



PTA

Spring Is in the Air!

Volume 15

4/17/09

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

VOTE on Tuesday!

The Randolph Township school board and budget election takes place on Tuesday, April 21, from 2pm to 9pm. Make your vote count!

Bingo Night Is Next Friday

Come one, come all! Bingo Night is next Friday night, April 24, from 7pm – 8:30pm. The cost is \$10 per family in advance or \$12 at the door. Prizes will be given out, and snacks and refreshments will be sold. Please send in your money as soon as possible. Any questions, please contact Stacey Seligson at staceyseligson@optonline.net or Stacy Gellert at sgellert@optonline.net.

Spring Book Fair Starts April 27

The Spring Book Fair will take place on April 27 – 29 in the CG Library during school hours. Look for details in your child's Friday Folder. This is a wonderful chance to purchase books at a 20% discount.

Any questions? Please contact either Allyson Louro at 973-442-4180 or alouro@optonline.net, or Stacy Gellert at 973-989-8235 or sgellert@optonline.net.

Staff Appreciation Week - Week of May 4

We are excited to celebrate all that the teachers do for our children at Center Grove! This year, our theme for Staff Appreciation Week is "Changing the World, One Child at a Time."

CG Writing Contest

Spread the word – CG teachers are special! As part of Staff Appreciation Week, we are pleased to announce a new writing contest for all CG students. Please consider having your child submit an entry on "Why CG Teachers Are Special." Grades K-2 should draw and color a picture with a brief explanation of why *all* the teachers are important. Grades 3-5 should write a paragraph describing how CG teachers are special. A random winner from each grade will have the opportunity to read their creative work on CG News! Entries are due by Tuesday, April 28, in the box in the CG lobby.

Any questions? Please contact Carol Braun at 973-537-0606 or jb Braun@aol.com, or Jeanne Stifelman at jstife@optonline.net. Happy Writing!

Save the Date - Italian Dinner on May 21

Come celebrate CG at the annual Italian Dinner Night on May 21. More details will follow closer to the date.

CG Datebook

Conferences/Early Dismissal	April 20 & April 21*
VOTE!	April 21, 2pm – 9pm
Journey to RMS Presentation	April 24 at 9:15am, Fernbrook
2 nd Grade Science Day	April 24
Family Bingo Night	April 24, 7pm – 8:30pm
Spring Book Fair	April 27 – 29
Staff Appreciation Week	Week of May 4
Italian Dinner Night	May 21

*On April 21, AM Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 1:38pm. There will be no PM Kindergarten.

Help Wanted

For the Book Fair

If you are interested in volunteering to help at the Spring Book Fair, please complete and return the bottom portion of the family letter. Please contact either Allyson Louro at 973-442-4180 or alouro@optonline.net, or Stacy Gellert at 973-989-8235 or sgellert@optonline.net with any questions.

For Staff Appreciation Week

School Supplies Needed. As part of Staff Appreciation Week, we are asking for school supply donations up to \$5. We will send home a list of supplies requested by the teachers to help you make a selection. Each classroom will have a basket set up for these items during Staff Appreciation Week.

Thank You Notes Wanted. In addition, we are asking parents and students to write a short note or letter of appreciation to individual teachers, as well as Specials teachers and assistants. Please deliver any notes/letters directly to the teachers in their mailboxes located in CG's main office.

Thank you for your help in making this a special week for those who do so much for our children! If you have any questions, contact Laurie Constantinides at benxandra@aol.com or Jeanne Stifelman at jstife@optonline.net.

For the PTA Newsletter

We are looking for one or two new editors for the PTA newsletter for next year! If you're interested, please contact Karen Pierro at mkpierro@optonline.net, Trish Marciano at pmarciano@msn.com or Trish Coyne at trishacoyne@aol.com.

President's Message

By Heather Sheehan, PTA President

I know I am irritatingly chipper about my love of the cold weather during ski season, but even I have to say enough is enough! I am warmed by how many of you have attended the recent flurry of Board of Education (BOE) and PTA meetings to learn more about this year's school budget, the process for creating the budget, and the many state mandates and restrictions which impact our budget. Please remember that **the school election is Tuesday, April 21, from 2pm to 9pm.** There are two items on the ballot:

- 1) The school budget, which is a yes or no vote, and
- 2) Three Board of Education positions. Three seats are open; five candidates are running. You may vote for up to three people.

