



PTA

Give Thanks!

Volume 5
11/21/08

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

Datebook

Special Senior Persons Day	Nov. 26
Early Dismissal	Nov. 26
School Closed	Nov. 27 – 28
PTA Meeting	Dec. 1 at 7pm, CG Library
Holiday Bazaar	Dec. 3
Kit's Kaboodle – One Room Schoolhouse Assembly	Dec. 5*

*AM Kindergarteners may attend the assembly with parents from 1:08pm-2:08pm.

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

For the CG Facilities Committee

We need your help! CG is forming a committee to enhance our facilities. This issue has been raised through various surveys and situation appraisals. Please e-mail Mr. Dolan sdolan@rtnj.org or Mrs. Iosso diosso@rtnj.org and let us know what times work best for you. DADS – we encourage you to reply as well!! We will begin by getting all issues on the table and forming action plans with timelines for completion.

For Art Displays

If you're interested in helping to display student artwork in the halls, please contact Lauren Mueller at mueller119@optonline.net or 973-727-0488.

For the Science Fair

We need one Science Fair leader each for AM kindergarten and fifth grade. Leaders coordinate volunteers and organize grade level science days. No experience is necessary. If interested, contact Jennifer Locke at jdlocke@optonline.net. A leader meeting will be held on Nov. 25 at 9:30am at 1 Cornell Drive. Coffee/bagels/donuts. Kids welcome. Thanks!

For Eagle Enrichment

We are in the process of creating the *Eagle Enrichment* course selections. So far, classes may include Games, Creative Crafts, Exploring Paint, The Artist Party, Woodworking, Lego Time, Modern Dance, Scrapbooking, Let's Play Sports, and many, many more! Do you have a talent or interest you would like to share with CG's kids? Contact Michele Ross at billmichross@aol.com, Stacy Gellert at sgellert@optonline.net, or Margaret Clark at mclark0213@optonline.net.

Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 3

CG will hold its annual holiday bazaar on Wed., Dec. 3. Children will find a wide selection of gift items suitable for parents, siblings, friends, grandparents, teachers and even the family pet. We will send home more information, including the class schedule and money envelopes, during the week of the bazaar. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Paula Scali at jpscali5@verizon.net or Andrea Wesolowski at andreawesolowski@yahoo.com.

CG Gets Faster Food Service

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, CG implemented the new FastLane cafeteria system. Kids will now use ID cards or a PIN to pay for lunch from a prepaid account instead of handing over cash. Students may continue to purchase lunch with cash, but they still will need to input their PIN – or swipe their ID card – when they pay. (See page 4 for more details about the new lunch program.)

CG Moves to EMAIL!

In an effort to reduce costs and waste, the CG PTA will use e-mail notices for important, time-sensitive PTA and District information that must be distributed in between Friday Folder dates. We will keep your e-mail address confidential. We pledge to use this method wisely and not "spam" anyone!

Friday Folders will continue to come home every other Friday. In order to make this system work, we will test it out on Tuesday, Nov. 25. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Sheehan, CG PTA President, at sheehanfamily4@aol.com.

President's Message

By Heather Sheehan, PTA President

Ahh, November, the month of change... leaves changing (and falling), time changing, schedules changing (half day? full day? day off?). The one thing that doesn't change for me is how much fun I have working with the CG community... kids, families, teachers, and administrators! I hope you were able to join your child(ren) in school this past week during American Education Week. It was great to see the kids and teachers in action – and refreshing to see how much they enjoy their time in school.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our fundraising efforts so far this year. We are working hard to raise the last \$16,000 that we need to provide Smartboards and LCDs for every classroom. Our goal is to complete this project by the end of this school year – and we are making good progress. We will install the five Smartboards and six LCDs that were donated by December 1.

As we get ready to jump into December, please don't forget to take a look at the "Datebook" on page 1. There is a lot going on, from PTA meetings to the student Holiday Bazaar! Our **next PTA meeting is Mon., December 1**, at 7 pm in the CG Library. Our agenda will include Smartboard demonstrations by CG teachers and an overview of the Responsive Classroom. In addition, we will vote on an updated PTA budget. I look forward to seeing you there.

