

Fishkill Plains Elementary School Newsletter

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

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

May 2012

VINCE DI GRANDI, PRINCIPAL

MR. DI GRANDI'S DISSERTATION

Parents have inquired as to the process for 2012-2013 student placements. Taking into account teacher feedback and a detailed student rubric, which outlines academic performance, work habits, organization, and social needs, classes will be formed which best create educational equity.

My goal is to always balance classrooms, in an educationally equitable manner, to provide for the best learning opportunities for all students. The goal of our teachers, regardless of the class, is to differentiate the assignments provided to students, to best challenge and meet their needs. This happens in each and every class and is something we continually reflect upon and discuss as educators, especially with the new Common Core Standards being implemented at each grade level.

I am excited to report that next school year we will have one section of inclusion at each grade level, from K-5. With that in mind, it is likely that your son/daughter will be in an inclusion class, once, if not twice, in their K-5 time at Fishkill Plains. If this has not occurred yet, it might next year or the year after. Inclusion classes provide challenging math and science assignments, homework that is not too easy, and an environment that will continually challenge each student in order to remain engaged, while at the same time offering an opportunity to develop greater social and emotional learners; a predictor of future success by many accounts.

If there is a concern you have with a specific teacher or specific student(s), due to past interactions, that you feel I should be made aware, please feel free to write a letter, e-mail, or call me and I will do my best to honor your request.

CAREER DAY - JUNE 8, 2012

We are holding our first Career Day for students on June 8, 2012 from 9:30 - 11:30 in the gymnasium. If anyone knows a community member or owner of a business that is interested, please forward them this information. The following are just a few of the benefits from this special day:

- The opportunity for children to explore various careers up close and ask questions.
- Contact with role models within the business community.
- Educational information in the classroom linked to real life presentations.
- Fostering education and business community partnerships.

We hope you will consider participating in our annual Career Day as an exhibitor. Please contact the office at 227-1770 for an application to be completed and returned.

PTA NEWS

Greetings Families & Faculty of Fishkill Plains, Happy Spring to you all! We are so proud of our Fishkill Plains students, families and faculty during this testing season! You survived! You've all worked so hard and our fantastic crew of PTA volunteers has some fun events planned for you for the end of this school year! Just a friendly reminder: We can always use more volunteers!

It is because of our PTA volunteers and members that we've been able to accomplish so much this year for the benefit of our school! But there is more to come! The Book Fair committee is preparing for the Book Fair which will be held on May 30th, May 31st, and June 1st. The Science Fair and the evening Book Fair will be on May 31st from 6 - 8 pm. The PTA is also supporting the staff in their school wide events; Career Day on June 8th and Field Day on June 15th. Last but not least, the PTA Board is the most excited about our Teacher Appreciation Night at the Renegades Stadium on June 18th. If you haven't done so already, please be sure you purchase your tickets and join us! Don't forget to wear your Fishkill Plains Spirit Wear! Spirit wear orders are due soon!

Another reminder: Keep bringing in those Boxtops! Remember, our current BoxTop contest is the Ice Cream Scoop Contest. It is a classroom contest, ongoing through May. The PTA is also collecting Campbell's Soup Labels as well as Capri Sun pouches.

Although it almost seems like the year is coming to an end, the PTA is already looking forward to the future. Are you interested in being part of the PTA Board next year? Are you looking to network and collaborate with other parents and school faculty? Please consider volunteering some of your time to help us plan our Family Friendly Events or perhaps an in school event? "It takes a village to raise a child". The PTA is that village with parents, guardians, teachers, principals, superintendents, community leaders working together as a team to make a difference in children's lives. Please come to our next PTA

meeting on May 10th to help us close out the year and plan for the next. You are the key to our success!

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

ALL SCHOOL FIELD DAY

Thank you to all who sent back the form regarding either donating items, such as ice, water coolers, and snack, or volunteering for our all-school field day on Friday, June 15, 2012 (Raindate: Monday June 18, 2012). I am organizing the names and information and will be in touch with parents regarding a "Parent Orientation Night" and further details on the day. Stay tuned.

If you are interested in volunteering and haven't yet completed the volunteer form, please feel free to send me an e-mail at vince.digrandi@wappingersschools.org with your information.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE: Legislation requires schools to offer a breakfast program in school with grades K-6. The law also provides for an exemption from this program based on the lack of need as demonstrated by low participation. We are requesting to continue our exemptions from this program for the 2012/13 school year, at Fishkill Plains based on low participation data from the 1994-2000 school years.

The public is urged to submit their questions and interest in the breakfast program to Mr. A. Nuchman Food Service Director, Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls N.Y. 12590.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Join us for the 62nd Annual Festival of the Arts in Messier Park located on Route 9D in Wappingers Falls. This wonderful event is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2012 with an inclement weather date of Sunday, May 13th.

There will be artwork up for viewing from all 15 schools in the WCSD including drawings, collages, paintings, prints, fiber arts and an array of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional work.

There will be a variety of art-making activities for the public starting at 12 noon and ending at 3:30 p.m. Some of the art activities this year are paper marbling and puppet making! There will also be demonstrations of wheel throwing and clay sculpting. Come over to the R.C.K. section where Empty Clay Bowls will be for sale.

Musical events will be occurring all day in the Gazebo area. There will be Choral groups from many different WCSD schools as well as instrumental presentations. Students and families are welcome to come and listen to these talented students.

Join us for this yearly honored celebration of the Arts at Messier Park on Saturday May 12, 2012.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

May 1 & 2 - 5th Grade overnight. Taconic Outdoor Rooms, 4, 6, 9

May 3 - PTA Program Zucchini Brothers @ 10:00 am Gr. K-2

May 4 - NO SCHOOL Superintendent's Conference Day

May 7 - Fishkill Plains Blood Drive - 3:00 pm - 7:30 pm

May 8 - Instrumental Orchestra Screening for grade 4 @ Fishkill Plains

May 9 - Kindergarten Orientation Program for 2012/13 school year @ 4:00pm in the APR

May 10 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm

May 11 - Delete Bullying Day @ Fishkill Plains-more info to follow.

May 12 - Art in the Park - Messier Park

May 12 - WCSD Safety Awareness Saturday - 1:00 - 4:00 at Myers Corners Elementary

May 14 - Instrumental Band Screening - Grade 5 @ Fishkill Plains

May 15 & 16th - 5th Grade overnight, Taconic Outdoor Rooms, 1 & 12

May 18 & 21 - NO SCHOOL - Give back days

May 22-24 - NYS Manipulative Science Exam - Library - 4th Grade Only

May 23 - Fishkill Plains Spring Concert- Grades 4 & 5 - Van Wyck Middle School @ 7:00 pm

May 25 & 28 - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Weekend

May 30, 31 and June 1st - PTA BOOK FAIR
