



# CHARLTON HEIGHTS KNIGHT MESSENGER

PTA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Calendar of Events

- 9/13 Entertainment Book Sales Begin
- 9/15 PTA Sponsored Anti-Bullying Assembly
- 9/21 Back-To-School Night 4th & 5th Grade 7 pm
- 9/27 Curiosity Shop Sign-Ups 6-7 pm
- 9/28 Charlton Heights Night at 16 Handles
- 9/26 Back-To-School Night 2nd & 3rd Grade 7 pm
- 9/27 Back-To-School Night Kindergarten & 1st Grade 7 pm
- 9/30 New Family Social 6:30 pm
- 10/4 School Pictures
- 10/5 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

## A Note From The Principal

Dear Families,

Our school year has begun very smoothly. It was wonderful to see so many smiling and happy faces enter the building.

We all look forward to working with you and your children this year. I am pleased to welcome the following staff to Charlton Heights:

Lauren Hogue—Response to Intervention Teacher. Jen Martin—Kindergarten Teacher. Amy Picker—Special Education Intern. Lynn Walkuski—Teaching Assistant

Lauren will be working with students who may need a little more work on mathematical concepts. Each grade level will send students down for a boost in either language arts or math several times a week for a half hour. For example, children in third grade who need a little more practice on their multiplication facts may work with a teacher for a couple sessions or a couple of weeks until the skill is mastered. The Response to Intervention teacher is a new .4 position this year in all of the elementary schools. The Board of Education will be reviewing data and test scores to determine if it successfully helps our students improve.

A reminder that due to students with severe allergies, animals should not be brought into school or on school grounds.

We would like to give you our Back to School Night schedule for the year:

Wednesday, September 21 Grades 4 and 5 at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 26 Grades 2 and 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27 Kindergarten and Grade 1 at 7:00 p.m.

It is our sincere hope that you will be able to take advantage of this evening to attend Back to School night. This is an opportunity to hear about classroom procedures and the grade level curriculum. There will not be time to ask the teacher specific questions about your youngster's progress. We do have conference days scheduled for that purpose in November, and you can always make arrangements to meet with the teacher at another time.

Thank you to everyone for helping us get the year off to a great start. I look forward to working with you this year and anticipate a very positive and successful 2011-12.

Sincerely, Tim Simmenberg

## A Note From The PTA President

Welcome Back to a brand new school year! What an exciting year this is going to be with all of the programs we have lined up. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have stepped up to chair, co-chair and volunteer for our programs this year. If you are interested in getting involved we still have programs that need your help. If you have an hour a day, a week or a month your help is appreciated and welcomed!

Our PTA is hitting the ground running and there is so much happening in September and October! September is our membership drive. Keep your eye out for the membership forms coming home backpack mail. There will be an opportunity for you to sign up at back-to-school night as well. Fall is also the time for PTA fundraising. We thank all of the families that have supported PTA fundraising in the past. Our programs rely on the support of each and every Charlton Heights Family. The Sally Foster Fundraiser last year did not go well so we created the Walk for the Arts to raise enough funds to pay our Arts In Education bill. The Walk for the Arts was successful so we will bring it back again this year as one of our fundraisers. There will be prizes for those children who raise the most. An information packet and your child's sponsor sheet will be coming home soon. Entertainment book sales begin on September 13th. If you buy 5 Entertainment Books you get one free. Help the PTA bring all of those programs to the children of Charlton Heights by supporting our fundraising efforts.

In an effort to give working parents a chance for more involvement and to foster the wonderful sense of community that our Charlton Heights families have we will be expanding our Family Programs this year. One night per month in October through April we will bring together parents, students and teachers/staff for a night of Family Fun. October's Family Fun will be our traditional Monster Mash with a few fresh new ideas. A schedule of monthly events will be coming soon. If you have any ideas for a Family Fun night contact Melissa Antonini with your ideas!

