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2009-2010**

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MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CRANBURY SCHOOL PTO IS TO ADDRESS ISSUES CONCERNING THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN CRANBURY SCHOOL.

JOHN HANEY
CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR AND PRINCIPAL

MICHELE WALDRON
VICE PRINCIPAL

CONTACT THE CRANBURY SCHOOL PTO AT (609) 395-1700 EXT. 332.

FIND THE PTO ONLINE AT WWW.CRANBURY SCHOOL.ORG AND SELECT THE PTO TAB.

HAPPY FALL!

Congratulations to our school administration, teachers and staff on being named a 2009 Blue Ribbon School! The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors schools that distinguish themselves academically. This award recognizes and honors Cranbury School for its student achievement, which ranks in the top ten percent in the state. We are indeed fortunate to be part of a model school district and thank everyone for those times you go above and beyond the "call of duty" for our children.



September and October have been busy months for the PTO. We have completed two fundraisers, one family night, the Young Audiences showcase and our first assemblies- quite a bit for five weeks!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers - the PTO Magazine Drive and the Scholastic Book Fair. Sales at the Book Fair were up over last year, and more than 60 books were purchased and donated to classroom libraries. Perhaps the most exciting part of the book fair was when "Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dog Days" was delivered to students on the day of its national release. Over 80 copies of the book were sold, making it the most popular book at the fair. If you missed buying it, the PTO purchased copies for the library, so check one out. And if you didn't get your magazine order in before the end of the Magazine Drive, not to worry, you can still benefit the PTO by placing an order through QSP. A link can be found on the PTO website.

We had nearly 400 people attend the Spaghetti Dinner on October 11. Much appreciation goes to all our volunteers and a special thank you goes to Linda Ill and Doren Danis who have chaired this event for the last four years.

The PTO will provide apple cider donuts and cider for the class Halloween parties on October 30. We hope your children enjoy these seasonal treats. The Halloween school parade will begin at 1:45pm and will circle north along Main Street.

Coming soon to the school will be automatic hand sanitizers that the PTO has purchased. The units will be placed in strategic locations throughout the school. If you plan to volunteer in the school, especially in the lunchroom, please take precautions and be sure to wash your hands or use the hand sanitizers. A little prevention will go a long way to stop the spread of germs.

Be sure to join us for Pumpkin Night on October 23 from 7:00-8:30pm. The Cranbury Lion's Club will co-sponsor this event and we are grateful for their support. There will be refreshments and entertainment for all to enjoy, so be sure to join us for a fun night.

Cheryl Coyle
President, Middle School

Jill Frost
President, Elementary School

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PTO NEWS IS GOING PAPERLESS. IN AN EFFORT TO BE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WE WILL MOVE TO AN EMAIL DISTRIBUTION NEXT MONTH. THE NEWSLETTER WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON THE PTO WEBSITE. TURN TO PAGE THREE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Start Clipping Those Box Tops!

Cranbury School will be holding a Box Tops collection drive from Monday, November 9th to Friday, November 20th. Buddy classes will team up to see who can collect the most combined Box Tops. In addition to appearing on all your old favorites, Box Tops can now be found on many Avery office supply products. Check your child's backpack in the coming days for more information!

Also, please consider becoming an online member of the Box Tops program. For every new member who signs up our school gets 5 bonus Box Tops—and you get valuable coupons for Box Tops products. To sign up go to www.boxtops4education.com and click on the “Get a New Member Bonus” square.

FROM THE DESK OF...MR. JOHN HANEY

I recently came across a wonderful article in the *New York Times* titled “For the Boy Who Makes Waves” written by a man named Joe Blair, a pipe fitter in Iowa City. It was published on October 9, 2009. In the article he writes about his 11 year old son, Mike, who is developmentally disabled. Mike exhibits many traits that seem hard to understand for most people. In this story the family is selling their house to move to the East or West Coast to get Mike closer to what makes sense in his world. Mike is fascinated by waves. At home Mike every day wakes up, takes one of his father's belts and makes wave patterns in the soil with the belt. Mike does this early in the morning and the family makes Mike come in because they are afraid he might wake the neighbors. Mike comes in leaving behind the thing he loves most. With his magical belt he makes his world understandable.

