

The RamGram



Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

June 2008

June 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.

Monday, June 2	Band Banquet – 6:30pm
Tuesday, June 3	All Materials & Fines Due to Media Center
Wednesday, June 4	MS Football/Track & Field Sports Clinics – Gym – 2:20pm - 4pm
Thursday, June 5	MS Yearbook Distribution Day Drama Boosters End of the Year Banquet – Cafeteria MS Field Hockey/Wrestling/Track & Field Sports Clinics – Gym – 2:20pm - 4pm HS Orchestra Concert & Senior Awards – Russell Theatre – 7pm
Friday, June 6	MS Eighth Grade Day SGA Eighth Grade Dance – 7 - 9pm
Sunday, June 8	Cappies Gala – JFKennedy Center Concert Hall – 7:30pm
Mon-Fri, June 9-13	Exam Week
Tuesday, June 10	Senior Graduation Practice – 9:15 - 11am Athletic Training Program VHSL Sports Physicals – 4:30pm - 7:15pm
Wednesday, June 11	Early Dismissal – 11:45am
Thursday, June 12	Early Dismissal – 11:45am CLASS OF 2008 GRADUATION – GMU Patriot Center – 7:30pm CLASS OF 2008 ANGP – 10:30pm Muster at Robinson
Friday, June 13	Early Dismissal – 11:45am – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, July 1	Subschool Administrative Offices Change Locations
Mon-Thu, Jun 23 – Jul 3	Drama Boosters Stage Door Theatre Workshop (Two Week Camp)
Mon-Fri, Jun 30 – Jul 11	Drama Boosters Fun in Theatre Camp (Two One Week Camps)
Mon-Wed, Jun 30 – Jul 18	Drama Boosters Curtain Call Camp (Four One Week Camps)
Mon-Fri, Jul 21-Aug 8	MS Summer School
End of August	Bulk Mailing from Robinson Including Information for 2008-2009 School Year
Monday, September 8	Academic Boosters Meeting – Principal's Conference Room – 7pm
September 2008	Crew Interest Meeting

JOIN PTSA TODAY ♦ June 2008 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 1 ♦ JOIN PTSA TODAY
James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

PTSA News



School Board's Transportation Task Force and SLEEP Update

News about Later Start Times: FCPS Staff is developing new bell schedules and cost estimates, to be completed by the end of July. The school board will start considering these in the fall for possible adoption for the 2009-10 school year. Recent decisions to maintain the status quo for many transportation-related services may inflate the resulting cost estimate. The Transportation Task Force (TTF) had recommended several changes designed to make the recommendation cost-neutral, but most of those have been rejected. The decisions will affect both the cost of the plan and school start and end times.

Current start times:

- ❖ Elementary schools, 7:50 to 9:25 with many starting after 9:00;
- ❖ Middle schools, generally 7:20 to 8 am
- ❖ High schools, 7:15 to 7:30.

The Task Force proposed start times:

- ❖ Elementary schools, 7:50-9:40 am, with about 80% before 9 am and the rest on a rolling bell intended to get them started by 9:20 am if possible.
- ❖ High schools, 8:35 to 8:55
- ❖ Middle schools, 9:20 to 9:40

The staff plans to continue to combine high school and middle school runs at Edison/Twain and Woodson/Frost and may combine other high school and middle school runs. SLEEP opposes this approach because it means more elementary schools will open later, possibly as late as 9:40 a.m. The Task Force had hoped that most elementary schools would start by 9:20 a.m.

Please visit www.sleepinfairfax.org to sign the petition and to keep apprised of the latest developments. We all need to work together to develop a bell schedule that works for all of the students in Fairfax.

- Terry Tuley, SLEEP

Robinson Secondary General News

2008

The Robinson Secondary Class of 2008 ANGP Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contributions:

Gold Donor:

*INOVA Health System
Robinson PTSA*

Silver Donor:

*BDI
Fairfax City Auto Dealers Assoc.
Middleridge Civic Association*

Bronze Donor:

*Burke Athletic Club
Burke Lions Club
Carol Hermandorfer, Long & Foster
Clifton Lions Club
Dr.s Laurence Murphy & Stacey Staats
Fritz & Company, P.C.
John Bilodeau, D.D.S.
MADD-Northern VA
National Quality Products
Oak View Garden Club
Prosperity Bank & Trust
Sharon Godfrey insurance
St. Mary's Knight of Columbus
Stephen T. Lanier, D.D.S.
Supervisor Sharon Bulova
Terra Centre PTA
The Robinson Drama Boosters
Virginia Heritage Bank*

Blue Donor:

