

# The RamGram



Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

Dec/Jan '08 to '09

## December and January at a Glance

Detailed information regarding many of these events can be found inside the RamGram ♦ See Robinson's website:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS/> for more information including club event dates.

Sat – Mon, Nov 29 – Dec 21	RBOPO Christmas Tree Fundraiser – Woody's Farm Market – M-F 4-9pm & Sat & Sun 9-9
Monday, December 1	SGA PJ Day
Tuesday, December 2	SGA Lumberjack Day
Wednesday, December 3	DECA AIDS Wear Your Face-2-Face T-shirt Day
	DECA AIDS "Robinson Get Tested" Day – GMU NOVAM
	RBOPO HS Bands Winter Concerts – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
	SGA Wacky Day
Thursday, December 4	DECA AIDS Face-2-Face Movie Night – Davala Hall
	RBOPO HS Bands Winter Concerts – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
	SGA Class Color Day
Friday, December 5	DECA AIDS Red Ribbon Day
	SGA Blizzard Day
Tuesday, December 9	ANGP Ticket Sales – Cafeteria – During Lunch
	ANGP Metro Diner Fundraiser – Metro Diner on University Dr. – 5- 8pm
	RBOPO MS Bands Winter Concert – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Wednesday, December 10	ANGP Ticket Sales – Cafeteria – During Lunch
Thursday, December 11	ANGP Ticket Sales – Cafeteria – During Lunch
	MS Dance – Cafeteria – 2:15 – 3:45pm
	RBOPO HS & MS Orchestras Winter Concerts – Russell Theatre – 7pm
Friday, December 12	RBOPO MS Advanced Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Jazz Band Assembly – 10am
	Interims Sent Home
Tuesday, December 16	RBOPO Symphonic Band Tiny Tots Concert – Russell Theatre – 9:30am & 11am
Wednesday, December 17	MS Chorus Concert – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Wed – Fri, Dec 24 – Jan 9	WINTER HOLIDAY
Tuesday, January 6	DB Auditions for Spring Musical
	RBOPO Meeting – HS Band Room – 7pm
Thursday, January 8	DB Auditions for Spring Musical
	Proposed Fairfax County School Board Budget Released
Friday, January 9	DB ITS State
	RBOPO Junior District Orchestra Event – Robinson
Saturday, January 10	DB ITS State
	RBOPO District Band Auditions - Robinson
	RBOPO Junior District Orchestra Event - Robinson
Monday, January 12	ABC Meeting – Principal's Conference Room – 7pm
Tuesday, January 13	DB Auditions for Spring Musical
Wednesday, January 14	IB Information Night Rising 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Graders – Davala Hall – 7pm
Thursday, January 15	DB Auditions for Spring Musical
Friday, January 16	DB TheatreSports Competition –Russell Theatre – 7pm Russell Theatre
	IB Information Night for Rising 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders – Davala Hall – 7pm
Monday, January 19	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
Tuesday, January 20	INAUGURATION DAY HOLIDAY
Friday, January 23	DB RoProCo – <i>Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory</i> – Matinees Only
	Second Grading Period Ends
Saturday, January 24	DB RoProCo – <i>Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory</i> – Matinees Only
Monday, January 26	PTSA General Membership Meeting
Mon & Tue, Jan 26 & 27	STUDENT HOLIDAYS
	Fairfax County Public School Board Hearings
Friday, January 30	Second Quarter Report Cards Sent Home
Wednesday, February 4	Rising 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Night – Russell Theatre – 7pm
	IB Information Night for Rising 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Graders – Davala Hall – 7pm
Tuesday, February 10	ABC & the Mathematics Department AMC10 & AMC12 Competitions – Cafeteria – Morning
Wednesday, February 11	IB Information Night Snow Date – Davala Hall – 7pm

**JOIN PTSA TODAY** ♦ Dec 2008/Jan 2009 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 1 ♦ **JOIN PTSA TODAY**  
James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

# PTSA News

## Economic Downturn Continues to Erode FY 2010 School Budget



The economic crisis facing our nation is having a devastating effect on Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The FY 2010 county budget is now facing a \$540 million deficit and FCPS is looking at a \$223 million deficit. According to school board members, the situation at hand is unprecedented and could impact the school system for decades to come. The county and the state are required by law to have balanced budgets and are the two primary sources of revenue for FCPS. Both the Board of Supervisors and School Board have proactively approached the looming deficit as methodically as possible with a Lines of Business Review and Program Review respectively. The estimated shortfall is continually monitored and tends to increase with each new economic forecast. The expected deficit has been an upward moving target making it virtually impossible to know with any certainty what the grim financial picture will look like on July 1, 2009, the beginning of the 2010 school year. It is anticipated that the economic crisis is not going to abate soon and that FY 2011 will be equally dire.

On November 14, 2008, the Board of Supervisors and School Board held a joint meeting to discuss the ongoing Program Review being conducted by FCPS in preparation of its FY 2010 Proposed Budget that will be released by Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale on January 8, 2009. Dr. Dale's presentation to the supervisors began with charts and graphs illustrating student increases in scores from one year to the next in SOLs, AP, IB, and SATs. The challenge is to balance community needs and expectations with projected revenue deficits. Will SOL test results continue to increase and the achievement gaps continue to close? Will FCPS continue to experience record AP and IB participation and performance? Will our record SAT scores continue to increase?

