Community Service Projects Support Children's Cancer Research

Teachers Ann Huffer, Nancy Kemp, and Gigi Mills spearheaded two community service projects in honor of two of our first graders diagnosed with neuroblastoma. These teachers, with help from three fifth graders-- Selena Fuentes-Fuller, Ava Bowling, and Cassidy Aid-- led a Cookies for Kids with Cancer campaign by sell-

ing batches of cookies made by Robious Elementary parents at the Book Fair Social held on January 27. Mrs. Kemp drew watercolors of each of the two first grader's mother's favorite flower (violets for one, daisies for the other) and had notecards printed. These were sold to raise money to support Memorial Sloan

Kettering Hospital's children's cancer research.

**More than \$600 was raised from the sale of the cookies, and more than \$6,000 was raised from the sale of the notecards to support children's cancer research at Sloan Kettering Hospital.**

## Superintendent Unveils Proposed Budget for 2011-2012

*A note from Principal Anne O'Toole*

Dr. Newsome, Superintendent of Schools, unveiled his budget for the next school year on Tuesday, January 25. The news is probably better than most of us expected. Here are some highlights:

- No jobs are slated to be cut.
- Although employees will not receive a raise, they will receive a one-time, 2% payment mid-year during 2011-2012. There will be no permanent salary reductions.
- There will be no increase in pupil-teacher ratio; elementary schools will continue to be staffed at 25 students per teacher, middle schools at 27 students per teacher, and high schools at 26 students per teacher. This means that the total projected student enrollment in our school will be divided by 25 to determine how many K-5 classrooms we will have next year. As a result, some grade levels might have 22-23 students per class and others 30-31.
- The current number of instructional assistants will be maintained at all levels.
- School operating budgets will be maintained at the same level as the current year.

Most of the funding for public education in Virginia comes from the state and each locality. The state is proposing a reduction in funding for localities next year. In many cases localities are picking up the slack. This is not the case in Chesterfield, where there is a proposed reduction of \$6 million in funding for next year. The reality is that it may take an increase in real estate taxes to offset the reduction in local funding.

Our school district will receive a one-time chunk from a federal jobs bill providing \$12 million. That is what is making it possible to avoid any jobs being cut next year and to give school employees a 2% bonus. The large number of retirements this year, combined with a reduction in mid-to-late career employees being hired by the school system, is creating a younger (and, therefore, cheaper) work force, which is less of a financial burden on the school system.

Robious Elementary School parents have seen first hand the negative effects of larger classes and fewer employees this year. I am very grateful that Dr. Newsome's proposed budget will allow us to maintain what we have now, and I encourage you to support his proposal at the School Board's public hearing on Tuesday, February 8, at 7 PM, in the Public Meeting Room, 10001 Iron Bridge Road.

--Anne S. O'Toole





# EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

## *Parent Coffee*

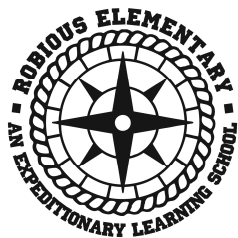
**Wednesday, February 16th**

**10:00am or 7:00pm**

**Robious Middle School Forum**

*Join us for straight talk with a panel of teachers and EL experts who are ready to take your questions and provide a better understanding of how an Expeditionary Learning education benefits your child, school, and the community.*

**Featuring Nationally Recognized Author and EL School Designer Steven Levy**



**Crestwood**



**Elementary**



# THANK YOU!

Dear Robious Families, The Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother Program would like to thank you and Robious Elementary School for your generous support of the 2010 food collection drive. With your help, we were able to provide boxes/bags of food to over **3033 people which includes 815 families—53,358 pounds of food!**

Through your coordination and encouragement during a very busy time of the year, you enabled your school's students and staff to share the spirit of giving with our community. Our sincerest appreciation is extended to you. We look forward to your continuing participation in this valuable effort next year.

Jo Ann Marshall  
Beth Butner

School liaisons for food collection  
Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother Program

## Submit Your Photos to the Yearbook

It's crunch time for the yearbook! We need class party photos, candid, photos from PTA events, and more! Upload the photos you take throughout the school year to our secure yearbook site. It's easy! Here's how:

Go to [www.hjeshare.com](http://www.hjeshare.com)

Type the Robious Elementary School code 3041388. Click Login.