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30 in the Library. 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! Charlton Heights PTA is dedicated to providing enriching, fun and educational experiences to the students of Charlton Heights.

Sharan Zamofsky – Charlton Heights PTA President

# Charlton Heights Knight Messenger

## A Note From The Board of Education

In the blink of an eye another summer has come and gone, I hope it was an enjoyable time for both you and your children. Now we welcome everyone back to what promises to be another great school year at BH-BL. The Board is pleased to congratulate the district on being ranked fifth among 85 areas schools in the Capital District Business Review report, a recognition of our outstanding staff and administration, as well as our capable students and strong support from their parents. Collaboration like what we see in the PTA team in each school is what delivers consistent results like this.

During the 2011-2012, the board will focus on several areas and one that will be of particular interest to the PTA is the Board's interest in

streamlining the process for community members to contribute directly to the school via a Community Foundation. In an era of tightening resources, our goal is providing another opportunity allowing alumni, parents and concerned citizens to contribute tax-deductible donations that can help us maintain critical programs.

By aligning strategic objectives with the administration, the Board is also eager to support and see more closely the implementation of "Culture, Team, Data", the administration's description of how focused teams use facts and data to advance student achievement. Even with all the challenges we face, providing our students the best opportunity to succeed always remains the top priority.

Lastly, Superintendent Schultz has announced his intention to retire in June after 40 years with the district. His contributions will be greatly missed and we expect that replacing him will take most of the year with a process that uses broad input from the community and staff to ensure the culture and quality of our BH-BL schools continue.

On behalf of the board, thank you for everything you do for the Charlton Heights community! I look forward to working together during the coming year.

Regards,  
William Farmer, School Board Member

## PTA PROGRAMS AND THE FUNDRAISING THAT SUPPORTS IT

### PTA PROGRAMS

After School Clubs  
Curiosity Shop  
Holiday Shop  
Spring Ice Cream Social  
Parents as Reading Partners  
CHES Student Publishing  
Children's Garden  
Fifth Grade Celebration  
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon  
Book Fair  
Yearbook  
Kindergarten Orientation  
Milk Volunteers  
Reflections  
School Directory  
Scholarships  
Hospitality

Newsletter  
Family Programs  
Popcorn Kernel  
Adopt-a-Book  
Career Awareness Jamboree  
Bulletin Boards  
D.A.R.E.  
Library Volunteers  
Walk For The Arts  
Spirit Shop  
Make A Difference Day  
New Family Social  
10001 Books  
School Banking  
School Pictures  
Star of The Week  
Shoes For The Shoeless

### Arts In Education Programs:

- Chris Holder 5 Day Residency
- Motoko 5 Day Residency
- Ellen Sinopoli Dance 5 Day Residency
- Saratoga Children's Museum City By Design
- Go Kennel Sled Dogs
- Motivational Productions Assembly
- Scotia-Glenville Traveling Children's Museum  
(12 fun, hands on curriculum enriching classes are chosen by the teachers in each grade level)
- Various school wide assembly presentations that change each year

### FUNDRAISING FOR THE PROGRAMS

We will have only two fundraisers this year. We listened to what a majority of the Charlton Heights Families said and with the changing economy we will not be selling any candy or wrapping paper this year. ***The funding of our programs relies solely on your support in the following ways:***

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALES:** Entertainment Books will go home on **September 13th**. Families are encouraged to sell the Entertainment Books to friends and relatives from September 13th until September 27 when sales will end. All books that are not sold must be returned back to the school with your child. The cost of each book will be \$30 (**buy 5 and get 1 free**). A portion of the proceeds will go to our PTA to support various programs.

**WALK FOR THE ARTS:** On **Tuesday October 11th** the students will be walking with all of their classmates to help raise funds for the Arts In Education Programs that they love. A sponsor sheet will be sent home in September for students to ask their relatives and friends to sponsor them while they walk. Bringing the Arts In Education programs to the children carries a budget that is approximately \$8,500. With almost 500 students at Charlton Heights if each student raises only \$17 dollars each then we have enough funds to support all of the scheduled Arts In Education programs that both the teachers and students know and love. 100% of the amount raised will go entirely to support the Arts In Education programs that enrich the educational experience of your children!

