

SCA OCT 2007

MUNSEY PARK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Reminder

Daylight Savings
Time ends on
November 4th
at 2 a.m.

Dear Parents,



Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful summer! It's hard to believe we have resumed our "back-to-school" routines.

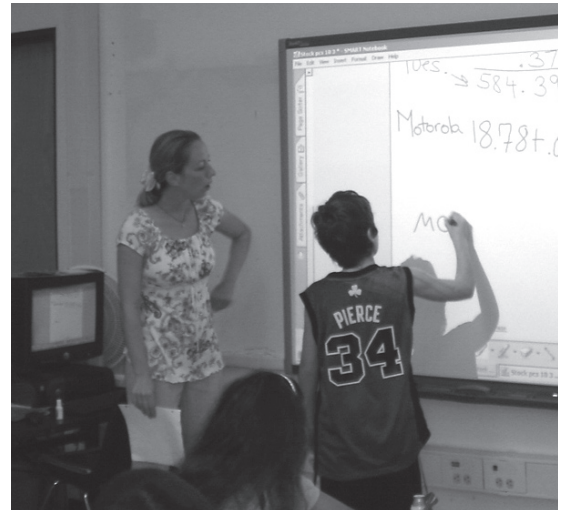
The 2007-2008 school year already is proving to be special with several exciting SCA initiatives underway. Without a doubt, the most significant is the installation of interactive, electronic display panels called **SmartBoards**

in the 5th and 6th grade classrooms, which the SCA was instrumental in helping purchase. An innovative technology, **SmartBoards** are advanced multimedia educational tools that provide students with stimulating, enhanced learning experiences. Our goal now is to bring **SmartBoard** technology into every classroom.

We also have significantly enhanced the SCA website (www.manhassetca.org), which provides a comprehensive source of information for parents about all the schools in the Manhasset School District. While reminders are sent home through the *Backpack Express*, the speed, efficiency and security of internet technology enables the SCA to provide families with current information and resources while minimizing paper use. Please visit the site frequently and sign up to receive up-to-the-minute information. We also encourage you to email us.

Our school, together with the SCA, continues to organize social events to foster relationships among the children. Our annual Ice Cream Social, held the day before school began for all new incoming students in grades 1 to 6, was a great success. Everyone enjoyed refreshing sweets and new students forged friendships and familiarized themselves with our school. We also concluded two very successful Open House events during which parents met the teachers, visited classrooms and learned about the children's academic curricula.

Through our mutual commitment and collaboration, we can positively impact our children's education and the environment at Munsey Park. We look forward to working with you and meeting you during our upcoming meetings and events (please check the "Calendar of Upcoming Events" in this newsletter for some important dates). As always, we welcome any suggestions or comments throughout the year. We are here to represent you. We wish everyone a wonderful school year!



A 5th grade teacher
using a SmartBoard in
her classroom

Ellen Duran

SCA PRESIDENT

Debbie Papadopoulos

SCA VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Munsey Park Parents,



It is always exciting to welcome our new and returning families to a new school year at Munsey Park and this year is no exception. Welcome back for another great year!

Our annual “Ice Cream Social” for new children and their buddies was a great success, allowing them to meet before school began. New parents also enjoyed an informational evening on September 10, when sixth graders, reading and math teachers, our school psychologist, our assistant principal, Mr. Leone and I, provided an overview of the Munsey Park experience. Open House was also a success as parents and teachers began an important partnership.

We welcome the many new teachers and coordinators who joined our Munsey Park family. And as always, we are pleased to continue working with Ellen Duran, SCA President, her Vice President, Debbie Papadopoulos, as well as grade level and event chairs. We are always grateful for the wonderful things the SCA does for us—most recently and especially our new technology, **SmartBoards** in all 5th and 6th grade classrooms.

Our Shared Decision Making Team is off to another great start, having completed training on Friday, September 28. As always, your input is welcome. We will be sending a survey to your family soon.

Numerous capital projects were completed this summer. Walls were taken down and moved; new walls were constructed—all for the purpose of creating classrooms where no rooms existed. The result was accommodations for our additional enrollment as well as smaller rooms for some instructional spaces.

