

SCA 2008 UJAN

MUNSEY PARK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Reminder

The SCA Needs You!

Please see committee chairs on back page and email if you can help!

Dear Parents,



Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a peaceful holiday season with family and friends.

Together with the New Year 2008, come many new and exciting events at Munsey Park School which our parent volunteers and teachers work tirelessly to coordinate, including **Guess Who's Coming to Read** (see photo),

International Night and the **Book Fair**. Parent volunteers are needed and there are many ways we can all contribute our time, effort and skills. As always, your support is critical to achieving success—please contact one of the SCA Committee Chairs listed on the back.

Building on the SCA's successful SmartBoard pilot program for the 5th and 6th grade classrooms, **The Tower Foundation of Manhasset** has adopted a district-wide interactive white board initiative and is devoting its 2007-2008 fundraising efforts towards purchasing and installing these state-of-the-art learning aids in classrooms throughout our district with the goal of creating a 21st century learning environment to give our students the knowledge and tools they need to compete and succeed. Tower is a non-profit organization designed to enrich the children's educational experience in Manhasset Schools. We're pleased that many of our parents participated in the SmartBoard presentations this past week and hope that you make every effort to attend Tower's annual fundraising dinner dance on Saturday, March 15th at the Plandome Country Club with the theme, "A Night in Havana." We hope to see you at what we know will be a fun event!

Finally, with February comes the district's first budget work session, which is convening at Munsey Park School on Saturday, February 9th from 9am to 3pm. We encourage parents to take an active role in the budget process—please stop by at your convenience to preview the 2008-2009 proposed school budget.

With our warmest regards, we wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2008!

Best Wishes,

Ellen Duran

SCA PRESIDENT

Debbie Papadopoulos

SCA VICE PRESIDENT



Dear Munsey Park Parents,



I am so pleased to wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy 2008! Our students came back to school in January excited to see their friends and teachers and ready to learn.

Our first month back was full of activities, including English & Language Arts (ELA) testing, Kindergarten Registration, the Martin Luther King Gospel Brunch, and SCA "Guess Who's Coming to Read?" We also know plans are well underway for the CASA Wellness Week in February and International Night in early March.

The Shared Decision Making Team has been discussing the importance of sixth graders developing effective study skills as they transition to Middle School. Although we know their teachers emphasize study skills in their classrooms and throughout the curriculum, we are planning an additional study skills class after school on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30. The SCA is coordinating this with us and reports that many families wish to take advantage of this extra support. Further the Shared Decision Making Team is proposing some enhancements to the Open House Schedule for use in 2008-09.

Many other parent/teacher/student teams and activities are also in place: our **Nutrition team** has been meeting to review the food service program at Munsey Park and to make substantive suggestions. Members include professional nutritionists as well as Student Council representatives. Our **Safety team** continues to meet regularly and address on ongoing issues and concerns, as does our **Allergy team**.

Student Council is busy planning their participation in the annual Trivia Challenge, which benefits United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County. This year, the challenge will include students in grades 3-4 as well as grades 5-6. Representatives and officers in Student Council also engage in Leadership Training activities during their weekly meetings.

I'm also proud to commend the more than 60 Munsey Park students who have been recognized by outside organizations for writing, music, and the arts, including some of the following: All County Art Exhibit, A Celebration of Young Poets, Long Island String Festival, and others. Congratulations to all of you!

We are very proud of our students and happy to be a part of their lives here at Munsey Park. Again, best wishes for a happy, healthy 2008!

Warmest regards,

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.
PRINCIPAL



NEW MUNSEY PHYSICAL EDUCATION WEBSITE

The Munsey Park Physical Education Department recently launched a website which may be accessed through Munsey Park's home page on the District's website (www.manhasset.k12.ny.us) under "Teacher Homepage Links." The site is listed as "Munsey Park Physical Education" and provides information on our staff, philosophy, policies, activities as well as pictures. Parents are encouraged to visit the site.

SCA Nominating Committee

The SCA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2008-2010 term.

Open positions include Munsey Park President, Middle School President and Executive Treasurer, each are

2 year terms.

Nominations should be submitted to:

Eileen Cuneo
emcuneo@aol.com
627-5639 or
Diane Gershkowitz
dtdierks@optonline.net.



Allergy Awareness

In an effort to continue to keep our school environment allergy-aware for all children, we ask parents to make sure that your children wash their hands before entering school if you serve peanut or tree nut products in the morning. This added precaution will serve to further protect our students with food sensitivities.