*Bonnie Brae PTA
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Diana Whitfield, Long & Foster
Dominion First Mortgage Corp.
Embroiderme
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Andrews
Paul T. Olenyn, D.D.S.
Sherif Elhady, D.D.S.
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church*

Funded in part by:

**The Safe and Drug-Free Schools
and Communities Act Federal Grant**

MADD- Northern Virginia Grant

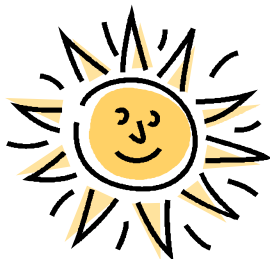
Virginia State Police Association Honor Roll Award

Special Donations:

*1-800-Flowers/Twinbrook Floral
Aladdin's Eatery
Brion's Grille
Burke Racquet
Chesapeake Bagel Cafe
Corner Bakery Cafe, Fair Oaks Mall
Costco
Crest Cleaners
Dominos Pizza
Giant at Burke Centre Parkway
Giant at Burke Village
Glory Days
Great Harvest Bread Company
IHOP
J.R.'s Stockyards Inn
Karin's Florist
Mindworks Educational Services
Mr. Car Wash
Oak View PTA
Outback Steakhouse
PF Changs
Safeway at Burke Centre Parkway
Safeway at Old Keene Mill Rd.
Safeway at Twinbrook
San Vito
Saxbys Coffee
Shoppers Food & Pharmacy
Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah
Smitty's Building Supply
Starbucks
Tau Tau's Restaurant
The Cheesecake Factory
The Rappaport Companies/Springfield Plaza
Tippy's Taco House
Trader Joe's
Twinbrooke Chiropractic
University Mall Theater
Virginia Eyecare Center
Walmart
Wegman's*

Prevent Summer Slide... Read Throughout the Day, Every Day

Research shows that reading just four to five books during the summer can keep a reader from losing ground. Even so, it may be hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. So, encourage your teen to take advantage of *every* opportunity to read. Here are some things you can have your child do *throughout the day* and *all summer long*.



Morning:

The newspaper is a great place to start - even if it's just the comics or the day's weather. As reading the paper becomes a habit, your child will find a hot topic to follow or discover that he or she has interest in other sections of the newspaper, too. Talk with your child about current news, social, or sports events.

Daytime:

Recipes, schedules, directions, TV guides, magazines, online resources are all around us. For example, if your teen took responsibility for preparing just one meal per week, think about all the reading he or she would do: searching through cookbooks and recipes, listing needed ingredients and comparing labels while shopping, as well as reading and probably rereading the directions while cooking.



Evening:

A great book is simply the best way to end the day. You'll want to make sure your child has lots of choices. Take advantage of the public library or visit a book store and look at booklists. Two good places to start for recommendations are:

www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/index.htm

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/Reading/YA

Remember that reading is everywhere
and we do it all the time -
even in the summer time.

Middle School and High School News

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

From the Principal

One of the toughest aspects of seeing another school year come to an end is having to say good-bye to some of our colleagues and fellow teachers who are retiring. This year, we have three long-time Robinson teachers and our social worker are leaving us for retirement. **Jim Rike** has served as one of our science teachers for many years. For the last eight years, he has been the department chair for the middle school science department. Along with a highly successful tenure as the varsity coach for Robinson's girls' soccer team, Jim has been a wonderful person with whom to work. Though his students start the year off in fear of the big man with the frown, they soon learn that he is funny and insightful and someone who really cares about them. **Bruce McCall** has been one of our civics teachers and team leader of the Red team for fifteen years. His calm, mild mannered approach with his students produces great results in their efforts. His fellow teachers have the upmost respect for him and appreciate his good insight and wisdom. He has been a quiet strength within the middle school. **Anne Ferranti** has been one of our 7th grade special education teachers for several years. Anne is always good for a conversation... just stay away from the topic of politics! Marsha Alter, our middle school social worker leaves us after four years. We have shared Marsha with a couple of elementary schools, but she, along with Anne, helped get our Positive Behavior Support program off the ground. We thank these ladies & gentlemen for all they have done for our school. They will all be greatly missed and we wish them the best as they cruise into retirement!

