



PTA

Happy New Year

Volume 8

1/11/08



THE EAGLE'S EYE

Center Grove School PTA Newsletter

Datebook

Eagle Enrichment	Jan 16 th at 3:45 pm
Instructor Meeting	(Library)
Family Movie Night	Jan 25 th 7-9 pm
Eagle Enrichment	Jan 23 rd - Feb 27 th
Mini-Courses	(Wednesdays 3:45-5 pm)

President's Message *by Heather Sheehan*

Happy New Year! Welcome back, and get ready for a busy winter season at CG! Eagle Enrichment, Artist in Residency, Family Movie Night, CG Readers...lots of stuff to do during these cold winter days. Check out this newsletter for info on gift cards, Kindergarten Registration, Market Day, Word Soup and more!

Good news: a contract has been awarded to repair the blacktop next to the playground and final building permits are expected any day. Once the work begins (weather permitting), it is expected to take approximately 2 weeks to complete. We will keep you posted on progress.

The Artist in Residency program is in full swing, and the 4th grade students are incredibly enthused! The students are working together in small groups to research different continents and create original artwork. This artwork will be transferred to large canvas panels and hung in the café. The project, along with all the research, will be unveiled at our Spring "Celebrate Center Grove" dinner. Thanks to the fourth grade teachers who are putting forth such efforts to support the students in this valuable project.

Our next PTA meeting is on 2/13 at 9:15 am in the CG Cafeteria. The Math and Language Arts supervisors will be presenting information regarding the middle school programs and also placement criteria to determine levels in grade. This meeting will be of special interest to 5th grade parents.

PTA membership cards and directories have been distributed in this Friday Folder. If you did not receive one, (only PTA members will receive membership card and directory), and you did complete the PTA membership forms and submit payment, please contact me at sheehanfamily4@aol.com.

Don't hibernate this winter, get involved! Check out the website, www.cgpta.org, pick a committee, and let us know how you'd like to help! We'll be contacting those who volunteered for Science Days, Staff Appreciation, and Read Across America soon!

From the Principal's Desk

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy 2008!

The year seems to be starting with my kind of weather - I can take 60's in January any day of the week J

A word to families regarding our **Lockdown Procedures**. As you are aware, we have practiced two announced Code Red lockdowns. The next Code Red that we practice will be unannounced. Please speak to your students at home to remind them of this. Please encourage them to speak with their classroom teachers if they have any questions. Also, if you happen to be in the building when you hear a Code Red announced lockdown, please follow the direction of the nearest staff member. Do not try to find your child's class - you will be requested to get to the nearest classroom. Follow the directions of the staff member while there. They have been through this procedure and will confidently advise you.

Our Eagle Enrichment classes begin in a few weeks. One of the new offerings will be a Service Learning Class. This will be one of our first attempts to combine service with learning at CG. I look forward to the outcome of this six-week class. The Eagle Enrichment project is a terrific time for all students to take advantage of an after school activity.

The Health and Wellness Committee will meet at 8:00 am in the library on January 22, 2008. If you are interested in becoming part of this committee, please email Alissa Hicok -chairperson at ahicok@rtnj.org.

The Math and Language Problems of the Month continue. November's certificates were handed out at the grade level community meetings prior to the break. Each grade level spent some time with me at these meetings - we did a morning meeting greeting and learned hello in Italian! I continue to be impressed with the student body at CG - they make my day J - *Mrs. Iosso*

Family Movie Night

We are proud to announce the First Annual Family Movie Night at Center Grove. The kids have voted to see **Underdog** on Friday, January 25th at Center Grove. The event will take place in the cafeteria from 7 to 9 pm. Doors open at 6:30, bring your blankets! The cost is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$20 per family. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. Look for the sign-up form in today's Friday Folder and come have some fun at Center Grove!

Cultural Arts Assembly

On Wednesday, January 23rd, CG children will be treated to a special show sponsored by the PTA. They will watch a performance by **Imagination in Motion**, a theatrical group that draws on various styles including mime, modern dance, and vaudeville. Please remember to ask them about the show and provide us with any feedback.

CG Kindergarten Registration

CG Kindergarten registration week is February 11th - February 15th. Registration will be held in the Administration Building directly behind Center Grove School. Registration packets are available through the website (www.rtnj.org) as well as at the Administration Building. Packets will be available starting on 1/14/08. Unlike past years, NO PACKETS will be available here at CG School!