The family took Mike once to the Pacific Coast and Mike was mesmerized by the ocean waves. That is why the family decided to leave Iowa.

To make a long story short this is a wonderful love story. In it the writer comes to grips with his son. If you access the *NY Times* and read the article you will see why I am recommending it.

I hope that you and your children are reading often this fall. We continue to emphasize literacy at the school and I will continue to look for ways to engage parents and students to read and read more!

PHS HAPPENINGS

SUZANNE CARROLL

Back to School Night took place at Princeton High School on September 24th. Parents had the exciting opportunity to experience the everyday schedule of their student(s). Eight classroom periods were shortened into 10 minute classes with teachers talking about course curriculum and expectations. It was incredibly uplifting to hear about all the great opportunities for learning at PHS.

Starting out in a Band Class, parents listened to the extraordinary music of the premier band – PHS Studio Band. *Alex Anderson, Jenna Cody, Max Currier, Max Dickey, Joe Kirkenir, Greg Kishyk, Ivy Miller, Aaron Palmer, William Waltrip and Art Zysk* sounded like a professional jazz band as they performed in the beautiful new music wing. Moving on to the Science classrooms, parents were amazed at the state-of-the-art labs for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It was equally impressive to see the sophisticated technology in the Math and Computer classrooms.

In the newly renovated cafeteria, the PTO, led by PTO President *Nancy Chambers*, hosted delicious desserts and refreshments while a cappella groups entertained parents. The Cat's Meow featured *Danielle Dredger and Ginny Rogers*. Cloud 9 performed with *Erika Kruse, Kathleen Rafferty and Veronica Spann*. The all-male a cappella group, The Testostertones delighted listeners with singing from *Addison Hebert, Delano Hebert, Ben Li and Roger Liu*.

Continuing through the remainder of the schedule with English, Gym, History, Language and electives, parents could witness firsthand the impressive education our students are receiving at Princeton High School. To learn more about PHS, please visit the website at www.prs.k12.nj.us.

FALL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS STARTING SOON!

CYNDY COPPOTELLI & CHERYL MCCORMICK

DIRECTORS, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Registration for our fall session was a huge success, with nearly 180 registrations coming in for 13 classes! All of the program's teachers are very excited to begin working with students at the end of the month. If you included an e-mail address on your registration form, you will receive an e-mail reminder the week before classes start. Please make note of dismissal instructions. Supervision is **not** available after the end of class.

We are currently working on the schedule for the winter session, which will feature some of our students' favorite classes, along with some new classes taught by talented teachers who are new to our program. Registration forms will be coming home during the second week of November, and classes will begin the first week of January.

Please feel free to contact Cyndy Coppotelli (coppotelli@comcast.net) or Cheryl McCormick (cam1027@comcast.net) with any questions.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ENERGETIC VOLUNTEERS

The school year is now in full swing and the past month has been a busy one for the PTO. We have many individuals to thank for all their hard work in making each one of our events a success for the students and families of Cranbury School.

Thanks to Diana Heilbronn and Betty Toto for their work in coordinating the PTO Magazine Drive this year.

The many volunteers at the Scholastic Book Fair helped to sell over \$8,000 in books! Our teachers have expressed their appreciation for all of the wish list books that were purchased and donated to the classrooms. Special thanks go to Sarah Spalding-Kleinman, Katina Garthe and Renee Welch for the many hours they spent working to make the Book Fair run smoothly.

Picture Days also required the talents and patience of many volunteers. Thanks to Kathy Wasson and her helpers for ensuring there were smiles all around.

The Spaghetti Dinner was a real treat! So many people gave of their time and talent to make this year's dinner a memorable family event. Thanks go to Clare Cukier, Linda Ill and Doren Danis for planning the event and making everything run flawlessly. Special thanks also go to Vito Petruso who provided Taverna's delicious meatballs and sauce, Kevin White for the beautiful sunflowers, McCaffrey's West Windsor who donated the Italian bread, Sean Cox for the lively entertainment and Karen McCartney and Girl Scout Troop 71695 for their help in serving and cleaning up. And finally to the many volunteers who worked throughout the event - Jill and John Gabriello, Andrew Liggio, Charlie Ill, Nancy Schiavone, Eileen Keve, Janet Wheeler, MaryJean Mucchiarone, Kathy Wiseman, Mrs. Linda Penney, Debbie Driscoll, Lauren Hebert, Dominique Jones, Ying Rienfelder, Ellen Walker, Steven Root and Kristen Hamilton - thank you for helping to make this an enjoyable night for everyone.



