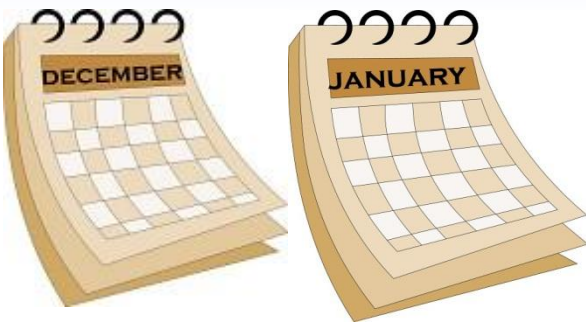


# The Village School Voice!

December 2012- January 2013 Village School Parent-School Association News



## A Message From The Principal

*Mr. Brian Schillaci*

Thank you to all of our staff and families for a wonderful experience during conference time. It is so important to have that home/school connection, in order to ensure success for our students. The feedback from conferences was tremendous, and I am confident this connection will continue throughout the school year. Our children deserve the very best!

I would also like to pass on information about our upcoming grade level performances. Our second grade students will be performing their *Winter Concert* on Friday, December 7th. Our third grade *Character Education* performance will be taking place on Friday, December 14th. You will be receiving a reminder regarding the specific time of your child's performance. Our Music Department has been working diligently to make sure the students are prepared for this wonderful experience. We look forward to seeing all of our second and third grade parents, for what we know will be two incredible performances!

As we continue getting back to normal after Hurricane Sandy I thank all of our staff, students, and families for the support they have shown to this point. We formed a committee at Village School represented by staff and parents to discuss ways to have our students involved in helping those in need. One idea up and running is a "bucket filling" initiative at our PSA Holiday Shoppe for those who would like to contribute to helping neighboring school districts hit hard by the hurricane. You also should have received information about the Village School Giving Tree, dedicating various items to those in need in our shore communities. As we all know, this is a difficult time for so many families in and around our area. Rebuilding is going to take quite a while, and many areas are going to be in need for a long time---possibly even to begin next school year. With that said, Village School will be investigating some other ways to help support those in need through the course of the year. Keep your eyes open as more information will be forthcoming. Thank you for your continued support!

As we approach the holidays, may all the joys of this special season be yours to share with family and friends. On behalf of the entire Village School family, best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to kicking off a great 2013 together!

## IMPORTANT DATES

December 6	Holmdel Day - Barnes & Noble
December 7	Grade 2 Show
December 11	PSA Lunch-- Park East 12:00
December 14	Grade 3 Show
December 21	Half Day
Dec.24 -Jan. 1	No School - Winter Recess
January 8	PSA Meeting - 9:30 A.M.
January 21	MLK Day - School Open
January 25	End of Second Marking Period



# President's Report

**Dina D'Ambrosi**

On the heels of the storm, many of us in Holmdel are beginning to get back to normal; some of us are still recovering, but unfortunately, many in neighboring communities are still struggling. The PSA and Village School faculty /staff have joined together to help our neighboring communities who have been severely affected by the storm. Some special fundraising initiatives will be coming in the next few months. Be sure to read your e-alerts to stay informed on how our school can make a difference in their lives.

Each New Year brings new beginnings. While one of the PSA goals is to raise money for Village School, our service to our children, friends and community come first. As we prepare for this holiday season, let's send them a warm wish as they recuperate from the storm.

The PSA invites any of you who have not yet become a member to join now. Membership for the entire family is only \$5. PSA sponsored events include cultural assemblies that serve to educate, Red Ribbon Week that promotes healthy living and Go Green Week established to create awareness of how we can take care of our planet. The PSA also provides Village School with gifts that help our classrooms and building. In the past, The PSA has donated items such as walkie-talkies, classroom projectors and entranceway mats. Our ability to provide these gifts and opportunities relies on your support.

The PSA understands that many of our families lead very busy lives with little time for anything else. Becoming a member does not require you to volunteer or provide any other effort on your part but is simply a symbol of your support for our school. If you would like to become more active in supporting our school, please contact me at 732-616-4127 or [PSApresident@live.com](mailto:PSApresident@live.com). I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about the fun events that you can become involved in.

