



PTA

February Fun!

Volume 10
2/6/09

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

Eagle Enrichment Class Added

We will extend Eagle Enrichment one week due to last week's snow day. The last class is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 4.

1/29 PTA Meeting Summary

Members of the CG PTA and Mrs. Iosso met for the third time to review the Situation Analysis that was started several months back. Mrs. Iosso restated the process which started with creating a list of the issues that all participants cared about most. In the second meeting, seven of the top issues were identified based on their seriousness, urgency, and growth potential. These issues are:

- Implementing differentiation,
- Increasing CG parent involvement with the Board of Ed.,
- Revising curriculum,
- Understanding the different expectations among classes within the same grade,
- Obtaining air conditioning in the school,
- Working toward innovative curriculum, and
- Becoming a green school.

At this last meeting, participants discussed each issue along with some action plans to address them. Mrs. Iosso also provided us with several insights on the topics discussed. The PTA and Mrs. Iosso will look into the many recommendations brought forward.

CG Kindergarten Registration 2/9 - 2/12

Kindergarten registration begins Monday, February 9, and will be held in the Administration Building behind Center Grove School. Registration packets – as well as a list of required documentation – are available on the Randolph Township Schools website (www.rtnj.org) and at the Administration Building. Packets will NOT be available at CG.

You must make an appointment to register your kindergartner. Please call Mrs. Lopez, CG School Nurse, at 973-361-7835 x 206 to make an appointment. During your appointment, you will meet with Linda Gordon, our District Registrar, as well as Mrs. Lopez. We look forward to meeting with all of our new and returning families!

CG Datebook

Kindergarten Registration	Feb. 9 – 12
SCHOOL CLOSED	Feb. 13 – 16
1 st Grade Science Day	Feb. 20
Raising Respectful Children	Feb. 26 at 9:30am, CG Library
3 rd Grade Science Day	Feb. 27

Help Wanted

1st Grade Science Fair Volunteers

On Friday, February 20, the first graders will learn about simple machines, magic liquids, and a cool substance called "Oobleck" at this year's science day. We need many volunteers in order to make it a success! We welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Younger siblings are welcome, and we'll provide the babysitting. Please consider taking time out of your busy schedules to have fun with the kids and teach them some interesting things. We'll need your help from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the cafeteria. If you can volunteer, please contact Debbie Douglas at edougl@optonline.net or Jenn Lawlor at jrkn094@optonline.net.

Art Display Volunteers

We will display the next round of wonderful student art work on Friday, February 20. The entire school is always excited to see the new displays go up, but we need more help to get it done. Please join us from 9am to 12pm in the cafeteria to help transform CG's halls with the new art work. Siblings are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Mueller at mueller119@optonline.net or 973-727-0488.

CG PTA Executive Board

We are in the process of transitioning positions on the CG PTA Executive Board. While some members will remain in place, we welcome new faces and new ideas!

If you have any interest in joining the Executive Board, please contact either Dee Pokorny or Heather Sheehan by February 28. We would like to identify volunteers for the Executive Board for next year and have the general membership vote by mid-March in order to facilitate planning for next year.

Principal's Message

By Mrs. Debbie Iosso, Principal

Welcome to February!

I recently met with members of the **PTA** to continue the development of action plans that will support the seven priority items identified through the Situation Analysis process. Please look for the updated minutes on the CG PTA website (www.cgpta.org). The CG PTA website also can be accessed through the www.rtnj.org site.

The **Facilities Committee** also has met and resolved many of the issues that were initially brought forward. This is an ongoing committee and is open to anyone who is available to attend the meetings. Please contact Mr. Dolan at sdolan@rtnj.org if you are interested in participating.

The **Health and Wellness Committee** just received a PTA grant to purchase Earth Boxes. This project will span all grade levels with one classroom at each grade hosting the "box" and hopefully producing the items necessary for a CG Salad. ☺ I also would like to commend members of the staff for embarking upon a wellness challenge. Approximately 20 staff members have contributed to a near 100 pound weight loss in just two weeks!