Congratulations to: Genamarie McCants for recording the second fastest time in the country in her age group in the *400 meter dash*; our *Technology Student Association* team under Steve Snyder's guidance who did so well in their first state competition: **Ian Doten**, 1st place in Electronic Applications; **Michael Sherburne**, **Andy Artze**, **Jimmy Case**, 2nd place in System Control (Lego Mindstorm robotics); **Andy Artze**, **Michael Sherburne**, **Adam Summers**, 2nd place in Technology Transfer (Mass Production); **Ian Doten**, **Kyle Withers**, **Kyle Gaulke**, 4th place in Electronic Game Design; **Adam Summers**, **Brian Tong**, **Hunter Madden**, **Amine Mendoun**, 4th place in F1 Co2 Cars; **Brian Kropaczek** and **Jennifer Harazin**, who received 1st place and honorable mention, respectively, at the *Fairfax County Band Directors' Association Solo Competition*.

Students may no longer preorder **yearbooks**. If they wish to get one on the same day as their friends, Distribution Day, Thursday, June 5, they may bring \$45 in cash or a check made out to Robinson that day. Any books remaining will also be sold before school and during lunches in A223 starting June 6. Eight page autograph supplements that attach to the book will also be sold on June 5 and after for \$3. Also, all students need to have their **library** obligations taken care of (fines and/or missing books) in order to receive or purchase a book on June 5. All materials and fines are due to the MediaCenter by June 3.

Friday, June 6, eighth grade students will be taking part in our annual **Eighth Grade Day**. A music assembly, a carnival setup in the eighth grade subschool, karaoke in Davala Hall, a track meet, and creative team relays in the field house will be enjoyed by our eighth graders beginning at 8:30 in the morning. The **Eighth Grade Dance** will be held on Friday night, June 6 from 7:00-9:00 PM. This is an annual event that is sponsored by our SGA and requires semi-formal attire (suits, sport jackets, dresses). This is NOT a formal affair!! It is a great way for our eighth grade students to have a special and fun evening as they prepare to say goodbye to their middle school years. Please plan to pick up your students promptly at 9:00.

The week of June 9-13 will be exam week for all of Robinson's students. Though middle school students will have culminating activities for their classes rather than final examinations, they will still be following the high school's exam schedule for attendance and dismissal. Please remember that Friday, June 13 will be the last day of school for students. There will be no distribution of unofficial grade reports on that day. Here's the schedule:

...Classes of 2012 & 2013: The View from the Middle School Con't

Monday, June 9 – Regular school day

Tuesday, June 10 – 2nd period exam – dismissal at regular 2:05M

Wednesday, June 11 – 1st and 3rd period attended – dismissal time 11:45 AM

Thursday, June 12 – 4th and 6th period attended – dismissal time 11:45 AM

Friday, June 13 – 5rd and 7th period attended – dismissal time 11:45 AM

Information About School Closing

Remind your student to bring home personal items that he/she may have in his/her locker at school or in the subschool's lost and found. Each subschool has conducted a locker clean-out day to encourage students to take all unnecessary items home. All lockers will be emptied after dismissal on the last day of school. Any items of clothing left in lockers will be stored for a short time and then donated to charity or discarded.

Check at home for items such as textbooks and library books that belong to the school. The school will assess a fine to students who do not return all schoolbooks. Fines will be assessed for damaged books. Parents will be notified of what books are missing or damaged. When students fail to pay for missing or damaged items, they will not be issued lockers in the fall.

Families of rising 9th graders should pay attention to high school activities listed for summer dates and activities to support the beginning of high school.

By July 1st, the subschool administrative offices will have changed locations, as we do every summer. Rising 8th graders will find their subschool location downstairs. The office phone number will be 703-426-2220. Mrs. Newcome can be reached at 703-426-2221. The rising 7th grade office will be located upstairs. The office number will be 703-426-2210. Mr. Hall can be reached at 703-426-2211. Towards the end of August, you will be receiving a bulk mailing from Robinson that will include information about the upcoming school year. The school year calendar, supply lists for students, disciplinary guidelines and other important information will be found in your packet. Bus route information will also be provided. Remember that walkers and out of boundary students wanting to ride the school bus for the 2008-09 school year are required to submit a "Request for Exception to Ride a School Bus" form. If you have questions about transportation, please call 703-658-5800.

Middle School Guidance News

Summer school: Fairfax County Public Schools is offering a Middle School Summer Program for students who have failed one or two core subjects (English, mathematics, science and/or social studies) or who have failed both the English and mathematics 2008 SOL test(s). The program will focus on literacy and numeracy to assist students in preparation for their next school year. The summer program will be held from July 21 to August 8 at Robinson. Attendance is required for the duration of the program.

Other Summer Opportunities: Please check online for information about mini-courses for enrichment and Thomas Jefferson HSST Preparation Seminars. Encore, the FCPS Summer School Programs booklet, can be found at www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/prek12.html. You can find information and registration forms.

