

# *The Ram Gram*

Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

October 2009

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Thursday, October 1    | HS Reader's Club Meeting – Media Center – 2:10pm<br>SGA HS Fairy Tale Villain Day!<br>PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 2:15pm  |
| Friday, October 2      | INTERIMS MAILED<br>SGA HS Blue & Gold Spirit Day!  |
| Saturday, October 3    | SGA HS Homecoming Dance – Field House – 8 – 11pm   |
| Sunday, October 4      | PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 1 – 4pm   |
| Monday, October 5      | MS Reader's Club Meeting – Media Center – 2:10pm<br>RBOPO Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions – Lake Braddock HS   |
| Thursday, October 8    | PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 2:15pm<br>TJ School of Science & Technology Information Night – Davala Hall – 7 – 8pm<br>PTSA Sexting A Dangerous New Trend – Recital Hall – 7:15 – 9pm |
| Sunday, October 11     | Clifton Day Festival – Clifton – 9 – 5pm   |
| Monday, October 12     | COLUMBUS DAY   |
| Tuesday, October 13    | RBOPO Meeting – HS Band Room – 7pm   |
| Wednesday, October 14  | EARLY CLOSING - PSATs<br>MS Parent/Principal Coffee – Davala Hall – 7pm  |
| Thursday, October 15   | SGA HS Student Faculty Kickball Game<br>ABC Box Top Deadline<br>PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 2:15pm  |
| Saturday, October 17   | RBOPO Oakton Classic   |
| Sunday, October 18     | Rain Date for Clifton Day Festival – Clifton   |
| Monday, October 19     | PTSA Board Meeting – Principal's Conference Room or Media Center – 7pm   |
| Thursday, October 22   | PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 2:15pm<br>PTSA Annual Candidates Forum – Gold Cafeteria – 6:30pm  |
| Saturday, October 24   | RBOPO Towson University Competition  |
| Thursday, October 26   | ANGP 2011 Interest Meeting – Media Center – 7:30pm   |
| Thursday, October 29   | PTSA Reflections Deadline – Main Office<br>MS Dance – 2:15 – 3:45pm<br>PTSA RamGardens Clean-up – Entrance #1 – 2:15pm<br>RBOPO HS Orchestras Spooky Concert – Russell Theatre – 7pm             |
| Friday, October 30     | END OF FIRST QUARTER<br>RBOPO VA Band & Orchestra Directors Association Competition – West Springfield   |
| Monday, November 2     | NO SCHOOL – TEACHER WORKDAYS   |
| Tuesday, November 3    | NO SCHOOL – TEACHER WORKDAYS<br>Dance Clinic – 9am – 3pm   |
| Thursday, November 5   | PTSA Vendor Fair/Making the Grade – 6pm  |
| Sunday, November 8     | RCPA Major Works Concert – Grace Presbyterian Church (Springfield, VA) – 4pm   |
| Monday, November 9     | FCPS Foreign Language Credit Program Exam – Lake Braddock HS – 3:30pm<br>ABC Meeting – Principal's Conference Room – 7pm   |
| Wednesday, November 11 | SCHOOL STARTS THREE HOURS LATE – TOUCHING BASES  |
| Friday, November 13    | PTSA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Book Sale – Gold Cafeteria – 6 – 9:30pm<br>RBOPO Senior Regional Orchestra Event – West Potomac HS   |
| Saturday, November 14  | PTSA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Book Sale – Gold Cafeteria – 830 – 5pm<br>PTSA Flu Shot Clinic – Robinson – 9am<br>RBOPO Senior Regional Orchestra Event Concert – West Potomac HS – 7:30pm          |
| Sunday, November 15    | PTSA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Book Sale – Gold Cafeteria – 10 – 4pm  |
| Thursday, November 19  | Depression Screening   |
| Thu - Sat, Nov 19 - 21 | <i>Rumors</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm   |

JOIN PTSA TODAY ♦ October 2009 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 1 ♦ JOIN PTSA TODAY  
James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

# PTSA News

## ***President's Letter***

### *Recap of the Month*

What an exciting beginning to a wonderful school year!

Congratulations and thank you to the Robinson's administration and faculty for the successfully coordinated Middle and High School Back-to-School Nights.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time on Back-to-School Night to vote on the 2010 Virginia PTA Legislative Platform. Because of our school's large number of parents who vote, Robinson has continually been a strong voice in the state's PTA Legislative Platform. Thank you for your participation.

The next two months will be busy ones for our Robinson Community. There are a number of events I would like to call your attention to and ask for you to mark your calendar to attend. The first event is a special program with the Fairfax County Police Department titled, Sexting: A Dangerous Fad, on October 8th: program begins at 7:15 PM. Secondly, on October 22nd the PTSA will hold our Annual Candidates Forum, an excellent opportunity to ask the candidates present or their designees the hard-hitting questions. On November 5<sup>th</sup> Robinson PTSA will be sponsoring interactive workshops for middle and high school parents and high school students promoting academic excellence. Vendor fair begins at 6 PM; programs at 7:00 PM. Also in November, will be the Annual Used Book Sale, November 13, 14, and 15. Over 25,000 books (hardbacks and paperbacks) of all topics, CDs, DVDs, videos, computer software and books-on-tape will be for sale. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the PTSA is sponsoring a flu clinic for the Robinson community to get their flu shots or flu mist: additional nurses are needed – please volunteer.

