



# PTA

Building Up  
Steam!

Volume 2  
10/5/07



## THE EAGLE'S EYE

### Center Grove School PTA Newsletter

#### Datebook

<b>Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser</b>	Ends October 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Yearbook Meeting</b>	October 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am (Cafeteria)
<b>Coffee with the Principal</b>	October 10 at 9:15 am (Cafeteria)
<b>Picture Day</b>	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>PTA Meeting with focus on "Responsive Classroom"</b>	October 17 <sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (Cafeteria)
<b>Internet Safety Seminar</b>	October 29 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (CG)
<b>Upcoming Board of Education Meetings</b>	October 10 <sup>th</sup> & October 24 <sup>th</sup> - both at 8 pm (RHS)

#### President's Message

What an exciting two weeks since our last newsletter!

Kim Ryan, Chris Downtain and all the volunteers did a great job making the Back to School Carnival a fun-filled family event. Thanks to all of you for your hard work!

The Back to School nights were exciting as well, as the PTA kicked off the "Technology for Teaching" project. The first phase of this project is dedicated to purchasing new Hewlett Packard laptop computers for Center Grove teachers. In addition to the new technology the district installed in the classrooms this summer, the laptops will provide teachers with a dedicated resource they can use beyond the classroom for research, lesson planning, parent/student communication, confidential grading, and so much more. What an exciting way to start off the year!

Thanks to all of you who have already participated in our fundraising efforts. Our two largest fundraisers are going on right now - the upfront fundraising and Innisbrook sale. These programs raise 70% of our funds, which are used for programs such as cultural arts and character ed assemblies, Artist in Residence, science days, teacher grants, room parent funds, and so many more areas which enrich our children's school experience. If you haven't yet participated in our fundraising, please consider it.

October will be an exciting month! More information on the October 17 PTA meeting and other planned events is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our goal is to make every PTA meeting an informative one. Send me your ideas for speakers and topics at [Sheehanfamily4@aol.com](mailto:Sheehanfamily4@aol.com) and I will get to work on it!

- Heather Sheehan, CG PTA President

#### From the Principal's Desk

WOW! We are off to a terrific beginning to this school year. Both Back to School nights were very successful and the staff enjoyed meeting and greeting all of you - as did I! The PTA truly made both nights special with the announcement of their "**Technology for Teachers**" fundraiser. The incredible donations of both the *Douglas* and *Seligson* families allowed the PTA to donate 19 laptop computers to our staff members. This project has just begun. The plan is to provide every CG staff member with a laptop to use while employed at Center Grove. This commitment by our school community and our PTA to provide the staff with current technology to enhance classroom activity is simply awesome. We are thrilled and very grateful to be the recipients of such generosity.

October will be a full month culminating with the Halloween Parade ☺ Please be advised that when you are shopping for costumes - weapons of any kind (swords, spears, pitchforks etc. will not be allowed in school.) Your cooperation is appreciated.

**(Continued on p.2)**

## From the Principal's Desk (Continued)

During Safe Schools Week in October, CG will be hosting a poster/essay contest. There will be a winner from each grade level. The winners will lead the Halloween Parade and win a pizza party for their classroom. We have also invited our local police department to be on hand to discuss safety – including Halloween safety – with our student body. For the parents, Agent Bill Tsigaras from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office will be on hand to discuss Internet safety. This presentation should **NOT** be missed. What you will learn about Internet safety will serve you well for many years. Look for details on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, our media specialist will use safety as her theme for this week and we will be practicing our first Lockdown drill. Please watch for a separate letter regarding this.

Also, stay tuned for information regarding this year's American Education Week in November. We do plan to celebrate that week at Center Grove with activities including our Media Center open house. Additionally, we will be celebrating special person's day on the \_ day prior to the Thanksgiving break – November 21<sup>st</sup>.

We're on a roll ☺

### A NOTE ON THE BLOOD DRIVE

**A HUGE Thank you to all of our Center Grove Community who helped with our blood drive that was held last Friday evening for Mrs. Barter-Varicchio. We collected 80 pints of blood dedicated to Trish's name at the NJ Blood Bank! The drive was a great success, and we couldn't have done it without your help! Thank you to everyone who donated blood, volunteered working the event, and donated refreshments! Our school community never ceases to amaze me with all that we do for our children and our staff! We have a lot to be proud of!**

Sincerely,  
Mary Sharon Lopez



## A Few Reminders

**1) PTA Membership Forms:** If you had planned on joining the PTA and haven't turned in the membership form with the dues, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Membership to the PTA has several privileges including a listing in the CG directory for 2007-08. Remember, if you are not a PTA member, your name **WILL NOT** be listed in the directory. Questions? Contact Jacky Villar at [jackyvillar3@yahoo.com](mailto:jackyvillar3@yahoo.com).