During this holiday season, we invite you to join us for the PSA Member Holiday Lunch at Park East scheduled for Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.





## **THE STORK HAS ARRIVED**

**Congratulations to Deirdre Varga and her family. She welcomed a baby boy, Bodie Joseph into the world on November 7, 2012.**



**A great big thank you to all parents, teachers and grandparents who purchased the Village School 2012 Spirit Wear for the PSA. 263 short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts were purchased. That was an increase of about 10 shirts from last year. Not bad for an event that went totally "Go Green". 39 "Bee Yourself" car magnets were also sold. As of this writing approximately \$1,174.05 profit was made from the Spirit Sale. If you did not purchase a car magnet they are still available but at this time the clothing sale has ended. You can look for the clothing sale again in the Fall of 2013. We will be at various school events selling the car magnets.**



**The Next Bus Safety Drill is Scheduled For Wednesday January 16, 2013**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

## **PSA MEMBERS**

The door prize for the November PSA Meeting went to Linda Lautenberg, who won a Dunkin Donuts gift card and a set of scented candles

This year we created a new PSA Members-Only Raffle for the Teachers, which was picked by Mr. Schillaci at the November PSA meeting. The lucky winner was Ms. Andrews and she won a \$25 Market Day gift card (this gift card was graciously donated by Market Day, one of our fundraising partners).

The Dietz Family Won a Free Spirit Wear Item From The "PSA Members-Only Raffle" at Olympic Night

Linda Fernand won the PSA attendance raffle at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. She won a collection of seasonal candles and a Dunkin Donuts gift card

The Sirotic Family won the Monster Mini Golf gift basket for the Annual Membership Drive "PSA Members-Only Raffle" that was drawn at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting!!!







## Village School GO GREEN Committee

The Go Green Committee is looking forward to its annual week of events set to take place in April 2013. During that week, we will celebrate Earth Week, our parks, beautiful waterways, and help educate the children on ways to conserve energy and reduce waste.

Prior to the April 2013 Earth Week, the Go Green Committee would like to announce a monthly "Waste Free Wednesday".

"Waste Free Wednesday" will be held every third Wednesday of the month. On those Wednesdays we ask that during lunch time parents and children pack or purchase lunches that create little or no waste for our Earth's landfills.

### **Ideas on how to pack a waste-free lunch:**

**put juice, milk or other liquids in a reusable container or thermos;**

**pack reusable inexpensive eating utensils children can bring back home to wash;**

**pack sandwiches/entree in reusable plastic or Tupperware dishes;**

**pack fresh fruit such as apples, grapes, pears, bananas that need no container.**



You will receive a reminder prior to the first "Waste Free Wednesday". Thank you for your help and support!

This event is not endorsed by the Holmdel Board of Education.

Questions? Contact [PSAGoGreen@Live.com](mailto:PSAGoGreen@Live.com).

# Send Us Your Pictures

Do you want to submit photos for consideration in the Village School yearbook? It's simple really... just go forth and PHOTOGRAPH! The only requirement is that the photos be of school-sanctioned events on school grounds (girl scouts and boy scout events are not considered school events). Take pictures of your children, their classmates, their friends, their teachers, and their classrooms, whatever you want! Remember, the more good quality pictures we get, the better our yearbook will look.

If you have a small number of good quality photos you want to submit... simply send an e-mail to [PSAHistorian@live.com](mailto:PSAHistorian@live.com) and attach your photos.... we'll do the rest. Please keep in mind that the size limit for e-mails is 20MB per e-mail. But please, feel free to send as many photos/e-mails as you wish.