The budget process resulted in the superintendent taking a tiered approach to cuts. Tier 1 assumes a \$42.5 million cut in the budget. It is needs-based, a statutory requirement that assesses performance, program efficiencies and effectiveness and benchmarking against the rest of the country. Fiscal constraints, increased efficiencies and reductions are included. Reductions in programs and services are recoverable. **Tier 1** Impacts:

- ❖ Overall loss of 264 positions
- ❖ No general education class-size increase
- ❖ Elimination of the Modified School Calendar at secondary schools

- ❖ The Adult and Community Education Fund will become self-supporting
- ❖ Psychologist and social worker ratios will increase
- ❖ All departments will make reductions
- ❖ Elimination of Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA)
- ❖ Elimination of Student Mentor Works
- ❖ Elimination of girls gymnastic program in HS

**Tier 2** assumes a \$123.3 cut in the budget. Significant reductions in programs and services are necessary. A funding increase from the county is requested to cover membership growth and a decrease in state revenue. The school system would recover within a decade with this approach. All of Tier 1 reductions are included in Tier 2. Tier 2 Impacts:

- ❖ Overall loss of 788 positions
- ❖ General education, CTE and ESOL class size increase of 0.5 students per teacher
- ❖ Corresponding reduction in custodian and clerical positions
- ❖ Redesign with significant savings in special education and Alternative Learning Programs
- ❖ Substantial reductions to central managed programs and departments
- ❖ No market scale adjustment in FY 2010 (cost of living increases)
- ❖ Closing the planetariums
- ❖ Elimination of elementary school magnet transportation

**Tier 3** assumes a \$218.9 million cut in the budget. There would be no change in county funding from FY 2009. There would be severe reductions in programs and services and non-attainment of state standards. It would require decades to recover from this budget. All of Tier 1 and Tier 2 reductions are included in Tier 3. Tier 3 Impacts:

- ❖ Overall loss of 1,460 positions
- ❖ A total increase in class size for general education, CTE and ESOL of 2.5 students per teacher
- ❖ Per pupil instructional material and textbook allocations will decrease
- ❖ Drastic reductions in instructional programs and support
- ❖ No summer school, except for ESY
- ❖ Step increases for employees delayed 6 months
- ❖ 1 day furlough for all employees (\$8 million in savings)
- ❖ Discontinue transportation to HS academies with buses that serve 5 or fewer students

Other notable information with respect to the FY 2010 FCPS Budget:

- ❖ Cuts will disproportionately fall on kids who are the "neediest"

- ❖ FCPS is still reviewing the financial impact of changing the bell schedules and reengineering the transportation system (\$3 million in savings has already been identified)
- ❖ FCPS expects a reduction in the amount it receives from the state of \$50 million
- ❖ Unfunded state and federal mandates represent a significant burden in the amount of \$276.2 million.
- ❖ The county anticipates a net growth in student population of 5,000 between FY 2009 and 2010 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010)
- ❖ Operational deficits not included in the budgeted deficit numbers include \$22 million in preventive maintenance; \$17+ million in prior salary deficit (competitive salaries), and \$23 million in technology replacement cycle
- ❖ Fairfax County has made proposed reductions in its budget that will impact FCPS including:
  - Elimination of Clinic Room Aides
  - Elimination of School Resource Officers
  - Reductions in MS after-school programs and SACC
  - Close Girls and Boys Probation Houses and the Enterprise School

FCPS is looking at revenue generating ideas including:

- ❖ Revising staffing standards
- ❖ Selling naming rights to commercial enterprises for stadiums, etc.
- ❖ Passing the IB and AP testing fees on to students
- ❖ Charging PTA's for construction costs to make structural changes for their needs in school facilities
- ❖ Charging students to enroll in before- and after-school FLES programs

Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, who is also the Budget Chair for the County, noted that this is the first time the county has begun its budget process this early as it wanted to ensure community input. She and Supervisor Gerry Hyland both acknowledged that the collaboration and participation between the county and FCPS in this budget process was unprecedented. School Board member and Budget Program Review Committee Chair, Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, complimented Dr. Dale and his staff in presenting the school systems' financial situation with transparency. Chairman of the School Board, Dan Storck, noted that the school board and staff had taken its mission to conduct a Program Review seriously and they don't feel good about what has to be done, but realize there will be tough choices and want to minimize the long-term harm to students and staff.

Parents, the financial crisis facing all of us is going to have a negative impact on our children's' education for the foreseeable future. What has been presented thus far by the FCPS School Board, Dr. Dale and the budget staff is preliminary. They will continue to

work on the budget as updated financial and additional information becomes available. Realistically, the only way the county's projected deficit can be reduced is by increasing the real estate tax rate as that is the primary source of revenue for the county. Seventy-five percent of Fairfax County residents do not have school-aged children! Please get involved and let the School Board and the Board of Supervisors know how you feel.

