

Ridge PTA[®] Times

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A publication of the Ridge Elementary Parent Teacher Association
www.ridgepta.com

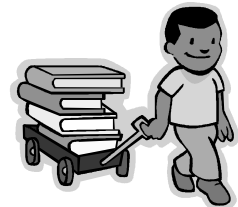
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A Message From The President

Welcome Back!

The entire PTA would like to welcome everyone back to another school year. We hope everyone had a relaxing and fun-filled summer. As always, it went by too quickly.



This is my second and final year as PTA President and also my last as a parent of a Ridge School student, as my youngest daughter is now in 4th grade, so I am both happy and sad about this upcoming year. I am looking forward to the many events and functions that we will be providing Ridge students, their parents, and their teachers, but I am also saddened by the thought of leaving such a great school. I hope all of you will join us and take the opportunity to have as many wonderful times as I have had over my years here with my children at Ridge School. Remember that we are always looking for new and interesting ideas, and we would love to see all of you at our PTA meetings. Please keep an eye on your child's backpack throughout the school year for paperwork that we send home regarding membership, events, evening parent/child programs, etc.

I welcome you back and look forward to meeting all of you. Have a great year.

Julie Engel – PTA President

HIGH-TECH HOMEWORK HELP FOR PARENTS

Robin Raskin, a renowned writer, lecturer, and consultant on education and technology, offers a series of tips for parents who are struggling to keep up with technology to help their children. For example, parents should

- * Assess your child's curriculum before buying any specific software;
- * Bookmark homework helpers on the Internet to enhance your children's research skills;
- * Take advantage of playtime to reinforce learning, using any of a number of digitally based educational toys that help your child think in creative ways;
- * Help your child to more easily write reports using the "outline" feature on word processing programs;
- * Teach your children to touch-type, to make writing reports easier for them.

**These tips were excerpted from the article, "High-Tech Homework Help," which appears in the September 2002 issue of "Our Children" magazine. The entire magazine is available in the Store area of National PTA's website.
<http://www.pta.org/aboutpta/store/ocfree/features6.asp>**

School Starts at
9:25 AM



Be On Time!



Student Spotlight

Each month we would like to highlight a student who has done something admirable or extraordinary. If you know of such a student, please submit an account of the student's achievement in an envelope labeled "PTA – Newsletter – Student Spotlight" or send an Email to newsletterchair@ridgepta.com

Teacher Feature Goodbyes and Hellos

First, we bid a fond farewell to one of our second-grade teachers, Mrs. Lackner, who has moved on to teach at our Middle School; and to Mrs. Nancy Trancho, the Assistant Principal in the Primary Center, who relocated to Vermont. We wish them the best of luck.

Next, say hello to our new teachers: Ms. Marialena Sipala begins her teaching career at Ridge as a Kindergarten teacher, along with Ms. Carol Queirolo, who joins us from Charles E. Walters. Our third graders welcome Ms. Kerri Verbarq and Ms. Tracy Sutherland, both new to the Longwood School District. Mr. James Shapiro, who originally substituted in for first-grade teacher Mrs. Giller, is now a permanent member of the Ridge staff. Ms. Dawn Klein is kindly filling in as a full-time substitute for Mrs. Tracy Pearl, one of our Special Ed teachers, and Mrs. Meegan Keil has moved from the Junior High to join our Special Ed team. The Physical Education Department will be sharing Mr. Scott King with Charles E. Walters; and Ms. Jennifer Scully, new to Longwood, will be teaching Kindergarten music on a part-time basis. We also share with Charles E. Walters Ms. Barbara Graniello, a second-grade teaching assistant, and Ms. Kathleen Garbe, who will be working in the Speech Department. Our new student teachers this year are Christine Amico (working with Mrs. Markee) and Dawn Bruckner (assisting Mrs. Ostrowski), both from C.W. Post; and from St. Joseph's College are Gina Peck (in Mrs. Lucas's class) and Tracy Imeidopf (working with Mrs. Savona). Last, but certainly not least, a big welcome to Mr. Ronald Masera, a former fifth-grade teacher from Westhampton Beach, who is our new Assistant Principal in the Intermediate Center.

