

Fishkill Plains Elementary School Newsletter

<http://www.wappingersschools.org/>

“Our children, our school, our future...”

December 2011

VINCE DI GRANDI, PRINCIPAL

MR. DI GRANDI'S DISSERTATION

Conferences went very well and I appreciate the conversations between home and school. It is imperative that we continue to work together and communicate for OUR children. The new report card format received a good overall response. Some parents asked for a +/- clarification system and I will pass that information along to the appropriate people, along with a few other enhancements some suggested.

READING / LITERACY - Please continue to read with your son or daughter. Having conversations about books, heading to the public library, checking Barnes & Noble or updating a magazine subscription are just a few ways to keep the reading fire burning!! Remember to keep it fun and keep it frequent!!

MATH / NUMERACY - Mental math is so important! Please continue to work with your son or daughter to estimate and use mental math - time, distance, tax, find a way to infuse math into a conversation...scores, batting average, stocks; Numbers are everywhere!

STUDENT SAFETY CONCERNS

Over the last few weeks I have noticed the trend, particularly for our students in grades 3-5, of parents picking up students as early as 2:45 p.m. I realize the students are usually at recess at this time, but it has caused some confusion on the playground. Therefore, to enhance the supervision of all students at recess, I am asking that students being picked up early remain with the grade-level study hall teacher on that day. This prevents multiple calls to the playground to obtain a student who is leaving early and will improve the overall safety of our students in many ways. The students who remain inside with a study hall teacher will have an opportunity to complete work or read silently.

On the topic of student safety, I have also noticed a growing contingency of students and parents in the main lobby starting at approximately 8:30 a.m. Since students are not released to their classrooms until 8:50 due to supervision issues, I am asking that students and parents not arrive prior to 8:45 a.m.

Starting Monday, December 5th, I am asking anyone arriving prior to 8:50 a.m. sit in the All-Purpose Room. This will prevent the congestion hazard in our main lobby and allow for the unencumbered movement of custodians, teachers, food services personnel, and WCSD personnel who complete work prior to school.

Thank you for your assistance with these requests. Though these items might seem minor, they truly enhance the safety of our school for all.

GOOGLE GROUP:

In order to stay involved and aware of the happenings at Fishkill Plains, the Fishkill Plains PTA is offering an e-mail update service through Google groups. You may register for this service on our PTA membership form or through www.wappingersschools.org/fplains. Under Quick Links you will see the Google Group parent link. Once on the Google Group page, select “Apply for membership.” Once registered, you will receive email updates on upcoming activities at Fishkill Plains Elementary, as well as messages from the principal, reminders regarding PTA meetings, special events, volunteer opportunities and general information. *Your e-mail address will be used only by the PTA and not shared with any other outside parties.*

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The SLT, comprised of teachers, parents, and the Principal have been approved for their 2011-2012 plan. This year the group has decided to purchase grade level, grade/age appropriate books on Bullying. The goal is to have teachers infuse bullying strategies and awareness through Literacy. For Bully Awareness Week (November 14-18th) students signed an Anti-Bullying Pledge and wore blue on Friday, November 18th, to coincide with our theme, “Bullying Makes Me Blue!” Keep a look out for a Bullying Survey that will be online shortly for you and your child to complete.

Thanks to Mrs. Fitzsimmons, Mrs. Prongay, Mrs. Lisella, and Mrs. Litsky for their work and efforts on the SLT.

WEB CONTENT

Please stay informed about the Board of Education Meetings, Reconfiguration Committee updates, or the Rental Cost Elimination Committee by checking the WCSD website at www.wappingersschools.org

PTA NEWS

The Fishkill Plains PTA would like to wish the Fishkill Plains staff and families well during this holiday season. It is because of our partnership that Fishkill Plains is such a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn!

The PTA is happy to report that we have surpassed our membership goal of 225 PTA members and our numbers are still growing! We are very proud to say that we have 100% teacher participation and we're hoping for 100% participation from all of the families in our school. If you haven't joined yet, please remember, “It is never too late to join the

Fishkill Plains PTA!" Membership forms can be found on the FP PTA website.

Since the last newsletter, the students have attended a variety of assemblies, participated in Red Ribbon Week, November Family Fun Night and some letter writing activities to the troops. These activities would not have taken place without the volunteer efforts of teachers, parents and staff. We are thankful for all of the staff and families that volunteered their time to facilitate and/or assist with these activities for our students.

In the upcoming months, we have a variety of opportunities for you to volunteer with the PTA or to chair an event. If this is something that appeals to you, please contact the PTA Committees Chairperson, or attend our next PTA meeting on December 15 at 9 a.m.

In addition to the PTA meeting there are many activities planned for the month of December including the Holiday Fair, December Family Fun Night and a variety of assemblies. Many of our event fliers have been coming home with a registration form. Completing this form helps us organize events that will be safe for our children. Thank you for your help with this. Please note that the holiday shop will be open during our December Family Fun Night and we encourage you to attend the holiday shop prior to participating in the Family Fun Night activities.

It has been a pleasure working with you and the Fishkill Plains PTA Executive Board to help make Fishkill Plains Elementary School a fabulous place to learn and grow. Enjoy this special time of year with your family and we look forward to working with you as we progress through the school year.

Sincerely,

Angela Nelson & Christine Southard
Fishkill Plains PTA Co-Presidents

DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

As the weather will be soon changing for the snowier I figured a quick reminder of delays and cancellations would be helpful. Information can be found at the Fishkill Plains Homepage or the District Homepage under Quick Links. There you can sign up for e-mail news or check cancellations.com for updates.

The all-call School Messenger system will only be utilized on an emergency basis, not for "typical" weather related delays and cancellations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

- 12/6, 7, 8 - PTA Holiday Shop in the gym 9:30 - 3:00 pm
- 12/6 - PTA Family Fun Night/Holiday Shop 6- 8 pm
- 12/6 - Fishkill Plains Spelling Bee Finals- Grades 4 & 5 - APR @ 2:00 pm
- 12/7 - Mrs. Blake's class reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for WRWD radio station @ 10:30 - 11:00 am
- 12/8 - WCSD Evening reception for School Spelling Bee winners @ District Office - Board Room @ 6:00 pm
- 12/8 - PTA Program - Women in History - 3 shows - all grades
- 12/12 - WCSD District Spelling Bee (evening) @ Myers Elementary School @ 5:30 pm for grades 4 & 5
- 12/12 - Grade 5 Instrumental Performance - @ FP in the APR 7 pm - 8 pm
- 12/13 - "LITTLE DOCTORS" Blood Drive - 3:00 pm- 7:30 pm in the APR - Donors are needed, so please sign-up!
- 12/14 - Fishkill Plains "Winter Concert" - 7:00 pm at Van Wyck
- 12/14 - PTA Program "Pollution in the Food Chain" 9:00 am - 11:00 am in the APR - Grades 3 & 4
- 12/15 - PTA Meeting - 9:00 am in the APR
- 12/19 - Snowdate Winter Concert - 7:00 pm @ Van Wyck
- 12/22 - 1/2/2012 - HOLIDAY RECESS
- 1/3/2012 - BACK to school