

# Kennedy PTA



April  
2011

## Calendar of Events

### April:

- 5 - Science Club
- 5 - *Reflections* ceremony @ EMS, 6:30PM
- 7 - Lego Club
- 12 - PTA Meeting, 7PM - Dr. Rossi, guest
- 25 -> 29- TV Free Week
- 26 - The Incredible Brain program
- 26 - Science Club
- 26 - Family Game Night, 7PM
- 28 - Chess Tournament starts, 4th Grade
- 28 - Lego Club



### May:

- 5 - Lego Club
- 10 - Science Club
- 10 - PTA meeting, 7PM
- 19 - Lego Club
- 24 - Science Club

## School Store

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

## President's Corner

Happy Spring Kennedy Families! The days are longer and the weather is warmer, spring break is right around the corner. It's hard to believe there are only two more "official" newsletters coming out! Really only one more for myself as May will mark my last month as President for the Kennedy PTA. Time has flown by!

It also seems like the last months of school bring some of the busiest days. We have the Mother's Day/Spring plant sale, the Fourth Grade Picnic, Field Days, and much more!

I hope you had a chance to come to Bingo Night....it is always such a fun night! The PTA would really like to THANK Jen Roushinko and Christina Famiglietti for all their blood, sweat and tears! I cannot say it enough, it really takes a village, and we are extremely blessed to have such incredible volunteers at Kennedy! Christina has just moved back to New Jersey from

California and really jumped right in with such amazing energy!

There has been quite a "buzz" in regard to the upcoming school budget vote coming up. I cannot stress enough how important it is for everyone to become familiar with what EXACTLY is being proposed. Knowledge truly is power; myself and the other elementary PTA Presidents are meeting with Dr. Rossi to see how we can each be proactive and get our families out to VOTE! Our children deserve the best education they can possibly get, and if we inform ourselves I truly believe WE can create that for them.

As always, please join us for our monthly PTA meetings, they are held the second Tuesday at 7pm in the Kennedy Library.

Always Warm Regards,  
Lesa Wracher  
[wracher@optonline.net](mailto:wracher@optonline.net)

*Dr. Rossi will be our guest speaker at 7PM sharp on April 12th*



## Mother's Day Plant Sale

The order forms are on their way home, and all orders are due by *April 15*. Plants will be delivered to the school and picked up by families on Friday, May 6. We need many volunteers to help unload the plants from the trucks and to help sort orders.

If you can help, please contact Kerry Seminara at 973-584-6966 [kerry4298@yahoo.com](mailto:kerry4298@yahoo.com) or Anni Mauro at 973-252-2412 [amauro51@gmail.com](mailto:amauro51@gmail.com)



## 4th Grade Chess Tournament News

The 4th graders have all been invited to participate in the annual Chess Club Tournament. The Tournament will run during lunch on Thursdays, beginning on April 28th. It will run until May 19, or earlier, depending on the number of students who sign up. We need a few parents to help monitor the matches - chess expertise is NOT necessary!

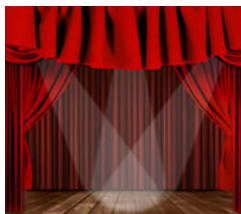
If you can help (about an hour at lunchtime on a Thursday should do it), please contact Kris Gabloff [jkhhgabloff@optonline.net](mailto:jkhhgabloff@optonline.net) or Anni Mauro [amauro51@gmail.com](mailto:amauro51@gmail.com)



## Many Thanks!

The 4th Grade Talent Show in February was a HUGE success! The 4th grade participants spent a lot of time practicing their talents, and it really showed. They transformed themselves from being shy and nervous into being great performers in 3 short weeks! What a great experience for them.

Thank you to the moms on the committee: Pam Smith, Marie Olsen, Kelly Herraiz, Donna Rein, Nicole Crowley, Rosanna Curto, Susan Rawlinson and Andrea Heyman, who all volunteered many long hours and creative skills to pull this off. As one of these moms mentioned, volunteering is so much fun and always well worth it!



- Pam Smith



## Family Game Night!



As part of TV Free Week, please join us for Family Game Night on Tuesday, April 26th, at 7PM!

There will be tables set up with chess from Chess Club as well as tables with other board games for lots of fun!!

If you have any games, such as Connect 4, Trouble, Uno, etc., that could be shared **for that evening only**, please let us know. All games will be returned to their owners at the end of the evening.