Complete the fields and upload your photos.

Questions? E-mail Celeste Alcorta at [cjal-corta@verizon.net](mailto:cjal-corta@verizon.net) or Missy Bane at [missy@missybanephoto.com](mailto:missy@missybanephoto.com)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dad's and Father Figures Night

Please mark your calendars for the second annual RES Dad's and Father Figures

Night! Bring your children to the cafeteria on



Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 7-8pm for an hour of silly games and family

fun. Sorry, no moms allowed!

## Family Bowling Afternoon

Get out your bowling shoes and shine your ball!

Join us for a couple of hours of family fun on

March 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-

4pm at King Pin Lanes in



folder.

Midlothian. You may even get to bowl against your favorite teacher or principal! Watch for details in your child's Friday

## Book Fair a Success!



THANK YOU to the entire RES Family for making the Book Fair a success! Totals aren't in yet, but initial counts look great. That means lots of fun reading in the future and more

books for our library. A special "Thank You" to all the volunteers: Louisa Harrison, Barbara Schrubbe, Stephanie Fox, Rocio Rosa, Laura Goodman, Gail Cavallaro, Julie Applewhite, Kay Swenson, Candace Haske, Paige Derdevanis, Melanie Morrison, Jayda Justus, Lisa Dise, Angela Schneider, Elaine Lobb, Becky Premock, Bentley Keso, Tracey Bailey, Mary Copeland, Lora Franklin, Melanie Brewer, Jenner Watson, Tawny Grossberg, Lara Nichols, Suzanne McCullen, Wendy Morgan, Suzanne Marcy, Donna Jamison, Holly Strom, Krista Dodson, Wendy Etz, Julia Dorsey, Marta Rowe, Summer Moore, Deb Russotti, Sarah Stubblefield, Carol Wells-Bazzichi, Jennifer Gavin, and Candy Rowe. They really stepped up and offered their time to make sure everything went smoothly for Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Pavlik. I am grateful to these wonderful, fun, hard-working ladies!

Ivy Pressendo  
[ipressendo@verizon.net](mailto:ipressendo@verizon.net)

## All Aboard!

We had a great response to online registration and look forward to Caboose Camp getting underway this **Tuesday, February 8**. Please remind your child on their camp days which class they are in and send a snack with them if you think they will need one.



We are still looking for some volunteers to help things run smoothly, so if you or your high school or middle school student would like to help, please visit us at [www.signupgenius.com/go/allaboard](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/allaboard) or contact **Luan Doniger** at [linhluan@hotmail.com](mailto:linhluan@hotmail.com).

### Caboose Camp Committee

## Book and Breakfast

The third and fourth grade Book and Breakfast series is back after a great turnout in October!



The third graders will be reading The Anybodies by N.E. Bode. Their book discussions will take place on **Tuesday, March 1st**, at **8:30 a.m.** The fourth graders will be reading A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements and they will meet on **Wednesday, March 2nd**, at **8:30 a.m.** Don't forget, all participants will earn a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Target gift card. The book order has already been placed, but it is not too late to attend. You can purchase your own book and pay \$1.50 for the breakfast (but please RSVP first).



Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Any questions, contact **Jenny Puccinelli** at 323-3559 or [Jen-pooch@verizon.net](mailto:Jen-pooch@verizon.net).

## The Run for Robious is ON!!!

The 1st Annual Run for Robious 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run (formerly know as Whistlestart) will be on **Saturday, March 12th, at 8 a.m.** starting at the elementary school bus loop and winding through the Queens Park neighborhood. This year we are joining forces with the middle school to make this event bigger than ever!

The 1 mile and 1/4 mile Fun Run will be held at 7:45 a.m. on the middle school track. K-5 only please!

You do not need to run the 5K, consider walking. Run/Walk as a family, team, group, or by yourself!

The cost to participate in the 5K is \$20 (this includes a t-shirt designed by the art students at the middle school).



The cost to participate in the Fun Run is \$5 (no shirt included).

Shirts will be available for sale the day of the event.

Registration form will be available soon!

