

The RamGram



Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

March 2008

March 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, March 3	Read Across America
Mon-Fri, Mar 3-7	SLEEP Awareness Week
	Foreign Language Week
Tuesday, March 4	EARLY CLOSING – 10:25am
	RBOPO HS/MS Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert – 7pm
	8 th & 11 th Grade SOL Writing Test
	FCPS Regional Parent Meeting – Hayfield Secondary – 5:30-9pm
Wednesday, March 5	HS/MS Choir Concert – 7pm
	8 th & 11 th Grade SOL Writing Test
Thursday, March 6	8 th & 11 th Grade SOL Writing Test Make-up
Thu-Sat, March 6-8	RBOPO HS/MS Orchestra Festival – Westfield
Saturday, March 8	Interims Mailed
Monday, March 10	Academic Boosters Meeting – Principal's Conference Room – 7pm
Mon-Fri, March 17-21	SPRING BREAK
Sunday, March 23	ANGP Mulch Order Deadline
Saturday, March 29	ANGP Mulch Delivery Date (for 10 or more bags)
Monday, March 31	PTSA People's Choice Award Nominations Due*
Tuesday, April 3	FCPS Regional Parent Meeting – Robinson Secondary – 5:30-9pm
Thursday, April 5	FCPS Regional Parent Meeting – Chantilly High School – 8:30am-12pm
Wed-Mon, April 9-14	RBOPO Band & Orchestra Spring Trip to Orland, FL
Friday, April 11	PTSA Friends & Heenan Scholarship Applications Due*
Wednesday, April 16	ANGP Senior Parent Meeting – Robinson Media Center – 7pm
Thu-Sat, May 1-3	<i>Les Miserables</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Fri & Sat, May 9 & 10	<i>Les Miserables</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm

* PTSA People's Choice Award Nomination Form Inside RamGram

** PTSA Scholarship Applications Inside RamGram

PTSA Delta Scholarship for Students with IEPs

The Robinson Secondary School PTSA is pleased to announce the availability of the second annual Delta Scholarship for Social and Academic Achievement. This \$500 scholarship will be granted to a Robinson senior who has had an Individualized Education Programs in place for at least two of his or her years in high school and who has overcome obstacles on the road to either academic or social success. For this scholarship, it is not the beginning point or the ending point that counts but rather the growth along the way. This scholarship shall be used to fund post-secondary education, including four-year, two-year or vocational programs.

Nomination forms are available from the Career Center and from Margaret Fisher jrosenthal2@cox.net (703) 968-2971.

♦ ♦ ♦ Inside RamGram: Fairfax County FY 2009 Budget Adopted by School Board ♦ ♦ ♦

PTSA News

School Board Adopts FY 2009 Budget

As you may be aware, the School Board adopted its FY 2009 Advertised Budget on February 14, 2008. Prior to that meeting, public hearings were held and nearly 200 citizens and community and employee groups testified. Based on those hearings and other community input, the School Board made the following decisions:

- ❖ Eliminated proposed student activity and athletic fee
- ❖ Reduced the expansion of Full-Day Kindergarten from 21 to 10 schools
- ❖ Reduced the expansion of the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools program from 16 to 8 schools
- ❖ Deferred completion of staffing elementary schools with technology specialists
- ❖ Reduced funding for the student information system (SASI)

The School Board also voted to restore a number of programs, including:

- ❖ Transportation for students to gifted and talented (GT) centers and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and for administratively placed students
- ❖ The College Partnership program
- ❖ The Elementary School Focus program
- ❖ The Middle School and High School Enhancement program
- ❖ Proposed preschool special education cuts
- ❖ Modified calendar schedule for three existing schools
- ❖ Fifty-five of 111 general education Instructional Assistant positions
- ❖ Funding support for National Board Certified Teachers and Applied Behavior Analysis

The School Board's advertised budget also includes:

- ❖ Three percent COLA and step increases for eligible employees
- ❖ Class size increase of .5
- ❖ Summer school redesign
- ❖ Redesign of Quest, Student Accountability, Young Scholars, and Summit programs and Excel components
- ❖ Elimination of K-2 Initiative for at-risk students, time-out rooms and textbook adoptions
- ❖ Reductions to assistive technology and inclusive schools resource teachers
- ❖ More than \$10 million in central office reductions

To fund the budget, the School Board is requesting a transfer from the County of \$63.7 million or 4.0 percent more than the current funding level. This continues to be a difficult year and even though the School Board voted to restore some programs, we are not out of the woods yet. Budget guidelines from the Board of Supervisors included no increase for FCPS in FY 2009. If the County is unable to provide any of the requested increase, we will then have to cut \$63.7 million from our budget. The County Executive will present the county budget to the Board of Supervisors Monday morning, February 25. The county will adopt their budget in April and the FCPS budget is adopted in May. I will keep you informed throughout the budget season and further details on the process can be found at this link <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/>. Thanks for everything you do for Fairfax County Public Schools.