There will also be a bake sale for the Lego Club. Homemade baked goods are acceptable! All proceeds go to purchasing new & gently used Lego pieces for the Lego Club. The Legos are also shared with the Enrichment program.

**Please see the flier sent home for more details!**

If you can temporarily donate a game or can help in any way, please contact Kris Gaboff at [jkhhgabloff@optonline.net](mailto:jkhhgabloff@optonline.net) or Anni Mauro at [amauro51@gmail.com](mailto:amauro51@gmail.com)

## ....from the Principal's Desk

April is a special month. Hopefully, snow will be gone, and spring will show its sunny face. It is the month of conferences and a mini spring break. Of all the things that we think of during this month, often people forget the importance of the SCHOOL ELECTIONS – BUDGET AND BOARD CANDIDATES. How do I know this? Last year, only 36% of our population voted! I would hope that 100% of the parents that have children in the Roxbury School system would go to their voting sites and exercise their democratic rights to vote.

I am aware of many of the things you do for your children, such as feeding them well, dressing them meticulously, helping them with homework, and taking them to wonderful cultural experiences. This takes planning, money, time, and effort. Casting your vote of School Election Day also is of significant importance. Before voting, you should know something about the candidates by going to Candidates' Night on April 7th at 7:30 PM at Lincoln/ Roosevelt School. You can learn about the budget by going to a Board Meeting (schedule online at <http://www.roxbury.org/boe/minutes/meetings.html>) or simply checking the budget online at <http://www.roxbury.org/boe/members.html>. This really is far from overwhelming. You do not have to know or understand everything about the budget; just focus on what is most important for your child and you as a starter.

The phrase "thorough and efficient," related to the education of our children, has been in the paper recently. All students should be educated with this in mind, by law. Logically, the people that help to make the decisions related to district policies should support all that you want for your children. Therefore, it would be impingent upon our population of parents to express their opinions by supporting what they want in an informed manner on Wednesday, April 27th. There are not too many things that are more important than the educational system for your child.

Please be a responsible parent and model what every citizen should do – VOTE. It has a profound effect upon 13 growing years of their lives. For the sake of our children, have your voice a part of the final decision. It is your privilege, right, and responsibility.

**Mrs. Audrey Wallock**



## PTA Officer Positions & Elections

Announcing the slate of candidates for the 2011-2012 Kennedy School PTA Officers:

President - Kerry Seminara

Vice-President - Erin Ronchetta

Treasurer - Valerie Dolan

Recording Secretary - Ann Mauro

Corresponding Secretary - Stephanie Kooyenga

Please come to the election on April 12 and show your support (you must be a current member to be eligible to vote).

If you would like to be considered, you may write a letter of intent and be placed on the ballot. Letters MUST be received by April 12, 6PM, sent to Lesa Wracher.



## Roxbury School District Budget, Board of Education Elections

Please remember to vote on the 2011-2012 school budget as well as 3 open seats on the Board of Education on Wednesday, April 27th. Each vote counts, and each budget approval or rejection has effects that go beyond the next school year. "Meet the Candidates" is on Thursday, April 7th at Lincoln-Roosevelt at 7:30PM.

## Cultural Arts in April

Cultural Arts presents

*The Incredible Brain*  
with Jack Branagan

Tuesday April 26 at 1:30pm

AM Kindergarteners are invited to attend with their parents.

For info on the show, please visit the website at:  
[www.jacksearthmatters.com](http://www.jacksearthmatters.com)

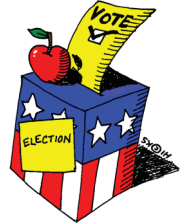


## Kids Vote 2011

We are very excited about Kids VOTE this year! Our children will be able to vote on a new activity to do in their PE classes starting in May!

The three activities are:

1. Zumba Jr. for Kids
2. Martial Arts
3. Wii (Just Dance, PE Games etc)



We also want to express our thanks to Chili's in Mt. Olive who has graciously donated chili pepper awards (free kids meals) for every student who votes!

Also, please mark your calendars for Monday, May 2. Chili's is sponsoring a *Roxbury Day/Night*, where funds from the meals purchased anytime on May 2 will help us purchase equipment for all our Roxbury schools.

## Cookies & Soldiers

Local Girl Scout Troop #947, comprised of 12 Kennedy students, recently collected over 300 boxes of the famous cookies to send to American soldiers. Congratulations to them for this thoughtful & delicious way to support our military!

