

STEVENS STAR



PTA Newsletter



November 2009

Francis L. Stevens Elementary School, Lake Hill Road, Ballston Lake, NY

Northeastern District PTA

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Calendar of Events



Friday, November 6th

Stevens PTA Fall Family Dinner

Saturday, November 7th

Middle School PTA Craft Fair
10:00-4:00

Monday, November 9th

½ day grades 1 - 12
Noon dismissal for grades 1-5

Tuesday, November 10th

Emergency Early Release Drill:
All schools dismiss 15 minutes early.
Board of Education at the
High School, 7:30pm

Wednesday, November 11th

Veterans Day – No School

Thursday, November 12th

Meeting for Parents of 2 & 3 year olds
7:00pm, Pashley cafeteria

Friday, November 13th

Picture re-take day

Tuesday, November 17th

Half Day for Grades 1-5

Thursday, November 19th

Half Day for Grades 1-5

Friday and Saturday, November 20th & 21st

BH-BL Theatre for Children by Children
Middle School, 7:00pm

Tuesday, November 24th

Board of Education at Charlton
Heights, 7:30pm.

Thursday November 26th & 27th

Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, December 1st

Half Day for Grades 1-12

Wednesday, December 2nd

Stevens PTA Book Fair BOGO

Reflections of a PTA President



Reflections seem to be on many of our minds lately. The reflections contest deadline is quickly approaching.

I'm reflecting on a different topic, though – PTA participation. We have had a very good year for PTA Membership. We have had a very difficult year for volunteerism. There are some who have been, and continue to be extremely active as chairs of various committees or working to support the many PTA sponsored events and programs. Some of these same people are regulars at our monthly PTA meetings. My question is, "Where is everyone else?" I understand that we have busy lives with work, after school activities, etc, but I estimate that approximately 10% of members volunteer, and less than one half of one percent attend a PTA meeting. Why? What is preventing you from participating? Is it purely schedule, or something else? Are you hesitant to jump in because you don't know how to contribute? Have you had a bad experience in the past? Do you think it is going to take too much time and effort? Have you heard those nasty rumors about PTA cliques? I REALLY WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS! We can't continue to provide the number and quality of programs for our Superstars if we don't have the help.

Please take a few minutes to e-mail me at

amy.aldrich.mo2v@statefarmcom

or call me at 598-2144 to discuss. Your input and

questions will be confidential, and I truly value to chance to hear from you.

Another worthy opportunity to express your opinion is the District Strategic Framework Committee's 21st Century Survey that can be found at bhbl.org. Survey responses should be completed by November 13th, and will be compiled in a report to the Board of Education. We can't be an advocate for our children's education if we don't let our voices be heard!

Finally, for those of you who are PTA members, you have an opportunity to receive the New York State PTA Advocate in Action Award. You should have received the flyer in your most recent PTA mailing. This is a fantastic way to be recognized for and celebrate your accomplishments and involvement in PTA. Please send your completed forms to me in backpack mail or drop them at the office so they can be put into the PTA mailbox. If you need a blank form, please send me an e-mail.

Hope to see you all VERY SOON!
Thanks for reflecting with me on how we can make the Steven's PTA even better.

Amy



2009-2010 Stevens PTA Officers

President

Amy Aldrich 598-2144
amy.aldrich.mo2v@statefarm.com

President-elect

Sonja Olson 399-9510
sonjaolson@nycap.rr.com

VP - Fundraising

Kim North 309-3551
knorth@nycap.rr.com

VP-Homeroom Representative

Amy Agan, 399-9069
Sagan2@nycap.rr.com

VP - Programs

Candy Burchett 339-6180
cisforcandy@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jessica Rzeszotarski,
399-9251
jrszsz@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer

Bob Rafferty, 399-3859
rafferty@colden.com

PTACouncil Representative

Cathy Todd 399-4438
Ctodd00@msn.com

PTATeacher Representatives

Sue Cifaratta and
Betty Hanson

Articles for the Newsletter

Emailed or written submissions must be received by the 1st of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Submissions by email should be sent to mgrabb@nycap.rr.com

Staff

Amy Aldrich PTA President
Colleen Grabb – Editor,
384-7336
mgrabb@nycap.rr.com
Asst. Editor, Laura Foster

Child out sick

Please call the school by **9:00AM**, either by phone call or email, whenever your child will be absent. If there is no call or email from a parent, the office staff must verify the student is absent by calling the parent. (A written excuse with a parent signature is still required when the child returns to school.)



bmlodzianowski@bhbl.org,
jbennett@bhbl.org

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for helping the Fall Fundraiser reach its goal. Please keep in mind that we have ongoing programs which continue to help supplement the many programs going on throughout the school year. Campbell's, Box Tops, and Hannaford Dollars are still being collected. Drink pouches continue to be recycled with the help of the teachers. Price Chopper Tools for School is ongoing. Also, remember that your Target Red card supports our efforts every time you use it. Just enroll at target.com. The BOGO Book Fair will return in December, providing an excellent opportunity to inspire our kids to continue their reading. So, look for that the first week of December!

