



Charlton Heights Knight Messenger

PTA Newsletter

April 2012

Principal's Message

Calendar of Events

- 4/3 - 4/4 Bookfair
3:00 PM
- 4/4 PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
- 4/17 BOE Meeting @ HS
7:30 PM
- 4/20 Popcorn Day & Student Council Theme Day
- 4/25 Student Council
Brooks Barbeque 4:00 PM
- 4/27 Chuck & Duck
Dodgeball 4:00 PM
- 5/2 PTA MEETING
3:30PM

Dear Families,

Students in grades 3-5 will be taking several district and New York State tests during the school year. Since the N.Y.S. Education Department has mandated specific dates and times for these assessments, please make every effort to ensure your child is present on these days. We ask that you help by making sure your child: has adequate rest on the nights before the assessment; arrives at school on time; and does not have any doctor's appointments or other elective absences on testing days.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

Grade 3 The English Language Arts assessment will be on April 17, 18 and 19. The mathematics assessment will be given on April 25, 26, and 27.

Grade 4 The English Language Arts assessment will be on April 17, 18 and 19. The mathematics assessment will be given on April 25, 26, and 27. The science assessment will be given on May 30 and June 4.

Grade 5 The English Language Arts assessment will be on April 17, 18 and 19. The mathematics assessment will be given on April 25, 26, and 27.

We will soon be starting the placement process for the 2012-2013 school year. A letter will sent home electronically on April 16 explaining the process. Parents may choose to fill out a parent input form to let the school know any special needs of your child which you believe will help the professional team in determining final placement. We recognize that there are special circumstances in which parents have useful information to share concerning the specific needs which may affect placement of their children.

Social, emotional or physical needs and previous personal experience with a grade level teacher that would lead to a request for alternative placement are examples of factors that could affect placement.

Keep in mind that the information you provide is not meant to determine next year's placement; rather, it will be used to help develop a more complete picture of your child. Specific teacher requests can not be considered. The information you provide in writing will be considered and shared with the grade level teachers involved in your child's placement. Copies of these forms are available upon request from the Main Office. Forms must be received by May 2nd.

The Student Council Brooks BBQ will be on Wednesday, April 25, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Charlton Heights Cafeteria.

Our third annual Dodgeball Tournament will be held on April 27, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the gymnasium for students in third, fourth and fifth grade.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Walk-About on Wednesday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to let your children guide you through the school, and a chance to visit with friends! We hope you are able to attend this year.

Sincerely, Timothy Sinnenberg

PTA President's Message

Spring is the time the PTA looks ahead to next year. The PTA Executive Committee (President, Vice President Programs, Vice President Homerooms, Treasurer and Secretary) positions are open for a new term! I encourage anyone that is interested in possibly holding one of these positions to contact me to find out all the details. CHES PTA sponsors about 40 programs that help to enrich our school community. These programs take many volunteers to help make them happen. Each program has a chairperson, a co-chairperson and volunteers. There are many programs that will need your help for next year and those sign-ups are going on now. Stop by Café PTA on Thursday, April 19th from 6:30 – 7:30 in the cafeteria to get more information. There will also be a poster hanging on our PTA Bulletin board where you can see what programs are available and sign-up.

Our Children's Garden is blooming! I want to give some special thanks to the Cataldo Family for donating some wonderful gardening essentials to fill our Garden Shed! The Garden is spruced up and ready for our Spring Children's Garden on May 11th and 14th. If you have leftover annuals or perennials from your own garden plantings please consider donating them to the Children's Garden for the children to plant in May! Come in and have some fun volunteering to help out in the garden when your child's class visits.

Thank you to Laura Paolino and Jodi Cataldo for putting together a great "BOGO" Scholastic Bookfair. There was a wonderful showing from all of our families taking the opportunity to stock up on great reads for the children over the summer!

Afterschool Enrichment Clubs are always a fun program for the students at CHES! Melissa Antonini, Heidi Todd and Traci Hall made sure that this year was just as fun as ever. They did a great job coordinating the whole program and lining up wonderful classes for the children to choose from.

On a daily basis Milk Volunteers and Library Volunteers are two programs that are an added value to CHES. We thank the many volunteers that give their time in the Library and Cafeteria helping the children and staff.

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, May 2nd at 3:30 in the Library. This is a special meeting in that all of the teachers are invited to attend and we will be nominating and voting in our PTA executive committee. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend! Come share your ideas and collaborate with other parents, teachers and administration. Find out what is happening and help shape the things to come!

Sharan Zarnofsky - CHES PTA President



Popcorn Day!



