



# PTA

Eyes on June!

Volume 18

5/29/09

## THE EAGLE'S EYE Center Grove School PTA

### CG Datebook

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Party	June 5
Kindergarten Carnival	June 10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Picnic	June 11
PTA Meeting & Volunteer Picnic	June 12 at 9am raindate June 18
Whole School Meeting/ Unveiling of New CG Flag and Slogan	June 15
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony	June 19 at 9:30am
HALF DAY – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	June 22

Please sure to check the [rtnj.org](http://rtnj.org) website for the most recent 2009-2010 school calendar.

### Help Wanted

#### PTA Membership Chairperson

The PTA is looking for someone to serve as Membership Chairperson for the 2009-2010 school year.

If you're interested, please contact Sherryl Penney at [sherrylpenney@aol.com](mailto:sherrylpenney@aol.com) for more information.

#### Art Department Volunteers

Do you have an interest in photography?

The art department would like to begin using ARTSONIA for the 2009-2010 school year. Artsonia is a website that is used to create online art galleries for schools. With Artsonia, teachers can upload student artwork and parents can go online to view it before it even comes home. It is a great way to see the creativity of CG students on a daily basis.

To make this venture a success, we need a few volunteers who enjoy photography and who would be willing to photograph student artwork and upload it to our online gallery. If you're interested, please contact Ms. Watson at [swatson@rtnj.org](mailto:swatson@rtnj.org).

### Upcoming Programs/Events

#### Brick Sale Deadline Extended

The CG PTA is sponsoring an effort to build a brick patio in the tree-lined grove in front of the school. Families may purchase engraved bricks for \$50 a brick. You may request an order form by contacting Sherryl Penney at 973-769-7457 or [sherrylpenney@aol.com](mailto:sherrylpenney@aol.com). Or you may order online at [www.bricksrus.com/order/centergrovepta](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/centergrovepta). **The order deadline has been extended to Friday, June 12.**

The CG PTA will use all of the funds raised toward the purchase of additional technology and equipment, such as finishing the SMART Board project, installing FM systems in the classrooms, and much more.

#### PTA Meeting & Volunteer Picnic June 12

Please join us Friday, June 12, for our last CG PTA meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. At this meeting we will vote on our bylaws. We will gather at Heather Sheehan's home, 57 Longview Ave. Please e-mail Trish Marciano at [pmarciano@msn.com](mailto:pmarciano@msn.com) or Trish Coyne at [trishacoyne@aol.com](mailto:trishacoyne@aol.com) if you can bring any baked goods or breakfast items.

#### Enter the CG Readers Raffle

We will hold the next CG Readers raffle drawing live on CG News on Friday, June 12. There will be one winner per grade. To enter the raffle to win a gift card, students must read a book, complete a book review form, and drop it off in the library by Wednesday, June 10.

#### Take the Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready for a fun-filled summer – and don't forget to include reading! Be on the lookout for the *Summer Reading Challenge* forms and details which we will send home in June.

#### Reminder: Immunizations for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

New Jersey now requires two additional vaccines for children born on or after January 1, 1997, and who are enrolling in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2009-2010 school year:

1. A booster dose of **Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis** (if at least five years have elapsed since the last Tetanus shot)
2. One dose of the **Meningococcal** vaccine.

Your pediatrician will not administer these vaccines until your student has turned age 11. Any questions? Please call Mary Sharon Lopez at 973-361-7835 ext. 206.

## Principal's Message

By Mrs. Debbie Iosso, Principal

Greetings CG community! We just returned home from **Field Day**, and I am proud to say that our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th graders made an exemplary showing representing Center Grove. They were full of vim and vigor despite the rather chilly May temperatures, and it was a pleasure watching them have so much fun. Kudos to our physical education teachers for putting together such a successful day!

Speaking of success – the **Italian Dinner** once again was a terrific evening. Heartfelt thanks to the many moms and dads who gave so much of their time and energy to make it a great family event. I must also extend thanks to the CG staff. They went above and beyond to display work indicative of the kind of learning that takes place at Center Grove on a daily basis. I am sure that those of you who were able to tour the building were delighted with what the students have accomplished.

June is always a whirlwind of culminating activities, grade level picnics, end-of-year field trips, and dreams about summer vacation. It is a time for me once again to reflect on yet another school year. As I finish my third year at Center Grove, I can say with much conviction that it has been my pleasure to be a part of such a strong, progressive school community. I am continually impressed with the dedication I see from students, staff and families.

