



PTA

Happy New Year!

Volume 8

1/9/09

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Help Wanted

For 5th Grade Science Day

The Fifth Grade Science Day is Friday, March 27. The topic is Microscopic Exploration. Students will visit five stations – pond life, fingerprints, shrimp, kitchen powders, and dots, \$, & salts. This is our fifth graders last CG science day, so let's make it a great learning experience!

We need a classroom leader and five volunteers per class. We welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and sitters! Younger siblings are welcome, and we will provide babysitting. If you can volunteer, please contact Mary Cicalo at mlcmmary@aol.com or 973-398-4624 (home) or 201-446-0943 (cell), or Michele Eschelbacher at meschelbac@aol.com.

We will hold a volunteer meeting closer to the date to coordinate the stations. Please volunteer – we need lots of help to make this event a success!

For Spirit Wear

We need someone to take over *Spirit Wear* for next year!

Do you have creative ideas? Would you love to see the CG community sporting your ideas? Have you wanted to help out, but never found your *thing*? We need you!

Lori Knox, the current *Spirit Wear* coordinator, has taken care of *Spirit Wear* for the last two years and would like to let someone new take charge of this fun and creative position. It is so rewarding to see children around town wearing your creations.

We will have one more Spring order, which could serve as your "training" and ease the transition. Please contact Lori at lakadk@optonline.net or 973-933-2127 if you are interested in taking over this position for the 09-10 school year.

CG Datebook

PTA Meeting	Jan. 12 at 7pm
All-School Meeting/ Wear Light Blue	Jan. 13
Eagle Enrichment Instructor Meeting	Jan. 14 at 3:45pm
SCHOOL CLOSED	Jan. 19
Respectful Schools Committee Meeting	Jan. 20 at 3:45pm
Eagle Enrichment Classes Begin	Jan. 21
Blood Drive	Jan. 22

Upcoming Programs/Events

PTA Meeting on January 12

Please join us for our January PTA meeting on Monday, January 12, at 7 pm in the CG Library. This meeting will feature a presentation by Chris Carey, Randolph Board of Education Vice President, regarding the school budget process. She will provide a general overview of the district budgeting process, including state budget caps and state aid issues, as well as a question and answer period. The school budget is the single issue which impacts every single child and family in Randolph, so please join us and get informed.

Correction: Blood Drive Is January 22

The upcoming PTA-sponsored Community Blood Drive is Thursday, January 22, between 3pm – 8pm, in the RHS Commons. For more information, please contact Maggie O'Donnell, PTA Blood Drive Coordinator, at modonnel1@verizon.net or 973-927-4347.

Principal's Message

By Mrs. Debbie Iosso, Principal

Felice Anno Nuovo! I would like to welcome everyone back from what I hope was a restful and rejuvenating vacation. It certainly was for me. Having the entire family around for almost a full month was quite a treat (even though my washing machine is burned out!).

My New Year's Resolution for Center Grove is to continue the great progress we have made as a school community in our quest to provide the best environment for our students to reach their potentials. In keeping with that, CG will start a **Respectful Schools Committee** which will include parents, staff, administration, and when appropriate, students. The first meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, at 3:45pm in the school library. Please RSVP to Mrs. Finland if you would like to attend (afinland@rtnj.org). The committee will begin by looking at the data from last spring's student survey (provided to us by The Developing Safe and Civil Schools Committee via Rutgers University). Using that data and committee input, we will continue to work towards an "upstanding" community.

The PTA will continue to work towards the top priorities identified in our **SA (situation appraisal) process**. Please look for a separate notice regarding the date we will reconvene to begin our action plans. Action plans will include how to continue to improve the communication between school and community.

Our **Facilities Committee** is scheduled to meet again in January. The first meeting identified concerns, and the next meeting will begin to address these concerns. This committee is up and running, but if you would still like to attend, please email Mr. Dolan at sdolan@rtnj.org. We will notify members of the January meeting date.

The **Morning Meeting** in our classrooms continues to provide an opportunity for CG to become a more socially conscience community. These meetings occur in each of our classrooms. (See "Learning More about Responsive Classroom" on page 4 of this newsletter.) Our **all-school meetings** occur on a monthly basis, and each month's meeting is lead by a different grade level. We will hold our January meeting in the afternoon so that our pm Kindergarteners can also become familiar with the activity.

Students continue to submit designs for the **school flag** and phrases for the **school slogan**. We will assemble a team of students from the upper grade homerooms to begin narrowing down our choices. The goal is to have a CG Flag and CG Slogan by the end of this school year.

I recently came across a website called www.freerice.com - if you get a chance, check it out! Also, a great parent resource page created by one of our district learning consultants has a wealth of information - <http://kidsfirst.pbwiki.com/>. This wiki page is a great online collaborative tool.

This year may be a difficult year nationwide, especially with regard to the economy. I believe that the school community that we have created at CG will not only weather the storm, but continue in its positive direction. My very best wishes to all of you for a safe, happy, and healthy 2009!

The Center Grove Song

*Kindness and teamwork, it's our way,
Good times and laughter, friends we'll stay,
Success is a part of our goal each day,
At Center Grove.*

*Soar like the eagle from tree to tree,
You and I, the best we can be.*

*Kindness and teamwork, it's our way,
Good times and laughter, friends we'll stay,
Success is a part of our goal each day,
At Center Grove.*

Board of Ed Meetings

- 1/12 Finance, Facilities & Transportation Committee**
Meeting at 8pm, RHS Library
- 1/14 Community Outreach Committee** Meeting at 9am,
Admin. Bldg.
BOE Work Session at 8pm, RHS Library
- 1/21 BOE Business Session** at 8pm,
RHS Library

On the Fundraising Front...

