



President's Message

Susan Hannon jhannon4@optonline.net

We mourn the loss of a past President of our PTA, Lorraine Beckmann. Lorraine worked tirelessly as president from 1998-99. She is in our memories and our hearts.

Fall is upon us and we are hard at work planning our largest fundraiser of the year, our annual Tricky Tray.

Come out to our October 14th meeting where we will raffle off a FREE ticket to the Tricky Tray, (\$37.50 value) but only those in attendance will have a chance to win!

Meeting Dates

- **PTA Meeting** - October 14, 2009 7:30PM, White Rock School
- **Board of Education Meeting** - October 19, 2009 open to public at 8:00PM, High School Media Center

B.O.E. Corner

From the desk of Superintendent Dr. Kathaleen Fuchs

A successful opening of school was reported by all principals. The district schools are off to a great start! The administrative team and support staff are to be commended for all of the work they did this summer—from preparing summer mailings to facilities and grounds.

On behalf of the board, administration, and staff, I want to extend a warm welcome to the social studies supervisor and new teaching staff members who have joined the district, as well as new support staff. You have chosen wisely—Jefferson Township is a great district. Welcome to our Falcon family.

Dr. Thornton, Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction for the district, shared the Spring 2009 testing results at the 9/21 Board meeting. It is important to know that in July the state Board of Ed. announced it increased the "cut scores" for grades 3 & 4, similar to what was done last July for grades 5 thru 8. A "cut off score," established by the State, is the number of questions a student must correctly answer in order to achieve 1 of 3 levels of proficiency ("advanced proficient," "proficient," and "partially proficient"). As a result of this change, students in grades 3 & 4 who were tested in Spring 2009 needed to get a higher percentage of the test questions correct in order to achieve proficiency. Changes in cut scores over the last two years make year-to-year comparisons one of "apples to oranges" as New Jersey has now redefined what is proficient. (At the same time, the federal No Child Left Behind standard of reaching 100% proficiency by 2014 remains unchanged.)

Last year the commissioner and the State Board of Education informed the public that the "cut off" standards were raised in order to increase the likelihood that students will receive assistance and intervention from the local district before they enter 9th grade. We all want our children to achieve academic success. The frustration for New Jersey educators comes when the means established to reach the target continue to change. It is like telling an athlete that the goal is a 4 minute mile by the end of the season and then changing the goal to a 4 minute mile that must be run backwards. The NJDOE is changing the rules in the middle of the game.

Upcoming Programs

- October 8, Jack Branagan will present "The Incredible Brain" at Cozy Lake School and at White Rock for grades 3 & 5.
- October 21, Academic Entertainment presents "Bully No More" at White Rock School and on October 27th at Cozy Lake.

2009-2010 PTA Board Officers

President	Susan Hannon	973-409-4023
1 st VP (Volunteers)	Christy Tonneson	973-208-1092
2 nd VP (Fundraising)	Laurie Mahoney	973-208-0395
3 rd VP (Programs)	Darlene McBride	973-545-2206
Recording Secretary	Theresa Tice	973-697-3533
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Hamilton	973-208-7417
Treasurer	Kelly Miller	973-697-1264

Fundraising

Laurie Mahoney,
laurienj@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who participated in our September fundraisers: Do Nothing, Kids Stuff Coupon Books and Magazine Drive. A special thank you goes to all the volunteers who made these fundraisers possible.

School Spirit Clothing:

Order forms are available on www.jefftwp.org under White Rock School PTA tab. Just print form, fill out and send into school. Your order will be fulfilled and sent home through your child's backpack within 10 days of receiving order. You will be notified if any items are on back order.

Clothing Drop: Saturday, October 17th Cozy Lake School 8:00am-Noon, Bag all your unwanted clothes, shoes, toys, and stuffed animals and simply drop off items. Contact Tracy Orlandoni at tracyo313@aol.com or Karen Parete 973-208-3501 with questions.

Cheesecake Fundraiser: Will begin November 2nd -look for brochure in your child's backpack

Scholastic Book Fair: Coming to White Rock on 10/21 and 10/22 from 6:00pm-8:30pm. Be sure to stop in and check out all of the "new" titles Scholastic has to offer.