Projects such as fascia replacement on the older part of our building were completed with great success. If you take a look at the stucco on the older part of the building, you may think it is a newer structure than the year 1939 when it was built. Roof work was also effective in reducing the leaks that we had experienced last year.

Goals for Munsey Park this year include continuation of our team concepts, including, Safety Team, Transition Team, and some new teams made up of staff members discussing reading/writing, ways to help struggling students, technology use in classrooms and nutrition and school lunch, among other topics.

We continue to work to eliminate bullying as we show “zero tolerance” for such behavior. At the same time, we continue to recognize students for “doing things right” with our coupon and class stickers and prize system. We are very proud of our Munsey Park students.

On behalf of the Munsey Park faculty, staff, Mr. Leone and myself, we are all here to make an important, positive difference in the lives of our children. Safety and the best possible learning experiences are our highest priority.

Best wishes for a successful and fulfilling school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call your child’s teacher for class concerns, or me.

Warmest regards,

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.

PRINCIPAL



WORKING TOGETHER

The Grade Level Chairpersons are working hard with the Room Representatives from each class to ensure our children’s experience at Munsey is unforgettable. This year’s grade level Chairpersons are:

Kindergarten
Tammy Kelly

First Grade
Beth Miller

Second Grade
Suzanne Mills

Third Grade
Trisha Nowicki

Fourth Grade
Eileen Cuneo

Fifth Grade
Lisa Middleton

Sixth Grade
Joann Marcucci

Contained Classrooms
Barbara Kiggins

We encourage you to communicate any positive experiences or concerns with your Room Representatives, who will then liaise with Grade Level Chairs.

October

22-26
Red Ribbon
Week



24 9:30am
Joint Parent
Council
Meeting at
Munsey Park

31
5th & 6th
grade
Halloween
Party



November

7 9:30am
& 7:30pm
International
Night meetings,
Munsey Park
cafeteria.

14
SCA Fall
Luncheon



17 **FREE**
Saturday Series
presentation
of Mary Poppins,
Shelter Rock
auditorium.



In addition to the 2007 Dismissal Procedures you received, please take note of these key safety concerns affecting all Munsey Park students:

Picking up but not getting out of your car?

Wait until 3:30 and reduce your wait time while minimizing the traffic overflow on Abbey Road.

Picking up from the auditorium? Park off school premises at the Congregational Church parking lot and be on time at 3:15. Remember, please leave quickly so that the cars may enter.

South Strathmore residents. Please remind your walker children to exit the school doors by the 3rd grade hallway (near rooms 112 & 113) towards Northern Boulevard so the children are not walking through the bus parking lot.

Backpack Safety Tip:

Cut or knot backpack straps—children’s straps have been caught in car and bus doors. Prevent the accident before it happens!

Please contact Mary Bellucci, Safety Committee Chair (mkbellucci@yahoo.com) with any questions or concerns.

Introducing:
Planet Manhasset



Be on the lookout for this new, eco-committee,

which is researching and implementing ways to make our families, schools and community healthier and greener. You will soon be able to purchase reusable water bottles and snack bags for the kids to take to school and sports. Also in the works are plans for in-school recycling for paper and plastic, reducing paper communications, changing to recycled paper for the district, and quick and simple tips for greener and healthier living. For more information on this committee, please contact **Lisa Ferraro** (ferraros@optonline.net) or **Daniela Picone** (dmpicone@aol.com).

The Americana Manhasset Champions for Charity® Holiday Shopping Benefit

Enroll beginning October 1st @ championsforcharity.org or (800) 818-6767

Shop from November 29th to December 1st, 2007

Help support the Manhasset SCA by doing your holiday shopping at participating Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza stores during these three days, when 25% of your designated pre-tax purchases will be donated back to the SCA!

To register for your complimentary CHAMPION CARD or for more information, log onto championsforcharity.org or call (800) 818-6767 or visit the Ameri-

cana Manhasset Concierge Store.

When it’s time to make a purchase, simply present your CHAMPION CARD with any form of payment. Your CHAMPION CARD is required to allocate your donation and MUST be presented at the time of each purchase.

For further information about the Manhasset SCA’s involvement in Champions for Charity®, contact Christine Koskovolis 869-9196 or lckosko@aol.com.