Kim North,
VP-Fundraising, 309-3551

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

There's a lot going on at Stevens Elementary this fall! Kids are back to school, sports and extracurricular activities are well underway and everyone is busy getting adjusted to their new fall routines! We've been off to a great start with some fun and fit programs, too!! Here's some of what's been going on this fall to promote wellness within the Steven's community:



1. **Fitness Fridays** have been a huge success! 257 Fit Stars have taken part and become members since the start of school this year by meeting on the playground before the start of school every Friday. Once there, they have been running, jumping rope and working to improve their strength. Led by Mr. Freestone, grades 2-5 have participated! The names of all members are posted on Mr. Freestone's bulletin board. Way to go Fit Stars!
2. **The Healthy Steps Program** began in October and so far, a total of 1,896 miles have been walked or jogged by grades 2-5!! Each grade is following their mileage totals on the US map in the cafeteria. Currently, Mr. Saddlemire's, Mrs. Cifaratta's, Mrs. Guba's, and Miss Seaman's classes are in the lead for their respective grade levels. The level of enthusiasm for this program has been high! Runner tokens and glow in the dark tokens have been given to those who are participating and the kids can earn extra gym

time as well!

Congratulations to all those taking part in this program!

3. **The Steven's Health and Wellness Committee** is in place. The goal of the committee is to meet on a regular basis to discuss and promote ways to keep our Stevens Superstars active and excited about their health and wellness. The committee consists of Mr. Freestone, Mrs. Sinnenberg, Mrs. Ducharme and myself, Donna Sausville. Please feel free to contact any of us with any thoughts or ideas you may have in the coming months.
4. **The Steven's Health and Wellness Mascot** is still in the works and hopes to make his debut sometime soon! Keep an eye out for him!

Let's all continue to work together to stay active and fit at Stevens and at home!
Donna – Health and Wellness chairperson for the PTA



Yearbook Staff Needs Pictures

The Yearbook Staff needs pictures of all the school events. Remember to bring your camera to school when you volunteer. Please email pictures with event and grade covered to Paula Wunderlich at wunderL@nycap.rr.com. You can burn a disk and leave in the main office for Paula to pick up. The more pictures, the better the year book will look.

Please contact Paula at 399-6277 or wunderL@nycap.rr.com if you can cover a school event.

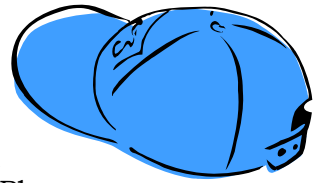
Looking for our school Artist

The Year Book staff is looking for a Stevens Artist to design the first page of the Year Book. If you are interested, please submit your art work to Paula Wunderlich by December 1, 2009. You can leave your art work in the main office for Mrs. Wunderlich. Ideas: picture of the school, picture of the playground, picture of friends and teachers, picture of a favorite school activity. Be creative!!



LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is piled high with clothing. Please remember to label your child's clothes, coats and hats. Winter is approaching so please label all winter gear. Please check the lost and found to regain your personal items.



Teacher/Staff Mailboxes

If you have something for teachers and or staff, please leave with Mrs. Bennett or Mrs. M. They will make sure items are placed in the correct box. Please make sure all monies are given to Mrs. Bennett and or Mrs. M. so they can place them in the appropriate place.

Spirit Shop Orders

All Spirit Shop Orders are due by **Tuesday November 10, 2009**. Order forms have been sent home via backpacks. You will also have the opportunity to order during the **Family Dinner on Friday November 6, 2009**. Any questions please contact Colleen Grabb @ 384-7336 or mgrabb@nycap.rr.com

Cafeteria Price list 2009-2010

Year ticket \$348.00 = 174 days

½ Year ticket \$174.00 = 87 days

¼ Year ticket \$88.00 = 44 days

BY Month

November = \$30.00

December = \$32.00

January = \$36.00

February = \$30.00

March = \$42.00

April = \$32.00

May = \$38.00

June = \$32.00

Please place your child's name, teacher's name and the grade on the envelop.

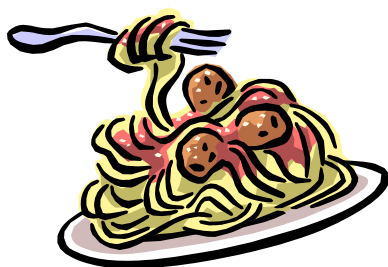
Thank you,

Mrs. Ducharme



Family Dinner

Please join us for the Stevens Family Dinner. Friday November 6, 2009. Seating's are at 5:00pm, 6:00pm, and 7:00pm. Please reserve you seat. Forms have been sent home via backpack. Any questions, please contact Charlene Spetla at 399-5785.



Holiday Shop

Wednesday December 9, 2009 is Stevens Holiday Shop. This PTA sponsored event takes many volunteers to insure its success. Please consider volunteering at this fun holiday event. Consider wrapping gifts, help children pick out gifts, assist children with envelops and holiday lists.

For more information, please contact Christine Molluso at 885-2788 or

sosos@earthlink.net



Theatre for Children

The **BH-BL Theatre for Children *BY Children*** will be performing **Rapunzel** on Friday November 20, 2009 at 7pm and Saturday November 21, 2009 at 2pm at the O'Rourke Middle School. This November we bring you our very first "all children's" cast. In the past our casts have been made up of mostly adults and high school students. You won't want to miss this inaugural performance by our community's elementary and middle school students. Flyers with ticket information will be sent home via backpack mail in the next few weeks. We look forward to seeing you there!

BH-BL Theatre for Children

BH-BL Theatre for Children We will be holding auditions on January 5th and 6th, 2010 for our spring production. These auditions will be held in the high school auditorium at 7pm on both nights. Auditions are open to adults and high school students only. Stay tuned for more information in December.

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