Parents, teachers and students, you can still join the PTSA and be eligible for the drawing for the 6-month Gold's Gym membership courtesy of Gold's Gym; hurry, we will be drawing the winner soon. Also, send in your forms (Internet Safety, Safe Home Pledge, Volunteer Form, and Grocery Receipts Form). Forms can be found at [www.robinsonptsa.org](http://www.robinsonptsa.org).

We are all sold out of Middle School Directories. Thank you. The PTSA has 150 High School directories left for sale. If you are interested in purchasing a high school directory, please send in your order form ASAP. A directory order form can be found at [www.robinsonptsa.org](http://www.robinsonptsa.org).

The PTSA Board is looking to fill the following positions of Legislative and Membership Chairmen and Communications/Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Terry Matlaga Bell at [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com).

Remember do not ever hesitate to contact any member of the Executive Board with any questions or comments you may have. For a complete listing of Board members visit the Robinson PTSA website at [www.robinsonptsa.org](http://www.robinsonptsa.org).

Our next PTSA Board meeting, is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Media Center. All PTSA members are invited to attend.

On behalf of the entire PTSA Executive Board, I wish you all a wonderful Fall.

Terry Matlaga Bell, Robinson PTSA President



# Sexting: A Dangerous New Trend!



**OCTOBER 8, 2009**  
**7:15pm to 9:00pm**  
**Robinson Recital Hall**  
**Speaker: Officer Mark Gleason, Fairfax Co. Police**

Sponsored by  
 Robinson Secondary School  
**PTSA**

## What is Sexting?

Sexting is the act of sending **sexually explicit** messages, videos and photos via cell phone, instant message, text message and email.

Sexting **includes nudity, sexual acts, etc.** These explicit pictures and videos can end up online, altered or viewed by others.

- ❖ **Illegal**
- ❖ **Child Pornography**
- ❖ **Violators Are Labeled Sex Offenders For The Rest Of Their Lives**

**\*\*For More Information, Contact Heather at [zripleys418@msn.com](mailto:zripleys418@msn.com)\*\***

## 2009 Candidates Forum

The Annual PTSA Candidates Forum will be held Thursday, October 22, 2009 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Gold Cafeteria. Invited speakers include the Virginia General Assembly Delegate Candidates for the 40th, 41st and 37<sup>th</sup> Districts and the candidates running for Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get their service hours. Parents and students can meet the candidates, and ask the tough questions. The evening will be moderated by two members of SGA, one U.S. Government teacher and the President/Vice-President of the PTSA. Mark the Calendar – October 22nd, Gold Cafeteria.

## STUDENTS WANTED TO ENTER 2009 PTSA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

**Student Art, Music Composition, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Photography, and Literature wanted for Reflections Competition.** Reflections is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students. You can enter in any of the six categories: visual arts, photography, music composition, dance choreography, film production, and literature. All Robinson first place awardees will receive a monetary prize and their work will move forward to the next level of competition. All participants will be recognized by the Robinson PTSA. A set of rules can be obtained at each subschool office, the main office, or online at [www.robinsonptsa.org](http://www.robinsonptsa.org). Deadline for entries is October 29<sup>th</sup>. All entries must be brought to the Robinson Main Office NLT October 29th. Questions: contact Sandra Solares at [SSOLARES@imf.org](mailto:SSOLARES@imf.org).

## Making the Grade

Today, good is not good enough.

Excelling in Education

Free interactive workshop for parents of middle and high school students.

Free interactive student workshops for high school students in academic planning, ACT and SAT prep.

**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

Vendor Fair begins at 6 PM; Programs at 7 PM

Visit the Robinson PTSA website for additional details.

Robinson Secondary School

**PTSA**

everychild.onevoice.

Donate BOOKS (Hardbacks, Paperbacks), CDs, DVDs, Videos, Computer Software and Games  
for

## Robinson PTSA's 2nd Annual Book Sale

**Local Drop-Off  
Locations Available  
to 10/9/09.**

- Safeway - Burke Centre
- Giant - Burke Centre
- Saxby's Coffee - University Mall

**November 13, 2009: Open to the Public 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM**

**November 14, 2009: Open to the Public 8:30 AM to 5 PM**

**November 15, 2009: Open to the Public 10:00 AM to 4 PM**

Robinson Secondary School, Gold Cafeteria  
Fairfax, Virginia

**Box your items up today. Drop them off at Robinson Secondary School's Main Office any weekday from 8 AM to 4 PM to Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> or at any other designated local location. For donations of 300 or more items, call 703-606-2937 to schedule a pick-up. Last day for pickups, Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## Volunteer Nurses Needed



The PTSA is in need of volunteer nurses (RN and LPN) to help us administer the flu vaccines on Saturday, November 14th. A portion of the proceeds from the Flu Clinic will come back to the school. If you can volunteer, please contact either Heather Ripley ([zripleys418@msn.com](mailto:zripleys418@msn.com)) or Sharon Brown ([pskckbrown@cox.net](mailto:pskckbrown@cox.net)).



# LET'S FIGHT THE FLU AND KEEP OUR KIDS HEALTHY !



Influenza - commonly referred to as "the flu"- is a serious and potentially deadly disease.<sup>1</sup> Students miss approximately 38 million school days due to influenza each year,<sup>2</sup> and parents miss more than 10 million workdays caring for these sick youngsters.<sup>3</sup> Influenza is contagious and can be transmitted easily between adults and children.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the single best way to prevent influenza is to receive a vaccination each year.<sup>4</sup> Receiving an annual vaccination is more important than ever because the CDC now recommends that all children from six months through 18 years of age should be vaccinated against influenza.<sup>5</sup> Each year, people come up with all sorts of reasons for not getting an influenza vaccination. But it's important to remember that your decision to get vaccinated or not goes well beyond you. It also affects the many lives you touch...