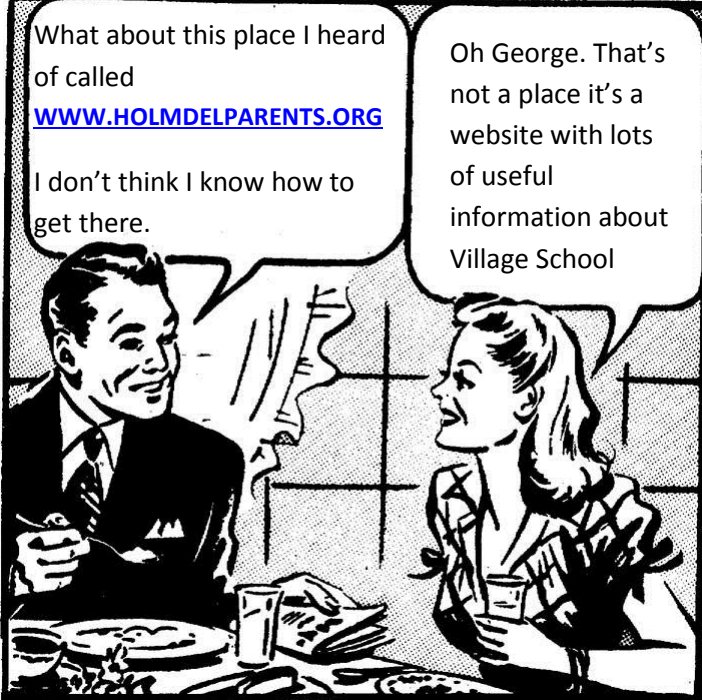
If you have a large number of photos you want to share, simply upload your files to any photo sharing software you are familiar with (i.e. picasa, photobucket, flicker etc.) and share the link with us. Send the shared link to [PSAHistorian@live.com](mailto:PSAHistorian@live.com). Again, we'll do the rest.

P.S. Although we appreciate everyone send in their pictures; please be aware that there is no guarantee that your photos will appear in the finished yearbook. We are simply not able to accommodate all photos, we will do our best to include as many children and as many photos as possible. Thank you.



Mary, sometimes I feel like I don't know what's going on at Village School. I don't know what I can do.

Don't be silly, George. There are so many ways to stay informed, it's impossible not to know what's going on.



What about this place I heard of called [WWW.HOLMDELPARENTS.ORG](http://WWW.HOLMDELPARENTS.ORG) I don't think I know how to get there.

Oh George. That's not a place it's a website with lots of useful information about Village School



This website sounds very interesting. Do they update it often?

Why of course they do, George. They update that as well as their Facebook page very frequently.



By Facebook you must mean <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Village-School-Parent-School-Association/192253380794117?ref=ts>

Exactly. If you go to that site and "LIKE" them you will always have the most up to date information



Gee Mary, this conversation has been swell. Thank you for all your help.

No problem, George. The PSA is always here to help.





### UPCOMING SCHOOL STORE DATES

January 24<sup>th</sup>

February 21<sup>st</sup>

March 14<sup>th</sup>

April 18<sup>th</sup>



# Thank You From BRIDGES

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the entire staff of the Holmdel Schools. Your generosity of donations and time was overwhelming. It has been a difficult few weeks-- when you see devastation up close and personal-- it really makes you appreciate family and friends.

I want any of our "Holmdel Family" who may need assistance to call me for help. The BRIDGES At the Shore Program has many resources and we are at your disposal whenever you need us.

I have always been very proud to be a part of the Holmdel Schools-- and never more than now.

Wishing each of you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Hugs--  
Kathy Logan