Any questions or concerns please contact **Mary Beth McCabe** at [mccabeva@yahoo.com](mailto:mccabeva@yahoo.com) or **Maureen Ennis** at [m\\_l\\_ennis@yahoo.com](mailto:m_l_ennis@yahoo.com)

***\*all proceeds benefit the Robious Elementary and Robious Middle School Expeditionary Learning programs***

## RERC News

Winter seems to be the hardest time to get up in the morning, let alone get up, make it to the track and run laps! It is early, it is cold, sometimes windy and you (or your parents) might be worried that you might get sick. Once you are there it is not that bad and you even enjoy the run. The good thing is you have to keep running to stay warm. Running in the winter months is actually a great exercise to keep in shape, boost your immune system and get sick less!! The trick is to prepare properly for running in the winter. Please read the following advice and then come out and run right through the winter into the warmer weather.

**Rita Siemers**

From: [www.running.com](http://www.running.com) – Cold Weather Advice

Cold weather doesn't mean that you have to banish yourself to the treadmill all winter long. Because of new technology in winter running clothes, gone are the days when runners trudged through outdoor winter running workouts wearing lots of heavy and uncomfortable clothing. Follow these tips and you'll be able to run safely and comfortably in the cold weather:

### Head and Neck

On cold days, you'll lose a reported 40% of your heat from your head, so it's important to keep it covered. You also want to protect your skin from the cold and wind, and also prevent frostbite and chapping. Here's what you'll need for your head and neck:

**Thermal hat:** A fleece or wool hat is perfect for keeping your head warm during winter runs. You can easily tuck it into your pants if you feel like you're starting to overheat.

**Neck Gaiter or Bandana:** Often worn by skiers, a [neck gaiter](#) can be extremely valuable on a frigid, windy day to protect your neck and face. You can pull it up over your mouth to warm the air you're breathing in, which is especially helpful when you first start your run. Some runners wear a simple bandana over their mouth for the same purpose.

**Chapstick/Vaseline:** Protect your lips from chapping with some Chapstick or Vaseline. You can also use the Vaseline on your nose and cheeks (or anywhere else on your face) to prevent windburn and chapping.

### Upper Body

The key to winter running dressing, especially with your upper body, is layering. Not only do layers trap body heat, they allow sweat to move through the layers of clothing. The moisture is wicked away from your first layer to your outer layers, and then evaporates. Here's a guide to how you should layer on your upper body:

**Base Layer:** The layer closest to your body should be made from a synthetic wicking material, such as DryFit, Thinsulate, Ther-

max, CoolMax, polypropylene, or silk. This will wick the sweat away from your body, keeping you dry and warm. It's very important to make sure you don't wear cotton for this layer because once it gets wet, you'll stay wet. When it's above 40 degrees F, you can usually wear just a long-sleeve base layer.

**Insulating Layer:** Your second or middle layer, which is needed for very cold weather (below 10 degrees F), should be an insulating material, such as fleece. This layer must continue wicking moisture away from the skin. It should have the perfect balance of trapping some air to keep you warm, yet release enough vapor or heat to avoid overheating. Some fabrics suggested for your second layer: Akwatek, Dryline, Polartec, polyester fleece, Microfleece, Thermafleece and Thermax.

**Wind- and Water-proof Outer Layer:** This layer should protect you against wind and moisture (rain, sleet, snow), but at the same time allow both heat and moisture to escape to prevent both overheating and chilling. It's a good idea to wear a jacket with a zipper for this layer, so that you can regulate your temperature by zipping it up and down. Suggested outer layers: ClimaFit, Gore-Tex, Microsuplex, nylon, Supplex, and Windstopper.

If it's between 10 and 40 degrees F, you can usually get away with a wicking base layer and an outer layer.

**Gloves/Mittens:** You can lose as much as 30% of your body heat through your extremities, so it's important to cover those hands. On cold days, wear gloves that wick away moisture. When it's extremely cold, mittens are a better choice because your fingers will share their body heat.

### Lower Body

**Tights/Running Pants:** Your legs generate a lot of heat so you don't need as many layers on your lower body. You can usually wear just a pair of tights or running pants made of synthetic material such as Thermion, Thinsulate, Thermax, Coolmax, polypropylene, and/or silk. If it's below 10 degrees F (temperature or wind chill), you may want to consider two layers on your lower body: a wicking layer of tights, and a wind-proof layer such as track pants.

**Shoes:** Your feet also stay pretty warm, as long as you keep them moving and dry. Try to avoid puddles, slush, and snow. Look for a running shoe with as little mesh as possible, since that's where the water will seep through to your feet. Or, if you can't avoid [running in the snow](#), you may want to think about buying trail running shoes, which are somewhat water-proof and will give you a little more traction in the snow. You may also want to try [YakTrax Ice Grippers](#), which slip right over your running shoes for added traction.