## Newsletter Bits & Pieces



What a busy month April is turning out to be! As we finally wind down from the winter that doesn't seem to want to end, there are many events going on at Kennedy to (finally!?) welcome spring!

As always, the PTA is working hard to provide engaging and educational programs and family events. We are blessed to have so many enthusiastic parent volunteers helping to make these events fun for Kennedy students and, in many cases, their families, too.

As the school year heads into the busy final months, please remember that this newsletter is a resource for parents and staff to keep track of of it all!

Happy Spring!  
Ann Mauro



## Nurse's Nook

I recently came across a "Calvin and Hobbes" cartoon that had been saved for its poignancy. I would like to share it with you.

The dialogue follows:

Mom: "Get up, Calvin! I'm not going to call you again!" (Of course Calvin is still in bed).

Calvin: (Thinking) "I bet."

Mom: (Now arrives in bedroom doorway). "You're going to miss the bus! Now, get out of bed!"

Calvin, we assume, arrives at school.

Teacher: "You don't know the answer? Then sit down."

Calvin next encounters a bully in the hallway.

Bully: "Hey, Twinky, want to see if there's an afterlife?"

Calvin returns home and is pictured looking out of the window while sitting at his desk.

Mom: "No, you can't go to play until you finish your homework."

Calvin is next seen eating dinner.

Dad: "Just eat your food. You don't need to play with it."

Calvin is now playing with his truck.

Mom: "Stop stalling and get in the bathtub."

Dad is seen turning off the TV.

Dad: "No, you can't stay up a little longer. Go to bed."

Calvin is seen settling himself under the covers.

Mom: (Kissing Calvin) "Have a good night's sleep. Tomorrow is another big day!"

Calvin is now in the dark, wide-eyed.

Calvin: Sighhhhh...

Certainly we all thrive on words of praise when rightly earned. Children need encouragement to motivate according to Randy Hitz, Ph.D. of the Oregon Department of Education. Hitz prefers to use the word "encouragement" rather than "praise." Encouragement fosters a child's autonomy and self-confidence. He suggests that we allow a child to do his own evaluating. This "allows children to 'own' their own accomplishments and to find within themselves the strength and desire to do their best".

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse, Judith D. Bristol, R.N., C.S.N., M.S. at 973-584-3994.



## From Kennedy School's Guidance Counselor

Students are not the only ones who get anxious at report card time. Parents are on edge, too. Parents wonder if their child is on track, learning all he needs to know. Parents also ask if they are doing all they can at home to support their child's learning. Instead of viewing this time as a possible crisis, approach it as an opportunity to talk with your child about learning expectations and progress. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

A report card needs to be taken seriously. Although it cannot tell you everything about what your child is doing, it is a snapshot of where your child is academically and behaviorally. Carefully read the report card including the teacher's comments about behavior and work habits. Then re-read it with your child and have a discussion about it. Encourage your child to express his feelings and thoughts about his progress.

If the report is not as favorable as expected, remain calm. Do not approach a discussion with your child out of anger. If need be, give yourself time to calm down. When you are feeling more at ease, speak to your child about what both of you can do to improve grades. Remind your child that one bad grade is not the end of the world but a chance to improve and that improvement is the goal.

Always remember to praise your child's effort. Even if your child did not meet educational expectations, look for something positive to say. Reward direction and not perfection.

Be your child's biggest cheerleader by helping to motivate him. Be clear about your expectations and encourage your child to meet them. Express your confidence in his ability: "I know you can do it" or "I have faith in you." Explain that he does not have to be the best but that it is expected that he do his best. Effort is as important as ability.

Report cards are issued four times a year. Between that time, parents should always look at their child's daily work. Look at everything that comes home. Have your child explain it to you. Ask questions about it to check for understanding and recall. Explain to your child that those who work hard, learn more and get better grades.

Help your child develop good work habits. Make sure your child does his homework by establishing a home-work routine: place, time, breaks, checking that all is completed, and packing up all work for class the next day. Communicate that children who set aside time to read every day read better. Children who practice spelling every day spell better. Children who practice math every day master their math facts.

If there are any questions about the report card, communicate with the teacher. Like parents, teachers want their students to be successful and can provide value information as to how to support your child's learning while at home.

*Ms. Gina La Capra*