**DIRECT DONATION:** A direct donation is always welcome. By simply writing a Check to Charlton Heights PTA your donation will help support all of the wonderful programs at Charlton Heights. Direct donations are tax deductible too!

Consider becoming a member of the Charlton Heights PTA and help support our fundraising and all of the fun and exciting programs.

It will help enrich the educational experience of every child at Charlton Heights!

## New 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. This is especially great for those with first grade students who are finally venturing into the cafeteria. They always love seeing a familiar face! If interested please contact Kristen Boussa at [kboussa@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kboussa@nycap.rr.com) or 377-6140.

## School Pictures

Start practicing your best smiles! Student school pictures are scheduled for October 4th. Order forms will be coming home at the end of September. Contact Diana Marshall with any questions [dimar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dimar@nycap.rr.com)



Save The Date!  
Wednesday,  
September 28th  
4-8 pm

### Charlton Heights Night at 16 Handles

Join us as 16 Handles in Clifton Park on Wednesday, September 28th from 4-8 pm. 20% of all the purchases made from 4-8 pm will be donated to Charlton Heights PTA. Come and help support all those programs that your children love by enjoying the frozen yogurt everyone loves at 16 Handles



### Shoes for the Shoeless Collection

Start cleaning out those closets for wearable shoes, sneakers and boots! Charlton Heights will again be participating in the annual Shoes for the Shoeless collection this fall. More details and specific collection dates coming soon!!

**Are you interested in creating our Newsletter each month?**

**Contact Sharan Zarnofsky for details!**

**[heysharan@aol.com](mailto:heysharan@aol.com) or 882-7123**

### 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 [heiditodd353@yahoo.com](mailto:heiditodd353@yahoo.com) for more information

## Volunteers Needed for Curiosity Shops

Curiosity Shop is a PTA sponsored program that organizes after school classes for students in grades 1-5. Students can register for a class and stay after school to attend that class. All classes typically meet for just one day, for one hour. The classes are designed to introduce students to a subject, sport or craft that they might not otherwise be exposed to or one that they just can't get enough of. The classes are meant to help pique their "curiosity".

Can you spare an hour or two?

We need volunteers to serve as "Assistants". Basically a very fun and rewarding way to assist the teacher of the class by interacting with students from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. on any or all dates: October 7th, 14th and 21st.

We also need volunteers to help with registration on Sept. 27th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*By the way, our way of thanking you for volunteering is to allow you to pre-register your child(ren) prior to September 26<sup>th</sup>, which is when school-wide registration begins.*

For more information or to volunteer: Call Heidi Todd @ 399-4004 or [heiditodd353@yahoo.com](mailto:heiditodd353@yahoo.com)

If you have an entry for the newsletter contact Sharan Zarnofsky

[heysharan@aol.com](mailto:heysharan@aol.com)

Entry deadline is the Monday before our PTA Meeting.

Mark your calendar!

Our next PTA Meeting is

Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30

Charlton Heights Library

Charlton Heights PTA is on the web:

<http://chespta.yolasite.com/>

Or email [chespta@hotmail.com](mailto:chespta@hotmail.com)



**HELP GET FREE MERCHANDISE!**

For over 38 years, Campbell's *Labels for Education* program has supported schools across the country by providing more than \$114 million in FREE merchandise in exchange for proof of purchase from Campbell products. You can help Charlton Heights earn free merchandise such as computers, audio/visual equipment, physical education equipment, reference books, musical instruments or even a mini-van, simply by collecting Campbell UPCs and sending them to Charlton Heights. 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, Croutons, 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

**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.. Go to [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com)

Last year our points earned us: 8 containers of large Sidewalk chalk, a hand drum, a slapstick instrument, 2 Agogo Bells, 18 playground balls, a vibra slap instrument, a tossing target, 6 hula hoops, 6 jump ropes, and a Blongo Ball game.



