



Orchard Farms PTO Newsletter

Kim Laurelli

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A Note from our Principal

Dear Families of Orchard Farms,

I hope that your holiday break was restful and joyful. The mid-year is already upon us and the business of the holidays is behind us, but there is still much to do. The second quarter closed on January 22nd and report cards will be issued on February 1st. This is an opportunity to reflect with your child on the reward for the effort they have invested so far. Please reinforce for me that it is the student's effort that makes the difference. Their education is paramount at this time in their life and it is where their effort needs to be focused.

Our second H1N1 was a great success. Hopefully, we have alleviated the possibility of a pandemic and assisted our children in having a healthy year.

Our holiday fundraisers were a grand success. The Thanksgiving baskets and the holiday toy drives were so generously supported that we satisfied our local needs and then donated to other schools and local charities. Those that witnessed the accumulation of donations were amazed...and so was I. We just completed a Hope for Haiti drive which was spearheaded by one of our sixth grade teachers, Mrs. Pillay. The community of Orchard Farms again showed their generosity by donating \$775 to the effort. This donation will be sent to the American Red Cross.

We kicked off our 2nd annual Principal's Pie Sale on January 29th. The sale will run for two weeks up to the February break. This may seem a bit early but the holiday celebrations are early this year and we wanted to have delivery before that. Also, the bakery has a deadline that we must meet. I know that things are difficult financially for some families, but I am not asking that everyone buys a lot during the pie sale, just what you need for your own celebrations. You need to buy desserts so buy our pies and the school will benefit. We use the funds

from the principal's account to purchase incidental items that crop up during the year that are not covered by our annual order. The school does not have an operational budget for these types of expenses, so that is why we need to keep these funds on hand.

Thank you for your continued support and your overwhelming generosity!

Mr. Charpentier

PTO President Position Open

It is with great sorrow that the Orchard Farms PTO must bid goodbye to our current PTO President, Lisa Gragar. Lisa will be moving on with her children to Western Hills. We wish her luck and thank her for her many years of service at Orchard Farms. Anyone who is interested in filling the position of PTO President, please contact Mr. Charpentier as soon as possible.

"Involvement Matters".

"Hundreds of research studies show that when parents get involved, children do better in school". - PTO Today

Thank You for your Generosity

December was a busy month for the Sunshine Committee. The food drive was a big success. We were able to make beautiful baskets for many families in need.

Our families were extremely generous with donations of toys, gift cards, food and dollars to the Toy Drive. Thank you all for your generous donations. We put smiles on the faces of many children and families in our community due to your generosity!

Jadra Caturo and Arlene Lawton
Sunshine Committee

PTO Meeting Dates:

All PTO Meetings are held in the school library at 7 pm.

Tuesday, February 23
Tuesday, March 16
Wednesday, April 14
Tuesday, May 11

Important Dates:

Cranston Budget Meeting:

February 1, 11, 22

Report Cards:

February 1st

After School Activities:

Begin February 2

Cosmic Bowling Night:

February 6th

Mid-Winter Recess:

February 15-February 19

5th Grade Basketball:

March 12th

Book Fair:

March 15-19th

Family Night:

March 25th

VICS BINGO Night:

March 26th

A Special Thank You

We would like to send a special Thank you to Dawn and Tom Perrotta for doing all the printing for the After School Program! Thank You from all of us at Orchard Farms!

A Note from our President

Happy New Year Everyone,

The PTO has some many fun and exciting activities planned for the next few months. We have something for all grades including our annual book fair family night coming up in March. We are trying to accommodate parents with children who would like to attend PTO meetings but haven't been able to. We are offering child care for our February meeting. More information will follow. In the meantime, please visit our website often for updates and for the PTO Meeting minutes.

Remember, you are "P" in PTO and it's the parents of our school that help build success.

We hope to see more of you at the February PTO Meeting.

Thank you.

Lisa Gargaro, PTO President



A Note From the Box Top Committee

We have earned approximately \$1800 from Box Tops for education from September through December 2009. Our next submission is due February 28th, 2010. Clip those Box Tops and send them in! It does make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Box Top Committee
Rhonda Perrotta



Stop and Shop A+ Program

Support your school and sign up for the Stop and Shop A+ Program. It's easy! Just visit www.stopandshop.com and enter your card number. Any family member can join. There is still time to earn dollars for our school!

A Message from the Social Committee

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Family Event so successful. Adults and children enjoyed seeing A Christmas Carol at the newly renovated Park Theatre.

Rhonda Perrotta, Social Chair-
fluffygraykitty@yahoo.com

Cranston School Budget Information Packet

Information concerning the proposed School Committee Budget can be found on our school website @

www.orchardfarms.org. Get involved! The next budget work sessions and adaptation are scheduled for 2/1, 2/11 and 2/22.

Volunteers in Cranston

Support your school and attend the VICS BINGO Night on March 26th!

All school volunteers, please remember to sign the VIC's book located in the office! Thank you!
Christine Kuzman, VIC's Coordinator



Mother/Son Cosmic Bowling Night

The Mother/Son Cosmic Bowling night is scheduled for Sat. Feb. 6th. Flyers have been sent home and we hope to see all our young men there!



5th Grade Basketball Game

Stone Hill School has invited us to join in on a basketball game on March 12th. We are looking for parent volunteers to coach boys and girls. A few practices will be held on Wednesdays from 3-4 pm. For more information, go to our website. Volunteers can contact Lisa Gargaro @ lisa.of.pto@cox.net.



Father/Daughter Dance

The dance will be held on Friday, May 21st at 6:30pm. This year we will not be having a raffle, so that there will be more time for dancing. We want this to be a memorable night, so please feel free to e-mail any special song requests to Stacy Calvino @ scalvino@cox.net, and we will pass the list on to the DJ.

Relay for Life

Anyone interested in organizing a team for Orchard farms can go to www.relayforlife.org for more information. The overnight relay is scheduled for June 4th and 5th.

Thanks from CCAP

A big thank you goes out to all those who donated coats for the coat drive. Donations were greatly appreciated!