



PTA

Happy Holidays!

Volume 7
12/19/08

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

Datebook

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| Eagle Enrichment Forms Due | Dec. 22 |
| SCHOOL CLOSED | Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 |
| Free Dance-Ginga Brasileira Assembly | Jan. 9* |
| PTA Meeting | Jan. 12 at 7pm |
| Eagle Enrichment Instructor Meeting | Jan. 14 at 3:45pm |
| SCHOOL CLOSED | Jan. 19 |
| Eagle Enrichment Begins | Jan. 21 |
| Blood Drive | Jan. 24 |

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

Help Wanted

For Kindergarten Science Day

Kindergarten Science Day is Friday, February 6. The children will use magnets, work with items that sink and float, use their senses of smell and touch, and estimate with beans.

In order to make this a great learning experience, we need a **minimum of 20 volunteers** at each Kindergarten session – AM and PM. We welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and sitters! Younger siblings are welcome, and we will provide babysitting and appropriate activities. Please fill out the volunteer request forms that were sent home with your child. We will send out a reminder e-mail in January. Please volunteer – we need lots of help to make this event a success! Thanks! The Kindergarten Science Leaders (Danielle Colombaris, Tara Gerber, Tina Leonard and Andrea Weslowski)

For The Yearbook

The yearbook needs people to work on the **Fourth Grade** student collage pages. No experience is necessary. If anyone else is interested in working on the yearbook, please contact Robin Morris at robin@webicans.com or Karen Buch at KarenBuch@aol.com.

Eagle Enrichment Corrections!

We apologize! We included the wrong dates on a number of the applications that were sent home. We will offer Eagle Enrichment for six (6) Wednesdays – 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18 and 2/25. In addition, Andria Stampone will join Martha Perez in teaching the course, "The Little Engine that Could" Reading Club.

We will hold a meeting for both instructors and aides on January 14 at 3:45pm. Please mark your calendars!!

Blood Drive on January 24

Please mark your calendars... On Thursday, January 24, you can be an integral part of our annual PTA-sponsored Community Blood Drive when you donate blood.

As our community grows, so does the need for blood among our families, friends and neighbors. Your donation will help our community. We will send home further details closer to the date. Please reserve Thursday, January 24, between 3pm – 8pm, to donate blood in the RHS Commons.

For more information, please contact Maggie O'Donnell, PTA Blood Drive Coordinator, at modonnell1@verizon.net or 973-927-4347.

Yearbook Photos Wanted

The yearbook staff is looking for a few good photos. If you have taken photos of your kids from the **first day of school, Halloween, spirit week, the holiday concert, or any other school function**, we would love to get a copy. Please submit photos to the yearbook via a CD or by e-mail (Robin@Webicans.com or KarenBuch@aol.com).

Also, please watch for yearbook order forms. We will send them home after the holiday break. Yearbooks will be \$15 each (the same price as last year thanks to the PTA).

President's Message

By Heather Sheehan, PTA President

Oh the weather outside is frightful; delayed openings are not so delightful!

Wednesday's delayed opening was a great reminder to sign up for RAMALERTS. This is the most reliable way to receive emergency announcements from the district regarding delayed openings, school closings, and other essential information. If you have not signed up, please do so at www.rtnj.org.

Together, we made great strides towards our technology goal this year. New SMART boards and LCDs have been installed, completing Kindergarten and grades 3 thru 5. We are working hard to raise funds for the remaining first and second grade classrooms. If you are interested in making a donation (of any size) toward technology, please contact me at sheehanfamily4@aol.com.

I wish you all a happy holiday, prosperous new year, and a restful winter break!

Please Join Us!

The next PTA Meeting is Monday, January 12, at 7pm. A Board of Ed representative will attend to review the budget process. We hope to see you there!

