

# Kennedy PTA



September  
2011

## Calendar of Events

### September:

- 6 - 1st day of school
- 6 - Tea & Tissues, 9AM & 12:45PM
- 9 - Spirit Day
- 14 - Back to School Night



### October:

- 11 - PTA meeting, 7PM
- 14 - Family Harvest Dance, 7PM

### PTA Board

Kerry Seminara - President  
973-584-6966  
kerry4298@yahoo.com

Erin Ronchetta - Vice Pres.  
973-927-0216  
erinrichr@aol.com

Jenna Yiu - Treasurer  
201-323-6204  
jenna.yiu@verizon.net

Anni Mauro - Rec. Sec'y  
973-252-2412  
amauro51@gmail.com

Stephanie Kooyenga - Corr. Sec'y  
973-252-9775  
srkcpk@aol.com

## President's Corner

Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all our new families. We would also like to welcome our new staff members here at Kennedy: Mrs. Palanchi, our Library Coordinator; and Mr. Schumacher, our Music teacher.

The PTA is working together to make this year fun, exciting and educational. Please be sure to complete the PTA volunteer form that came home in the first day packet. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed and APPRECIATED! Also, please take the time to become a PTA member. The membership dues are only \$5. THERE IS NO OBLIGATION OR COMMITMENT IN JOINING. The PTA's goal is for 100% membership this year, so please consider joining.

Our Back to School night is Wednesday September 14th at 7pm. Please stop by the PTA table to meet the new board members as well as see samples of our spiritwear.

Our first fundraiser for this year will be the Entertainment books. They will be on your child's desk at Back to School night. Our PTA functions on the money raised by these fundraisers, so please consider purchasing a book. The money raised by these helps to support our Cultural Arts programs, family fun nights and to help purchase equipment and classroom supplies.

Please attend our first PTA meeting on Tuesday October 11th at 7pm in the Kennedy library. Come "Catch the Wave" and hear about the exciting changes that the PTA has made and bring any suggestions you have to us.

Kerry Seminara, Erin Ronchetta, Jenna Yiu, Anni Mauro & Stephanie Kooyenga



## Yearbook Volunteers Wanted!

With the new school year upon us, we are already thinking about this year's yearbook. We need a lot of volunteers to make this the best yearbook yet. There is not a lot of time commitment needed, but we do need lots of help! If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Yearbook Chairpeople, Kelly Herraiz and Pam Smith.

Also, if you take any pictures during school events (class parties, grade level activities, etc) PLEASE forward them to Kelly or Pam either via email or hard copy. Any and all photos will be greatly appreciated.

Our first meeting will be the beginning of October so look for information in September and join us!

Kelly Herraiz 973-598-0179 or kherraiz@yahoo.com

Pam Smith 973-584-5080 or pamkyle5@yahoo.com



## PTA Classifieds



### Green Committee Chairperson & Volunteers

Help needed with the garden, recycling programs or other eco-friendly initiatives that take place. Some tasks are stand-alone and others may be on-going. New ideas always welcome! Not just for adults - kids are welcome to help, too!

### Reflections Volunteers

We are looking for helpers to help our two chair people. You will help with the selection process, organization of entries, help with the Ledgewood Mall display and award ceremony.

### Chess Club Volunteers

Help needed during the 1st - 4th grade lunch periods, every Tuesday from October 4 through March. You do not have to commit to every week. No chess experience necessary!

### Market Day Volunteers

We are looking for help with distribution of market Day items, after school once a month.

### Class/Teacher Liaison

A form will be sent home for you to sign up. This is a replacement of the Class Captains.

***Anyone interested in any of these positions can contact a member of the PTA Board - all contact information is listed on the front of this newsletter***



### The Missing Piece

The backpacks, pencils and new clothes have been bought. But something is still missing...  
....YOU!

**Now** is the time to volunteer to help make your child's year at Kennedy a memorable and special one. We have many opportunities (not just the ones listed above) for you to get involved, whether for an hour every week or just now and then. Please look out for flyers in your child's backpack and emails for details!

Please remember to return your Spiritwear form as soon as possible!



Samples of the *New & Exciting* logo will be available for viewing at our Back to School night. There is also some new merchandise to choose from.



### Newsletter Bits & Pieces

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2011-2012 school year at Kennedy! We hope that students, their families and school staff find it to be a helpful resource as they start the new year. The newsletter will usually be distributed via email at the end of each month, just in time for the new month. Previous issues will be available on the school's website.

If you would like to submit a brief item for a future newsletter, please submit it to me in an email (to [amauro51@gmail.com](mailto:amauro51@gmail.com)) by the 20th of the previous month it will be published in. The PTA reserves the right to edit as necessary.

We hope all of our Kennedy students, staff & families have a wonderful school year!

***Ann Mauro, editor***



## 2011 - 2012 PTA Reflections Program

This year's theme: "Diversity Means..."