The Robinson PTSA is committed to helping keep children, parents and the entire community healthy throughout the influenza season. That is why PTSA is partnering with Flu Dusters, a leading provider of on-site vaccinations, and Novartis Vaccines to provide convenient access to affordable influenza vaccinations for all members of our community.

**FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
**NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
**Robinson Secondary School**  
Sponsored by The Robinson PTSA

**COST (a portion comes back to RHS)**

**\$25 pre-registered**

**\$27 Walk-In**

**\$30 for the Flu Mist (must pre-register)**

*\*Medicaid and Medicare Pt. B Accepted*

### Flu Facts:

"Influenza can have serious results!-Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and the worsening of chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes; and is transmitted from person to person, including between children and adults. Of 63 children who died of influenza-related causes in the 2008-2009 season\*, 58 had not been vaccinated against influenza according to CDC recommendations; Students will miss approximately 30 million school days due to the flu and parents will miss over 10 million workdays caring for their sick youngsters.

"Influenza strains change from year to year!- Even if you were immune to influenza strains circulating in the past, you may not be immune to new strains that emerge this season; The single best way to help protect yourself from new influenza strains is to get vaccinated each year;

"Almost anyone older than 6 months of age can benefit from the flu shot and it isn't all about you! -Older adults and young children are just 2 of the groups considered to be at increased risk for complications from influenza,<sup>6</sup> but influenza vaccination can benefit almost anyone over the age of 6 months<sup>4</sup> Up to 20% of the US population develops influenza every year; Influenza vaccines are not currently approved for children under 6 months of age. Current guidelines from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that vaccination is recommended for all persons who want to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza or transmitting influenza to other should they become infected; Vaccination is recommended for the following groups: People aged 50 years or older, All children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years<sup>4</sup>, People with certain chronic medical conditions<sup>4</sup>, All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season; Health care workers involved in direct patient care, Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts<sup>4</sup> of children younger than 59 months, adults aged 50 and older; people with certain chronic medical conditions, Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Please note that influenza vaccines are not currently approved for children under 6 months of age.

"Influenza vaccines are safe for most people.<sup>7</sup> However, the influenza vaccine is not appropriate for those who have had a severe allergic reaction to eggs or to a previous influenza vaccination;

**\*For More Information, Contact: Heather Ripley at [703-239-436/zripleys418@msn.com](mailto:703-239-436/zripleys418@msn.com)\***



## **Need Service Hours?**

PTSA Ram Gardens Chairs, Claudia Dwyer-Lynch & Bev Steffen are seeking volunteer students, teachers & parents to assist with **Thursday** cleanup & garden days on **Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 2:15 pm**. Rain will cancel the event. Meet outside **entrance # 1**. Bring work gloves, garbage-leaf bag, & service hours form. Finish at 3:50 pm in time for **4 pm TH bus**.

Bev's weekend date: **Sun. Oct. 4, 1pm - 4pm**. Please bring rakes & shovels.  
Contact Claudia at [Claudia\\_Silver\\_Diner@verizon.net](mailto:Claudia_Silver_Diner@verizon.net) for more info.

Any business interested in donating mulch please contact Claudia.

**Thank You Rams!**

# 2009-2010 Robinson Secondary School PTSA Meeting Schedule

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Monday, October 19, 2009  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, November 16, 2009  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, December 21, 2009  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
General Membership Meeting/Program, Media Center

Monday, February 22, 2010  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, March 15, 2010  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, April 19, 2010  
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, May 17, 2010  
General Membership Meeting/Program, Gold Cafeteria

Monday, June 7, 2010  
General Membership Meeting, Hallway in Front of the Principal's Conference Room

Questions about an upcoming meeting? Contact Terry Matlaga Bell at [tmatlaga@yahoo.com](mailto:tmatlaga@yahoo.com)

## General School Class News

### Depression Screening November 19<sup>th</sup>

Depression Screening has been a yearly event at Robinson Secondary School for over ten years. It is being offered again, at both the High School and Middle School, and provides an opportunity for one of the student services staff here at the school to meet with students who have concerns about feelings and/or behaviors related to depression. Some of the signs of depression include ongoing sadness, feelings of hopelessness, loss of enjoyment of activities, changes in eating patterns, or difficulty concentrating. Depression increases the risk of suicide, which is the third leading cause of death for adolescents. Our goal is to help students, along with their parents, to determine whether they should seek further assistance and/or intervention.

In order for a student to participate in this depression screening, students should pick up forms at their guidance counselor's office, or the school psychologist's office (HS -in upper E across from E-217 or MS in 8<sup>th</sup> grade SS office). Included will be an introductory letter, a parent permission form, and a parent screening form (for HS students). The student should then return the last two items to his/her counselor or the psychologist. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, either the school psychologist or school social worker will meet with these students individually, discuss issues of concern, and follow up with a phone call to the parent or guardian. If you have questions, please call Kathryn Brown, school psychologist at the high school, 703-426-2206, or Jeanette deGuzman at the middle school, 703-426-2213.



## Fall in the Ann Monday Media Center

Every student is enrolled in the **24/7 Blackboard Robinson Library Course**. Parents please check the site for the following:

- ❖ Access to the Research Databases (Consumer Reports for parents available)
- ❖ Passwords for database home access - "Yellow Sheet"
- ❖ Worksheets and samples for MLA Works Cited
- ❖ Online Catalog – find out about the 35,000+ books at Robinson
- ❖ Digital Backpack – save computer work between school and home
- ❖ Science Fair Information
- ❖ News about the Book Clubs

### High School **Reader's Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – October 1 – right after school – late bus available  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month in the Library computer lab  
Students may join at anytime.