Friday,

April
20th

Student Council

April 20th

Earth Day

(wear green)

Kindergarten

Happy Spring! Well March definitely came in like a lion, but it quickly turned into a lamb. March was a busy month in Kindergarten! We celebrated **Dr. Seuss's birthday and had a** visit from Lucky the Leprechaun. He certainly played some silly tricks on us! Our main theme for the month focused on Staying Healthy and Safe. We learned all about healthy bedtime routines, nutrition, and staying safe. The Buddy System, Check First, and NO-GO-TELL were some of the important safety rules that we reinforced. In April, we will be doing some fun spring time activities and learning all about Fairy Tales. We will read, retell, role play, and even write our own fairy tale stories. We will be turning our classroom into a fairy tale **scene for the Walkabout on May 9th...** mark your calendars for this fun night!

~ Susan Brennan & Jennifer Martin

First Grade

Spring has sprung and we are ready for some new topics with lots of "hands-on" experiences in first grade! For the next two months our science focus will be on living and nonliving things. Through observations and experiments, the students will draw conclusions about living and non-living characteristics. To make these conclusions we will be learning about plant life by planting seeds and making daily observations of their growth. We will learn about animal life (habitats and life cycle) by making terrariums and aquariums. We will observe Bess Beetles and pill bugs in our terrariums, and guppies and snails in our aquariums. In addition to learning about these little critters, the first graders will also be learning about baby chicks and how they develop both inside and outside the eggs. Our eggs will arrive around April 25 and then our 21 day countdown will begin! We would like to thank the Hart Family for supplying the eggs, incubator, and food for the chicks after they hatch. We are also getting ready for Walkabout which will be held on May 9 at 7:00. Please mark this special night on your calendar. Now that the nicer weather is here, many families will be out and about in their communities and on vacation. The first grade teachers have found that many children still do not know their personal information. They must know this information in case they are separated from you. For safety's sake, please ask your children to recite their addresses, phone numbers (home and cell,) and parents' first and last names often. Please continue having your children practice sight words, reading fluently, and answering comprehension questions when they are reading to you. Math fact practice (addition and subtraction) should happen every night as well. Enjoy the spring time weather!

~Mrs. Hjelmar, Mrs. McNeal & Mrs. Ollari

Second Grade

Later this month Earth Day and Arbor Day are two special days we'll be talking about. We'll learn why it is so important to take care of the earth where we all live. Our new science STC kits will arrive soon, and we will be learning about the three states of matter solids, liquids and gasses as we have fun experimenting with all sorts of materials. In social studies, our animal research projects on animals of the Alaskan Arctic are being completed. Beautiful models of these animals are displayed in our classrooms. We know you will enjoy seeing these during the Walkabout in May. We also had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy a presentation called Alaska- Our Beautiful Northland, **from the Scotia Glenville Children's Museum. We learned so much and enjoyed the** hands-on display. Outlaw Sleds was finally able to come and introduce us to their sled dogs and share information on the sport of sled dog racing. It was fun for all! Again our thanks go to Arts in Education for making both of these possible. We hope everyone is enjoying weather as the days get longer!

~Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Buff, Mrs. Gobel, & Mrs. O'Rourke

Third Grade

Happy Spring! March has been a really busy month. The children have been working hard, but we still have a lot to cover. We had a Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum program: Measures for Measuring. Thank you to the PTA for that opportunity!!! We would also like to send a big thank you to the parents who volunteered in the classroom during that program. We have finished up our CogAT test, and are preparing for the New York State ELA and Math tests. If you have any questions regarding these tests, please feel free to contact one of the third grade teachers. In Social Studies, students have been working to complete a large world map. They were asked to label many areas of a map using an atlas. In Science, all of the classes have been observing the phases of the moon and the night sky. They will also be discussing stars and constellations. We hope everyone has a wonderful Vacation!

~ Mrs. Bomm, Mrs. Grasso, Mr. Haluska & Ms. Jones

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders are just like their New York State animal, the beaver, busy, busy, busy. We are all set for the ELA which is upon us. In math we are reviewing for The NYS math test, which will be next week. Keep working on those facts, folks. In social studies, students have presented their colonial times projects, and have discovered what strong people helped our country grow and prosper. Our field trip to Cooperstown was fabulous. It reinforced all those concepts that we learned together and really made social studies come alive. Our new science kit is a collection of energy lessons, which will stimulate and energize **our crew. The students can't wait to apply this information in creating their "Wobble Houses.** Hope you had a wonderful Spring Break !!!

