



Charlton Heights Knight Messenger

PTA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

A Note From The Principal

Calendar of Events

- 12/1 Holiday Shop
- 12/6 PTA Meeting
- 12/2-15 Charlton Heights Community Holiday Project
- 12/22 Popcorn Day
- 12/22 Student Council Comfy Clothes Day
- 12/22 Read the Day Away
- 12/23-1/2 Christmas & New Year's Break
- 1/4/12 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

Dear Families,

Congratulations to all of the winners of the annual PTA Reflections Contest. The winners from Charlton Heights are:

Photography: Matthew Sinnenberg

Visual Arts: Molly Shea, Sophia Swain, John Wells

Honorable Mention: Isabella Antonini, Lily Haluska, Luke Haluska

Even though the temperatures have been mild, I'm sure cold weather is coming soon! So, I ask families to remember to send children into school prepared to go outside with boots, hats, gloves, snow pants and jackets during the winter months. It would also be helpful if you labeled all belongings for easier identification when items are lost.

The Charlton Heights staff would like to wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Tim Sinnenberg

A Note From The PTA President

The Holiday season is here! Our Family Programs Family Fun Night PTA jump started the festivities. Several families enjoyed the Pajama Movie night where we showed Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and Polar Express. Holiday Shop was a great success! A big thank you to Tara & Dave DeLuke and all of the volunteers who made the Holiday Shop so successful and enjoyable for the children. The children take such pride in picking out each and every gift for those special people on their list.

During this holiday season consider reaching out and helping the 4th Annual Charlton Heights Elementary School Community Holiday Project. Help out a less fortunate family right here in Burnt Hills. The students can add a donation to the jar in their classroom or items can be purchased from the wish list of the adopted children.

The PTA is looking ahead to next year and the positions that will need to be filled. At the end of June the terms are up for the President, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Homerooms, Treasurer and Secretary positions. Have you ever thought about getting involved? We would be happy to talk to anyone about stepping up and filling any one of these positions! We will also be looking for chairpeople for all of our programs! Contact me if you would like to volunteer and get involved!

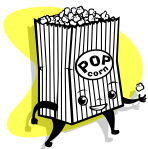
Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the PTA meetings. Come and collaborate with other parents, school faculty and administration. If you are unable to attend we welcome your suggestions, simply visit our PTA website and click on the "Contact Us" page.

Take time from the hustle and bustle of this busy holiday season to enjoy family and friends. Warmest wishes to you and yours during the coming month of celebrations!

Sharan Zarnofsky
CHES PTA President



Thursday,
December
22nd



Popcorn Day!

Popcorn can be purchased at lunch time for
\$.50 a bag

Student Council

"Comfy Clothes" Theme Day!

Wear your most comfortable clothes to school!

Kindergarten News

November flew by this year! It's hard to believe that we have completed three months of school already. The children have grown in so many ways since the first day of school. They always enter school each day with a big smile and eager and ready to learn! The kindergarteners had a fun Thanksgiving feast in November. We sang some traditional Native American and Thanksgiving songs. It was so nice to see so many families join us in our fun celebration.

In December, we will be learning about different holidays and celebrations from various cultures, including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. The emphasis will be on the similarities (lighting candles, giving to others, kindness and gratitude) among these celebrations.

- Susan Brennan & Jennifer Martin

First Grade News

Holiday Happenings!

First Grade is a buzz with holiday cheer! Students are practicing map and globe skills while traveling and celebrating Holidays Around the World.

In our holiday studies we're learning various countries' holiday traditions and customs. We are also excited to celebrate with our own classes at our upcoming holiday parties.

But we are not finished yet...

We will also make a day of it with Candy Cane Day on December 21st. Students are encouraged to wear red and white. On this day we incorporate math, reading, writing and other fun candy cane centered activities.

The first grade classes and teachers wish everyone a happy holiday season!

~Mrs. Hjelm, Mrs. McNeal & Mrs. Ollari



Third Grade News

The month of November really flew by. The kids have worked hard and are ready for the much needed break! In SS., students will be leaving the continent of Asia that is an island and a country. They are headed to the warm weather in Australia. While in Australia, they will learn about the Aborigines, the unique animals that inhabit this great land, and some Aussie slang. They will take a tour of the "Outback" and check out the Great Barrier Reef, as well as Ayers Rock. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered for the Chinese Feast.