Turn in your Hannaford Helps certificate's to our Charlton Heights slot at your local Hannaford and help to earn our school free supplies. When you purchase participating brands, you will receive a certificate with your receipt, just pop it in our Charlton Heights slot at the kiosk by the door, 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.



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



**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE DAY**  
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

**Make A Difference Day** is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October.

Our Charlton Heights PTA would like to make a difference of helping others by collecting *gently worn* clothing for an organization called the Quest for Grace Foundation. This organization provides clothing to foster children (ages newborn to teens), with the intent to lighten the burden of neglect, indifference, and abuse. Often, children that are abruptly placed in foster care, have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. **The Quest for Grace** gives children the opportunity to personally select clothing that is sorted and displayed by gender and size similar to "shopping" experience. Children can visit the store, twice a year to select a weeks worth of clothes...except their selections are free, allowing them to feel worthy.

Parents, **please** take the time to consider donating the excess clothing that you may be parting with as we as fortunate parents now replenish what our children have outgrown from last year...you and your child will be making a difference where it is truly needed and be making a positive difference in the lives of other children. Simply...have your child bring these items into school with them, or feel free to drop them off and place them in the collection box located in the front lobby of Charlton Heights. Again, these items being requested should be gently used...clothing with rips, tears, or stains will not be forwarded to the organization...the goal is to provide these unfortunate children with suitable clothing to keep them clothed and give them a sense of pride during the transition of living in a new environment. We hope to supply the **Quest for Grace** with a substantial amount of clothing that they always need, so please spread the word to your friends and neighbors and let them know they will be making a difference too. Questions, please contact: Make a Difference Day Chair Krissy Jackson 399-6341.

**Collection Dates: Monday, September 26th -October 7th.**

## Fall Children's Garden

We are looking for volunteers to help in the Children's Garden. Volunteers are needed to make food items for the children to sample when they help with the garden. Our food and soup theme is centered around the foods that are harvested in the fall, like apples, pumpkin, squash and zucchini. Volunteers are also needed on **October 18th and 19th** when each classroom will visit the Children's Garden.

For more information contact Aimee McDonald at [mcdonaldpartyof4@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonaldpartyof4@gmail.com)

**TEAM BHBL** is once again walking in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> in Washington Park, Albany. Please Join us by walking or pledging @ [www.cancer.org/stridesonline](http://www.cancer.org/stridesonline) (TeamBHBL)

You Can Help Save Lives. The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk is as unique and special as the stories that motivate our dedicated walkers, donors and volunteers.

### Third Grade News



Welcome to Third Grade!! We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer. We are excited to start the new 2011-2012 school year!!!

Third grade is a fun, exciting, creative year. It's a time to learn new skills, improve existing skills, investigate, and grow. We do many interesting projects and activities. Third graders learn many new things, while at the same time, have a lot of fun. We learn how to write in cursive, multiply and divide in math, explore many different communities around the world in S. S., and do many fun experiments in science. We do a lot of reading and writing, and we use the computers to complete a few projects!! WOW...What a great year!! Welcome to Mrs. Bomm who is joining the third grade team this year!!!

### Fourth Grade News

Fourth Grade is off and running. In math we will be studying place value, rounding, and expanded notation. In health we are learning about being a good friend and what we can do if we see bullying. More importantly we must make sure we aren't bullies ourselves. We are all authors in Writer's Workshop and are looking forward to writing many stories. We are also busy reading 25 books for the year and will be tracking them in our reading log. Social Studies is a whirlwind tour of New York State. Now we know why European explorers like Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain encouraged people to come and settle in the "New World". Guess what--We Love New York, too!!! As you can see we just never stop working and learning.