Our building goals this year centered on **Service Learning** and **Responsive Classroom**, in addition to the continuation of stressing a standards-based curriculum. Each grade level is on track to complete and submit a Service Learning project. Each student will receive a Service Learning certificate from me validating the hours spent on a project. Responsive Classroom philosophies will continue in Center Grove, as will the time devoted to morning meetings in each class.

The **whole school meetings** this year were a huge success and offered a time for our entire school community to come together and celebrate one another. Our May meeting even featured some of our moms leading the whole school meeting – an event that very well may become a tradition! The June 15 whole school meeting will mark the unveiling of the new **CG Flag** and the new **CG Slogan** banner by the CG administration.

One of our own, Ms. Kristin Mueller, will travel to Africa this summer to work with young children through the **Rafiki Foundation**. Each of you have received information on this venture and how you can help if you so desire. We wish Kristin well as she travels to Africa – I have no doubt the children there will love her as much as our children do.

In closing for this year, please accept my sincere appreciation for all that you do collectively as a school community. Mrs. Sheehan and the entire PTA go above and beyond on a regular basis to make Center Grove such a great place – from carnivals to movie nights, from bingo games to Italian dinners – we couldn't do it without YOU. And where would we be without the entire staff – from Mrs. Finland and Mrs. Ahiskali to Mr. Dolan, from kindergarten through grade five with our special teachers, special educators and special assistants, from food service to custodial staff, and of course, to the students. It gives me great pride to say that I am part of the Center Grove Eagle Community.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer break. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

## On the Fundraising Front

### Place Your LAST Market Day Order

Stock up for summer! This is our LAST sale of the school year. There are two ways to order market day:

1. **ONLINE.** Place your order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) and enter our account number, 25727. **Online orders are due by 11pm on Thursday, June 11.**
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, June 10.**

Pickup is on Wednesday, June 17, from 3pm to 4pm in the cafeteria. Any questions? Please contact Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602 or at [cdowntain@optonline.net](mailto:cdowntain@optonline.net).

### Stock Up on Gift Cards for the Summer & Back to School

Buy your gift cards to keep around for the summer – for parties, graduations, college students, and every day shopping needs. Here's how to order:

- Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://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, June 1.** Pickup is on Friday, June 5, from 2pm to 3pm at the front desk. If you have any questions, please contact Coleen Barbieri at [cbarbieri113@yahoo.com](mailto:cbarbieri113@yahoo.com).

## Thank You!!!!

We wish to thank all those who helped make the *Celebrate Center Grove* evening such a success. Special thanks to **Annette Steele and Danielle Iannacconi**, to all those who set up and cleaned up, to those who baked/brought flowers, and last but not least, to our staff and faculty who served dinner and drinks!

## SPOTLIGHT on the Fifth Grade

### Meet Mrs. Beata Darbig

**Position:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years at CG:** 5

**What famous person would you like to have dinner with and why?** Claude Monet, the French impressionist painter. But instead of having dinner, I would love painting lessons.

**Favorite book:** *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks

**Favorite game:** *Apples to Apples*

**Favorite line from a movie or song:** Too many to pick just one...

**Describe a good day:** A good day is hanging out with my dog Rufus, and of course, with my family.

**Favorite vacation spot:** The beach and camping with a big group of friends

**What was your favorite subject in school?** Art

**What did you want to be when you were growing up?** An artist

**Most memorable CG moment:** My first year when my students threw me a surprise birthday party

### What Has Mrs. Darbig & Mrs. Hicok's Class Been Doing?

In addition to participating in the *Kids Helping Kids* 5<sup>th</sup> grade service learning project, Mrs. Darbig and Mrs. Hicok's class created digital stories using *Windows Movie Maker* to supplement the curriculum related to the ecosystem.

The class did this project so they could explore pollution in different forms and learn ways to contribute to its prevention. The students learned how to use *Windows Movie Maker* as a creative way to present information. And they also learned how to take a more active role in advocating for our environment.

The students really enjoyed learning how to use *Windows Movie Maker* and exploring their individual choices of types of pollution and ways they can help the environment.

### Meet Mrs. Alissa Hicok

**Position:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years at CG:** 4

**If you could switch places with someone for a day, who would it be?** I would love to switch places with one of my students for a day – to be able to view myself from their perspective, experience the class through their eyes, and once again feel the innocence of childhood.