### Middle School **Robbie Book Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – October 5 – right after school – late bus available  
Meets every other Monday in the Library computer lab  
Students may join at anytime.

**Remember the library** is here for reading, research, computer use, and computer printing!  
**Parents are always welcome at the Ann Monday Media Center.**

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## 2009 Clifton Day Festival - A Family Outing

This year's 43rd annual Clifton Day Festival is held on Sunday, October 11th from 9am to 5pm. The festival has it all! Live music, children's activities, craft demonstrations and Civil War re-enactments entertain while a variety of food merchants provide delicious meals, snacks and drinks. Over 200 vendors line the town's main streets, displaying hand-made crafts, jewelry, and furniture, fine arts, and antiques. At the flea market, whimsical and non-traditional crafts, screen-printed clothing, toys and other fun articles can be found. Clifton Day is a non-profit event, raising funds for a variety of local organizations and churches. Admission to the festival is free. Parking is \$5.00 per vehicle. Train transportation is \$5 per person. A rain date is scheduled for the following Sunday, October 18th.

Clifton is nestled between Centreville, Burke and Manassas in the western edge of Fairfax County. You can get to the festival by train or car.

- ❖ **By Train** – Special train services are planned for Clifton Day by Virginia Railway Express (VRE) starting from Manassas Station to the west and Rolling Road Station to the east. While the train ride to Clifton is free, the return trip is expected to cost no more than \$5 for each rider over two years old. No bikes or pets are allowed on the train. The train schedule is posted on the Clifton Day Festival web site:  
<http://www.cliftonday.com/content/getting-clifton>
- ❖ **By Car** – All roads lead to the Town of Clifton and Clifton Day!
  - From Centreville, take either Braddock Road east or Route 29 east to Clifton Road south.
  - From Fairfax City or Burke, take Route 123 to either Clifton Road west or Chapel Road west.
  - From Manassas, take Prince William County Parkway to Yates Ford Road. At Henderson Road, turn left. At Clifton Road, turn left.
  - From points north, take Fairfax County Parkway (7100) to Route 123 south. Turn right onto Chapel Road west.

Parking for Clifton Day is only permitted at designated parking lots at the edge of town for \$5 per day. All roads through town are closed and no parking is permitted on roadsides. Handicapped parking is available at the intersection of Clifton Road and Newman Road and also by the Kincheloe Road parking lot.

Visit [www.cliftonday.com](http://www.cliftonday.com) for more information about this year's Clifton Day Festival including: free music venues and times, schedule of free children's entertainment, food options, and rain cancellation updates. Hope to see you there!

# Candy Grams

Sponsored by Future Educators of America

Candy Grams are great for any occasion! And they are only \$1.50!

Does someone you know have a birthday coming up? Surprise them with a Birthday Candy Gram! Is someone you know feeling down and in the need of chocolate? Give them the Emergency Chocolate Gram! Did someone you know just do something great, like make A-B honor roll? Send them a Congratulations Candy Gram! Is there a special girl/boy you want to ask out? Send them a Date Me Candy Gram! Surprise them with a Holiday Candy Gram!

Cost for a Candy Gram: \$1.50

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Name of recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Date you want the Candy Gram Delivered \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period classroom numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion (circle one): Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ age, Congratulations, Date Me, Friendship or

"Emergency" Chocolate, Holiday \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Who is sending the Candy Gram? \_\_\_\_\_

(If you want the sender to remain unknown, then leave this blank)

## Mailing information:

Robinson Secondary School

Ave Maria Collins/FEA

5305 Sideburn Road, Fairfax Virginia 22032

*Make checks payable to Robinson Secondary*



# Middle School and High School News

## THE VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have gotten off to a pretty smooth start to the school year, even though there have been some changes that have impacted our students. We are very aware that there have been transportation issues, but there is little that we can do since transportation is overseen by one of the support service departments within the school system. When we have been contacted by parents, we have been giving the telephone numbers of the transportation department that oversees the Robinson pyramid buses. We hope that the dust has settled and that bus routes and pick-up times have been modified as needed.

### **Please make a donation to the middle school!!**

We do want to thank the 150+ families who have made donations to the middle school in lieu of having our students selling magazines to bring in supplemental funds for the middle school. Thus far, we have received \$5600 in contributions. This is about one third of the amount that was brought in to the middle school last year with our 40% of the magazine gross profits. For us to be able to fund such things as the printing of the *Medallion*, our first class middle school newspaper, four times a year, paying for buses for 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams' and band field trips, funding 8<sup>th</sup> grade day activities, purchasing four smart boards for classrooms, continuing subscriptions to classroom sets of student magazines, purchasing on-line accounts to assist students with math remediation opportunities, as well as providing each middle school team money for team supplies and special recognitions, we need to bring in at least \$20,000. The earlier flyer that was sent stated that, if we received \$30 per middle school student, we would have \$36,000. That would allow us to do some great things around here for your students, but, in this time of tight budgets, we are grateful for whatever we can collect. If you haven't already made a contribution, please consider making one now. We could really use your support!

If you have changes in your email address or any of your contact phone numbers, please remember to contact your student's subschool office so that information can be updated. We have had some occasions of emails not going through or phone numbers being non-working numbers when trying to reach parents or guardians.

