

FISHKILL PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, I arrived here on October 21st, coming from Gayhead Elementary School, where I served as assistant principal for the past two years.

One of the first things that struck me when I arrived at Fishkill Plains Elementary School was the overwhelmingly warm welcome that I received from the faculty, staff and students. I have consistently visited every classroom and have been so impressed with the quality of instruction. I love seeing your children's energy, excitement and desire to learn every day.

It was wonderful to meet so many parents here at school, as well as at PTA meeting or one of our PARP activities. I was very

pleased with the number of families that came out to reconnect and support our school community. I think these events are essential in building and strengthening our sense of community and look forward to further school events!

In the weeks ahead, we have a very busy schedule. School will be closed on Monday, November 11th for Veteran's Day; there is a PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 12th in the APR at 7:00 pm; the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for November 18th at 7:30 at Wappingers Junior High School; and all students will be dismissed at 11:30 on November 21st, 22nd, and 25th. If you have not scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, please call him/her at 227-1770. It is very

important to each child's progress that parents and teachers meet to discuss the first quarter of the school year. School will be closed for the Thanksgiving recess on November 27th, 28th, and 29th.

To all of you who have been a part of facilitating this transition, I am grateful; and for those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I welcome the introduction! Thank you again for the warm welcome. I happily anticipate the great things ahead at Fishkill Plains Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Sciff
Principal

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Music Happenings!



In an effort to help build our school community, Mrs. Hershman created the "What's on your Playlist?" board outside the music room. Throughout the year, various students and staff will be asked "what's

on your playlist?" and Mrs. Hershman will post their answer (the song they have most recently been listening to, the artist, and why they like that song) along with their picture. The hope is that by

seeing this, students will realize how much they have in common with each other and with staff so we can help build friendships and reduce bullying.

Nurse's Corner

Here is some important information associated with the Health Office:

NYS requires that all new students, Kindergarten, second, fourth, seventh and tenth graders have a physical examination. You may have your child examined by your private physician or by the school physician. All health forms are due to the Health Office by October 1. Any student who has not returned a form will be scheduled for a physical with the school physician.

NYS requires that: Each student receive a vision screening test at least once in each school year for Grades K,1,2,3,5,7,10

Each student receive a hearing screening test at least once in each school year for

Grades K,1,3,5,7,10

Each student receive a scoliosis screening test for grades 5 – 9

The school nurse will perform these screening if no documentation is received from the student's private physician

Please notify the Health Office of any illness, injury or physical condition that your child may have so that we may be aware of your child's condition.

If your child needs to be excused from gym, a note is required. A parent/guardian note is sufficient for a one-day excuse if he/she has not seen a doctor. If your child has seen a doctor, received doctor's advice or will be out of gym for more than one week, a note from the doctor is required. The note must state the reason and include the length of time that your child is to be excused. All notes are to be given to the nurse.

A doctor's note is required for any student who requires crutches or the use of a wheelchair during the school day. The note must include a gym excuse,

the reason for the crutches and/or wheelchair and the length of time the student will need the crutches and/or wheelchair. The student must report to the Health Office upon entering the school building.

We provide First Aid only for injuries sustained at school. We may not make medical diagnoses.

Mrs. Flaherty, School Nurse
Fishkill Plains Elementary School



Remember:

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

11/21/13, 11/22/13,
11/25/13

11: 30 Dismissal

Fishkill Plains Computer Lab Gets an Update



Fishkill Plains now has a new Mac-Mini computer lab with brand new flat screen monitors. The students and staff are totally enjoying them and in this month of giving thanks, we can all say we are very thankful for our wonderful, new computer lab!

Fishkill Plains
Little Doctors

New York
Blood Drive
Date: 12/17/13
Time: 3-7 pm
Place: APR

Please consider
donating blood!

"Ten Years of Friday afternoons in the library"

The dogs are back for students to read a book of their choice as their time permits. The volunteers are certified therapy dogs from Positive Paws Visiting Pets. Luna, Jake, Holly, and Shasta have been here already this year. Children from K through 5th can let Mrs. Heron know if they want to read.

Luna, Jake, Holly and Shasta are pictured.



"No Shave Growvember" at Fishkill Plains!

