

THE RICHARDSON RATTLER

September
2018
ISSUE 1

www.richardsonmiddleschool.org



23751 Nancy Lee Lane
Torrance, CA 90505
310.533.4790

Home of the
Rattlesnakes



Dates To Remember...

- 9/11 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 9/14 Picture Day
- 9/18 Parent Eyes Orientation, 11 am
- 9/24 - 9/28 Welcome Week
- 9/25 PTSA Association Meeting, 5:30 pm
- 9/25 Back to School Night, 6:00 pm
- 10/2 CPK Restaurant Night

PTSA
everychild. one voice.

A Message from our PTSA President,

Stacey Launius, stacey@staceybarney.com



Welcome all new and returning Rattlesnake families to the 2018 - 2019 school year! I am excited to return as the PTSA President this year. Hopefully everyone enjoyed registration, especially the 6th grade students who participated in a Rattlesnake Retreat. We may be changing our registration process a little next year due to so much of our information being collected on the computer. Thank you to all the parents and students for being so understanding during this time of change!

By way of introduction, I am the mother of an 8th grader and a 7th grader here at RMS. I have been PTA President at WALTERIA Elementary in addition to having held various positions on the board. Last year I served as the Richardson PTSA President and will be serving my second year of the term this year.

Things are always changing and this year is no different. We are welcoming many new faces on campus. It seems like almost every student has a new (to Richardson) teacher. I'm sure they will add a new spark to the campus. Make sure to also welcome our new Assistant Principal, **Mrs. Harrison**, when you see her around campus.

I would like to take some time to thank all the volunteers who came out to help with school registration! Our two days of registration went smoothly only due to the collaborative effort of our parent volunteers, staff, teachers, and administration. It is this community effort that makes RMS a truly outstanding school. I would also like to thank **Andi Libuser**, our Restaurant Night Chair for organizing the first Restaurant Night FUNdraiser at California Pizza Kitchen on October 2! Please join us at CPK to reconnect with friends while raising money for RMS.

Your PTSA is already in full swing. The Parent Eyes program is looking for volunteers. This is a great opportunity for parents to volunteer periodically during lunchtime and help enforce positive behavior in our Rattlesnakes. Orientation is September 18 at 11:00 am in the RMS Café. Please Contact **Candice Sluyter** at candishuy@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping. The Adventures in Art program is also looking for docents and volunteers. No art experience or talent needed! Please contact AIA Chair, **Milissa Kleinhans**, at milissak79@gmail.com for more information.

Communicating school and PTSA information to our RMS families is extremely important. I'd like to thank **Julie Sullivan** for continuing as our Richardson Rattler editor-at-large. She will keep you well informed with our monthly newsletters! Thank you to **Sarah Tehrani** for continuing as our e-blast coordinator! To sign up to receive emails, visit our school's website at www.richardsonmiddleschool.org. Are you a Facebook user? If so, be sure to "like" our page, "Richardson Rattlesnakes." Whichever form of communication you prefer, we hope that you will take advantage and stay connected to RMS.

-Stacey Launius, PTSA President, 2018 - 2019

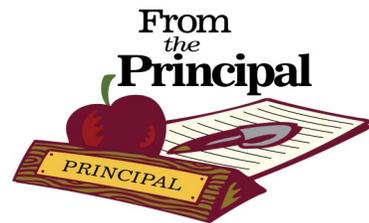


• IAN DRUMMOND, PRINCIPAL • ELLEN HARRISON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL • STACEY LAUNIUS, PTSA PRESIDENT •
• JULIE SULLIVAN, EDITOR •



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mr. Ian Drummond,
drummond.ian@tusd.org



Greetings to the Richardson Rattlesnake Team:

It's the top of 1st, no outs, and your child is leading off the game. The Boys and Girls of Summer are now the starting players in the RMS 2018-19 Season. Welcome to this year's school theme: ***This Team!*** Those of you who follow Major League Baseball may have seen a similar theme in last year's playoffs. While the base-



ball season is long (162 games – not counting playoffs), it's not as long as the middle school season of 180 days.

We Are Here To Practice Before Getting To High School

Here at RMS, unlike Major League Baseball, every player will make the playoffs. However, it takes three years of Middle School Preparation and Practice to finally make it to the Playoffs: High School! The stakes are much greater and the pressure significantly higher once your child finally reaches high school. Our job is to do everything we can to help them get there feeling confident and prepared to be successful at this next level, and it takes a huge team effort.

Who Is On *This Team!*?