The district has purchased a site license for **Study Island** – an online site designed as a supplemental tool for students to practice math at the 2nd through 5th grade levels (elementary level). We have had a few teachers trained by Study Island. We are in the process of training the remainder of the staff. At some point within the next few weeks, please watch for a username and password to be sent home for access to Study Island. This will be a great supplemental tool for students to use at home either to review, reinforce, or extend their math skills. The **Everyday Math Games** online are also available for home use. Additionally, I have sent the CG PTA website a list of some other online resources – most of which are free. Please take some time to check them out.

Our fourth graders have been chosen to be part of the sample testing for the state in February. Fourth grade families have already received information pertaining to this sample test. The actual **NJ ASK test** for the third, fourth and fifth grades will be in May.

If you know of any families with kindergarten-age children, **CG's kindergarten registration** will take place during the week of February 9 at the Administration Building.

Fifth grade will conduct the **whole school meeting** for the month of February. Kindergarten students will handle the month of March in connection with Read Across America week.

At the writing of this newsletter, I am not quite sure if we saw a shadow or not - but I am crossing my fingers for SPRING!

District News:

Stuff You Should Know...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG BOE Liaison

You may have noticed the poster hanging over the front desk at Center Grove. The poster lists the District Education Goals for 2008-2009. At the Board of Ed. meetings, Dr. Sheerin, Interim Superintendent, has given an update of the initiatives in the district that support these goals.

The 2008-2009 District Education Goals:

- **Goal 1:** We will create a student-focused culture that promotes a free exchange of communication, appreciation, and respect for all in the Randolph school community: students, parents, and staff.
- **Goal 2:** We will continue to improve recruitment, hiring, and the supervision of professional development and evaluations of personnel.
- **Goal 3:** We will continue to use student performance data to improve the academic performance of all students.
- **Goal 4:** We will use the evaluation process of special education to improve services to students and parents.

After reading these goals, you may recognize that many of CG's initiatives have been developed in order to achieve these goals. Initiatives such as *Responsive Classroom*, *Differentiation*, and *Team Teaching* are examples of those initiatives here at Center Grove. In fact, all schools within the district have similar initiatives to move toward achieving these goals.

Want to know more? Come to the next Board of Ed. meeting on February 9 at 8pm in the Administration Building.

Upcoming Board of Ed Meetings

Meeting dates/times subject to change. Be sure to check www.rtnj.org for updated information.

- 2/9 **Finance, Facilities & Transportation (FFT) Committee** Meeting at 8pm, Admin. Bldg.
- 2/12 **FFT Committee** Meeting at 7:30pm, Admin. Bldg.
- 2/17 **FFT Committee** Meeting at 7:30pm, Admin. Bldg.
- 2/18 **Community Outreach Committee** Meeting at 9:30am, Admin. Bldg.
BOE Business Session at 8pm, RHS Library
- 2/19 **FFT Committee** Meeting at 7:30pm, Admin. Bldg.

On the Fundraising Front...

Market Day Orders = New Books for CG

Come and help Center Grove earn \$250 in books from Barnes & Noble! Market Day is running a promotion this month, and all we need to do is order \$3,000 (and that's not hard to do – last month, our sales were \$2,065). So, why not stock up your freezer while stocking our library with new books? Please, share our website www.marketday.com with friends & family this month.

There are TWO ways to order:

1. **Place your order online at www.marketday.com and enter our account number, 25727.**

Online orders are due by 11pm on Thursday, February 12.

2. **Fill out your order form and send it back to school with your child.** A coordinator will input your order.

Paper orders are due in school by Wednesday, February 11.

Pickup is on Wednesday, February 18, 3pm – 4pm in the cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602 or cdowntain@optonline.net.

Stock Up on 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, February 16. Pickup is on Friday, February 20, from 2pm to 3pm at the front desk. If you have any questions, please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.

Spirit Wear Available

Need a sweatshirt for those cold days? How about a luggage tag for your spring break trip? There are many items and styles in stock (limited availability), including adult knit hats, adult tie dye shirts, ladies fitted tees, youth big logo items, and much more! Great prices! Call or email Lori Knox for details at 973-933-2127 or lakadk@optonline.net.

Send in Boxtop\$

Please continue to clip and submit your Boxtops. We will be submitting them for our check at the end of the month!

If you have any questions, please call Maureen Stockfisch at 973-989-5332.

