

SCAWINTER 2009

MUNSEY PARK SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION • MANHASSETSCA.ORG

Happy New Year! As January 2009 comes to a close, we reflect on the amazing events that have been happening in our school since October. The SCA's enrichment program sponsored author visits and content area programs. Vocal and instrumental music teachers conducted the 4th through 6th graders in 3 uplifting concerts. Our students watched the Inauguration of President Obama on their SMARTboards™ and learned about the election process. With the help of the Nutrition and Wellness committee, the Allergy Team, Student Council, teachers, nurses, and administration, we made great strides in eating and living a healthy lifestyle.

As we look ahead to the next few months, we are excited to continue the enthusiasm shared by all at Munsey Park School. Have a fun-filled winter!

Christy Weppeler
PRESIDENT

Beth Miller
VICE PRESIDENT



KINDNESS COUNTS Our school has increased efforts to be conscious of our kindness and respect towards others. At Munsey Park, "Kindness Counts!"



SMARTboards™ Ms. Greenberg's 2nd grade class uses the SMARTboard™ for their class project. SMARTboards™ were generously supplied by the Tower Foundation and the District.



ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE The Sixth Graders participated in "Mythically Speaking," sponsored by the Enrichment Committee. Using giant sheets of foam, they made masks of ancient Greek characters and used them to perform short skits of ancient myths.



NUTRITION AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE Individual classes can now plan a menu which Whitsons serves once a week throughout the year. Whitsons invited guest chefs and brought back "Pizza Fridays."



SCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2009 SCA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2009-2011 term. The 4 positions open for nomination are: Executive President, High School President, Shelter Rock President and Executive Secretary. Each of the positions serves a 2-year term. The Nominating Committee encourages the community to submit the names of individuals who can make a difference in our schools and in the community. **Please submit nominations to Lori Downey (627-8518) at downeylc@aol.com or Nina Kiess (365-2401) at NKiess@aol.com.**



Get Ready for a Reading Safari

Munsey Park's Annual Book Fair will kick-off on Monday, March 30th and go through Friday, April 3rd. Opening night highlights include an appearance by special guest author, Johanna Hurwitz, who will be on hand to autograph purchased copies of her books!

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Mia Hitchcock (miahitch@mac.com). For questions, please e-mail co-chairs Karmen Dadourian (gdadour@aol.com) or Pam Kenlon (johnkenlon@optonline.net).

DEAR MUNSEY PARK PARENTS,

During their recent visit to Manhasset, I had the pleasure of meeting Munsey Park graduates who attended our school about 50 years ago. They reminisced about their classes, teachers and principal Jessie Mitchell who served for many years. "Even the red and black tile in our school corridors is the same," one of them remarked. Yes, I reflected, the tile is the same.

Some things change; some things do not. The commitment of our teachers and staff to provide the best for the children is the same, as is communication between home and school and the importance of parent support. But, 50 years ago, the families of those former students probably purchased a set of Encyclopedia Britannica and maybe even the yearly supplements to ensure that their children had resources to learn in school.

Today, online information is at our fingertips on our laptop, Blackberry or iPhone. Information and information literacy are important and essential skills. Mrs. Kathleen Olwy, our library media specialist, created a brochure, *Online Database Information*, which was distributed to all students. The brochure details the online databases to which our school subscribes and information on how to access them, including usernames and passwords to obtain remote access. These databases provide students with information resources on our curriculum and topics for students' personal enjoyment. The databases are accessible from all school computers and any computer with Internet access. You also may visit <http://www.manhasset.k12.ny.us> and select "Munsey Park," "Library Media Center," "Online Database Links-Research or Online Database Links-Literature" to visit these sites. If you misplaced your brochure, please call the office.

We hope you, as parents in the 21st century, take advantage of the links to information and technology that are available. And, we remind you to set up your family computer where an adult can supervise children as they use them.

Happy searching; happy learning!!

Warmest regards,

Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.

PRINCIPAL

TOWER CONTINUES TO KEEP US TECHNOLOGY SAVVY

The Tower Foundation's 2008 initiative allowed Tower to purchase and install 52 SMARTboards™ throughout Manhasset's schools. SMARTboards™ enable our teachers and children to use interactive, hands-on, state of the art educational tools which enhance teaching. The Tower Foundation is still working towards their goal to put a SMARTboard™

in every classroom throughout the District. Please join Tower on March 14th for "A Night in Atlantic City" at the Plandome Country Club. All proceeds support the SMARTboard™ initiative, benefiting all Manhasset Public Schools. **Look for your invitation in the mail or visit Tower's website at www.towerfoundation.com for more information.**



Mrs. Vasilakos and her students demonstrate how to use the SMARTboard™ at the Board of Education presentation this fall.

March

14 A Night in Atlantic City to benefit the Tower Foundation's Smartboard initiative

18 Jump to Cure Diabetes, Munsey Park School gym

25 International Day



30 Book Fair begins and runs through April 3rd





International Night 2008 was a memorable evening for children and adults. Countries from every corner of the world were represented.