In Math, they have been examining TIME. Students learned to read an analog clock. Please help your child by asking him/her to tell the time the "smart way" (quarter after, quarter to, half past). We are now beginning to examine one of our favorite topics: money! The children will need to be able to count money (dollars and cents). Please continue to work on basic addition and subtraction facts, and practice using money and clocks whenever possible. After vacation, the students will be working hard on the multiplication unit. In Language Arts, the children are also hard at work. They are focusing on a lot of different activities. Students have completed lots of writing assignments. Right now the kids are brainstorming, as a group, their interpretation of the word "peace" and writing paragraphs to express their thoughts.

In Science, the students are learning about simple machines. This unit includes many different hands-on activities for the children to take part in. Students are learning about the different simple machines and how they make work easier. As you can see, third graders are, and will continue to be, very busy. The kids are really working hard and deserve the holiday break so that they can "re-charge" and come back to school ready to roll!

We hope that your vacation is one filled with health and happiness.

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



Fourth Grade News

The month of December is always very quick, especially with the excitement of our vacation at the end of the month! Our fourth graders will be finishing the division strand in mathematics this month. Even though we be giving those math **facts a rest in upcoming strands, don't forget to keep studying to stay sharp.** In Science, students are continuing with the Animal Adaptations unit. We will be studying animal adaptations and all are eagerly anticipating dissecting an owl pellet as the culmination of this exciting unit. In SS, the students are learning about NYS explorers with a special emphasis on Henry Hudson. Everyone had a blast on the field trip to the NYS Museum.

The fourth grade team would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season!

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

Second Grade News

December finds second graders learning about holiday customs around the world. Locating countries on maps is fun. We also discuss customs and symbols of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa in the United States. The students had a ball purchasing presents at the Holiday Shop for their families and friends. Thank you PTA for organizing this fun time. Every year it seems to get better. Before break some classes will experience a "tasting" of the class family recipes. Sharing traditional holiday recipes is always exciting and yummy. Read the Day Away and the Holiday Sing-Along are sure to be a blast. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break.

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

Fifth Grade News

Students did well with their skeletal system unit and they are now moving in to a study of the body's muscular system. In social studies, we have been learning about the three branches of the United States government. If you ask most fifth graders, they can already tell you something about the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Fifth graders also read the book Shiloh, which is great book to tug at the heart-strings of anyone who loves animals. While reading this award-winning novel, we were able to compare and contrast the setting of the story (Friendly, West Virginia) to Burnt Hills, NY!

- Mrs. Conklin, Mr. Deso, Mr. Moore & Mrs. Robleno



Founders Day Celebration!

The nominations are in!

The winner will be announced on February 2nd at the Founder's Day Celebration being held at the River Stone Manor in Scotia.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Tickets go on sale in January.

Hope to see you there!

Thank you! Chris Katz ~ PTA Council Representative

Drama Club—Where Having Fun is not an Act!

Presenting...The Little Mermaid, the Musical. We are looking for lots of young actors and actresses in grades 4 and 5 for this highly entertaining, clever telling of the popular tale about a mermaid who wants to be human so she can marry a prince. There will be enough drama, adventure, music and comedy for all!

Drama Club will run in February and March. Final performance is Friday, March 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. There will also be a dress rehearsal in school on March 30th at 1:30 p.m. for the students.

Parents will need to provide transportation to school on morning rehearsals and home following after-school rehearsals. By registering for this class, parents are giving permission for their child to stay after school on the rehearsal dates. If your child will not attend a rehearsal, please indicate this on a special note to school.



Registration for Drama Club needs to be completed by Thursday, December 22, 2011. The cost will be \$15 made payable to Charlton Heights PTA.

Director: Tim Sinnenberg Co-Director: Candy Goudey Musical Director: Gina Kirsty Producer: Alison Donofrio Stage Managers: Bobby Barringer and Amy Hotaling Scenic Director: Lisa Johnson Prompter: Cam LaViolette

SCHOOL BANKING

School banking is off to a great start! We have had over 40 students sign up to start saving! Don't forget if you refer a friend you and your friend split \$10. Not signed up yet. Stop by the cafeteria on Thursday mornings and we can give you a packet to get you started!

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

Week 4 11/10 Colby Jackson

Week 5 11/17 Madeline Boussa

Week 6 12/1 Olivia Moran

Week 7 12/8 Phillip Pelletier



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

Share Holiday Greetings and Support Our Troops

The Sunshine Committee invites you to remember and support our veterans and troops this season by sending holiday cards as **part of the Red Cross "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program.** Holiday greetings can be sent to the following address:

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

For planning tips and additional program information, log on to redcross.org/holiday mail. This is a great opportunity for families to show their gratitude and share some holiday wishes with our American servicemen and women, veterans and their families.