*Reflections* is a National PTA Program that cultivates achievement in the arts and is open to children in grades Kindergarten through High School. There are six areas that students have the opportunity to express themselves creatively in their Reflections projects and to receive recognition: Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Dance Choreography, Film Production, and Musical Composition. For our school, there are two grade divisions we qualify for: Grades Pre-school - 2 and Grades 3 – 5. Submitted artwork will be judged first at Kennedy School anonymously by a panel of judges. The top 8 projects in each category for each division chosen by the judges will then be submitted and judged at the County level, then the State level and then possibly all the way to the National level.

Within the next few weeks in school, your child will be learning more about the Reflections Program. Our hope is that parents will encourage their child to participate in this very worthwhile program. The PTA Reflections Program is a wonderful opportunity for your child designed to enhance quality arts education for students, encouraging them to create works of art. The Reflections Program helps parents encourage the creativity and lifelong learning of their children and offers children recognition for their artistic endeavors.

**PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL:** This year all "early bird" participants that submit their project by October 11th will be invited to a pizza party with the principal. **PIZZA PIZZA:** In addition, students that submit their projects by October 28th will be invited to another pizza party with the principal along with the "early bird" participants. So if you get your project in by October 11th you will attend 2 pizza parties with the principal. Final date for entries is November 4, 2011. Please be aware that we cannot make any exceptions to the deadlines due to the strict National deadlines.

Also, NEW this year, any child that has his/her submission advance to State level will be awarded the honor to be "Principal for the Day" with Mrs. Wallock. As "Principal for the Day", the winner will spend the day with Mrs. Wallock and be involved with the daily duties of the Kennedy School Principal.

**KIDS AND PARENTS:** Watch for more details coming home and on our website.

For further information or any questions please feel free to email:

Janet Dino – [jdino42@optonline.net](mailto:jdino42@optonline.net)  
Marion Berge – [mberge64@gmail.com](mailto:mberge64@gmail.com)





## ***Develop strategies to get this school year off to a good start***

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to develop strategies to help your child have a successful year. Here are four strategies to try:

1. Schedule a regular time and place for doing homework. On days when your child doesn't have homework, she can read a book or prepare for an upcoming test.
2. Set limits on screen time. There's a link between how well kids do in school--especially in reading--and how much time they spend in front of a screen. So set limits on the amount of TV your child can watch and the time she can spend playing video games. If there is a TV or a computer in your child's room, move it to where you can have more control over what she watches.
3. Reestablish your routines for bedtime and mealtime. Over the summer months, these may have relaxed a bit. Remind your child that she will do better in school if she is not over-tired. Set a bedtime that allows time for reading before it's time for lights-out.
4. Choose quality, not quantity, for after-school activities. Too much scheduled time is stressful for kids and families. Help your child choose one or two things she really enjoys. This will leave her time for school work, family activities and unscheduled play--all of which are things children need.

Reprinted with permission from the September 2011 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2011 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: National Association of School Psychologists, "Helping Children Transition to a New School: Tips for Parents in Tough Economic Times," NASP Online, [www.nasponline.org/educators/transition\\_newschool.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/educators/transition_newschool.pdf).

from the desk of *Ms. Gina La Capra - Kennedy School Guidance Counselor*



...from the Principal's Desk

We had a great first day of school, except for the very rainy weather. It seems like we are all getting use to that, as of late. Hopefully, things will dry up and we will be able to get the lovely dogwood tree planted in front of Kennedy, compliments of our generous PTA.

We are continuing with our ETHICS (Everyone To Help In Creating Smiles) program. As before, our goal is to teach children to be more sensitive to others. Ideally, we will avoid problems and hurt feelings or at least reduce them. You will be informed when our word is changing so you can use the new word that we are emphasizing for that week or two. At this time we will still stick with Respect...an important concept to review.

Cole Reynolds and Melissa Priester spoke beautifully to the whole school over our intercom on September 9th. With remembrance and respect for ten years after the 9/11 tragedy, the emphasis was on the strength of the USA. Their thoughts included their freedoms, rights, and privileges of being a citizen of the USA. These are things that many of us take for granted. Even the youngest of our children seemed to respond in a sensitive way to our moment of silence.

For those parents that want to be more involved with helping teachers out during the day, our TAP (Teacher Assistance Program) might be the perfect thing for you. A letter went home explaining the details. Jen Toupet will be chair person of that for this year. A meeting is scheduled on September 20th, Tuesday, at 9:30 AM to give more details of what is expected.

Thanks for all the support you give to Kennedy School. I do believe that one of the best ways you can do this is involvement in our PTA. The beauty of that is you may adjust the time invested in this according to your schedule from year to year. Our September meeting will be part of Back-to-School Night on September 14th. I look forward to seeing you all once again on that evening.

*Mrs. Audrey Wallock*