We all are. Students, Parents, Teachers, Support Staff, and Administration need to all work together towards common goals. These goals must be first and foremost to build foundational skills for future success in each and every subject. This will take practice – lots and lots of practice. We need our students to practice in their areas of strength in order to grow and excel. We also need them to practice as hard as they can to improve their needed areas of growth. As I discussed with many of our incoming 6th graders at the Rattlesnake Retreat, if a baseball player cannot hit a curveball, he really has two choices. He can continue to strike out or he can PRACTICE hitting curveballs until they are no longer an issue. Your child will see many curveballs in his or her secondary school academic career. He or she has the same two choices as the baseball player: strike out or practice. However, we're not going to let them accept the striking out option. Practice and Support – with the help of all of us. That is the key to the future success of the entire Richardson Rattlesnake Team!

Your Role As A Parent On *This Team*

We are asking all of our RMS Parents to help create the Home Field Advantage. Your children will accomplish more academically with the support of their family than they will if they take this journey alone. Yes, I know at this age many students share less and less with their parents as they strive to establish a level of independence. However, in spite of this behavior, middle school students need the support and guidance of their parents even more than they are often willing to ask for.

How You Can Help Your Child

You can help coach your child to be a successful student. Ask your child specific questions about school such as: “*What are you reading in your English class? Do you like the book? Why or why not?*” or “*What time period are you studying in Social Studies? Who were the important leaders at that time?*” Better yet, ask your child to teach *you* something he or she learned at school. Teaching what you have learned is one of the best ways to master and retain the knowledge.

Skills Are Far More Important Than Grades!

During the three Years of Middle School Practice, it is important to have a good understanding of the **Significance of Grades**. Grades are simply *Feedback of Progress towards Mastering Essential Content*

(continued on page 3)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Ellen Harrison
harrison.ellen@tusd.org



Dear RMS families,

My name is Ellen Harrison and I am very excited to join the RMS team as Assistant Principal. I have been working in the Los Angeles Unified School District for the past 15 years.

I currently live in Redondo Beach with my husband and two young children. Originally from Seattle, WA, I moved to California to attend Loyola Marymount University.

My goal is to maintain a positive learning environment where all students feel safe and have the resources they need to be successful. I am very confident that the RMS staff will continue to meet the intellectual, physical, and social/emotional needs of your children, our students. Partnering with you and your children, I am looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year. I look forward to meeting you and thank you in advance for welcoming me into this remarkable learning community.

Hold yourself accountable

Inspire others positively

Show respect

Strive for Success



-Ellen Harrison, Assistant Principal

(Principal's Message continued...)

Knowledge and Skills – nothing more and nothing less. Colleges will never see your child's middle school grades (with the exception of those 8th graders taking 9th grade classes at South). Grades are there to provide feedback to students and parents about where your child is excelling and where he/she needs additional practice. The skills your child develops now are far more important than the grades they receive. Please try to keep this in mind as you supportively help coach your child towards a strong foundation for future High School Success.

Positive Communication – From Everyone

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, open and positive communication is essential to maintain the highest level of teamwork. The key word here is "positive." I am encouraging all members of ***This Team!*** to strive for positivity at all times. Please try to keep this in mind when communicating with your child and his/her teachers in trying to support the goals of strong foundational skills and academic success for your student.

I look forward to seeing you at our **Back To School Night** on Tuesday, September 25th where you will meet the other members of ***This Team!***

Let's Play Ball!

*Ian Drummond, Principal
Richardson Middle School*

GO TEAM!

1st Day of School



Richardson Middle School Parent/Student Directory

Dear RMS Parents/Guardians,



Time is running out to submit this info if you did not already do so at Registration!

The Richardson PTSA will be giving each family that has their information included a free 2018-2019 Student Directory in the fall. This is a voluntary program. The directory is intended to help with communication between families. Directory information should only be used for communicating with RMS families.

If you would like your family's information included in this resource, please fill out this form and return it during registration in August or no later than September 21, 2018. Any questions, contact Paola Hirsch paolahirsch@verizon.net



If you have more than one child at Richardson, you only need to fill out one form.

Student Name (s):

Last	First	Circle Grade		
1) _____	_____	6	7	8
2) _____	_____	6	7	8
3) _____	_____	6	7	8

(If you need additional space, please write on the back of this page)

Please check box:

- Last year's information is correct
- Last year's information changed, enter changes below
- New family, enter information below

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone (s): _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Email Address(s): _____

Pizza with a purpose



Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages.

**Fundraiser in support of:
Richardson Middle School
Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

**Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
25304 Crenshaw Blvd
Torrance, CA 90505**



Join the **Pizza Dough® Rewards** program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at cpk.com or download our new app today!



**california
PIZZA KITCHEN**

Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.

