

President's Parlor...

with Debbie Replogle



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What did one melting icicle say to another?? Hang in there - (it's almost Spring!!)! While you are thinking about snow days - the H.S.A. is thinking about Strawberries (Festival) and Spring (Table Top Luncheon). Many exciting events have occurred the past several months. I hope your children have shared with you all of the wonderful cultural arts events they have attended.

children

Were you able to attend some of the Parent Network sessions? How about our monthly H S A meetings? It is a great opportunity to hear about what the H S A is doing for our schools, as well as being a great opportunity to hear from our Administration. We are now looking ahead to our spring events, including the ES Book Fair, Colonial Crafts Day, Shakespeare, Table Top Luncheon, Strawberry Festival, etc...

I found this poem and thought about all the great volunteers we have. I hope it will make you smile. Do you remember "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie" or "If you Give a Moose a Muffin" or are you still reading them every night? Either way, maybe you can relate....

If You Give a Mom a Muffin Written by Kathy Fictorie



If you give a mom a muffin,
She'll want a cup of coffee to go
with it.
So she'll pour herself some.
The coffee will get spilled by her
three year old.
She'll wipe it up.

Wiping the floor, she will find some dirty socks.
She'll remember she has to do some laundry.
When she puts the laundry in the washer,
She'll trip over some snow boots and bump into
the freezer.
Bumping into the freezer will remind her she has
to plan supper for tonight.

She will get out a pound of hamburger meat.
She'll look for her cookbook. (101 Things To
Make With a Pound of
Hamburger meat.)
The cookbook is sitting under a pile of mail.
She will see the phone bill which is due

tomorrow.
She will look for the checkbook.

The checkbook is in her purse that is being
dumped out by her two year old.
She'll smell something funny.
She'll change the two year old.
While she is changing the two year old the
phone will ring. (Of course!)
Her five year old will answer it and hang up.

She remembers that she wants to phone a
friend to come over for coffee on
Friday.
Thinking of coffee will remind her that she was
going to have a cup.
She will pour herself some.
And chances are,
If she has a cup of coffee,
Her kids will have eaten the
muffin that went with it.



Elementary Notes...

from Joan Bundschuh

After a very busy December, we all look forward to a month that is uneventful and a little quieter. The month of January *usually* allows us an opportunity to fall back into our routines. When the power and phones went out it was a little quieter, however, the wacky weather this month was anything but uneventful.



When February brings the unexpected, our Room Parents will be prepared to activate the Emergency Phone chain. We have also implemented a change in our call list which will eliminate redundant calls to families with multiple children.

The planning for Teacher Appreciation Week is underway. Committee Members will be contacted regarding our first committee meeting which is scheduled for February 23rd at 9:00a.m. at Frost Hall.

Middle School Memo...

from Beth Shea

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great winter break. New Year, new adventures! Here's hoping for an early spring and no more power outages.

Thank you to the two 8th grade boys who planted holly bushes in the planters at the entrance of MTMS. They did it as part of their health class community service. They wish to remain anonymous.

Thank you to Faith Zimmer and her talented crew of 7th grade room parents for the delicious cookies they served for holiday lunch treats. Valentine's Day is just around the corner and the 8th grade room parents surely have a sweet surprise coming up.



On Friday, January 27th the 6th grade had a game day. The kids really enjoyed the Cluck-U chicken and all of the games, especially bingo, Knockout, and basketball.

Thank you to Barbara Lynch and her room parents for making this a wonderful afternoon. Thank you to the 8th grade Peer Leaders for joining the underclassmen for all of the activities.

That same night, the 7th grade had a game night. They enjoyed carnival games, make-your-own sundaes, a jelly bean counting contest, and of course the DJ. Thank you to Faith Zimmer and her great group of enthusiastic room parents.



- ◆ Early Dismissal.....Friday, February 17
- ◆ Schools closed (President's Day).....Monday, February 20
- ◆ H.S.A Meeting.....Wednesday, March 1, 9:15a.m.
Brookside Community Church (Frost Hall)
- ◆ Early Dismissal..... Tuesday, March 14
- ◆ NJ ASK Testing(Grades 3&4).....March 20-24
- ◆ Early Dismissal (Conferences).....March 21-23
- ◆ Early Dismissal.....Friday, April 7
- ◆ Spring Recess.....April 10-14

◆ **BE SURE TO ALWAYS CHECK THE SCHOOLS' WEBSITE
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Parent Network

On January 10th, Kathy Woodward, our Director of Special Services and Peggy Goldenberg, our Child Psychologist, presented "Don't Worry.... Be Happy". This program focused on life skills for special needs children. Thank you to Mrs. Woodward and Mrs. Goldenberg for providing many helpful insights and tips on how to ensure a successful school experience and environment for our children.