The 2010 Budget development process is important because it gives you the opportunity to publicly share how you want your tax-payer dollars spent. School Board public hearings are scheduled for January 26 and 27 (to speak, you have to sign up in advance on FCPS's website). The county releases its proposed budget about February 23. It will hold public hearings March 31 to April 2 (to speak, you have to sign up in advance on the county's website). Final public hearings on the school budget will be held May 12 and 13 and it will adopt the final budget on May 21. Get involved. Together we can make a difference.

- Patricia Wirth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President FCCPTA



## Sleep Update

### Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal

#### Bell Schedule Change Update:

On November 19, 2008, The Connection published a guest column, **Of Budgets and Buses: How Everyone Wins with Better School Start Times** <http://tinurl.com/5odnz8> explaining how changed bell schedules can improve student health and learning while also saving money. The dire budget conditions mean that a lot more needs to be done to make healthy school start times for all students a reality, but the issue is moving forward.

The next step is an improved draft of new bell schedules being developed by staff and due out in mid-December.

The healthy start time initiative is supported by many organizations, including the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, as well as 8,400 people who have signed the SLEEP petition and who are helping us in other ways to advocate for reasonable and healthy bell schedules for our children. The organizations include:

- ❖ Virginia State PTA,
- ❖ Fairfax County Council of PTAs,
- ❖ Student Advisory Council to the Fairfax School Board
- ❖ Medical Society of Northern Virginia
- ❖ League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
- ❖ National Sleep Foundation
- ❖ Top sleep researchers in "Messages to the Public," The Role of Sleep on Memory and Learning Conference, Washington D.C., March 2008

After the new draft of the bell schedule is released, FCPS is planning to have Town Hall meetings in February 2009 (date and locations to be announced) and we look forward to this opportunity to engage the community in discussing this much-needed change. There has been significant progress in the last 5 years, and we hope that 2009 will be the year the School Board decides to provide start times that are in sync with student biology.

Those wanting more information or to sign the SLEEP petition can go to [www.SLEEPinFairfax.org](http://www.SLEEPinFairfax.org). Thank you to all who have supported and helped with this effort.

Sandy Evans and Phyllis Payne, SLEEP co-founders  
Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal  
[www.SLEEPinFairfax.org](http://www.SLEEPinFairfax.org)

- Terry Tuley and Gretchen Laskas, SLEEP

## Robinson Secondary School

# PTSA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.onevoice.*

## Supporting Every Student

*Activities in which PTSA Members participate, sponsor or support*

- ✓ ***Publish and distribute RamGram 9 times per year***
- ✓ ***Publish and sell Middle and High School Student Directory (our only fund raiser)***
- ✓ ***Special Education Parent Programs***
- ✓ ***Reflections Competition***
- ✓ ***County and State PTSA Conferences***
- ✓ ***Back-to-School Nights***
- ✓ ***Ram Gardens***
- ✓ ***Student Services Fund***
- ✓ ***A Taste of Robinson***
- ✓ ***Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council***
- ✓ ***Volunteer Recognition***
- ✓ ***Staff Development and Mini-Grants***
- ✓ ***International Fair***
- ✓ ***Academic Letter Recognition***
- ✓ ***People's Choice Awards***
- ✓ ***Robinson Community Coalition***
- ✓ ***Odyssey of the Mind and Other Student Programs***
- ✓ ***Elaine Heenan, Friends Volunteer and Delta Scholarship***
- ✓ ***Legislative Forum, PTA Lobby Day and Legislative Breakfast***
- ✓ ***All Night Graduation Party***
- ✓ ***Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon***
- ✓ ***PTSA Web site***
- ✓ ***Faculty meetings and school committees***
- ✓ ***Veteran's Day Memorial Service***

*To be mailed a PTSA card, please include with this form a self-addressed, stamped envelope.*

*Additional Individual Membership Benefits  
can be seen on the PTSA web site*

<http://robinsonptsa.org>



Parent Teacher Student Association
2008 - 2009 Membership Drive
Join Now!!!

(Please see website form for list of activities sponsored/supported by your PTSA)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I want to join Robinson's PTSA which includes membership in Fairfax County and National PTA

Adult/Parent Membership(s) at \$12.00 each
Student (Grade 9-12 only) Membership at \$ 5.00 each
Faculty/Staff Membership at \$ 5.00 each
100% tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund\*\*
TOTAL Check #

Make checks payable to: Robinson Secondary PTSA

Please print

Adult Member(s):
Address:
City, Zip Code:
Phone: Email:
My student(s) is/are in the following grade(s): Circle 7 8 9 10 11 12

Student Member(s):
Address:
City, Zip Code:
Grade(s):
Phone: Email:

Faculty/Staff Member:
School: Sub-school Mailbox Location:
Position:
Phone: Email: @fcps.edu

Return Membership Form: 1) Locker Distribution Days, 2) Back-to-School Nights, or 3) Mail to: Robinson Secondary PTSA, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Donations to Scholarship Fund are 100% tax deductible; \$9.75 of Adult membership fee is tax deductible and \$2.75 of Student and/or Faculty membership fees are tax deductible.

