



PTA

Spread Some
Holiday Cheer

Volume 6
11/30/07



THE EAGLE'S EYE

Center Grove School PTA Newsletter

Datebook

Early Dismissal (Conferences)	December 3 rd
Everyday Math Presentation	December 3 rd 7 pm (CG Café)
Holiday Concert	December 4 th (Dec 5 th snow date) 9:30 am (Gym)
Holiday Bazaar	December 6 th (7 th snow date)

President's Message

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday and break! It was kicked off with a successful Special Senior Persons day, in which over 200 special guests participated. The program included refreshments, songs by our chorus, and activities in the classroom. Special thanks to Michelle Ross and Donna Zolla, the chairs, and to all the volunteers who made the day a success.

You are holding this newsletter in your hand, but did you know you can now find this and lots of other information ONLINE? That's right, our new Center Grove PTA website is up and running, **cgpta.org**! While still under construction, the website is a great place to go for news and information about the CG PTA. Check it out today and bookmark the calendar page so you can keep up to date on all school and PTA events. Keep going back, as new pages and functionality is being added every week. Our goal is to have the site be the best resource for CG families for PTA programs and information, including forms to download! This website would not be possible without the generosity of the Morris family, and their company, Webicans. They have donated all related startup costs, and committed to donating all web development and programming. Thank you!

Our last PTA general meeting was held Wednesday, 11/28, and included a roundtable with our principal, Mrs. Iosso. The focus of the meeting was Service Learning, and after a short presentation on the topic, we brainstormed ways we could integrate service learning into our school. Ideas included after school clubs or an Eagle Enrichment program. Anyone interested in working on this idea should contact me - this is a great way to get involved with your child!

-Heather Sheehan, CG PTA President

From the Principal's Desk

Holiday Happenings ☺

The calendar tells me that the holidays are upon us although it is very hard to believe all that time has gone by already.

We have thoroughly enjoyed all of our visitors during American Education Week and for Special Senior Person's Day. Thanks to all of you who were able to join us. These celebrations will definitely continue. Our Holiday Concert is scheduled for December 4th. Families are invited to the morning performance at 9:30 in the gymnasium. The snow date for the concert is December 5, 2007.

The make-up conference day will be Monday, December 3, 2007. This day will accommodate anyone who missed a conference due to the snow day on November 19, 2007. The day will operate like all the other conference days with grades 1-5 being dismissed at 1:38 and both sessions of Kindergarten operating on a regular schedule.

I enjoyed seeing everyone on the evening of November 28th. The topic of this "coffee" was service learning - what it is and what it isn't. Together we brainstormed ways to incorporate this at CG.

The holiday season is always a reminder to me of what is really important. The feeling I get knowing that I've shared something with a friend or a stranger, helped someone in need or just listened a little harder when someone needed to talk is so heartwarming and as the commercial says.....priceless! Enjoy each day.

Coming Up...the Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar will be held this year on Thursday, December 6th. If you are interested in helping out with this event, please e-mail Karen Novotny at novotnys@optonline.net. Whether you help set up, clean up, or assist the children in picking out their gifts, it goes a long way in making this day a fun experience for them.

This is a **one day only sale** and there will be many items to choose from. Don't forget to send some money in with your child/children so that they get the satisfaction of picking out gifts for their friends and family. Cash and checks made out to the CG PTA will be accepted. Thank you in advance for your participation.

If you have any questions, please contact Sari Leopold (973-895-3931), Karen Novotny (973-895-4145) or Sue Slavin (973-537-6533).

Yearbook

The next yearbook meeting will be December 14 from 9:00am to 11:30 am. Please remember to continue taking pictures. As always your support is greatly appreciated.

WE HAVE EXTENDED YEARBOOK SALES TO DECEMBER 21. We have added 12 pages to our yearbook this year giving us a greater opportunity to add more pictures of the kids in every grade. We also have a slew of surprises!!! Yearbooks are \$15. If you have any questions please call Karen Buch 973-442-9318 or Robin Morris 973-895-3953.

GET YOUR ORDER IN TODAY
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

Toys for Tots - Well, it is that time of the year again!! There will be a box for the Toys For Tots collection in the front lobby of the school from Monday 12/3 to Monday 12/17. Please drop off unwrapped toys during that time!! (no weapons, please). Thank You!!



A Spotlight on Specials - Library

From the Stacks: by Mrs. Smith

Everything I know I learned from children books. It's true.

For example, did you know that as a country we almost lost Thanksgiving? Well, thanks to the wonderful book *Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving* by Laurie Halse Anderson, I learned that Thanksgiving was made a national holiday thanks to a relentless 38 year letter writing campaign by a woman name Sarah Hale (who also wrote the nursery rhyme Mary Had a Little Lamb). I shared this magnificent biography with the Center Grove students before Thanksgiving and we had a great time extending our knowledge about the traditional holiday through literature.

