

# THE WHEELER FLYER

everychild.onevoice

**Published and Paid for by the Wheeler Avenue PTA  
Patty Farrell and Michelle D'Elia, Co-Presidents**

**November 2006 - Issue 1  
Editor: Madeline Loffredo  
Staff: Candice Oliveri**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS:

The summer is gone, fall is in full swing with winter fast approaching. It's amazing how quickly the time goes measured in seasons and school days.

School got off to a great start and so many great activities have begun. Student Council and After School Sports are all going great. I know our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are looking forward to Mr. Prim's WHL kickoff. Thanks so much to the Student Council and their advisors, Mr. Rothbard & Mrs. Bohnet for their great idea and planning of the Student Council Bowl-A-Rama. The costumes were awesome, the bowling was fun and everyone had a great time. We were happy to help coordinate and sponsor the event with you and look forward to more throughout the year.

The Sixth Grade committees are hard at work planning the events for this year's graduates. T-Shirts are in the works as well as the Baby Showcase. This year's theme is Mardi Gras which should prove to be quite colorful and festive.

The Pie Sale was a great success, thank you Patty for all your efforts. Speaking of things Patty's done so far, thanks also for the fun nights of children's BINGO and parents bowling. Watch for repeats of these events in case you missed them the first time around. Patty and crew are now busy planning the Holiday Breakfast. Hope to see all of you there.

Thanks to Gina Trinchetta and her great group of volunteers who made our Book Fair a huge success. We were so happy to be able to offer everyone 50% off the books again this year. Speaking of books, thanks to Ms. Bolz and the RIF committee for our first book distribution on Halloween. Now that's a treat every parent can appreciate!

We would like to thank Diane Calandriello for stepping up to chair the Holiday Boutique this year. Please see inside for more information about this and our many other upcoming holiday festivities. Don't forget about the Winter Concerts next month where we will see how all of our children's hard work and practices pay off. Also watch for flyers for our new School Spirit Wear. Eileen Altaner is in the final planning stages of offering a line of Wheeler Ave clothing this winter.

Thank you to Candice Olivieri for assisting Madeline Loffredo on the Wheeler Flyer this year. We all appreciate your time and efforts that go into this wonderful and informative publication.

Thanks go to all of our chair people and committee members for all the work you do for all of our kids all year round. Remember, it's never too late to join a committee, just contact the chair person and let them know you can help. As always, we are here to answer any questions and listen to all ideas on how to make the PTA work for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support of the Wheeler Ave. PTA. Wishing you and your families a happy & healthy holiday season.

Michelle & Patty

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- Branch of the National -

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# The Home-School Connection



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

### Re: Healthy Snack Time

With the rise in childhood obesity, after-school snacking has taken a beating. To ensure that your child is satisfying those hunger pangs in a healthy way, follow the three **T's**.

1. **Timing.** Limit snack time to 10-20 minutes. Plan ahead and have plenty of fruit, nuts, and whole-grain crackers within easy reach.
2. **Total.** An ideal snack has a single serving from one or two food groups. Check labels or serving sizes, and avoid "super sizing."
3. **Type.** Replace processed, low-nutrient foods with more natural ones.

Here are some suggestions for healthy snacks:

- ✓ Jazz up the usual fruit offering with berries, oranges, grapes, and mangoes. Freeze peeled bananas on a stick, or add fruit to plain yogurt.
- ✓ Put peanut butter on apple or banana slices.
- ✓ Cut up fresh vegetables and serve with low-fat salad dressing.
- ✓ Make mini-pizzas with whole-wheat English muffins, tomato sauce, and shredded cheese.
- ✓ Trade chips for whole-wheat breadsticks, pita bread, or unbuttered popcorn.

Sincerely,  
Christine Zerillo  
Principal

**FYI - At the New York State Reading Association Conferences held in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Wheeler Avenue School was awarded the Outstanding New York State School Literacy Program Exemplary Reading Award for 2005.**

**Also, Wheeler Avenue Elementary School has received a certificate for School & Youth Winner's Circle for hard work and dedication for Pennies for Patients' from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.**

# PTA NEWS



## WHEELER ON THE WEB!

Be sure to catch the latest information on Wheeler Avenue PTA sponsored events, teachers, contact numbers and community happenings! Now Wheeler is only a click away:  
<http://www.schoolonline.com/WheelerAvePTA>.