- Jack Dale, Fairfax County Schools Superintendent

Parental Rights at Stake

Parents and other advocates of children across Virginia are mobilizing to influence the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) regulation process so that key parental rights are not rolled back. These regulations are being revised to reflect certain changes in federal law. Recently, the VDOE released its proposed regulations and is now accepting public comment. As parents poured through the 315 pages of legalese, they discovered a number of provisions that have raised major concern.

Virginia has been in the forefront of promoting and protecting the necessary parent-school partnership that ensures children with disabilities are properly identified and served by our local school divisions. The proposed regulations represent a step backwards in Virginia's historic guarantee of parental rights in special education. On February 4, the FCCPTA Executive Board approved a resolution to submit comments to the VDOE on fifteen provisions. This comment can be viewed on the special education section of www.fccpta.org along with a side by side comparison of the relevant old and proposed Virginia regulations and the federal regulations.

If you feel strongly about these or other provisions, the time to write the VDOE is now. In brief, the FCCPTA Executive Board endorsed the following positions:

- ❖ Parent consent to the termination of services and to services for transfer students must be preserved.
- ❖ Child Study Committees must not be eliminated.
- ❖ Functional Behavioral Assessments must be true assessments and not merely a review of existing data. They should be required when schools impose a long-term removal of a student.
- ❖ Transition services should continue to start at age 14.
- ❖ Timelines for determining eligibility for special education services must not exceed the federal guideline. Any extension beyond that timeline should only occur with parental consent.
- ❖ The Developmental Delay category should extend to age 9 to avoid harmful mislabeling of young children.
- ❖ The definition of autism should not require schools to make a medical diagnosis.
- ❖ Eligibility criteria should not be made more restrictive.
- ❖ The term "intellectual disability" should be substituted for "mental retardation," and the term "emotional disability" should be substituted for "emotional disturbance."
- ❖ Students under disciplinary removal should continue to receive services adequate to allow them to progress in the curriculum. If the school is required to return them to their original placement, that should be interpreted as meaning to the original school as long as that is in the children's best interest.
- ❖ Reports on a student's progress towards their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals should be made as often as other students receive report cards.
- ❖ IEP teams should include the consideration of short term objectives on their agenda.

- ❖ Prior Written Notice should be required as often as it is currently.
- ❖ Appointment of due process hearing officers should remain the responsibility of the Supreme Court of VA and not be given to VDOE.
- ❖ Special Education Advisory Committees should not include employees of the school district as voting members and should not be required to meet gender and ethnic requirements.

You can support the Executive Board comments by forwarding them to the VDOE with a note, "I endorse these comments and would like them recorded as my own." Or write your own. Either way, please do it today! Email ReviseSpedRegs@doe.virginia.gov, or fax to (804) 786.8520, or mail to Special Education Regulations Revision Process, Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services, Virginia Department of Education, PO Box 2120, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120.

- Margaret Fisher, SEC Committee

National SLEEP Awareness Week March 3-7, 2008

SLEEP is joining the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) in observing National Sleep Awareness Week. NSF's mission is to educate the public, share information and raise awareness about sleep and its connection to overall good health.

NSF will be coordinating visits for volunteers to meet with representatives to advocate for sleep on Capitol Hill throughout National Sleep Awareness Week. These volunteers will speak with our representatives about the importance of sleep, the impact of sleep disorders, and the tragic consequences of sleep deprivation, such as workplace accidents and drowsy driving.

Information about National Sleep Week and more information about sleep and sleep disorders is available at www.sleepfoundation.org. For information about the importance of healthy school start times for our teens, visit www.SLEEPinFairfax.org. Join the almost 8,000 Fairfax County citizens who have signed our online petition!

- Terry Tuley, SLEEP

Robinson PTSA Elaine Heenan Memorial and "Friends" Scholarships

The Robinson Secondary School PTSA is pleased to announce the availability of the Elaine Heenan Memorial Scholarship for Volunteerism and the "Friends" Scholarship for Involvement in Activities at Robinson. This year the PTSA has increased the amount that will be awarded to each of the scholarship recipients from \$500 to \$1,000 and is hoping to award multiple scholarships.

