

The RamGram



Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

October 2007

October 2007 at a Glance

Detailed information regarding many of these events can be found inside the RamGram ♦ See Robinson website for club event dates

Tuesday, September 25	Ram Branch of the AFCU Opened - Gold Cafeteria
Wednesday, October 3	MS Magazine Drive Turn-in Date MS Drama Club Meeting – Davala Hall – 2:15 - 3:45pm
Thursday, October 4	TJ Science & Technology Information Night – Davala Hall – 7 - 8pm
Friday, October 5	County-wide TheatreSports Tournament – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Monday, October 8	NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)
Tuesday, October 9	Choral Cookie Dough Pick-up Day PTSA Special Education Committee Meeting – Room 508 – 7 pm RBOPO Meeting – HS Band Room – 7pm
Wednesday, October 10	MS Magazine Drive Turn-in Date PTSA Meeting – Media Center – 7pm Crew General Membership Meeting – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm IB Parents of Senior Diploma Candidates – Davala Hall – 7:30pm
Thursday, October 11	MS Principal/Parent Coffee – Davala Hall 7 – 8:30pm
Saturday, October 13	Marching Band Competition – Richmond area
Monday, October 15	Sweat Suit Orders Due – Faaborg’s Mailbox (SS9)/Room E200 Variety Show – 7:30 pm Tie Dye Day
Tuesday, October 16	Powder Puff – 6:00 pm Jersey Day
Wednesday, October 17	PSAT Day Pajama Day EARLY SCHOOL CLOSING PTSA Students with IEP College Planning - Davala Hall – 7pm IB Parents of Juniors - Davala Hall – 7:30pm
Thursday, October 18	Lockerbay Decorations – 6:00 pm Camo Day MS Dance – Blue & Gold Cafeteria - 2:15 - 3:45pm
Friday, October 19	Taste of Robinson, Parade, Pep Rally – Robinson Campus – 3:30 pm Blue and Gold Day
Saturday, October 20	Homecoming Dance – Field House – 8pm Homecoming Dance Clean-up 11pm – Field House
Tuesday, October 23	PTSA Annual Community Forum on Gold Cafeteria – 6:45pm
Wednesday, October 24	TJ Science & Technology Apps. Due – Ms. White/Ms. Stryjewski IB Parents of Sophomores - Davala Hall – 7:30pm
Thursday October 25	Orchestra Concert -Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Saturday, October 27	Marching Band VBODA Competition Battlefield High School
Friday, November 2	Deadline for PTSA Reflections Program Entries DECA Field Trip – Hemlock
Sunday, November 4	Choral Major Works Concert – Grace Presbyterian Church – 4pm
Wednesday, November 7	IB Parents of Freshmen – Davala Hall – 7:30pm
Monday, November 12	Touching Bases – Field House/Cafeteria/Hallway – 7:20 - 10:20am FOUR HOUR LATE SCHOOL OPENING
Thursday, November 15	Sweat Suit Orders Due – Faaborg’s Mailbox (SS9)/Room E200 The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Fri & Sat, November 16 & 17	The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Monday, November 19	Junior District Orchestra Auditions – Robinson
Thu – Fri, November 29 -30	DECA Field Trip – New York City
Wednesday, January 16	IB Parents of Rising Freshmen – Davala Hall – 7:30pm

JOIN PTSA TODAY ♦ October 2007 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 1 ♦ JOIN PTSA TODAY

James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

Meet the Board...

The PTSA is launching a new column for the purpose of introducing the Robinson PTSA Board Members to the Robinson Community. Each month a different Board Member will be highlighted.

October's PTSA Board Member
Terry Matlaga Bell
PTSA 1st Vice President and Legislation



Resident: Clifton, Virginia
(15 years), Fairfax County
(28 years)

Husband: Kevin

Children: Matt 19 (Robinson '05, Currently Attending Ohio University); Kevin 16 (Class of '09); Stephen 15 (Class of '10)

Occupation: Adjunct Professor, NVCC (Reston and Loudoun Campuses)

Member Robinson PTSA Board: Since 2003

Remarks: Achievement of excellence at Robinson must be a joint effort by students, teachers and parents. Parents, the road to excellence is achieved through being involved in Robinson, i.e., volunteering, paying attention to and being involved in your student's middle and high school journey, and participating in and attending Robinson's community events, programs and/or activities. Teachers, share the supporting role with the parents in our student's success in his/her journey to excellence through their thorough instruction, reinforcement of the concepts of respect and equality, guidance and encouragement. Students, you achieve excellence by meeting the daily challenges, positively and ethically, no matter how big or small they may seem. With parents, teachers and students all focusing on achieving excellence with integrity at Robinson, every student's passage through middle and high schools will be memorable, enjoyable, and educational. Together we can achieve. We are Robinson. Join the Robinson PTSA today.

- Karen Baxter, PTSA President

Robinson Secondary School

PTSA
everychild.onevoice.

PTSA News

Candidate's Forum

This November many state and local offices are up for election. Robinson PTSA's Annual Community Candidate's Forum on **Tuesday, October 23, 2007** will focus on the following races: School Board, Board of Supervisors, Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia State Senate.

Robinson PTSA has received confirmation of attendance from the following candidates:

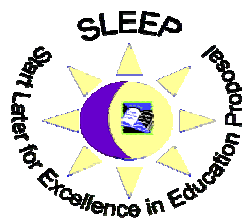
- ❖ School Board: Braddock District – Liz Griffith and Tessie Wilson; Springfield District – Liz Bradsher and Ramona Morrow; At-Large – Christian Braunlich, Ralph Cooper, Paul Costantino, Tina Hone, Steve Hunt, and Jim Raney
- ❖ Board of Supervisors: Chairman – Gerry Connolly and Gail Parker; Braddock District – Sharon Bulova and Carey Campbell; Springfield District – Mike McClanahan and Pat Herryty
- ❖ Virginia House of Delegates: District 40 – Rex Simmons; District 37 – David Bulova. Virginia State Senate – District 34 – Chap Petersen and Jeannemarie Devolites Davis; District 37 – Janet Oleszek and Ken Cuccinelli; District 39 – George Barker and Jay O'Brien

Parents, students and teachers reserve the evening of October 23rd. The program will begin promptly at 6:45pm in the Gold Cafeteria. This is your opportunity to meet and greet the candidates and hear how they answer questions from the panel and the audience. For more information, contact Terry Matlaga Bell, email address: tmatlaga@yahoo.com or call (703) 802-1496.