And now, in the Joyous Occasion Department: Summer weddings included Ms. Donna Beary (second grade) to Mr. Douglas Roenbeck (Physical Education); our ESL instructor, Teale Palazzoli, is now Mrs. Teale LaBarbera; and Ms. Michelle MacKenzie from Speech has become Mrs. Michelle Herbst. Congratulations to our newlyweds!

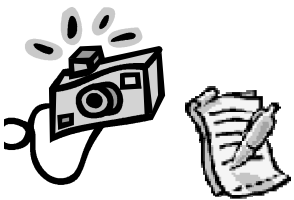
It seems our school kept the local maternity wards rather busy this summer: Mrs. Tracy Pearl (Special Ed) gave birth to a baby boy, and Mrs. Laura Donohue (Kindergarten) had a girl; Mrs. SueAnn Rae (Kindergarten) welcomed her first child, a girl; Mrs. Tara Coster (first grade) had a boy; Mr. Brian Reuter (third grade) and his wife were joined by their first child, an adorable baby girl; First-grade teacher Mr. James Shapiro and his wife were blessed with their third "and last" child, a son, at the end of last school year; and our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Ronald Masera, and his wife also welcomed a baby girl. Not to be outdone, our principal, Dr. Barbara Gerstenlauer, is thrilled to have her first grandchild, little John Christopher ("Jack"), who was born August 7. Many best wishes and blessings to the little ones and their proud parents (and grandparents)!

2002 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM GALLERY ONLINE

View the entries of the 2001-2002 Reflections Program finalists in National PTA's new virtual gallery. For the past 33 years, National PTA's Reflections Program has recognized outstanding contributions in the areas of literature, photography, visual arts, and musical composition from students in preschool through grade 12.

The 2001-2002 Reflections Program theme was "I hold in my hand...." Students were asked to expand upon this theme in their art. The Outstanding Interpretation Award is given to works that most creatively support this theme in each of the four artistic categories. Three Awards of Excellence and five Awards of Merit are awarded to students in each grade division in each category.

Continued on page 3



REFLECTIONS 2002-2003

This year's Reflection's theme is "Signs of Courage". Look for information to come home in your child's backpack.



Reflections from Page 2

Now, through the 2002 Reflections Program Gallery, you can view each award-winning work of art in full color or full text, as well as listen to each musical composition (via RealPlayer, downloadable for free). <<http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/reflections02/index.asp>>.

For more information about the Reflections Program, visit <<http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/familyfun/aboutreflect.asp>>.

From NATIONAL PTA WEEKLY June 28, 2002

Help Support S.E.P.T.A.

Longwood Special Education Parent Teacher Association (S.E.P.T.A.) represents all of the students and families in the Longwood school district that receive special education services. The group provides informative guest speakers on child development and education. Topic and speaker suggestions are welcomed. Membership is open to all. You do not need a child in special education to become a member of SEPTA. You may belong to Ridge PTA as well as SEPTA. Please help support this group that serves **all** of the schools in our district by sending in your membership using the Membership form on *page 4*, with your check payable to SEPTA, in an envelope marked SEPTA Membership Attention: Lauren Smimmo/Ridge Elementary. All membership cards will be sent home with your child.

10 WAYS FOR PARENTS TO HELP TEACHERS

Mimi Doe, author of the book, "Busy but Balanced: Practical and Inspirational Ways to Create a Calmer, Closer Family," has been asked by many parents to offer suggestions on how to make teachers' jobs easier. She does just that in the September issue of "Our Children," providing 10 tips for parents to emotionally, mentally, and spiritually prepare their children for the challenges of school, including:

- * Create a smooth takeoff for your child each day, giving her a hug and letting her know how proud you are of her;
- * Include calm, peaceful times in your child's afternoons and evenings;
- * Fill your home with books and learning materials to encourage your child to read outside the classroom;
- * Set up a system at home in which routine items are easy to find;
- * Fill your child with a love of learning by respecting his questions, encouraging his efforts, and showing your own curiosity.

Read all of Mimi Doe's 10 tips in the feature "10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers." The entire September magazine is available in the PTA store, where there's also ordering information and a subscription form. <<http://www.pta.org/aboutpta/store/ocfree/features2.asp>>.

