



Nut Swamp Notebook

Principal's Message (November 2008)

Anne R. Facendo

Dear Parents and Guardians of Nut Swamp School

In this season of Thanksgiving I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the families, friends and staff members of our beautiful Nut Swamp School Community.

Serving as your Principal, enjoying the privilege of working with our wonderful staff each day, and having the joy of watching your children grow and prosper season by season, is truly a blessing to me.

Best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



Your PTA Funds At Work



- New glare and heat protective window film for APR
- Renovated teacher's lounge
- 2008/2009 PTA directory
- Payment of state and national dues

Nut Swamp
Elementary School

November 2008

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Technology Night

At our next PTA Meeting

November 18 7:00 p.m.



Come learn about the exciting new technology being used in our district including demonstrations of **SmartBoards** and **ELMOs**.

Please plan to attend.

PTA President's Message

Judy Benedict



Have you been in our All Purpose Room lately? Besides the beautiful blue ceiling and walls, we now have **16 brand new wall-pocket tables!** With those additions, we are well on our way to our goal of eating lunch outside the classrooms. The PTA will also be replacing the old blinds shortly, with tinted glare and heat resistant film, to enhance the clean look and bring in more light.

With our APR renovation project well in hand, we have so many more things we'd like to do for our school and to that end so many thanks go out to all our fundraisers. **Ellen Minze, Michele Glynn and Carol Loh** ran an extraordinarily successful Golf outing. Besides being a wonderful, fun-filled day, they raised over \$14,000 for our school!

Our Fall Fundraiser Note Card sales, coordinated by **Deidre LaTorre** and **Liz Smith** brought in over \$2,000. Those orders should be arriving shortly in time for the upcoming holiday season.

Our Great Race coordinators, **Patrice Nybro** and **Barbara Esposito** reported that our school ended up with 60% participation which will result in thousands of dollars back to our school.

Thanks also to our Box Top Chairs, **Helen Bagliore** and **Kirsty Corcoran**, who are busy coordinating our submissions. Send in your neatly-cut box tops through your child's teacher and watch how quickly our school will benefit.

With all that hard work and parent participation we have done well for our kids. To add to that, the PTA is always looking for ways to make money that won't cost parents anything (or as I like to call it, Free Money) and we've recently found some. Check out our article on **Goodsearch.com** and **Goodshop.com** which allows our PTA to benefit every time you search the web or shop at major online stores like Amazon, Target and Ebay.

I'd also like to thank some of our other hard working committee chairs:

The Valet Committee, with **Diane Taranto** and **Kelly Berry**, for keeping our traffic flowing in the morning with smiles on their faces.

Angela Libecchi, Karen Kane and Henry Kiernan for their efforts in recruiting and coordinating schedules for our Scouting Girls and Boys.

My special thanks to **Margaret Colvin, Dawn Turanski, and Vicky and Billy Massa**, who joined me a couple of weeks ago in renovating the teacher's lounge. We cleaned, painted and decorated their main room, computer room and entirely revamped the bathroom. The teachers have expressed their grateful appreciation for all our efforts.

Halloween is always a special time for the kids, but also a crazy day for the front office. Thanks to **Henry Kiernan** and **Jodi Martin**, our Child

Safety Chairs, the day went off without a hitch. Their efforts are greatly appreciated on our high traffic school days.

Lastly, please join us for **TECHNOLOGY NIGHT** at our next PTA meeting on November 18 at 7 p.m. We will be having a short meeting followed by a demonstration of some of the new technology being introduced into the district including SmartBoards and ELMOs. These tools offer exciting opportunities to energize our children's desire to learn and are rapidly reaching the top of our want list for the school. Please come see what the future holds for our students.

Thank You...

for your generosity with the Nut Swamp's Annual Coat Drive! A total of **224 coats** will be donated to families in need in Monmouth County.

Joyce Vignola and Sue Bonardi



Nurse's Corner: Health Focus

Lucille Orchanian, RN, MSN



This month's health focus is on food allergies.