HEROES AROUND ME

GET STARTED ON YOUR ENTRY THIS SUMMER

ENTER IN AS MANY CATEGORIES
AS YOU WISH ~ FIRST PLACE IN EACH
CATEGORY WILL CONTINUE ON TO
COUNCIL LEVEL ~ FOR MORE INFORMATION
GO TO THE CALIFORNIA PTA WEBSITE
[HTTP://CAPTA.ORG/
PROGRAMS-EVENTS/REFLECTIONS/](http://CAPTA.ORG/PROGRAMS-EVENTS/REFLECTIONS/)

PROGRAM BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER
ENTRIES DUE LATE OCTOBER

WHO ARE THE HEROES
AROUND YOU?

Congratulations to the RMS winners
of the Torrance Council of PTAs Reflections.

Their entries competed with other
middle schools in the district.

2nd Place - Award of Merit:

Tiffany Chen - Literature

3rd Place - Honorable Mention:

Katie Chung - Photography

Norah Fong - Visual Arts

Brianne Adewinmbi - Film Prod.



Learn more and get involved! PTA.ORG/REFLECTIONS

National
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]



DIRECT DONATION DRIVE 2018-2019

Welcome Rattlesnakes!

A new school year is upon us and we're inviting you to help our school by donating to the RMS PTSA Direct Donation Drive. This is our main fundraiser of the year and crucially important. The PTSA uses the funds to provide art and music, assemblies, field trips, campus and classroom improvements, STEM and department materials, educational programs, school clubs, and much more!

EVERY donation counts and EVERY student benefits! It's fast, easy, and 100% is tax deductible!

A suggested donation is \$125 per student, but donations in any amount are appreciated. Give at any of the following levels by **NOVEMBER 1ST** for chances to win gift cards, tickets, and many more great prizes in our annual Rattlesnake Raffle!

Rattlesnake Raffle Donation Entry Levels

\$300	6 Entries into our Rattlesnake Raffle
\$200	3 Entries into our Rattlesnake Raffle
\$125	1 Entry into our Rattlesnake Raffle

Make checks payable to: RMS PTSA. Credit cards & PayPal are accepted by visiting www.RichardsonMiddleSchool.org or and on our Facebook page by clicking on the "Donate" button. Many employers offer a matching donation program. Make sure to check with yours!