Robinson's Legislative Network

Staying on top of the legislative issues of interest to Robinson is an ever important task for the PTSA. Please sign up and be part of the Robinson RAMS Leg Network. No traditional meetings; most correspondence will take place via email. We need your help. Sign up today by emailing your expression of interest to

tmatlaga@yahoo.com. Please include in your email the following information: name, phone number and mailing address. Thank you.



October Update

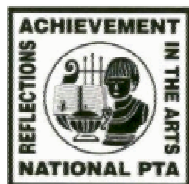
The goal of SLEEP, a grassroots organization begun by Fairfax County parents, is to have reasonable school start times for our teen students. Research shows that a later start time (of 30 minutes to an hour) corresponds with teen sleep needs, improved health, and quality of life and school performance.

To learn more about the teen sleep research, SLEEP FAQ's, the latest news and to sign our online petition, visit www.SLEEPinFairfax.org

Update: The school board's **Transportation Task Force**, made up of local stakeholders (including teachers, principals, coaches, athletic directors, parents, medical and child care community) recently had their first meeting.

Relevant information is posted to the Transportation Task Force web page, and will be updated as often as necessary. Here's the link: <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/taskforce07/index.htm>

2007-2008 PTSA Reflections for All Robinson Students



The Robinson PTSA will once again sponsor the Reflections program this year. Reflections is

a national arts recognition and achievement program for students.

The theme this year is **"I Can Make a Difference By..."**. Students, think of this theme and what it means to you. Then create and submit an entry in any of six categories. The categories are: Visual Arts, Photography, Musical Composition, Literature, Dance Choreography, and Video/Film Production.

The competition begins at the individual school level and then progresses to the council, district, state, and national level. First place Robinson winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Borders and will advance to the Council competition. All students honored at an awards ceremony in March. **Deadline for entries will be Friday, November 2.**

A complete set of rules are available in the sub-school offices and the Main Office. For more information, please contact Stacy Russell at 703-503-7967 or russellcoo@aol.com.

PTSA Special Education Committee Meeting

The PTSA Special Education Committee will meet Tuesday, October 9, at 7pm in Room 508. We meet every month or two and would greatly welcome new members. We have accomplished a lot in the last few years, but many of our members will "graduate" soon and we need new blood! We are open to working on any projects that appeal to the volunteers. Questions? Contact Paul Glen (703) 250-6218 or pglen@juno.com.

Projects the committee has been involved with include:

- ❖ Forum on college planning for students with IEP's
- ❖ Inclusive Schools Week activities, including essay contests, hallway displays and a breakfast for student participants
- ❖ Evening forums on IEP's, behavioral management, the new IDEA

- ❖ The new PTSA Delta scholarship (for students with IEP's)
- ❖ Alternatives to Four Year College resource fair
- ❖ Outreach to parents at feeder schools
- ❖ Special education section of the Robinson PTSA web site

PTSA's College Planning for Students with IEP's

On Wednesday, October 17, at 7pm in Davala Hall, Kathy Michelman, Robinson's Career Center Specialist, will reprise her excellent talk, which will include information about preparing your student for the college application process, finding the right school and planning for accommodations. For example, did you know that if your student will need accommodations for the SATs next spring, it is by no means too early to apply to the College Board. Students are welcome to attend as well. This is sponsored by the Robinson PTSA Special Education Committee. Questions? Contact Margaret Fisher 703.968.2971 jrosenthal2@cox.net.

Parent Volunteers Off to a Great Beginning!

The last week of August and the month of September are extremely busy for Robinson volunteers! Many thanks to all of the coordinators and parents who helped with locker distribution and PE uniforms, the parents who sold directories and worked the PTSA tables at the Back To School nights, and the parents who helped with high school and middle school pictures. And to think we have only been in school for 3 weeks!

If you want to get involved, please sign up on Keep In Touch or call Sharon Brown, Volunteer Coordinator, for more information (703-385-2649). We'd love your help and support! Have a great fall!

Wakeup Call: College Admissions

Problem

Most Fairfax County high school students graduating with at least a standard diploma should find a college willing to accept them. There are more than 2500 four year colleges and universities in the United States.

Virginia public four year colleges are now requiring GPA's and SAT's higher than most students anticipate. A substantial

number of Fairfax High School upcoming seniors will not have the GPA and SAT's needed to make the admissions offices' first cut at the more popular Virginia public four year colleges.

Expecting similar college admissions acceptance rates observed just three years ago is foolhardy. Admissions requirements are becoming more demanding in Virginia. College for more Fairfax County high school graduates will likely be more expensive (less competitive schools will tend to be private) and one will likely be further from home than planned.

WHY is gaining admission at one of the Virginia public four year colleges becoming increasingly difficult?

The Facts

“Applications continue to pour into America's four-year colleges and universities. Fueled by a combination of the population bulge, the ease in applying to colleges online, and the tendency for students to submit larger numbers of applications in their quest for admission, the increase in college applications has led to widespread speculation that the admission process has become increasingly competitive. Undoubtedly, the most highly selective colleges are becoming more selective, as their publicly-released acceptance rates prove. However, on average, four-year colleges and universities in the United States accept seven out of every ten applicants who apply for admission.” (from: State of College Admission 2006, National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2006, at page iv).

The number of high school students graduating each year is increasing from 2.5 million students in the mid 1990's to over 3.3 million by 2009. The table below documents the trend.