A food allergy is an interaction between food and the immune system which causes a cascade of allergic symptoms in the respiratory, gastrointestinal tract, cardiovascular system and skin eruptions.

The most dangerous reaction is an **anaphylaxis or general shock**. This is life threatening emergency that requires immediate medical attention. There is no cure for a food allergy, **avoidance is the best prevention**.

- The most common food allergies are milk, eggs, peanuts (classified as legumes), tree nuts (walnut, cashew, almond, Brazil nut, pecan, hazelnut, pine, pistachio, macadamia, and hickory nut), fish, shellfish, soy and wheat.
- The amount of food consumed can be as little as a "milligram" to have a reaction. Some individuals can be allergic to smelling the vapors or skin contact with the allergic food.

Some people may have a slow reaction and which gradually gets worse, while others react within a few minutes.

- 1%-2% of school age children have food allergies.
- Medications for food allergies: Benadryl & Epinephrine (Epi-Pen)

In the school setting, in order to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all, and ensure that stu-

dents with food allergies are provided with opportunities to participate in class parties and activities, please **note the guidelines** concerning food items/parties in school.:

- Contact your child's teacher by note or phone at least 2 days before sending in a treat to school (class or birthday party). Please indicate to the teacher what type of food will be sent. The teacher can then contact the parent of an allergic child so that a decision can be made if that child can enjoy the snack or must have a safe alternative provided by his/her parent.
- Avoid, if possible, sending in foods containing nut/nut products. This will help to eliminate food residue on surfaces and unintentional "sharing" of food by children that a classmate may be sensitive to.
- If your child has a severe food allergy that has not been reported to the health office, please contact me as soon as possible.

Safe snacks are always kept in the health office for children.

Accidents are never planned for; however, prevention through education and adherence to school policies is essential.

Planning for an emergency includes

- an emergency care/treatment plan from the doctor
- an IHCP (Individualized Care Health Plan)

As we approach the holiday season, please review with the class mothers or teacher about food allergies in the classroom. Foods that have ingredients listed are usually safer and less questionable. Keep the health office informed as your child need's or medications change.

*Have a safe and happy holiday.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

Resources

The Food Allergy Network,:

www.foodallergy.org

Food Allergy Initiative:

www.foodallergyinitiative.org

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, Immunology:

www.aaai.org

Reminders

Bottled waters or enhanced waters may contain caffeine or excess amount of sugars. While these may be useful for adults, children may experience unfavorable effects. Choosing a plain bottled water, milk, or juice is best for school age children.

If your child will have a routine well physical during the school year, please print and fill out the Medical Examination Form and return it to the health office. The form can be found on the Nut Swamp website under the Nurse menu.

Remember, prevention is the key to wellness!

PTA Vice President's Message

Joyce Vignola & Sue Bonardi



Our annual gift drive is scheduled for December 8th through December 12th.

Gift tags with a suggested gift will be distributed to the children in school on November 17th. Toys will be collected each morning from 8:45-9:00. Donations will go to families in need in our community and throughout Monmouth County just in time for the holiday season.

Four Ambassador Awards were presented in October.

Victoria S. was nominated for her donation to The Food Bank in Neptune and St. Catharine's Church in Holmdel. *Kathryn R., Erica A. and Tara M.* were all nominated for their donations to Locks of Love. Great work! If you would like to nominate someone for an Ambassador award, nomination applications can be found in the Vice President's folder in the main office.

For a no-cost way to raise money for our PTA, visit



www.GoodSearch.com or www.GoodShop.com.

GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo and **for each web search you make, a penny is donated** to Nut Swamp's PTA.

With over 400 families in the school, watch how quickly it adds up. 100 families making 2 searches a day will raise over \$700 for the school in one year!!

Similarly, the Goodshop.com website links over 600 on-line retailers including Amazon, Toys R Us, Ebay and Target. For each purchase you make through GoodShop.com, up to 3% of the total will be donated to the PTA.

