



PTA

Welcome Spring!

Volume 13

3/20/09

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

CG Datebook

Presentation of Proposed Budget to CG PTA	March 23 at 7pm, CG Cafeteria
5th Grade Science Day	March 27
BOE Candidates Forum	March 31
BOE Special Session to Adopt FINAL Budget	April 1 at 7:30pm, RHS Library
Pennies for Patients Deadline	April 3
SCHOOL CLOSED	April 6 – 10
Early Dismissal	April 16 – 21
VOTE on budget & BOE	April 21, 2pm – 9pm
Family Bingo Night	April 24

*BOE meeting dates/times subject to change.
Check www.rtnj.org for updated information.*



Upcoming Programs/Events

Date Change - Family Bingo Night Is April 24

Mark your calendars – Family Bingo Night is Friday, April 24, from 7pm to 9pm.

We will provide more information about this fun evening closer to the date.

Save the Date - 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony!

The 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony is Friday, June 19, at 9:30am. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Any questions? Please contact Stacy Gellert at 908-246-1864, Michele Ross at 973-537-9842 or Kim Ryan at 973-328-6389.

District News: Stuff You Should Know...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG Board of Ed Liaison

- The 2009/2010 budget is a fluid document. For the latest update, please go to the Randolph Township Schools website (www.rtnj.org) and click on "Board of Ed," and then click on "2009-2010 Tentative Budget."
- Please attend the special budget presentation to Center Grove on March 23 at 7pm in the CG Cafeteria. It is important that we continue to stay involved in the process.
- The Board of Ed will vote on the final budget on April 1.

President's Message

By Heather Sheehan, PTA President

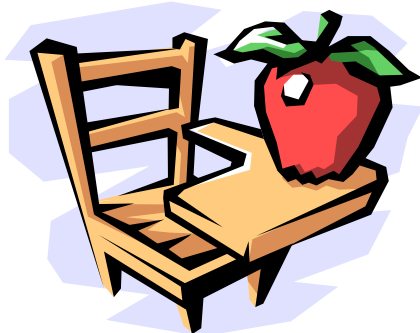
Ah, the sun is shining; the birds are chirping; outdoor recess is back... spring has finally sprung! And with it a young girl's dreams turn to (sound of record screeching here)... the school budget! While my claim to youth is greatly exaggerated, I am indeed dreaming of the district school budget. One of the PTA's most important roles is to provide information to parents and caregivers about the important issues that affect the educational experience of their children – and obviously, the budget is one!

Thanks to everyone who came out to show your support of the Vice Principal's position at the March 11 Board of Ed (BOE) meeting. It was important for the BOE to understand the high priority that we as a community place on having a strong administrative team to lead our staff and to work with our children.

Our next opportunity to communicate with BOE representatives is Monday, March 23, at 7pm, in the CG Cafeteria. The BOE reps will make a short presentation regarding the budget, be available for a Q&A session, and listen to your comments regarding the budget. It is imperative that we continue to demonstrate our involvement in the process and make our voices heard. This budget has been described as very "fluid," and changes continue to be made. We must stay involved.

We held a PTA meeting this past Tuesday to discuss the budget and come to a consensus on the CG PTA priorities regarding the budget. I am grateful to those who attended and participated in that discussion. We reached a consensus that **our highest priorities at the elementary school level are maintaining class size to current levels and preserving the Vice Principal position in all schools.** Our meeting focused on Center Grove. However, we all recognized that we are one school district and that it is essential to balance the needs of all six Randolph schools to ensure the best education for all of our children and at every age.

I appreciate your attention and patience with the e-mails and bulletins that have become more frequent during this time. The Board of Ed is working very hard to listen to the community, and we want to provide updates to you as soon as they are available. Please be sure to check the *Datebook* section of this newsletter so that you are aware of the important dates in this process!



**Special Presentation of Proposed Budget to CG PTA
Monday, March 23, at 7pm in the CG Cafeteria**

On the Fundraising Front...

Shop for Your School!

Gift cards are easy, convenient and a NO COST fundraiser for our school! Here's how to order:

- Go to www.shopwithscrip.com.
- Register to create a family account.
- Use enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L for CG.
- Choose your gift cards, and place your order.
- 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, March 30. Pickup is on Friday, April 3, from 2pm to 3pm at the front desk.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Coleen Barbieri at cbarbiere113@yahoo.com.



