

SCA DEC 2009

MUNSEY PARK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION • MANHASSETSCA.ORG

The SCA Is Off & Running

The Munsey Park SCA, with more than 20 committees, has blossomed this year. The parents of our 964 students have spent the past four months volunteering for our school with the constant support of the teachers, staff and administration.

We have already witnessed many of the positive effects of our efforts and visions. Our newly formed **Technology Committee** has assigned photographers to capture school events. The images will be stored on CDs for use by students, teachers, and parents. Our **Enrichment Committee** enabled fourth-graders to experience authentic Eastern Woodland Native American traditions, fifth-graders have met some birds of prey, and students have brainstormed with author Brian Heinz. Our new students had a special welcome with an **Ice Cream Social**. The entire school was photographed during **Photo Days**. Students learned how to stay healthy and say "No" to drugs during **Red Ribbon Week**, and all families received a **Student Directory**. Parent volunteers working on **Character Matters** have taught lessons about self-esteem and anti-bullying. Thanks to donations from our Munsey Park families, the **Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee** has purchased necessary items to fill duffle bags that were placed in each classroom to be used in case of emergencies.

Extended Extras, a pilot after-school program, begins in January with classes in world languages for the upper grades. Teachers from the high school will instruct our fifth- and sixth-graders during a 10-week course in Spanish, Italian, or French. More than 140 students will participate in this new program, which will hopefully be a vehicle for many other after-school activities in the future.

We have already accomplished so much and it's only December! Enjoy the remaining days of 2009 and have a great holiday season. We look forward to working with you on all of the great programs in 2010.

Christy Weppeler
PRESIDENT

Beth Miller
VICE PRESIDENT



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Halloween fun with Deal or No Deal models captured and stored on CDs.



THE SAFETY COMMITTEE
A new walkway was created to ensure the safety of walkers through our busy parking lot.

Dear Munsey Park Parents,

I am happy to use my column this month to feature students right here in our school—doing what they do best with their teachers—learning and enjoying their education. Please take a look.

January

- 4** School resumes
- 13 9:30am** SCA MP parent meeting
- 14 6:45pm** SR Saturday Series final registration
- 16** Saturday Series
- 18** Schools closed
- 20 5-8pm** Kindergarten registration
- 21 9:30am** MP/SR Joint parent meeting
- 26 6-9pm** Kindergarten registration
- 28 4-6pm** Kindergarten registration
- 29** Guess Who's Coming to Read

February

- 15** Winter recess
- 22** School resumes
- 27 2:00pm** Family Theatre—Charlotte's Web

March

- 4 7:30pm** 6th gr. parents MS tour
- 8-12** Munsey Park Book Fair
- 10 9:30am** SCA MP parent meeting
- 17** Jump for A Cure
- 24** International Day
- 29** Spring recess



From top left: Mr. Katz's fifth-graders work on their research projects in the computer lab. Mrs. Shapiro's first-graders love their reading groups. Our Munsey Park students are always physically fit and enjoy PE class.



Clockwise from above: Mrs. Ioannou's fourth-graders learn about schools in the 1930's as part of Munsey Park's celebration of 70 Years of Excellence. Our Dining-Room Aides get to know the children. Children in Mrs. Murphy's kindergarten class enjoying their reading lesson. Mr. Van Boxel and students prepare for the winter concert.



Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza—Peace, Happiness, and Many Bright Horizons in the New Year!

Best wishes,

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.
PRINCIPAL

Get Ready!!!

The 59th Annual SCA Fair, one of our largest fundraisers, is coming Saturday, May 1, 2010. We need your help to make this one-day event a success. Volunteer to head one of our various committees. **Please contact Linda Gurino (627-4177) at lbuoni999@aol.com for information.**



PUT YOUR TALENTS TO WORK FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

Help make a difference in your schools and community. The 2010 SCA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations, including self-nominations, for three positions serving two-year terms: Executive Treasurer, Middle School President, and Munsey Park President. Please submit names by January 15th to either Mary Kay Connors (627-4872) at kconn363@optonline.net, or Tammy Kelly (627-0608) at T2kelly65@verizon.net.



RED RIBBON WEEK DRUG-FREE IS THE KEY

During the week of October 19th-23rd, Munsey Park School hosted an educational, fun-filled program. They celebrated Red Ribbon Week and learned the importance of making healthy choices for both mind and body. Substance-abuse prevention was covered in an age-appropriate manner for each grade level. Results show that children are less likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs when parents, teachers and other community leaders stress its negative effects.

This year's theme **Drug-Free is the Key** included topics on health, nutrition, and decision-making. Students sampled a variety of healthy foods and completed paper key projects that were displayed in the school. Red ribbons decorated our neighborhoods in support of living drug-free. Assemblies were held for all grades to view a performance entitled "Turtle's Shell."