From NATIONAL PTA WEEKLY ***August 30, 2002

Purchasing Coordinator

We need someone to oversee the Hospitality sub-committee and purchase all necessary supplies for all PTA run events throughout the year and attend PTA Executive Board Meetings. If you are interested, please call Julie Engel at 924-2414.

Board of Education Representative

We need someone to attend Board of Education meetings, report back to the membership, and submit updates to the newsletter. If you are interested, please call Julie Engel at 924-2414.

Ridge Stats

Total # of Students
852

of Students in PC
296

of Students in IC
556

Average Class Size

Grade	# of students
K	18
1	20
2	23
3	24
4	26

Ridge Elementary Parent Teacher Association



Rising Above the Clouds.

Welcome to the new school year. If you have not already joined the PTA, we urge you to do so. Your financial support goes a long way toward providing many fun and educational programs for your children.

The cost of membership is \$6.00 for the first member and \$5.00 for each additional member (Dads, that means you!). There are also business memberships available for \$10.00, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses for supporting the Ridge PTA:

Advantek Computer Networking Services	732-3652	Mid-Island Physical Therapy	345-0073
AC&E Home Inspection	205-1340	Middle Island Deli & Grill	345-2420
A&M Tools	924-1739	Mrs. Josephine Family Day Care	209-9181
Affordable Exteriors	924-2244	Nutritional Counseling Services	924-1717
B.W. Electrical Contracting	345-0262	R&M Glass Works, Inc.	924-2147
Help-U-Sell Coram Realty	696-4100	Residential Fences Corp.	924-3011
Hough & Guidice Realty	929-1100	Sana Plumbing Corp.	516-523-1661
Independent Partylite Consultant Michelle Comunale	345-0817	Serious Restoration Unlimited	929-6635
Insurance Services by Rosie Massian	345-9389	Southpaw Construction	205-9721
L&M Painting Parperhanging	924-3367	Stephan & Burnett, CPAs	345-6691
Lifetouch School Pictures	334-3737	The Bike Shop	451-6900
Long Island Brickworks	924-8719	Weatheright Exteriors, Inc.	744-2756
LYSA Lacrosse	929-1379		

Help your children rise above the clouds. Please join by filling out the attached form and returning it in your child's homework folder, with cash or a check (made payable to "Ridge PTA"), in an envelope labeled "PTA Membership." Thank you for your support

Sincerely,
Terre Arena and Sue Kennedy, *Membership Co-Chairpersons*

PTA¹ Membership Form

Your Name _____ Phone _____
 Additional Members \$5.00 each (Spouses, Grandparents, Friends, etc.) _____ \$6.00

Child's Name _____ Class _____ Teacher _____

For Business Members Only

Business Name _____ Phone _____ \$10.00
 Business Contact _____

This Form may also be used for SEPTA membership

**Make the move that makes the difference.
Join the PTA¹ !**

Friendship Quote

*“Fame is the scentless sunflower, with gaudy crown of gold;
But friendship is the breathing rose, with sweets in every fold.”*

-Oliver Wendell Holmes



The food pantry is open. All donated items will go directly to Ridge families in need. Take this opportunity to help those who are less fortunate and to teach your children the gift of kindness. Your kindness and generosity in the past has helped many Ridge families in need of assistance.

If you find yourself in need of service at any time, please contact our school nurse, Andrea Keneally, at 345-2766. All requests are confidential.

FALL FUNDRAISER ALERT!

This year’s Fall Fundraiser will take place from Tuesday, September 17, through Friday, October 4. As always, we depend upon your help with this all-important event. The more we sell, the more funds we will have available for the benefit of our children. However, **it is more important than ever that we stress the importance of safety! Under no circumstances should children be permitted to sell fundraising products door to door!**

Flyers with more detailed information will be sent home in your children’s backpacks. We thank you for your support.

Your Fundraising Committee, Judy Greco and Michelle Calcagni

NOW SHOWING

“The Nuisance From Neptune,” a Halloween howler about the planets, listening, and love, at Theatre Three, Main Street, Port Jefferson; shows Saturday October 12, 19 and 26 at 11 a.m.; Friday October 25, Tuesday October 29, Wednesday October 30, and Thursday October 31 at 10:30 a.m.; and Sunday October 27 at 3 p.m. Call the Box Office at 928-9100 for ticket sales.