Market Day

Enclosed in today's folder, please find your Market Day order form. The next Market Day order is **due in school by Wednesday, January 14; or online by noon on Thursday, January 15**. Pickup is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, between 3pm-4pm in the cafeteria.

Just a reminder, there are TWO ways to order:

1. Visit www.marketday.com and use account number 25727 to place your orders directly online.
2. Fill out the enclosed order form and send it back to school with your child by January 14. A coordinator will input your order.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602 or at cdowntain@optonline.net.

Gift Cards

Don't forget to order gift cards! Here's how to do it:

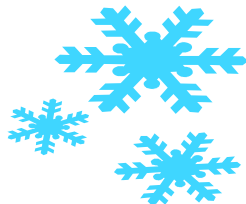
1. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com.
2. Register to create a family account.
3. Use enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L for CG.
4. Choose your gift cards, and place your order.
5. Send in your check to CG PTA in an envelope marked "Gift Card Order" with a copy of your order.

Orders are due by Monday, January 12. Pickup is on Friday, January 16, from 11:15am to 1:00pm at the front desk.

Any questions? Please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.

Acme Receipts

Please send in your blue Acme receipts. They earn valuable income for our school. Every classroom has a collection bin. Any questions? Call Beverly Mooney at 973-328-8009 or Chantelle Grant at 973-361-9763.



Donate a Dollar, Save a Life

The fifth grade needs your help! Mrs. Burke's class is managing a special charity project this year with Heifer International. Heifer International is a unique organization that collects donations and sends livestock and training to families in need all over the world.

Please consider making a donation during **January 12-30**, either during lunch or in an envelope marked "CG Donates a Cow." If every CG student contributes **\$1**, we will have enough money so that Heifer can send a cow to a family in need. To find out more about how Heifer International operates, visit www.heifer.org.

Spotlight on Specials

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

By Ms. Stacy Watson, Art Teacher

Our **second grade** artists created abstract paper sculptures which are on display in the front lobby showcase. These unique sculptures were inspired by the work of Frank Stella.

Our **second grade** artists also created fantasy landscapes inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. These pictures are hanging throughout CG's hallways.

Fourth grade artists combined color, gesture drawing, and descriptive vocabulary to create a piece of art that reflects their feelings on community. This piece was created while studying the colorful works of Kandinsky.

Fifth grade students have just finished up a unit on Sumi-e ink painting. Their hanging scrolls are on display in the Art/Music wing.

Kindergarten had a ball creating a winter collage inspired by the Lois Elhert's book *SnowBalls*. We offered each artist a variety of objects similar to the ones illustrated in the book. With these simple materials, our students created some wonderful little snow people for their collage.

Keep up the beautiful work!

Student Achievements

Congratulations to December's *Thumbs Up* classroom winners:

- Mrs. K. Miller's third grade class, and
- Mrs. Sturdevant and Mrs. Lambariello's fourth grade class.



Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, Guidance Counselor

The character education theme for January is **diversity/tolerance**. Diversity means a variety or assortment of different types of backgrounds and lifestyles. Tolerance means accepting the needs, interests, and differences of others.

CG students will participate in diversity-related activities throughout January. In fact, for the all-school meeting **on January 13, we ask that all students and staff wear light blue** to demonstrate diversity and tolerance. Please remember to have your child wear light blue on Tuesday!

Also make sure to check out the CG showcases this month that display diversity and tolerance.

Please encourage your child to show more tolerance and acceptance towards others throughout the year.

Learning More about Responsive Classroom

By Mrs. Beth Laureano, Grade 2 Teacher

In Responsive Classroom, students have the opportunity to learn and practice social skills. Morning Meeting provides a structured way to teach these social skills.

The first component of Morning Meeting is a **greeting**. Morning Meeting gives teachers a chance to teach students the social skills needed to appropriately greet someone, whether it is a peer, a family member, or an adult. Students learn to give eye contact and to hold it the entire time they greet someone. This can be a difficult and somewhat uncomfortable skill for students (and many adults). Giving students the opportunity to practice this skill now will benefit them later as they get older.

The greeting also allows each student within the classroom community to feel welcome and important. Each student belongs to his or her classroom community, and greeting one another solidifies this feeling of belonging. The need to feel important and to belong is something that carries into adulthood.

The greeting also teaches students to be welcoming to other members of the school community (the principal, other students, teachers, parents, etc.).

The hope is that once students learn to greet each other, they will use this skill throughout their day by greeting people that they see in the hallway, their bus driver, other peers, and family.

Please try to encourage your child to practice these skills when he or she is not in school. Encourage your child to watch you as you greet people that you know and people that you meet. The reinforcement of this skill at home – as well as at school – will only continue to build and strengthen your child's growth socially as he or she becomes an older, influential member of the community.

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, January 23. Please e-mail your submissions to Karen Pierro at mkpiero@optonline.net.

Articles MUST be received by 10pm on the Tuesday prior to Friday's distribution.

In an effort to conserve paper, we reserve the right to edit all information.

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