

The Village School Voice!

December 2011/January 2012 .: Village School Parent-School Association News

A Message From The Principal

Mr. Brian Schillaci

Village School is an amazing place, and we are having a wonderful year as we move ahead into our second marking period! There has been a lot going on that I would like to share with the entire Village School community. Our Character Education Committee is up and running again. The goal of our committee is to continue developing strategies, in order to help our children learn and grow into responsible young citizens. The staff members on the committee are excited and dedicated to making sure we offer opportunities for our students in individual classrooms, as well as providing opportunities for school wide initiatives. One of these initiatives is a continued emphasis on "Bucket Filling". Through the efforts of the committee, and funding through the Holmdel Alliance, we were able to bring our children and parents a wonderful assembly around "Bucket Filling" from the author of the book **Have You Filled a Bucket Today?** With the same idea of promoting great feelings here at school, we have also put a Spirit Committee together. The committee has put some ideas on the table at this point to promote school spirit, including a Mismatch Day and Spirit Days when staff and students are asked to wear Holmdel blue and white. Keep your eyes open for more spirit ideas as we head through the school year. Village School is also continuing to partner with Columbia University for teacher training, revolving around Readers' and Writers' Workshop. This partnership gives our staff the chance to meet one-on-one with a trainer from Columbia to discuss literacy initiatives here in the district. Additionally, our staff members have the opportunity to see these strategies modeled in classrooms with our very own Village School students. The feedback from staff and students has been wonderful, and we look forward to continuing this commitment to our literacy initiatives!

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 9th. Our third grade *Character Education* performances will be taking place on Thursday, December 15th. You will soon 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 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 2012 together!

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 28 – Dec 2	Holiday Shoppe
December 8	2 nd Grade Concert (Student Viewing)
December 9	2 nd Grade Concert (Parent Viewings 10:10 & 2:05)
December 13	PSA Meeting 11:30 AM @ Park East Restaurant
December 14	3 rd Grade Heritage Show (Student Viewing)
December 15	3 rd Grade Heritage Show (Parent Viewings 10:10 & 2:05)
December 23	Half Day
Dec 26 –Jan 2	Winter Recess
January 10	PSA Meeting 9:30 AM
January 16	School Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
January 20	End Of Marking Period 2
January 23	School Closed (Prof. Dev. Day)
January 27	Bingo Night





RED RIBBON WEEK WAS A SUCCESS!!!

"Red Ribbon Week was a huge success! We donated several car loads of food to Lunch Break, the food pantry in Red Bank--they were SO GRATEFUL!!! The kids LOVED having their hands traced and stomping on the bubble wrap during lunch! We collected \$620.85 during the coin wars and the third graders collected the most money!"

- Jenn Rainess

10th Annual Ladies Night Out

UPDATE

The 10th Annual Ladies Night Out event was held on October 21st at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale, NJ. What a magnificent evening it turned out to be, with a great time had by all who attended! The ladies were treated to some delicious passed hors d'oeuvres, a sit-down dinner, some very "pink" drinks and a night of dancing with music provided by DJ Melvin Houston. The highlight of the evening was not only a 50/50, but our basket auction, which featured such spectacular prizes as an IPAD, Giants tickets and a Coach bag, just to name a few....

This year, Ladies Night Out adopted a cause. All of the proceeds from the beautifully donated centerpieces and a special 50/50, raised money for the Beauty Foundation for Cancer Care. The Beauty Foundation, based out of Red Bank helps women and their families with such needs as child-care and the cost of treatment which is sometimes not covered but insurance.

A special thank you to the Suzanne Niro, Purvi Shah, Darlene Kiss, Lynn Saporito, Suzanne Gestrich, Ruth Davis, Dina D'Ambrosi, Debbie Brew, and our event chairs, Michelle Prager and Michelle Sottile for making this evening possible. We would also like to thank all of the corporations and local businesses that donated to make this evening possible!



