



# PTA

Welcome Back!

Volume 1  
9/21/07



## THE EAGLE'S EYE

### Center Grove School PTA Newsletter

#### Datebook

<b>Back to School Carnival</b>	September 28 4:30 pm – 7 pm (October 5 rain date)
<b>Blood Drive (see p.2 for details)</b>	September 28 (appointments starting at 4:45 pm)
<b>Room Parent Meeting</b>	October 1 @ 9:15 am (Café)
<b>Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser</b>	Now through October 9
<b>Back to School Night (Grades K-2)</b>	September 20 @ 7:00 pm
<b>Back to School Night (Grades 3-5)</b>	September 27 @ 7:00 pm

#### President's Message

Welcome back! As your new PTA President, I am having a great time working with the teachers, staff, students and parent volunteers who make Center Grove so great every day! I've learned a lot so far, not least of which is the proper spelling of "principal"!

A **HUGE** "Thank You" to all those who have worked so hard to make the new family night and the first days of school so successful.

We are looking forward to an exciting year for the Center Grove PTA. Our focus as an organization is to enrich the educational experience of our children. We will do that through exciting programs such as Eagle Enrichment, Artist in Residence, cultural arts/character ed assemblies and Science Days. Our support for the teachers is evident in the PTA teacher grants program, in which we award a total of \$5,000 to teachers to use in a variety of ways to support them in the classroom. Last year's grants were awarded to teachers for supplemental reading materials, Responsive Classroom training, a Kindergarten activity carpet, and more!

We can only achieve these goals with your support. Thanks to all of you who have joined the PTA. If you haven't yet, please consider it. To have a voice and vote, you must be a member!

I encourage you to get involved in whatever way you can...2 hours or 20, whatever you can do makes a difference in our school.

Thanks for all the ideas and feedback - please keep it coming. I am looking forward to working with you this year.

- Heather Sheehan, CG PTA President

#### From the Principal's Desk

It is with GREAT pleasure that I welcome all families to our Center Grove Community. As a community we work diligently and constantly to provide our students with enriching academic experiences with a renewed interest in character education aimed at developing a climate of respect and rapport. To this end, our building goals for 2007 - 2008 include improving our test scores and increasing awareness of good character through implementation of Responsive Classroom techniques. As a faculty, we will be spending meeting time discussing differentiation and best practices relative to Responsive Classroom. Please stay tuned for more information regarding a PTA meeting devoted to a demonstration of Responsive Classroom.

This year brings many changes. We have added 30 new desktop computers, 12 SMART boards, 12 LCD projectors, 15 wireless keyboards and 5 new copy machines. Our Rising Reader program was able to move into a classroom, our faculty now has a place to work and eat, our Resource Centers are moving to larger spaces and we have a room available for our part time art and music teachers.

(Continued on p.2)

## Principal's Message (Continued)

Our PTA continues to support us by funding professional development opportunities for our staff and by purchasing such items as bike racks, a beautiful welcome mat, white boards etc. Our new staff members include Mrs. Melanie Smith, librarian, Ms. Alycia Zemlanicky, guidance counselor, and Mrs. Susan Amerman, paraprofessional. Our library is currently a work in progress. Mrs. Smith has worked with me to develop an exciting new vision for our library. Stay tuned for a media center open house in November!

If you have not yet joined the PTA, there is still time to become a member. The involvement of the PTA is essential to the successful overall operation of our school community. They assist us daily with copying, program organization, special events, assembly programs and on and on. Please consider becoming a part of this very worthwhile organization.

Hopefully we will see you at Back to School night. We look forward to welcoming you to our "home away from home." You've heard me say this before, "Center Grove is an awesome place to work! Thank you for entrusting your students to us - we will take good care of them!"

Warmly,  
Mrs. Iosso

## Save these Dates

- 1) Coffee with the Principal** – Informal get-togethers with Mrs. Iosso when you can brainstorm ways to make CG even better. The first two sessions are scheduled for: **October 10 at 9:15 am (Cafeteria) & November 28 at 7 pm (Library)**
- 2) PTA Meeting** featuring guest speaker Elizabeth Laureano on "responsive classroom" in action at CG on **October 17 at 7 pm (Cafeteria)**

## CG PTA Calendar Updates

Please be on the lookout for updated PTA calendars in the Friday Folders. We are a dynamic organization - new programs may be added, and dates and times may change throughout the year. The updated calendars will have a "revised date" in bold in the title. When you get a new calendar, please discard your old one. Please contact Heather Sheehan at [sheehanfamily4@aol.com](mailto:sheehanfamily4@aol.com) with any questions regarding dates. We regret that due to the early printing of the Randolph Township District calendar, there are many changes to the Center Grove activities. Please refer to the **CG PTA Calendar of Events** for the most up-to-date event information.

