

# Fishkill Plains Elementary School Newsletter

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

*"Our children, our school, our future..."*

January 2012

VINCE DI GRANDI, PRINCIPAL

## MR. DI GRANDI'S DISSERTATION

Happy New Year to all! I hope 2012 brings with it health, happiness, and focus. As we all make new and varied resolutions for the upcoming year, let's not forget the simple things like having dinner as a family, reading with our children before bed, and keeping a positive outlook despite the myriad of issues we are faced with on a daily basis. Our children thrive when they are surrounded by our consistent, positive attitudes and high expectations.

As the end of the year brings with it reflection, I have appreciated the hard work and dedication I have witnessed each and every day I have been at Fishkill Plains. Our students bring a wonderful attitude with them as do our hard-working teachers and staff. The partnership we have with our parents is strong and I so appreciate the PTA for all that they do to foster community in our school. It is truly a family, child-centered atmosphere at Fishkill Plains.

As I "appear" in classrooms throughout the day, I am in awe of the level of learning that is taking place. Our students continue to be challenged and the lifelong learner mentality is being fostered by our staff.

As always, continue to take one day at a time, meet the challenges with a "Can Do" attitude, and learn something new every day! (Oh and don't forget to keep reading!!!)

## STUDENT SAFETY CONCERNS

Thank you for your attention to the parent pick-up issue. We have had reductions to students leaving early and our end of the day process has become more streamlined. I do appreciate your help with this issue.

## SCHOOL MESSENGER ALERT

This year our District has subscribed to SchoolMessenger Alert. This system is for emergency purposes such as early school closings, safety issues of concern, etc.

Since this is a new system, I would like to run a test for all Fishkill Plains families and staff members to assure our lines of communication are correct.

This test will be set for Friday, January 20, 2012 at approximately 6:00 p.m. I will record a short test message to test the system. Please contact our main office if you do not receive this message, as it is essential for emergency situations that may arise throughout the year.

## SUPERBOWL SOUP SUNDAY

Once again we are celebrating **SOUPERBOWL SOUP SUNDAY**. This wonderful collection is once again being coordinated by Michele Humbert, a senior at John Jay High School. Please send in cans of **hearty soup** for the Fishkill food pantry at the Trinity Episcopal Church. With your help, we can provide food for many hungry families in need. We will be collecting the cans of hearty soup in the boxes in the main lobby from **January 19th - February 3rd 2012**. Thank you for your support!

## BABYSITTER REQUEST FORMS

RENEW all babysitter request forms by 4/1/12 for the 2012/13 school year.

## INCOMING KINDERGARTENERS

Please contact the main office if you have an incoming Kindergarten student(s) for the 2012/13 school year. Kindergarten Registration will be March 6-8, 2012 at Fishkill Plains - Evening Registration March 7, at Myers Corners Elementary. Please help spread the word to our Fishkill Plains Community as well. Thank you.

## PTA NEWS

Greetings Families & Faculty,

The Fishkill Plains PTA would like to wish the Fishkill Plains staff and families a happy and healthy new year! We are excited to begin this New Year with you, working together to make our school a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn!

The PTA is happy to remind you that we have surpassed our membership goal of 225 PTA members and our numbers are still growing! We are so proud to say that we have 100% teacher participation and we're hoping for 100% participation from all of the families in our school. We are still eligible to apply for the "Focus on Fathers Award," so if you're a male; dad, step-dad, grandpa or uncle; interested in advocating for our children, please remember that 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 organized by PTA Member and Programs Chair, Tim Stinson. The Hudson Valley Philharmonic performed beautiful music for students. The Mid - Hudson Children's Museum visited and presented to the children on the topic of pollution and the children also attended an assembly on Women in History. During December the students also gave back to our community by providing gifts for our Fishkill

Plains giving tree, writing letters to the soldiers and participating in our December Family Fun Night, creating cards of support for the cancer patients at Vassar hospital.

These activities would not have taken place without your support and the volunteer efforts of our teachers, parents and staff. We are thankful to all of you that volunteered your time to facilitate and/or supervise these events 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 our PTA Committees Chairperson, Carlene Kuczma or attend our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, January 18 at 7 pm in the APR.

In addition to the PTA meeting, there are other activities planned for the month of January including our Book Swap - Family Fun Night and the Up, Up, and Away assembly. When our event fliers are sent home with a registration form, please complete the form(s) and return them to school promptly as they help us to plan events with safe ratios for the children. We thank you for your help with this.

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. As Herbert Hoover, our 31st President said, "Children are our most valuable resource. " We are so lucky to be part of such a supportive group of families and faculty as you! Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

A huge congratulations to Alyssa Barone in Ms. Hirsch's class for collecting the most box tops in our most recent BoxTop Challenge.

Ms. Hirsch's class was also the class winner for collecting the most box tops.

Thanks to all who participated.

Sincerely,  
Angela Nelson & Christine Southard  
Fishkill Plains PTA Co-Presidents

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## K-6 RECONFIGURATION UPDATE

On Monday, January 9, 2012, the Board of Education listened to a presentation on K-6 District Reconfiguration. No final decision was made and input is still being sought from our community. Please see the district website for the detailed presentation and report. Any questions, thoughts, or concerns about the proposal should be addressed to [reconfig@wappingersschools.org](mailto:reconfig@wappingersschools.org). This e-mail will go to the Board of Education members so they hear your voice. Thank you.

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## JOHN JAY MENTOR PROGRAM

I am excited to report that working in collaboration with John Jay High School Principal Dwight Bonk and Anchala Sobrin, Dean of Students and math teacher, we have developed a Mentor Program with Fishkill Plains students. Students from John Jay's various Honor Society programs will be working with Fishkill Plains students in reading, math, and writing. This program will have wonderful benefits for all involved.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

- 1/18 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 1/19 - PTA Family Fun Night - "BOOK SWAP" APR @ 7:00 pm
- 1/19 - PTA Program, "Mad Science" all grades
- 1/24 - Grade 5 Field trip - FDR Library and Museum - Hyde Park
- 2/7 - Regional Spelling Bee - Schenectady, NY
- 2/8 - Regional Spelling Bee - Snowdate
- 2/10 - PTA Program Grade 4 - H2O
- 2/13 - PTA Program - Martin L. King - All Grades
- 2/16 - PTA Family Fun Night - APR 7 pm - 8 pm
- 2/17 - Superintendents Conference Day -NO SCHOOL
- 2/18 - WCSD Science Fair - John Jay HS (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- 2/20 - President's Day - NO SCHOOL
- 2/22 - PTA Meeting - 9:00 am in the APR
- 2/23 - PTA Program - Grade 3 - "Water"

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## COMING SOON

OPEN HOUSE DATES:  
March 14, 2012 - 7-8 pm Grades K-2  
March 15, 2012 - 7-8 PM Grades 3-5

NY State has changed the April test dates. Please check our website for updated information.