The Elaine Heenan Memorial Scholarship is given annually in memory of Mrs. Elaine Heenan. Mrs. Heenan was a long time extremely dedicated volunteer at Robinson Secondary who died of cancer in June 1985. Five of her six children are Robinson graduates. Her youngest daughter graduated in 1985 just a few days prior to Mrs. Heenan's death. This scholarship, which the PTSA has awarded every year since 1985, will be

awarded based on demonstrated exemplary achievement and an ongoing commitment to provide volunteer service to the school and/or the community.

The "Friends" Scholarship is presented annually in memory of all Robinson students and graduates whose lives ended before they had the opportunity to realize their full potential. The "Friends" Scholarship will be awarded based primarily on a student's involvement in activities at Robinson throughout grades 9-12.

Both scholarships are to be used to fund post-secondary education, including four-year, two-year or vocational programs. Application forms and additional information are available in the Robinson Career Center and on the Robinson PTSA website. **All applications are due no later than the end of the regular school day on Friday, April 11, 2008.** The names of the winners will be announced at the Senior Awards Ceremony in June. Questions regarding the Robinson PTSA Scholarships should be directed to Bonnie Roffenbender, PTSA Scholarship Chair, at roffen@cox.net or (703).691-2849.

-Bonnie Roffenbender, PTSA Scholarship Chair

2008 People's Choice Awards

Each year, the Robinson PTSA honors members of the Robinson school community who have done an outstanding job promoting positive human relations in the school. Award recipients are acknowledged at a reception in April and receive a certificate for recognition and an engraved paperweight. A plaque commemorating all previous award winners can be found in the Main Office at Robinson. A listing of recipients can also be found on the PTSA website.

All members of the Robinson community may submit nominations or be nominated: students, teachers, aides, counselors, secretaries, coaches, cafeteria staff, principals, school bus drivers, parents, custodians, librarians, sponsors, etc. **Suggested criteria:** Who are the people who make you feel respected and welcomed? Who do you feel most comfortable approaching for help, support or information? Who is notable as an individual whose enthusiasm, kindness or caring attitude makes it more pleasant here at Robinson? Who has done something special to bring people together? Previous award recipients are ineligible to be nominated again. Nominations may not be made by family members. **Forms are available in:** 1) all sub-schools, 2) the Main Office, 3) the Administrative Office and 4) this RamGram. Please complete the nomination form and 1) place it in an envelope that can be found in each sub-school office, 2) place it in the PTSA mailbox in the Administrative Office, or 3) mail to: Robinson PTSA, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.

Winners will be notified in writing and invited together with their nominators, family, and colleagues to attend an award presentation to be held after school in April. **Deadline for nominations is 3pm, Monday, March 31, 2008.** For more information please contact: Karen Baxter, PTSA President, karenbaxter@earthlink.net, (703) 978-0975 or Vicki Kagan, HS Director of Student Services, Vicki.Kagan@fcps.edu.

- Karen Baxter, PTSA President

Statement of Activities

Activity	Description of Your Involvement (i.e., length of time, awards received, accomplishments, leadership roles, etc.)

Statement of Volunteer Service

Name of organization or person for whom you have performed volunteer service: _____

Description of volunteer activity:

Hours per week: _____ Weeks per year: _____ **OR** for infrequent or one-time volunteer service projects only, you may report the total volunteer service hours for the project: _____

Circle the periods of time you performed this volunteer work:

Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12
Summer (9-10) Summer (10-11) Summer (11-12)

Name, title, e-mail, or phone number of contact person: _____

Name of organization or person for whom you have performed volunteer service: _____

Description of volunteer activity:

Hours per week: _____ Weeks per year: _____ **OR** for infrequent or one-time volunteer service projects only, you may report the total volunteer service hours for the project: _____

Circle the periods of time you performed this volunteer work:

Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12
Summer (9-10) Summer (10-11) Summer (11-12)

Name, title, e-mail, or phone number of contact person: _____

Name of organization or person for whom you have performed volunteer service: _____

Description of volunteer activity:

Hours per week: _____ Weeks per year: _____ **OR** for infrequent or one-time volunteer service projects only, you may report the total volunteer service hours for the project: _____

Circle the periods of time you performed this volunteer work:

Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12
Summer (9-10) Summer (10-11) Summer (11-12)

Name, title, e-mail, or phone number of contact person: _____

Robinson Secondary General News



**You are invited to a
Fairfax County Public Schools**

Regional Parent Meeting

Three sessions are available:

Tuesday, March 4
Hayfield Secondary School
5:30 to 9 p.m.
7630 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315

Thursday, April 3
Robinson Secondary School
5:30 to 9 p.m.
5035 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, VA 22032

Saturday, April 5
Chantilly High School
8:30 a.m. to noon
4201 Stringfellow Road
Chantilly, VA 20151
*Continental breakfast will
be provided.*

Complimentary light refreshments and free, age-appropriate group child care for children ages 1-12 will be provided.

