

August 2008

Dear Ruffing Families,

On behalf of the Parent Association Executive Board, I am pleased to welcome all of you to the 2008 - 2009 school year. The Parent Association (of which ALL Ruffing parents are members) coordinates parent volunteer efforts to benefit the school and strengthen connections within the Ruffing Community.

These efforts, upon which the PA and Ruffing are dependent, are not limited to the typical volunteer opportunities of traditional parent organizations, but instead are defined by the varied interests and skills of our unique parent community. Whatever your talents or interests, the PA works hard to find meaningful opportunities for you to engage within the Ruffing community. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out and return your family's volunteer form (included in this mailing). If you don't see opportunities that match your skills and interests, please let us know how YOU would like to volunteer; the PA is committed to providing volunteer opportunities that are as fulfilling to parents as they are to the community.

The PA also supports the community by creating opportunities for parents and families to make connections to Ruffing outside of the classroom. Sometimes these events are for the whole family, and sometimes they are just for the grown-ups. This fall's family events will include an all-school picnic at Horseshoe Lake on Saturday, September 13 (from 1:30 - 4:30 pm) and the return of the Pumpkin Party to the school on Sunday, October 26. Join us for an adult's only favorite, the Wine and Cheese, on Friday, September 19. Details to follow.

Back by popular demand, Save the Shoes, our gently used shoe-sale, will be held Friday, September 5, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Shoe collection has already begun; if you have shoes to donate, please drop them off in the collection bin at school (outside the Admissions office). For more information, contact me, at ryansarahrouth@sbcglobal.net or (216) 397 2991.

For information on any of these events, as well as other PA events, PA news (including the minutes of each PA board meeting), community news and other topics of interest, please log onto the new Ruffing PA website at <http://pa.ruffingmontessori.net>.

We look forward to another successful school year. As our parent community grows, through increased volunteerism and social connections, so does the strength of our school.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments. We have included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document in anticipation of the most common questions that parents both new to Ruffing and new to different grade levels may have. This FAQ can also be found on the PA website. I can be reached via e-mail at ryansarahrouth@sbcglobal.net or at home at (216) 397-2991.

Sarah Routh
PA President