When doing your holiday shopping, please log in through Goodshop and let those vendors donate back to the Nut Swamp PTA.

Simply chose Nut Swamp School PTA in the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" or "Who do you GoodShop for?" box and you are automatically set up to donate! Make it easy and set GoodSearch as your homepage. You can even watch how quickly this money adds up by clicking the "Amount Raised" box. Please join us and use GoodSearch/GoodShop today!

For information please contact

Joyce Vignola

732-796-7126

joycevignola@verizon.net

or **Sue Bonardi**

732-671-0846

susanbonardi@comcast.net

Art Teacher's Message

Mary Henderson



Dear Members of the PTA:

I have written this letter in my head several times searching for the best way to express my gratitude and amazement at the vast collection of Art materials compiled by the Art Committee. I am in **awe** at the size, depth and work that was involved in this endeavor.

When Sue Bonardi mentioned that I was welcome to use the file folders

and prints in the storage area, I imagined, and **naively** expressed to Sue, "Ok-it's kind of like Picture Lady"?! Sue responded, "Oh no, this is much more than Picture Lady"!!- and it truly is-it is an **Art Teacher's Dream!!!!**

The amount of files, the piles of prints and books, the endless ideas and the organization of the material is a wealth of information many art teachers dream of obtaining.

I am grateful and honored to use these materials to enhance the art curriculum and to present to the students of Nut Swamp School.

With sincere gratitude,
Mary Henderson

Nut Swamp PTA Meeting

General Meeting Minutes 10/28/08



PTA Officers Present President: Judy Benedict, Vice President: Joyce Vignola, Treasurer: Michele Walla, Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Colvin, Recording Secretary: Nichole Ruggeri. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Motion was made by Christine Klimek to waive the reading of the minutes and Eileen Killilea seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

President's Report The All Purpose Room has 16 new tables and the lunch schedule is being developed and will be starting after Halloween. Verizon's application for the cell tower has been denied. The Fall Fundraisers did a fantastic job! Thank you to Liz Smith and Deidre LaTorre for the note cards. Michele Glynn, Carol Loh, and Ellen Minze for the Golf Outing. Kim Hoskins and Ranin Dabas for the Book Fair. Patrice Nybro and Barbara Esposito for the Great Race. The Teacher's Room has new flooring and paint and looks great.

Free money is always a great thing! We found GoodSearch, a search engine powered by Yahoo, that gives 1 cent for every search. A person chooses Nut Swamp PTA as their charity and puts it in their tool bar, and every time that a search is done 1 cent is donated to Nut Swamp PTA. Also, GoodShop, a website with links to over 600 merchants including Amazon, Target and Toys R Us will give up to 3% of sales back to Nut Swamp PTA if you shop through this site.

The next PTA meeting is going to be dedicated to Technology. A short meeting will take place and then Craig, the district's technology person, will demonstrate the different technology that is out there. It is important that we see the products and think about maybe directing some of our PTA funds there.

Principal's Report On the Technology night the we will discuss/demonstrate the new lap tops (for 4th and 5th graders), the smart board, a cricket for the Smart Board (hopefully) and Elmo Document cameras.

Donorschoose.org is a web site any teacher from any district in the United States can go on and log in. Teachers write 2 or 3 lines about a special need that their class has and donors all over the US start to choose their projects. Monmouth County Council of Education Foundation will match anyone's donation 100% and so will Ann Taylor Loft. Many of our teachers have already posted their classroom wish lists.

BJ's Wholesale Club has adopted our school. Once a month BJ's does something special and free for our school. For instance, they are going to donate a basket for the Spring Fundraiser and ice-pops and water for Fun Day, There will be a discounted membership offer for Nut Swamp families that will be 15 months instead of 12 and \$35 instead of \$45. \$5 will come back to the PTA for each membership.