Interpreters for some sessions will be provided for the following languages: Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Learn About:

- Instructional services, including what your child is learning in language arts, math, social studies, science, health and physical education, foreign languages, and fine arts.
- Curriculum areas including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), gifted and talented (GT), Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.
- Special education.
- Helping your child with his or her education.
- Available services to support families with children in FCPS.
- Community resources available in Fairfax County.

Share your feedback on FCPS services.

For more information, visit www.fcps.edu/news/parents.htm or call 703-277-2640. Preregistration is required at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. To pre-register, complete the section below or visit www.fcps.edu/news/parents.htm.

Please detach and return to your child's teacher two weeks prior to the meeting date.

I plan to attend (choose one): March 4, 2008, at Hayfield Secondary School, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
 April 3, 2008, at Robinson Secondary School, 5:30 to 9 p.m.
 April 5, 2008, at Chantilly High School, 8:30 a.m. to noon.



Child care needed Yes No

Number of adults attending: _____

Primary phone number: _____

Children's school(s): _____

Name(s) of adults(s) attending: _____

Number of children needing child care: _____

Age(s): _____

If your child requires special accommodations or assistance, please complete the information below and return to your child's teacher within two weeks of the event.

Accessibility: _____

Communication: _____

Other: _____

School staff members: Please PONY forms to the Office of Student Services, Suite 3600, Gatehouse Administration Center I, so they are received at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Do you
NEED MULCH ?

the

ROBINSON ALL-NIGHT GRAD PARTY
2008

IS HERE TO MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS !!

MARCH 23, 2008 - ORDER DEADLINE

MARCH 29, 2008 - DELIVERY*

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ORDER FORMS
GO TO

www.ramsangp2008.com

*For orders of 10 bags or more
the mulch will be delivered to your driveway

For orders less than 10 bags
mulch will be available for pick-up at the Oak View Elementary School

Abuse of Cafeteria Student Lunch Accounts



It has come to the attention of the cafeteria manager and school administration that misuse of student lunch account numbers is occurring at Robinson.

In order to prevent your child's account from being misused, please act on the following:

- ❖ Email Jeanine Evans, Cafeteria Manager, Jeanine.Evans@fcps.edu and request that she place a dollar limit (per day) on your child's lunch account for the purchase of breakfast items and lunch. (i.e. \$8.00)
- ❖ Discuss with your child that he/she does not have your permission to share his/her lunch account number with ANY student at Robinson.
- ❖ Keep track of how frequently you are replenishing money to your child's lunch account. To keep track, you may access www.mylunchmoney.com to check on daily expenditures. If you are replenishing the account at an abnormal rate, please ask your child if he/she gave the account number to a friend to use. Once the account number has been released by your child, it's impossible to track how many students have access to the lunch account.
- ❖ If using a credit card to replenish money on your child's lunch account, please check your monthly billing statement for irregularities in the amount charged to the Robinson Cafeteria. You may wish to refer to www.mylunchmoney.com to check on daily expenditures.

Thank you, parents, for your assistance in keeping all student lunch account numbers safe from misuse.

- Debra Duncan, Assistant Principal

Robinson Secondary General News

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

Attendance



So, how is your student's attendance? Seems like a strange question to most, but we are finding that a surprising number of our students are piling up large numbers of unexcused class absences and tardies. While most of our students and parents are diligent about supplying us with information about absences, we still have several from whom we never get information to excuse absences. This year, Robinson has invested in a phone system to help our families report absences and to keep parents better informed about their student's attendance each day. If your student is recorded as not being in class for even one period of the day, then the phone system will automatically call your designated number to report that unexcused absence. Should you receive such a call, please contact the teacher of the class in which your student was reported absent if you have questions. We try to eliminate as many of those absences as possible before they are sent to the phone call out system. Each subschool's administrative assistant reviews early checkout lists, clinic sign-out lists, and other data to try and account for each student's whereabouts. Those that we can't reconcile are included in the call-out to parents