School Year	High School Graduates (US) (thousands)
1994 - 1995	2519
1999 - 2000	2833
2002 - 2003	3015
2005 - 2006	3176
2008 - 2009	3339
2011 - 2012	3256

From: Projection of Education Statistics to 2015, Table 24, National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, US Department of Education, 2005

These data show that in school year 2008 - 2009, about 170 thousand more students will be competing for approximately the same number of college admission openings as students in school year 2005 - 2006. Colleges realize that this growth in high school graduates is short-lived. They will not add facilities and faculties, long-term investments, to address a short term bulge in students seeking college admission. They will address this by being more selective.

Virginia specific data are presented in Table 26 of the US Department of Education report, cited above. Between 2003 and 2010, there will be a 12.4% increase in the number of Virginia public high school graduates (between 2010 and 2016, there is a 3% decrease in graduates, i.e., the short term bulge). More Virginia families are realizing the importance of post secondary education for successful careers, and more of their high school seniors will be seeking admission to Virginia public colleges. Virginia public colleges provide a great education and are relatively inexpensive for state residents. Over 70 per cent of Fairfax County graduates attend Virginia public colleges (Where Did They Go?, Fairfax County Public Schools, 2005). Hence, expect keener competition for those available freshman slots.

Further, Virginia high school graduates are competing for 60 % of the available freshman slots at the principal Virginia four year public colleges. The other 40% are allotted to out of state applicants.

Fairfax County Public Schools have created “scatter grams”. These are plots of GPA vs SAT for all seniors applying to college. These data are compiled at the high school level and are aggregated here at the county-wide level.

Provided here are the top, ten four year colleges that Virginia high school graduates attend. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Virginia Public College	2006 Acceptance Ave GPA Ave SAT	2007 Acceptance Ave GPA Ave SAT
Christopher Newport	3.25 1182	3.39 1173
George Mason	3.38 1149	3.44 1166
James Madison	3.60 1224	3.63 1228
Mary Washington	3.57 1241	3.57 1221
Old Dominion	3.07 1080	3.04 1067
Radford	3.06 1063	3.11 1075
UVA	3.92 1346	3.94 1347
VCU	3.15 1109	3.17 1108
Virginia Polytechnic	3.68 1255	3.71 1272
William and Mary	3.87 1355	3.90 1365

In all scatter grams at the county-wide level and all observed at the individual high school level, there is one striking fact. There is limited variation in the GPA required for acceptance. That is, one needs to have a GPA near the average accepted student GPA or better to be a serious candidate for admission. There is more opportunity for variation in SAT while remaining competitive.

The preliminary data for the Class of 2007, above, document the continuing upward trend in accepted GPA and SAT for these Virginia four year colleges.

The Bottom Line Message

Gaining admission to Virginia public four year colleges over the next few years will become more difficult for the typical Fairfax County High School graduate.

GPA matters. Having a higher GPA and taking more difficult academic courses will make you more competitive. Thinking that getting B's (3.0) is adequate high school performance will likely prevent you from attending any of these Virginia public schools in the next few years. Approximately half of the college admissions offices recalculate your GPA, counting only core academic classes (from: State of College Admission 2006, National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2006 at page vii). Students with a 3.6 overall GPA, may have a significantly lower core academic GPA.

High school GPA's begin for most in eighth grade. Getting a competitive GPA requires serious attention to all homework, quizzes, and tests. For example, if all work for the year in an Algebra 1 class totals 1000 points, one will need 936 points to get an A, 896 points to get a B+, 836 points to get a B. Losing 65 points during the school year eliminates the possibility of getting an A. Losing 105 points stops one from getting a B+. If students are not on top of things every day, it is easy to lose 10 points a month from missing homework and from not taking the extra time to prepare adequately for quizzes and tests. Grades can easily drop to a B. Playing video games or going to the movies instead of preparing adequately for each class has potential long-term consequences in this increasing more competitive world.

Go to Blackboard. There is a wealth of information allowing students to track progress and competitiveness for college admission. Within Blackboard, go to Family Connection. A Virginia public four year college each year will accept only so many students from a specific high school. Unfortunately, each student is competing against her/his high school peers. One should know how he/she compares and what one needs to do to become more competitive. Use the scatter grams to determine which four year colleges are within one's GPA and SAT range. The reality is, if a student has a 3.4 GPA and 1250 SAT's, she/he is unlikely to be competitive if she/he applies to James Madison, Mary Washington, UVA, Virginia Tech, and William and Mary in 2008 and beyond.

There will be colleges happy to accept Fairfax County high school graduates. One may have to look beyond the typical Virginia colleges that graduates have attended in the past.

- Stan Blacker, Fairfax County Council of PTAs

Fairfax County Council of PTAs



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Take a Stand Against Bullying

Bullying in schools is a long-standing, widespread problem, yet parents often overlook the harassment occurring in their own communities. Many adults imagine bullying to be the obvious intimidation of a child by a physically more powerful peer. While such harassment certainly occurs, the overwhelming majority of bullying involves a variety of behaviors that are not physical in nature, such as gossiping, spreading rumors, and name-calling. These antisocial behaviors are often dismissed as a normal part of growing up by many adults, but they have highly detrimental effects on students' well-being and academic performance.

Children in all grade levels use difference as a reason to discriminate, exclude, and make fun of their peers. When some acts of bullying (for example, physical confrontation) are punished, but others (such as racist slurs) are not, students learn that harassment is acceptable as long as it is not obvious. Therefore, prejudice and bias are more entrenched in school cultures than most adults realize.

According to findings of the Safe School Initiative conducted by the U.S. Secret Service in 2002, three-quarters of all school shootings have resulted from repeated bullying and harassment. Creating safe and welcoming classrooms must be the responsibility of lawmakers, school personnel, and the entire community.

The lessons children learn outside of the classroom—especially from their parents—about how to treat others are perhaps the greatest influence on their behavior. All parents and guardians can monitor and guide their own children's behavior, encouraging them to be more respectful toward their peers. This article is adapted from *Creating Safe Schools Is Everyone's Business* by Ryan Schwartz and Debra Chasnoff. This article appeared in the Aug/Sept 2007 issue of *Our Children* magazine, the national PTA organization's flagship publication for families and PTA leaders.

