

Fishkill Plains Elementary School Newsletter

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

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

October/November 2011

VINCE DI GRANDI, PRINCIPAL

MR. DI GRANDI'S DISSERTATION

We have had a GREAT opening to school. Parents as Partners night was well attended and the PTA membership is at an all time high. Our staff kickball game, ice cream social, and Healthy Steps Community walk were each attended by well over 300 students and family members!! The enthusiasm and energy at Fishkill Plains is at an extremely high-level and we want to keep it there. Thank you to all PTA members, staff, students, and their families for the participation, planning, and fun we have had so far....and there is more to come!!

READING / LITERACY - I cannot stress the importance of daily literacy with each student. Developing a “Love of Literacy”, my LOL, is such a key to developing lifelong learners. Reading the newspaper, going to the public library, the “Alphabet Game” in the car (Can anyone find the letter ‘A’ in a sign - and what sound does that make?, now ‘B’), crossword puzzles, reading before bedtime...the list goes on and on. Keep it fresh and keep it fun, but keep it a daily part of your life and evoke the passion for reading and learning that each growing mind needs!!

MATH / NUMERACY - As much as reading and comprehension is a part of our daily lives, so is math and numbers. Estimation (How many miles do you think it is to Grandma’s house?), shopping (sales tax discounted price), figuring out the tip at a restaurant - there are so many real-world ways to incorporate math into your daily conversation. For those of you who like a challenge - try a Sudoku (Google it!) or two...I promise they are a mind bender!!

UPDATES:

- Some parents may have received letters regarding their son/daughter and Academic Intervention Services (AIS). For details, please check the Wappingers Central School District’s main website or call and I will provide details on the academic services we are providing.
- I have received some calls regarding the results of the NY State Testing. For a detailed analysis of what your child was successful at or needs more work with check the back of the test scores for an area called “Target Levels”. This area will detail the areas for improvement and the types of topics that you can work on with your child.
- Our phone systems have been updated. Please listen for the new directory and remember to dial “13” before anyone’s extension.

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.**

CHARACTER EDUCATION THEMES

Each month we focus on a different theme to guide our social and emotional learning. Research shows that schools who explicitly teach Social/Emotional Learning are the schools that produce successful students.

Our themes by month are:

October - Friendship	March - Fairness
November - Respect	April - Citizenship
December - Trustworthiness	May - Patience
January - Loyalty	June - Responsibility
February - Caring	

These themes are tied into our “Shining Stars” program which recognizes one student per month, per class for their embodiment of the trait!

SUMMER READERS

Thank you for all the wonderful postcards, letters, and drawings that you sent me this summer! I enjoyed reading them all!

Keara Albea, Sydni Baker, Suzie Bidwell, Japheth Brinn, Andria Camporese, David Cappuzzello, Isabella Cappuzzello, Sabrina Castelli, Leonard Colotti, Aidan Cook, Elyssa Didomizio, Jason Doran, Jordan Doran, Taylor Egan, Jared Emanuelo, Olivia Emanuelo, Ryan Fells, Yasmin Fells, Robert Foote, Sarah Gehrlein, Logan Hau Maloney, Elizabeth Humphrey, Uchika Inoue, Claire Iocco, Sophie Iocco, Chase Kilkenny, Brayden Kuczma, Riley Kuczma, Trinity Lucas, Maximus Iuzzo, Jermy Lugo, Ryan Lugo, Alec Malles, Andrew Malles, Madison McGinley, Morgan McGinley, Mikayla Mills, Shannon Mills, Madison Morsey, Samantha Nelson, Ryan Ng, Victoria Pacacha, Anissa Perez, Zohary Perez, Justin Perillo, Dominic Piscitelli, Isabella Pozzulo, Kayleigh Raffaele, Alyssa Sampson, Nicholas Sampson, Gabriela Santos, Jena Scampoli, Kyra Scampoli, Joseph Scarfone, Jeffrey Shah, Jonathan Shah, Ratna Sharma, Emily Shute, Rosalie Smith, Timmy Smith, Melanie Tetor, Kyle Vidulich, Julia Volpicelli, Alyssa Warshaw, Bridgett Warshaw, Charlie Watkins, Alexander Zheng

WEB CONTENT

If you are looking for information on district or school events, such as upcoming family nights and events, please visit our website at www.wappingersschools.org.

Also for some fun check out these two websites we have been using at school:

www.wonderopolis.org

www.spellingcity.com

PTA NEWS

We are off to a wonderful start at Fishkill Plains Elementary School and we have you to thank for the many accomplishments that we have achieved thus far this school year. Please keep working hard and sharing your knowledge and talents with our students. It is because of you that Fishkill Plains is such a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow.