If you have an entry for the newsletter
contact Lisa Criscione
artlrc1@earthlink.net

**Entry deadline is the Monday before our
PTA Meeting.**

Mark your calendar!

Our next PTA Meeting is
Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30
Charlton Heights Library

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

Charlton Heights Knight Messenger



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®
- Honey-Comb®
- Post® Raisin Bran
- Post Selects®
- Post® Shredded Wheat®
- Waffle Crisp®

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

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 Burnt Hills-Balston Lake 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:

- 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.
- Board of Education Budget Development:** Sign up for this notification if you are interested in following the process of creating the next school budget.
- 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.

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

PLUS Text Message:
 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.

How do I sign up for SNN?
 Simply visit the district website at www.bhbl.org and click on the large "SNN" School News Notifier logo. You will find answers 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/BHBL.Schools. OR go to www.bhbl.org and click the blue Facebook logo on the right.

www.bhbl.org

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 REDcard purchases to your chosen school.

Dear Members of the PTA,
 As you consider your family's charitable gift giving this year, please consider the BH-BL Education Foundation. The Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that works in harmony with the school district.
 Many of us work or have spouses who work for employers that participate in an annual United Way Fund drive. Your donation to the United Way could be designated for the BH-BL Education Foundation. **All you need to do is write in BH-BL Education Foundation on your pledge card.**

There is no additional form required. You can also split your donation if you wish to support more than one organization.

The BH-BL Education Foundation is here when creative ideas need a financial jump-start. EVERY dollar raised stays in the community to make new opportunities available. Since its inception the Foundation has awarded a total of \$104,693.84 for 116 individual grants. It is most impressive that these kinds of innovation can continue to occur during these tight budgetary times.

- A sample of approved grants includes:
- The funds to build a wind turbine at the high school for use by several departments
 - 1001 Book Kits for preschool and grade one
 - Materials and supplies for parent program : "Help I Have a Teenager"
 - Equipment and supplies to restore a pond habitat at the middle school
 - TI-Nspire CX hand held units and Active Board projector for the math department
 - Innovative Saw Stop Table Saw for ultimate safety for the technology department

When we open doorways of opportunity for today's children, we create a brighter future for our community, our nation and ourselves. Thank you for your consideration.

Sally Ellms
 Board Member, BH-BL Education Foundation



**The Fourth Annual
Charlton Heights Elementary
Community Holiday Project**



Students at Charlton Heights are always willing to help out those who are less fortunate. Many students have experienced the gratification that comes with helping others through good deeds. This holiday season students at Charlton Heights Elementary are teaming up to “adopt” three Burnt Hills families that are less fortunate.

We will be collecting donations from Friday, December 2nd through Thursday, December 15th. Students are encouraged to complete good deed in order to earn donation money. They are also encouraged to be creative when raising money. For example, a student might collect refundable bottles and use that money as a donation. Each morning, and during lunch, a large “jug” will be available for students to make a donation. Every time a child makes a donation, they will be able to add a “snowball” to our winter scene in the hallway!

We also welcome gift donations. Pleaser see flyer that was sent home for a list of clothing items that were included on each family’s wish list. If you would like to send in any of the items listed, please do so by Thursday, December 15th. All items must be brand new.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Haluska at ahaluka@bhbl.org or Miss Donofrio at adonofrio@bhbl.org. Thank you in advance for your help, and we hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season!



PTA Reflections

Award Winners Announced

The National PTA developed the Reflections program in 1969 to interest children, parents, teachers and communities in the arts. This year's contest theme was "Diversity is..." Students created a piece of art work, took a photograph, or wrote a story about the theme.

Following is a list of students whose work will be judged at the Regional Level:

Photography: Matthew Sinneberg

Visual Arts: Molly Shea, Sophia Swain, John Wells

Honorable Mention: Isabella Antonini, Lily Haluska, Luke Haluska

The PTA needs someone to head up the *Nominating Committee!*

The Charlton Heights PTA Executive Committee will need to fill the positions of the President, VP of Programs, VP of Homerooms, Treasurer and Secretary for next year! Do you want to be on the Nominating Committee or do you want to volunteer to be on the Executive Committee or the Executive Board chairing or co-chairing a program??? Let us hear from you!

Contact Sharan Zarnofsky 882-7123 or
heysharan@aol.com

December Quote:

"Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats.

They can push things that come into their hands a little higher up,

a little further on towards the heights of excellence."

~ Anonymous



Milk Volunteers Always Welcomed!