[www.wheeleravepta.org](http://www.wheeleravepta.org)

Let us know when you have special events taking place in your child's class or if you are sponsoring an event for the PTA, we'd be happy to include upcoming information on the website.

Get the Word out! Wheeler's World of Wonder, now on the Web!

Site Administrator, **Grace Meltzer**

## BJs Wholesale Club

Thanks to all who supported Wheeler Avenue PTA by purchasing an Inner Circle 15 month membership from BJ's. For each membership, BJ's will be donating \$5 to the Wheeler Avenue PTA. Temporary passes will be issued. Thanks again!

## Wheeler Avenue PTA Membership Drive

*"The Future is in Your Hands - Join PTA!"*

We are off to a great start! As of today we have 388 members and we are still counting. Have you sent in your membership envelope yet? Individual membership is \$7.00 and two memberships cost only \$12.00. A small price to pay to support all the wonderful PTA sponsored programs that your child benefits from! Every parent should hold a PTA membership (that means Dads too)! Membership cards will be going home soon. Haven't joined yet? Another membership envelope will be sent home or pick up one in the main office—please join. We still don't have a 100% membership class. Why not take the time to join today and help your child's class be the first to receive a PTA sponsored party? Your child needs to see their family name on the PTA bulletin board. And a reminder to teachers and staff, your students need to see your name there as well!

Thank you for your support! A special thank you to Angela Ciullo, Christine Johnson, and Christine Rossano for all of your help! Any questions, please contact me at 872-1393. Valerie Logreira, Membership VP

## 2006-2007 PTA OFFICERS

<u>Co-Presidents</u>	Michelle D'Elia Patty Farrell
<u>Vice Pres.</u>	Tara Osani
<u>Programs VP</u>	Cathy Grunin
<u>Membership VP</u>	Valerie Logreira
<u>Treasurer</u>	Christine Johnson
<u>Recording Sec.</u>	Geraldine Picillo
<u>Corresponding Sec.</u>	Laurie Sarro



## MUSIC NOTES

By Valerie Logreira

### TUBA DAY

Congratulations to Ryan Milano, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade musician and member of the Wheeler Advanced Band and Orchestra. Ryan participated in the "Howard Hovey Tuba Day" held at Sayville Middle School on Friday, November 3. Ryan had the opportunity to participate in a large ensemble featuring tubas and baritone horns from all over Long Island.

### WINTER CONCERT

The music department is working hard at tuning up for this year's Winter Concerts. The Winter Concert will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>. A great concert takes hard work and a lot of practice. Our music teachers stress the importance of regular attendance at rehearsals and ask parents to encourage their children to practice at home. Wheeler Avenue looks forward to seeing everyone at this year's Winter Concert.

### Upcoming Musical Highlights:

"Music in the Parks" Field Trip is scheduled for Friday, June 1, 2007. Chaperone slips and fundraising forms were already sent home with all students in the Children's Choir, Orchestra, and Concert Band. The Music Department would like to remind you that buses for this trip fill up fast and encourage you to return the Chaperone slip in A.S.A.P.

#### Please take note

- The competition is a group effort. All our musicians need to be prepared to ensure a positive experience. Children need to start preparing for this competition now.
- Please help your child set up a practice routine at home
- Attendance at all of the rehearsals is mandatory unless your child is absent from school
- Parent cooperation is greatly appreciated in getting your child to all rehearsals on time. Thank You!



## STOP AND LISTEN

In our busy and active lifestyles, filled with so much technology, cell phones are a wonderful way for us to keep in touch with our children. But above all conveniences, safety come first. At dismissal, several children who are waiting to cross are already on their cell phones, distracted by the conversations they are having on the phone. There have been several instances where a child on the cell phone has stepped off the curb at a red light. I am urging you to please talk to your children about cell phone safety. Advise them to call you PRIOR to crossing OR immediately AFTER crossing the street, not DURING. Also, stress the importance of their following this rule on all corners if they are walkers. Children, please pay attention while you talk & walk.

