

Kennedy PTA



March
2011

Calendar of Events

March:

- 3 - Lego Club
- 3 - Read Across America Night, 7PM
- 8 - Science Club
- 8 -> 31 - *Reflections* display at Ledgewood Mall
- 8 - PTA Meeting, 7PM
- 17 - Lego Club
- 22 - Science Club
- 24 - Family Bingo Night, 7PM
- 28 & 29 - Book Fair



April:

- 5 - Science Club
- 5 - *Reflections* ceremony @ EMS, 6:30PM (see details on Page 4!)
- 12 - PTA meeting, 7PM
- 26 - Science Club

School Store

The **Early Act™** School Store is open on **Fridays** in the lobby before school starts.

President's Corner

Dear Kennedy Families, well I'm really sad to announce that I no longer trust Poxitony Phil. He said spring was around the corner, I don't think so! It's really hard to get spring fever with no spring in sight!

We hope you all heard how fantastic the fourth grade talent show was, or better yet that you had a chance to see it in person! It almost didn't happen this year; at one point, we didn't have anyone interested in putting it together but thanks to Pam Smith, Donna Rein, Nicole Crowley, Andrea Heyman, Marie Olsen, Rosanna Curto, Kelly Herraiz just to name a few! This is why it truly "takes a village!" Thank you from the bottom of our PTA hearts!

We are now planning for our Family Bingo Night where once again, we had the original chairperson step down but thanks to Jen Roushinko and a new parent to Kennedy, Christine Gess happily take it over! Thank you both as well!!!

We are in the process of looking for candidates for officers' positions in the PTA. If you are interested, please email or call me and I can fill you in on the details! We are currently looking for a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP time is running out!

Also, we are in need of a few people to aid in the assessment of our by-laws. It would be great if we had an additional two people that are interested in the process of amending them (if need be) and presenting them to the general membership. Once again, if you are interested, please contact me!

As always, our meetings are the second Tuesday in the Kennedy Library, please come and have a voice in your PTA!

Always Warm Regards,
Lesa Wracher
wracher@optonline.net



Read Across America Night



Thursday, March 3rd marks our annual "Read Across America" program, starting at 7PM. Come join us for a special evening of reading fun!

Please bring a new or gently used children's book to donate to Roxbury Township Social Services.

Family Bingo Night

Come join us for Family Bingo Night on Thursday, March 24th, at 7PM for an evening of fun!

We need more volunteers to help with this very fun and exciting evening! Please contact Jen Roushinko or Christine Gess to find out how you can help.





SCHOLASTIC

Spring Book Fair

Our Spring bookfair will be held on Monday, March 28th and Tuesday, March 29th. The bookfair will be held during library time.

For the bookfair, please remember that we will accept payments in cash or checks (made out to: Kennedy School PTA).

Please contact Kerry Seminara at 973-584-6966 or kerry4298@yahoo.com if you would like to help volunteer.



Mother's Day Plant Sale Helpers Needed



Please keep an eye out for information regarding this years plant sale - we will be trying something new this year! We will be taking orders in advance. The order forms will be going out the last week of March. Plants will be picked up the week of Mothers day. We will need many volunteers to help unload the plants from the trucks and to help sort orders.

If you can help, please contact either Kerry Seminara at 973-584-6966 kerry4298@yahoo.com or Anni Mauro at 973-252-2412 amauro51@gmail.com

....from the Principal's Desk

My 5-year old grandson, Jake, was asked at pre-school if he would like to be president and why.

All 10 children in his class responded yes - giving reasons such as: everyone would know me; I could help others; I would meet many famous people; I would live in the White House. Jake was the only one who said no. His reason was because it would be too much work doing things he did not enjoy. He gave it a lot of thought and said he would rather be a waiter when he was big. He likes good food, would enjoy sharing that with people, and would have a chance to talk with customers that he knows as well as meeting new ones. When it comes to career decisions, I was impressed with the logic that Jake put into his, whether he becomes the president or a waiter.

Don't be surprised if your child comes home and says, "Mrs. Wallock asked me what I want to be when I grow up." My intention is not to get a response that guarantees a career choice, but to stimulate a healthy process. What do we want to be; why is it the right choice for me; what skills do I need to develop; will it fit into the lifestyle I hope to live?

On extremely challenging days that I may spend doing my job, someone always will comment, "Wow, I would never want to do all the things you need to do being principal!" I smile, but think to myself, the rewards far exceed the difficult moments. Yes, I am confronted with challenges, but that is part of what I love. Your children are all different, and getting to know them is important, even beyond the school doors. I have noticed the wonderful family involvement at things like annual Blue and Gold Scout celebrations. These things enable me to keep in touch with today's children and today's families.

Like Jake, I gave lots of thought before I decided I wanted to become an administrator. Your children's challenges provide me with inspiration. Your children's accomplishments give me satisfaction. Seeing the dedication of our teachers supports confidence and comfort. Recognizing the involvement of families to their children provides hope for the future.