# Robinson Secondary PTSA 2008 – 2009 Internet Safety Pledges

Kacey Wheeler  
Michael Morris  
Michell Alva  
Ben Foreman  
Robert Hall  
Daniel Salbert  
Thomas Friestad  
Katherin Starim  
Thurmond Shaw  
Jack Shaw  
Sam Shaw  
Garret George  
Sophia Sempesle  
Stephen Chesterman  
Hannah Koch  
Sarah Gross  
Haley Iriondo  
Avery Henry  
Kristi Sooknanan  
Sami Rosen  
Dakota Bailey  
Kendrick Bailey  
Juliann Park  
Cory Staton  
Rachel Keith  
Eric Bruck  
Noah Oporto  
Yanar Hashlamon  
Sarah Rosson  
Iman Rehmattullah  
Abdulwahid Rehmattullah  
Elaina Finrelsteil  
Jaycen Allen  
Brendan Cevasco  
Michaela Proctor  
Kelly Obrien  
Ali Abdulrahman  
Ghandi Abdulrahman  
Jason Witter  
Drew Witter  
Ryan Witter  
Ivan Craven  
Ryan Holleran  
Courtney Holleran  
Kailey Lauter  
Emily Unwin  
Kelly Unwin  
Kyhli Stephen  
Tess Miller

Sarah Miller  
Jason Hirsch  
Andrew Goetzinger  
Karina Tait  
N. Leanne Bell  
Aley Deyoung  
Amanda Knight  
Camey Schweikert  
Faith Schweikert  
MaceySchweikert  
Maddie Smith  
Jake Thomas  
Pardes Helmand  
Gabby Rojzman  
Mack Williams  
Stefanie Berrier  
Peter Berrier  
Gina Gasperotto  
Charlie Phillips  
Matthew Freer  
Nicholas Alfieris  
Nick Marteney  
Camille Helmick  
Madeleine Gaiser  
Emily Fischer  
Dunghee Han  
David Levinson  
Mariah Kushin  
Robbie & Michelle  
Abby Youngen  
Tyler Fitchett  
Alex Conte  
Valerie McLean  
Jonathan Byrnes  
Leif Van Acker  
Christine Canty  
Rachel Canty  
Michael Canty  
Collen McDonald  
Bridget Kennerlye  
Andrew Kennerley  
Helena Avedissian  
Katelyn Winkler  
Jake Shaffer  
Christopher Lohr  
Samantha Cornwell  
Brendan O'Connell  
Nicole Garcia  
Andrew Balluck

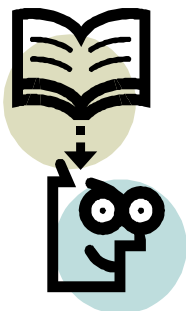
Ben Ferrell  
Margaret Araneo  
Sydney Graf  
Garrett & Jared Velasquez  
Amil Sherib  
Brittany Mansourimoaied  
Jacqualin Cummings  
John Cummings  
Michael Sherburne  
Patrick Grimes  
Matt Mc Lennan  
Ben & Jennie Zajic  
Lynda Franklin  
Matt & Nicolle Spaulding  
Amanda Quinn  
Robert Quinn  
Jacob Duhadway  
Elizabeth Duhadway  
Lawrence Daniel Robinson  
Andrew Myers  
Drew Johnson  
Jacob Thompson  
Megan Pearson  
Darla Reynolds  
Somya Leskanich  
Evan Luccarelli  
Taylor Opella  
Jessie Opella  
Claire Jeter  
John Patirck O' Connor  
Nathalia Condordia  
Gabriel Concordia  
Elizabeth Banks  
Nathaniel Banks  
Nikki Aaron  
Ryan Musso  
Sparsh Gupta  
Katherine Bowles  
Aaron Bowles  
Sarah Irving  
Seung Jae Yang  
Simran Badwal  
Melissa Wilson  
Morgan Legatic  
Erin & Saerynn Kwon  
Kristina & Stephannie Parise  
Sophie Eaton  
Meghan Eaton  
Emma Eaton

Hannah Sikora  
Daniel Tichoonghyon Kim  
James Lynch  
Samuel Page  
Rachel Van Meter  
William Rehm  
Katharine Rehm  
Michael Zhang  
Morgan Meyer  
Matt Kaminski  
Ben Flint  
Erin McCrendon  
Samantha Bernacchi  
Cody Dunbar  
Naomi-Grace Panlaqui  
Sarah Slife  
Dustin Jutras  
Emily Jaumillot  
Christina Peck  
Jacob Peck  
Caleb Peck  
Connor Jamendt  
Jason Gart  
Carolyn Heasley  
Megan Fuller  
Mimi Lynch  
Matthew Lynch  
Lolya Rabinowitch  
Janna McKnight  
Austin Porfiri  
Joe Krallinger  
Lauren Rainford  
Ariana Missar  
Jonathan Bowden  
Christopher Shea  
Jonathan Shea  
Naomi Sproule  
Sean Clark



## General Robinson Secondary News

### IB Information



IB Coordinators Lisa Green and Wendy Vu will host information nights about the International Baccalaureate program. **Wednesday, January 14**, parents of **rising 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders** are invited to learn about the diploma and certificate

programs, course sequences and pupil placement procedures. **Wednesday, February 4**, parents of **rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders** are invited to learn about upper level IB courses, college credit and the diploma requirements. Both meetings will take place in Davala Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The snow date is Wednesday, February 11.