**2) Emergency Contact Forms:** Please turn in your emergency contact forms as soon as possible. This information enables us to reach you in case of an emergency closing or other unanticipated situation. Contact: Chris Downtain at [cdowntain@optonline.net](mailto:cdowntain@optonline.net)

**3) Market Day Orders:** Just a friendly reminder that your Market Day order will be ready for pick-up in the Cafeteria on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> between 3 pm and 4 pm. If you have any questions, please email Chris Downtain at [cdowntain@optonline.net](mailto:cdowntain@optonline.net) or

## COMING SOON...

### Internet Safety Seminar

We are very excited to announce that Mrs. Iosso has arranged for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to hold a discussion for parents on Internet Safety on October 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Center Grove School. Please join us for this very important presentation coming from the people who know! Mr. Bill Tsigaris, an Agent in the Computer Crimes Unit, will present what is happening in the Internet world and how we can protect our children.

### Coffee With the Principal

Don't miss a chance to brainstorm, with Mrs. Iosso, ways to make our school even better. Let your ideas be heard in an informal setting. Our first "Coffee with the Principal" is scheduled for October 10 at 9:15 am. Location: the CG Cafeteria.

### PTA Meeting

What is "responsive classroom"? How does it work? Learn all about this educational approach and how it is being rolled out in CG classrooms at the October 17 PTA meeting. Time: 7 pm. Location: the CG Cafeteria.

## Innisbrook...It's Got The Beat!

Our annual Innisbrook fund raiser is nearing the finish line! Please do not forget to send in your completed order forms and check (no sales tax) to school, no later than October 9th! We are eager to exceed our goals with your support. Exciting prizes will be awarded for top sales efforts! Please consider ordering additional items for holiday presents, gifts for teachers, etc. at the [innisbrook.com](http://innisbrook.com) site. Kindly enter the school code 108500 to ensure CG receives credit from purchases of all products available on the web site. Free shipping is offered for orders over \$75.

Congratulations to our Back to School night prize winners, Sue Blanc and Tracy Barnes. They correctly identified the number of ipods on the wrapping paper displayed at school; the gift baskets were full of fun Innisbrook products! Great job! Any questions, please contact Maria Scott at 973 328 6362.

## Upfront Fundraising

It is never too late to submit your Upfront Fundraising donations. This money helps us to do so many great things for your children during the school year. Please send what you can in an envelope marked "Upfront donation" and make your check out to the CG PTA. Thanks in advance for your donations.

**ACME Receipts** Remember to send in your ACME receipts. They earn valuable income for our school. Every class has a collection bin. Any questions, call Beverly Mooney: 973-328-8009 or Chantelle Grant: 973-361-9763.

## Boxtop\$

Please remember to keep clipping those Boxtop\$!!! We are going to announce a new contest soon!!!

## Kidstuff Coupon Books

You can still order Kidstuff books filled with valuable coupons for shopping, restaurants and activities thru October 9th. This is a great way to save money and help out the PTA.

## Wish List Funds Technology for Teaching!

Last year, due to the generous donations from two Center Grove families, the *Wish List* received donations towards technology. Our project team was able to determine what type of laptop would be best suited for our teachers and subsequently was able to place an order for **nineteen** Hewlett Packard Compaq 6715b Notebook PCs.

## Yearbook Update

Photos ! Pix ! Pictures ! - Any one interested in assisting us in creating the expanded 2008 yearbook is cordially invited to our first meeting on October 8th @ 9:30 am in the CG Cafeteria. We would like to thank you for the prompt response to our YEARBOOK PICTURE AUTHORIZATION FORM. It is imperative that we receive a form for every child. If a form is not returned or is returned indicating that you DO NOT want your child in the yearbook, they will not be included. Please get those forms in. Halloween pictures need to be forwarded to us ASAP. We would prefer it if you email your photos to us but if you would like to give us a disk or hard copy, we will gladly accept them. The deadline for Halloween pictures is NOVEMBER 2ND.....Any questions, please contact Karen Buch (973) 442-9318 or Robin Morris (973) 895-9592.

## Fall Book Fair

The Fall book fair will be returning to Center Grove Library on October 22-25th during school hours. The family late night will be held on Thursday 10/25 from 6:00-8:00pm. Look for details concerning the Fall Book Fair in your child's Friday folder. The letter contains important information, including the book fair classroom schedule. We are still accepting volunteers. If you have not yet filled out your interest finder form with the PTA, please complete the bottom portion of the family letter and send it to school with your child. We will be in contact with all those who have volunteered. Please contact either Allyson Louro 973-442-4180 ([alouro@optonline.net](mailto:alouro@optonline.net)) or Danielle Iannacconi 973-537-9260 ([daniannacconi@yahoo.com](mailto:daniannacconi@yahoo.com)) with any questions you may have.