Appointments to register your kindergartener will be made by Mrs. Lopez. Her phone number is: (973) 361-7835 x206. You MUST have an appointment in order to complete the registration process! During your appointment, you will meet with Linda Gordon, our District Registrar, as well as Mrs. Lopez.

It is important to bring the following documents with you: Student's original birth Certificate, proof of residency, the completed Randolph Health Assessment form with an assessment date that is within 365 calendar days of our September 4, 2008 entrance date, and a copy of your student's immunization record.

We look forward to meeting with all of our new and returning families! Please feel free to call Mrs. Lopez with any questions you may have!

Word Soup is Cooking...on the PTA Website!

Word Soup is proud to be a part of the PTA's inviting website www.cgpta.org/wordsoup.html where you can find all the information you need to be included in CG's literary magazine this year. Additionally, watch for a follow-up guidelines sheet (same specifications as previously issued) to be coming home in the Friday Folder. What's more, students may also help themselves to the guideline sheets printed out for the taking and located in the library. And Mrs. Smith has generously agreed that students may include their CG Reader Book Reviews as submissions to our literary magazine!

The deadline for all Word Soup submissions is approaching...Friday, February 22, 2008. So everyone K-5, don't delay! Any questions and all submissions should be e-mailed to Sherry Steinfink at sebreslow@aol.com. Thank you to all the students who have already e-mailed their wonderful work!

Market Day News

Help our School earn extra \$\$\$\$ while you get a chance to win a trip for four to Disney World.... It's NOT too late to place your MARKET DAY order. Order sheets need to be returned to school by Monday, January 14th and Internet orders are due at www.marketday.com by noon on Thursday, January 17th.

Center Grove's Market Day Account Number is 25727. If you have already placed your order, thank you! PICK-UP IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 3-4 PM in the Cafeteria

Eagle Enrichment

Eagle Enrichment is moving forward. By now you should have received your class assignment. If you do not intend to take the class, please let us know ASAP. EE is also in need of a few more aides to assist the instructors in the classroom. Your children will attend their EE course for free. Babysitting is available. Contact Michele Ross billmichross@aol.com, Stacy Gellert sgellert@optonline.et or Margaret Clark mclark0213@optonline.net.

“Why We Love Our Laptops”

Below are samplings of comments by staff members who have already benefited from the PTA laptop program. Nineteen staff members received an extra holiday gift prior to the break. Putting this technology directly in the hands of staff gives them a real opportunity to utilize it in their individual classrooms. The entire CG staff is incredibly grateful to the CG PTA and the family donors who have spearheaded this project.

“..laptops have assisted with research especially for our Artist in Residency Program”

“..check my email from home to stay connected in different locations”

“..more access to modern technology for research, writing, learning centers etc.”

“..plan lessons at home and keep connected to staff members and Mrs. Iosso!”

“..a wonderfully generous gift.”

“access to regular updated SMART board technology.”

“..plan and implement innovative lessons using technology in the classroom!”

“..easy preview of educational sites, segments and educational games such as Everyday Math.”

“..plan lessons more efficiently”

“..spend more time learning the SMART board technology.”

“..can spend more time finding interesting lesson for class - even at home”

“..started scanning lessons from home onto my laptop to utilize in the classroom”

“..stay abreast with emails more efficiently”

“..allows me to efficiently take care of my work at home.”

“..looking forward to professional meetings where I can bring a laptop and not a pad and pencil.”

“laptops can be used at grade level meetings with the principal.”

Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the people who utilized the Gift Card Program for their holiday shopping. We made over \$2400 in profit!!! The Gift Card Program is still running – think of it for everyday shopping, grocery stores, coffee stops and gas. It's always nice to stock up on some extra cards for those birthday parties as well. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and enter the enrollment code 6F3ALLF51554L. This is a NO COST Fundraiser, so please do use it! Here are upcoming key dates: Orders in by Mon, 1/28 will be in for pick-up on Fri, 2/1. Orders in by Mon, 2/11 will be in for pick up on Fri, 2/15. Email us with any questions: Coleen Barbieri at cbarbieri113@yahoo.com or Sherryll Penney at sherryllpenney@aol.com.

Wish List: Technology for Learning

Last year, due to the generous donations from 2 Center Grove families, the wish list received donations towards technology and we were able to place an order for 19 Hewlett Packard Compaq 6715b Notebook PCs.

The excitement continued this fall when two Center Grove grandparents and a 3rd grade Mom donated laptops for the 3rd grade teachers.

The generosity didn't stop there! Another 3rd grade parent donated a SMART Board to Mrs. K Miller's classroom.