Another thanks goes out to Linda Fairchild who has been a member of the Parent Network Steering Committee for many years. Linda has recently accepted a full time job working in our Pre-School program. Linda's wisdom over the years has contributed greatly to the format and programs offered by Parent Network. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her new role.

Events to Come! Parent Network Schedule

Date	Topic	Speaker (s)	Location
Wednesday, March 8 th 9:30am	"Differentiated Learning"	Mrs. Christine Johnson, Superintendent	Elementary School/Staff Development Room
Wednesday, March 15 th 9:30am	"Organizational Skills for Your Child & You"	Mrs. Ann Herrmann, 5 th Grade Study Skills & Mrs. Tara Horutz, 6 th Grade Study Skills	Middle School

Be sure to check the school web site for the Parent Network schedule for the remainder of the year. It is updated continuously with current information and dates. Also watch out for the orange flyers that will be coming home in your child's backpack detailing each event.

And finally, please send any ideas for future topics to Patty Mullens, patty.mullens@verizon.net or Lynne Sprague, lynnesprague@patmedia.net. Or contact us if you are interested in joining the Parent Network Steering Committee. We would love to hear from you!

Cultural Arts - Elementary School

Brenda Grant

On Tuesday January 31, 2006 the Kindergarten, First, and Second grades enjoyed a concert by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who was born 250 years ago this week. He is said by some to be the greatest musician that has ever lived, and he only lived to be 35 years old. He was inspired by Bach and actually taught Ludwig von Beethoven piano lessons. During his lifetime he wrote 650 pieces of music and performed for the kings and queens all over Europe before he was even 10 years old.

Our performing artist, Dennis Kobray, played Mozart's music for us and dressed as men did in Mozart's time. Many of our children recognized some of Mozart's music. All of the children enjoyed the show and the story of Mozart's remarkable musical gifts and life.



Computer Clue for the Month

from Donna CasaGrande

Have you ever gone to a webpage and found that you cannot view the page correctly or play a media file? There are some free and safe downloads that you may need for media rich content and interactive games on the Internet. My favorite place to go to find these is www.download.com. You can easily find what you need by using the search bar located in the top section of the site. The name of the download file and instructions will be shown in the results along with a rating and a description. Click on the file you need and simply follow the instructions as they appear. Here is a list of the top downloads you may need:

- Acrobat Reader
- Macromedia Flash Player
- Macromedia Shockwave Player
- RealPlayer
- Microsoft Windows Media Player
- QuickTime Player
- Java**

**It is easier to find Java by going here: <http://java.sun.com>

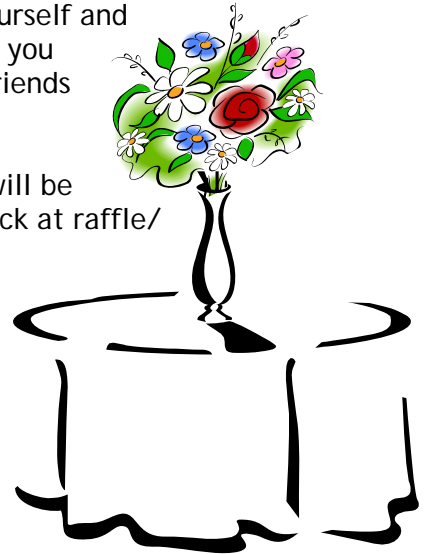
Table Top Luncheon - March 17, 2006

Plans for this year's Tabletop Luncheon, on March 17th, at the Meadow Wood Manor, are well under way. We've had plenty of interest in decorating tables so far, but there is still time to sign up if you would like to join in, and create a fun display for yourself and your friends to enjoy. Look for your invitations in the mail soon. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars and invite some girlfriends to come along.

This event is always a crowd pleaser and we hope that this year will be the same. It's a pleasant time for all of us to socialize, try our luck at raffle/auction items, and enjoy a lovely meal with old friends, and new acquaintances. At the same time, we'll be contributing to the Cultural Arts programs at our schools. If you would like to decorate a table, please call Michele Paulson at 973-292-5678. For general questions, call Tracy Lowry at 973 -543-7484.

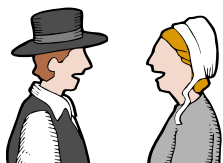
As always, thanks for your support.

Tracy Lowry
Chair, 2006



Colonial Crafts Day, April 28th

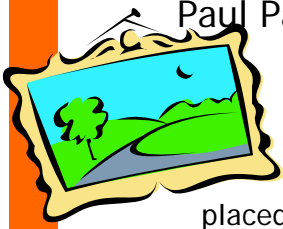
What are we going to wear?