If your student is absent from school, please remember to call our attendance line at (703)426-6040 or send a note to the subschool administrative assistants within 48 hours or the absence will be considered unexcused. Fairfax County Public Schools' policy states that three unexcused absences in a quarter shall result in the student receiving an F grade for all classes in which three unexcused absences have occurred. If your student receives three unexcused tardies during a quarter, then the three unexcused tardies shall convert to one unexcused absence. Though many of our students receive unexcused tardies for the first block of the day because they missed their buses or were being transported by car and were dropped off late, we have a large number of unexcused tardies that occur for our other three class blocks each day because students are extending their socializing between classes. You should be receiving calls from teachers and counselors about all of these tardies. The first four unexcused tardies have consequences established by the teachers. Beginning with the fifth unexcused tardy, the student is assigned to an Alternative Instructional Arrangement (AIA), which is a full day, in-school detention. Please discuss with your student the importance of on time attendance in all classes.

Drama

A huge thank you to Ms. Hard, Mrs. Burakow and the fabulous cast and crew who entertained thousands of us at the Middle School Drama department's production of *Bye, Bye, Birdie!* What a wonderful job from everyone involved with this production! It is so special to have such quality entertainment from our seventh and eighth graders. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year, you really missed out on a fabulous performance! If your student is interested in trying theatre, the Drama Club will resume meeting on Wednesdays after school and auditions for the spring production will be held March 12.

Math Club

The Robinson Middle School Math Club attended the TJHSST Intermediate Math Open (IMO) competition on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Seven Robinson students competed individually and as part of a team. **Nam Hee Kim, Eugene Cai, Jin Soo Chung, Andrew Jiang, Siva Rajamarthandan, Joseph Yoon, and Jack Prothero** represented both themselves and Robinson Middle School well! **Jin Soo Chung** took 1st place for Algebra overall. **Jack Prothero** took 3rd place for Geometry overall. **Andrew Jiang** took 1st place for 7th grade Math overall. Andrew was also on the 1st place team (out of more than 20 teams) and won a trophy along with his team mates. Congratulations to each for an outstanding competition! The Math Club meets every Monday in room A119, come join us!

Yearbook List

After Spring Break, updated lists of all students who have purchased yearbooks will be posted near team classrooms. Be sure to pre-order your student's book before Friday, May 23. All students who order before that date will receive their book with their team on Distribution Day, June 5. Students who do not pre-order will have to wait until all books are distributed and pay more for the book if there are any left. Order forms are available in both subschool offices and in A223. Yearbooks only are \$40. Yearbook plus autograph pages are \$42. After distribution, books will be \$42, with autograph pages, \$45.

- Keith Hall, MS Principal

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

Middle School Guidance News

Benchmarks: To be promoted, students in grades 7 and 8 must pass English, mathematics, social studies and science. Promotion Benchmarks represent foundational skills and knowledge found in the Fairfax County Public Schools' Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning. A student who is earning a D or F in one of these core subjects is in danger of failing that subject and must demonstrate mastery of a specific set of promotion benchmarks. Students not passing benchmarks are encouraged to attend a summer program and placed in a remediation class for the next school year if space is available. The student's report card (in the comment section) will indicate if your child is not mastering promotion benchmarks in a particular subject.

March SOL testing: On March 4th and 5th, all students in grade eight in the Fairfax County Public Schools will be taking the Standards of Learning (SOL) Writing Tests. The multiple-choice portion of the Writing test will be administered on March 4th, and the direct writing portion of the Writing test will be administered on March 5th. It will be very helpful if you can avoid appointments that may take your child out of school during this time period. Also, it will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast and comes to school with a positive attitude.

Additional 7th and 8th grade SOL testing will be from May 27 – June 2. Please mark your calendars. At that time, all 8th grade students will take a SOL test for each of their academic classes; 7th grade students will take SOL tests for English, history and math, and a practice test in science.

- MS Guidance

After School Program Update

We hope your student has taken advantage of the variety of activities offered during the after school period. It is a great time to seek academic support, explore an area of interest, and make new friends. Thank you to our enthusiastic faculty and staff for planning and supervising a wide variety of activities for our students.

Stay Connected Please check Blackboard/24-7 regularly for program announcements and to print a copy of our weekly activity schedule, the Ramblast, as well as a current monthly calendar. These tools are designed to assist you in the selection and monitoring of your student's after school time. Many students find it helpful to print a copy of the Ramblast or calendar and tuck it into their agenda book for reference. All students are expected to sign-in with their club and activity sponsor or teacher by 2:20 and remain there until dismissal 10 minutes prior to bus departure.

