

Kennedy PTA

December
2011



Calendar of Events

December

- 1 & 15 - Lego Club
- 2 - Spirit day
- 2 - WiSci Night
- 6 -> 8 - Holiday Boutique
- 9 - Wreath pick up
- 9 - Family Craft Night
- 13 - PTA meeting, 10AM



January:

- 6 - Spirit Day
- 10 - PTA Meeting, 7PM
- 12 - Hip Pickles
- 23 -> 27 - Spirit Week

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

We hope that everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving and are now all ready for the busy holiday season. December is another busy month here at Kennedy. We have our Sci-Fi night, Holiday Boutique, Family Craft Night, and class parties will take place.

Thank you to Sheryl Bogardus for organizing our Membership Appreciation Skating event at Aspen Ice. We had 41 families come out to skate. If you have not joined the PTA yet it still is not too late to join. Membership is year round and costs \$5.00 to join. Help make this the year Kennedy reaches 100%!!



Family Craft Night is Back!

All students and their families are invited to attend the 3rd Annual Family Craft Night on Friday, December 9, at 7PM. This is a great way to spend a fun evening and relieve stress at a busy time of the year!

Supplies will be provided, so mark your calendars and come join us for some holiday, crafty fun!



Our next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 13th at 10 AM. Take a break from all the holiday shopping and come have a cup of coffee with us and share your ideas and thoughts with us. We are still looking for someone to chair Bingo Night and we have some chair positions opening up for next year. If you are interested in any position please contact me at kerry4298@yahoo.com

We wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season!

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

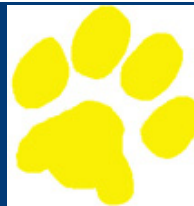
Holiday Boutique Attention All Shoppers!!



The Kennedy School Holiday Boutique is just around the corner. The preview day is Tuesday 12/6 for all students and interested parents, so shopping lists can be made. Then the real fun begins! Shopping will be on Wednesday 12/7 all day and before 10:30 on Thursday 12/8.

This year's boutique is filled with so many wonderful new gift items. There will be super gifts for Moms and Dads, Grandparents, Brothers and Sisters, Aunts and Uncles, Friends and Pets too! The gift prices range mostly from \$.50 to \$6.00 – but many are worth much more!

If you have any questions, call or email Katie Nichols – 973/252-6178, or bubbanick@optonline.net.



It Matters: Building Character

Three strategies can help you promote respectful behavior

You want your child to respect himself and others, and you have told him so. After all, without respect, it is hard to go far in life. Thankfully, there is more you can do to promote respect.

Try these simple steps:

1. Discuss respect. Pose questions such as, "What is respect?" and "Why is it important?" Listen openly to your child's opinions
2. Set an example. Treat others with respect and choose relationships in which you are treated well. Point out other role models, too - both real and fictional, such as historical figures and book characters
3. Be a media critic. Teach your child to think about behavior he sees on TV, in video games and in advertising. Is it respectful? Why or why not? Does it reflect his values and beliefs? What can he learn from it?

Source: "Safe & Respectful Relationships for All," SAFEANDRESPECTFUL.ORG, www.safeandrespectful.org/parents/home.html.

From the desk of Ms. La Capra, School Counselor

From the Principal's Desk...

December is upon us. Each month seems to bring different types of festivity and chores, but December is rather unique. Sometimes it is simply hard to keep up with the pace, even with the most organized parents. I recently read an interesting editorial in the "New York Times" by Thomas L. Friedman. It was about how parents can improve student achievement. Much has been written recently about how we need better teachers in public schools. Teachers have worked harder than ever to evaluate student learning, track and monitor scholastic growth, and raise performance in all disciplines. Many parents have asked what they could do to further enhance this process. Mr. Friedman's article addresses just that. Some things that parents do that seem to correlate with enhanced test performance are:

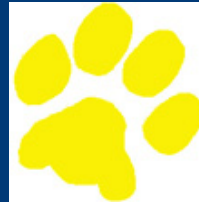
- Read books FREQUENTLY with their children during their first year of primary school
- Ask their children how their school day was
- Show genuine interest in the learning that children are doing
- Talk about things they have done during the day, both parents and students
- Tell stories to their children
- Monitor homework
- Make sure children get to school
- Reward the effort of their children

Ironically, if you are reading the "Kennedy PTA Newsletter", you probably are a parent who is doing most of the above. Note also, that none of the things listed cost a lot of money. Certainly, there is no substitute for a good teacher. There is nothing more valuable than great classroom instruction. To further enhance this, involved and supportive parents can make every teacher more effective.

A fun-filled way to support a special Kennedy evening is to go to WiSci Night on Friday, December 2nd. Teachers have volunteered to man science stations. Dr. Shelley Connell will organize the evening. The PTA has shared in the cost of bringing a MOBILE PLANETARIUM for students and parents to visit that night. Enjoy the wonder of learning!

Audrey Wallock





Kennedy School's Early Act

Early Act is a Rotary based program for Elementary School children to get involved in community service projects. Kennedy School has a program, in its third year, that is going strong with our enthusiastic students and service projects driven by the students involved. It is open to students in second through fourth grades and we have one meeting a month after school.

In October, we collected 150 boxes of macaroni during our "Macaroni Madness" campaign and delivered it to the Morris County Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains. The students received a private tour of the current facility and a look at their future new building. UNICEF boxes are still coming in and we will have a total in the PTA's January newsletter and we thank all who participated.

November had us working on our "Wall of Heroes" with pictures from our own Kennedy family Veterans. We also designed some Safety posters that are hanging in our hallways.

At our December meeting, we will create a craft for the residents of Merry Heart to enjoy. The most popular activity of Kennedy's Early Act is the school store that is open every Friday before the start of the day. This is a great opportunity for the students working it to learn about sales and practice handling money.

If your child is interested in participating in Early Act please have them contact Mrs. Bottona at the school or parents can call (973) 584-7013.