To date, under this program, we have been able to distribute 23 laptops. We are hoping to get the funds soon to acquire 20 more laptops and 18 smart boards for the different grade levels.

The excitement is building, and so is the technology in Center Grove School! If you would like to make a contribution towards technology at CG, please make your check to CGPTA and put “technology” in the memo section of your check. Place your donation in an envelope marked “Wish List” and send it in with your child. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you to everyone who is helping make this project a success.

The Complete Wish List

The Wish List (see below and the following page) lists all the “wishes” of our teachers and staff. If you would like to donate an item, the wish list box will be in the front hall of CG until the end of January. Please contact mariepotter@optonline.net with questions....

- * indicates that many are needed – no need to notify Marie before donating.
- If there is a \$ figure – please make a donation to CGPTA and the item will be purchased for you.
- For all other donations, please notify Marie to make sure the same item isn't donated twice.

Technology

*SMART Boards (\$2900)

*A laptop computer for each teacher (\$781)

CD-Cassette-radio player

USB flash drive memory stick

Software – Grammar Rock

Listening Center – tape recorder & earphones (8)

Laminator

25 Microscopes

2 DVD players

*F.M system (The Personal FM System is a portable, wireless listening system for classroom use. The teacher wears a compact transmitter and microphone. Students use a portable receiver with earphones to hear clearly and easily.)

Memory Stick Pro 512MB for school camera (Sony Cybershot 3X optical zoom)

*Rechargeable “AA” batteries for school cameras

Scanner

*Digital cameras

3 new DV Camcorders or DVD Camcorders (Cont. on p. 4)

Meet Dr. David Leigh

All

parents, guardians, and Randolph Township Schools faculty and staff are invited to attend an informal reception next week for Dr. David Leigh, the District's new Assistant to the Superintendent, Special Education. The casual get-together will be held next Wednesday, January 16, 2008, from 3-5 pm in the Randolph High School Commons.

Please stop in for a few minutes to welcome Dr. Leigh to Randolph!

NEW: "Voice Alerts"

Thanks to a recent upgrade to the Ram Alerts system, the District now has the ability to call parents and guardians instantly and simultaneously in the event of a school emergency. However, because the system is voluntary, you can only receive the new "Voice Alerts" if you go into the TextCaster system and sign up for them - even if you're already signed up for Ram Alerts.

So to maximize the effectiveness of Voice Alerts if they're ever needed (the plan is it to use them only in serious situations), District Communications Director Fran Hopkins urges all parents/guardians to sign up for them as soon as possible.

To sign up for Voice Alerts - and while you're there, to review the "message groups" you've subscribed to and to update your phone and e-mail information - please go to the www.rtnj.org web site and click on the "Ram Alerts Sign-Up" Quick Link on the left side of the home page.

Complete Wish List... *(Continued from p. 3)*Classrooms / Teacher Supplies

The story "Pumpkins" by Jacqueline Farmer

*Sharpie Chisel tip markers

Open pocket Book Display (\$75.88)

*Staples Gift card for the little extras needed during the year.

25 Seat sacks (\$9 each)

Baskets to hold journals for organization

Good electric pencil sharpener

*White Cardstock

*Leveled reading books for classroom library - leveled by Fountas & Pennell

*Smelly stickers

Plastic pocket folder to hold papers

*Colored sharpie markers (multi pack)

Chalk holders (for single piece of chalk)

Swivel teacher chair on wheels

*Printer ink #HP LaserJet 1020 black

*Copy paper for computer

Crafty Dab Point blackboard (amazon.com)

Carts or containers to store musical instruments in classroom

Colored pencil sharpener

"Good" fan for hot days

Half moon work table

White board for writing (stands up independently 18x24)

Book Ends

Wood Shelving and hardware for Art Room (31" X 38 1/2" - 5 boards plus hardware)

*Money for walking for wellness group

*White boards

*Colored construction paper

Industrial strength electric stapler with refill staples

Fadeless bulletin board paper - black, navy blue, light blue, red, yellow, orange

Building - General

Air Conditioner for teacher's lounge

Drapes for upper glass window

Air conditioning for entire building

Two large air conditioners for the Art Room

Air purifiers for classrooms and offices

More screens for classroom windows

Area rugs

Inside window boxes for windows across from café

Butterfly garden

Blender (for Cafeteria)

Food processor (for Cafeteria)

Replace molding around floor of gym

4 new climbing panels (approx. \$700-\$800 per panel)

Sound system for gym dismissal

NEXT ISSUE: January 25th. 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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