



PTA

Happy Spring Break!

Volume 14

4/3/09

THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

Upcoming Programs/Events

CG Datebook

SCHOOL CLOSED	April 6 – 10
PTA Meeting	April 15 at 9:15am CG Cafeteria
Early Dismissal	April 16 – 21*
VOTE on Budget & BOE	April 21, 2pm – 9pm
2nd Grade Science Day	April 24
Family Bingo Night	April 24, 7pm – 8:30pm
Spring Book Fair	April 27 – 29

*On April 21, AM Kindergarten students will be in school from 8:38am to 1:38pm. There will be no PM Kindergarten.

Spring Book Fair

The Spring Book Fair is coming to Center Grove from April 27 – 29! Enjoy all of your summer reading at a discounted rate of 20%. Details will follow soon in your child's Friday Folder. If you have any questions, please contact Allyson Louro at alouro@optonline.net or Stacy Gellert at sgellert@optonline.net.

Immunization Update for 5th Graders

If your child was born on or after **January 1, 1997** – and is enrolling in 6th grade for the 2009-2010 school year – New Jersey now requires two additional vaccines:

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.

Please keep in mind that your pediatrician will not administer these vaccines until your student has turned age 11 – **so 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.

Help Wanted

Calling All 5th Grade Parents...

Do you have a picture of your 5th grader asleep? It can be a picture of your child sleeping at any age (younger ages preferred). If so, please put your child's name and homeroom teacher on the back of the photo and send it in an envelope addressed to "Yearbook – Robin Morris" by Tuesday, April 28.

We will return all pictures by the end of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Gellert at sgellert@optonline.net.

Don't Forget to Vote on April 21

The Randolph Township school board and budget vote takes place on Tuesday, April 21, from 2pm to 9pm. Please note the following important changes:

- **New voting locations.** Voting will no longer take place at any of the elementary schools. Please call the Randolph Township School District Business Office at 973-361-0808 or visit www.rtnj.org to see where your district's new polling location is located.
- **Absentee ballot voting available to all.** Any NJ voter may now vote by absentee ballot for any election. You may apply for an absentee ballot by completing an application at www.njelections.org/absentee_doe.html. For the April 21 election, send in your absentee application to the County Clerk by Tuesday, April 14, or apply in person to the County Clerk until 3pm on Monday, April 20.

Principal's Message

By Mrs. Debbie Iosso, Principal

Well, I got my wish—March is certainly going out like a lamb! The sooner I can get rid of the sweatshirts and layers, the happier I will be.

Contest Winners

The CG flag contest has ended, and the entire student body has chosen a winner. With more than 250 votes, 5th grader Sorah Park is the flag contest winner. We have sent Sorah's drawing to a flag company and are currently waiting for its graphics department to create an image for printing. The entire student body also has voted on their favorite CG slogan. We will announce the winning slogan at the April whole school meeting. The 4th grade will host that meeting, and they have requested that we wait until after spring break so that they can tie in the theme to Earth Day.

Testing

We will administer the NJ PASS test to the 2nd grade students during the week of March 30. This three-day test of Language Arts and Math is a good introduction to the NJ ASK. The 3rd and 4th grades will take the NJ ASK during the week of May 4, with make-ups during the week of May 11. The 5th grade will be testing during the week of May 11, with make-ups during the week of May 18. Please help us by making sure your student is in school on testing days. Families of students in grades 3 – 5 will receive additional information after spring break.

Parent Teacher Conferences

With conferences quickly approaching, please allow me to review a few items. During your conference, you will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with your child's teacher to review progress. Along with the report card, you should receive some representative work samples to give you a visual picture of the progress your student has made. Your child's teacher will highlight strengths and may give you suggestions to enhance progress in other areas. It is perfectly fine for students to develop at their own rate—especially prior to the 3rd grade. Come prepared with any questions you may have regarding progress and/or curriculum. This is also the time to make any comments about next year. If you feel strongly that your child works well with a certain personality, you may want to share that information with your current teacher. The teachers at each grade level prepare the class lists for the next year and do so with an incredible amount of professionalism. They know the children best and do a fabulous job of matching students to teachers.

Study Island

Teachers of students in grades 3 – 5 will share previous test data information to include scores from the NJ PASS, as well as any previous NJ ASK assessments the students may have taken. This information will be useful for you when working with your child at home. Study Island has become a popular website for students in grades 2 – 5. The content areas on Study Island correspond nicely with the content areas on the NJ ASK assessments. When your child is working on the Study Island website to address these areas, please be sure to work with them. Sometimes there is a tendency for students to use Study Island as a game; they may guess at answers as opposed to truly working toward a solution. I think you will find this online tool helpful as you work with your student to prepare for the ASK. Parents in grades 3 – 5 also will receive a parent booklet on April 20 which will contain more information. If you have not received any information about Study Island, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Best wishes to the entire Center Grove community for a happy, healthy and safe spring break. We look forward to seeing you all again on April 13!

CG Flag Top 10 Finalists

Congratulations to Sorah Park, the winner of the CG Flag contest! Her winning design is shown below.



