

# Fishkill Plains Newsletter

October, 2014

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Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Special points of interest:

- ◆ School Picture Day—  
October 14th in the Gym
- ◆ October 1 & 2—Scholastic  
Book Fair
- ◆ October 9—Fire Prevention  
Day—Hillside Lk Fire  
Company
- ◆ Oct. 10—PARP Summer  
Readers—Breakfast with  
the Principal—1/2 day of  
school 11:45 dismissal
- ◆ October 13—No School
- ◆ October 29—PTA Meeting-  
7:00 pm
- ◆ October 30—PTA Fall Festi-  
val—6-8:30 pm

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe we are completing our first month of school. September has been filled with much activity, excitement, and lots of learning. We are off to a great start and we look forward to a great school year.

Thank you for coming to our Parents-as-Partners Night. Our teachers were excited and pleased to meet their new parents. We hope you enjoyed their presentations of their expectations and the curriculum that will be covered throughout the year. On this night, you had an opportunity to sign up for parent-teacher conferences. If you didn't sign up, please contact your child's classroom teacher to arrange a conference.

As I shared at our Parents-as-Partners Night, our school is implementing a district-wide initiative, PBIS. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. The purpose of PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm. Our school-wide expectations here at Fishkill Plains are to (1) Be Safe, (2) Be Responsible, and (3) Be Respectful. Our PBIS team created a matrix of what our expectations look like, sound like and feel like in all areas of the school (always focusing on being safe, responsible and respectful). Over

the next month or so, you may hear your child talk about how they are earning "Panther Paws" and where they stand for winning their grade level competition. We also are putting together a grand prize, yet to be determined. Also, you may learn about our Voice Codes. Feel free to use them at home! They are as follows:

Silence  
Whispering  
Quiet talking to normal conversation voice  
Outdoor voice: talking, cheering, clapping

Thank you for being an integral part of our learning team. Continue to keep yourself involved and informed, making your child's experiences memorable ones. We look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Eric T. Seipp



## Parent/Teacher Conference Dates and Times:

Parent/teacher conference dates are as follows:

November 20— 1/2 day  
11:45 dismissal

November 20—evening conferences.

November 21—1/2 Day  
11:45 Dismissal

November 24—1/2 Day  
11:45 Dismissal.

Student pick up will be at 11:25 all three half days.

If there is a permanent note on file, and you are not picking up that day, please notify the school (227-1770).

Please be sure to contact your

child's teacher, if you have not signed up for a conference date and time.

We are excited to share your child's progress with all of you.

## New Dismissal Procedure Reminders:

Our new dismissal procedures are off to a good start.

Below is a list of some reminders:

1. Pick up is promptly at 3:25 pm by the gym doors.
2. If you are picking up your child earlier, a note needs to come to the main office with an approximate pick up time before 3:00 pm.
3. In the event of an emergency, please phone the main office.

4. Gym doors will be closed and locked at 3:40 pm. If the gym doors are locked, your child will be in the main office waiting for you.
5. Thank you to all for remembering your picture ID. This helps in the speeding dismissal of your child.

We appreciate all your cooperation with our new dismissal plan. Our number one priority is to keep our students and your children safe.



## Healthy Steps—October 6, 2014

Healthy Steps is designated as a health initiative to inspire our staff, students and their families to walk every day in school and out of school. It provides the opportunity to not only have a healthy lifestyle program, but also a good natured competition between the

classes in each grade level. Every year the classes walking the most miles from each grade win a prize for their efforts. This year's prize is a customized Healthy Steps wrist band. The Fishkill Plains' Healthy Steps Program will run from October 6, 2014 to October 19th, 2014.



## Parent-Teacher Conferences: A Tip Sheet for Parents

Checklist: Before the conference

Schedule a time to meet. If you can't go at the scheduled time, ask the teacher about other times.

Review your child's work, grades, and progress reports.

Talk with your child about his or her progress in school.

Talk with others—family members, after school staff, mentors, etc.—about your child's strengths and needs.

Make a list of questions to ask during the conference.

Think about ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning so that you can discuss them with the teacher.





## BE HEARD

Keep these principles in mind for a great parent—teacher conference:

- B**est intentions assumed
- E**mphasis on learning
- H**ome school collaboration
- E**xamples and evidence
- A**ctive listening
- R**espect for all
- D**edication to follow-up



## Scholastic Book Fair News

This Fall, we sold \$10,207.69 in Scholastic product. This is an increase of approximately \$600 over last year. We took \$2000 in profit for the PTA, and have restocked our Scholastic Dollar balance to cover our free book give-

ways for those students reading the necessary number of PARP weeks in the Spring.

> In recent years, Fishkill Plains Elementary has sold \$64,617.48 in books through Scholastic Book Fairs. This

translates into approximately 12,876 books, or approximately 824,067 reading minutes for our students. We have given away over \$10,000 in free books to our students and teachers, and have stocked the Fishkill Plains library with more than 450 new books. Thank you to Paul Sonnleitner and Kari Thompson! We are very grateful and appreciate all you do!



## PBIS Mission Statement: Fishkill Plains



The mission of the Fishkill Plains PBIS Team is to empower all individuals to become respectful, Responsible, and confident members of our learning community. Through collaboration and communication, the PBIS Team will develop consistent procedures and practices understood by all. It is our goal to provide a safe and positive environment.

## Eric T. Seipp, Principal

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**Mrs. Sala, School Psychologist**  
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## October, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	15	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF ALL EDUCATIONAL FACTORS IS  
THE CONVERSATION IN A CHILD'S HOME. WILLIAM TEMPLE



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

**HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR OUR KIDS**

- Inspect all candy before it is consumed.
- Stay away from animals you don't know.
- Trick or Treat only at well-lit houses.
- Do not enter a stranger's home.
- Drive carefully and be safe.
- Travel in small groups and be accompanied by an adult.
- Have emergency contact information attached to costumes and treat bags.
- Carry coins for emergency calls.
- Consider reflective tape or striping to costumes and treat bags.
- Stay on sidewalks, use flashlights, and avoid crossing yards.

"Make Halloween a fun safe and happy time for your kids!"

DEP Safety & Loss Control- October 2006

## Fire Prevention Day—October 9, 2014

Conduct a family meeting and discuss the following topics:

*Always sleep with the bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.*

*Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. Yelling, pounding on walls, whistles, etc. Practice yelling **FIRE!**"*

*In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, don't search for pets or valuables. Just get out!*

*Roll out of bed. Stay low. One breath of smoke or gases may be enough to kill.*

Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire. Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room.

Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct. Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.

Test windows and doors—do they open easy enough? Are they wide enough. Or tall enough?

Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.

Practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.