The PTA is proud to report that we have surpassed our membership goal of 225 PTA members and our numbers

are still growing! We would love for 100% participation from all of the families and faculty 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 and the local membership benefits went into effect on October 1, 2011. Please visit the website for more information.

Students benefit from your PTA Membership and your fundraising efforts too. We'd like to thank all of the families that participated in our Innisbrook Fundraiser. If you haven't heard already, we've exceeded our original sales goal and we have sold \$15, 542 worth of merchandise. That is over \$2,000 more than last year and that money will be used for programming events for the children!

Since our first newsletter home, the students have had the opportunity to watch their teachers take part in the faculty kickball game, participate in spirit week and attend the ice cream social family fun night. 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 attend 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 the PTA Committees Chairperson, or attend our next PTA meeting on October 26th for more information.

In addition to the PTA meeting there a variety of activities planned for the month of October including the Book Fair, Fall Family Fun Night and Breakfast with the Principal. Many of our events 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 book fair will be open during our October Family Fun Night and we encourage you to attend the book fair 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 seasons.

Sincerely,

Angela Nelson & Christine Southard
Fishkill Plains PTA Co-Presidents

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

"Tis' the Halloween season to be jolly once again!" I would like to take this opportunity to raise your awareness about safety and offer some precautionary measures.

Before your little Ghouls and Goblins take off for trick-or-treating, be sure to safeguard them against some Halloween hazards. The safest way to enjoy Halloween is to consider trick or treating at a shopping mall or attending a school, house of worship, or community party or other organized event. However, if your children are going house to house collecting candy, we ask that you remind and impress upon your children, the importance of the established safety rules. Please read the following guidelines and go over them, repeatedly, with your child(ren). Here are some very important safety tips:

- **WEAR a simple costume** so as not to cause trips or falls should avoid long, trailing hems, scarves or accessories. Make sure that costumes, including wigs, masks and beards are flame retardant and remind children to stay away from open flames from candles and Jack O' Lanterns.
- **MAKE-UP IS BETTER** than a mask to wear. A mask can narrow a child's view. If your child wears a mask, enlarge the eye holes!
- **REMINd CHILDREN TO WALK ON SIDEWALKS**, not the streets, and to be careful while crossing the streets!
- **FLASHLIGHTS** are important tools! Children must see clearly where they are going, and flashlights also make motorists able to see them.
- **"Trick-or-treaters"** should always walk in groups or be accompanied by a parent or babysitter. They should stay away from strangers and talk only with people they know.
- **Children should walk** in familiar areas on prior established routes. They should stop only at houses that have the lights on and that look welcoming.
- **Do not allow children to eat candy** they have collected until they have returned home and had the candy inspected by an adult. Discard any foods with broken seals or fruits which show signs of tampering.

How ever you decide to celebrate the evening, have a **Happy Halloween** and remember to **PLAY IT SAFE!**

GOLD BOOK TICKETS

As part of our ongoing efforts to teach character education traits and look for the best in every student we have begun the "Gold Book". This book is a way for students and staff to acknowledge random acts of kindness which occur throughout the school every day. A student or staff member completes a Golden Ticket, submits it to the principal with the name of the student or staff member who completed the act and a description of the act. Students and staff are then chosen to be entered into our "Gold Book". The act they were caught doing, along with their signature is written in the book and they receive a certificate from the principal. You would be amazed at all the GREAT acts that have been caught already!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

10/14/2011 - Grades 5 Regions Day 1:00 pm

10/14/2011 - Fire Prevention Day - Grades K-3

10/18/2011 - PTA School Pictures

10/19 - 10/21 - PTA Scholastic Book Fair 9:00 - 3:30

10/20/2011 - PTA Family Fun Night 6:20 - 8:20 pm

10/20/2011 - PTA Scholastic Book Fair- 6:00 - 8:00pm

10/25/11 - PTA Breakfast with the Principal -7:45 am

10/26/2011 - PTA Meeting 7 pm

11/1 - 11/3/11 -PTA Program: 5 Senses - Grades K-2

11/11/11 - **No School- Veteran's Day**

11/16/11 Half-day of School - 11:30 dismissal-No PMK

11/16/11 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm - APR

11/17/11 Half-day of School - 11:30 dismissal-No PMK

11/23-11/27/11- Thanksgiving Recess

11/29/11 - Half Day of School - 11:30 dismissal -No PMK