Late bus service is available on Mondays (3:30), and Wednesdays and Thursdays (4:00). Limited activities are available on Tuesdays and Fridays with the parent pick-up time designated by the activity sponsor.

Congratulations to our Model United Nations Club, which braved the cold and ice and traveled to the College of William and Mary for a weekend conference on February 21. Our club did very well at the conference. Three of our club members, **Arjun Nandra, Jin Soo Chung** and **James Herr**, were selected to present their committees reports to the entire group of delegates during the closing ceremonies. This is the highest honor awarded at this conference. Great job, Arjun, Jin Soo, and James! Thank you to the sponsors and parents for making this happen. Model UN meets every Thursday and is open to all.

New Activities Coming This Spring . . . Dance, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Ping Pong Tournaments, and more! Activity details will be posted on 24-7. Please be sure to read and learn about all of our opportunities for your student.

Please contact Mary Aunon, After School Specialist, by calling 703-426-2339 or via email at Mary.Aunon@fcps.edu with comments or questions.

- Mary Aunon, After School Specialist

Class of 2008



The GREAT Escape in '08 – Cruising into the Future

The 2008 All Night Grad Party (ANGP) Committee members invite all Senior Parents to come to an information, question and answer session on April 16th at 7 PM in the Robinson Media Center. Find out all the details of the 2008 all-night graduation party at the ESPN Zone.

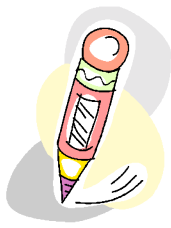
The ANGP is a big overnight celebration including movies, games, dancing, lots of food and great prizes. The reason for all the hoopla?? To celebrate their newly earned status and keep the grads safe at the same time!

Please feel free to contact the co-chairs with any questions. Shelley Draheim (703-426-2540) sadraheim31@aol.com or Jewel Mikula (703-250-4345) jewellmikula@cox.net.

- Shelley Draheim and Jewel Mikula, ANGP Co-Chairs

Boosters, Clubs & Departments News

English



The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) each year sponsors a prestigious Writing Achievement Award contest. This school-based writing program was established in 1957 to encourage high school students in their writing and to publicly recognize some of the best student writers in the nation. The contest takes place in the spring, and winners are announced the following October. This past October, **Dennis Shiraev** was named one of 17 outstanding writers in the state of Virginia. Our nominees for Spring 2008 are **Lauren McCook**, **Christine Watts** and **Michaela Jones**. Contact information:

Randi.Adleberg@fcps.edu

- *Randi Adleberg, chairperson, HS English*



ROBINSON CREW

www.robinsoncrew.com



Congratulations to all crew members that participated in the recent 2008 Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints. Robinson rowers had a strong showing with many placing in the top 10 in various events. Water practices began at the end of February. Regattas begin at the end of March. Visit www.robinsoncrew.com for regatta dates and locations.



- *Mary Smith, Crew*

Robinson Academic Boosters

Thanks so much to the 112 families that have joined Academic Boosters for 2007-08! If you would like to join, we accept members all year-you can find the membership form on our website at <http://www.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS/boosters/abc>.

Science Fair Reception: On January 31, the Academic Boosters were pleased to provide refreshments and ribbons for all the

budding scientific geniuses of Robinson! Huge thanks to Patti Barber and Gail Glover for organizing the reception and to all our Academic Booster volunteers who brought in goodies to nourish the scientists and their families.

Seniors-scholarship opportunities coming in April! Be on the lookout for the Genovese Scholarship Information in the Career Center. There are two different types of scholarships, one is for Academic Excellence and the other is for Academic Improvement. In 2007, we gave out 5 \$1,000 scholarships to deserving Robinson students-it could be your turn this time! We especially hope that if you maybe started your high school career a little slowly but then were able to bring up your grades by your senior year that you will apply for the Academic Improvement Scholarship-there is NO minimum GPA to apply for this scholarship.



Help Wanted: We really need a treasurer and a membership chair for next year. Both jobs only require about 4 hours of work in September and at the most, 1 hour of work PER MONTH, the rest of the year, a great way to be involved but not get overwhelmed!

Please join us at our next scheduled meeting on Monday, March 10, 7pm in the Principal's Conference Room, to hear what we do or what volunteer opportunities might fit your schedule. Please don't hesitate to contact Shari Bedker, President, sharimomcpa@cox.net on how you can get involved or if you have any questions.

