



PTA

Happy Holidays!

Volume 7
12/14/07

THE EAGLE'S EYE

Center Grove School PTA Newsletter



Datebook

- Toys for Tots Collection** Thru Monday, Dec 17th
- Eagle Enrichment Application Deadline** Tuesday, Dec 18th
- Board of Ed Meetings** Dec 19th & Jan 9th at 8 pm (RHS)
- School Closed** Dec 24th – Jan 1, 2008

From the Principal's Desk

SINCERE HOLIDAY WISHES TO ALL.

Every year I promise myself that I will begin all the madness of planning and shopping early so that I have time to relax and enjoy the holiday season. It looks like I will have to make that promise to myself again next year and hope that I can live up to it – I certainly failed this year ☺

For those of you that were able to attend the holiday concert - you were treated to a wonderful display of CG talent. The strings, band and chorus performed beautifully and deserve our utmost praise.

Our Holiday Bazaar was held on December 6th and gave our CG students a chance to "shop" for the holidays. The students truly enjoy this day and I am sure were able to purchase treasures for their family members. Thanks to all the CG parents and grandparents who were on hand to help out.

The staff at Center Grove continues on their path to provide our students with the best of the best in instruction. We continue to spend time on investigating differentiation in the classroom. The half day in November was spent in training for how to differentiate learning centers in the classroom. We are also moving forward with the implementation of the morning meeting concept as presented by Responsive Classroom. The four basic components of morning meeting include the greeting, sharing, group activity and news and announcements. Please continue to ask your students about their participation in morning meeting.

In the fourth grade, we are thrilled to share the Artist in Residency program. This is being partially funded through a grant written by fourth grade teachers Leah Konikowski and Tina Theodoropoulos. Our CG PTA is funding the remainder of the cost of the program.

We have an artist who will be on site to assist our students with creating a mural that Students from all grade levels will be given a chance to participate in this project.

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President's Message

WOW! My kids aren't the only one's counting down 'till the holiday vacation!

With all the rushing around for the holidays on top of everyday life, it's hard to keep up! December has been a festive month at CG.

It was great to experience the musical talents of our kids at the holiday concert, and so much fun to see the kids shop during the Holiday Bazaar. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a success!

Eagle Enrichment registration forms went home to all students this past Wednesday, and forms are also available at cgpta.org. (our great new website...check it out, new things are added all the time!)

This year's Artist in Residency program starts in December with a planning process by the fourth grade students, and the artist will join us in school in January. We are looking forward to an "extreme makeover" in the café! More updates will be available in the newsletter and on the website in January.

The CG PTA directory will be sent home with students next week, along with membership cards. I apologize for the delay in the directory's printing, and take full responsibility.

I hope you all find time to enjoy the season in your own special way (snowball fights, anyone?!) Happy Holidays!

- Heather Sheehan, CG PTA President

From the Principal's Desk (Cont.)

Recently our K Kids after school club led by Ms. Dona Hoehn collected an incredible amount of supplies to aid the children in California who were victims of the recent wildfires.

Our Eagle Enrichment program is beginning next year and I've already seen some very interesting classes being developed to include a service learning project.

Before the end of this school year, I will be having a community meeting with each grade level – the input from students is invaluable. We will be discussing among other things the benefits of morning meeting, their view of the climate at CG and their input as to future spirit days at CG.

Please accept my very best wishes to you and your extended families for a wonderful holiday season. Stay healthy, stay warm and enjoy ☺

Eagle Enrichment

Eagle Enrichment is here!!! You should have received your application forms earlier this week, but in case you did not, go to www.cgpta.org. You can print the application from our new, beautiful CG PTA website! Application deadline is Tuesday, December 18th.

Word Soup News

Word Soup, CG's literary magazine created for the students by the students, is proud to announce that the following fifth graders have been selected as charter members of the Word Soup Student Editor Committee: Isabel Braun, Lauren Buch, Amanda Kolacy, Elyse Kolacy, Eva Rago and Joshua Steinfink. Each wrote an essay on "Why I Want To Be A Word Soup Student Editor This Year." CG's literary magazine is also being compiled online for the first time this year and will be published in the Spring. All students may submit an original poem, essay or short story per the guidelines posted in each classroom (that were also sent home earlier via Friday folder.) Submissions should be e-mailed to sebreslow@aol.com. Congratulations again to our fifth grade student editors! Everyone, keep Word Soup hot...submit your spot to our online pot!



Poems
Stories
Essays
Creative Writing

A Spotlight on Specials – Enrichment

Exciting things are happening in the area of Enrichment at CG. Enrichment teacher, Mr. Michael Kennedy said that he goes into all of the classrooms twice a month to conduct exercises in "inductive, deductive, and analytical thinking" with the students. Grades 1 through 3 began using the PETS (Primary Enrichment Thinking Skills) curriculum this year. Under this program, the children are introduced to characters with different thinking patterns such as "Sybil the Scientist" and "Yolanda the Yardspinner" and are asked to analyze and evaluate their thought processes. Similar themes are explored for Grades 4 and 5.