If anyone has costumes that they wouldn't mind sharing with this year's fourth graders or their parents please contact Mei Mei Newsome, 973/543-1105.

Cultural Arts - Middle School

Paul Pazniokas and Jeffrey Rich, co-chairs



It was an exceptionally fun, busy and exciting month for Cultural Arts at the Middle School. The 8th grade "Legacy Art" project committee, under the guidance of Carrie Yanowitz, invited the students to submit their ideas for the design of a mosaic. This mosaic will be the Middle School's very first 8th grade Legacy Art piece and will be placed in a prominent place for all future students to admire. A number of students submitted sketches, which were then presented to the entire 8th grade so they could vote for the one they wanted as their mosaic. The design they chose was the one drawn by their classmate Courtney Nickerson. This sketch was then transferred to template form so that the 8th graders could begin taking turns affixing the mosaic pieces in place. This process will continue during the next few months with the help of faculty liaison Mrs. Emr. We're all looking forward to seeing the finished product.

The Cultural Arts Committee also worked with our new art teacher, Ms. Hare to bring pottery instructor Kate Poland to the Middle School. Allyson Bush coordinated this program so that all the students currently taking art could try their hand - or should we say hands - at the pottery wheel. Your sons and daughters will soon be bringing home the results of their efforts. During the month of February, the other half of the school will be taking art and will get their chance to turn some objects on the wheel.



More than a year ago, Mr. Bergamotto mentioned that he knows Jennifer Koh, a world-renowned violinist and the winner of the 1994 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He said that she enjoys taking time out from her world tours to perform for young people - and wouldn't it be great if we could get her to perform at our school? On January 25, this dream became a reality. Jennifer Koh stepped out onto our new stage with her regular accompanist Reiko Uchida and played a Brahms sonata that had everyone in the audience gaping in wonder. Taking time to speak to the students between pieces, she told us that her violin, a Stradivarius, is older than our country. She described her love of Robert Schumann's music and she played a few of his pieces. Those of us present were transported by her breathtaking virtuosity. The afternoon's performance has taken its place as one of the great Cultural Arts performances - one we will never forget. After the concert, Ms. Koh and Ms. Uchida took time to answer questions from the students and autographed CD's purchased by the students and parents. A portion of the proceeds will go to the H.S.A. In meeting the performers face-to-face we found that - along with their musical artistry - our visiting artists were gracious and generous people. It capped a truly magical afternoon.

Hello Money!



The H.S.A has started collecting used cell phones - any make, any model. Each cell phone will bring the school anywhere from 50 cents to 5 dollars - depending on the year and model. It is an easy fundraiser for us, and you can get rid of all your old, unwanted cell phones. There are drop off boxes located in the lobbies of both schools.



Birds Will be Singing

Springtime! April showers, May flowers and baby birds. Yes, baby birds. This year the Mendham Township Elementary School will enjoy a unique opportunity to watch the birth of baby birds. Through the receipt of a grant written by Mrs. Obremski, we will be installing a nest-cam birdhouse and bird feeders in our courtyard as part of a project called "birds-eye view". The whole school will be able to actually see inside the birdhouse to watch a nest being built, eggs laid, and then hatch. We even have people working to connect the camera to the school computer network so everyone can share in this wonderful experience.



This project also received some much appreciated support. Mr. Andy Patten, the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in the College Plaza(by Party City) on Route 10 in Randolph was a big help in making this program possible. All of the equipment needed for the project was purchased at his store at a very favorable price. Andy has also agreed to donate food for the baby birds as well as adult birds that will enjoy the feeders that will be installed. For every 20 pounds of seed that is purchased at his store and MTES is mentioned, he will donate 5 pounds of seed to the project. So the next time you need seed for your own backyard feeder, go to Wild Birds Unlimited, make your purchase and mention MTES to be sure that we have enough food to feed our new friends.

As spring approaches, keep an eye on our courtyard as we will be installing the nest-cam birdhouse and 2 feeders as the ground softens enough to put in the poles for them. We are all very excited about our project and can't wait to meet our new neighbors!

Easy Steps to Help Our Schools



Collect Box Tops and return them to the office at either school so we can earn money towards programs for the kids. Find products that have "Box Tops" online at www.boxtops4education.com

Collect these labels too, and bring them into the offices and we once again "earn free stuff" for our schools. It isn't just Campbell's soup labels, there are many products featuring Labels for Education. Check them out at www.labelsforeducation.com

Numbers You Need to Know

- ◆ Mendham Township Elementary 973/543-7107
School Hours: 8:55a.m. – 3:35p.m.
- ◆ Mendham Township Middle School 973/543-2505
School Hours: 8:10a.m. – 2:50p.m.

◆ 2005-2006 H.S.A Board Members

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