- *Shari Bedker, Academic Booster President*

SGA

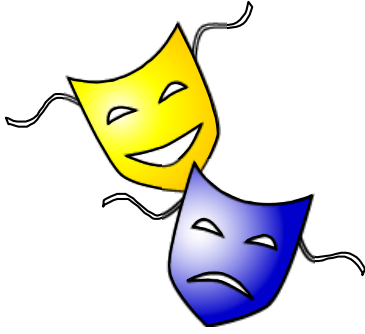
The Student Government Association has had a busy month! In February the Robinson SGA hosted Oakton, Centreville and Herndon students in a Student Exchange Program. Our class was able to learn and get ideas from these two schools about their SGA events and service projects at their own schools. Our annual Gatorball tournament on February 9 was also a success, with 24 teams of students and teachers competing. Congratulations to the Stallions for winning the championship!

At the End of February we collected our SGA applications for the 2008-2009 school year. We are now starting to plan for our student government and class officer elections for next year (April 17 & 18). Also keep an eye out for the dates of the Robinson Annual Yardsale which will be this spring. We continue to sell "Support the Troops" t-shirts in order to raise funds to send care packages to troops overseas, and in our continuing efforts to promote community awareness, we will also sell "Robinson Goes Green" water bottles.

We hope you can participate in our future activities!

- *Emily Stanchi, SGA Secretary*

Drama



Tribute to Bill Strauss Co-Founder of Capitol Steps and Cappies

High School Theatre at Robinson lost a supporter, hero, and friend in December 2007. Bill Strauss co-founded the Capitol Steps in 1981, when he was a Senate staffer. A popular political satire group, the Capital Steps frequently performed at schools, including Robinson, to help support high school drama programs. Bill Strauss is perhaps best known for his "Lirty Dies" routine, which he wrote and performed.

After the Columbine attack in 1989, Mr. Strauss co-founded the Critics and Awards Program for High School Theatre, known as the Cappies. The specific intent was to provide positive attention and encouragement to high school drama students. This program has now spread to many other cities across the United States and Canada.

Through the Cappies program, students are trained as theatre critics. They attend and review the high school productions, and publish reviews in newspapers such as the Washington Post and the local Connection papers. At the end of the year, the student critics vote for awards that are presented at a formal Cappies Gala. Many of the top honorees from around the country are invited to perform shows at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Robinson's Douglas "Chip" Rome has the honor of co-hosting:

Celebration of Bill Strauss' Life - A Life Made Full

Everyone is welcome - no tickets necessary

Sunday, March 2, 2008 - 3pm
Hayfield Secondary School
7630 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315



Robinson Drama Boosters is making a donation the Bill Strauss Memorial Fund. We can be contacted through the website: www.robinsondrama.org.

Other Robinson Theatre News

Les Miserables: Yes, we're really doing it! May 1-2-3-9-10 @ 7:30pm Tickets \$10

2008 Kids Drama Camp: Stage Door & Curtain Call

For more information or to order tickets, go to www.robinsondrama.org.

- Mariana Vervena, Drama Boosters Publicity Chair

RBOPO



All Virginia Band & Orchestra

Hearty congratulations to four Robinson musicians whose individual performances have earned them the honor of participating in the All Virginia Band & Orchestra. This all-State group will be performing April 3-5 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This year's class of talented Rams includes:

Joe Buono	Trombone
Andrew Fisk	Euphonium
Stacey Kropaczek	Trombone
Michael McMahon	Tuba (first chair in the state!)



Sweets & Swings 2008 is History More Jazz and "UK Dixieland" on the Way

Thanks to all of the Robinson Middle and High School Student Jazz musicians for a series of toe-tapping performances on Valentine's Day at the 2008 Sweets & Swing Concert in the Gold Cafeteria. Those in attendance were treated to a wonderful assortment of jazz classics and contemporary tunes under the snappy direction of Mrs. Judy Einuis and Mr. Michael Cook, while also enjoying a smorgasbord of delicious home-made desserts and assorted treats. RBOPO would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who helped make this fun annual event such a