As always, your cooperation is most appreciated.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your "Safety First" Crossing Guard,

JULIE

### BOXTOP\$ FOR EDUCATION

Save those Box Tops! Wheeler Avenue is collecting General Mills Boxtop\$ For Education. For each boxtop collected Wheeler Avenue earns cash points to purchase great items for our school.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Each of our Wheeler students are special to us, especially on their birthdays! The PTA gives every one of our Wheeler Avenue students a birthday card and coupon for a special treat from the Cafeteria during their "birthday month". Enjoy the treat and have a wonderful birthday!



Did you know? A giraffe's tongue is 18 inches long?

For more fun animal facts, log onto:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids>



## School Spirit Day!

Angela Ciullo & Christine Rossano

It was great to see students, teachers and staff who celebrated school spirit day by wearing BLUE and GOLD on September 29! Thank you for your support of the Wheeler Avenue Community! Thank you for the yummy Bagel Brunch given by the PTA!



## Fall Plant Sale

The Fall Plant Sale was a success! Jamesport Nursery brought in beautiful plants! We hope everyone who came by enjoy their chrysanthemums! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped us with the sale!

## RIF SPOOKtacular Book



## Distribution!!

The RIF "Pick-A-Treat: A Good Halloween went very well and the children received new books. Also, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Bowles ordered new books for the children. The next distribution date is on December 8. Volunteers are needed to distribute the books! Your help is greatly appreciated! Call me if you can help out 800-8619 Chris Johnson, Chair

## Multicultural Night: "Let's Share Our Culture"



What a wonderful night it was! It was great to see all the different cultures that represent the Wheeler Avenue School! All of the food, books, pictures and many more items helped our students expand their global knowledge! Thank you to those who participated and volunteered!



## PTA Class Parties

Just a reminder to all parents: If you haven't sent in \$5.00 for the class parties, please do so. The children look forward to these parties during celebrations and holidays. The teachers and class parents work very hard to carefully plan the food and the refreshments so our kids will enjoy them. For those of you who have sent in the \$5.00, thank you for your continued support!

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



# BRING HAPPINESS



**HO! HO! HO!**



## WHEELER'S HOLIDAY BREAKFAST Saturday December 9, 2006

Two Seatings: 9:00am - 10:30am  
11:15am - 12:45pm

Ticket Price: \$7 per person

TICKET SALES TO BE HELD IN SCHOOL LOBBY:

Thurs Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm-7:30pm  
(prior to PTA Meeting)  
Tues Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - 2:45pm - 7:00pm  
Wed Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Picture and Gift from Santa to all children!

United States Marines will be collecting TOYS FOR TOTS.

Co Chairs: Patty Farrell  
Josephine Aliprandini



## HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Chair, Diane Calandrello

Better start writing your Holiday Gift Giving Lists - The HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE is fast approaching. A new vendor has been selected and we are very excited about their merchandise. Shopping days are December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Each child will be given a memo noting day and time their class will be attending.

A quick thanks in advance to all the "holiday helpers" who have offered to lend a helping hand to our students who will be purchasing a little something for the lucky ones on their gift list! If you haven't signed up to help yet, please call Diane at 872-8983

Let's see...

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Mom <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>       | Little Sis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    |
| Dad <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>       | Big Bro <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>       |
| Grandma <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Music Teacher <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Grandpa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Best Friend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
| Uncle Joe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Coach Smith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |

Wow, am I glad Wheeler's Holiday Boutique has so many neat gifts!



## TOYS FOR TOTS

The "Wheeler Family" is once again showing how wonderful they are. They will be collecting Toys for Tots from Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> through Holiday Breakfast on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Please place new, unwrapped toys in the Collection Bin by security desk at main entrance or bring it with you to the Holiday Breakfast.

Let your child see how the gift of giving is what the holidays are really about. Bring them with you to select a toy to donate. Remind them how their generosity is sure to bring a smile to a child less fortunate than they are.

The Marines will be picking up all donated toys after the Holiday Breakfast and distributing them to needy children in the community.

Thanks so much for your donations!