## School Attendance Policy

If your child needs to be absent from school, please be sure to phone the school and leave us a message indicating the child's name, teacher and date of absence. Also, if your child is going to be tardy to school for any reason, please call the school and let us know the name, teacher and approximate time of arrival to school. Please note that as per board policy all absences are recorded and will be marked as either unexcused or excused. Once a student has reached 5 or more unexcused absences, you will be receiving correspondence from the school. Please be advised that family vacations are not excused absences. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

## Back to School Carnival

The Center Grove Carnival is next Friday at 4:30! Don't forget to pay in advance and save money. If you would like to volunteer an hour of your time, please email Kim Ryan at [kdryan@optonline.net](mailto:kdryan@optonline.net). See you there!

## Blood Drive

On Friday, Sept. 28th, Center Grove school is hosting a dedicated blood drive for Patricia Barter-Varicchio aka Mrs. B-V. All blood types are needed! If you are interested in donating blood, please email Mrs. Lopez at: [mlopez@rtnj.org](mailto:mlopez@rtnj.org) for an appointment time. We currently have appointment times starting at 4:45 pm and running every 15 minutes after that time. We are also looking for volunteers to bring in any juices or baked goods by 2 pm that day so we can serve them to all the donors. Please contact Mita Patel at [darmita@aol.com](mailto:darmita@aol.com) if you are available to bake something. Thanks so much for helping out!

## ON THE FUNDRAISING FRONT...

### Innisbrook's Got The Beat!

Please consider supporting Center Grove PTA's annual Fall Fundraiser. Now through Oct 9th, you can participate in the Innisbrook Fundraiser by selling great products and assisting with our efforts to raise funds for our kids. Additionally, you are eligible to win great prizes for your sales efforts. Bring your order form and one check to school on or before Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Please call Maria Scott 973-328-6362 for any additional information.

### 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.

### Coupon Book Sales

Look for information on the Kidstuff coupon book sale in your child's backpack. The coupon books are a great way to raise money for the school while saving money yourself!

### Market Day is Back...

Just a friendly reminder to check your folder for Market Day order forms. These are due back to school by Monday, October 1st or if you choose to submit your order via the Internet, please submit by NOON on Thursday, October 4th!! Pick-up will be in the Cafeteria on Wednesday, October 10th from 3-4 PM. If you have any questions, please email Chris Downtain at [cdowntain@optonline.net](mailto:cdowntain@optonline.net) or Maureen Stockfisch at [mcfisch5@aol.com](mailto:mcfisch5@aol.com).

### ....and Looking for Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers once a month to help unload and separate our Market Day orders for the 2007 - 2008 school year. Please call or email Chris Downtain 973-328-6602 or [cdowntain@optonline.net](mailto:cdowntain@optonline.net) to sign up. Thank you for your help!

### Join the Friday Folder Crew

We Need Your Help with Friday Folders!!!!  
WHEN & WHERE: Every other Friday at 8:45 am in the cafeteria. Young children are welcome. The more volunteers we have, the faster it goes. Here are the dates for the 07-08 school year: 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7, 12/21, 1/11, 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/7, 3/20, 4/4, 4/18, 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, and 6/18.  
THANKS in advance for volunteering to stuff!!!  
Contact: Chris Downtain at 973-328-6602 or Maureen Stockfisch at 973-989-5332

### Be a Part of the Yearbook Team

Photos ! Pixs ! Pictures ! Anyone 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. More pages...More opportunities...More fun....Any questions, please contact Karen Buch at 973-442-9318 or Robin Morris at 973-895-9592

## ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS.....

### Fall Book Fair

The fall book fair will be returning to Center Grove Library on October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> during school hours. The family late night will be held on Thursday 10/25 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please remember to send cash or a check to school with your child so they may purchase books. Also, if you are not volunteering, you may still attend the Book Fair with your child's class to assist them with their purchases. Please contact either Allyson Louro at 973-442-4180 ([alouro@optonline.net](mailto:alouro@optonline.net)) or Danielle Iannacconi at 973-537-9260 ([daniannacconi@yahoo.com](mailto:daniannacconi@yahoo.com)) with any questions you may have.

### Summer Reading Challenge (Complete to earn a discount to the fall book fair)

**Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for all students to submit the list of books they read this summer. If you do not have the PTA form, then send in a piece of lined paper and include the title, author, number of pages and an adult signature. Please be sure to include the student's name, this year's grade and teacher's name.

*Grade 1- 100 pages, Grade 2- 200 pages, Grade 3- 300 pages, Grade 4- 400 pages, Grade 5- 500 pages  
In order to be considered all forms must be filled out correctly and neatly*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Volunteers for Back to School Programs

The beginning of the school year at Center Grove got off to a great start! We want to thank all of the volunteers who so kindly gave their time to help with the many activities listed below. You make Center Grove a great place to be!

#### ***Smile Partners***

***New Family/Kindergarten Welcome Night***

***The first Friday Folder***

***Distribution of school supply kits***

***Helping K and 1st Grades with their first few days***

### Reception Desk Volunteers

A huge thank you to all of last year's reception desk volunteers who have graciously covered extra shifts for the month of September. I'm compiling this year's volunteer list and will send out October's schedule shortly. If you would like to help out but misplaced your sign-up form, please call or email Denise Archer. (973-895-9590/ archers5@optonline.net).

NEXT ISSUE: October 5<sup>TH</sup>. 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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