Remember, polls are no longer in the schools, so please examine your sample ballot to determine your voting location. A listing of voting locations by district also is included in this Friday Folder.

One of the questions I have been asked often is what happens if the budget is voted down (i.e., more people vote no than yes). If the budget is voted down, the Randolph Town Council is charged with deciding the total tax levy and school budget. Historically, the Town Council has cut the budget if it is rejected. If the budget is cut by the Town Council, the BOE must go back and make cuts to fit the reduced budget. This will mean more cuts in staff and programs. The public will not get another chance to vote.

The Randolph PTA Council, which is composed of each school's PTA Presidents and other representatives, has voted to support this budget. The PTA Council has made a public statement to this effect at the April 1 BOE meeting. I strongly urge every parent and caregiver to vote on Tuesday.

In addition, I must thank Jeanne Stifelman, the CG PTA Board of Education liaison, for her tireless attendance at countless BOE meetings and her work to communicate with the CG community through her newsletter article and verbal reports at the PTA meetings. She has done a wonderful job keeping the CG community informed of the issues and activities during this process.

In closing, you may be aware that the school has been experiencing serious phone problems this week. Apologies go out to anyone who called and did not get through, but just got endless ringing. The phones are not ringing in the building. Verizon is working on the problem. Until it is resolved, please use e-mail to communicate with staff. You can contact staff by using their first initial and last name @rtnj.org (i.e., diosso@rtnj.org for Debbie Iosso). A complete staff listing is available at www.rtnj.org.

District News:

Stuff You Should Know...

By Jeanne Stifelman, CG Bd of Ed Liaison

- Please VOTE on the school budget and Board of Education candidates on **Tuesday, April 21 from 2pm until 9pm.**
- Please keep in mind that if the school budget does not pass, it will be sent to the town where additional cuts most likely will be made.
- Please note that the polling places have changed. We will all be voting at firehouses instead of in the schools. Please check your mail to find out where you to cast your vote!

PTA BIGrant Program

Did you know that your PTA donations help to fund ideas that the teachers have to add to the regular school curriculum? Here is a list of grants that the PTA has made so far this year through the BIGrant (Big Idea Grant) Program:

- **EARTHBOXES (Health and Wellness Committee & Ms. Hicok).** This grant allowed the Health and Wellness Committee – parents and staff committed to improving the health and wellness of the CG community – to purchase six Earthbox kits. These kits will allow students at each grade level and the entire school community to experience growing and harvesting their own fruits and vegetables.
- **RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM WORKSHOP (Kindergarten Teachers).** With this grant, the Kindergarten Teachers attended a one-day workshop on Responsive Classroom sponsored by the Northeast Foundation for Children.
- **ADDING MORE SPARKLE TO THE 4TH GRADE (Mrs. Theodoropoulos).** This grant allows the 4th grade teachers to purchase several hands-on activities that target Language Arts and Math skills. For example, students will create autobiographical posters and book reports throughout the year. The grant also will purchase materials to create math and literacy centers for the 4th grade classrooms.
- **SUPPLEMENTING 1ST GRADE WRITING (Ms. Mueller).** This grant provides supplemental materials for the Lucy Caulkins writing program that will be introduced next year. The books purchased with this grant will give the students examples of good writing to help enhance the lessons outlined by the Lucy Caulkins program.
- **LIBRARY READING CORNER (Ms. Gasior).** This grant allows Ms. Gasior to enhance the library space – with a story rug, bean bag chairs, and posters – to make it more appealing and inviting for the students.
- **5TH GRADE NOVELS (Mrs. Marrucci).** This grant will purchase two novels to supplement the 5th grade Language Arts/Reading curriculum. Reading novels helps students develop a love of reading and encourages them to practice critical thinking skills.

Encourage your child's teachers to apply for BIGrants through the CG PTA website (www.cgpta.org). We love to hear great ideas!!

On the Fundraising Front...

Send in Your BOXTOP\$

Please send in your Boxtop\$. They earn valuable income for our school and help fund activities. Collection bins are in each classroom, as well as at the front desk.

Any questions? Contact Maureen Stockfisch at 973-989-5332 or at Mcfisch5@aol.com.

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.

Pick Up Your Market Day Orders

Pickup for your Market Day orders is on Wednesday, April 22, from 3pm to 4pm in the cafeteria.

Any questions? Please contact Chris Downtain at cdowntain@optonline.net.