The General and Math Enrichment pullout for Grades 4 and 5 is once a week and is divided into units. Mr. Kennedy said that these tend to be long-term projects where the students generally work in teams. There's a lot going on currently to keep these children engaged – a Math Olympiad; the 4th grade study of ancient structures to create stories around them; and the upcoming 5th grade trip to the Buehler Challenger & Science Center in Bergen Community College where the students will work in a Space Station simulator and experience what it is like to go on a space mission.

Thanks to Randolph's Schoolwide Enrichment Model and Mr. Kennedy's efforts, our kids are being pushed to think "outside the box"!

Thumbs Up Winners

A Thumbs Up Pizza Lunch was held on December 11, 2007 with Mrs. Iosso and Ms. Zemlanicky. The winners of the Thumbs Up pizza lunch for November and December were Josh Dunn, Jenna Barbieri, Erin Mooney, Jessica Haloverson, Tyler Glenn, Trent Sharpe, Chase McBride, and Andrew Posniack. A big congratulations to the winners! Keep up the good work, everyone!

Math/Reading Problems of the Month

The Math & Reading problems can now be viewed on www.rtnj.org under the section on Center Grove School. Please remember to write your full name, teacher's name, grade, homeroom and complete answer to receive credit for your work! Any questions, contact Mr. Kennedy (for the Math problem) and/or Carol Braun at 973 537 0606 or ipbraun@aol.com. Good luck!

Wish List

It's that time of year again! The Center Grove Wish list is out and you should have received a copy by now. The items listed are needed by the Center Grove teachers and Staff in order to make the school a more comfortable and creative place. Donations of goods can be placed in the marked basket near the front desk until the middle of January. Monetary donations can be brought into school in the envelope provided – or in any envelope marked "Wish List". Thank you for your generosity!! If you have questions, contact mariepotter@optonline.net

Holiday Bazaar

We would like to thank everybody for their support and help with the Holiday Bazaar. It was a big success. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup. The kids had a great time shopping for their families and we had more than enough items for them to choose from.

We also want to thank the custodial staff for everything they do and the Gym teachers for letting us use their space.

Have a great Holiday and A Happy New Year!
- Sari Leopold, Sue Slavin and Karen Novotny

Spirit Wear Update

Thank you all for being so patient as we get the spirit wear delivered. If you have not received your item by Wed, December 19th or have any issues with your order, please drop Lori Knox a note at lakadk@optonline.net. Thank you to all who ordered!! Also thank you to ACME for donating plastic bags in which to deliver the items. We still have LANYARDS and CAR MAGNETS available for \$3 each. If you would like one/both of these, please send an envelope in with your child with a check or cash and a note specifying which items you would like. Make checks payable to CGPTA. Thank you for making this year's spirit wear sale such a success!!!!



Have Some
Fun Outdoors
This Winter
Break!

On the Fundraising Front....

1) The Gift Card Program

A big thank you to all of the families who have been using the Gift Card program, a special thanks goes out to the Douglas family for using the program for all of their company's corporate gift giving this year! To date we have made a **profit of over \$2,200** with more orders coming in daily. It's not too late to order for the holidays, so go to www.shopwithscrip.com, enter enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L, set up an account, and choose your cards and place your order. The last order for the holidays will be processed next Monday 12/17 in order to have the cards in by Thursday 12/20 for pick up. Email Coleen Barbieri cbarbiere113@yahoo.com or Sherryll Penney sherryllppenny@aol.com with any questions.

2) Fall Fundraiser News

We would like to thank the dedicated moms who were there to assist us with the distribution of the orders. We are happy to announce this year's fall fundraiser prize winners....

The iPod shuffle – David Bloise, 5th grade
\$25 i-tunes gift card – Frank Zarrello, 2nd grade
\$15 i-tunes gift card – Brian Early, 4th grade
iPillow - Katelyn Grzesiak, K-am

Thanks to Center Grove families for supporting this fundraiser!

- Maria Scott, Carol Braun & Karen Buch

Save the Date – Shop for RHS

The Ashley Furniture HomeStore in Ledgewood is sponsoring a "Shop for RHS" night on Thursday, January 17, 2008, from 6-9 p.m. The store, owned by an RHS family, will provide beverages and hors d'oeuvres while district families shop and socialize. 10% of all purchases that night will benefit RHS and will be earmarked to build a memorial courtyard to honor students who died while still attending the high school. The courtyard will benefit all students for years to come, so even if you don't have a high school student now, this project will benefit your son or daughter in the future! The courtyard will provide a wonderful location for students to congregate during the school-wide lunch hour which will be a part of next year's new modified block schedule. Save those redecorating dollars for after the New Year, and we'll see you at Ashley!

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO DR. WILKINS

CG has been lucky to have Dr. Anne Wilkins as our interim Assistant Principal since May of last year. She has been an invaluable asset to our team and in a very short time has made a lasting impression on the CG family. I would like to personally thank Dr. Wilkins for all of her assistance and wish her the very best as she spends some much deserved retirement time with her family. We hope she keeps in touch ☺ Please stay tuned for an announcement of the future of the assistant principal position at CG. Be assured that we have plans in place and when they are final I will be sure to communicate them. – *Mrs. Iosso*

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