## Birthday Books

So, what ARE Birthday Books? Birthday Books are a great way to celebrate your child by donating a book to the Center Grove library! Mrs. Smith, Center Grove's new Librarian, will select books for each participant. Your child will receive a colorful certificate and be the first to borrow the book. Each book will also have a bookplate acknowledging your child. The program is voluntary and \$15 per book is requested. Look for the flyer in this Friday Folder, and return it to school with your check by Monday, Oct. 15. For more info call Carla Little at 973-343-6734 or Frances Bucien at 973-328-4538.

### Wish List.....(Continued from p. 3)

Five Laptops were given to the Grade 2 teachers and the technology specialist and **twelve** laptops were given to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. **One** laptop was given to the Librarian/ Media Specialist.

The CG PTA voted last spring to support this project with a bit of additional money and to commit spring '08 as a dedicated fundraising season for this purpose.

Our "Technology for Teaching" fundraising will "kick-off" in January. However, keep in mind that all donations to the CG PTA are tax deductible. If you would like to make a contribution for *this* tax year, please make your check to CGPTA and put "technology" in the memo section. Place your donation in an envelope marked "Wish List" and send it in with your child.

Thank you to everyone who is helping make this project a success. If you would like to volunteer to work on the *Wish List* committee please contact [mariepotter@optonline.net](mailto:mariepotter@optonline.net).

### Spotlight on Specials:

#### Technology News: By Ms. Lee Ann Pellegrini, Technology Resource Teacher

Randolph continues its commitment to integrate technology into the curriculum and classroom instruction. This integration provides students not only with the technological skills they will need for the future, but also with critical thinking and problem solving skills.

I am excited to begin another school year as the Technology Resource Teacher at Center Grove. As the TRT, I will be going into your child's classroom (Grades 1-5) with laptops, twice a month. During this time I will be introducing new technology skills to your child as well as reviewing skills previously taught. On my first visit, I will be reviewing laptop care and procedures along with some basic typing in MS Word. I have visited some classes already and your children are **awesome**.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [lpellegrini@rtmj.org](mailto:lpellegrini@rtmj.org)

### Counselor's Corner - By Alycia Zemlanicky, Guidance Counselor

On October 2, the Thumbs Up winners of September had a pizza party with Mrs. Iosso, Ms. Zemlanicky, and Dr. Wilkins. The winners of September were Steven Cassano, Liam McSorley, Jenna Bucien, Amanda Parache, Syndey Howe, Stephany Heiberger, and Gina Romano. Mrs. Vanderhoof's and Ms. Konikowski's class won the classroom Thumbs Up. Congratulations to all of the winners!

September's theme was Friendship. Thank you to all of the students and teachers for being such wonderful helpers and participants in learning about friendship.

The character theme for October is responsibility. Eighteen fifth grade students were recommended as Pupil Assistance Leaders (PAL) from their teachers. These leaders will demonstrate responsibility throughout the school year toward classmates, teachers, and the school as a whole.

Red Ribbon Week runs from Monday, October 22 through Friday, October 26. The focus for this year's Red Ribbon Week is to "Show Good Character by being Drug Free." Red Ribbon Week posters for the poster contest are due by October 17. A flyer detailing activities planned for that week has been sent home. Classroom lessons during Red Ribbon Week will promote the idea of developing character by being drug-free.

NEXT ISSUE: October 19<sup>TH</sup>. Please e-mail your submissions to [sangitasrinvasa@gmail.com](mailto:sangitasrinvasa@gmail.com). Articles MUST be received by 10:00 PM on the Tuesday prior to Friday's distribution. In an effort to conserve paper, we reserve the right to edit all information.

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

Dee Pokorny, VP Programming, [dee27@optonline.net](mailto:dee27@optonline.net); Stacy Gellert, VP Programming, [sgellert@optonline.net](mailto:sgellert@optonline.net)

Coleen Barbieri, VP Fundraising, [cbarbieri@yahoo.com](mailto:cbarbieri@yahoo.com); Sherryll Penney, VP Fundraising, [sherryllpenney@aol.com](mailto:sherryllpenney@aol.com);

Trish Coyne, Corresponding Secretary, [trishacoyne@aol.com](mailto:trishacoyne@aol.com); Trish Marciano, Corresponding Secretary, [pmarciano@msn.com](mailto:pmarciano@msn.com);

Kim Ryan, Recording Secretary, [kdryan@optonline.net](mailto:kdryan@optonline.net); Mary Cicalo, Treasurer, [MLCMary@aol.com](mailto:MLCMary@aol.com);

Andria Stampone, VP Administration, [avonandria@aol.com](mailto:avonandria@aol.com)