Visit the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium to experience “A Trip to the Planets,” “Mars Adventure,” and “Wonders of the Seasonal Sky.” The museum and planetarium are located at 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport; for show schedules and updated information, call 854-5550 or visit www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

Slot-car enthusiasts can join the “Smart Kids Race Free Program,” sponsored by the Port Jefferson Raceway on Route 112 in Coram. Earn free track time with good grades. Contact the raceway at 696-7721 for more information.

Deposit your empty printer and copier cartridges in the box by the IC Main Office – **Please do not send in with your children.** Contact Bridget Cariello 929-3144 for more information

TECHNOLOGY 4 Kids™

Don’t forget to **save** those receipts!
Your child should be bringing home a list of sponsors
Please send receipts into school in an envelope marked “PTA – Technology 4 Kids”
Thank you,
Theresa DeMatteo

Earn Cash for Our School!
Please send your box tops into school in an envelope marked “PTA – box tops”

Please send in your labels from
Campbell’s soup and other participating products. Contact Flo Grumm 345-3583 for more information

Executive Committee

Julie Engel
President

Kim Lombardi
1st Vice President

Jeanne Knudsen
2nd Vice President

Gina VanSicklen
Past President

Michelle Calcagni
Treasurer

Judy Greco
Recording Secretary

JeanMarie
Broomfield
Corresponding Secretary

Meredith Stark
Council Delegate

Margret Kelly
Council Delegate

Ginger Filasky
PTA's Historian

Upcoming Events

Please Mark Your Calendars



September

- 9/9 PTA Meeting – 7:30 PM in IC All Purpose Room
 9/10 Open House Grades K-1 – 7:00-9:00 PM
 9/12 Open House Grades 2-4 – 7:00-9:00 PM
 9/12 Board of Education Meeting – 8:00 PM at Longwood High School
 9/16 School Closed – Yom Kippur
 9/23 National Family Day – Eat Dinner with Your Children
 9/26 Board of Education Meeting – 8:00 PM at Longwood High School
 9/26 SCOPE Parent Workshop on Diversity – 7:00-8:00 PM at the Middle School
 9/30 TerraNova Exams – Grades 2-4

October

- 10/1 **Deadline for Oct/Nov Newsletter**
 10/1-4 TerraNova Exams – Grades 2-4
 10/7 PTA Meeting – 7:30 PM in IC All Purpose Room
 10/10 Board of Education Meeting – 8:00 PM at Longwood High School
 10/11 Class Parent Welcome – 10:00AM
 10/14 School Closed – Columbus Day
 10/21-25 TerraNova Exams – Grade 1
 10/24 Board of Education Meeting – 8:00 PM at Longwood High School
 10/28 & 29 School Pictures

Now Showing continued from page 5

Come to the Long Island Museum, located at 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook, September 22nd for the “Old Time School Days Family Drop In” and a miniature horse demonstration and October 6th for New York Island Legends Clark Gillies and Bobby Nystrom and an Antique and Collectible Auto Show. For more information, call 751-0066 or visit online at www.longislandmuseum.org.

Join Studio E Art Classes at its new location at 565 Route 25A, Miller Place; classes and workshops for preschoolers, school age children, families, and adults are offered. Friday Night Art Club is open to children in grades 1-8. For more information, call Studio E at 744-4001.

Letter From the Editor

Is summer over already? Wasn't I just saying something about a much-needed rest?

I hope everyone enjoyed the too-hot and too-short summer, and welcome to the 2002/2003 school year! We have lots of work to do, including learning our way around the extra million or so square feet we now have in our buildings. From my vantage point across the street, I can testify to all the hard work Mr. Formosa and company did over the summer. And if I never hear another work truck again...

Please, join our PTA and become involved in your child's school experience. I can assure you, it's very rewarding work. We have many wonderful programs planned for our children this year, and we need all the help we can get. I believe my husband will skin me alive if I volunteer for ONE MORE thing.

Terre Arena -Editor