**What super power would you want and why?** I wish I could record/photograph events as I see them – with my eyes and influenced by my perspective.

**Favorite author:** Tim Robbins

**Favorite game:** *Mad Gab* (inside) or wiffle ball (outside)

**Favorite line from a song:** "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" – Heather Small

**Describe a good day:** Any day is a good day. A great day usually involves sunshine, being at home with my family, and getting to spend some time outside.

**Favorite vacation spot:** Hermit Island, Lake George

**What was your favorite subject in school?** Reading and Language Arts until high school, then it was Photography and U.S. History

**What did you want to be when you were growing up?** A teacher first, then a business person where I would have to wear suits every day, then back to being a teacher... and I am thankful I do not have to wear suits every day!

**Most memorable CG moment:** Introducing myself to my students on the first day of school as "Mrs. Hiccup." 😊

We are proud of all of our students' growth and accomplishments this year. Our class has been the monthly *Thumbs Up* winner two times (so far) this year. We are proud of the example they have set. –  
*Mrs. Darbig & Mrs. Hicok*

**FYI**

*Study Island* will be available all summer long!

## SPOTLIGHT on the Fifth Grade

### Meet Mrs. Diana Burke

**Position:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years at CG:** 17

**What famous person would you like to have dinner with and why?** Benjamin Franklin – he was so diverse and lived long enough to see the USA born.

**If you could switch places with someone for a day, who would it be?** I would switch with any one of my own three children, but especially with (my child who is) the attorney in court each day.

**What super power would you want and why?** To develop an understanding of all peoples

**Favorite book:** *Night* by Elie Wiesel. It made a lasting impression on me and so did the author.

**Favorite game:** Football

**Favorite line from a song:** “If you can’t be with the one you love, love the one you’re with.” – Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young (it reminds me how to adapt to any new situation in life)

**Describe a good day:** When I hear from my own children and they are happy

**Favorite vacation spot:** Anywhere I go with my husband

**What was your favorite subject in school?** History

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

**Most memorable CG moment:** The days my former students return and give me positive feedback about their fifth grade experience.

### What Has Mrs. Burke's Class Been Doing?

Mrs. Burke's class developed a unique project to tie in their learning about percentages to an actual situation involving sampling.

The class divided up a bag of M&M's candy, and each student sorted their portion by color and counted the candies by color. Each student worked with their own sample to determine the percentages of each color. Then they combined the individual results to compare their results with the total results for the bag. Lastly the class wrote to Mars Inc., the producer of M&M's, to see how their color percentages compared with the percentages the company uses to package its product.

It was a highly effective lesson in computing and using percentages. The students loved the project and eating the sample when they finished!

All of my students have developed and fine-tuned the most essential aspects of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their future education: study skills, responsibility, note taking, and time management. I am so pleased and proud of them. – Mrs. Burke

**LAST ISSUE: Friday, June 12.** Please e-mail your submissions to Karen Pierro at [mkpiero@optonline.net](mailto: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.  
**Newsletter Team:** Trish Coyne, Trish Marciano, Karen Pierro, Katie Bergen-McLagan, Diana Higgins, Claire Keller

Heather Sheehan, President, [sheehanfamily4@aol.com](mailto:sheehanfamily4@aol.com);

Dee Pokorny, VP Student Life, [dee0627@verizon.net](mailto:dee0627@verizon.net); Andria Stampone, VP Student Life, [avonandria@aol.com](mailto:avonandria@aol.com);

Stacy Gellert, VP Programs, [sgellert@optonline.net](mailto:sgellert@optonline.net); Allyson Louro, VP Programs, [alouro@optonline.net](mailto:alouro@optonline.net);

Coleen Barbieri, VP Fundraising, [cbarbieri113@yahoo.com](mailto:cbarbieri113@yahoo.com);

Trish Coyne, VP Community Relations, [trishcoyne@aol.com](mailto:trishcoyne@aol.com); Trish Marciano, VP Community Relations, [pmarciano@msn.com](mailto:pmarciano@msn.com);

Kim Ryan, VP Administration, [kryan@optonline.net](mailto:kryan@optonline.net); Sherryll Penney, Treasurer, [sherryllpenney@aol.com](mailto:sherryllpenney@aol.com)