**Socks:** Never wear cotton socks (in cold or warm weather) when running because they won't wick away the moisture, leaving your feet wet and prone to [blisters](#). Instead, be sure to wear a good pair of wicking socks made of fabrics such as acrylic, CoolMax, or wool (in the winter).



## Green Team News



### TREX CHALLENGE DETAILS

#### 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

The Green Team is still plugging along with our various programs this year, the most recent of which was our electronics recycling drive. We collected small electronics at school for 2 weeks, and then had a special collection at the RES parking lot for two hours on a Saturday morning – in all, we collected 44 different items, many of which were big and bulky and toxic if buried in a landfill (e-waste contains enough arsenic, lead and mercury to be classified by the EPA as hazardous waste)! Many of the items we collected will be repurposed. They went to a local company. First, workers sort the items. The table on the next page summarizes all we collected. Over the next few weeks workers will test the items, erase any data, and make sure phones are deactivated. They will repair broken items, if possible, and get them to others who can use them. Much of what we would throw away has value to others in other parts of the world. The market is large. There are more people using cell phones worldwide than the entire population of the United States. When items are broken and can't be repaired or are too old for reuse, they will be safely disassembled. The poisons in the electronics will be recovered and disposed of properly. Valuable metals like gold, copper and silver will be saved, leaving more natural resources for the future. We should know in the next month how much money this effort raised for RES. So, thank you to everyone who contributed. And whether you were able to participate in this drive or not, I'd love your feedback about whether we should do another and when we should do it (for instance, would it be better to do in honor of Earth Day, or is after the winter holiday a great time to clean out your old electronic junk?). Shoot me an email and let me know your thoughts!

We continue to encourage recycling at school through classroom recycling bins (for cardboard, paper, plastic, etc), kitchen recycling bins (for recyclable bulk food packaging), and cafeteria collection bins (for Capri Sun and Honest Kid juice pouches). We are also still collecting empty glue stick casings in the classroom, as well, which will be recycled at the end of the year through TerraCycle. And, the crayon recycling is still going strong – I expect that bin to fill more quickly at the end of the school year, though. Looking forward to Spring, don't forget about our participation in the Trex Recycling Challenge – if you've been stockpiling bags since America Recycles Day, you probably have a decent size collection by now (I know we do). And if you haven't started stockpiling, there's no time like the present. We'll have a special collection in honor of Earth Day – stay tuned to future newsletters for specific days and times.

And with Spring just around the corner, it's time to resume our Walking School Buses. Back when we selected the dates for the buses, we were highly optimistic that February 18 would be warm enough to have a good showing. I guess time will tell. Maybe we'll all have to bundle up! But that's our next official walking bus date. The remaining three walking bus dates are March 18, April 15, and May 20. Mark your calendars now, so you don't miss them!

Bryna Dunn

[brynadunn@gmail.com](mailto:brynadunn@gmail.com)



### WALKING SCHOOL BUS:

Please join the families in your neighborhood on February 18 in trying to form what might be the coldest walking bus yet (but we hope not!).

The rest of the scheduled walking school bus dates for this year are February 18, March 18, April 15, and May 20. Pencil them in now, and we'll confirm them in this newsletter each month.

In case you are wondering, 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. Oh, and you may have noticed the construction going on at the middle school – let's all stay away from that, too!

See [www.walkingschoolbus.org](http://www.walkingschoolbus.org) for more information and logistical tips.



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*Visit us on the web  
at [www.respta.org](http://www.respta.org)*

*We are crew,  
not passengers!*

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<b>Robious Elementary E-Cycle Collection</b>	
6	TVs
3	CRTs
6	Printers
1	CPU - E-machine
2	Scanners
6	Cell Phones
3	Laptops
1	Travel DVD Player
3	Home Phones
1	Video Camera
1	Keyboard
1	Discman
2	External Floppy
1	Digital Camera
3	TV Remote Controls
1	XM Radio
2	Aircards
1	Router
<b>44</b>	<b>E-Cycled Total</b>

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### 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](http://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.

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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](http://www.chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/About_CCPS/compliance_guidelines.htm)

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