*Each step we take is personal. And each donation is helping to save lives. And each volunteer helps create a world with less breast cancer and more birthdays.*

Any questions? Contact Mary Grasso

Tuesday June 7, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:42 by the president, Sharan Zarnofsky

## Old Business:

May 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes presented for review and approved

## Presidents Report-

- \*nomination, vote and approval for Sharon Swain to be secretary and Chris Katz to be PTA Council Rep for the 2010-2011 school year
- \*still some spots available for Program Chairs next year- big need areas are: Membership chair and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon chair, Milk volunteers chair
- \*meeting day and time for next year will be the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in the Charlton Heights library
- \*Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school next year, the first PTA meeting, and the teacher appreciation breakfast

## Vice President's Homerooms-

- \*thank you to parents for support during the May and June programs
- \*2011-2012 school year homeroom parent meeting will be 9/8 from 6:30-7:30
- \*September 30<sup>th</sup> will be the New Family social from 6:30-7:30

## Vice President Programs-

- \*awaiting the return of program folders
- \*Sheet will go home asking for parent program volunteers for next year.

## Secretary Report-

- \*a lovely thank you card was given for the Children's Garden from Mrs. Brook's class- Mrs. Mindel's class also sent wonderful thank you notes for this event

## Treasure's Report-

- \*budget presented for review- Walk for the Arts was successful, goals were met- the budget is now in balance

## PTA Council Representative-

- \*individual school contributions to the PTA Council will go increase from \$75 to \$100 in the coming school year
- \*transportation breakfast took place and went smoothly and drivers were happy that the children made presentations

## Principal Report-

- \*thanks to all the helpers at Staff Appreciation lunch, Children's Garden and Kindergarten Orientation
- \*Upcoming dates: 6/10- teach records day, 6/13- Grade 5 District Cooperative Learning Day, 6/14- Grade 4 to Sturbridge Village, 6/16- grade 3 to Bronx Zoo, 6/17- Grade 5 to Great Escape and Grade 2 to Charvale, 6/20- grade 3 to Charvale, 6/21- Grade 4 to Charvale and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Dare Moving Up ceremony at 1:30, 6/22- Grade 5 to Charvale, 6/23- talent show 9:00 and staff kickball game at 2:00, 6/24- Meet new teachers- no parent volunteers needed that day

## Board of Education Report- \*no report

## Teacher Representative (s)- \*no report

## Building Council Representative- \*no report

## Standing Committee Reports-

- \*Year book- no date set yet for handing out yearbooks- there should be a few extra copies
- \*Staff Appreciation Luncheon went well- lots of good help- response was that the day before Memorial Weekend went well
- \*Walk for the Arts- it went well: it was very hot, music was good- the whole school doing it together worked well- cups were the only issue- letting parents know exactly what the money is used for- possibly do it with Step-it-Up in October next school year- goals should be very clear- we will start look for prize donations- Walk for the Arts banner was donated by Canvas Art
- \*Spring Children's garden- thank you to everyone who helped out
- \*thank you to transportation breakfast help
- \*Kindergarten orientation- 67 new students- 4 sections- Mrs. Martin will be back
- \*Arts In Ed- PTA sponsored Motoko, Ellen Sinopoli and Chris Holder residencies will take place this month
- \*School Banking- First Niagara have discontinued the program due to Federal regulations regarding collecting money off site- we may use a SEFCU credit union instead or investigate other options
- \*By-laws have been submitted

## Open Forum-

- \*BHBL Education Foundation- Dorrie McArthur -Dorrie has been meeting with PTAs to present what the Foundation does for schools- there are two grant cycles a year- teachers can apply for grants and many grants have been given to benefit this school- including paint for the hallway murals, 1001 books- specific information can be found on the website [www.bhblef.org](http://www.bhblef.org) the foundation values public education and Taste of Burnt Hills Event benefits the Foundation, it takes place the third week of October- also a cook book, note cards and local history book are available for sale

## Next Meeting-

6:30 September 7<sup>th</sup> Charlton Heights Library

## Adjournment- 7:59