Our first Middle School Parent/Principal Coffee will be held on Wednesday **October 14** at 7:00 in Davala Hall. Please plan on coming out to meet with us and meet the counselors who are working with your students. The counselors will also be explaining the different activities that they oversee to help your students in a variety of ways. We will also have time for you to ask questions of the administrators. We hope to see you on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday, **October 29**, we will be holding our first middle school dance from 2:15-3:45. Tickets are sold to students during their lunch period that week from Monday through Thursday. No tickets are sold at the door and students must have tickets to get into the dance. If students lose tickets, then they must purchase new tickets to get into the dance. 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.

*Sentry* yearbook packages will be available until shortly after Thanksgiving. After that time, prices will go up and nameplates will no longer be available. Everyone received an order form in their back to school packet or they are available in the subschool offices and Mrs. Hinman's room A223. Send an order form in with a check made out to Robinson to either SS7 or SS8 or turn in to Mrs. Hinman in A223. You don't want to miss out on the award-winning *Sentry*.

*Sentry* Send-off ads are also available for eighth graders for \$25. There should have been a form in every eighth graders back to school packet, but extras are available in SS8 and Room A223. Instructions are included for sending photographs and meaningful messages as your eighth grader heads up the hall to high school. This is an inexpensive way to make this milestone transition something special. The final deadline for these submissions is December 11, 2010. Questions? Contact Mrs. Hinman at [pehinman@fcps.edu](mailto:pehinman@fcps.edu) or call at 703-426-6848.

## Robinson Middle School Guidance

Counselors welcomed seventh and eighth grade students at the beginning of the year. They visited classrooms, introducing themselves to students on each team. Counselors will present Sexual Harassment/Bullying 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 8** from 7 -8 pm in Davala Hall. Seventh grade students and parents are welcome to attend. An admissions coordinator will provide an overview of the application process and answer questions. Open House for Thomas Jefferson is October 10. Applications for Thomas Jefferson will not be available at the meeting. Eighth grade students will need to contact Tara Filmyer (SS 8) for an application. Return completed applications by Thursday, October 22 to Tara Filmyer.

FCPS will be giving the Foreign Language Credit Program Exam at Lake Braddock Secondary School on November 9 at 3:30 p.m. Students who speak a native language, such as Spanish, Korean, Farsi among the eighteen tested must demonstrate proficiency in writing that language. Students who already have two or more credits in the exam language on their transcript (including credits from another country) or are currently enrolled in an FCPS course in that language are not eligible to take this exam. Please contact your student's counselor for more information or <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/creditexam/>

Interim grade reports will be mailed on October 2; you should be receiving the reports the following week.

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.

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### **Class of 2011 All Night Grad Party (ANGP) Interest Meeting October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Media Center**

It is hard to believe but planning starts now for the Class of 2011's graduation party. The ANGP is an overnight event put together by parents for the graduates to keep them safe while they celebrate together as a class. To make sure a fun, safe and successful 24 hours celebration is planned, enthusiastic parents, willing and able to chair and co-chair committees, are greatly needed. Once the committees are filled, the chairs will vote on the location of the party, start planning fundraising activities and shadow the Class of 2010 ANGP parents. All junior parents interested in helping with the 2011 ANGP are encouraged to come to the Media Center on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm to learn more about locations and committees. For more information or to sign up for a committee now please contact Shelley Draheim at (703-426-2540) or [sadraheim31@aol.com](mailto:sadraheim31@aol.com).

#### **OPEN COMMITTEES**

Treasurer - Filled  
Secretary  
Activities (2)  
Chaperones/Security (1-2)  
Concierge (3)  
CPA  
Craft Fair - Filled  
Food Coord. - Filled  
Volunteer Coord. (1)  
Decorations/Setup (2)  
Donation Letters (1-2)  
Thank You Notes - Filled  
Fundraiser (Art Auction? Vendor Fair? Movie Night? Sadie Hawkins Dance?) (2-3)

GMU Seat Raffle (1)  
Games of Chance - Filled  
Homecoming Limo Raffle (1)  
Logistics/Transportation (2)  
Nurse - Filled  
Mulch Sale (2 + lots of volunteers)  
Polo Shirts (1)  
Programs/Passports (2)  
Publicity (1-2)  
Ram Grad Lawn Signs (1-2)  
Tickets - Filled  
Volunteer Coord. (1-2)  
Webmaster (1)

# High School Student Services Department



The Student Services department at Robinson High School would like to welcome you to the 2009-10 school year. I hope you have had time to notice our name change. Formerly known as Guidance, the High School Student Services department is aligning our program to the American School Counseling Association model for School Counseling. The term "Guidance" describes a small part of the overall role of the student services program.

At Robinson High School, we are proud to have on staff ten professional School Counselors. At one time called Guidance Counselors, a professional School Counselor is required to be a certified/licensed educator with a minimum of a master's degree in school counseling. This level of education makes them uniquely qualified to address all students' academic, personal/social and career development needs by designing, implementing, evaluating and enhancing a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes and enhances student success.

The goals for the Robinson High School Student Services Program this year are to:

- Begin to develop a comprehensive, data driven school counseling program
- Promote equity and access to rigorous educational programs for all students
- Support a safe learning environment
- Work to safeguard the human rights of all members of the school community

Since the beginning of the school year counselors have been meeting with your students during RAISE for career guidance, and sexual harassment/bullying lessons. At the time of this writing, counselors have met with all students in grades 10-12. We will meet with 9<sup>th</sup> graders in October.