Waiver of high school grades: Middle School students taking courses that result in high school credits—Algebra or a foreign language—and do not want the end of year grade recorded on the high school transcript may have the class and grade removed from the transcript. A request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the high school director of student services.

If you move during the summer, please notify the guidance office. If you move within the Robinson boundaries, you must bring proof of residency, either deed or rental agreement, to the guidance office. Please contact Rachel Lorbeske at 703 426-2222. The Middle School Guidance office will be closed July 2 to 6, 2008. Have a safe and happy summer!



The GREAT Escape in '08 – *Cruising into the Future*

First stop... The ESPN Zone!

The All Night Graduation Party is just around the corner!! THE TICKET COVERS EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR A GREAT TIME - chartered bus, food, games, movies, DJ, airbrush tattoo artist, casino, and prizes.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO MAKE SURE YOUR ANGP EXPERIENCE IS GREAT:

★ After graduation change into party clothes ASAP - changing facilities will be available at Robinson, or you can change at home if it is nearby.

★ Meet up with friends at Robinson between 10:45 and 11 PM - leave all belongings except keys or cell phone in your car. You are responsible for any personal items you bring to the ESPN Zone. Personal items can not be left on the buses! Students may not drive to the ESPN Zone!

★ Check-in by picking up your Passport and head to the buses. **STUDENTS MUST CHECK-IN AT ROBINSON AND MAY NOT DRIVE TO THE ESPN ZONE.**

★ The ANGP is dedicated to substance-free fun and those who cannot abide by that principle will be not be allowed to attend the ANGP. Students will be scrutinized for illegal substance use. Anyone found to be under the influence will not be allowed to attend. The ESPN Zone has their own security as well - anyone found to be breaking a law in the ESPN Zone could be facing the DC Metro Police.

★ For security reasons students must return to Robinson on the same bus as they arrived. Raffle prizes will be drawn on the bus ride home! You have to be on your bus to win. Students will be back at Robinson between 4:30 AM and 5 AM

OVER 450 TICKETS HAVE BEEN SOLD!

To see who has bought a ticket go to www.ramsangp2008.com

For more information please contact: Shelley Draheim (703-426-2540) & Jewell Mikula (703-250-4345)

- *ARRIVE AT ROBINSON BY 10:45 PM - CHANGING FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE
- *STUDENTS MAY NOT DRIVE TO THE ESPN ZONE.
- *TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON JUNE 12TH - THE DAY OF
- *IF THEY NEED TO GO HOME DUE TO ILLNESS A PARENT WILL BE CONTACTED TO PICK THEM UP - A PARENT WILL ALSO BE CALLED IF A STUDENT WHO BOUGHT A TICKET IS A NO SHOW

June 12TH

Schedule of Events For Seniors!

6:00pm - Arrive at GMU Patriot Center for Ceremony Preparation

7:30 - 10(ish) - Graduation

10:30 - Start arriving at Robinson for ANGP check-in process (there will be a wardrobe changing area for both men & women at RHS if needed)

11:00 - First bus scheduled to depart

11:45 - LAST bus scheduled to depart Robinson

ESPN Menu Schedule:

All Night:

Assorted sodas & water

12:00 - 1:30 AM:

Five foot submarine sandwiches stacked with roast beef, salami, turkey, ham, cheddar, American, Swiss, lettuce, tomato, red onion, black olives, pickles, mustard and mayo

12:00 - 2:30 AM:

Assorted snack favorites including trail mix and Cracker Jacks

2:30 - 4:00 AM:

Assorted muffins and pastries with butter and preserves. Fresh pineapple, watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew melon garnished with grapes and strawberries

Boosters, Clubs & Departments News



ROBINSON CREW

www.robinsoncrew.com



2008 Virginia State Championship Medal Winners

Congratulations Robinson Crew on your success at:

[the VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:](#)

[& at the LOWER BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS:](#)

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
1st eight	8th @ STATES	2nd @ STATES
2nd eight	4th @ STATES	2nd @ STATES
3rd eight	5th @ STATES	3rd @ STATES

W 4th 8	3rd @ LOWER BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS
W Novice 8 (A)	2nd @ LOWER BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS
M Freshman 8	12th @ LOWER BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Women's 1st, 2nd, & 3rd 8s and the Men's 1st & 2nd 8s qualified for the National High School Rowing Championships in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (May 23rd -24th). Visit www.robinsoncrew.com for results from Nationals! Crew is a varsity spring sport open to all high school students. No experience required & varsity rowers can letter! Check our website for information about summer & fall rowing camps that you can try to see if crew might be for you! Plan to attend our interest meeting in next fall (Sept. 2008) to learn more about crew. **Be challenged! Push yourself! Join Us!**

JOIN PTSA TODAY ♦ June 2008 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 9 ♦ **JOIN PTSA TODAY**
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Robinson Academic Booster Club

An organization to support the Academic Achievements of ALL Robinson Students!