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, April 20.

Pickup is on Friday, April 24, from 2pm to 3pm at the front desk.

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

Spotlight on Specials

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ART DEPT.?

By Ms. Stacy Watson, Art Teacher

We recently gave the 4th graders a task – construct a shoe with masking tape and recycled cereal boxes. Their first response was, "What? Are you serious? We can't do that." The crazy Art Teachers response, "Oh yes you can! Now figure it out." And that they did.

The 4th graders created amazing sculptural shoes with nothing but basic supplies and some amazing imagination. We have the shoe for you – whether you need a shoe for an all-star athlete or a fashionable trendsetter, or an exotic shoe to wear during a safari. Please come view these spectacular works of art which light up the showcases throughout Center Grove.

Thanks to all the students who participated in the March Youth Art Month Criticism Contest. We had more than 291 completed criticism entries from 2nd – 5th grade. Great job!

Counselor's Corner

By Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, Elementary School Counselor

April's character education theme: Respect

The definition of respect is showing admiration for a person, place, or thing, or having a sense of her or his good qualities. Respect can be found in many forms. Some ways that our CG students practice respect every day are: respect for self, respect for others, and respect for the Earth.

Thanks to everyone who participated in *Pennies for Patients* to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This year, in just three short weeks, CG raised **\$1,482.70!** The top fundraising classroom is Mrs. Due's class. They donated **\$244.96** and have won the Domino's pizza party. The second place fundraising classroom and the winner of the ice cream party is Mrs. Laureano's class with **\$149.07**. In addition, five students each donated \$50 and will be entered into the Wii Challenge drawing. Everyone did a great job of giving selflessly to help children battling blood cancer. Thank you again for all of your hard work!

Upcoming Event: The Parent Network Committee will host a presentation by RMS teacher Mrs. Dale Baumwoll on April 24 at Fernbrook School, from 9:15am – 11am. The program – titled *The Social Journey to Randolph Middle School... What's Around the Bend?* – is for 4th and 5th grade parents whose children are transitioning to the middle school. Discussion topics include: social acceptance, self esteem, confidence, peer pressure, responsibility, and independence. *The first 50 attendees will receive a free copy of Mrs. Baumwoll's book!*

Quote of the month: "People who look down on other people do not end up being looked up to." – Robert Half

SPOTLIGHT on the Third Grade

Meet Ms. Lisa Barrett

Position: 3rd grade teacher

Years at CG: 10

If you could switch places with someone for a day, who would it be? My cat... no worries!

Favorite book: *The Velveteen Rabbit*

Favorite game: *Guitar Hero III*

Favorite line from a song: "I hope you dance!" by Lee Ann Womack

Describe a good day: A day when it unexpectedly pours rain. All practices and games get cancelled, and everyone is home to eat dinner together. Yipee!

Favorite vacation spot: Any place warm and tropical

What was your favorite subject in school? English and Writing

What did you want to be when you were growing up? An interpreter for the UN. I loved learning other languages.

Meet Mr. Michael Contuzzi

Position: 3rd grade teacher

Years at CG: 7

What famous person would you like to have dinner with and why? Tiger Woods – I need some serious help with my golf game!

Favorite book: *Dreams for My Father* by Barack Obama

Favorite game: *Rock Band 2*

Favorite line from a movie: "You talkin' to me?" – Robert De Niro in *Taxi Driver*

Describe a good day: Getting up, coming to school, and making a difference in a student's life.

Favorite vacation spot: Anywhere with sand and water

What was your favorite subject in school? Science

What did you want to be when you were growing up? I always said (or so Mom tells me) that I was either going to play professional golf or become a teacher.

Most memorable CG moment: The entire year I student-taught with Mrs. Vanderhoof in 1st grade – we had such a great time!

REMINDER: Immunization Update for 5th Graders

New Jersey now requires the following two additional vaccines for children born on or after January 1, 1997 and who are enrolling in 6th grade for the 09-10 school year:

1. An additional booster dose of **Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis**, provided at least five years have elapsed since the last Tetanus shot, and
2. One dose of the **Meningococcal** vaccine.

NOTE: Your pediatrician will not administer these vaccines until your student has turned age 11 – **so please make your appointment for a date after your student's 11th birthday!** If you have any questions, please call Mary Sharon Lopez, school nurse, at 973-361-7835 x206.

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, May 1. 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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