Yes, Jake, I also would never want to be president! I made the right choice for me, with much contemplation as well as changes (refinements) along the way. I encourage all children to look into the future and visualize what they want to achieve when they grow up. Then their career and life paths have a greater chance of being rewarding for themselves and the lives they touch.

Mrs. Audrey Wallock





From Kennedy School's Guidance Counselor



Every day we are given many opportunities to make decisions. Some of these decisions are simple and some are more difficult. Regardless of the level of difficulty, the skills utilized in decision making are the same.

Children's decision making abilities are greatly influenced by the parents. Parents model how to make decisions by their interactions with their family. Listening and talking are two skills necessary for learning to occur. By talking and listening to children, parents can empower them to make good decisions.

Often, parents are tempted to give advice to their children. "When I was your age..." or "If I were you, I'd..." are sentences most have spoken at one time or another. However, giving advice or providing your solutions to your children's problems is not the answer. Consider if your advice does not work. Your children might resent you or lose faith in you. If the advice works, they can become conditioned to rely on your help and advice for every problem and decision. Children need to learn to make their own decisions to be successful in school and in life. Therefore, parents must allow children to make their own decisions so they feel empowered and capable to do so regardless of the level of difficulty.

A more effective strategy in teaching decision making skills is guiding children through the problem solving steps. First, identify the problem. Repeat the problem back to your child in the form of a question. "You are not sure what book to choose for your book report?" Next, brainstorm a list of possible solutions. Listen to your child. Ask for details. Encourage your child to continue talking about the situation by using phrases such as: "Tell me more..." or "I am listening..." or "I hear you are saying..." Then quietly wait allowing your child to think about your question. Very often, a child will begin to come up with possible solutions. If not, ask your child if he/she would like help coming up with solutions. At this point, you may offer your advice and support. When offering advice, begin with questions. "How would you feel about..." or "Would you consider...?" Now, have your child choose one solution to try. Try the solution. Lastly, evaluate the outcome. Did the solution work? If not, go back to the list and have your child choose another possible solution. Did this solution work? Continue this process until a decision is made. By following the above steps, a parent leaves the responsibility of decision making up to the child, teaching a necessary life skill.

Ms. Gina La Capra

PTA Officer Positions & Elections

The PTA will hold its annual election of officers this spring, and anyone interested in putting their name on the ballot must submit a Letter of Intent to Lesa Wracher by the end of February. A Letter of Intent may be submitted via email as well as a traditional letter. All officer positions are open for the 2011-2012 school year: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

We need more volunteers for the Nominating Committee as well as the By-Laws Committee. Please contact Lesa Wracher if you are interested in either (or both!). Thank you!





It's time to celebrate and recognize those students who did such an outstanding job sharing their artistic interpretation of "Together We Can" in this year's PTA Reflections Program.

ROXBURY CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

In recognition of March being Youth Arts Month, we will once again join with the Roxbury schools' art departments and all of Roxbury's Reflections artwork, as well as additional artwork selected by each school's art teachers, will be on display at the Ledgewood Mall from **March 8 – March 31, 2011**. The entire mall will be festively decorated with almost 1,000 pieces of art!

Recognizing that art goes beyond what can be hung on a wall, as a grand opening event on **Tuesday, March 8** from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., the school district and PTA Reflections will be celebrating many art forms with a "Roxbury Celebration of the Arts", which will include live vocal and instrumental performances, including a special sneak peek performance of a scene from the upcoming EMS production of "Cinderella." In addition, we will be showing Reflections performance entries submitted by our district students on a big screen, along with some short videos made by Roxbury High School students. All are invited to browse the display of artwork, enjoy live performances and films and share in light refreshments (provided by Ledgewood Mall) as we celebrate the accomplishments of our student artists. More details about the opening night event can be found on the district website.

DISTRICT-WIDE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**, you and your family are invited to attend our district-wide recognition ceremony in the auditorium of the Eisenhower Middle School. A screening of many of the Reflections performance entries will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the recognition ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. At that time, all 481 district participants will be recognized and will receive a certificate. Students whose entries were Morris County PTA winners will be awarded medals. We anticipate that many principals, board of education members and teachers will be in attendance to add their appreciation for the outstanding effort put forth by so many of our children this year.

To make this occasion more festive, we are asking that all attendees bring a snack to share if at all possible (drinks or finger foods; for example, a bottle of soda, bag of chips, plate of cookies). Once the auditorium ceremony is over, all attendees are invited to the cafeteria for snacks.

Thanks for participating in the PTA Reflections Program! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Perelman at sharoncarl@optonline.net and Judy Maida at judymaida@optonline.net, PTA Reflections Co-Chairs, Kennedy School.



Thank you, Sharon Perelman and Judy Maida for all of your time, enthusiasm and dedication to making this year's *Reflections* program such a wonderful one!!!