Robinson Secondary General News

Touching Bases



Touching Bases will be held on Monday, November 12, 2007 from 7:20am until 10:20am at Robinson. This is the opportunity to have brief mini-meetings (approximately 3-5 minutes) with your child's teachers. No appointments are necessary and meetings will be on a first come/first served basis. Teachers will be located in the field house, cafeteria, and main hallway. Touching Bases was a huge success last year, so please come out again to support our teachers! Students will report to school four hours later than usual and follow a modified Blue Day schedule. Please note that school lunches will not be served on this day.

Student Assistance Program Specialist

Greetings Robinson Parents,

My name is Sam Wagner and I am the Student Assistance Program Specialist at Robinson. The Alcohol and Drug Youth Services Student Assistance Program is a partnership between Fairfax County Schools, Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Alcohol and Drug Youth Services. My primary goal is to help at risk students succeed academically and socially by addressing any concerns related to drug and/or alcohol use. The Student Assistance Program provides substance abuse prevention, intervention, education, consultation and treatment referral services for students and their families. The referral process is simple and free. Teachers, administrators, social workers or other professional staff may refer identified students and their families. Additionally, parents may refer their child to me directly. I am also here to answer any questions that students, staff or parents may have in regards to alcohol or drugs. Please note that all referrals are kept **CONFIDENTIAL!** Information is only released when proper consent is given. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (703) 426-2266.



Ram Branch

The Ram Branch of the Apple Federal Credit Union (AFCU) opened for business and the school year on Tuesday, September 25. The branch is student run and is part of a business partnership between AFCU and FCPS which focuses on teaching students the importance of saving and good money management skills. The Ram Branch is located in the gold cafeteria; operating hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 – 12:15. Students from the 4th and 5th period Finance classes and the 5th period Accounting classes are working as branch tellers. A teacher liaison is also present to assist student tellers and to answer questions for the Robinson community. Do you have your AFCU account yet? Interested? Contact the Business & Information Technology department for more information.

IB Program Meetings

IB Coordinators Lisa Green and Wendy Vu will be holding a series of meetings for parents to learn more about the IB program. All meetings will take place in Davala Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Parents of Senior Diploma Candidates	Wednesday, October 10
Parents of Juniors	Wednesday, October 17
Parents of Sophomores	Wednesday, October 24
Parents of Freshmen	Wednesday, November 7
Parents of Rising Freshmen	Wednesday, January 16

Questions? Call the IB Office at 703.426.2254 or e-mail Lisa.Green@fcps.edu or Wendy.Vu@fcps.edu.

Attention All Users of KIT:

Per Fairfax County all KIT messages must go through our school, for Robinson Secondary via Barry.Gorodnick@FCPS.edu. You are no longer able to send out KIT messages independently of the school.

Job Opportunity

Clerical Substitute at Robinson:

- ❖ **Description:** fill in for clerical staff when they are on leave; answer phones; take messages; check students in and out; greet visitors; etc.
- ❖ **Qualifications:** good people skills; skill in written and oral communications; able to multi-task
- ❖ **Hiring Requirements:** completed resume or application; current negative TB test; two letters of reference
- ❖ **Hours:** 7am to 3pm. (full day) part-time hours are also possible
- ❖ **Salary:** \$12.42 per hour

Training will be provided. To apply, or for further information, contact Andrea Shimer at 703.426.2102.



MyLunchMoney.com



New Features and Enhancements

We are proud to announce new features designed to make your experience on myLunchMoney.com as easy and convenient as possible. We are always working to make our services better for you. So check out the complementary, cool, new features that will be available for this coming school year and be sure to spread the word about myLunchMoney.com.

- **Student Sales History Report.** This allows a parent to view what is being spent from their child's account over the past seven days. This helps parents maintain control over spending.

9/10/2007	Lunch	CHSQUESD, OTISCOOK	\$2.35
9/11/2007	Lunch	CHSPIZZA	\$2.00
9/12/2007	Lunch	ICECREAM,PBJSANDW	\$2.60
9/13/2007	Lunch	ICECREAM,MAC/CHS	\$2.60
9/14/2007	Lunch	ICECREAMPBJSANDW	\$2.60

- **View cafeteria account balance.** Parents can view how much money is on the cafeteria account and when it was last updated with myLunchMoney.com.
- **Low Balance E-mail to Parents.** An e-mail notification can be sent to parents each time that child's balance is low. Parents can be assured that their child will always have money in their account.
- **Expired Credit Card Notification.** Our Expired Credit Card Notification feature can send an e-mail to parents when their credit card is about to expire, avoiding any delays in funding because of an expired credit card.

Make payments to cafeteria account on myLunchMoney.com

- **Make payments to cafeteria account over the internet.** Cafeteria account can be funded using credit and debit cards. There is a \$1.95 fee for each credit or debit card payment.
- **Smart Pay.** Set up "Smart Pay" so you don't have to monitor your child's account balance. Money will be added to your child's account whenever the balance drops below your preset limit. There is a \$1.95 fee for each credit or debit card payment.

Please visit www.myLunchMoney.com and sign up to take advantage of our secure credit card prepayment system. Accounts should be active approximately a week before school starts. For more information call 1-800-479-3531.

Valor Dictus

ROBINSON SECONDARY SCHOOL □ 5035 SIDEBURN ROAD, FAIRFAX, VA 22032 □ 703-426-2285

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

The staff of the *Valor Dictus* would like to offer at-home subscription services to interested parents and community members. The *Valor Dictus* subscription package includes a mailed copy of the newspaper every time we print for a total of \$15.00. The *Valor Dictus* will print eleven issues this year. **ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROBINSON SECONDARY.**

Please address payments to:

ATTN: *Valor Dictus*
Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032

**Thank you for
your support!**



If you do not want to receive an at-home subscription to the *Valor Dictus*, but would like to support us, please fill out the following to send in with your donation. **ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROBINSON SECONDARY.** We plan to run the names of our donors in two selected issues along with their status of support (i.e. plus supporter, gold supporter, etc.). **Thank you for your support!**

Pledge Form:

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Address _____

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Please check one of the boxes below to let us know if you would like us to print your name in selected issues:

Yes, I would like my name printed.