Congratulations also go to the following students who submitted the top 10 CG flag designs:

- Max Park
- Lauren Iglar
- Jessica Freund
- Alex Heilman
- Patricia Juliano
- Julia Aronson
- Alyssa Dowdy
- Timothy Archer, Christopher Archer, James Archer
- Melissa Downes, Paula Bush, Jen Novotny

On the Fundraising Front...

Place Your Market Day Orders

A huge thank you to all of you who participated in our pie contest! Our monthly February profit was a total of \$315.22 – way to go Center Grove!

Congratulations to the pizza party winners! First place was Mrs. Schwarz's class, selling 23 pies, and second place was Miss Mueller's class selling 16 pies. Thanks too to our third place classes, Mrs. Theodoropoulos' class and Mrs. Laureano's class, each selling nine pies.

Remember, there are two ways to order market day:

1. **ONLINE.** Place your order online at www.marketday.com and enter our account number, 25727. **Online orders are due by 11pm on Thursday, April 16.**
2. **ORDER FORM.** 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, April 15.**

Pickup 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 cbarbieri113@yahoo.com.

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.

Learning More about Responsive Classroom

By Mrs. Beth Laureano, 2nd Grade Teacher

The third component of the Responsive Classroom's Morning Meeting is the *Group Activity*. The purpose of the Group Activity is to introduce students to five important social skills and to help them use and experience these skills. The five social skills make up the acronym CARES: **C**ooperation, **A**ssertion, **R**esponsibility, **E**mpathy, and **S**elf-control.

Cooperation means working together. During Group Activity, students learn to work together to play a game, complete a task, or solve something. Cooperation is a lifelong skill and learning to cooperate at a young age makes it easier for students as they get older. Cooperation is used throughout the school day, so practicing it during Group Activity is a great way to ensure carry-over to the rest of their day.

Assertion means taking care of yourself and your needs in a respectful way. Students learn to take turns, wait patiently, follow directions, and lead an activity. Assertion is a tough social skill to learn and internalize. Group Activity allows students to learn this skill in a safe, positive way.

Responsibility means doing your job, and it is one of the most important life skills to learn. During Group Activity, students learn to follow directions, take care of themselves, and participate in the right way. Once they learn what responsibility means, they can become more independent in school, whether it is for their homework, their class work, their jobs, or the classroom/school expectations.

Empathy means caring about how someone else feels. During Group Activity, students learn and see that it is okay to make mistakes. Students also learn and experience what it is like to take risks and leave their comfort zone—and to see what it feels like to be in someone else's shoes. Being empathetic makes it easier for us to connect to each other on a personal level, which in turn allows us to understand each other and work better together.

Self-control means acting in control or being the boss of your own words and actions. Group Activity allows students to play games and participate in activities that require lots of self-control, from following directions to taking turns.

If you are interested in some activities that encourage these skills, please e-mail me at elaureano@rtnj.org. Please take some time to talk with your child about these skills and relate them to everyday life. By encouraging your child to demonstrate these skills at home and at school, you will help your child do his or her best every day!

SPOTLIGHT on the Third Grade

Meet Ms. Olivia Youssef

Position: 3rd grade teacher

Years at CG: 3

What famous person would you like to have dinner with and why? I would love to have dinner with Oprah! I think she is such an amazing person. She is always thinking about others, and she has fantastic shoes!

Favorite book: *The Devil Wears Prada*

Favorite game: *Trivial Pursuit Pop Culture*

Favorite line from a song: "And in this crazy life, and through these crazy times, it's you. It's you. You make me sing. You're every line; you're every word; you're everything." – from Michael Buble's song *Everything*

Describe a good day: A good day for me is waking up and feeling good. I really do appreciate my health.

Favorite vacation spot: My favorite vacation spot is Disney World. I am like a big kid when I go there!

What was your favorite subject in school?
Language Arts

What did you want to be when you were growing up? A teacher

Most memorable CG moment: My most memorable moment at CG was when Matt proposed to me in my classroom. He knows how much I love teaching! It was something that I will always remember, and I am sure my students will too!

Meet Mrs. Kristen Miller

Position: 3rd grade teacher

Years at CG: 13

What famous person would you like to have dinner with and why? I would like to have dinner with Princess Diana. She seemed like such a caring loving mother, and she worked so hard to help children all over the world. She seemed very lonely to me and seemed like she could use a close friend.

Favorite game: *Mancala* – a great thinking game!

Favorite line from a movie: "There's no crying in baseball!" – from *A League of Their Own*

Describe a good day: A great day is when the sun is shining, and I can take my morning walk and then spend the rest of the day doing something with my family. We like to go to the city and walk around and see a Broadway show.

Favorite vacation spot: Hershey Park – the spa is great there also!

What was your favorite subject in school? Language Arts

What did you want to be when you were growing up? I wanted to be an optometrist when I grew up. I started majoring in science and then knew it wasn't quite right for me. My heart told me that I needed to be with children and to be a teacher.

Most memorable CG moment: Teaching almost all day without electricity.

NEXT ISSUE: Friday, April 17. 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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