I am pleased to announce that the Academic Boosters voted on the officers for the 08-09 upcoming school year. The officers will be:

Shari Bedker, President
Lorelei Allen, Vice President
Gail Hogan, Secretary
Betsy Peck, Treasurer
Lisa Fitchett, Membership

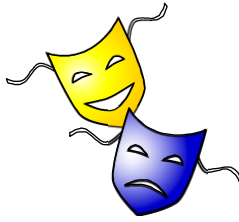
Many thanks again to ALL the volunteers who helped this year. This is my first year as president and my job was so easy with all the support everyone gave me. The Robinson Staff has been so supportive and we really appreciate everyone's help with our projects, especially our faculty advisor, Rick Mondloch for all his advice and storage space!

For those of you who need to schedule things far in advance (like I do!) the first meeting of the year will be Monday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the principal's conference room. We can always use your help, most of our "jobs" can be done in as little as 1-2 hours during the school year-a great way to be involved and fits into just about any schedule.

We would like to find someone to "shadow" our wonderful Vice President, Lorelei Allen, next year as she is in charge of getting proctors for the math, Spanish, German and Latin National exams and coordinating with the teachers for those four exams. This is a very important volunteer position and as next year will be Lorelei's last year at Robinson, we would like to have someone trained by the expert!

Look for the membership forms for 2008 - 2009 that will be in your child's back to school packets-you'll be helping out the students at Robinson AND getting a tax deduction!

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



Robinson Drama News

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, our Cappies entry, was nominated for **BEST PLAY!**

Nominations from that show are:

Set Nicole Brzozowski, Kelly Rowan, Patricia Doherty, Christina Kahn

Costumes Piper Hillman

Stage crew Marisa Brown, Greg Hagar, Erica Kim, Julieanna Novak

Comic Actor Michael Criste

Supporting Actor Philip Canniff

Supporting Actress Mariah Proctor

**Congratulations Cappies Nominees! Come see them perform at the
Cappies Gala, June 8th @ 7:30
Concert Hall, JFKennedy Center!**

Tickets \$30; purchase after June 6th from the Kennedy Center/Ticketmaster

There are still openings at Drama Camp! Robinson Drama Boosters offer three camps:

Curtain Call Camp

Four one-week camps for rising

2nd–8th graders

June 23-27 • 9-12 & 1-4

June 30-July 3 • 9-12 & 1-4

July 7-11 • 9-12 & 1-4

July 14-18 • 9-12 ONLY

Stage Door - Theatre

Workshop

Two-week in-depth Drama &

Tech Theatre camp

for rising 7th–9th graders

June 23-July 3 • 9:30am to 3:30pm

Fun in the Theatre

*Two one-week camps: Intro to
Theatre for rising 1st-6th graders*

June 30-July 3 • 9 am to 4 pm

July 7-11 • 9 am to 4 pm

Need more info? E-

mail www.camp@RobinsonDrama.org Or check our website, www.RobinsonDrama.org.

Congratulations to: our Drama Students who have been selected for *Girls State*: *Mimi Lynch and Sarah Russell* and the members of the community who received *Robinson's People's Choice awards* for their contributions to the Robinson Drama Department: *Frank Ruth* – photography, and *Butch Criste*—set construction.

The Robinson Drama Boosters will host the *end of year banquet* for Drama Students on **June 5th in the Cafeteria. There will be limited tickets available at the door.**

Take a Theatre Arts Class Next Year!

Hands-on learning, not desk work! You control how much homework you have (or don't)!

Rehearsals NOT required after school

Theatre 1 – Theatre games, improvisation, scene study. Confidence and communication skills!

Theatre Production Company – Rehearsal and performance for those with previous experience!

Technical Theatre – Create the lighting, sound, set, costumes, props, and special effects of drama!

Theatre 2 – Ensemble work from world famous plays. Comedy, Shakespeare, Drama, Musicals!

IB Theatre – NO previous experience required. Theatre theory and practice on a global scale!

*** All advanced classes attend **field trips** to professional shows & area **festival competitions** **

For more information, contact Mr. Rome at www.RobinsonDrama.org or your **guidance counselor**

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Congratulations Class of 2008!

Robinson Secondary School

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everychild.onevoice.

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www.robinsonptsa.org

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