No, I would not like my name printed.

Please address payments to:

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Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032

\$20

**Plus
Supporter**

\$40

**Bronze
Supporter**

\$80

**Silver
Supporter**

\$100

**Gold
Supporter**

\$ _____

Other



Sweat Suit Order Form

Due October 15th and November 15th ~ Turn in to Mrs. Faaborg's Mailbox (Sub School 9) or room E200

\$30 for sweatshirt, \$25 for pants (either style) \$50 for sweat suit combo



Hoodie Sweatshirt \$30 each
(White with gold lettering outlined in Blue)

Quantity

Small	
Medium	
Large	
Extra Large	
XXL	



Sweatpants Style 1 \$25 Each (Rams down left front leg)
Blue sweatpants with gold lettering outlined in white

Quantity

Small	
Medium	
Large	
Extra Large	
XXL	



Sweatpants Style 2 \$25 Each (Rams on the seat of pants)
Blue sweatpants with gold lettering

Quantity

Small	
Medium	
Large	
Extra Large	
XXL	

Student's Name: _____

3rd period class and room number: _____

Total Sweatshirts ordered (\$30 each): _____

Total Sweatpants ordered (\$25 each): _____

Total Due: _____

\$50 for sweat suit combo

*Please attach checks and make payable to Robinson Secondary School
Sweat suits will be distributed at the beginning of November and December to students 3rd period classes*

Middle School and High School Class News

Classes of 2012 & 2013: The View from the Middle School

Magazine Drive

The school year has gotten off to a fast start. We are now in the middle of our annual Magazine Drive. We are working with Great American Opportunities for the fourth year and are hopeful that we will have another successful year raising funds for use in the middle school. With these funds, we are able to defray the costs of the seventh grade field trips, give money to the eighth grade teachers to fund the annual 8th grade day at the end of the school year, purchase technology for use in the classrooms to enhance learning opportunities for students, help the middle school music programs pay for buses to go to some of their competitions, and fund several other projects and activities that benefit your students. Thanks to all of our middle school families for helping us in this endeavor. Special thanks to Terri Thompson for being our volunteer coordinator for this year's drive and to her team of parents who have been spending time counting orders, counting money, and distributing prizes! We have taken steps to ensure that all of those who order magazines through our students will be having their subscriptions delivered within weeks of turning in their orders.

Staff/Parent Coffee

October 11, we will be hosting a coffee for parents of middle school students. It will be held in the evening from 7:00-8:30 in Davala Hall and will provide you with information about after school activities in which your students can become involved. This will also be a time to meet your administrators and some other people who are working with your students in the middle school. We look forward to seeing you on the 11th.

New Attendance System



It was great to have so many parents come out for Back To School Night! The feedback that we received from you was very helpful. Thank you for your input. We will consider all comments and try to improve our program in the future, if possible. Those of you who attended received magnets with the new attendance line numbers printed on them. If your student is absent for a school day, please call 703-426-6040. The seventh grade extension is 1001 and the eighth grade extension is 1002. You can record your student's absence on the appropriate extension. At the end of each school day, an automated call out system will begin contacting parents/guardians of students who have been marked as not attending one or more class periods. This new system will help us all keep better records on our students. We hope that you will find the new system to be more efficient as well. Please review the middle school policy regarding attendance that is printed in your students' new agenda books.

Homecoming Week and Football Game Attendance Expectations

Homecoming Week is October 15-19. Thursday the 18th, we will be holding our first middle school dance from 2:15-3:45. Please remember that students staying after school for the dance are expected to stay for the duration. If a student needs to leave early, then an adult needs to come to the cafeteria to meet the student. No student will be dismissed before 3:45. This week ends with a school wide Pep Rally in the field house. The Homecoming football game on Friday, October 19 is preceded by the Robinson Homecoming parade and the Taste of Robinson activities around the school grounds. Come out and enjoy the festivities with your family and plan to stay for the game. At all home football games, we expect all middle school students to be accompanied by an adult of post-college age to enter the stadium. Students who are not with an adult will not be permitted into the stadium and will need to be picked up immediately. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Drama Club

The first meeting of the RMS Drama Club will be on Wednesday, October 3 from 2:15-3:45 in Davala Hall.

Junior District Orchestra

Junior District Orchestra Auditions will take place on Monday, November 19 here at Robinson Secondary School. All 7th-9th graders are invited to audition. In addition, students may earn service hours for working at the audition event. Please see Mrs. Rupert for audition materials and information.

Classes of 2008 through 2011

Homecoming Festivities



Robinson's Student Government Association has been working hard to put on an exceptional Homecoming! This year's theme "Destination Robinson" is sparking many creative ideas for Homecoming events.

The week's festivities will include:

- ❖ **Monday, October 15 - Variety Show (7:30 pm)** – A talent show where the winner can win spirit points for his/her grade. Come show off your unique talents at the show!
- ❖ **Tuesday, October 16 - Powder Puff (6:00 pm)** - All four grades of girls will compete in a game of flag football coached by a team of men from each grade. There is also a men's dance team performance at halftime.
- ❖ **Wednesday, October 17 - PSAT Day** - (no activity)
- ❖ **Thursday, October 18 - Lockerbay Decorations (6:00 pm)** - Each grade is challenged with decorating their lockerbays with their own "destination" them in only two hours. Decoration themes by grade: 9th - Destination Europe, 10th - Destination Outerspace, 11th - Destination Hogwarts, 12th - Destination Graduation
- ❖ **Friday, October 19 - Taste of Robinson, Parade, Pep Rally (3:30 pm)** - A parade that will include various organizations, clubs, elementary school students, and high school organizations will kick off this community event. The parade will return to Robinson for a carnival of games with food from local restaurants to pump up Ram Spirit before the football game.
- ❖ **Saturday, October 20 - Homecoming Dance (8:00 pm)** - Semi-formal dance held in the Field House at Robinson.

For spirit points students are encouraged to dress up according each **Spirit Day**. **Monday- Tie Dye Day, Tuesday – Jersey Day, Wednesday- Pajama Day, Thursday- Camo Day, Friday – Blue and Gold Day.**

Robinson's SGA would love to invite students and their families to participate in all the events Homecoming has to offer. Please come and celebrate your school spirit during this enjoyable Homecoming week! Go Rams!

