

Kennedy PTA

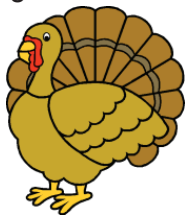


November
2011

Calendar of Events

November:

- 3 - Lego Club
- 8 - PTA meeting, 10AM
- 10 - Family Skating @ Aspen Ice, 9:30 - 11am
- 15 & 16 - High Touch, High Tech
- 17 - Lego Club



December:

- 1 & 2 - Holiday Boutique
- 2 - WiSci Night
- 9 - Wreath pick up
- 9 - Family Craft Night
- 13 - PTA meeting, 10AM

PTA Board

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President's Corner

We have had a very busy month at Kennedy! Our first Family Fun Night on a Friday was a success. We had about 75 Kennedy children show up to dance with Mrs. Cook. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Harvest Dance and Bake sale a success, especially Mrs. Cook for entertaining all of the children. Congratulations to Michaela Sokolowski for guessing the weight of our pumpkin that night!

October was also our first Scholastic Book Fair of the year. This fall, we held the book fair during the week of conferences and kept it open to accommodate parents. This turned out to be a huge success. Thanks to all of your purchases at the book fair, we made over \$4200!! We were able to give Mrs. Palanchi and our Media Center \$2752 in Scholastic dollars to purchase new books for the Kennedy Library. We can not thank all of you enough for all of your support.

We have been very busy with our fund raising efforts. The current fundraiser is our Holiday Wreath Sale. All orders should be to school **NO LATER than November 1st**.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late orders for these. Details are to the right.

Our entertainment book sales are coming to an end. **PLEASE HAVE ALL MONEY AND BOOKS RETURNED NO LATER THEN NOVEMBER 1st!** Please remember - all money raised from our fundraisers goes directly back to the children at Kennedy School.

The Friend Finder has been distributed via email so people may save it as a document on their computers or

print it out. We will have some hard copies in the main office for this that may want it. Thank you to Amy Roth for putting all of the information together.

November is also a busy month at Kennedy. We have parent visitation days, ice skating and our Holiday Boutique will start at the end of the month. Our membership skating event is on Thursday, November 10th at Aspen Ice. If you have not signed up to join the PTA, it is not too late. You can still send in your \$5, attention to Sheryl Bogardus. Remember that joining the PTA does not mean you are volunteering for anything.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, November 8th at 10:00AM. We hope to see all of you there!

Happy Thanksgiving!

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



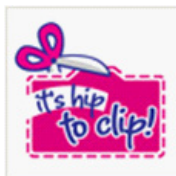
Holiday Wreath Sale

We are holding a Wreath Sale as a fundraiser, and the order deadline is November 1st. We cannot accept any orders after that day.

You can order a 12-inch fresh Balsam wreath (includes a 6 loop red bow). Wreaths can be picked up on Friday, December 9 after 4PM. You can bring your wreath to Family Craft Night (7PM that same night!) to decorate it further.

The cost is \$16.50 per wreath. Look for the order form that was sent home or contact Kerry Seminara.





Kudos for Box Top Collections!

We have successfully completed our first collection of box tops and I am pleased to report that our fall collection has been VERY successful. We had over 7,000 box tops turned in during the fall. That is over \$700 raised for Kennedy PTA!

A special shout out to 2W, Ms. Tantaros' class, with a whopping collection of 2,200 box tops! Each student in that class earned themselves \$5 apiece to use at our book fair.

Please continue to collect box tops. They can either be turned in throughout the year or held onto for another big collection and contest coming in February 2012. Remember our goal is to raise \$1,500 for the Kennedy School PTA.

Also remember to you can login on to the following website for great coupons on box top products. Go to: www.boxtops4education.com

Valerie Dolan, Box Tops Coordinator
vmdolan@verizon.net

Cultural Arts This Month

A huge **THANK YOU** to the Kennedy Families who donated the delicious baked goods for our Bake Sale. It was a HUGE success. Glad to see so many families out enjoying the Fall Dance and donating to our PTA.