Also in October we will administer the PSAT for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. This is an important practice test for the SAT for it provides solid data on a student's academic preparedness for concepts tests on the SAT. Data from this test may be used to assist students in determining course work that will help them prepare for college. Juniors who score well on the PSAT may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Ninth graders will take the ACT Explore test at the time of the PSAT test administrator. This test provides information on the ACT college entrance exam. There is also an interest/career inventory component to this test. Information about how to register for both tests can be found on the Robinson web page.

We look forward to an excellent year with your students. Please let us know if we can assist you or your child this year.

# Boosters, Clubs and Departments News

## **Robinson Academic Booster's-Who Are They?!**

We are a group of parents who promote and support the academic achievements of ALL students at Robinson, grades 7-12. If you haven't already joined and would like to make a tax deductible contribution of \$20 to help us fund the projects listed below, please find a membership application attached.

All of our volunteer jobs require a minimum of effort, some just once a year, which provides an easy way for you to support Robinson students and still fit it in with the rest of your busy lives! Our committee chair positions are pretty much filled, although we can always use volunteers for small support projects. Our biggest need is for someone to run the 3 9<sup>th</sup> grade All-A Breakfasts, let me know at [sharimomcpa@cox.net](mailto:sharimomcpa@cox.net) if you would be interested. This is a very simple donuts/bagels breakfast for 20-30 students, three times a year.

Did you know that without the support of the Academic Boosters, the following would **not** happen:

- 1) There would be no Boost Tickets for teachers to hand out to reward 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and special needs students for their efforts?
- 2) There would be no Middle School honor roll ribbons?
- 3) The AMC 8 Math Exam, Latin Exam and German Exam wouldn't be funded, nor would there be proctors?
- 4) There would be no Science Fair ribbons or reception?
- 5) There would be no Lamp of Knowledge pins for those earning Academic Letters?
- 6) There would be no Freshman All A's Breakfasts?
- 7) There would be no Pizza Party for the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders who earned A's in all their core classes the previous year?
- 8) There would not be 3-4 \$1,000 in scholarships given each year to Seniors in honor of Jean Genovese?

### **BOXTOP DEADLINE-October 15**

Even if you are not a member of the Academic Boosters, we would really appreciate your boxtops for kids! They are on all General Mills products and each boxtop is 10 cents, if every student at Robinson brought in just one boxtop, that would be \$400 more to spend on the students. You can turn in your boxtops in the main office or the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade subschool offices.

### **SAVE THE DATE-December 9**

for our Barnes & Noble BookFair. Entertainment in the evening will feature one of Robinson's very own talented singing faculty! PLUS 10% of ALL sales at the Fair Lakes store on December 9 made with the Academic Boosters coupon that we will send in the December RamGram go to the Boosters-a no stress way to get some holiday shopping done (or shop for yourselves!) and help us out. Stay tuned for details!

### **2009 Scholarships Awarded**

In May 2009, we were pleased to award 3 \$1,000 scholarship in honor of Jean Genovese. Class of 2010, don't forget to look for the applications in the career center sometime in April!

### **2009-2010 Meeting Schedule**

Our meetings are always open to anyone who would like to attend and find out more about the Academic Booster's. They are held in the Principal's Conference Room from 7-8 p.m. and the schedule for 09-10 is:

November 9, 2009  
January 11, 2010  
March 8, 2010  
May 10, 2010

Please don't hesitate to contact Shari Bedker, President, [sharimomcpa@cox.net](mailto:sharimomcpa@cox.net), 703-830-8473 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 !



### ROBINSON ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB 2009-10 Membership Form

**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.

**2009-10 ABC Meeting Dates**  
(7-8 p.m. at Robinson)  
September 14, 2009  
November 9, 2009  
January 11, 2010  
March 8, 2010  
May 10, 2010

#### Officers

**President**  
Shari Bedker  
[sharimomcpa@cox.net](mailto:sharimomcpa@cox.net) 830-8473

**Vice President**  
Vacant

**Secretary**  
Gail Hogan  
[ghogan@noblis.org](mailto:ghogan@noblis.org) 239-1222

**Membership**  
Vacant

**Treasurer**  
Betsy Peck 250-7090  
[elizabeth\\_peck@msn.com](mailto:elizabeth_peck@msn.com)

**Faculty Advisor**  
Rick Mondloch  
[richard.mondloch@fcps.edu](mailto:richard.mondloch@fcps.edu)

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

**Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$20**  
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 any you are interested in helping with)

- \_\_\_ **As Needed**-help on an "on-call" basis
- \_\_\_ **Exam Coordinator**-liaison between ABC and faculty sponsors
- \_\_\_ **Newsletter and Website Support Chair** – publish newsletter 3times/yr and establish and maintain website on Robinson Secondary School.
- \_\_\_ **Golf Tournament and Silent Auction** – October; coordinate with Athletic Boosters to participate in Golf Tournament fundraiser in September—help out with our biggest fundraiser!
- \_\_\_ **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** –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