## Brrrrrrr... IT'S GETTING COLD OUTSIDE!

We just take the simple things for granted - if it gets cold, we grab out coats and top it off with a hat, scarf & gloves... but what about those less fortunate than us? Where a simple item like a winter coat is a luxury?

The Annual Wheeler **COAT DRIVE** will take place from Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> through Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Please place GENTLY USED coats, hats, gloves and scarves in the donation bin near security desk at main entrance.

Your thoughtfulness is sure to bring the "warmth" of love to those who need it!

Thanks!  
Margaret Goldberg, Chair





## Wheeler Sports Program

The Sports Program is now in session at Wheeler. Students participate in various team sports such as soccer, team handball and basketball. Boys meet on Mondays/and or Wednesdays. Girls meet on Tuesdays/and or Thursdays.

Time of the Program is from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

Hope everyone who participates has a good time!

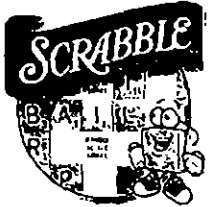


## The Scrabble Club

Mrs. Nedab is the Teacher Advisor for the school scrabble club.

Students in Grade 4, 5 and 6 can participate in this fun and educational after school activity!

Scrabble club is held on Tuesdays from 3:30 PM-4:40 PM.



OK kids, get those brains rolling!

## Halloween Bowl-a-Rama

What a great success!

Wow! Fifty kids, all in costumes attended this year!

Everyone had an exciting time bowling and eating pizza!

Hope to see you again next Halloween!!

## Yoga Does It!



After school Yoga Kids Adventure is for students in Grades 4-6.

This activity is taught by Connie McKnight M.A.C.Y.T, and takes place from November 2-January 11.

This is a fantastic way for students to relax and learn how to meditate. Practicing the art of yoga will help kids focus and be mentally/emotionally prepared for the challenging school year ahead.

Yoga for kids is held in the small gym from 3:20 PM-4:20 PM.

Be sure to wear comfortable clothing, bring your yoga mat and drink plenty of fluids.

Classes for Grades 1-3 will be offered after the New Year.

For more information/questions call:  
Connie McKnight 565-3176 or Darlene Smith 565-3177

## Children's



## B-I-N-G-O

Everyone, kids had an at Children's Bingo!

especially the enjoyable time

96 Children attended our 1<sup>st</sup> Family Fun night filled with fun and prizes.

We cannot wait for our next Family Fun Night! Hope to see you there!



### Pie Fundraiser

Thank you all who participated in the Wheeler Pie Fundraiser!

We hope everybody enjoys their *apple, wild blueberry, strawberry rhubarb, apple crumb, old fashion pumpkin, southern pecan, chocolate cream, banana split cream, Swiss chocolate almond, chocolate peanut butter, Boston cream and lemon meringue pies!*

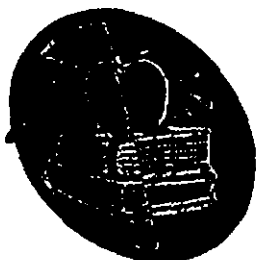
Thank you Patty Farrell for bringing us this delicious fundraiser!

### Kindergarten News!

Attention Parents who have children entering Kindergarten on September 2007!!

If you missed the November 1<sup>st</sup>

at  
are  
at  
School  
at Willow Avenue School.



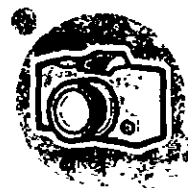
Registration  
Willow Avenue  
School,  
applications  
still available  
Wheeler  
Avenue  
and at Willow

Register now to be able to participate on all Pre-school visits and events.

Questions about Kindergarten?

Call Pre-School Rep

Laurie Sarro 888-222-9 for more information.



### Picture Retakes

Retakes for those students who are unhappy with their pictures or those who missed picture day will take place at Wheeler on November 28. Bring your best smile!



### Smile! You're on Candid Camera!

Just a reminder that the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Candids will be taking place on November 28. So get ready and polish those smiles!

### G.R.E.A.T. Program

During the last PTA Meeting which took place on November 9, Officer Liz Claffey from the Nassau County Police Department came to talk to us about the G.R.E.A.T. Program going on at Wheeler. The name of this program stands for Gang Resistance Education And Training; and is taught to Grades 4 and 6.