~ Mr. Bold, Mrs. Donofrio, Mrs. Hall & Mrs. Long

Fifth Grade

You may recall that in the March newsletter, we talked about jackdaw presentations. (A jackdaw is a European crow who collects things for his nest. Fifth graders delivered an oral presentation named after this bird. Students' jackdaws included a collection of interesting items brought together to present information about their state.) After fifth graders presented their jackdaws to their classmates, many students chose to present their information to children in younger grades. Numerous teachers and students in first – fourth grade had great things to say about these presentations! Many fifth graders will bring their jackdaw containers back to school to display for Walkabout next month.

~ Mrs. Conklin, Mr. Deso, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Robleno

SCHOOL

School banking is off to a great start! We have had over 50 students sign up to start saving! Stop by the cafeteria on Thursday mornings and we can give you a packet to get you started!

Congratulations to our weekly winners of a \$5.00 gift card:

Week 19 Meghan Capella

Week 20 Chloe Boussa

Week 21 Mackenzie Cahan

Week 22 Erin McClernan



As always we welcome volunteers!

If you have any questions please email or call Chris Katz at 357-3219 ckatz@nycap.rr.com

Thank you, Chris Katz and Theresa Nieters

Join us for "Earth Day at Charlton Heights"

Friday, April 20th at 4:00 PM



We will be raking, weeding and cleaning up on the grounds and in the gardens and painting on the Magic Maze!

Pizza and water will be provided for all volunteers!

Bring a rake and work gloves.

A great way for the whole family to make a difference for Earth Day!

Mark your calendars...
May 9th
7:00-8:00 PM—Walkabout
6:30-8:30—Ice Cream Social
Come see what your child and their classmates are learning!

Please Save The Date!

On Wednesday, April 25, 2012 the Student Council will be holding their annual Brooks Barbeque Fundraiser at Charlton Heights.

Dinner will be served from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM - Rain or Shine!



Spring Children's Garden



Friday, May 11th and Monday, May 14th

Your child's class will be signing up for a time slot on one to these days. You are welcome to come in and help out when their class is learning something fun, digging up bulbs to store and planting beautiful flowers that will keep the Garden beautiful throughout the summer.

We will gladly accept your extra annuals or if would like to donate a few plants for the garden.

Do you love gardening and want to share that joy with the children? Sign up to volunteer to help out at the **Spring Children's Garden!**



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

Help Charlton Heights earn free equipment and supplies simply by collecting Campbell UPCs and sending them in. It's easy to pitch in. Simply save product UPCs from any of the following eligible Campbell products, **clip the UPC along the dotted lines:**

BEVERAGES

- Campbell's® Tomato Juices*
- V8® Vegetable Juice*
- V8 V-Fusion® Juice*
- V8 Splash® Juice Drinks*

BREAD

- Pepperidge Farm® Breads, Croissants, Rolls & Stuffing

CEREALS

- Alpha-Bits®
- Post Bran Flakes™
- Cocoa Pebbles®
- Fruity Pebbles®
- Golden Crisp®
- Grape-Nuts®
- Great Grains®
- Honey Bunches of Oats®

COOKING

- Campbell's® Condensed "Great for Cooking" Soups
- Swanson® Broth, Canned Chicken & Cooking Stock
- Wolfgang Puck® Stocks and Broths
- Campbell's® Beans

DAIRY

- Dannon® Danimals® Smoothies

- Dannon® Danimals® Double Crush Cup™
- Dannon® Danimals® Coolision™
- Dannon® Dan-o-nino™ Drinks
- Dannon® Dan-o-nino™ Cups

FOOD STORAGE PRODUCTS

- Glad® Reusable Plastic Containers
- Glad® Freezer Bags
- Glad® Food Storage Bags
- Glad® Sandwich Bags
- Glad® Plastic Wraps

FROZEN PRODUCTS

- Pepperidge Farm® Frozen Garlic Breads, 3-layer Cakes, Turnovers and Puff Pastry

MAGAZINES

- PEOPLE
- Real Simple
- TIME
- Cooking Light
- Southern Living
- Health
- ALL YOU

PASTA

- Spaghettios® pasta

SAUCES & GRAVIES

- Campbell's® Gravies
- Franco American® Gravies
- Pace® Salsas & Picante Sauce*
- Prego® Italian Sauces*
- Wolfgang Puck® Sauces*

SNACKS

- Emerald® Nuts Canisters
- Emerald® Peanuts
- Emerald® 100 Calorie Packs
- Emerald® Breakfast on the go!™
- Emerald® Trail Mix