If you would like to get a little more face time at school why not become one of our wonderful milk volunteers! The kids love to see you in the cafeteria and they can even come and sit with you while they have their lunch. Volunteers are in the cafeteria from 11:30-1:30 to sell milk and snacks. Help out as little as couple times per year or as much as a few times per month, whatever your schedule permits. If interested please contact Kristen Boussa at sboussa@nycap.rr.com or 377-6140.

Library Volunteers Are Needed

Come in and volunteer in the library. Help is needed checking books in, shelving books and helping children choose or find books. This is a great opportunity for you come in when your child's class is in the library! Call Heidi Todd 399-4004 or



Superintendent Search:

The BHBL Board of Education is conducting a national search for a new district superintendent to replace Jim Schultz who will be retiring on June 30, 2012. The Board is looking for two representatives from each PTA to serve on the stakeholder team. We are looking for two Charlton Heights PTA members interested making the commitment to be part of this important team.

There will be a training session on January 17th and you will be participating in the second round of interviews on February 6, 7, and 8th between 3-9:00 p.m. Visit the Superintendent Search page for the search timeline, press releases, and a copy of the new search brochure. The board's goal is to complete the search process by the first week of April 2012.

If you are interested in serving as a parent representative, please contact Sharan Zarnofsky heysharan@aol.com or 882-7123.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT©
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHARLTON HEIGHTS FAMILY NIGHT OUT JANUARY 13TH



PTA will be holding a
BAKE SALE for the arts
in education programs.

Open Swim 7pm-9:15pm
Open Gym 7:15pm-9:30pm
GREATER GLENVILLE Y

Free for Members or \$5/family for Community

Greater Glenville YMCA ■ 127 Droms Rd, Glenville, NY 12302 ■ 518-399-8118 ■ www.cdymca.org

Charlton Heights Knight Messenger

Charlton Heights PTA Meeting - Wednesday November 2, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by the president, Sharan Zarnofsky

Old Business:

Present October meeting minutes for review—approved

Presidents Report:

- * Nominating Committee—looking for all new board member positions for next year. Looking to start a committee to look for nominations
- * Email vs. Hard Copy of Flyer/Reminders—for quick reminders—can be emailed out through Tim Sinnenberg

Vice President Programs:

- * Nothing to report

Vice President Homerooms:

- * Nothing to report

Secretary Report:

- * Nothing to report

Treasure's Report:

- * Budget presented for review

PTA Council Representative:

- * **Founder's Day Nominations due November 18th**

Principal Report:

- * Conferences are coming up—16th, 17th, 29th & 30th will be half days for all except Kindergarten
- * **Thanks for PTA for Monster Mash, Children's Garden, Curiosity Shops & Picture Day**
- * Concern from teachers noted that October had a lot of pull-out days, maybe we could look to spread out some of the events

Board of Education Report:

- * Nothing to report

Teacher Representative(s):

- * **Thank you for the Children's Garden, to all the volunteers and food that made it a special event**

Building Council Representative:

- * Looked at ELA data and we were pleased with the results—will be looking at Math & Science

Standing Committee Reports:

- * Arts in Education Assembly added—Radio Disney will be doing a Healthy Kids assembly on November 8th
- * Membership—361 members—a lot of family memberships
- * Book Fair—went well at Monster Mash—parents seemed happy and there was a stay flow—overall numbers were similar to last year—options for a new location for next year to make it four days instead of two—thank you to all of the volunteers
- * Entertainment Books—almost made budget off by \$221
- * School Banking—off to a great start—over 40 bankers
- * Fundraiser—16 Handles made over \$300
- * School Picture retakes 11/22
- * **School Directory's have been distributed**
- * Holiday Shop—we are fully booked, with 6-7 extra tables using the cafeteria space—we will try to schedule younger and older kids together to have a mix for volunteer needs—BH Rowing donated items for the PTA table, possibly work with vendors to have PTA dollars accepted at all tables—PTA dollars will continue to be available for those in need
- * Walk For The Arts—event was successful—491 students, 228 participated and goals were surpassed—suggestion for next year that donations be concrete and definitive to collect—some trouble with collecting prize donations
- * Shoes For The Shoeless—200 pairs were collected and will be given to the Lyons Club to be distributed to people in need due to recent hurricanes
- * Popcorn—first day of sales went well
- * Reflections—entries due November 4th—limited entries so far
- * Curiosity Shop—thank you to all the volunteers
- * Family Programs:

- Monster Mash—Book Fair was a great addition to the event, having things spread out seemed to work well
- November 18th Pajama Movie Night—event will be free and popcorn will be served—more information to follow

Planning—November/December calendar distributed

Next Meeting:

6:30 Charlton Heights Library

Adjournment:

7:18