- Lisa Green, IB Coordinator



RSS ANGP



# Diner Night Fundraiser

at



3950 University Drive  
Free Parking Garage on University Dr

## Tues. Dec. 9

5 pm – 8 pm

Please come out to eat with your friends & faculty at Metro, Silver Diner. Percentage of Dine In & To Go sales help fund our ANGP.

To Go  
703-383-0990



POC: Claudia Dwyer - Lynch  
Claudia\_Silver\_Diner@cox.net  
[www.metroilverdiner.com](http://www.metroilverdiner.com)

# Middle School and High School Class News

## Classes of 2014 & 2013: The View from the Middle School

### Touching Bases



We had another great turnout for our Touching Bases event on Veterans' Day. Thank you to all of you who took advantage of this opportunity to come in, meet your students' teachers and gather some additional information about how your students are performing in their classes. We do hope that you found the day to be productive and, judging from the feedback that we have received from a variety of parents, we believe that you did!

### Magazine Drive to Be Replaced by New Fundraiser

After years of participating in our annual magazine drive fundraiser for the middle school, we have decided that we are going to try something different for next year. We recognize that having your students coming home all excited about prizes and wanting everyone in your families to purchase several magazine subscriptions can lead to turmoil in the home. We are also aware of the fact that we are all facing needs for tighter budgets in the face of bleak forecasts for our nation's economy. Taking all of this into consideration, we are looking to do something far less stressful for next school year. We have found from talking to parents at our October parent coffee that parents would prefer to have 100% of the money that they give to the school rather than just 40% as is the case with the magazine drive. If you are interested in working with us to decide what type of fundraiser we will use for next year, please contact Keith Hall at [keith.hall@fcps.edu](mailto:keith.hall@fcps.edu) or call him at (703)426-2211. We would like to have a meeting in late February or early March to discuss options for next year. With current budget cut options coming to us from Fairfax County Public Schools, we know that county funds will be severely cut. In order for us to continue to provide for enrichment and enhancement of classroom instruction, we are going to count even more on the money we can bring in through a fundraiser.

### Important Reminder for Parents!

The correct number for the **Attendance Line is 703.426.6040**. The recording will prompt you to the extension for each grade level. Please be sure to call this number to report an absence, late arrival, or early dismissal for your child. If you call the extension numbers without going through the attendance line first, you are calling numbers at Lake Braddock Secondary School!

### After School Program Update

Our middle school students are engaged in a variety of after school activities this season, including our new math zone, computer graphics and sewing clubs that meet on Wednesdays and our Friday art club that will begin work on the set decoration for our musical production, *Oliver*, in December. On Friday, January 16, the middle school dance team will perform during the half-time of a home basketball game.

Participating in the after school program is the perfect opportunity for students to receive academic help, complete homework in a quiet environment, engage in a service-learning project, join a club or activity of interest or workout in the fitness room. New activities coming soon include indoor soccer, a second offering of the Red Cross Babysitter's Training course, and a weight lifting program for eighth grade students interested in the high school football program. Program details including activity descriptions, monthly calendars, the Ramblast, and late bus routes can be found on the After School Program site on 24-7.

Please contact Mary Aunon, After School Program Specialist, with your questions or concerns. Email contact is [Mary.Aunon@fcps.edu](mailto:Mary.Aunon@fcps.edu) or telephone 703-426-2339.

### Middle School Guidance

Counselors discussed study skills in classroom guidance lessons in November. Counselors will be presenting Career Exploration Units to classes in December.

Please mark your calendar for the following events: Interims will be given to students on December 12; Second Quarter Report cards will be given to students on January 30; Interest meeting for parents and 8th grade students to learn about the International Baccalaureate Program at Robinson on Thursday, January 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Davala Hall; Rising 9th Grade Parent Information Night will be Thursday, February 4 in Russell Theatre. Snow date is Wednesday, February 10; and the Writing SOL for 8th grade students will be March 3 and 4. Please do not schedule doctor or other appointments on those days.

Please contact your student's counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

- Keith Hall, MS Principal

Class of 2009 All Night Grad Party Ticket Order Form  
June 16, 2009 \* Immediately Following Graduation  
ESPN Zone - Washington DC  
Order ANGP Ticket Now and Save 25%  
[www.ramsangp2009.com](http://www.ramsangp2009.com)



ANGP TICKET ORDER (Ticket price is \$100 or ORDER NOW and pay only \$75; ticket price will rise after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008)

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Order now and pay only \$75: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(ANGP is a 501(c)(3) so your gifts are tax deductible)

GMU Raffle ticket \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ANGP 2009 Rules are located on the website @ [www.ramsangp2009.com](http://www.ramsangp2009.com). My student and I understand the rules of the 2009 All Night Graduation Party. We further acknowledge and agree to abide by these rules during the All Night Grad Party.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*A physical ticket will NOT be issued right away; however, a detailed list of students that have paid will be maintained and will be viewable on our website.*

Make check payable to: RANGP

Send form and payment to:

ANGP 2009

PO Box 424

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

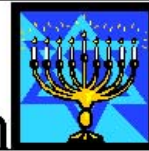
\*\*\*GMU Front Row Seat Raffle\*\*\*

Try for your chance to be one of four winners to EACH have eight **RESERVED** front row seats at George Mason University the night of graduation. Raffle tickets are \$5 a piece.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_



Happy Hanukkah



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*You will be joining the Robinson Class of 2009 at the ESPN Zone*

*For your ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY!!*



*Love,*

ANGP tickets will be sold at all lunches on **December 9, 10, and 11**. Ticket price is **\$75** and can be paid by check with a completed ANGP ticket form. **ANGP ticket price will go up to \$100 January 1, 2009**. Buy your ticket now before the price increases!



Merry Christmas



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*You will be joining the Robinson Class of 2009 at the ESPN Zone*

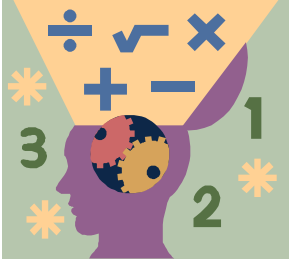
*For your ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY!!*



*Love,*

# Booster, Club & Department News

## Math Department



The Robinson Mathematics Department, with the support of the Robinson Academic Boosters, will once again sponsor the AMC 10 and AMC 12 math competitions. The AMC exams are competitive mathematics contests for high school students. The contests take place the morning of February 10, 2008. Students need to pre-register through their math teacher during the month of January. Please watch for announcements on Good Morning Robinson, ask your math teacher, or contact Bob Collidge ([Robert.Collidge1@fcps.edu](mailto:Robert.Collidge1@fcps.edu)) for more

- Robert Collidge, Mathematics

## Robinson Academic Booster's



“Academics” is not a “one size fits all” term, and I hope that you are as excited as we are at the variety of academics and the recognition of a wide cross section of students we are supporting throughout all of Robinson.

Some of the November highlights include:

- 1) Hosting the subject awards pizza party for over 300 sophomores and juniors who earned A's in all 4 quarters last year for one or more core subjects-that's a lot of pizza. Gail Glover and team did a great job of organizing this event.
- 2) Proctored (and helped fund) the AMC 8 Math Exam for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Thanks so much to Lorelei Allen and Tammi Jackson for coordinating with the Math Department and finding proctors (let us know if you want to proctor one of the language exams coming up in the winter and spring!)
- 3) Hosted a breakfast for over 300 Freshmen who had at least a C+ average for the first quarter-what a great way to start your high school career. Janeth Prothero had to buy a lot of donuts and juice!
- 4) Funded a request from the AIM Robotics Team made up of Robinson students who build and compete with that robot. They also do outreach to the elementary schools in the area, showing them what they have built-a very cool project.
- 5) Another project that is new to the Boosters as far as funding, is we are supporting the WATS program (Work Awareness and Transition) for middle school students, most of them with autism. The funds are used to take the kids out into the community for practical experience such as ordering at a restaurant or shopping at a store.

As the demands for resources increase, in addition to using membership fees to support various projects, we decided to collect the “box tops for kids” that are on General Mills products. IF you are not already saving them for another group, we would love to have you donate them to Academic Boosters. Each box top is worth 10 cents each. Don't forget to ask family members, co-workers, neighbors to save them for us also.

Just collect the box tops and either drop them off in plastic baggies (which by the way also have the box tops for kids on them!) in our mailbox down in the Administrative Office, which is in the same hallway as the Career Center OR you can drop them off at our boxes in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Main Office. Thanks to Jacqueline Lehman for managing the collection.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, January 12, 7 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room.

Please don't hesitate to contact Shari Bedker, President, [sharimomcpa@cox.net](mailto:sharimomcpa@cox.net) on how you can get involved or if you have any questions.

- Shari Bedker, President Academic Boosters



**“It's bad enough that people are dying of AIDS,  
but no one should die of ignorance.”**

This year, Robinson DECA's Creative Marketing Project, Face-2-Face, is taking on the subject of AIDS and AIDS Awareness. The project directors are Meredith Kozikowski, Kelly Brown, and Evan Malamud. Our DECA Chapter will be partnering with NOVAM, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry. As a result of this, we are planning to host assemblies over a 2-day period in Davala Hall.

Our project is targeted to high school students to stress the importance of AIDS awareness and the importance of getting tested for AIDS. Our goal from these assemblies is to increase the knowledge about AIDS among high school students and to set up a program available for students to get tested on a regular basis through NOVAM.

Our assemblies will be on **December 1 and 2 during 2nd & 6<sup>th</sup> periods (Gold Day) and 1<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> periods (Blue Day)**. The morning period assemblies will be from **7:55am to 9:05am**, and the afternoon period assemblies will be from **12:55pm to 2:05pm**. The assemblies will have 2 speakers, one of which is from the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, who will educate students on the rising AIDS epidemic, and the other speaker is a NOVAM spokesperson who is living with AIDS.

We would like to invite you and your class to our assemblies. Because space is limited, the first 10 classes (per period) to RSVP to this email will be able to participate.