International Day

International Day will be held at Munsey Park on Wednesday, March 25th. For the past 2 years, International Night was a wonderful event that the children could not stop talking about long after the night had passed. This event introduced our children to many cultures, allowing us to celebrate our differences. **This year, International Day will be an in-school event** and children will visit

the country booths with their classes. They will collect stickers and trinkets as they learn about the various countries and can enjoy international delicacies in the cafeteria all week. There will be lunches inspired by various countries for all to enjoy. **We also are sponsoring a T-shirt design contest** to raise funds to underwrite the event. The winning design will be printed on the International

Day T-shirt which will be sold prior to the event so that children may wear it to school on International Day. Please join us in making this a memorable event for our children. The list of countries to be represented will be closed on February 15th. **If you'd like to represent your heritage or help in any way, please contact Lisa Sciarrino (lsciarri@optonline.net) or Catarina Moy (catarinacm@aol.com).**

It's hard to think of spring while in the midst of a white winter, but plans for the 2009 SCA Fair already are underway! We're working on many new, exciting ideas and promise to make this year's Fair one of the best! Last year's Fair was a huge success, in great part because of all of our wonder-

ful volunteers. There are many ways to get involved and you can volunteer as little or as much time as you want. If you want to meet great people, have fun and help our children, please volunteer and contact

Lisa Chieco (lachieco@verizon.net) or Linda Gurino (lbuoni999@aol.com).

SCA FAIR

2009 Jump to Cure Diabetes

Please join the Munsey Park Physical Education staff and Community Service Committee on Wednesday, March 18th, for "Jump to Cure Diabetes." This event raised almost \$20,000 last year for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Please show your support for this very worthy cause. Look for information regarding time, place and fundraising tips. **Please contact Lisa Sciarrino (lsciarri@optonline.net) at 627-4303 or Annette Spina (jjs pina98@yahoo.com) at 365-0081 with any questions. For more info on Type One diabetes visit jdrf.org.**



Jump for a Cure 2008



Green Gear

Planet Manhasset is kicking off another Green Gear sale. Order replacement items or make a first time purchase. The popular stainless steel bottles, which come in 2 sizes (12 oz. or 27 oz.), are great for sporting events, practices and lunch. Our green gear includes wrap-a-mats, organic cotton lunch totes and Planet Manhasset cotton shopping bags. Used regularly, these items will reduce the amount of paper bags and plastic bottles consumed daily. **View our Green Gear items and download an order form at www.manhas-setsca.org.**



No Idling During School Pickup

Did you know that idling your car's engine for longer than 30 seconds actually burns more fuel than turning off and restarting your engine? No one wants their children breathing exhaust. To protect the health of our students, staff and the environment, new signs have been placed in pick-up areas of all schools to remind drivers to turn off their engines while waiting for students. **For more useful tips, visit Planet Manhasset's micro-site on the SCA's website, www.manhas-setsca.org, or email us at PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com. For further info on car/bus idling and cleaner air, visit www.pscleanair.org.**



Yearbook

Our Yearbook Committee is snapping pictures and capturing smiles to memorialize Munsey Park School memories for the 6th grade class. It is rewarding to see the children's excitement and willingness to be photographed at any given moment. Mary Ann Jones designed the cover for our Yearbook and the sweatshirts our 6th graders have been wearing. We are happy to say that, this year, with Ken Hyde's help, every student in the graduating class is proudly wearing a sweatshirt! Yearbook distribution will be in early June. Anyone interested in volunteering to help organize the Yearbook signing party should contact either **Khea Glynn (kglynn@optonline.net)** or **Margie Suga (margie1228@msn.com)**.



Nutrition & Wellness

The SCA Nutrition and Wellness Committee is pleased to announce our exciting health initiatives and the improvements implemented in our cafeteria. Our new food services vendor, Whitsons, is serving healthy, delicious choices. Menu items no longer contain trans fats, high fructose corn syrup, food coloring or MSG. Deep fryers have been replaced with convection ovens; chicken and milk are free of hormones and antibiotics; canned vegetables have been replaced with fresh or frozen; less white flour is being used and 50% of our breads are made from whole grains. Please encourage your children to eat in the cafeteria and try our new foods. At the joint SCA parent council meeting on February 4th, we discussed how to create a healthy and quick breakfast for the whole family, shared kid-friendly recipes and demonstrated how to alleviate stress and get strong with yoga. We welcome your feedback and comments at SCAnutrition@nourishourkids.com.



GUESS WHO CAME TO READ?

The "Guess Who's Coming to Read?" program, now in its 19th year, took place on Friday, January 30th. Prominent members of our community visited our K-3rd grade students, described their professions and read a book with the children. The day proved to be a fun-filled learning experience for all our special guests, teachers and students!

◀ **LL Cool J** delights the third graders in Mrs. Smith's class.

Parent Alert: Product Recalls

Product recalls on everything from baby formula to toys have amplified consumer safety concerns about chemicals and toxins contained in products we use or consume everyday.

Help keep your family safe by checking product recalls and safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov.

Character Matters

Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated

Harmony the Bear is back teaching the following themes:

1st grade: Being a friend to yourself, being kind to others, respect

2nd grade: Feelings, conflict resolution, the golden rule, bullying

3rd grade: Attitudes, bullying, friendship, communication skills

4th grade: Feelings, respect, communication

5th and 6th grade: We are piloting a program in which teachers review the prior years' topics and the students create a meaningful quote to be displayed in the 5th grade hallway for all to see.

The display will remind us of all the important character building lessons that the students have learned throughout the years.

Sincere thanks to all the parent volunteers!



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Find all your SCA news and updates
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