Order Spirit Wear

Have a class trip coming up? Need a CG shirt to wear? Many styles and sizes are available – tees, sweatshirts, ladies fitted tees, etc.

How about a baseball hat, magnet, or drawstring bag?

We currently have stock of most items, just not a lot of each size, so place your order now! Items are available on a first come, first serve basis.

I am sure we have something for you! E-mail me with your requests at lakadk@optonline.net.

Send in Your 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.

Eagle Enrichment Says Thanks!

We wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of the people who were involved in this year's *Eagle Enrichment* program.

Thank you to the army of volunteers who gave their time each week to plan classes and to work with the kids.

Thank you to Mrs. Iosso and Mr. Dolan who support the program each year. Thanks too to Ann Marie Finland and Kay Ahiskali who helped us to coordinate with the CG staff, schedule rooms, and respond to queries from parents. We are grateful to the teachers who lent us their rooms each week.

Finally, thank you to the CG students who came to the classes each Wednesday afternoon with enthusiasm and energy. We greatly appreciate all that you do to make *Eagle Enrichment* a success. Thank you!

– *The Eagle Enrichment Coordinators (Michele Ross, Stacy Gellert and Margaret Clark)*

Spotlight on Specials

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ART DEPARTMENT?

By Ms. Watson & Ms. Weiss, Art Teachers

March is national Youth Art Month. The Morris County YAM art show is currently on display at Saint Claire's Hospital in Dover until March 28. There will be a formal reception on Saturday, March 28, from 2pm – 4pm.

The following students have work on display:

- **Grade 5:** Charlotte Schreiber, Ashley Nicholas, Kelly Earle, Claire McLagan, Gabriella Cecala, Daniel Keogh, Alyssa Dowdy, Leah McCormack, Alana Libman, Alia Siddiqui, and Bridget Mooney
- **Grade 4:** Juliana Hirniak, Abigail Wentling, Julia Knox, Anna Wentling, Alison Dowski
- **Grade 3:** Ross Miller, Sabrina Hu, Jillian Smith, Lauren Mensch
- **Grade 2:** Emily Fletcher, Erica Holowko, Jordan Coyle, Adriana Hirniak
- **Grade 1:** William Yang, Evelyn Liew
- **Kindergarten:** Alison Koo

To celebrate Youth Art Month, Ms. Watson is organizing the second annual Art Criticism Contest for grades 2-5. Please see Ms. Watson for more details or check out the bulletin board by the cafeteria for information on how to participate.

March's Artist of the Month is Mary Cassatt.

Student Achievements



Congratulations to March's *Thumbs Up* winners:

- Kelly Douglas (Dawson)
- Carlota Thomas-Serrano (Keenan)
- Ryan Manzi (Due)
- Frederico Duque (Laureano)
- Ashley Kapp (K. Miller)
- Julia Seeman (Samuel)
- Christian Penney (Sturdevant)
- Kelly Sun (Hicok/Darbig)

Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, Elementary School Counselor

Theme for March: Courage

This month's character education theme is courage. Courage can be many things. It can be conquering fears, coping with dangers, or overcoming difficulties. Courage can be saying no to friends. It can be standing up for someone who is being teased. Courage can be deciding not to act in some way that might hurt yourself or others. Sometimes it takes courage to try something for the first time, to try learning something new.

This month, take a look at our character education showcase displays. Our first graders wrote "I show courage when..." pieces. We have some wonderful, courageous students attending our school!

Also, Center Grove is participating in the *Pennies for Patients* service project again this year. *Pennies for Patients* raises money for children in Northern New Jersey who have blood cancers. The service project is for three weeks, from Monday, March 16, through Friday, April 3. Last year, Center Grove raised over \$3,000 in three short weeks! I hope we can beat that goal this year. Each class has a fundraising container and classroom chart to track their donations. A parent letter also went home to further explain the program.

Please encourage students to earn the money for our *Pennies for Patients* service project by doing chores, helping siblings, finishing homework early, etc. Service projects are a great way to teach our children the value in doing something for others.

If Center Grove raises more than \$500, the top classroom gets a pizza party and the 2nd place classroom gets an ice cream party.

If an individual student raises more than \$50, we will enter him or her into the raffle for the Nintendo Wii! If you are making a personal donation, please send a check payable to the *Leukemia and Lymphoma Society* into school.

Thanks! We look forward to a successful *Pennies for Patients* service project!

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, April 3. 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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