- Emily Stanchi, SGA Secretary

Volunteers Needed to Clean-Up after Homecoming



Dear Parents,

This year the SGA would like to ask for your help. After the Homecoming dance is over we have trouble cleaning the gym up. We would appreciate your assistance on **October 20th after 11pm** when the dance ends till the gym is cleaned. We don't know how long it will take but the more volunteers we get the less time it will take. If you are interested in helping please email us back at soccerstarmg@aol.com or misslivii@yahoo.com. Please notify us as soon as you know. We will send reminders the week of homecoming. Thank you, from the SGA-The Dance Committee.

Class of 2008

WELCOME
CLASS OF 2008!!

www.ramsangp2008.com

Please note--you can keep up with all the happenings of the senior class and the progress of the All Night Grad Party at our fantastic website: www.ramsangp2008.com. Take a look! Seniors, check out the photo albums and baby pictures and send yours in, too! Get involved and let's have everyone represented on the site!

Boosters, Clubs and Departments

Guidance

Middle School

We've had a few **changes in the Middle School counseling staff** in September. We congratulate Amelia Mitchell who has been promoted to Director of Student Services at Hughes Middle School. We are pleased to welcome the newest member of the middle school counseling staff, Tara Filmyer. Please refer to the following chart for name and phone number of your child's counselor.

7th Grade

Kelly White	Lasers, Comets	703-426-2226
Michael Behm	Eagles, Champions	703-426-2225
Charles Grausz	7th Blue Stars	703-426-2219

8th Grade

Charles Grausz	Gold	703-426-2219
Laura Stryjewski	Purple, Red	703-426-2215
Tara Filmyer	Green, 8th Blue Stars	703-426-2214

In September, counselors visited classrooms, introducing themselves to students on each team. In addition, students were surveyed for interest in groups on such topics as grief, stress, making friends and stress. Counselors will present **Sexual Harassment Prevention** lessons to students in October. Counselors are available to help your child with academic and other issues. Please contact your student's counselor if you have questions or concerns about your child.

Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology Information Night for eighth grade students and parents will be on Thursday, October 4 from 7 -8 pm in Davala Hall. An admissions coordinator will provide an overview of the application process and answer questions. Applications for Thomas Jefferson will not be available at the meeting. Eighth grade students will need to contact Kelly White (SS 7) or Laura Stryjewski (SS 8) for an application. Return completed applications by Wednesday, October 24th to Kelly White or Laura Stryjewski.

If you have a **change of address or phone number**, please call the guidance secretary, Rachel Lorbeske, at 703 426-2222. If you are moving to a different area, please send a written notification a week before the withdrawal date.

High School

The School Counselors at Robinson are looking forward to another wonderful year. Here are some issues that we believe are important to review for the early fall.

College Application process: School Counselors met with all seniors on September 17 and 18 to review the college application process. We gave each senior a senior packet. Please review the packet with your child. Review the transcript and recommendation request deadlines at the back of the packet. Please remember that counselors are working with 60-70 seniors

and need time to write a recommendation. We ask that all students look now at the college application deadlines, then 1) fill out the transcript request, 2) attach the Secondary School Report to the request, 3) have your counselor sign off and then 4) bring the transfer request to Ms. Lucey in the Main Guidance Office. Counselors also need the student, parent and teacher inputs forms at least 4 weeks in advance. All counselors need time to get the recommendation and transcript packets together to send out to the colleges and universities. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email your child's counselor.

Family Connection: For those of you in the process of looking at colleges and universities for your child, Family Connection is an invaluable tool that FCPS is providing to you! Family Connections provides a place where a student can investigate colleges, explore career choices and much more. It is easy to access. Log on to the FCPS 24-7 Learning account. Click on to Family Connection. It will be located on the lower left hand side. You may need to scroll down to find it. Investigate the site – there is information about every four year college and university in the United States!

PSATs and EXPLORE: On October 17, the ninth graders will be taking the EXPLORE (pre-ACT) test and the tenth and eleventh graders will be taking the PSATs. All 10th graders will have the PSAT scored, but ninth and eleventh graders must pay to have their exams scored. The cost is \$15; checks are to made out to Robinson Secondary. If you have not done so already, students may pay and register during lunch the week of October 12th.



NOW is the time to register for the upcoming 2008 Spring crew season! Learn About Crew on our website (www.robinsoncrew.com) then attend the Crew General Membership Meeting in the Russell Theatre at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 10th or email/call our membership chairperson, Ellie Oakley, at eoakley@cox.net // 703-239-9321 to join.

Also, mark your calendars for the 'Round Robinson 5K Run/1K Fun Walk on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Open to all ages and ability levels. Medals given to top age group finishers. Become a sponsor of the race and have your company logo put on the race t-shirt and/or crew website. Check our website (www.robinsoncrew.com) for registration information and details or email/call Barb Shaffer at bbcsjj@cox.net // 703-764-0430.





What is DECA? At this time of the year, marketing students and parents seem to be asking the same question: What is DECA?! DECA is a co-curricular association exclusively for marketing students. On behalf of Robinson DECA, welcome to the 2007-08 school year!

The current officers Yasmin Elgibali (Chapter President), Iliana Mancia (District President), Dalton Jones (Secretary), Abdullah Rashid (Historian), and the Marketing teachers would like to take this opportunity to explain DECA to those who may be unfamiliar with the program. DECA is a co-curricular association of marketing students that strives to create future leaders by embracing community service, social activities, professional business networking, competition, and unforgettable experiences. For the past 2 years, Robinson DECA has been the largest DECA chapter in the state of Virginia. This year, one of our goals is to keep that tradition going. With over 400 marketing students, we are encouraging all of them to become active members of DECA this year! How do they become members? It's easy! The marketing students can either pay their \$29 dues or they can participate in the Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser to defer the cost.