During this Thanksgiving season, I am truly thankful for the generosity of our community. Regardless of the current economic climate, CG families reached out this month to help families in need. So many of you sent in food items for the Hope House food drive, and together, we gathered enough food to assist more than 100 families in need. What a wonderful message to send to our kids about making the holidays a bit brighter for others.

Did You Get Your PTA Directory?

We distributed PTA Member Directories this week to PTA members. In order to reduce waste, each family with a paid member received one directory. If you paid for two memberships and would like to have a second directory, please contact Heather Sheehan at sheehanfamily4@aol.com.

We made every effort to produce an accurate directory, but mistakes happen. Please let us know of any errors, and we will print corrections in the newsletter.

District Datebook

Upcoming Board of Ed (BOE) meeting dates:

- **12/2** – BOE Policy Committee meeting at 9am, Central Office
- **12/3** – BOE Education Committee meeting at 8pm, RHS Library (Agenda: HS science initiative, HS course recommendations, Middle School "cycle" class recommendations)

District News

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG BOE Representative

- The Board of Ed (BOE) hired a professional search consultant to aid in the hiring of a permanent superintendent. The consultant recently reported to the Board on the qualities Randolph's constituents are seeking in our educational leader. (See also "CG Provides Feedback" on page 3 for what our parents had to say.) The goal is to **name a candidate by mid-February to early March**.
- Randolph Middle School's principal and faculty presented a **new Advisory Program** which pulls out 6th – 8th grade students one day a week to meet in small groups with teachers to do team- and confidence-building activities.
- The BOE Education Committee will meet on Dec. 3 at 8pm in the RHS Library. At this meeting, the committee will present **recommendations for new HS courses for the 2009/2010 school year**. If you are interested in understanding the process of how the school's curriculum is developed, please join me at this meeting!
- The district audit showed that the **district is in compliance** with the exception of a few minor areas that the hiring of a part time high school bookkeeper will correct.
- The **budget process** for the 2009/2010 school year will be challenging. The BOE Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee is beginning to prepare the budget for April vote.

Want to know more? Contact me at jstife@optonline.net. Or join me at the next BOE work session on Dec. 10 at 8pm in the RHS Library!

On the Fundraising Front...

Cookies Come to Market Day

COOKIE DOUGH Bonus Days are coming to CG – be sure to check out your Market Day flyer for further details. Orders are due by noon, on Thurs., December 4. Pickup is scheduled for Wed., December 10, from 3pm to 4pm in the cafeteria.

There are TWO ways to order:

1. **Online:** Visit www.marketday.com, enter our account number (25727), and place your order by noon on Thurs., December 4.
2. **By Paper:** Fill out the order form enclosed with your flyer and send it back to school with your child NO LATER THAN Wed., December 3. We will input your order.

Any questions? Please contact Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602 or at cdowntain@optonline.net.

THANKS to everyone who participated in our Pie Contest! We EXCEEDED our pie sale goal and sold 218 pies, bringing our November profit to \$713. Way to go CG!

Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson's AM kindergarten and Mr. Contuzzi's class for winning the Pizza Party. The classes tied for first place by each selling a total of 30 pies. Second place went to Miss Mueller's class (25 pies sold) and third place was Mrs. Gentile's class (20 pies).

Order Your Gift Cards

Stock up on gift cards for the holidays! 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., Dec. 1, for pickup on Fri., Dec. 5, at the front desk from 2pm to 3pm. Any questions? Please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.

Last Call for Kidstuff Books

There are still a few books left! If you're interested, call Maureen Stockfish at 973-989-5332.

And the Winner Is...

We entered all families who placed fundraising orders into a drawing for three \$25 AMC gift cards. Mr. Dolan picked the winners last Friday, and they are....the Bolinder family, the Costello family, and the Dowdy family. We will send home the cards with the kids this Friday. Thanks to all the families who helped out with the fall fundraisers this year!

Thanks!

We had a great turnout for the **2nd CG Family Movie Night!** Kudos to Geri Williams and Alexandra Kehayas for coordinating this event. Thanks to Trish Coyne, Coleen Barbieri, Trish Marciano, Paula Scali and Gina Lamm for helping out. And a very special thanks to Pete Sheehan, our technical engineer. – *Sherryll Penney*

Thank you to Chris Downtain and Colleen Ryan Meyer for helping to deliver **Spirit Wear.** Your assistance was greatly appreciated!! – *Lori Knox*

CG Provides Feedback

CG parents met with Dr. James M. Sheerin, Interim Superintendent of Schools, on Tuesday, Nov. 11, to provide feedback about issues facing the overall school district. We also gave input on what we're looking for in our next superintendent. This meeting was one of several district-wide sessions held.

