



PTA

Happy Halloween!

Volume 4
10/30/08

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

Datebook

Halloween Parade	Oct. 31 at 2pm
Daylight Savings Ends	Nov. 2
VOTE!	Nov. 4
School Closed	Nov. 4, 6, 7, 27, 28
PTA Meeting w/ Superintendent	Nov. 11 at 9:15am
Veteran's Day Reception	Nov. 11 at 1:30pm
Early Dismissal	Nov. 13-18, 26
Family Movie Night	Nov. 14 at 7pm
Picture Makeups	Nov. 21
Special Senior Persons Day	Nov. 26

Special Senior Persons Day

Special Senior Persons Day is coming again to CG on Wed., Nov. 26. Mark your calendars and invite a grandparent, aunt, uncle or other special person to visit your child in his/her classroom.

Thanksgiving Food Drive for Hope House

Once again CG will hold a food drive to benefit the families who receive services through Hope House in Dover. We will send home flyers that will have the item assigned to your child's class. The collection will take place from Nov. 10 to Nov. 14.

Family Movie Night—Nov. 14 at 7pm

Thank you for voting for your favorite movie! I was a very exciting race—*Kung Fu Panda* and *Wall-E* battled it out for first place. And the winner is... *Kung Fu Panda* by three votes! To attend, please fill out the registration form sent home earlier this week. If you have any questions, please e-mail Alexandra Kehayas at pandrak@aim.com or Geri Williams at grichwill@msn.com. Hope to see you there!

We're Looking for a Few Good Volunteers...

For the PTA Executive Board

We are beginning to look at the CG PTA Executive Board for next year (2009/2010) and some positions may be available. If you are interested in playing a major role in CG's many volunteer activities, please contact any 2008/2009 Board members (listed at the end of page 4).

For the Science Fair

We need Science Fair coordinators for each grade level (two per grade). Coordinators help to find other volunteers, to organize/order supplies, and to set up/clean up on the day of the event. It's a fun and rewarding day. No science or teaching experience is necessary! If you are interested in being a coordinator, please contact Jennifer Locke at jdlocke@optonline.net or 973-328-1969. Hope to hear from you!

For Eagle Enrichment

Eagle Enrichment is a six-week enrichment program that runs on Wednesdays from Jan. 21 through Feb. 25. We have a number of great courses that are looking for instructors and aides, such as yoga, dance, cheerleading, Legos, Magic Pencil storybooks, cake decorating/cooking, zany science and board games. Would you like to get involved? Contact Michele Ross (billmichross@aol.com); Stacy Gellert (sgellert@optonline.net); or Margaret Clark (mclark0213@optonline.net) to sign up or ask questions! If you have another idea, we want to hear it!

Spirit Wear Update

Thanks again to everyone who ordered spirit wear. I hope the kids love their dorm pants! Remember they can only wear dorm pants on special spirit wear days!

Printing issues caused a delay with some items, but they should arrive soon and will be sent home with your child. Also, look for the "PRINTER ERROR" sale flyer in this Friday Folder. Please indicate if you are interested in any of the items. They are all "while supplies last." And if you are unhappy with any item you ordered, please contact Lori Knox. She will swap out the unhappy item for another size or style of equal value at the next sale.

The next sale will run from now until Nov. 19. The items should arrive just before the winter break. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Knox 973-933-2127.

Principal's Message

By Mrs. Debbie Iosso, Principal

It is difficult to believe that the month of October is at an end. It has been a whirlwind month for me at CG and I have loved every second. Here are some of the highlights:

- We are pleased to announce Mrs. Kay Ahiskali as our new Main Office Secretary. Mrs. Ahiskali was kind enough to substitute here while we were advertising and certainly proved her worth during that time. We are fortunate to have her, and I am sure you join me in welcoming her to the CG community.
- We would also like to welcome Mrs. Rebecca McKeever as our new Learning Consultant. It is a pleasure having Mrs. McKeever as part of our staff.
- Earlier this month, I had the good fortune to present at two conferences with Ms. Fano from Ironia School: the *Innovative Learning Conference* in San Jose, CA, and the *Tech and Learning Northeast Forum* in Palisades, NY. We shared the use of a collaborative tool called a "wiki" to a national audience of educators – very exciting! I was able to send back a video to the students from the CA trip using a FLIP camera – great little tool. In addition to sharing our successes, I brought back a host of information regarding the kinds of tools other schools around the country use. What I found most valuable was the amount of FREE educational websites that are available to us.
- I met with the CG community on two occasions this month to begin the SA (situation appraisal) process. Together we identified over 25 issues which we clarified and then prioritized. We plan to meet again to begin preparing action plans to work on the top issues. Please watch for the date and attend if you can.
- CG students will participate in our own presidential election. We will announce our results at the whole school meeting on November 3.
- CG students have participated in record numbers in the School Safety poster contest, as well as the Red Ribbon Week poster contest. The submissions are excellent, and it will be difficult to decide a winner.
- During American Education week, we will invite parents to school (according to grade level) to spend time watching things such as Morning Meeting.
- Also during American Education week, we will offer our students the opportunity to help design a Center Grove flag and create a Center Grove slogan. Both of these "contests" will consist largely of student judges.

(Continued on Page 3)

Coffee and Conversation Part II

The follow-up to the first "Coffee with the Principal" took place on Wed., October 22. This meeting gave parents a chance to clarify and prioritize the 25 issues that were raised at the first meeting.

"The purpose is to have an open discussion, keep the communication flowing, and provide an opportunity to hear about things that we don't normally hear about," commented Heather Sheehan, PTA president.

Parents voted on whether each issue ranked "high," "medium," or "low" in the areas of seriousness (how serious is this issue?), urgency (how important is it that we address this issue now?) and growth (will this problem grow if it is not addressed?).

The issues that ranked highest were:

- More consistent differentiation,
- Community involvement at Board meetings,
- Different expectations within each grade,
- Air conditioning,
- Innovations in curriculum and technology, and
- An eco-friendly school environment.

The next step, according to Principal Iosso, is to "make action plans, assign people to implement them, create a timeline, and report back." We'll keep you posted as progress is made. Please stay involved and informed!

Attention PTA Members...

We will not distribute PTA membership cards with the Family Directory this year. There will be a copy of the card in the Family Directory which will provide you with the CG PTA unit number, as well as the National PTA's website and phone number. We will distribute a card to any member who requests one. If you would like one, please contact Jacky Villar at jackyvillar3@yahoo.com at any time throughout the year.

Principal's Message

(continued from page 2)

- Ellen Kessler hosted a successful Family EDM (Everyday Math) Night. Six of our staff members presented sample lessons at each of the grade levels K-5. They did a great job giving an overview of our Everyday Math Program.
- We plan to install the next order of SMART boards and LCD projectors over the Teacher's Convention break. We will certainly keep you posted. The technology project continues to move forward at an incredible pace. The entire CG community, as well as our Board of Education, is to be complimented for their commitment to this project.
- The staff continues to receive professional development on topics, such as using a new district license for *Study Island*, using the new *Science-to-Go* kits, and utilizing fully the *NJ Holistic Scoring Rubric* for writing samples. On November 4, the staff will have a workshop here at CG on implementing digital storytelling as a means of differentiating lessons.
- The CG Staff Book Club continues to meet. If anyone would like to follow along, we are currently reading "The Differentiated Classroom, Responding to the Needs of All Learners" by Carol Ann Tomlinson and "The Morning Meeting Book" by Roxann Kriete.
- Mr. Dolan will be putting together a committee of interested staff, maintenance personnel and parents to address the issue of facility improvement. The issue came up in last spring's Board of Education survey, at our Health and Wellness Committee meeting, and again at the PTA meeting with parents. Please respond to Mr. Dolan at sdolan@rtnj.org if you wish to be a part of this committee.

Great things continue to go on here at CG! Looking forward to November ☺

Sweets for Treats!

We will give donated Halloween candy to local charities during the first two weeks of November. There will be a box set up in the CG lobby if you have any candy to give away.