# Fundraising NEWS

*By Deb Brew and Lori Umbrino*

## Ladies Night Out UPDATE



Thank you to all who came out for a successful Ladies Night Out! We had over 185 in attendance and over 100 baskets...that's a record! Everyone came decked out in their "Denim and Diamonds" and enjoyed a plentiful candy buffet, dined at our International Stations and took chances to win the beautiful baskets donated by numerous generous contributors. I saw many trying our signature drink at the open bar...the "Blue Sapphire" then trying out their dance moves immediately after..ohhhh yeah! It was our intention to create a casual evening for all to enjoy delicious food, dazzling drinks while having lots of laughs with great friends who won less than you 😊....and from the feedback...we did....Thank you for all your kind comments! It was truly a team effort and Lori Umbrino and Debbie Brew would like to give special thanks to the IVC LNO team without whom the night would not have been a success...they include Denise Kline, Jody Umans, Dana Battaglia, Michele Prager, AnnMarie Harrison, Keri Todisco, Vicki DiBlasi, Nicole Salzano, Traci Price, Ruth Davis and the PSA Executive Board. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Market Day started out great with \$2200 worth of orders and plenty of happy customers! We have yet to hear one bad review, everyone seems to love this new delicious fundraiser. Immediately after the first shipment, people were going out of their way to tell us how delicious the food is! Dr. Martinez told me "The stuffed flounder was to die for!" We've had repeat customers for our next sale which is always a great sign. Some of the items people love are: Whole Grain Waffle Sticks, French Toast Sticks, Choc Chip mini pancakes, Chicken Fries, mozzarella bites, and French Dip. Keri Todisco said "Another great meal from Market Day – Beef Tips in Gravy – AJ had 2 helpings!" There is still time to get in your grocery order in for this month. Plenty of appetizers and desserts to order up for the holidays and PLEASE try the BONUS ITEM this month which is COOKIES! Very easy, drop and bake style...and yummy!! [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) Order deadline is 12/7 for delivery 12/13...just in time for the holidays! This fundraiser has earned \$300 for our school so far! Our Gift Brochure was a big success too! Over \$2000 worth of gift orders!! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT! We will find out soon our school's profit for these orders!

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The PSA Executive Board is made up of parents just like you and me. This section of the newsletter is dedicated to learn more about the people that run the PSA. For this month two people were interviewed. Dina D'ambrosi and Deb Brew. Below is the result of those interviews.



Deb

Dina

## **Thank you both for taking the time to be interviewed.**

Deb Brew(DB): No Problem I live to talk.

Dina D'ambrosi (DD): It's my pleasure.

## **Let's start simple. What is your position and how long have you been in it.**

DD: I am currently the President and have been doing this since September of this year.

DB: I am the Vice President Fundraising along with Lori Umbrino who, it turns out, is my twin. We have so much in common, it's crazy we didn't know each other before this but I couldn't have a better partner. I started in this position officially this summer and my "contract" is for 2 years...or until they take my microphone away.

## **Those both sound like challenging positions. Why then do you volunteer?**

DD: It brings meaning to our lives by doing things for others

DB: I suppose it's in my blood! I grew up in Holmdel and my mother was President of PTA (then) for all the years that my brothers and sister were in the schools here. She went through the schools with us. She helped start the original "Carnival" and set up many groups and fundraisers that are still running today. My father was manager of the Holmdel Swim Club and they were both very involved in town. I always tagged along with them and I find it still so rewarding. The Parent Organizations are so important to the Holmdel Schools to help raise money for field trips, assemblies, student directory, yearbook and various important classroom needs. I'm happy to be able to help my children have the same wonderful experience I had growing up here.

## **What is your favorite part of being active in the PSA?**

DD: I love meeting new parents, teachers & staff and working together for our school. Also, it's great making the kids happy.

DB: The microphone. Those who know me know I love the microphone- I become a game show host instantly....hence, Bingo Boss. LOL....No, seriously. I enjoy being involved in planning all the wonderful events and fundraisers trying to make it fun for the kids and the parents. I want everyone to enjoy the events so they will tell friends and bring them back next year! I also truly have a great time. Our Executive Board has become my second family as I see them just as much as my own some weeks! We get along so well and have such a fun time together. I am continually impressed with Dina and her welcoming attitude to all who approach her with any idea....She is patient and positive and appreciative of all we do as Volunteers and is the reason I decided to get more involved. I am so happy to see new faces every month at our meetings who ask to help and want to be involved. I'd like to think that our enthusiasm is rubbing off and people want to come and be involved. Even those that don't have a minute to spare will give a call and say, "I really want to help – just keep me in mind and if I can, I will." I'm really proud of our school and the amount of support from the families, teachers and Main Office. So, I have lots of favorite parts, but my most favorite is all the smiling kids yelling out "Hi Mrs. Brew!!!" as I walk through the halls.....that's my favorite.

## **You sure are talkative Deb.**

DB: I told you I love the microphone. I could go on for hours.