We will accommodate on a first come, first serve basis. Please respond to this email by November 25th. When responding, please let us know what class periods you will be attending and how many students are in each class period.

Also, we are selling t-shirts to promote our cause. If you would like to order one, please fill out the attached form and submit your payment to any of the marketing teachers in E219, E220, E216, or E214.

We will contact you if we will not be able to accommodate your class during any period. Please contact Meredith Kozikowski at [meredith.kozikow@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.kozikow@gmail.com) or Casey Hepner at [casey.hepner@fcps.edu](mailto:casey.hepner@fcps.edu) if you have any further questions. We look forward to seeing your classes at our assemblies. Thank you for your continued support!

Please check out the following details about our project. We would love for you to participate in as many activities as possible!



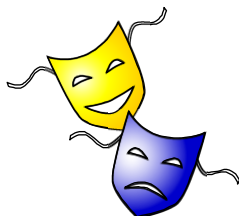
December 1: World AIDS Day

December 1 & 2: School assemblies during first and last block of the day.

December 3: Wear your Face-2-Face T-shirt Day  
December 3: "Robinson Get Tested" Day at George Mason NOVAM Location  
December 4: Face-to-Face Movie Night in Davala Hall (watching The Cure)  
December 5: Red Ribbon Day

- Casey Hepner, DECA

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## Robinson Theatre News

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Sticks 'n Stones* for their excellent performance in November! Congratulations also to Cappie Critics Emily Nice and Julianna Novak, whose reviews were chosen to be published in the Washington Post and Times Community Newspapers, respectively.

ITS members will attend their statewide convention of workshops, play performances and social events at Christopher Newport University January 9-11.

**Auditions for the spring musical**, either "Fiddler on the Roof" or "My Favorite Year" will be January 6, 8, 13, and 15, with some pre-audition workshops to be scheduled soon. Information will be posted in [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org).

Robinson will host a County-wide high school **TheatreSports** competition on **January 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30. Come check it out! It's improv fun, for the whole family. Tickets are just \$5.

For more family fun, catch Robinson's Production Company (RoProCo) when they present "**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**" starring Dan Barr as Willie Wonka, and Joshua Israel as Charlie. Shows will be **matinees only** on **Jan 23 and 24**.

### Upcoming Dates

January 6, 8, 13, and 15, 2009 Auditions for Spring Musical

January 9, 10 ITS State

January 16 TheatreSports Competition

Jan 23, 24 RoProCo "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" matinees only

Apr 30, May 1-2, 8-9 Spring Musical

- Mariana Vervena, Drama Boosters

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## Robinson Band and Orchestra Parents Organization (RBOPO)

### Marching Rams – Final Thanks

The Marching Rams has completed a very successful 2008 season. Many thanks to all the students, directors, parents, supporters and sponsors for your contributions this year. Our best wishes to this year's Senior Class for all of your leadership, hard work and dedication to the Marching Rams.

### Tis' the Season for Concerts

December is full of opportunities to hear the Robinson Bands and Orchestras in Concert at the Russell Theatre. We look forward to seeing you at all of these events.

- ❖ Dec. 3: HS Bands Winter Concerts in the Russell Theatre at 7:30 pm *Concert 3, Gold & Symphonic*
- ❖ Dec. 4: HS Bands Winter Concerts in the Russell Theatre at 7:30 pm *Concert 2, Concert 3 Blue & Concert 4*
- ❖ Dec. 9: MS Bands Winter Concert in the Russell Theatre at 7:30 pm

**JOIN PTSA TODAY** Dec 2008/Jan 2009 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 13 ♦ **JOIN PTSA TODAY**  
James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

- ❖ Dec. 11: Winter Concerts for all High School & Middle School Orchestras at 7:00 pm in the Russell Theatre
- ❖ Dec. 12: MS Advanced Orchestra, Symphonic Band and MS Jazz Band Assembly for next year's seventh graders
- ❖ Dec. 16: Symphonic Band Tiny Tots Concert in the Russell Theatre
- ❖ Two shows at 9:30 & 11:00 am
- ❖ Jan. 10: District Band Auditions at Robinson
- ❖ Jan. 9 & 10: Jr. District Orchestra Event at Robinson

### Christmas Trees for Sale



Woody's Farm Market will be selling Christmas Trees for the benefit of the Robinsons Bands and Orchestras! Woody's is located at 5640 Ox Road (123) at the intersection of Burke Center Parkway. Hours: Sat. November 29 through Sun. December 21, Monday – Friday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. / Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Service hours available for students who volunteer with a parent!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Robinson's music programs would not have such wonderful opportunities without the significant contributions of time by parent supporters and volunteers. This is a great season to be involved as there are several important dates coming up. Parent volunteers are needed for the following upcoming events: Tiny Tots Concert, District Band Auditions and Jazz Sweets 'N Swing Night. If you would like to participate, please go the web-site and follow the link to find descriptions of all the volunteer opportunities.

### Holiday Gifts and Fundraisers

From pies and greens to fruit and ornaments, our fundraisers were all very successful and we thank you for your support! RBOPO will again have White House Ornaments available for purchase at the upcoming concerts. The ornaments are beautiful and make a very nice gift just in time for the holidays.