- Emerald® Glazed Nuts
- Pepperidge Farm® Baked Naturals®
- Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® Crackers and Grahams
- Pepperidge Farm® Cookies and Crackers
- Pop Secret® 3 Count
- Pop Secret® 4 Count
- Pop Secret® 6 Count
- Pop Secret® 10 Count
- Pop Secret® 10 Count Snack Size
- Cocoa Pebbles® Treats
- Fruity Pebbles® Treats

SOUPS


- Campbell's® Chunky™ Soups
- Campbell's® Chunky™ Chili
- Campbell's® Condensed Soups
- Campbell's® Healthy Request® Soups
- Campbell's® Select Harvest® Soups
- Campbell's® Soups-Microwavable Bowls
- Campbell's® Soup at Hand®
- V8® Soups
- Wolfgang Puck® Soups

STATIONERY


- BIC® Dry Erase Markers
- BIC® Ecolutions™ Products
- BIC® Highlighters
- BIC™ Mailing Labels
- BIC® Mechanical Pencils
- BIC® Ball Pens
- BIC® Roller Pens
- BIC® Gel Pens
- BIC® Wite-Out® Brand Correction Tape




CHARLTON HEIGHTS code is: 15697
It's time to sign up for Tools for School. Even if you have signed up in the past, Price Chopper is requiring you to sign up again by using our school code to be sure your shopping points are earning Charlton Heights free school equipment. Sign up for e-labels! Go to www.pricechopper.com



Charlton Heights participates in Box Tops for Education! Clip Box Tops and send them in.



Turn in your Hannaford Helps certificate's to our Charlton Heights slot at your local Hannaford or turn it in to your child's teacher and we will do the rest



Target Red Card
Sign up for Take Charge of Education and designate Charlton Heights. Target will donate up to 1% of your RED card purchases to your chosen school.



Would you like to get ...
Important school news announcements right in your e-mail inbox??
A text message on your cell phone whenever school is unexpectedly closed due to an emergency or bad weather??
Now you can ... just sign up for the BH-BL School News Notifier today!

The Burr Hill-Babston (BH-BL) school district is proud to offer a "School News Notifier" (SNN) service to all interested individuals. This is an opt-in alert system — which means that YOU control which of our 8 alerts you want to receive. Users can subscribe or unsubscribe to receive e-mails about any of the following topics:

- 1. Emergency school closings and delays:** Find out via e-mail when any of our five schools is closed unexpectedly due to severe weather or other emergency. Alerts will also go out when classes are on a one-hour or two-hour delay in the morning, or when all after-school or evening activities are cancelled due to bad weather.
- 2. Board of Education Budget Development:** Sign up for this notification if you are interested in following the process of creating the next school budget.
- 3. Change in Sex Offender Residency:** Find out via e-mail whenever our school district is notified by the police that a registered sex offender has moved into or changed residency in our district. This is a rare occurrence, but signing up for this alert will allow you to share whatever limited information we receive from the police.

PLUS Text Messages—
By providing your cell phone number and cellular carrier, you can also receive Emergency School Closing alerts on your cell phone as a text message.

You can also sign up to receive alerts on news, events and activities specific to any of our five schools.

How do I sign up for SNN?
Simply visit the district website at www.bhbll.org and click on the large "SNN" School News Notifier logo. You will find arrows to **Frequently Asked Questions** and a place to set up your personal options, including your e-mail address(es), desired password and desired alerts.

Important note: SNN is a secure system. The school district cannot see your password, and we will NOT share your e-mail address with anyone.



Another way to receive district news & announcements is to "Like" us on Facebook
Yes, BH-BL is on Facebook. To view the types of news and announcements our Facebook "fans" receive automatically, go to www.facebook.com/BHBLSchools OR go to www.bhbll.org and click the blue Facebook logo on the right.

www.bhbll.org

Mark your calendar!
Our next PTA Meeting is
Wednesday, May 2nd at 3:30 PM
Charlton Heights Library

If you have an entry for the newsletter contact Lisa Criscone
artlrc1@earthlink.net
Entry deadline is the Monday before our PTA Meeting.

Charlton Heights PTA is on the web:
<http://chespta.yolasite.com/>
Or email chespta@hotmail.com

The Fresh Air Fund

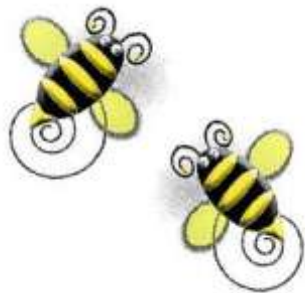


The Fresh Air Fund is a non-profit organization that brings New York City children from lower income families to our area and throughout the New England states and Canada during the summer. Since 1877, the Fresh Air Fund has been giving these children the joy of a summer vacation with volunteer host families, creating unforgettable memories and endless possibilities!