This program teaches kids not only about gang awareness but it also focuses on conflict resolution and how to make good choices under peer pressure.

We want to thank Officer Claffey for taking the time help educate and protect our children.

# REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS is a worthwhile program that provides a forum for our children to participate and compete in the Arts and Literature. Please encourage the children to participate on theme, "My Favorite Place..." in any or all of the categories: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance Choreography and Film/Video Production.



The PTA will acknowledge and reward anyone that submits an entry. Also, the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will receive an additional prize courtesy of the PTA. The PTA will provide the rewards but we need the teachers/parents to provide the children with both the opportunity and their encouragement.

All entries must be received by Monday, December 11, 2006. Entries will be judged on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme. Good Luck!

Jennifer Grande, PTA REFLECTIONS Chairperson, ~~620-0101~~

## MEMORIAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### Getting Ready for Junior High

Want to know more about our secondary schools? Get all the right info you need by attending Dr. Walsh's Saturday Morning Forums. Dr. Walsh is the principal at Memorial JHS and she has been holding these monthly Saturday morning forums for a few years now. It is attended by current and future Memorial parents as well as other community members. It is a great place to get information, discuss concerns and address any issues you have about your child's future. Meetings are held from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. in Memorial's cafeteria on the following dates: 11/18, 12/16, 1/20/07, 2/10, (3/3 is the Legislative Breakfast), 4/21, 5/19 & 6/9. Dr. Walsh and Dr. Pompilio (Central's principal) will also be attending our March PTA meeting on the 8th.

BANANA



SPLITS

The Banana Splits program is a peer support group designed to help children understand the changes in their lives resulting from the separation or divorce of their parents. The goal of the program is to enable children to express their concerns, accept what they cannot change and develop good problem solving strategies for the things they are able to change. Another wonderful part of the program is that the children see that they are not alone. Children will be grouped by grade level and will meet for 30 minutes every other week. Program runs from November through March. Permission slips were sent home in October. If your child has a need for this program, please be sure to sign them up. If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to call me at any time.

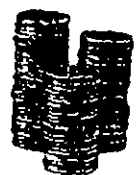
Jennifer Leest, School Psychologist, 568-6140

### Friends of Karen Inc.

The Wheeler Avenue Student Council invites everyone to participant in a new Coin Harvest Program for Friends of Karen, Inc., children's charity dedicated to providing emotional, financial and advocacy support to children with life threatening illnesses and their families on Long Island and throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

Currently Friends of Karen is supporting 55 families who have children at Schneider's Hospital and 13 families from Stonybrook Hospital. This program is designed to engage students in a philanthropic project by collecting change and distributing the money to the families the charity supports. Throughout the process, students learn how they can "Use Change to Make Change" and how this charity serves families in need.

The Coin Harvest program works by having the students collect spare change they have at home then bringing it to school to donate. Each classroom will be supplied with a decorated Friends of Karen jar. Change will be collected from November 13<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>.





## Valley Stream *UPSID* Thirteen

**WELCOME BACK TO THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR AT THE WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL!**

**ARRIVAL:** In order for us to begin our school day **PROMPTLY** at 8:50am, please have walkers arrive between 8:35 and 8:40am. Please note we cannot be responsible for children who arrive at school prior to that time.

**LINE UP:** Students will line up on the blacktop by room number. During inclement weather and during winter months, Students will enter the building through front door only.

**Line up in the large gym.**

**DROP OFF:** For the safety of ALL our children, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you observe the two "No Stopping/Parking" zones around the school. These areas must be free of cars during the **entire school** day to allow for easy access into the building in case of an emergency. Remember, this is to insure the safety of all our students.

**PICK UP:** Again, please be aware of the parking regulations. **DO NOT** under any circumstances double park. Parking is allowed on Rockaway Avenue during pick up. There is **NO** parking on Wheeler Avenue, as this is used for school buses.