**I'm sure you can but for the sake of our readers let's find out a little about your private life. How many children do you have?**

DD: I have one son, Nick. He's 8.

DB: I have 3 children, two boys and a girl. My oldest is Connor and he is in Satz and is 12 years old. My daughter is Carlee and she is 9 and has Mrs. Damji in 3rd grade. My youngest is Casey who is 6 and he is in first grade with Ms. Adelung. I have been blessed with a wonderful family that we refer to as "The Brew Crew". My husband, Michael, grew up here too. We were in the same class. Although a lot has changed here since then, it is still home and I love sharing our stories with the kids of roaming the same hallways they do now and they never get sick of it....okay, that part I made up, they've heard enough.

**When you're not busy with the PSA, what is the one TV show you cannot miss?**

DD: I don't really feel the need to keep up with any show but reruns of Looney Tunes is definitely my favorite thing to watch. If I'm having a bad day, 10 minutes of Foghorn Leghorn & Bugs Bunny makes me laugh out loud & forget my worries.

DB: I love Amazing Race; it's a show the whole family can watch together and learn about different cultures, I think it's great! But when everyone goes to bed...It's all BRAVO channel for me! LOL!!

**Do either of you have a favorite book?**

DD: I love The Stand by Stephen King.

DB: I don't really have a favorite but I prefer non-fiction and the Village Voice Newsletter is always a favorite!.

**Why that's very sweet of you Deb. Thank you. Do either of you have a favorite movie?**

DD: There are so many but the 3 favorites are "Animal House", When Harry Met Sally" & "It's A Wonderful Life"

DB: Hmmmm....that's a hard one, I have so many...but I'll have to go with the first movie I ever saw in a theater...which is so dating me....but, it's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

**I have one final question. I'm a foodie so I need to know what is your favorite food?**

DD: For appetizer: Oysters Rockefeller, Salad: Spinach salad with candied pecans, Entrée: Seared sea scallops in saffron Sauce & Dessert: a really good Napoleon made with real pastry cream.

DB: I love Mexican food and Hibachi...My favorite of all time was Shiki....which is now a funeral home..ugh...so I'll have to find a new favorite soon.

**Thank both of you for your time today it's been a pleasure...**

DB: Wait. One more thing.

**Ok Deb... What's Up?**

DB: I just want to remind everyone what they've heard a million times, "They are only young once." Embrace these years at Village. One of my favorite sayings is, "There are two gifts we should give our children: one is roots, and the other is wings." This is the "roots" time...use it wisely. See y'all soon.

**If you see Dina or Deb around the school give them a little smile or just say Hi. They are probably doing something to help our children have a great experience at Village School.**

DB: And another thing...

**Deb you have to leave now. Go on. Don't you have to get ready for bingo night soon.**

DB: That's right. Bingo is in March, see you then if not B4!

I don't think I get all the PSA E-mails.

Do you have their E-mail address listed as a "safe sender". If not, your E-mail provider may be marking their E-mail as "spam" or blocking it completely.



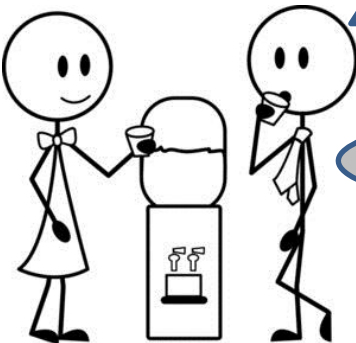
It's actually an easy problem to correct. Just save the email address [PSACommunications@Gmail.com](mailto:PSACommunications@Gmail.com) as one of your contacts. You may also have to add it to your "safe sender" list.

Well that's horrible. I don't want that to happen.



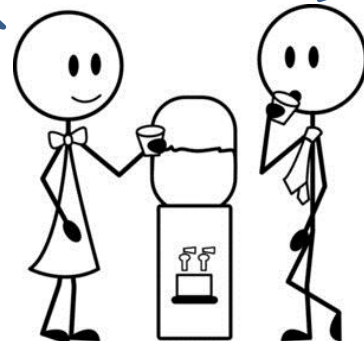
Thanks for that advice. I just have one more question. Are the PSA E-mails the same as the E-Alerts?