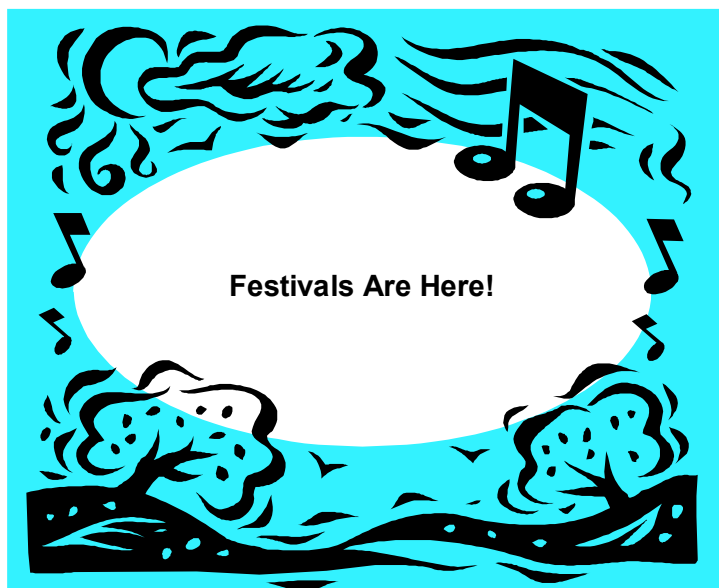
success, including in particular, coordinators Sue Fisk, Joyce Gaul and Ingrid Sides.

If you missed Sweets & Swing or are just looking for more Jazz, please mark your calendars and plan to join the Robinson Jazz musicians again at their Jazz Night concert scheduled for the evening of April 17 in the Russell Theatre. As a special treat that evening, our Robinson Bands will be hosting a guest jazz band from Kent, England—"Norton's Hot Eight" under the direction of John Hall. The Norton Hot Eight will be visiting Robinson all the way from The Norton Knatchbull School in Ashford, Kent, UK. They are an American style Dixieland Band and have successfully toured England and Europe and have been repeatedly featured on the BBC as winner of the London "Proms", England's preeminent performance competition for school groups. Their visit to Robinson will mark their second appearance in the United States and Robinson is thrilled and honored to host their week here in the U.S.



Springtime = High School Band and Orchestra Trip

Preparations for the April 9-14, 2008 Band & Orchestra spring trip to sunny Orlando are REALLY in full swing! This year, three Robinson bands and two orchestras will be making the trek to the Sunshine State for some serious competition along with fun in the sun. Pertinent details and itinerary updates continue to be available on our website at www.robinsonband.org. By now, all student account balances should have been paid and pertinent forms completed and turned in, but if you have questions please e-mail rbopovp@aol.com and look for hotel signups soon!



By the time you are digging into this edition of the RamGram, the Spring Band and Orchestra Festival season will be going full tilt, with Pre-Festival Band Concerts on February 26 and 27 at Robinson, followed over the weekend by the VBODA District XI Band Festivals at West Springfield for the High School Bands and Lake Braddock for Middle School Bands.

Following closely is the Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. featuring all Robinson Orchestras (both MS and HS.) District XI Orchestra Festival days at Westfield (with specific times to be announced) are: Middle School Concert Orchestra - Thursday, March 6, with Middle School Sinfonietta, High School Concert Orchestra and Robinson Philharmonic performing on Saturday, March 8.

Please come out and support our Robinson musicians and their directors at these upcoming festivals and concerts. It certainly is an exciting two weeks for our music program. And if you can't make it in person, be sure to ask a band or orchestra student near you about their festival experience—this is the culmination of a lot of hard work and preparation throughout the year. Go Rams!



BELL SCHEDULE FOR 3-4-08

Please note that **third & seventh** periods will **not** meet!

SOL Testing for English 8 & 11 students will take place during the extended first block!

MIDDLE SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL	
PERIOD	TIME	PERIOD	TIME
1	7:20 – 9:20 (120)	1	7:20 – 9:30 (130)
PASS	9:20 – 9:30 (10)	PASS – <u>No AM Break</u>	9:30 – 9:40 (10)
5A LUNCH	9:20 – 9:45 (25)	5	9:40 - 10:25 (45)
5A CLASS	9:45 – 10:25 (40)		
5B CLASS	9:30 – 9:45 (15)		
5B LUNCH	9:45 – 10:10 (25)		
5B CLASS	10:10 – 10:25 (15)		

Dismissal – 10:25

Buses Depart – 10:35

Staff lunch in Gold Cafeteria – 11:00

Presentation on Instruction by Dan Mulligan in Russell Theatre – 12:15 – 2:15

Robinson Secondary School

PTSA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22032



www.robinsonptsa.org

Non-profit org
US Postage
PAID
Merrifield, VA
Permit #341