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

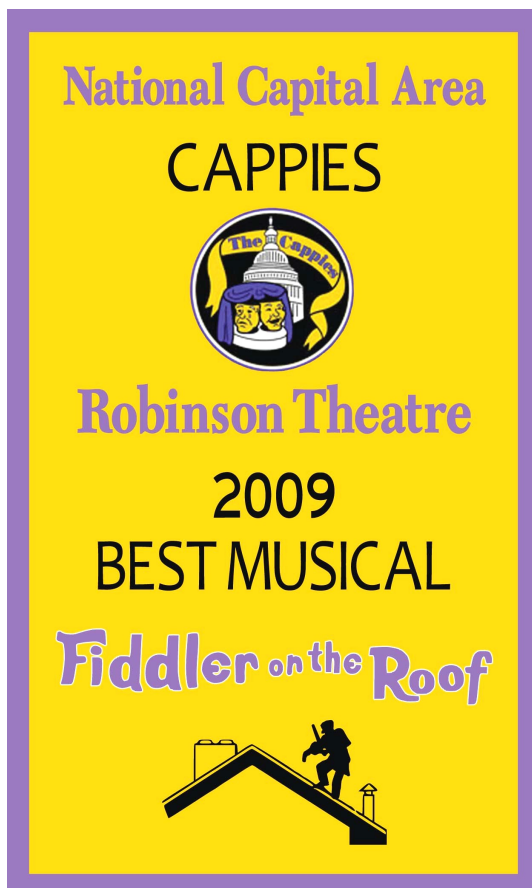
# ROBINSON THEATRE NEWS

## ***Rumors—A Neil Simon Comedy***

It's fall time, and you know what that means? Robinson High School's Fall Production! After Robinson won 7 Cappie Awards for *Fiddler on the Roof* last Spring, this Fall Production of *Rumors* by Neil Simon is to be a sure hit! When Chris (played by Caitlin Viccora) and Ken (Alex Alferov) show up to a 10th Anniversary party for their good friends, they soon discover they are in for more than they can handle! With the host being shot in the earlobe, trying to cover up why the hostess and servants are gone and entertain all the other guests at the same time, comedy is bound to arise! Rumors of why the host, hostess and servants are nowhere to be seen start to fill up people's curiosity and keep you guessing till the end! Other party guests are played by Micah Chelen, Kyle Lynch, Rachel Mehaffey, Jesse Bethea, Julieanna Novak and Sam Wharton.

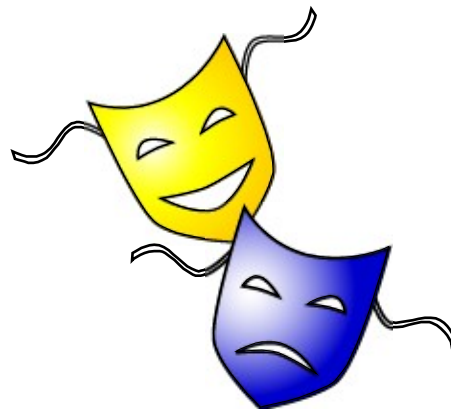
Come see ***Rumors*** on **November 19, 20 or 21 @ 7:30 pm!** Buy your tickets at [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org) now or you'll be starting rumors of where they all sold out to!

~ **Paige Tedrick**, Publicity Crew Chief



### BECOME A DRAMA BOOSTER!!

If you're a fan of Robinson Theatre, it's not too late to become a Drama Booster. You can get season tickets, priority admission, free refreshments, and TheatreSports tickets depending on your Booster level. Go [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org) to become a Booster!



## **Robinson Band and Orchestra Parents Organization (RBOPO)**

The music programs at Robinson are in full gear and off to a great start. Our Middle School and High School Band and Orchestra students are working very hard. Check out our websites [www.robinsonband.org](http://www.robinsonband.org) and <http://www.robinsonorchestra.org> and see what we are up to. Please join us at our next RBOPO Meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 13 in the High School Band Room.



### **Rhapsody in Blue and Gold**



Come see the Marching Rams perform this year's show with music of Gershwin including music from Porgy and Bess, Rhapsody in Blue and Piano Concerto in F. 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 26<sup>th</sup>, continuing at the Oakton Classic on October 17, Towson University in Maryland on October 24 and Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association Competition at West Springfield on October 30.

### **Orchestra Concert October 29**

Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions will be held at Lake Braddock Secondary School on Monday, October 5, 2009 after school. The Robinson High School Orchestras will present a spooky concert on Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 pm in Russell Theater. Come to hear music depicting scenes from "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and some ghostly renditions of familiar tunes. Admission is free! Senior Regional Orchestra Event will be held November 13-14, 2009 at West Potomac High School. The concert will be Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free! Come to support our outstanding musicians.

### **TAG Day Thanks!!!**

Thank you to all of the parents and students who contributed to a very successful RBOPO Tag Day on September 12. What a fantastic kick-off for our musical year! 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.

### **The Holiday Season is Almost upon us. Get your White House Ornaments, Fruit, Pies, and Holiday Greens!**

In keeping with tradition, RBOPO is selling White House Ornaments. Additionally, we will soon begin our holiday sale of citrus fruit, pies, and holiday greenery. For ordering information visit the RBOPO website [www.robinsonband.org](http://www.robinsonband.org), or see a band or orchestra student nearest you. Go Rams! Linda Brese, [rbopo@robinsonband.org](mailto:rbopo@robinsonband.org).

## RCPA President

The Robinson Choral Department invites all families to two upcoming concerts. The first, a Major Works concert, will be held at 4:00 pm on November 8, 2009 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA. The Select Women's Choir and the Robinson Singers will perform along with instrumentalists from Robinson.

The Winter Concert will feature all four Robinson Choirs as well as a Silent Auction on December 22 at 7:00. All are invited to attend. The concert will be held at Russell Theatre.

If you own a business, we would love to advertise your business in our concert program. We are also looking for donations of goods and services for the Silent Auction. Please contact Diane Bond at [Robinsonchoralparents@gmail.com](mailto:Robinsonchoralparents@gmail.com).