Tricky Tray - Friday, February 19, 2010

This year's annual Tricky Tray fundraiser will be held at The Skylands in Randolph. Admission tickets and VALUE BAGS will be on sale at the November 11th PTA meeting at 7PM on a first come first serve basis. Table arrangements will be made at time of purchase, so get your friends together! Each table can seat up to 10 people. Tickets are \$37.50 which includes one sheet of regular tickets and a four course meal! Cash bar will be available. Save \$5.00 when you purchase a VALUE BAG in advance, \$30 worth of tickets for only \$25.00! For ticket info contact Sandy Howell 973-208-7149. We need baskets. If you have empty baskets to donate please drop them off at the PTA room in White Rock. The committee is up and running. If you would like to join in the fun please contact: Laurie Mahoney, laurienj@gmail.com, 973-208-0395

Ongoing Fundraisers

Box Tops for Education: Thank you for generously supporting this program last year. Together we collected thousands of box tops and earned over \$2,200. We hope to surpass that number this year. There are two submissions per school year - October 31, (payment rec'd in December) and February 28 (payment rec'd in April). Please send them in regularly since we do not get credit for expired box tops.

Tyson A+ 1,2,3 labels: These labels can be found on many Tyson food products. Each one is worth 24¢. Please cut and submit the entire label.

Ink Jet, Laser Toners and Cell Phones: This is an ongoing recycling program. Please continue to send these items in. Payment varies based on model buy back value.

Please note we are no longer collecting Nestle water labels. The program has been discontinued. Items for recess have been ordered for our schools from our previous submission.

If you have any questions about our ongoing fundraiser programs, please contact Irene Wojcik at iw914@optonline.net.

Hospitality

Donations are being accepted for the Teachers' Rooms at White Rock, Cozy Lake and Milton as well as PTA general membership meetings. Items may be dropped off at the PTA room at White Rock for storage: cases of water - cleaning wipes - paper towels - antibacterial hand wipes - lunch plates - dessert plates - napkins - hot/cold cups - tissues - coffee - assorted teas - any other suggestions are welcome!

Jennifer Keppler kepplerjennifer@yahoo.com

Town News

50/50 Raffle to benefit the Milton First Aid Squad and the Jefferson Rescue Squad

Sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Jefferson Township. You probably hope you will never need them, but when you do they will be there. The two squads in our Township service us with professionalism and kindness. Let's show them the same kindness by supporting a 50/50 Raffle for their benefit!

Based on 1000 tickets sold (our goal), 3 winners will split 50% for a max of \$10,000

- 1st Prize Winner receives 25 % for a max of \$5,000
- 2nd Prize Winner receives 15%, for a max of \$3,000
- 3rd Prize Winner receives 10%, for a max of \$2,000

Tickets are \$20 each - available now thru December 15, 2009 at various events and locations. Winners will be drawn at the JT Town Council Meeting on December 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm, winners need not be present. If you have questions or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Kimberly Reid at 973-409-4135 or Katie Iardi at 973-697-4749. Let's show our support!

Volunteer News

Christy Tonneson, christyseankids@yahoo.com

Thank you to everyone who returned their completed committee volunteer sheets. We are still looking for a chairperson for the Winter Book Fair at Milton School - we have a committee ready and willing help! If you are interested, or have questions about the position please let me know. The following committees are up and running: Fall Book Fair, Holiday Shoppe and Tricky Tray. If you would like to be part of one of these committees you can contact me or the Chairperson listed under Fundraising.

MILTON

What a great start to the new school year! It was great seeing new and familiar faces at Back to School Night. October promises to be an exciting month. Watch for information on Red Ribbon Week, Halloween festivities and more. I am still looking for help with the weekly readers (any day or time) and re-carding library books on Tuesday afternoons. If you are available and would like to help, please contact me.

Sharon Gagliardi, VIP Milton msmgagliardi@yahoo.com 973-208-2985

COZY LAKE

Cozy Lake had a great start to the new year! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. October is going to be an exciting month. Please look for information regarding Red Ribbon Week (nationally recognized drug awareness program), Halloween festivities and more.

Lunch Duty: Lunch duty begins at 11:15 and ends at 12:20. One person a day is needed. If you are interested please contact Lisa Mylod at 973-697-0047 or jlmylod@optonline.net.