[www.RobinsonBand.org](http://www.RobinsonBand.org) & [www.RobinsonOrchestra.org](http://www.RobinsonOrchestra.org)

Please attend our next RBOPO Meeting at 7 p.m., January 6 in the HS Band Room. See you there or at any number of the exciting musical events happening around Robinson. Go Rams! [rbopo@robinsonband.org](mailto:rbopo@robinsonband.org)

- Linda Brese, RBOPO



### Teen Read Week

The Robinson Library celebrated Teen Read Week with a presentation of "Through The Eyes of Langston Hughes" to selected Middle and High School classes. Vocalist, Charles Williams, accompanied by renowned percussionist, Tom Teasley, introduced students to the powerful voice of the Harlem Renaissance. This moving program turns Hughes' words into music and into signs of hope in the search for racial harmony in America. Additional funding for this presentation was graciously provided by the Robinson PTSA.

## DID YOU KNOW (at your Ann Monday Media Center)?:



- ❖ All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students used the new technology, Turning Point (clickers), for their library assessment and orientation this fall.
- ❖ Every Science Fair student spent one afternoon learning about research and selecting appropriate articles for their project. Thanks to Mrs. Redfern.
- ❖ Database research (magazine and newspaper articles, EBooks, and reference material) may be accessed 24 hours a day by using the passwords found in 24/7 Blackboard in the Robinson Library Media Center Course.
- ❖ Top two favorite genres for student choice reading is Fantasy and Humor.
- ❖ Robbie Book Club for Middle School students(meets bi-monthly) and High School Readers Club (meets monthly) is sponsored by Mrs. Keith .
- ❖ Faculty Book Club meets monthly.
- ❖ Head Start children escorted by the Child Development students heard the reading of Corduroy, for Read for the Record Day, sponsored by Jump Start to Reading . Mrs. Boyer read this year.
- ❖ Flu Shot clinic was sponsored on a Teacher Work Day.
- ❖ 13 parent volunteers shelve, repair books, and help with bulletin boards.

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## SGA

The Student Government Association couldn't be more excited about this year's IceFest '08!!! This winter spirit week (December 1-5) includes lunchtime activities, dress-up days, an Ice Princess & Ice Prince competition, the first annual Student-Faculty basketball game, and the Win-A-Date competition, all of which lead up to Friday, December 5's doubleheader against Lake Braddock! The Student-Faculty basketball game will be on Monday, December 1 during the Athletic Boosters' Winter Ram Rally. The Win-A-Date competition pits dozens of our high school guys who seek a date with one of our 11 high school ladies who will be in this competition. The SGA will then send 11 couples out to dinner together for a fun dinner date.

Please see this calendar for a list of the spirit days and lunchtime activities:

- ❖ **Monday, December 1:** PJs Day – wear your PJs to school! At lunch, the avalanche competition will see who can stack the most marshmallows before they fall!
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 2:** Lumberjack Day – wear plaid, flannel, and working boots! At lunch our lumberjacks will have a pancake eating contest.
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 3:** Wacky Day – wear something wacky and show off your best moves at the lunchtime dance-off competition!
- ❖ **Thursday, December 4:** Class Color Day – support your class by dressing completely in your class' color:
  - Seniors (Class of '09) – Red
  - Juniors (Class of '10) – Black
  - Sophomores (Class of '11) – Green
  - Freshmen (Class of '12) – Pink
- ❖ **Friday, December 5:** Blizzard Day – wear ALL WHITE! Wear a “Beat the Bruins” tshirt on Friday and let's have a white-out for the girls' & boys' games at 6pm & 7:30pm respectively!

We wish everyone a fabulous, restful, and healthy winter holiday season! See everyone in 2009...be on the lookout for the favorite Ping-Pong Tournament and Gatorball Tournament.

- Eileen Noon, SGA Co-sponsor



# THANK YOU!!!



The All Night Grad Party would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the following businesses/individuals for their wonderful support for the Class of 2009's upcoming graduation party. Without community involvement, this undertaking would not be possible. If you would like to be a sponsor for our event (you DON'T have to have a senior this year), **Please visit our website for more information at: [www.ramsangp2009.com](http://www.ramsangp2009.com)**

- Commonwealth Orthopedics**
- Matthew Miller – CPA**
- Carol Hermandorfer – Long & Foster Realty**
- San Vito Restaurants**
- Remodel America**
- Metro Silver Diner**
- Drs. Lawrence Murphy & Stacey Staats**
- Mr. & Mrs. John Baer**
- Oakview Garden Club**
- Drs. Susana Raygada & Richard Schneider**
- Burke Sporting Goods**
- Mr. Gregory Meadows**
- Stuart Graves, DDS**
- ProTech Pest Control**
- The Honorable David Bulova**

Thank you for keeping our community and our kids safe.  
- Angie Marquis, April Dougherty, Karen Baxter, 2009 ANGP Tri-Chairs

**Robinson Secondary School**



*everychild.one voice.*

Robinson Secondary School  
5035 Sideburn Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22032



[www.robsonptsa.org](http://www.robsonptsa.org)

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