CG parents had many issues on their minds, including: improving leadership turnover, adjusting class size based on building/room size, offering all-day kindergarten, expanding communication to parents, understanding Randolph's drop in state-wide HS rankings, fixing middle school lockers, improving the overall curriculum, and updating our facilities and equipment.

The next superintendent also has big shoes to fill. We would like to see someone who is a strategic thinker and creative problem solver. What's more, he or she should have proven experience in getting results, have a connection to the community and a commitment to stay, and be knowledgeable about the education environment and the classroom. Thanks to all who attended!

Spirit Wear Update

We delivered 98% of the first round of *Spirit Wear* orders. If you ordered large cheer dorm pants, you will receive them as soon as they arrive, probably just before or after the holiday break. We also expect the youth knit winter hats any day and will deliver them as soon as they arrive. Sorry for the delay!

We placed a second round of *Spirit Wear* orders last week. We expect these items before the December break. Please contact Lori Knox at lakadk@optonline.net about orders, sale items or in-stock items (car magnets or luggage tags).

Congrats to Safety Poster Winners

More than 60 CG students participated in October's Safety Poster Contest. Entries were judged according to design and content criteria. The winners served as Grand Marshals of the Halloween parade, and each received a Barnes & Noble gift certificate. The winners are:

- AM Kindergarten: Abigail Gerber
- PM Kindergarten: Joshua McGovern
- Grade 1: Emily Tully
- Grade 2: Sarah Freund
- Grade 3: Jose Mayor
- Grade 4: Abigail and Anna Wentling
- Grade 5: Jenna Patel, Ashley Eng and Kelly Earle

Congratulations to the winners and to all the students who submitted terrific posters!

CG Remembers Our Veterans

Students and their family members who served in the armed forces attended CG's Veterans' Day reception. About a dozen veterans attended, with representatives from all military services, except the Coast Guard, and from all our conflicts from the Second World War to the present. One soldier is still on active duty.

Major Curtis Bailey, from Picatinny Arsenal, spoke briefly about the significance of Veterans' Day. Three RHS students explained the difference between Memorial Day (in memory of those who gave their lives in the defense of our country) and Veterans' Day (in recognition of all who served in the military). They also read a letter from Dan Austin, a RHS teacher now serving in Iraq.

Lastly, each veteran followed his child or grandchild to his or her classroom to talk about his own experiences and to answer questions.

Faster Food Service (Cont. from Page 1)

Here's what PARENTS need to know about the new *FastLane* program:

- Deposit money into your child's account in one of two ways:
 1. **By cash or check** (payable to Randolph School Lunch Account). Your child can bring the money in an envelope marked with "School Lunch Account" and your child's name and PIN to the cafeteria at lunch time or before school starts.
 2. **By credit card**. Food Services will roll out credit card payment capability in early Dec.
- Indicate how much money is for a MEAL ACCOUNT (\$ only used for meals) or for a GENERAL ACCOUNT (\$ used for meals and/or snacks up to \$2 per day).
- Make note of any allergy information.

You will have a separate account for each child in your family.

Here's what KIDS need to know:

- Memorize the PIN that was sent home.
- Receive an ID card from your teacher each day before lunch to use during checkout.
- Input your PIN in a numbered key pad – or swipe your ID card – at checkout.
- Return the card to your teacher after lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Watson at 973-361-2098 or twatson@rtnj.org.

Donate Board Games to Eagle Enrichment!!!

Eagle Enrichment is developing a Games class for kids who want to come and play after school! Please let us know if you have gently used, but complete, board games that you are ready to donate to a worthy cause! Also, if anyone is interested in helping with this course, please contact Michele Ross at billmichross@aol.com, Stacy Gellert at sgellert@optonline.net, or Margaret Clark at mclark0213@optonline.net.

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, December 5. 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.

Newsletter Team: Trish Coyne, Trish Marciano, Karen Pierro, Katie Bergen-McLagan, Diana Higgins, Claire Keller

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, trishacoyne@aol.com; Trish Marciano, VP Community Relations, pmarciano@msn.com;

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