### **DELAYED**

**OPENINGS:** As we approach the cold weather, we would like to remind you about our delayed opening process. A delayed opening is used for weather related circumstances. On days when a delayed opening occurs, schools in District 13 will begin 90 minutes later than normal start time. Wheeler Avenue school will open at 10:20am if there is a delayed opening. You will be notified of a delayed opening via telephone chain or log onto our website [www.valleystream13.com](http://www.valleystream13.com).

### **SCHOOL**

**CLOSINGS:** In the event of inclement weather causing the need for a school closing, you will be notified by telephone chain about 6:00am in the morning so working parents can make alternate arrangements for their children. You can also monitor school delays and closings on local radio and tv stations.

**AT WHEELER AVENUE OUR FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITY IS FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN:**

**ID REQUIRED:** All non-employees are required to show and leave their picture ID at front security desk upon entering building. You will need to sign in and wear a VISITOR's pass as well.

**DISMISSAL:** In order to end our day with a smile, please inform your child's teacher, in writing, when there will be any changes in your child's dismissal procedure – such as riding a bus, going home with a friend, etc. This will be of great assistance to your child and their teacher.

### **AFTER SCHOOL**

**ACTIVITIES:** Students will **NOT** be allowed to leave the building prior to an after school activity to purchase snacks from the deli or candy store. Upon dismissal, students will be expected to go directly to their after school program. Please have your child bring additional snack and beverage on these days.

## **Lost and Found**

Every day Wheeler collects numerous jackets, hats, sweatshirts, lunchboxes, etc. from around the school. In order to find the rightful owners of these items, we look for names, but many are not labeled. Please be sure to write your child's first and last name inside all garments or school items. Items will be kept in the Lost and Found, located at rear of auditorium, for one month. All unclaimed items will then be donated to charities.

We thank you for helping us keep your children safe by following all procedures!

## TEACHER'S REPORT



### First Grade News

A Quarter of the year  
Is almost through,  
We have been in school for the months of  
September, October,  
And, most of November, too  
The alphabet we have mastered,  
Each line and each curve.  
The seasonal changes,  
Are what we observe.  
We're adding and subtracting,  
You can count on us,  
Over **BIG BOOKS** and little books,  
We make a fuss!  
The holidays are coming,  
And we are filling up with glee,  
We are definitely what you would call  
V.H.P!!!!

( Very Happy People )

### Second Grade News

We're "fluffing" our feathers and getting ready for a festive month! In the month of November, we will be learning about character studies in reading. We will be using voice to enhance our writing. In math we will work on concepts such as place value, patterns and problem solving. Children should continue to use strategies they have learned to solve addition problems. In science we will continue with standard and non-standard units of measurement, as well as observe and record data for our tree in the fall. Finally in social studies we will continue to learn about people and places in our community, as well as needs and wants... (a perfect unit to learn about before the holiday gift-giving season begins). Please make sure to check and sign your child's homework and assignment in his/her homework notebook. Notices are given on a daily basis, so be sure to check your child's folder each night. Don't forget to label your child's clothing ... especially smaller pieces such as hats and gloves. Help your child become more independent by encouraging him/her to pack their own backpack and snack! We are looking forward to seeing you on American Education Week, and also during our scheduled parent-teacher conferences.

### Greetings from the Third Grade!

Third graders are busy completing many units at this time. Our plant study is ending. The most important place value unit is coming to an end as well. Third Graders are responsible for memorizing the seven continents and four oceans as well as placing them properly on a map. This is a time for third graders to develop good study habits. We suggest a small amount of time studying during many different time periods. (not cramming!). Good ways of memorizing are rewriting, saying the information aloud many times, making study cards, making up funny rhymes or sayings, and finally asking someone to quiz you (after you know it!!)

Third Graders have been working on visualization of fiction and nonfiction reading materials. That means they should be able to "see" the words in their heads. If you are reading with your child, stop to ask them what they are seeing. (It should not be from the picture, but the words should make a picture in their heads.)

We are looking forward to seeing a play at Hofstra Playhouse on December 20!

Please remember that during the holiday season-books and diaries make good presents. Also remember to select toys that allow your child to think, reason, and use their creativity. Boxes of craft items, as well as science toys, for example creating circuits and using magnets, dress items to do plays, and computer logic games are some suggestions.