Green Ideas

**PTO NEWS is
Going Paperless**

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly the PTO newsletter is moving to email! Starting next month the newsletter will no longer be distributed in hardcopy. The newsletter will be posted on the PTO section of the school website and an email will be sent to all PTO members. If you would prefer to continue to receive the newsletter in hardcopy for any reason please contact Kerrie Liggio at liggios@comcast.net to request a hardcopy.

The newsletter was sent in both paper and email form this month. If you did not receive an email and you are a PTO member please confirm that your email allows messages sent from "Cranbury School PTO".

Thank you for your help in supporting our latest Green Idea.

The Cranbury Arts Council is looking for volunteers to help out with the many fun and enriching programs they sponsor throughout the year. Come to an informational meeting Wednesday, November 11th at 1:30 in the Gourgaud Gallery (inside Town Hall). Absolutely no artistic skills are required, only the desire to see the arts thrive in Cranbury. For more information contact Joanne Hanson at jjkbb@comcast.net.

FYI...

School pictures will be distributed before Thanksgiving break.

Retakes will be offered in January.

The Woman's Club of Cranbury invites you to attend their Election Night Supper on Tuesday, November 3, in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. The menu will feature baked chicken, with servings at 5:30 & 7 p.m. Take-outs are also available.

Tickets are needed in advance and are \$15, and \$7 for a special menu selection for children 10 and under.

Proceeds will go to the club's scholarship and charitable contributions funds. To purchase tickets, please visit the Blue Rooster Café or print an order form at cranburywomansclub.org.

If you missed Sean Cox perform at the Spaghetti Dinner look for his album *Return to Me* on iTunes.

PROGRAMMING NOTES

DEIRDRE BICHSEL & EILEEN KEVE

DIRECTORS, PROGRAMMING

The Young Audiences Showcase was a great success at Cranbury School. We had approximately 100 visitors from schools throughout NJ attend the showcase. Classes from grades K-5 had a great time previewing a variety of performers and school assemblies available through Young Audiences. Both the Director and General Manager of Young Audiences were thankful for all the hard work Cranbury School put into hosting this event. Special thanks go out to all our volunteers, our facilities manager and custodial staff that helped make the day run smoothly.

Our first assembly on Character Education "Bullies, Targets and Bystanders" was presented on Thursday, October 15th by the group Quiet Riot; brothers, Bill and David Mettler use funny personal stories, sound effects and audience interaction to educate students about bullying. Quiet Riot explores the roles of bullies, targets and bystanders, paying particular attention to the 86% of the students (by-standers) who have the power to create and insist on a peaceful community of mutual respect.

Bill and David told students that when you listen very well to another person, without interrupting them, you show them respect and may learn something about them that is very interesting. They added that classmates should make sure everyone who wants to be included, is involved the game or project. If everyone feels included and everyone feels as though they "belong" then there will be no bullying in the class. The quickest way to making friends they told students is to share: to give and receive ideas, information, treats, to offer help and to ask for help. And if someone has helped you, thank them. If someone does something well, compliment them.

We think their program made an impact as we saw our elementary school students being LISA robots and demonstrating that being a friend means we have to Listen, Include, Share and Appreciate each other.

BOOK YOUR BABYSITTERS NOW!!
So you don't miss out on a wonderful evening at the

WINTER GALA

2010 PTO Parent Social

Saturday, February 6, 2010

7:00pm to 12:00am

Forsgate Country Club

Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction

If you have any questions or would like to help plan and organize this event, please contact Susan Leung (susan@theleungfamily.com)

Pumpkin Carving Night

Friday, October 23rd

7-8:30pm in the Cafeteria

Sponsored by the PTO and the Cranbury Lions Club.

Bring pumpkins or purchase one at the door. Art supplies for decorating will be available, but bring your own carving tools if you like. There will be refreshments and entertainment for all.