High Touch High Tech will be bringing their Science Experiments back to Kennedy School on November 15 and 16. Each grade will be doing a different experiment:

Kindergarten: *Weather or Not*

1st grade: *Space The Final Frontier*

2nd grade: *What's The Matter*

3rd grade: *Newton in a Nut Shell*

4th grade: *Globs, Goo and Guts*

To see additional information on these experiments and more, visit:

www.ScienceMadeFunNNJ.net



Library Corner



Thank you so much for your participation in the Book Fair! We were able to purchase new books and the kids are so excited! *So am I...*

The process of building a library collection is a long one because our resources are limited. I am searching for creative ways to bring resources to our library. You can help by donating gently used books to the library. We are happy to take them even if you do your spring cleaning in the winter! This influx of new titles encourages the kids to read.

I have also been made aware of a program that Scholastic has set up with Kellogg's to advance literacy. Go to www.scholastic.com/kellogg and read about the program. Specially marked boxes of Kellogg products have numbers on the inside of the box that can be submitted. If you submit two of these numbers to Scholastic you receive a \$5.00 coupon toward a new book. The program is open until June. In an attempt to bring resources to our library I am asking you to email me your special Kellogg numbers and let me submit them for \$5.00 coupons. I can then order books for the library. The contest states that there is no limit for submissions.

I am hoping that with your continued support we can bring current, relevant materials to our library in order to develop students who love to read!

I also want to thank the many volunteers who have helped get the library organized and updated. We have weeded out various outdated books as well as catalogued a great deal of new ones to add to our shelves. *Thank you!*

Kristin Palanchi



....from the Principal's Desk



An important part of life is BALANCE...some hard work, some planning, laughter, problem-solving, friendships, healing, giving, taking, etc. Each day is filled with lots of happenings; that is a reality of life. It is our responsibility to teach our children how to make the best of things through determination and responsibility. This will show them how to thrive and survive in a complicated world.

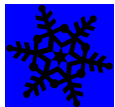
I really enjoyed sharing a Pizza lunch with twenty of our Kennedy students. They met the first deadline of having their Reflections projects in early and that was the reward. We broke up into grade levels, talked about their projects of diversity that they created, and simply got to know each other through casual conversation. Students involved in this were Amanda DeCraine, Max Corsi, Rocco Timpano, Angelina Stigliano, Nathan Hatten, Corey Smith, Brandon Bang, Emma Weiss, Brian Dino, Mia Cinquegrano, Rachel Roth, Max Annis, Justin Berge, Tony Timpano, Brandon Schwartz, Karley Stigliano, Taylor Bailey, Cassandra Sempiti, Lauren Ernst, and Kelly Ernst. These children also get to participate in the Pizza Pizza lunch on November 7th along with other students who make the second deadline. Obviously, these Kennedy kids know the importance of early deliverance for special treats.

I want to personally thank the Kennedy population for honoring my daughter-in-law Dana by making a contribution in her name to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. They are dedicated to education and research about the causes, treatment, and search for a cure of breast cancer. Although Dana has been battling this since her original diagnosis last April, she has shown a remarkable strength on her mission to good health. She has gotten support from people at her school (She is a third grade teacher) and also from the caring Kennedy staff, students, and parents. Your caring thoughts enabled her to focus on the kindness from those around her. You have made a profound difference in her well-being. I hope our children understand the importance of this life lesson.

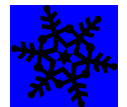
Like I said, life is a balance. Whenever I reflect, I choose to recall the best of moments, for that rejuvenates and refreshes. Let's continue to work together in the best of times as well as the most challenging. That is an empowering concept that contributes to confidence and positive self-esteem. What appropriate thoughts to have as we head into the month with Thanksgiving – a time to give and be thankful for all we receive!

Mrs. Audrey Wallock

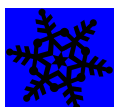
Holiday Boutique - Coming Soon!