In addition, line up outside on good weather days. Although inside the building is very warm, there is no morning sun in the yard, and the wind can make it very cold! A solution is for your child to wear a few layers, a warm winter coat, hat and gloves! They need help in the weather prediction to dress appropriately!

Thank you for your part in the "home-school connection".

### Fourth Grade News

Fourth Graders continue to explore many reading strategies through the use of periodicals, non-fiction articles and classroom library materials. Please spend time each evening engaging your child in conversations about reading.

In math, the children have completed their unit on place value, rounding, and large digit subtraction and are moving on to multiplication. Please continue to review facts each night to increase speed and accuracy.

On a lighter note, the after school sports program is up and running. If your child participates, we ask that you pack an extra snack to avoid confusion at the dismissal doors. Students are not allowed to exit and reenter the building.

Report cards will be distributed this month. We look forward to meeting with you at our upcoming conferences.

### Grade Five News

The Grade Five State Social Studies Assessment will be administered on Wednesday, November 15 and Thursday, November 16 during the morning. Please remind students to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

The 2005 State Social Studies Assessment was administered as a practice exam on Wednesday, November 8 and Thursday, November 9. Students were timed and directions were read as to mimic the real testing situation prior to their actually experiencing it.

Students are learning a variety of strategies that will help improve their reading comprehension. Visualization, determining cause and effect, finding the main idea and using thinking maps to make sense of text are among these strategies. Please query your children about these strategies and ask them how they are using them in their independent reading at home and in school.

### Sensational Sixth Grade!

Our ancient Egypt Projects are coming along beautifully! We are very eager and excited to present our artifacts at our classroom museum. Please join us during American Education Day on Mon. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:10-2:20 or Tues. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, at 10:10-11:00. Our next topic of study will be Ancient Greece & Rome. Students will investigate the many discoveries, inventions, and accomplishments of these civilizations. Discussions and activities point out that these rich cultures still influence our lives today. Students work hard to make self-to-text, self-to-experience, and self-to-word connections. We are proud of our students for all their effort.

Chicago math is in full speed. Place value, commutative, associative, & distributive properties, order of operations, exponents, and estimation are what we are learning in order to succeed. Please review these concepts each night, so our math skills will be just right!

Thanks for our wonderful wish list from the book fair! It's nice to have generous parents like you!

Our field trip to Project Adventure is Wed. Nov. 15. Please make sure your child dresses in layers of clothing. They should arrive at school at 8:30 AM. We will be back by dismissal.

Keep reading and writing each and every night. (Remember this month is 40 minutes of reading).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2006

Nov. 20 -22 <sup>nd</sup>	American Education Week – Class Visitations
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Progress Report Cards Distributed
	Board of Ed: Exec. Session 7:15pm, Comm Meet 8:00pm
Nov. 23 – 24 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED – Happy Thanksgiving
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Toys for Tots Toy Drive begins
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Retakes and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Candid
	Board of Ed: Exec. Session 7:15pm, Board Meet @ Wheeler 8:00pm
Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conferences – HALF DAY of School – 11:50 dismissal

## DECEMBER 2006

Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Building Inspections 8.00am
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	RIF Distribution
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Breakfast – 2 sessions
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Ed: Exec. Session 7:15pm, Comm Meet 8:00pm
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Boutique
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert a.m
	Board of Ed: Exec. Session 7:15pm, Board Meet 8:00pm
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert a.m and p.m.
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED - Holiday Recess – ENJOY

## JANUARY 2007

Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School Reopens
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Grades 3 – 5 NYS English Language Arts Assessment
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	VS PTA Council Exec. Committee Meeting
Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting – 7:30pm
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-School Visitation
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 6 NYS English Language Arts Assessment
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Ed: Exec. Session 7:15pm, Comm Meet 8:00pm
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Family Fun Night #2 – BINGO – 7:30pm
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Board of Ed. Exec. Session 7:15pm, Board Meet @ Howell 8:00pm
Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>	HALF DAY – Professionals Scoring Assesments – 11:50am dismissal
Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	RIF Distribution

**FROM OUR HOUSE AT WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL TO YOURS HAVE  
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH WARMTH AND LOVE  
AND LED WITH HAPPINESS!**