District News

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG BOE Representative

1. The high school implemented a *Rotating Block Schedule* giving students more time for every class and one "Unit Lunch" period. The reviews from the faculty and students are very positive!
2. The elementary schools, including Center Grove, have a new *"kit based" science program* coupled with additional staff development and training. The program gives our science teachers a variety of tools to choose from for teaching science lessons, making science more exciting for the students and teachers.
3. The town of Randolph has indicated that the ratables, or value of the property tax base, in Randolph will stay the same or decrease. This will have a potentially negative impact on the overall *school budget*.

Want to know more? Ask me or join me at the next Board of Ed meeting on Nov. 12 at 8pm! You can reach me at jstife@optonline.net.

Spotlight on Specials

FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

By Ms. Stacy Watson, Art Teacher

The 5th grade Art Enrichment has begun. So far students have designed colorful new numbers for our bus lines and created relief sculptures using their name as part of their design. We will soon display Enrichment projects in our front lobby showcase.

Now on display in our front lobby showcase are ceramic slabs with cave paintings of prehistoric animals and some caveman-style signatures (hand prints) sculpted by our 4th grade artists.

New hallway displays coming soon!!!

Your junk just might be treasure for CG's creative artists. Any objects, fabrics, buttons, ribbons, etc. that you are ready to toss just might be the perfect addition to an art project. Please send any unwanted items to the art room.

On the Fundraising Front

By Coleen Barbieri, VP Fundraising

Thanks so much to all who participated in some way to our fundraising efforts in September and October. We really do appreciate your contributions! We raised more than \$18,000 as shown below:

Fundraising	Amount Raised
Upfront Donations	\$ 9,125
Fall Book Fair	\$ 2,566
Fall Frenzy	\$ 6,250
TOTAL	\$18,031

This money will fund all of our exciting programs planned for this year and help with our completion of purchasing Smart Boards for every CG classroom. THANK YOU!

Make Your Holidays Easier!

- **SHOP JCPENNEY!** If you purchase JCPenney gift cards between now and Thanksgiving, the store will enter our school in a drawing for up to \$1,500. For every \$25 you spend on JCPenney gift cards purchased before Nov. 27, CG will receive one entry. The more you purchase, the better our chances of winning!
 - **STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS.** Just go to www.shopwithscrip.com to sign up and start shopping. Use enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L for CG. Gift card orders are due by Mon., Nov. 17, for pickup on Fri., Nov. 21, at the front desk from 2pm to 3pm. Any questions? Please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.
 - **ENTER THE MARKET DAY PIE CONTEST.** Our Pie Contest is back, just in time for Thanksgiving... Order forms came home earlier this week. The class that sells the most pies will win a PIZZA PARTY!
- PIE ORDERS** and **PAPER MARKET DAY ORDERS** are due by Wed., Nov. 5. You must return your payment with the order form and make checks payable to CG PTA. **ONLINE MARKET DAY ORDERS** are due by noon on Thurs., Nov. 6. *REMINDER: We are off school on Tues., Nov. 4, and Thurs., Nov. 6. Don't miss the deadlines!* Pick-up is scheduled for Wed., Nov. 12, from 3pm-4pm in the cafeteria. Any questions? Contact Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602.
- **BUY KIDSTUFF BOOKS.** Kidstuff books are available for anyone who still would like to purchase one. Send a \$25 check made out to CG PTA to Maureen Stockfish or call 973-989-5332 with any questions.

"Team Olivia"... A Success!!!

Thanks to all the CG families and friends for your amazing support during our recent "Team Olivia" Breast Cancer campaign. Because of you, "Team Olivia" raised more than \$11,000 for breast cancer research and education. Some of that money came from kids who gave up their snack money or who brought in an extra \$1 to purchase the pink ribbon cards that are hanging in the school foyer. Awesome job kids!

We also added to our funds from remaining monies from our t-shirt order and a contribution from our t-shirt vendor. (If you didn't get a chance to order a t-shirt and would still like one, keep your eyes open for another opportunity to order.)

Finally, thanks to all who turned out for the walk. It was great to see so many of you out there! And to all the kids who walked...way to go!

I am so proud of how our CG community came together to support Miss Youssef. We should give our children a big hug and kiss for taking part in something that may be hard for them to understand at this age and for helping in any way they could – from big hugs, to kind words in the hall, to the silent support. Their actions and emotions are truly inspiring for any parent to see.