Complete the form below and return to the school office before November 1st 

Student Name: _____

Amt: _____ Grade: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

E-mail: _____

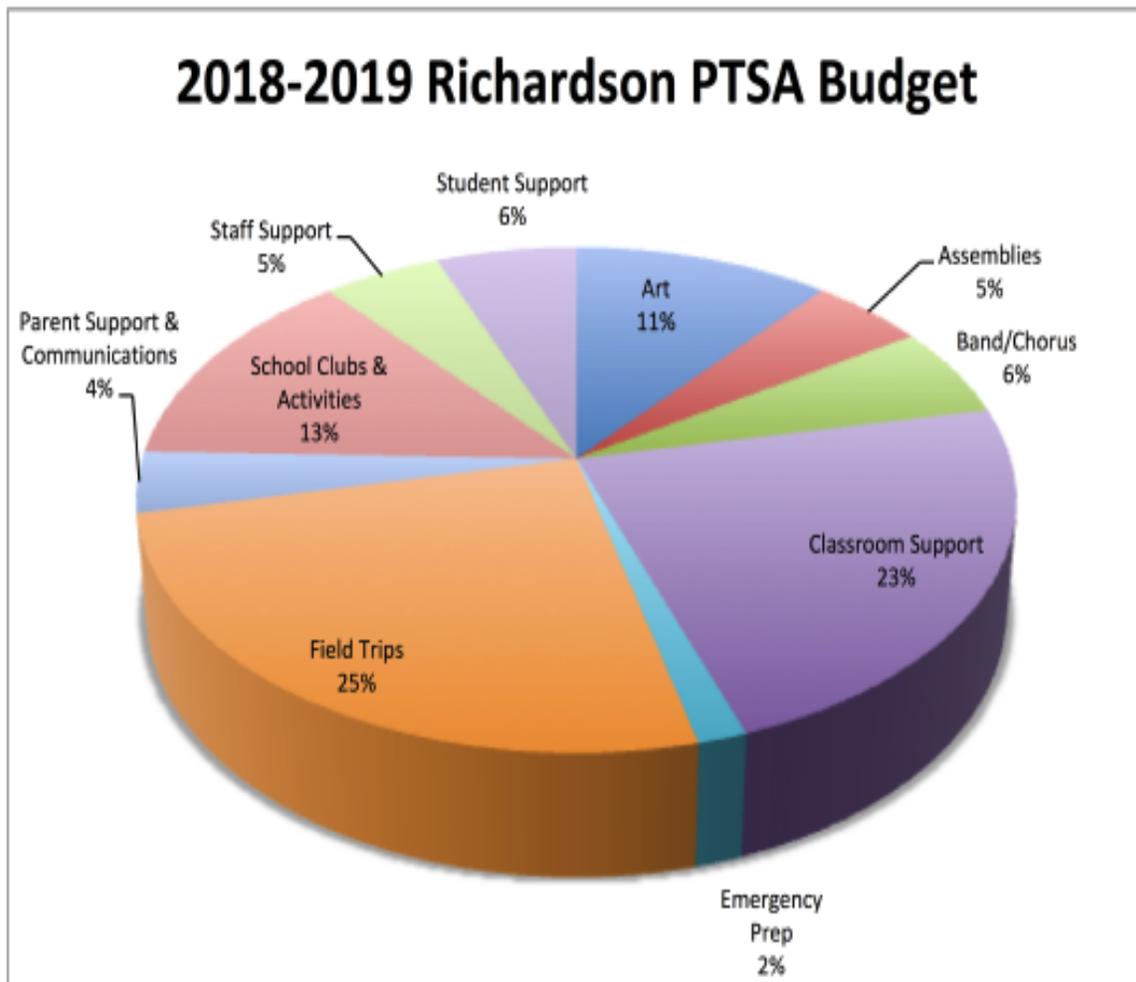
Phone: _____

CORPORATE MATCHING PROGRAM

Employer donations represent over 10% of our Direct Donation income! Please ask your employer if they have a matching-donation program. You initiate the request and we'll do the rest!

PARITAL LIST OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- *Bank of America
- *Boeing
- *BP Foundation
- *Charles Schwab
- *Time Warner
- *Disney
- *Edison
- *Exxon
- *Honda
- *Honeywell
- *JP Morgan
- *Mattel
- *Northrop Grumman
- *Raytheon
- *RE/MAX Palos Verdes Realty
- *Scitor Corporation
- *Sempra Energy
- *Wells Fargo





There's still time to join the
Richardson Middle School PTSA!
(Parent Teacher Student Association)

Membership cost is only \$7 per
family member.

PTSA provides
education
enrichment for our
children, builds
community, and
supports our
school.



Richardson PTSA funds and supports:

- Parent Eyes Program
- Assemblies
- Field Trips
- Reflections Contest
- Adventures in Art Program
- Book Fair
- Talent Show
- Firefighter Appreciation
- 8th Grade RMS/CMMS games
- 8th Grade Picnic
- Emergency Prep Supplies
- Teacher Supplies
- Staff Appreciation Events
- Scholarships to High School Students
- Yearbook
- School Directory
- And much more!

Pick up and submit your form in the school office!

You do not need to attend meetings or volunteer when you join.

RICHARDSON Wear 2018/2019 school year Grade Level T-Shirts

	Youth Med	Youth Large	Adult Small	Adult Med	Adult Large	Adult X-Large	QTY	Price each	TOTAL
6th Grade- PURPLE								\$15	
7th grade- BLUE								\$15	
8th grade- RED								\$15	

Grade level T-shirt TOTAL \$

100% Cotton T-Shirt



6th grade **PURPLE** \$15



7th grade **BLUE** \$15



8th grade **RED** \$15

Please include order form & payment of cash or check (payable to RMS PTSA) and return to school office

No Later than THURSDAY September 27, 2018

Student Name: _____ Homeroom #/Teacher: _____

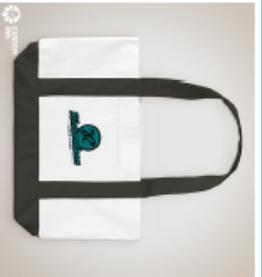
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Questions? Contact Jaqueline Patti at jaquelinapatti@yahoo.com

RICHARDSON Wear/Gear Fall 2018



Unisex Trucker Hat
Poly, mesh, and nylon construction. One size, flat bill, high-profile crown



Boat Tote
White/black handles
19" L x 12" H x 4" W
600 denier polyester, open front pocket.



Girls Raglan Tee
Grey with black sleeves
Pre-shrunk poly, cotton, rayon tri-blend. 3/4 length sleeve



Boys Ringer Tee
Dark grey with Black rings
50/50 poly/cotton blend



Pullover Hoodie Grey
50/50 Poly/Cotton blend. Tagless neck label

RMS Item	Adult X-small	Adult Small	Adult Med	Adult Large	Adult X-L	Youth Med	Youth Large	Youth X-L	QTY	Price each	TOTAL
Hat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$28	
Tote Bag	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$24	
Girls Raglan Tee						n/a	n/a	n/a		\$28	
Boys Ringer Tee	n/a					n/a	n/a	n/a		\$28	
Hoodie	n/a									\$40	
Wear/Gear TOTAL \$											

Please include order form & payment of cash or check (payable to RMS PTSA) and return to school office
No Later than THURSDAY September 27, 2018

Student Name: _____ Homeroom #/Teacher: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Questions? Contact Jaqueline Patti at jaquelinapatti@yahoo.com