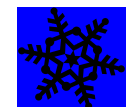
Our *Holiday Boutique* is returning! It is not a fundraiser - instead, It is an opportunity for the children of Kennedy School to experience shopping for loved ones on their own.



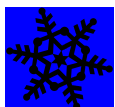
The *Holiday Boutique* will be open to students on Thursday, Dec. 1 and Friday, Dec. 2.



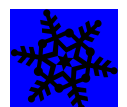
Your child will be bringing the *Holiday Boutique* letter and shopping information home at the end of November. A money envelope will be included. Cash or checks will be accepted for these shopping days.



Volunteers are always needed to help make this experience a fun and stress-free one for the students.



If you have any questions, please contact Katie Nichols at bubbanick@optonline.net





Parents can help their children cultivate an attitude of gratitude

“What do you say to your Grandma for the birthday gift she gave you?”

Giving those simple prompts is the earliest way that parents teach their children to express gratitude.

A recent study found that developing gratitude does much more than ensure Grandma will give another gift! It also helps kids feel better about their families and their lives. It even helps them get along better with others.

So continue prompting your child to say thank you. But take the next step and ask your child to think about why she is grateful. (She has a loving family. She can spend time with her grandparents. She loves the gift her Grandma gave her.)

Set aside a regular time when everyone talks about things for which they are grateful. This practice can help everyone reflect on the positive things in their lives.

One study found that people who did this regularly were more optimistic. They also recognized kindness when it was offered. That is something to be grateful for.

Source: J. Froh, D. Miller & S. Snyder, “Gratitude in Children and Adolescents: Development, Assessment, and School-Based Intervention,” *School Psychology Forum: Research in Practice, Fall 2007, National Association of School Psychologists.*

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



Big Thanks!

I would like to thank the following parents:

Anni Mauro, Trish Miceli, Pam Smith, Maria Alstede, Kelly Lockman, Jen Perhacs, Jen Vongas, Erin Ronchetta, Stephanie Kooyenga, Julie Shepherd, Debbie Miller, Andrea Scalfani, Kris Gabloff, Amber Lange, Lisa Stavitsky, Sheryl Bogardus, Jill DeCraine, Maureen Coppolino, Eileen DeFuria, Jen Hajel, and Dora Medini for all of your help during the book fair!

Kerry Seminara





Nurse's Nook

Recently, your children have become acquainted with the growth functions of four classes of nutrients: protein, fats, carbohydrates and minerals. All nutrients are necessary for proper growth. Kennedy students have also learned some of the major food sources of these nutrients through experiments conducted by Mrs. Bristol in the Health Office.

In addition, the children have learned that the foods that supply the most protein for growth have been grouped together. This group of protein rich foods is called the Meat Group which should take-up only one quarter of a food plate sized for children. All animal products supply protein for growth such as beef, pork, veal, lamb, fish, poultry and eggs. Foods not commonly thought of as "meat" such as dried beans, lentils, peanuts and peanut butter are included in this group because they are also good sources of protein.

Carbohydrates and fats have been discovered to be contained in foods during our experimentation. Check in with your children to see what these experiments were all about. They are aware that carbohydrates provide the energy used for growing, but do not themselves build bones or teeth. Fats also supply energy. Foods in the Milk Group also supply some fat. Whole milk, cheeses, ice cream and milkshakes supply fat to be used for energy as well as minerals to be used for growth and health of bones and teeth. Even foods in the Meat Group supply some fat as well as protein. Ask your children to name other foods that supply fat.

Kennedy's students are looking forward to each week's "challenges" that I present and they have eagerly been responding with their answers. Each class earns points for their correct answers. When you visit, check out the graph entitled "Food...It's Your Choice." It is on the wall just outside my office.

from Judith D. Bristol, R.N., C.S.N., M.S.



We think most families have heard the happy news already but it bears repeating - *Roxbury Township is a great place to raise a family!*

Many factors weighed in our favor, not the least of which was the quality of our school district. Thanks to our teachers, administration, support staff as well as our students and their families!