

Fishkill Plains Elementary School Newsletter

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

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

February/March 2012

VINCE DI GRANDI, PRINCIPAL

MR. DI GRANDI'S DISSERTATION

As I continue to discuss the many different ways that students learn, I am fascinated by language. I recently read an article about the different types of words that students are exposed to throughout their learning careers. The presentation titled, “Bringing Words to Life in Kindergarten and First Grade Classrooms”, by Isabel Beck mentions the different types of words students are presented with in their daily and academic lives. In summary she (and many others) describe three tiers of words. I share this with you so you can reinforce, teach, point out, and enjoy “tangling” with words like I do....

Tier I - Everyday or basic words* - These words rarely require direct instruction and do not have multiple meanings (book, sad, dog)

Tier II - High Mileage Words* - These words occur across a variety of domains and occur often in language and strongly influence speaking and reading. They may have multiple meanings and are the most important words to know because they are a good indicator of a students' progress through school (analyze, create, industrious, measure)

Tier III - Content Specific Vocabulary* - These words are very specific to a subject in school, a hobby, occupation, geographic region, technology, weather, etc. Students usually learn these words when a specific need arises (isotope, Revolutionary War, hypotenuse)

*Hutton, Thaashida. Three Tiers of Vocabulary and Education, 2008

For a fun and complete list of these “High Mileage” words please check our school website as I have listed them for you to download. Make up a game; see how many you can find in a newspaper article or how many times a newscaster uses them in a night! Research states that third grade students with restricted vocabularies have declining comprehension scores.

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 of Fishkill Plains,

We're off to a fabulous start this February at Fishkill Plains and we are very thankful for the support of our FP families and faculty for showing us the love. Parents and teachers working together as partners help to make our school a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn!

PTA membership is important to our school. For starters, part of your membership dues goes directly to support our school. We use the money to fund the programs and assemblies we run for the children. Membership in our PTA is all inclusive and we encourage the participation of mothers, fathers, grandparents, other family members, teachers, administrators, as well as community members without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. Our PTA has surpassed our original membership goal of 225 PTA members but we don't want to stop there! We're still looking to increase our membership of men to 25% of our total membership and our total membership by at least 5% in the month of March. We only need 10 more members to meet the second goal. It costs \$6 to join and you can read about the membership perks on our website. Membership forms can also be found there, but we can also send home paper copies if needed. Please just write us a note.

Since the last newsletter, the students have attended a variety of assemblies and events organized by our PTA members. The Book Swap - Family Fun Night was a wonderful success thanks to Kara Slosower and Kari Thompson and their plethora of volunteers. Programs Chair, Tim Stinson also needs a round of applause for organizing the Fire and Ice assembly for the students, as well as the Dr. King assembly that was held earlier this week. We are thankful to all of you that volunteered your time to assist and supervise these events for our children.

In the upcoming months we have a variety of opportunities for you to volunteer with the PTA, with some tasks as minimal as an hour, or you can spend more time volunteering by chairing an event. We currently need volunteers for our Teacher Appreciation Committee. If this is something that appeals to you, please contact our PTA Committees Chairperson, Carlene Kuczma, or attend our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 22, at 7 pm in the APR. If you've never attended a PTA meeting before, please join us.

In addition to our PTA meeting there are other activities planned for the month of March including one our biggest events of the year, Parents as Reading Partners! The theme this year

is Vote for Reading! This year, PARP will be held during the week of March 5 through March 23. To kick off the event, authors Pat Schories, creator of the Biscuit Books, and Lesa Ransome, a local author, will be meeting with students on various grade levels. Other upcoming events include the school talent show on March 8th (primary grades) and 9th (intermediate grades). Both talent show events run from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Fishkill Plains is a very special school because of the efforts of ALL of its members and we, the PTA Board, are thankful to you! **“Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.”** - C. Everett Koop

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

SNOWDAY ALERT

Due to the fact that we have used only one snow day to date, there is a strong possibility we will have an extended spring break. Please be sure to note these dates in addition to spring break, Monday, 4/9/12, Tuesday, 4/10/12, Wednesday, 4/11/12 and Thursday, 4/12/12 . These “Return” days have not yet been approved, but I wanted to make you aware of the dates as per our District Calendar. As soon as these dates are confirmed I will send out a reminder.

Friday, 4/13/12 SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION.

PARP is COMING!**

Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child’s education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education.

PARP is a program that asks parents to read with their children for at least fifteen minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative. The choice of reading materials can vary from books to anything with printed words. The daily activity of reading together strengthens reading and communication skills in the child and also strengthens the parent/child relationship. Note: The term ‘parents’ may be interpreted broadly to include all adults who play an important role in a child’s life.

PARP is a program that cements the necessary bond between the home and the school to encourage love of reading in our children.

** Taken from www.nyspta.org.

BREAKFAST IS SERVED!!

Breakfast may be purchased with cash daily or use your account.

If you are currently eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch, you are eligible for free or reduced price GRAB and GO breakfast. The reduced meal price is \$.25.

Menu: Ultimate Breakfast Round or Whole Bagel w/Butter or Cream Cheese and Apple Juice and Milk

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

3/1 - PTA Talent Show Rehearsal

3/2 - PTA Talent Show Rehearsal

3/5 - PARP Begins - Two Visiting Authors -
9:30 am Lesa Ransome 3-5
2:00 pm Pat Schories K-2

3/6 - Talent Show Rehearsal - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

3/6, 3/7, 3/ 8 - Kindergarten Registration -
9:30 am - 11:30 pm
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

3/7 - Kindergarten Registration - Evening hours -
Myers Corners Elementary
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 pm

3/8 - PTA Talent Show Performance -
APR 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (Grades K-2 Only)

3/9 - PTA Talent Show Performance -
APR 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (Grades 3-5 Only)

3/13 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm

3/14 - OPEN HOUSE -K-2- 7:00 - 8:00 pm

3/15 - OPEN HOUSE -3-5 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm

3/19 - Spring Pictures

3/20 - Dutchess County Board of Elections -Special
Election in Gym - 6:00 am - 10:00 pm

3/22 - PTA Program Story Telling - Grades K-2

3/23 - PARP Ends

3/29 - 4th Grade Colonial Day

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