Character Matters

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHARACTER

We are having another great Character Matters program this year, thanks to the parent volunteers. Through stories and games, our main "character," a bear named Harmony, helps teach our children at Munsey Park about how to treat others and gets them to explore their own feelings. Character-building lessons are grade-specific, but we all—even parents—end up learning.

First-graders look at topics such as "Being a friend to yourself," "Being kind to others," and "Respect."

Second-graders move on to "Feelings," "Conflict Resolution," "The Golden Rule," and "Bullying."

Third-graders delve deeper into "Attitudes," "Bullying," "Friendship," and "Communication Skills."

Fourth-graders get to discuss and understand earlier concepts, such as "Feelings," "Respect," and "Communication."

Fifth- and sixth-graders review and talk about all the topics and then write quotes on sentence strips, which are displayed in the hall outside their classrooms.



Go Green!

Planet Manhasset was voted in as a new executive committee of the SCA. We are dedicated to researching and implementing ways to adopt a greener-living philosophy in our four schools, homes, and community. Our goal is to introduce programs to help reduce, re-use, and recycle with programs such as:

GREEN GEAR Our items are a big hit with the students. Available are stainless-steel bottles, recycled washable cotton snack sacks, "wrap-n-mat" sandwich wrappers, and canvas totes.

RECYCLING The Town of North Hempstead has provided bins for recycling paper and plastics in our classrooms. In addition, the **Computer Geeks** subcommittee is working with principals and SCA chairs to reduce the paper sent home.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING January 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Congregational Church of Manhasset. Trees can also be dropped off the night before after 5:00 p.m. and left in the grass circle in the middle of the Church's parking lot. Bring a strong bag or container to take home free mulch!



Volunteers get ready to send the trees through the mulcher.

UM UM GOOD!!!!

Tasty and healthy cafeteria food? An oxymoron? Not here in Manhasset! We are one of the very few school districts on Long Island that has set superior standards for healthy cafeteria nutrition. This is the reason your child will find only certain brands or choices of snacks and foods.

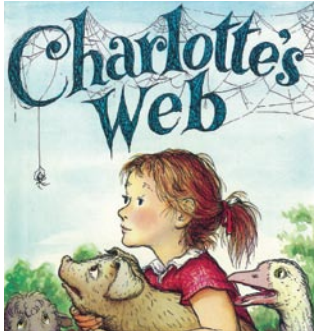
Chicken Nuggets, Quesadillas and Pizza are still our kids' favorites, but all chicken and milk are free of hormones and antibiotics. Baked fries and potatoes are made in convection ovens. Fifty percent of our breads use whole grains. Therefore, less white flour is being consumed. All meals, including the "home-cooked" desserts, are prepared weekly on site by our food-service provider, Whitsons. Fresh fruits and vegetables (not canned) are dished up daily.

Here are some unhealthy ingredients NOT found in our foods:

- Trans fats
- High fructose corn syrup
- Food coloring and MSG

Our health and nutritional guidelines are governed by the State of New York and its policies, but the SCA Health and Wellness Committee also wants to thank our school administrators and board members for supporting superior benchmarks.

We hope you encourage your children to eat and enjoy the delicious food in the cafeteria (or what we now call "our dining room"). We welcome any feedback or comments. **Email Donna Terjesen or Susan Urban, your SCA Health & Wellness Co-Chairs, at SCAnutrition@nourishourkids.com.**



SCA Theatre Presents...

What an amazing turnout for our first show of the season on December 5th! Children—and adults—were thrilled and entertained by Theatreworks USA's performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Our next show, "Charlotte's Web," on February 27th at 2 PM, is also guaranteed to please. Again, the professional actors of Theatreworks USA will spin this classic tale at the Munsey Park School Auditorium. **Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 each or at the door for \$12 each. Please visit the SCA website, or contact either Kathie Panzone (425-1216) at kathiep@theory.com, or Randi Berger (917-744-0289) at randiberger@centramarketing.com for more information.**



WHO WILL READ TO YOUR CHILD THIS YEAR?

Guess Who's Coming to Read? now in its 20th year, is very popular with students, teachers, and parents alike. This year it will be held on Friday, January 29th, 2010, and our committee is working hard to make this one the best ever! We're inviting several prominent members of our community and the surrounding area to come share an hour of their time by reading to our K-3rd grade children. We are always looking for new readers to join us, if you know of a good candidate to participate in this program, contact Kristin Perfetto (627-0265) at kperfetto@yahoo.com.

From top: Ann Graf, owner of Actors Garage, with Mrs. Firestone's kindergarten class. Dr. Mindy Homer, a pediatric dentist, brought "Bongo," to help demonstrate how to care for your teeth. Mrs. Lockman's class was all smiles as they learned to make pizza from Don Benvenuto of Villa Milano.



PRINTED
ON RECYCLED
PAPER

Find all your SCA news and updates
@ www.manhassetzca.org