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## Robinson Dance Team Clinic

The award-winning Robinson High School Dance and Drill Team will be hosting a Dance Clinic on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. This high-energy clinic is open to anyone in grades 2 through 8; previous dance experience is not required. Dancers interested in trying out for the 2010-2011 dance team are especially encouraged to attend. The cost is \$40 and registration forms are available in the Middle School subschool offices. If you have any questions or need a form, please contact Wanda Siddiq at 703-250-1574 or [aandss@aol.com](mailto:aandss@aol.com).

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## SGA

Robinson's HS SGA has been hard at work planning this year's Homecoming: Once Upon a Robinson. . . Each class chose a different theme:

- ❖ Seniors – the Class of 2010 – Alice in Wonderland
- ❖ Juniors – the Class of 2011 – Peter Pan
- ❖ Sophomores – the Class of 2012 – The Little Mermaid
- ❖ Freshmen – the Class of 2013 – Aladdin

There is something to do each day . . . come on out & join in the fun!

**Monday, September 28** – Wild West! It's time to show your cowboy/cowgirl side!  
Lunchtime Activity – Hoola Hoop Competition – can YOU handle it?!  
No evening activity!

**Tuesday, September 29** – Twin Day! Find a friend to dress alike!  
Lunchtime Activity – Fairy Tale Gummi Eating Competition!  
Powder Puff Games - 5pm at the Stadium  
Who will dominate?!?!?! Watch our girls play!

**Wednesday, September 30** – P.J. Day! Come in your most relaxed attire!  
Lunchtime Activity – Guitar Hero – Are you a rock legend?!  
Win a Date with a Senior Lady- 7:30pm in Russell Theatre  
Come compete for a Homecoming Court nominee!

**Thursday, October 1** – Fairy Tale Villain Day! Dress as a villain from your favorite fairy tale.... Or a pirate or a ninja  
Lunchtime Activity – Cake Walk – Walk to have a chance to win your favorite sweets!  
Locker Bay Decorations - 6pm-8pm – in your subschool!

Come Thursday evening to help your class decorate & compete with the other classes . . . who will have the most creative decorations?!

**Friday, October 2** – Blue & Gold Spirit Day! – Wear Blue & Gold, and show your school spirit!

- ❖ Lunchtime Activity – Dance Off- show off your moves!
- ❖ Pep Rally – during RAISE & 8th period
- ❖ Parade – 3:00pm – in the front of the school -- come see the incredible Ram community that we have . . . including our elementary schools and our many different clubs here!
- ❖ Taste of Robinson – 4pm-7pm – right outside the football stadium – come eat food from local vendors, check out the tables for different organizations, and dunk our favorite Robinson administrators, security staff personnel, and teachers!
- ❖ Football Game vs. Lake Braddock – 7:30pm – Football Stadium – GO RAMS!

**Saturday, October 3** – Dance –Once Upon a Robinson - 8pm-11:00pm in the Field House  
Come celebrate Homecoming 2009 – tickets are on sale all week at lunch (\$15 one; \$25/couple presale) & will be sold at the door (\$20 per individual), too.

We request any and all help that we can get at 11pm so that we can quickly clean up. Parents who are available to help are asked to email the SGA sponsors, Peter Kownacki ([PAKownacki@fcps.edu](mailto:PAKownacki@fcps.edu)) and Eileen Noonan ([EPNoonan@fcps.edu](mailto:EPNoonan@fcps.edu)).

After Homecoming we are already working on a Student-Faculty Kickball Game on Thursday, October 15. Details will be posted on the Robinson website as we draw closer to the event. We will also begin work on our fall service projects so that we will have sponsored both spirit as well as service projects during the first quarter alone! Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at Robinson SGA projects this year!

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### GET THE FACTS!



The Robinson **Family and Consumer Sciences Department** has been promoting good health and hygiene with the opening of school and with the escalation of Swine flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that "influenza illness, including illness associated with the novel influenza A H1N1 virus is ongoing in this country. This virus is not "going away" as some people seem to think."

To assist in the prevention of H1N1 at Robinson, the FACS Middle School and High school classes came together to discuss the importance of good hygiene and the 8 steps to proper hand washing. The students were then challenged to a Hand Washing RAP competition where they were asked to create a RAP that would serve as a public

service announcement on Good Morning Robinson (GMR) and Monday in the Middle (MiM). The judges had a difficult time selecting the winners because the RAPS were phenomenal!

The winners of the **Middle School RAP** were:

Jennifer Tenzin, Ashley Thomas, Mack Williams & Melanie Yumping

The Winners of the **High School RAP** were:

Susan Hong, Rachel Lee, Daniella Titone and Fabiolla DaSilva

**The FACS department would like to remind parents, faculty and staff to wash your hands and listed below are the proper hand washing steps.**

1. Consider the sink, including the faucet controls, contaminated.
2. Avoid touching the sink.
3. Turn water on using a paper towel and then wet your hands and wrists.
4. Work soap into a lather.
5. Vigorously rub together all surfaces of the lathered hands for 15 seconds. Friction helps remove dirt and microorganisms. Wash around and under rings, around cuticles, and under fingernails
6. Rinse hands thoroughly under a stream of water. Running water carries away dirt and debris. Point fingers down so water and contamination won't drip toward elbows.
7. Dry hands completely with a clean dry paper towel.
8. Use a dry paper towel to turn faucet off.

**Robinson Secondary School**

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