President's Report

Suzanne Niro

Did we just start the school year???? It sometimes amazes me how quickly the first quarter of the school year flies by until I start thinking of the reasons why it went so quickly. Now in my second year as President of the PSA here at Village School I realize the importance of keeping my resume fine tuned! If I go back to work, I might get some rest! From the outside looking in, I'm sure it seems like an association that runs some fun activities, some eco-friendly initiatives and throws on a pot of coffee each month. Being on the inside gives a much clearer picture of just how much goes on with the PSA and within the school. So far this year we have successfully rolled out the Back to School BBQ-Movie Night, Ladies Night Out, Red Ribbon Week, Bus Safety Instruction, Original Artwork, Tennis Camp, three PSA Meeting and the release of our new website, www.HolmdelParents.org. We haven't had time to stop and reflect on our handiwork since we need to focus our attention on the upcoming Holiday Shoppe and Bingo Nights. There is no wonder why the weeks and months fly by with an association as dedicated as the PSA. When I find the time to reflect on the many things we do for our children and our school, I cannot ignore the fact that it is carried out by the wonderful group of parents with a tremendous amount of dedication and love for the children of Village School. As we move forward this year, I ask all of you to remember the amount of hard work that goes into an event. When you see an email or flyer come your way, remember that behind the flyer is "your" parent association trying to make a difference in our children's' day. If you see a person hanging your children's' artwork in the hall, carrying coffee and baked good while holding the door with one foot or sprawled out on the floor wrestling with bubble wrap -- it has to be a PSA parent! Don't pass them by without saying thank you for all they do -- I'm sure it will make what they do even more worthwhile.

I'm looking forward to rolling out this year's events and seeing the happy little faces as they buy gifts for family and friends at the Holiday Shoppe, play BINGO with their parents, laugh and enjoy PSA funded Cultural Assemblies and much, much more. If you can help us with any events please let us know, we sure can use you. We have a volunteer form on our new website (www.HolmdelParents.org) that is quick and easy to use. There are many events that need leaders, helpers and even some work that can be done at home or behind the scenes. Don't worry about leaving your little guys behind, bring them along and we can keep them busy too! (After all, this will soon be their school also.) If your schedule doesn't allow for you to help, we understand and support you. In turn, would you consider supporting the PSA? Becoming a member of your parent association with a small membership fee of \$5 speaks volumes in helping us do so much for the children. It might not seem like much to you but having your support through membership is one of our greatest accomplishments. (Not to mention, you will be a member of the greatest parent association in Holmdel!)

With all that talk about work I forgot to mention that we might even have fun once in a while! Join us for our 2nd Annual Membership Holiday Lunch! We have moved our scheduled PSA Mtg. of December 13th to 11:30 AM at Park East Restaurant in Keyport. Click here for details and to pay directly on-line:

<http://www.holmdelparents.org/holmdel-village-school/assets/holiday-lunch-flyer.pdf>

Whether you are celebrating, Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or just sitting back and watching everyone doing that crazy shopping thing -- I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season with many blessing for the upcoming New Year!

Village School's New Technology Coach

Dear Parents,

Many of you may know me as Mrs. MacConnell - 5th grade Honors Math/Science Teacher from Indian Hill, but this year I am taking on a new role as a Technology Coach and sharing my passion for 21st century learning with the teachers and students of Village School and Indian Hill School.

In the past, I have discovered great sites to share with parents and students of mine that they could use at home to enrich their learning. Many times I would get emails from parents and students (my favorite kind) telling me how much they enjoyed the websites I had recommended. I wanted to extend this to the entire community by inviting you to sign up for my website called, COOL SITES FROM SCHOOL. I will post sites that will encourage learning at home for students and parents as well.

Simply go to <http://coolsitesfromschool.com/> and sign up for updates.

I am looking forward to working with all of "our" children this year! Please email me with any questions or recommendations for my website :)

cmacconnell@holmdelschools.org<mailto:cmacconnell@holmdelschools.org>



Memory Book

The first marking period has ended and the holidays are upon us. In the midst of it all, don't forget to send pictures of your child to the PSAHISTORIAN@LIVE.COM. The Memory Book may come out in June but we are creating pages now. Send me pictures of the first day of school, star student, Halloween, mystery reader, class projects, winter shows, etc. If it happened at Village during the 2011-2012 school year, then it may be in the Memory Book. Also, I need your help, I need pictures of the following in their Halloween Costume: Ms. Vaccarino, Ms. Weiss and Ms. Brennan (with or without children is fine).

Thanks,

Cherylee Schachel



TECH CORNER

Keep up with the PSA, and all of the other school Parent Associations, on our new website: www.HolmdelParents.org

BOOKMARK THE SITE TODAY!!!

"Like" the PSA on Facebook! Here's a link to the Village School Parent School Association Facebook page. Click "like" so that you can automatically get important updates on what's going on with the PSA in your Facebook News Feed!

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





BUS SAFETY DRILL

Thank you to the following parents who, in an effort to help keep our children safe while on the bus, volunteered for our first bus safety drill of the year:

Tara McGrath, Heather Stegner, Carol Lyons, Seiko Martini, Gudrun Ronan, Suzanne Gestrich, Carey Giamanco, Dina D'Ambrosi, Dana Battaglia, Donna Erskine, Denise Kline, Vicki DiBlasi, Chimin Hu, Carolyn Zofchak, Doreen DeMarco, and Nicole Salzano

Please note that volunteers are still needed for Wednesday, January 18th and Wednesday, April 18th where we will once again review the bus rules.