** All 2007 Champions for Charity® shoppers will be eligible to win a \$1,000 Americana Manhasset Gift Card!**

Your Old Cell Phone Can Save a Life!

Call to Protect is a nationally-recognized program that collects old cell phones to distribute to women who are victims of domestic violence. Functional phones and chargers are refurbished then distributed in various communities. **Please bring functional phones and chargers that you are no longer using to the donation box at the Nancy Morris State Farm Insurance Office, 22 Bayview Avenue, from now through November 30th.** Please contact Victoria Belinsky at 365-4236 for more information. Your donation can save a life!



THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE IS IN FULL SWING AND THEY NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

All parents of Munsey Park 6th Graders are asked to submit photos taken at school in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Also, please remember to send in a baby photo of your child (preferably around one year of age) to the SCA mailbox. Any questions can be directed to **Debbie Arenare** (debra_arenare@hotmail.com) or **Laura Tranchina** (tranchinas@msn.com).

SCA Membership Update

Please become a member today by sending your \$25 check, made payable to Manhasset SCA.

SCA Membership
P.O. Box 33
Manhasset, NY 11030

Thank you greatly for your support!



Lunch Anyone?

Thanks to everyone who attended the lunch/recess sign up meeting in early October. Anyone interested in lunch duty through the end of January should contact the following coordinators:

Grades: 1, 2 & 6

Mary Bellucci, 627-7044
(mkbellucci@yahoo.com)

Grades: 3 & 5

Margie Suga, 365-3246
(margie1228@msn.com)

Grades: K & 4

Liz Tomaselli, 365-7407
(salandliz@verizon.net)

Allergy Table Coordinator

Estelle Kim, 627-0842
(estellechoe@optonline.net)

STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER



The Munsey Park Student Council meets Wednesday

mornings, with class representatives and alternates from each 3rd through 6th grade classroom present.

Elected as Student Council Officers are: **Riley Garcia**, President; **Thomas Duran**, Vice President; **Lily Gagliano**, Secretary; and **Isabella Abbracciamento**, Treasurer.

Leadership is a key component of the Student Council. Students discussed the qualities that are important for them to develop and exhibit over the coming year.

Dr. Kendall will conduct a Leadership Training Program with the Council, and work with them to coordinate projects of interest to the students.

The first project is the "Wednesday Ponder," where everyone in the school tries to guess the puzzle or riddle shared during the morning announcements. Other projects already in place include the Trivia Challenge, candy and food drives, with additional projects being discussed at upcoming meetings. As always, students and parents will be notified.



Based on a recommendation from the Shared Decision Making Team, Mrs. Pietrafesa, our school social worker, led a visit to Jericho School District to

observe the BRAVE project. The group decided to implement and coordinate Project BRAVE, which will focus on grades 4 and 5, and coordinate it with "Character Matters," which will also continue. All faculty and staff participated in a training on September 24. Mrs. Pietrafesa will be leading many sessions focused on getting along with others, developing skills in dealing with other people and making decisions.



Children's Theatre Coming Soon

Children's Theatre will be featuring two productions this year—**Season's Greetings** on December 1st at 2pm at Munsey Park Auditorium; and **Cinderella** on February 2, 2008. Season tickets will be available for purchase by mail and include both productions. **Details will be sent home in the Backpack Express soon!**



Allergy Update

Please keep in mind and read labels carefully before sending snacks and treats in with your children. Peanut products continue to be allowed in the lunchroom. Please contact our school nurse at 267-7410 if you have any questions.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Character Matters is a wonderful program where parents go into the classroom and teach a scripted lesson on promoting positive character traits. Topics covered include self-esteem, respect, friendship and communication

skills. We are in need of volunteers for grades 1 through 4. Please contact Mollye Fahey (mmfahey@aol.com) or Lisa Middleton (lisaruss@optonline.net).

Too Much Halloween Candy?

The Munsey Park Community Service Committee will once again conduct "Project Sweet Tooth," the collection of excess Halloween candy to benefit the Interfaith Nutrition Network's soup kitchen and St. Mary's food pantry. **Candy donation bins will be located by the auditorium, in the cafeteria and by the front office beginning November 1st through November 9th.** For additional information please contact Christina Whitaker (cjwhit@optonline.net) and Lisa Sciarrino (lsciarr@optonline.net).



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