Now, after a rejuvenating Thanksgiving break, things are back in full swing at the Center Grove Library. New books have been arriving and the Birthday Books will soon be ready. The new reading incentive program, *CG Readers*, will be rolled out to the 2nd - 5th grade students in the next few weeks as I continue my campaign to put quality books in the hands of our students.

The past few months have been a whirlwind, and I want to take the time to express my sincere thanks to all who have made my transition here at Center Grove a wonderful experience. I am so grateful to the parents, teachers and students who have welcomed me with enthusiasm and encouragement. It is gratifying to be part of a community who is so dedicated to the education and well being of its children.

I owe a special thank you to the over 30 parent volunteers who come each week and make my job more manageable by shelving books and lending a helping hand wherever it is needed. THANK YOU!

I am enjoying getting to know each student and teacher here at Center Grove and was overwhelmed by the participation in my Picture Book Mystery Challenge in honor of Children's Book Week (Nov. 12-16). Each day I dressed up and gave a clue about a famous children's book on CG News and students were asked to write down the title and author as a class. I was pleased to see how excited the students were about the contest and can happily report that I had 100% participation and 97% accuracy. Clearly next time I will have to make the clues harder!

I am looking forward to the rest of the year and working with everyone in the Center Grove community to continue to build the library program. Please check the Center Grove Library website periodically for announcements and library updates.

CG Readers Program

Our new **CG Readers program** will soon begin! This is a library-based program which encourages all 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to read level-appropriate books and write a review. Each student who reads a book and completes the review will be entered into a raffle drawing and have a chance to win a gift certificate to a bookstore. There will be one winner per grade level, per drawing. In the upcoming month the program will be explained to all students during their library class. This year the program will be conducted in February, April and June. The reviews must be submitted by the first day of the designated month and the raffle will take place during the first week of that month.

All entries will be kept and accumulated for a special 2nd chance raffle at the end of the school year.

Join in on the fun! Reading is fun! If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Smith at msmith@rtnj.org and look for information on the Center Grove Library webpage.



On the Fundraising Front....

The Gift Card Program - We've sold over 100 cards in just two weeks and have already earned over \$180! This fund raising program is at no cost to Center Grove and you can choose from hundreds of retailers! This program is a great way to buy gift cards and earn money for the school. Every retailer gives back a percentage of the face value of the card. Don't think just "gift" cards - you can buy cards for your own everyday use. For example - buy cards for grocery shopping and you will earn money for our school. Visit www.shopwithscrip.com and use enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L for more details. More questions? E-mail Coleen Barbieri (cbarbieri113@yahoo.com) or Sherryl Penney (sherrylpenney@aol.com).

Market Day News

- Next Market Day order due: Monday, Dec 3rd
- Internet orders due: by noon on Thursday, Dec 6th
- Pick-Up: Wednesday, December 12th from 3-4 pm in the cafeteria.
- Now is the time to stock up for the Holidays!
- Contact: Chris Downtain at cdowntain@ponline.net or Maureen Stockfisch at mcfisch5@aol.com.

Thanksgiving Food Drive



Thanks to the generosity of Center Grove and Ironia families, as well as the administrative office, over 400 bags of food were delivered to Hope House. Our donations helped 235 families enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. A special thanks goes out to all who helped collect bags from the classrooms and load the vehicles. In particular: Andria and Tyler Stampone, Patrick Coyne, Barbara and Vincent Marciano, Stephanie Foley, Jack Carle, Jordan Quinn and Mackenzie Sheehan. The spirit of cooperation in our school community is something to be truly thankful for.

- Mary Ellen Carle, Trish Marciano and Trisha Coyne, Caring & Sharing Committee

Upcoming Board of Education Meeting

Wednesday, December 12th at 8 pm in the Randolph High School Library



Fun Activities for the Next Snowy Day

1) Take a Good, Close Look at Snowflakes

What you need:

- * Black paper or fabric (place in freezer)
- * Magnifying glass

What to do:

Take the black paper or fabric out of the freezer and outside when it's snowing. Let some snowflakes land on the paper and quickly use the magnifying glass to see the beautiful shapes.

2) Snow Slush Dessert

What you need:

- * Fresh, clean snow
- * Frozen juice concentrate (thawed, but cold)
- * Cold glasses or bowls

What to do:

Scoop the snow into a glass or a bowl, drizzle a few spoonfuls of concentrate on the snow and enjoy.

(Reprinted from <http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/air/wintersevere/activities.en.html>)

NEXT ISSUE: December 14th. Please e-mail your submissions to sangitasrinivasa@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.

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