Please note the following correction from our last newsletter: all classrooms in Munsey Park are NOT peanut-free, though many are to accommodate our students' health needs.



INTERNET SAFETY ALERT

WHAT IS IT? Facebook, MySpace, WeeWorld...have you heard about these online sites?

Do you know what they're all about? Do you know if your child has an account? Social networking and blog safety should be our top concern. We have all heard about the troublesome things that have happened on sites like Facebook and MySpace, so parents must remain especially vigilant.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The best suggestion is to **keep the computer in an open area in the home** where parents can see what's going on. Computers in a child's bedroom are not recommended. Parents can also **consider filtering software** to prevent younger children from getting on inappropriate sites by mistake. **Talk to your kids about safety** on the Internet.

RESOURCES

- safekids.com
- resources.kaboose.com/safe-surf/parents-intro.html
- kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html

A complete column on Internet safety from Deborah Cernuto will be available on Munsey Park's website in February. manhasset.k12.ny.us/munsey



We Need You!

Plans are well underway for this year's SCA Fair to be held Saturday, May 3rd but **volunteers are still needed to fill several key positions** including Grand Raffle, Sports Raffle, and Ticket Sales (1 position). Anyone interested in these or other positions, please contact Lisa Chieco (lachieco@optonline.net) or Linda Gurino (lbuoni999@aol.com). We are evaluating whether to continue the Attic Treasures tradition—volunteers are still needed to chair this committee. Please contact Sandy Demitroff (sdemitroff@hnw.com) if you are interested.

International Night

Munsey Park's Second Annual International Night is set for Friday, March 7th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Munsey Park parents will proudly represent their heritage with food, culture, traditional dress and entertainment, along with historical information about each country. The next planning meetings are on Tuesday, February 5th at 9:15 AM and 7:30 PM in the Munsey Park Cafeteria. If you would like to be a part of this Munsey Park tradition, please join us at the meeting or contact one of the event chairs:

Lisa Sciarrino

lsciarrri@optonline.net
627-4303

Barbara Thermos

kbmga5@aol.com
365-3226



Claudia Marra Garbus

declaudem@msn.com
869-6121



February

March

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>1 9:30am SCA Executive Board Meeting at High School (open to the public)</p> | <p>5 9:15am & 7:30pm International Night meetings in cafeteria</p> | <p>9  9am-3pm Budget work session at Munsey Park</p> | <p>11-15 Casa Wellness Week</p> | <p>3-7 Book Fair </p> | <p>7 6:30pm Munsey Park International Night</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|

**NURSES' CORNER:
THE
COMMON
COLD**



Everyone knows the symptoms of the common cold:

runny nose, nasal congestion, post nasal drip and sometimes cough, body aches, headaches and fever. Viruses are the main cause of colds. Some illnesses, like strep throat, resemble viral infections but are caused by bacteria and can be treated. If your child has sore throat, severe coughing or persistent fever, check with your doctor. If your child has a cold, please keep the child home and ensure he or she gets plenty of rest and drinks lots of fluids.



**Camille Miritello, RN and
Vicki Fontanetta, RN**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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GUESS WHO'S COMING TO READ?

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LUNCH

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Grades: 3 & 5

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Grades: K & 4

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

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NEWSLETTER

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SIXTH GRADE YEARBOOK

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WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Maria Cizmarik
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Planet Manhasset

**Green Gear Launch
a Huge Success!**

Thank you parents for supporting Green Gear—the environmentally friendly snack bags. Also, the stainless steel bottles which teach our kids how everyone can play a part in saving the environment. Just as a reminder, the snack sack is untreated cotton so some shrinkage will occur when washed. We recommend machine washing and air drying. And the stainless steel bottles, which are dishwasher safe, are for cold beverages only!

**Please, Stop
Unnecessary Vehicle Idling!**

Improve air quality & respiratory health around our school... and save money, too! None of us want our children breathing exhaust fumes, yet a great deal of idling takes place at our schools. Children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults, so their growing bodies are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of vehicle exhaust, which contain toxins, fine particles and other pollutants associated with higher incidence of respiratory ailments, heart disease and

greater cancer risk.

A single car at pick up or drop off puts 3 pounds of pollution into the air per month,* so stopping unnecessary idling is an easy way to contribute to improve air quality and respiratory health in our kids.

*source: www.pscleanair.org



Please email questions or comments to planetmanhasset@yahoo.com



fyi

Manhasset school buses are not permitted to idle



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