"Every year, thousands of children across America are diagnosed with cancer an often life threatening illness that remains the leading cause of death by disease for children under the age of 15. The causes of pediatric cancer are still largely unknown, and though new discoveries are resulting in new treatments, this heartbreaking disease continues to scar families and communities in ways that may never fully heal. This month, we remember the young lives taken too soon, stand with the families facing childhood cancer today, and rededicate

ourselves to combating this terrible illness." -Obama
 This upcoming month a few of the male teachers at Fishkill Plains will be growing their beards in order to raise awareness of childhood cancer. We will pair this with a fundraiser in which students can bring in \$1 to vote on which beard design they would like the teachers to have. During the last school week of November, A&T Barbershop in the Summerlin Plaza will volunteer their time and shave the winning design into the teachers' beards. I look

forward to having fun, and both raising money and awareness for this important cause.

Thank you,
 Mr. Pikor



Fishkill Plains faculty and staff would like to wish you and your families a happy Thanksgiving Season



"Change Bandits"—Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

Congratulations Fishkill Plains!!!

Angela Stasiak, a fifth grader at Fishkill Plains, collected \$845.17 in donations for the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. This is a hospital near and dear to her family. Angela wanted to make a difference so that other children with life threatening illness can be helped by the hospital's amazing doctors and nursing staff.

The class that donated the most change would get homemade loom bracelets that Angela made herself!

Mrs. Bohlinger's class raised the most money and were, therefore awarded the loom bracelets.

Thank you to all who participated.



"When you know better you do better."

— [Maya Angelou](#)

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

— [Henry Ford](#)

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Happenings:

The students in Mrs. Prongay and Mrs. Lombardi's class stuffed candy goodie bags for the children that spent Halloween in the hospital.

For Thanksgiving, we are collecting canned food

items to donate to families in need!

Grade 1

In October the first grade classes held their annual in school pumpkin picking field trip. Pumpkins were placed in the open fields of Fishkill Plains and the students were

able to choose a pumpkin of their choice. Pumpkins were used to do both math and science activities throughout the day.



Retake Day:

November 20th

9:00 am- 11:00 am!!!



FISHKILL PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Fishkill Plains Elementary School helps "Pick Up the Tab" for the *Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley*.

The Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley located at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla, NY, gains assistance from Fishkill Plains Elementary with its pull tab recycling project. **Over the last 2 years**, we have collected and delivered **64,000 Pull Tabs** for Ronald McDonald House.

The pull tab "Collect-A-Million Club" project has gained support throughout the Hudson Valley from schools, employers, and social/civic groups. Fishkill Plains Elementary has enrolled in the special "Collect-A-Million Club" school recycling project. *Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley* has developed an educational activities packet that includes useful materials for teachers to use in conjunction with the pull tab recycling project. Upon collection of one million pull tabs Fishkill Plains Elementary will be an official member of the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley "Collect-A-Million Club" and will receive an assembly from Ronald McDonald himself. *Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley* is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a home-away-from-home for families of critically ill or traumatically injured children. The House is a place where families can enjoy the comforts of home, while still being nearby their child. Families who stay at the house are provided with a secure and loving environment, while their children typically receive care in: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Trauma Intensive Care Unit, Burn Unit, or Oncology floor. The Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley serves families from eight counties including: Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Putnam, Dutchess, Fairfield, and Ulster.

Families staying at the *Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley* are asked to pay \$15 per night, although the actual cost is \$119 per night to accommodate each family. The pull tab recycling program is one of the ways that generates funds to help underwrite the cost of a night's stay.

"So get Pullin' Tabs from your cans and bring them into Fishkill Plains Elementary. The Fourth grade will weigh them, calculate the amounts with a mathematical conversion, and deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House."

To learn more about how you can help the Fishkill Plains Elementary School's "Collect-A-Million" project, please contact *Mrs. Karen Sanborn at Fishkill Plains Elementary School at 227-1770.*



GREATER HUDSON VALLEY
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Save the dates:

11/5—Supt Conf.
Day

11/12—PTA
Mtg@7:00

RETAKE DAY-
11/20 -9-11 am

11/21-Half Day
11/22-Half Day
11/25-Half Day-
11:30dismissal

11/20-PARP Night
Holiday's Around
the World -6:00pm

11/27-11/29-
Thanksgiving Re-
cess
12/10-12/12-PTA
Holiday Shop

Dec --PTA -
Mtg.TBA

12/19-FP Winter
concert@7:00pm
12/23-1/1/14-
Holiday recess

ART ROOM NEWS

In conjunction with the Fishkill Plains Parent Teacher Association, students participated in an art fundraiser through Square One Art. Working within the curriculum, students created projects that can be printed on various items for ordering. Items include t-shirts, coffee mugs, and mouse pads. Students did a wonderful job this year!