They are actually two separate E-mail notification systems. If you are on one that does not necessarily mean you are on the other. You can email [PSACommunications@Gmail.com](mailto:PSACommunications@Gmail.com) to verify if you are on the PSA's E-mail list and contact the school office to see if you are on the E-Alert system.



Thank you for all your help.

Anytime.





# Earn Cash for Village School



## Clip & Collect



Each (non-expired) Box Top is worth **10¢** for Village School! Keep collecting all year!

- Clip Box Tops coupons from participating Box Tops for Education products.
- Send Box Tops coupons into school in an envelope or drop them at the main **office**.
- Village School gets 10¢ for each non-expired Box Top coupon.
- Visit [boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/brands.aspx](http://boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/brands.aspx) for a complete list of participating products

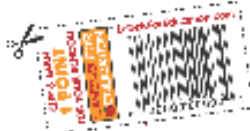


## Earn eBox Tops

- Register once and shop online retailers through the BTFE Marketplace portal.
- Village School automatically gets Box Tops credited for every sale.
- Visit [boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace](http://boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace) to get started.



## Clip & Collect



- Clip UPCs from participating Labels for Education products.
- Send UPCs into school in an envelope or drop them at the main **office**.
- Village School gets points to spend on equipment & supplies through the Labels for Education catalog.
- Visit [labelsforeducation.com/earn/participating-products.aspx](http://labelsforeducation.com/earn/participating-products.aspx) for a complete list of participating products.



## Register Shopper Cards

- Visit [eLabelsforEducation.com](http://eLabelsforEducation.com) to register your Acme and ShopRite loyalty cards. Village School automatically gets bonus points when you use your card and purchase participating LFE products.
- Visit [stopandshop.com/aplus](http://stopandshop.com/aplus) to register your Stop&Shop loyalty card. Village School automatically gets a percentage of your purchase when you use your card. You must re-register every school year.



## Ink & Toner Recycling

- Place printer cartridges in plastic bags and send into school or drop at the main **office**.
- Village School gets paid for every cartridge we recycle.

## Questions?

- Contact Sandra or Nicole at [PSAboxtops@live.com](mailto:PSAboxtops@live.com).

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HOLMDEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Volunteers Needed to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence

The Holmdel Police Department in affiliation with 180 Turning Lives Around (180), is seeking additional volunteers to serve on the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT). 180's highly-trained Victim Advocates are civilian members of the community who, in collaboration with law enforcement, provide support, options, information, and referrals to victims of domestic violence at the Holmdel police headquarters. The advocates also discuss with victims their legal rights in regard to obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order. The volunteer advocates are trained to help empower victims to make decisions about their own lives. The identities of the DVRT volunteers are kept anonymous. Prior knowledge of domestic violence is not required. Bi-lingual capability is helpful.

Basic requirements for volunteers to apply include that the applicant must be eighteen-years of age or older, have access to transportation, possess a valid driver's license, be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis, participate in an interview process, submit to background investigations and fingerprinting, successfully complete the mandatory 40-hour training, and attend monthly supervisory team meetings.

180 will be conducting DVRT training October 22<sup>nd</sup> - November 14<sup>th</sup>, Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 6:00p-9:30p, at The Community YMCA in Eatontown. **For more information or to obtain an application, please contact Sergeant Michael Pigott, 732-946-9690 ext. 1731 or [mpigott@holmdelpolice.org](mailto:mpigott@holmdelpolice.org).**

The Holmdel Police Department and 180 are partnered in providing this specialized program for *Holmdel* residents and visitors. The services of the Holmdel DVRT are available 24/7 at police headquarters. Holmdel Police and 180 are truly appreciative of the hard work and steadfast dedication of this extraordinary team of compassionate and empathetic volunteers.

For over thirty-five years, 180 Turning Lives Around, a private non-profit organization, located in Hazlet, has been dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual violence, which affects our community. To learn more about 180's programs and services, visit [www.180nj.org](http://www.180nj.org) or call 180's Confidential 24/7 Hotline 732 264-4111 or 888 843-9262. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.