DECA members strive to make a difference in our school and in our community. In the past, they have taken on unaddressed international issues. Last year a group of students partnered with the Global Medical Relief Fund and raised over \$5,000 through fund-raising events in order to sponsor two Iraqi Children's travel expenses for medical treatment in the United States. DECA members have taken on many causes through competitive projects such as women's heart disease, domestic violence, and child trafficking. The Robinson DECA Chapter is anxiously waiting to see what issues we will address and promote this year.

When students join DECA, opportunities are placed right at their fingertips. One of those opportunities that is closing approaching is Hemlock! This field trip will be for the students who are interested in taking on a leadership role within our DECA chapter. The trip is scheduled for November 2! We are looking forward to all the teamwork workshops that will be taking place. Hemlock isn't the only place that Robinson DECA is going to in November! Watch out New York! Here we come! On November 29-30, we are going to New York City! On this trip, students will be able to visit the Meadowlands in New Jersey, tour the famous NBC studios, attend the Color Association, eat dinner in Little Italy, attend the Broadway show, STOMP, attend a Macy's marketing presentation and fashion show, get a tour of Yankee Stadium, attend a MAC Pro make-up appointment and much more.

These are just some of the opportunities that are presented to marketing students and DECA members through the Robinson Marketing Department. We are looking forward to having a great year! If you would like further information about DECA or about the marketing department, please contact one of the marketing teachers: Casey Hepner, Sarah Hinkhouse, George O'Brien, or Kellen Scott.

Drama



2007-08 Drama Boosters Officers

The Robinson Drama Boosters would like to announce the following Officers for 2007 – 2008:

President	Jane Blechman	703-239-2616
Vice President	Carol Caputo	703-425-1865
VP/Membership	Stacy Russell	703-503-7967
Secretary	Julie Wharton	703-953-5934
Treasurer	Deborah Hirsch	703-503-3550
Tickets	Kim Jones	703-825-1103
Hospitality	Kristin Auch	703-272-8949
Chaperones	Jeanne Rowan	703-426-2718
Publicity	Mariana Vervena	703-503-0503

Drama Boosters is the parent organization dedicated to supporting the Robinson Theatre Arts program. The Boosters assist in such areas as transportation, chaperones, production assistance, and hospitality. This support helps to provide the students a safe and fun environment to explore the Theatre Arts. Please feel free to print and paste this list over the Drama Boosters Section on the back of this year's Robinson Calendar!

Robinson High School Theatre Presents—



The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940: It's the winter of 1940, and a masked figure is killing a maid. The next morning everything seems peachy, and the owner of the same New York mansion is hosting a backer's audition for a musical. When

the group of guests -- consisting of a singer/dancer, a terrible comedian, an undercover cop, an Irish tenor, a theatre director, a producer, and two writers -- gets snowed in, things really start to happen. The hostess is murdered. The comedian soon realizes that all of the guests were a part of previous play, in which the "Stage Door Slasher" murdered three women. The guests assume that the Stage Door Slasher has returned... But has he? Who's killing people this time? Who's keeping secrets? To find out, come see *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

This ingenious and hilarious show will be performed in Russell Theatre at 7:30pm, November 15, 16, and 17. Tickets are \$8 before October 31, \$10 thereafter, or \$10 on-line anytime. To order, please go to www.RobinsonDrama.org. Also, Robinson HS Theater plans to present *Les Miserables* this spring! Consider becoming a Drama Booster and getting a Season Pass, also at www.RobinsonDrama.org.

- Christina Kann

TheatreSports Tournament

Come Enjoy the Countywide High School TheatreSports Tournament - ***Freestyle (no judges, prizes, rules, just FUN!)***. The Tournament will be held in Russell Theatre, Friday, October 5 at 7:30pm. Just \$5! Anyone can play in this audience-suggestion-based improv comedy event. Future Competitions are scheduled for January 4, February 29, and May 16.



Choral

All choral parents of chorus students are invited to attend the RCPA meetings this year. All meetings begin at 7:00pm in the HS Choral Room and last for approximately one hour. The list of meeting dates can be found on www.robinsonsings.org.

On **Sunday, November 4th** the choral department will present its second annual **Major Works Concert** featuring singers in the Select Women's Chorus and Robinson Singers. It will also feature the debut performance of the Robinson Young Women's Ensemble and members of the orchestra and band who will serve as instrumentalists in the performance. The concert begins at 4:00 PM at Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA.

Become a choral patron by showing your support. Your name will be listed in the concert programs throughout the year. Visit the department website to download the forms.

The **cookie dough fundraiser pick-up** date is **October 9th**. Please make arrangements to pick up and deliver your cookie dough that day.

This year the choral department is traveling to **New York City** for their spring trip. More details to come next month!

RBOPO

Programs & Websites

The music programs at Robinson are in full gear and off to a fabulous start. Our Middle School and High School Band and Orchestra students are working very hard. Check out our websites www.robinsonband.org and <http://www.robinsonorchestra.org> and see what we are up to. Please join us at our next RBOPO Meeting at 7pm, October 9 in the High School Band Room.

★ Rams March thru 400 Years of American History ★



Perhaps in your visits to the back parking lots at Robinson you have seen the Interstate moving van and a fleet of unusual rolling cubes made from pvc piping? These accoutrements are part of the special

back-drop as the Marching Rams celebrate 400 years of our nation's history with their 2007 show- "An American Salute". Along with stirring musical renditions of several patriotic favorites, this year's show includes an on-field photographic tour of inspirational American symbols. In addition to performing at all home football games, the Marching Rams take their show on the road performing at several Marching Band Competitions beginning at the North Stafford Invitational at North Stafford High School on September 29th, continuing at the Hanover Hawk Marching Invitational near Richmond on October 13th and completing the season October 27th at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association Competition at Battlefield High School. The Marching Rams and RBOPO would like to extend a **special thank you to Interstate Van Lines** for their assistance

and support in providing the trailer and transportation for this year's patriotic show props!

Orchestra Concert

Please join the Robinson Orchestra for their first concert of the year on October 25th at 7:30pm in the Russell Theatre.

TAG Day Thanks!