Vice President's Report The Coat Drive is going on 10/27 -10/30/08. Coats may be brought to school in the morning and the second graders are helping with sorting. The coats will go to Family & Children Services in Long Branch. Dates for the Gift Drive are Dec. 8th-12th, notices will go out with information. Ambassador program is on its way. The Ambassador Bulletin Board is outside the office and the first 4 nominees are up.

Treasurer Copies of budget are on the back table. Local Business donation is \$702.48, \$600 of that is from the 1% we get back from the Target Credit Card if you have Nut Swamp as your charity to give to.

Corresponding Secretary Nothing to report.

PIC Report The state has mandated that all Title 1 schools by 2009 have full day Pre-K. There are 6 Title 1 schools but Middletown will make full day Pre- K for all. A full day Pre-K mandate will then lead to a mandate for a full day Kindergarten for September 2010.

COMMITTEES

Book Fair October 24th and was a good day.

Fall Fundraiser There were 203 orders, distribution is being decided upon, and we made \$2100.

Fifth Grade Event June 12th is the date and the theme is being voted on. *(continued on page 6)*

Nut Swamp PTA Meeting

General Meeting Minutes 10/28/08 (continued)



(continued from page 5)

There are two recycling fundraisers: 12/6 is the Clothing Drive. 11/14 will start the first Friday of the month collection of used cell phones, ink jet cartridges, laptops, digital cameras, etc.

Golf Outing The rescheduled outing was great with 95 golfers. The event made around \$15,000. Hope to continue with it again next year. Try to remember the great businesses that support our school.

Great Race We had 60% participation. Last year we received \$12.50 of the \$15 fee back to the school, which makes it a really easy fundraiser. Mrs. Silva's class had 100% class participation and will receive a Pizza Party in November.

Library Volunteers Library has started. There are some classes that are light on volunteers and could use more, this will be posted in the Newsletter. Thank you to Nina Smith for the last bookcases being finished for the Library.

PTA Directory Thank you to Karin Green for the PTA Directory.

Memory Keepers Keep taking pictures and submit them to your class

parent for the Memory Keeper folder. Send in first day of school and Halloween pictures.

Peacemakers The 5th grade Community Service Group will be starting at the beginning of November.

Room Parents There will be no phone calls about school closings in the morning, you can find out on the District Web Site. Room Parents will be taking over the Emergency/ Early Dismissal. All parents will be notified in person if school is closing early, not by leaving a message. If you can not be reached then the Emergency Contact list will be used.

Spring Fundraiser March 20th from 7-11:30 at the Lakeside Manor. It will be a NYC Comedy Night with a performance by Eric McMahon and another person. There will be a cocktail hour, sit down dinner, and silent auction.

NEW BUSINESS

Library's final touches are being done. A professional is needed to do the template for the countertop to finish the Library Renovation. We also need to order another table for the library. The estimated cost for the two things is \$1,100. Judy Benedict made motion to approve the pur-

chase of a custom made counter top for the book shelves and an additional table for the room. Lisa Calagino seconded. Motion approved.

All Purpose Room's blind situation needs to be replaced to go along with the new renovations. Margaret Colvin found a glare and heat resistant tinted film, it will keep the glare and heat out but let light in and be low maintenance. Judy Benedict made a motion to purchase the window film for the All Purpose Room for \$300. Eileen Killilea and Vicki Massa seconded the motion. Motion approved.

VFW Teacher Award promoting teaching history in the classroom. Anyone can nominate a teacher, past or present, by writing a short essay less than 350 words of why they have done a good job. Please see Judy for the application.

There is a Bowling League for PTA moms and dads. It is on Fridays at Memory Lanes if anyone would like to join.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

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Quote Corner...

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

-William Arthur Ward
American Author 1921-1994

“Two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take; the larger kind we feel for what we give.”

-Edwin Arlington Robinson
American Poet 1869-1935

There will be no newsletter published in December.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

The **deadline** for next month's newsletter is **Monday January 5, 2009.**

Our Web Address:

<http://www.middletownk12.org/nutswamp>