It is easy to become a Fresh Air Fund host. You just need to open your heart and home. Invite a child to become part of your family for 1-2 weeks. If you would be interested in more information, please give me, Tricia Barkman, a call at 858-9418. I would love to talk with you about making a forever change in the life of an inner city child!

PARP

I would like to thank all the parents who came in to help with PARP this year! Thank you to the homeroom parents who provided the dirt cake. The kids loved it! A special thank you to Mellissa Morrison who provided a totally allergy free version. Those kids really appreciated it. PARP would never have turned out so great if it weren't for my friend Liz Opie. She was my right hand and my technical support! It is such a blessing to have so many parents



April Quote:

It is better to have a fair intellect that is well used than a powerful one that is idle.

Stop by *Café PTA* and see how you can become involved!

Thursday April 19th 6:30-7:30 in the cafeteria

Beverages and Light Refreshments will be served

Café PTA is an informal gathering that gives parents an opportunity to come and find out more information about the 2012-13 PTA programs.

The PTA sponsors about 40 programs that help to enrich our school community.

These programs take many volunteers to help make them happen.

Each program has a chairperson, a co-chairperson and volunteers.

There are many programs that will need your help for next year and those sign-ups are going on now!

Grab a friend and come have a cup of coffee and see how you can make a difference!



Visit us at <http://chespta.yolasite.com>

I. Call to Order – President - Sharan Zarnofsky
Introductions

II. Old Business

Present February meeting minutes for review and approved

III. New Business

A. Executive Board Reports:

1. President – Sharan Zarnofsky
Café PTA will be scheduled to look for new people to fill program and committee chair positions
2. Vice President Programs – Melissa Antonini
 - Please turn in folders when programs are over- through backpack mail or to the main office
 - let me know if you plan to do your committee again next year
3. Vice President Homerooms – Dee Capella-
Thank you to all the homeroom parents
4. Secretary – Sharon Swain
5. Treasurer – Daphne Jameson
 - Budget presented- no questions
6. PTA Council Rep – Chris Katz
 - nothing new to report- parents are encouraged to attend budget planning meetings to see how cuts will affect your children
 - March 21st next meeting
7. Principal – Tim Sinnenberg
 - budget- some proposals effecting Charlton Heights are: students in 4th going into 5th grade next year will be 3 sections not 4, the board has put up an online survey about the current budget proposals- extended day Kindergarten program would lose a TA- so school TAs would be spread to help that program
 - throughout the district there are proposed cuts to electives and programs and increased class sizes
 - Upcoming events: PARP, After school enrichment, 4-5th grade play March 30th 7pm McTeacher Night 4:30-7:00 in Glenville on April 3, 2012
 - Special thanks to PTA for all of the great events this month- the Dirtmeister presentation was great
 - Kindergarten orientation time
8. Building Council Representative – Tim Sinnenberg
9. Teacher Representatives – Mary Grasso, Kathy Johnson
 - thank you for all of the PTA activities taking place this month
10. Board of Education Report – Will Farmer
 - budget- forums taking place- information is available online- tax cap of 2.35% - now is the time to give your input- tiers for cuts have been developed
 - tiers were developed with school principals by looking at mandated programs, previous cuts, students numbers, long term effects, or proposed cuts across schools-
 - RTI- Response To Intervention- intervention services that are given within the school at differing levels- this is mandated by tiered levels of need, it will include Probs, normed reading comprehension tests.
 - Superintendent search- down to three candidates- Thursday the candidates will be reviewed
11. Standing Committee Report
 - After School Enrichment- going on right now- thank you to all of the volunteers- the clubs could not happen without you
 - Yearbook- 2011-2012, full color \$16.00 to Charlton Heights PTA- sales are going on now- thank you Tim for taking lots of pictures
 - PARP- Liz Ope- March 1-9
 - Family Programs – The Little Mermaid- March 30th at 7:00pm
 - Popcorn Day will be March 30th (Student Council Team Day)
 - Label Programs- Tyson A+ program, Campbell's programs- friending on Facebook gives us money as well
 - Children's garden- the \$100.00 donation from the Charlton Garden Club could be used for a hose reel and new tools, doors on the shed
 - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon- a chair is still needed
 - Kindergarten orientation is taking place in May over three weeks, volunteers are needed
 - Field Day May 23rd
 - Fifth grade event- plans are under way- Parent meeting March 15th- 4th grade parents are welcome to help out as well

come to