District Datebook

- 1/6 Policy Committee** Meeting at 9am, Admin. Bldg.
- 1/7 Education Committee** Meeting at 8pm, RHS Media Center
(Agenda: RMS math, Responsive Classroom character ed., elementary academic periods)
- 1/12 Finance, Facilities & Transportation Committee**
Meeting at 8pm, RHS Library
- 1/14 Community Outreach Committee**
Meeting at 9am, Admin. Bldg.
- 1/14 BOE Work Session** at 8pm, RHS Library
- 1/21 BOE Business Session** at 8pm, RHS Library

District News

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG BOE Representative

Highlights of new courses proposed for the 09/10 school year include:

1. **New High School Science Courses.** The RHS science team, lead by science supervisor Dr. Valenti, will offer a new **Freshman** science course called Earth Systems Science. This course will replace the Earth Science Course currently required. It also will support NJ's Earth Systems Science standards and will provide broader interdisciplinary relevance for students. In addition, the HS will offer Biology to **Freshman** students. Now they may "double up" in science if they qualify. The new HS course proposal also includes several replacement classes, as well as two new classes.
2. **New Middle School Electives.** RMS's new course proposal will give **Eighth Grade** students choices for electives – such as Exploring Technology or Media Arts – by adding additional cycle offerings.
3. **Elementary Computer Skills Committee.** While no new elementary school courses are planned, the need for teaching basic computer skills at the elementary level – including keyboarding – was brought up. As a result, the Administration formed a committee made up of the elementary principals and an Admin. representative to determine how to add these skills to the curriculum.

Teachers and their representatives initiate 85% of the new course proposals. The remaining courses come from recommendations from supervisors, the Administration, or the Board of Education – especially if they are based on new state mandates. While the intent is to offer these courses for the 09/10 school year, most of the proposed courses have costs associated with them. Therefore, they cannot be confirmed until the 09/10 budget is finalized and approved.

Want to know more? Join me at the next Board of Ed meeting on December 14 at 8pm in the RHS Library. You can also reach me at jstife@optonline.net.

Thanks!

A special THANK YOU to Jaci Iskols for delivering the second round of spirit wear for me! – *Lori Knox*

Many THANKS to Amy Wagner, Margaret Clark, Andria Stampone, Lauren Mueller, and Mary Cicalo for spending numerous hours at Barnes and Noble wrapping books for donations! CG will benefit from your gracious volunteerism and hard work. – *Dee Pokorny*

THANKS to everyone for their Toys for Tots contributions. It is such a pleasure to drop off toys at the Picatinny Arsenal. The National Guardsmen are always so impressed with the amount of toys that CG donates. Your generosity is much appreciated during this Holiday Season! – *Colleen Gaudio*

On the Fundraising Front...

Market Day

Our next Market Day is **due in school by Wed., January 14, or online by noon on Thurs., January 15.** Pickup is scheduled for January 21, from 3pm–4pm in the cafeteria. There are TWO ways to order:

1. Visit www.marketday.com and use 25727 as our account number, or
2. Fill out the order form which will come home in the beginning of January, and send it back to school with your child by January 14. A coordinator will input your order.

Any questions? Contact Chris Downtain at 973.328.6602 or at cdowntain@optonline.net.

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.

Gift Cards

Sign up at www.shopwithscrip.com and start shopping. Use enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L for CG. The next gift card **order is due Monday, January 12**, for pickup on Friday, January 16. Any questions? Please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.

Pay for Lunch with Meal Pay Plus

The new FastLane cafeteria system just got even better! Meal Pay Plus now offers parents two convenient ways to manage your child's meal accounts:

1. Create a free, secure online account to manage all of your child's meal accounts.

Got to www.mealpayplus.com and follow the directions to register your child using his/her Student ID number. Your child's Student ID number is listed next to his/her name on the letter sent home with the FastLane PIN number.

For no cost, you can:

- Check account balances,
- Monitor cafeteria purchases, and
- Receive e-mail notifications when account balances are low.

2. Prepay your account online or by phone.

For a small fee, you can:

- Prepay your child's accounts using a check, credit card or debit card. Go to www.mealpayplus.com or call 866-206-6314. Funds are available in a matter of minutes.
- Create settings to automatically replenish your child's accounts when the balances get low.

We encourage all parents to create a no cost account through www.mealpayplus.com (even if you do not prepay your child's meal accounts). If you have any questions, please contact Terri Watson at 973-361-2098 or at twatson@rtnj.org.

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, kdrayan@optonline.net; Sherryll Penny, Treasurer, sherryllPenney@aol.com