Kimberly Reed, VIP Cozy Lake kagr1@optonline.net, 973-208-1152

WHITE ROCK

Back to School night was a success thank you to all who attended. Lunch Duty is up and running - if interested please contact Renee Napolitano at nap917@yahoo.com. We are now booking into January already. Mrs. Bamond is looking for help in the art room on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays all year to help in class or to hang art work. Please contact me at tice@optonline.net if you are interested in helping out. Class Reps have been assigned and they will be contacting you shortly regarding your party assignments and any specific requests teachers may have.

Theresa Tice, VIP White Rock tice@optonline.net 973-697-3533

Milton, Cozy Lake News from Mr. Plotts

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Back to School Nights. We enjoyed meeting all of you! **International Peace Day** 9-21-09, was a great day for students at Cozy Lake School. All students participated

in Pinwheels for Peace which is an activity celebrated by children world wide. The students also participated in activities focusing on peace within, peace at school, and at home. Thanks to the PTA volunteers who helped facilitate this program and made it run so smoothly!

Pre-School - We will be learning about Fire Safety and Spiders. The local fire department will be visiting us and we will get to see the fire truck up close. We will be going on a field trip to Ideal Farms on October 15th. We are looking forward to seeing Moms and Dads again. On October 20th we will be having our pictures taken at school. The Preschool is looking for gently used bikes with training wheels. Please call Milton School if you can help us. Thanks in advance.

Kindergarten - Kindergarteners had a great start in their new school! Everyone has been busy helping to decorate our classrooms with wonderful artwork. We celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday on September 25 with yummy treats.

First Grade - The school year started with a Science study about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. The children watched as the caterpillars changed into a chrysalis and patiently waited for the butterfly to emerge. To culminate and celebrate our Monarch study the first grade students had a Monarch Parade on October 2. The children also learned all about Johnny Appleseed and conducted apple tasting and making apple sauce. In October the students will be learning about harvest time. The children will celebrate Pumpkin Day on the morning of 10/30 - they will participate in various hands-on activities using real pumpkins!

Second Grade - Second graders at Cozy Lake will be working on habitats and map skills in Science and Social Studies during the month of October. Children will continue to work on personal narratives in Writer's Workshop. They will participate in Fire Safety and Halloween Safety activities. In Math, children will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies. Classes will be establishing Flashcard Helpers to help strengthen Math facts.

White Rock News from Mr. Valenti

Third Grade - Our third grade students have picked up the White Rock routine very easily and they've hit the ground running into a great school year! Mrs. Johnson's and Ms. Lang's classes had a wonderful time celebrating "Special Person's Day". The children spent time with their visitors touring the school, conducting interviews, playing math games, and enjoying lunch. There are plans for guest involvement in other classrooms, so watch for invitations in your child's Friday Folder. All students are combining lessons in character education and language arts by writing about what it means to be trustworthy. In art the classes are creating Impressionists' Gardens using markers and sponge painting with tempera paints.

Fourth Grade - October will be filled with activities as the seasons change for our fourth grade students! Animal studies will be the focus of science projects this month. The classes will be starting multiplication, so it's time to start reinforcing those math facts at home. Centers and Guided Reading will sharpen our language arts skills. Some students will have fun making haunted houses that will be used in descriptive writing. We look forward to hearing the progress over the next few months of the children who have chosen to learn an instrument and/or sing in the chorus. In art the students are working on Antiqued Crayon pictures (still life or animal portraits).

Fifth Grade - In math the classes are working with place value and decimals. For language arts, the children are learning about the writing process by becoming authors and writing creative stories. The teachers are utilizing strategies to help with reading such as context clues and generalizing. In Social Studies the students are discussing the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, as well as the early civilizations of North America. Classes are making puppets of fractured fairytale characters in art. Fifth grade is filled with many activities so be sure to check those backpacks and assignment planners for upcoming events. Our upper class is working hard setting a good example for all students by serving on the Safety Patrol and/or Bus Patrol.

Other White Rock News - Fitness Club has started! The children are participating in a variety of physical activities each week, which include muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular health, agility and flexibility. Bus Safety is scheduled for October 19th and a Fire Prevention assembly will be presented on October 20th. Our Halloween parties will be on Friday, October 30th from 1:30 to 2:30 PM.