SPOTLIGHT on 1st Grade

By Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Gentile, Mrs. Keenan, Ms. Mueller, Mrs. Nack, and Mrs. Vanderhoof

Here's a quick snapshot of what our first graders have been up to:

- Completed our "Gingerbread Review" service learning project.
- Created dragon lanterns to celebrate the Chinese New Year.
- Collaborated with the Kindergarten and 2nd Grade to complete our "Honest Abe" projects for the showcase.
- Prepared for our "Science Day" on February 20.

We are so proud of our first graders! They are doing a terrific job learning to read and write!

CG Inventors Enjoy Lunch!

Congratulations to all the winners who had lunch with author/illustrator Michael Dooling this past Thursday, February 5:

- **2nd Grade:** Chloe Kehayas, Jordan Coyle, Jenna Barbieri, Christian Braun
- **3rd Grade:** Deyvika Srinivasa, Julia McLagan, Amanda Claas, Daniel Kim
- **4th Grade:** Taylor Scoopo, Jake Barbieri, Laura Sefcik
- **5th Grade:** Alyssa Dowdy, Ethan Damiano, Claire McLagan

The winning students submitted drawings of inventions they created to improve their lives.

THANK YOU!

Just wanted to shout out a HUGE THANK YOU to all the dedicated ladies who help unload, separate, and distribute the Market Day orders month after month. We couldn't do it without YOU! Thank You!

-- Chris Downtain & Maureen Stockfisch

Warm Up Inside with Math Games

The Everyday Math website – www.emgames.com – is an educational tool to help your child with mathematics. Students can access this site at home to play math games on the computer. Your child received a user name and password early in the school year. Please contact your child's teacher if you do not have the information.

Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, Guidance Counselor

The character education theme for February is **Honesty/Trustworthiness**. The word honesty means truthful and fair to others and oneself. An honest person respects himself/herself and others. Honest people are real and genuine, and you can trust them. They recognize the importance of being reliable, trustworthy and loyal to others. We encourage all CG students to be honest and trustworthy in every situation.

Thank you to everyone who wore red or pink to the whole school meeting on February 3 to support honesty and trustworthiness!

Upcoming Events

February 9-13 – Random Acts of Kindness Week. Random acts of kindness are kind, thoughtful things done for others simply for the satisfaction of being kind. We have provided students with “bee kind hearts” to list the random acts of kindness that the students have demonstrated throughout the week. We will hang these hearts as a reminder of how kind and respectful CG students can be. We have also sent home a parent letter explaining the program.

February 26 – “Loving with Limits: Raising Respectful Children” lecture at 9:30am in the CG library. The lecture is run by Steven Tobias, Psy.D., Director of the Center for Child and Family Development in Morristown. More information is available on the flyer sent home, as well as on the district website.

Learning More about Responsive Classroom

By Mrs. Beth Laureano, 2nd Grade Teacher

The second component of Morning Meeting in Responsive Classroom® is **Sharing**. Sharing provides students with opportunities to share stories, feelings, and news about themselves. It also gives the other students in the class a chance to get to know that student better. It allows for students to find connections and to form friendships that they may not have done otherwise. New friendships can form, and existing friendships can be strengthened. Sharing also helps students speak in front of others.

Students can share on a given topic, they can share with a partner, or they can share individually. During individual sharing, students tell a story or bring in an object of importance. They tell a few facts and then ask for thoughtful questions and respectful comments. The other students in the class ask questions that elicit more information from the person that shared. They also give comments about that person's sharing that do *not* include ‘I’ statements (“I have that too” or “I once went there”).

Sharing teaches students how to converse with another person, as well as speak in front of a group. Speaking in front of a group can be an intimidating thing to do, and sharing gives students a chance to learn how (giving eye contact, speaking clearly, putting thoughts together coherently). It also gives them the practice needed to do this.

Students that aren't sharing can learn how to be good listeners and how to interact without making that share about them. They learn to listen for specific facts and to wonder more about what was shared.

Please encourage your child to think of things that they can share at school. It can be a favorite stuffed animal, a photo, a favorite book, a funny story, a new joke learned, a magic trick or even some sad news. Sharing in a safe and caring environment brings a classroom community closer together. Hopefully your child will share more with you, too!

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, February 20. 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.
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