Specifically, a volunteer is needed for both the **Baseball Bus** and the **Owl Bus**.

If you are available for a quick 15 minutes at dismissal on those dates, please contact Terri Ferguson at nj.fergs@comcast.net





HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

December 13, 11:30AM (in lieu of PSA Meeting)

Park East Restaurant
3352 Route 35 South (at Holmdel/Keyport Rd.)

Cost: \$12 (includes entrée, soft drink, coffee/tea and dessert)



Signup by December 9th through PayPal at HolmdelParents.org or send your name and cash, or check made to Village PSA, via kid mail in an envelope marked "PSA Holiday Lunch"
Questions - Contact Suzanne Gestrich at 732-264-6968 or PSArecording@live.com



FROM THE H.C.A.A

Dear Village School Parents:

The Holmdel Students are busy in their creative endeavors at all the district schools from art, ceramics to drama! The Art department at Village is enjoying the gifts HCAA has given them including DVD's, books and a large paper cutter.

The Indian Hill play is coming up December 7th at 7pm. Your children will enjoy seeing it and you are invited to attend. The HS and Satz have done their fall dramas. Please look forward to the spring musicals that are appropriate for all ages this year. Satz will perform Little Orphan Annie. Please email me if you think the Village School Children would like to see a production of it performed after school at Village. We are determining if an additional performance should be added at a reduced ticket price.

Our Ad Journal will be given out at all the plays in the district. Please patronize our advertisers. All of the profits go right back to our students.

Please email me if you have any suggestions or questions, we appreciate all input. Parents can still join the HCAA, forms are on the district web site.

Our next meeting is Monday, December 5th at 9am in the HS Library Conference Room. All parents from all four district schools are invited to attend. We would very much welcome having some Village parents join us. Stop by and hear what is going on in the arts in our district!

Sincerely,

Mary Pomarico

HCAA President 2011-12

Mpomarico1@verizon.net

FROM OUR PSA LIAISON

The PSA's Spirit Wear Fundraiser was a huge success. Thanks to the parents, teachers and faculty of the Holmdel schools for making this event fantastic. Our preliminary profit is \$1048. We have a few shirts and pink cap shirts leftover for sale. If interested, please contact Darlene Kiss at deeand68@comcast.net or Lisa Goldberg at lbgoldberg@gmail.com. Again thank you to all who purchased these items. All items have been delivered.

The game coordinators would like to thank everyone that donated books, games, and puzzles for the teachers recess. This was a great opportunity to clean out the house and donate items that the teachers needed to keep the kids entertained during indoor recess. The teachers were all very excited and very grateful for the donations.

Darlene



A special "Kids Only Holiday Shop" will be held again this year at Village School. The Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe enables the children to do their holiday shopping with gifts ranging in price from \$.25 to \$12.00, with most items priced between \$1.00 and \$4.00. This is not a fundraiser, just a way for our children to shop for their loved ones. This year's shop will run from Tuesday 11/29 - Friday 12/2. We will be looking for volunteers shortly. The volunteers will be needed to fill the following time slots (9:00 am to 10:20 am, 10:15 am to 11:45 am, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm). We will also need help setting up the shoppe on Monday 11/28 at 9:00 am and closing up on Friday 12/2 at 2:30pm. A volunteer request form along with the teachers shopping schedules will be going home this week for you to fill out and return to school or you can sign up via our PSA website www.HolmdelParents.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email either of us.

Lori Umbrino 732 533 5123

umbrinos@verizon.net

Vicki DiBlasi 732 471 8404

victoria.popolo@verizon.net

are there
Box Tops
 at your
Holiday Table?



Box Tops & Labels for Education can be found on these and **many many** other products:

- Betty Crocker® boxed potatoes
- Betty Crocker® dessert & bread mixes
- Campbell's® canned gravies
- Chex Mix® snack mixes
- Gold Medal® flour
- Green Giant® select fresh & frozen produce
- Hefty® disposable plates & cups
- Hefty® EZ Foil® disposable pans
- Kleenex® dinner napkins
- Land O Lakes® butter & eggs
- Nestle® Juicy Juice®
- Pepperidge Farm® breads & rolls
- Pepperidge Farm® croutons & stuffings
- Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
- Pillsbury® refrigerated breads & rolls
- Pillsbury® refrigerated cookies & bars
- Progresso® soups & broths
- Swanson® broths
- V-8® juices
- VIVA® paper towels
- Ziploc® bags and containers

email PSAboxtops@live.com with questions or for a full list of participating products



Each Box Top is worth **10¢** for Village School! Please check for box tops and please don't throw out these dimes!



Pssst! The Box Tops class competition is coming in January! Start collecting your Box Tops over the holidays!