Thank you again, and please continue to keep Miss Youssef in your prayers. – *Deb Whiting*

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Special THANKS to everyone who participated in the Fall Frenzy fundraising! Yankee Candle and Current sales exceeded \$14,000 and \$6,000 of that goes to CG. We apologize to the families who placed Beverage orders – we're sorry those orders could not be filled. We appreciate your help in making the fundraisers a great success! – *Tara Gerber, Terri LaPenna, Amy Wagner, Fall Frenzy committee chairs*

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Fall Book Fair a great success! We sold more than \$8,000 in books and earned more than \$2,000 for CG. Thanks also to all who purchased books for the teachers' classroom libraries. None of this would have been possible without the help of the many parent volunteers and the cooperation and support of Ms.Gasior, our librarian. – *Allyson Louro, VP Programs*

A special THANKS to Rebekah Linville for helping out with the Spirit Wear distribution. Your help was very much appreciated! – *Lori Knox, Spirit Wear Coordinator*

Learning More about Responsive Classroom

By Mrs. Beth Laureano, Grade 2 Teacher

I attended a week-long workshop this summer, thanks to a PTA grant. I learned lots of new information, as well as some updates to the *Responsive Classroom*® approach. Below are the seven guiding principles of the *Responsive Classroom*® approach:

1. The *social* curriculum is as important as the *academic* curriculum.
2. *How* children learn is as important as *what* they learn: Process and content go hand in hand.
3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. To be successful academically and socially, children need to learn and practice specific social skills. Five particularly important skills are Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-control (often referred to with the acronym CARES).
5. Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally, and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.
6. Knowing the *families* of the children we teach is as important as knowing the children we teach.
7. How we, the adults at school, work together is as important as our individual competence. Lasting change begins with the adult community.

If you have any questions about *Responsive Classroom*®, please e-mail me at elaureano@rtnj.org. Look for more information each month!

Donate Your Legos

Got the urge to purge? *Eagle Enrichment* can use the Legos that your children no longer play with! Please contact Margaret Clark at mclark0213@optonline.net to donate your Legos.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to October's *Thumbs Up* winners:

- Joshua Feldstein in Mrs. Turner's class
- Kyle Forsbrey in Mrs. K. Miller's class
- Mateo Panizza in Mrs. Iwicki's class
- Jillian DeSerio in Ms. Mueller's class
- Sydney Kushel in Ms. Konikowski's class
- Julia Kohn in Ms. Barrett's class
- Loni Alnor in Mrs. Dawson's class
- Alia Siddiqui in Mrs. Darbig's class

Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, Guidance Counselor

Thanks to everyone who participated in Red Ribbon Week. Many students made creative posters for the poster contest, which we displayed in the halls so that everyone could see the students' hard work. Congratulations to the poster contest winners:

- Grade 1: Julia Haddock
- Grade 2: Emily Gerber
- Grade 3: Nikhil Naik
- Grade 4: Daniela Traub
- Grade 5: Rachel Fennell

The grade level winners will go on to be judged on the district level.

November's character education theme is *Citizenship*. Good citizenship means doing your best for your school, community and country. CG recently showed good citizenship by donating hundreds of canned food items to the Randolph Food Pantry. Thank you for your donations!

Also, be sure to check out the showcases that illustrate the 5th grade's creative ideas of what citizenship means.

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, November 21. Please e-mail your submissions to Karen Pierro at mkpierro@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.

Heather Sheehan, President, sheehanfamily4@aol.com;

Dee Pokorny, VP Student Life, dee27@optonline.net; Andria Stampone, VP Student Life, avonandria@aol.com;

Stacy Gellert, VP Programs, sgellert@optonline.net; Allyson Louro, VP Programs, alouro@optonline.net;

Coleen Barbieri, VP Fundraising, cbarbieri113@yahoo.com;

Trish Coyne, VP Community Relations, trishacoyn@optonline.net; Trish Marciano, VP Community Relations, pmarciano@msn.com;

Kim Ryan, VP Administration, kdryan@optonline.net; Sherryll Penny, Treasurer, sherryllpenney@aol.com