If you made a **tax deductible** donation to our music students during our Annual RBOPO Tag Day, many thanks! Your generous donations will be put to good use supporting our Robinson students. If we missed you, you still have an opportunity to contribute by mailing your **tax deductible** contribution to RBOPO, P.O. Box 39, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or contributing via PayPal directly on the RBOPO website at <http://www.robinsonband.org/rbopo.html>. It is never too late to donate. Your generosity will really set this year's program up for success, and your support is greatly appreciated.

For the Holidays



The Holiday Season is Almost upon us. Get your White House Ornaments, Robinson Ornaments, Fruit, Pies, and Holiday Greens! In keeping with tradition, RBOPO will soon be selling White House Ornaments and the Robinson Ornament. Both ornaments are beautiful and there is sure to be high demand, so

buy yours soon! Additionally, we will soon begin our holiday sale of citrus fruit, pies, and holiday greenery. For graphics and ordering instructions visit the RBOPO Store on our website www.robinsonband.org, or see a band or orchestra student nearest you. Go Rams! Rich Kurz, rbopo@robinsonband.org.

Academic

Help! The Robinson Academic Booster's need you! The Robinson Academic Boosters Membership Flyers didn't make it into the back to school packets, **so we need you to fill out the form on the next page (15)** and send it in to us so that we can continue to promote and support the academic achievements of all students at Robinson, grades 7-12. We need your monetary support and your volunteer support. Most of our volunteer jobs are one time events during the year and require a minimal commitment. **Did you know that without the support of the Academic Boosters, the following would *not* happen:**

- ❖ There would be no Boost Tickets for teachers to hand out to reward students for their efforts?
- ❖ There would be no Middle School honor roll ribbons?
- ❖ The AMC 8 Math Exam, Latin Exam and German Exam wouldn't be funded, nor would there be proctors?
- ❖ There would be no Science Fair ribbons or reception?
- ❖ There would be no Lamp of Knowledge pins for those earning Academic Letters?
- ❖ There would be no Freshman All A's Breakfasts?
- ❖ There would be no Pizza Party for the 10th-12th graders who earned A's in all their core classes the previous year?
- ❖ There would not be 3-4 \$1,000 in scholarships given each year to Seniors in honor of Jean Genovese?

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

Dedicated to the academic growth and success of all students

ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

In June 2000, Robinson High School earned the first Sallie Mae Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence. We, at Robinson, pride ourselves on our high achievements, balancing athletics, activities and academics, to develop well-rounded, successful students.

To continue this tradition of excellence, the Academic Booster Club pledges to support the academic achievement of all students at Robinson Middle and High Schools.

JOIN TODAY!

Your Support Is Needed!



The Jean Genovese Memorial Scholarship

In May, 2002, Jean Genovese, President of the ABC, passed away from cancer. Jean gave countless hours of her time to Robinson SS. In her memory, the ABC has established a Senior Scholarship.

2006-07 ABC Meeting Dates:

Mondays
Sept. 10 Nov. 12
Jan. 14 Mar 10
May 12

7 – 9 p.m.

at Robinson Secondary School

Officers

Pres: Shari Bedker 830-8473
sharimomcpa@cox.net
VP: Lorelei Allen 250-0879
Dj4allen@verizon.net
Sec: Gail Hogan 239-1222
ghogan@noblis.org
Mbrshp: VACANT
Treas: VACANT
Newsltr: VACANT

Faculty Advisor: Rick Mondlach
richard.mondlach@fcps.edu

ROBINSON ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB Fall '07 Membership Form

Student(s) Name(s) _____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____
Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____
E-mail address (for newsletter mailing) _____

Membership:

\$15

Additional contributions (any amount is appreciated)

Total: _____ (tax deductible)

**** Please make checks payable to: Robinson Academic Booster Club ****

Jean Genovese Memorial Scholarships (for HS Senior) _____ (tax deductible)

****Please make scholarship checks payable to Robinson S.S., note: Genovese Scholarship**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Please check if you are interested)

___ *Newsletter and Website Support Chair* – publish newsletter 3times/yr and establish and maintain website on Robinson Secondary School.

___ *New Teacher Welcome* – September; distribute letter of welcome to new teachers.

___ *Subject Awards Pizza Party* – October; help organize pizza lunch for H.S. students

___ *Middle School Honor Roll Ribbons* – help order, put name stickers on ribbons, 3 times/yr.

___ *Freshman All-A Honor Roll Breakfasts* – send out letters, purchase donuts/bagels and juice, bring to school for a.m. breakfast, 3 times/year

___ *Exam Proctors* – Feb. and Mar., proctor high school math and/or language exams

___ *Science Fair Reception* – call parents from list to bring food; attend fair and host food table; January

___ *Senior Academic Letter Awards Breakfast* – March; organize coffee/muffins for reception

___ *Golf Tournament and Silent Auction* – October; coordinate with Athletic Boosters to participate in Golf Tournament fundraiser in September—help out with our biggest fundraiser!

___ *As Needed*—help on an “on-call” basis

___ *Volunteer Coordinator*—contact volunteers

PLEASE consider becoming an officer for our vacant positions!

It only takes about 4 hours per month! Contact any existing officer for information.

****Return to: Academic Booster Club, Robinson Secondary School,
5035 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032**

Craft Fair Thank You!



The members of the All Night Grad Party Planning Committee would like to send a sincere and heartfelt **"Thank You!"** to all who helped with this year's Craft Fair at Robinson! The All night Grad Party is a safe, fun event for our graduating seniors the night of their graduation and we are thankful to the Robinson community for supporting this! We appreciate all the efforts of our volunteers--everyone from the students and parents who helped with set up and clean up, to the people who staffed the Craft Fair on both days, to those who baked all the scrumptious goodies for the bake sale--and everyone else in between! Thank you for your generous response to our needs and for your over-the top helpfulness! The success of the Craft Fair depended on you and you made it happen! Thank you! See 2008 ANGP website at www.ramsangp2008.com.



Robinson Band 2007

Robinson Secondary School

PTSA[®]

everychild.one voice.

Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Avenue
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www.robsonptsa.org

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