

President's Parlor...

with Joan Bundschuh



A month ago you may have been sitting on a beach, poolside or somewhere else simply enjoying the lazy days of summer. Now here we are already heading into the month of October and school and all of the after school activities are in full swing. As hectic as our lives might feel right now, it is always comforting to know

that most families are experiencing the same thing at the same time. With three children, my oldest in fifth grade and two children in the elementary school, the different school schedules and variety of after school activities, I can certainly relate!

As a 2006-2007 member of the H.S.A you should be in receipt of your new School Directory. A very special thank you goes out to **Athena Bertucci** for dedicating her free time during the summer months to the many hours that make this Directory possible.

Andrea Gilchrist was instrumental in the proofreading, packaging and distribution of our Directory, Thank you!

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I knew that the H.S.A was off to a great start when I participated in the Back to School Luncheon that was provided to our teachers, staff, administrator, bus drivers and custodians. Michelle Piscitello did a fabulous job coordinating this event with the assistance of many parent volunteers. Our 5th graders enjoyed an opportunity to socialize with fellow classmates, eat ice cream and set up their lockers at the Annual 5th Grade Ice Cream Social, coordinated by Andrea Franklin and Aileen Adelhelm. There was plenty of ice cream, wonderful toppings and professional scoopers (a.k.a. moms) on hand to make this a special event. The new Middle School students participated in an orientation which was enhanced with the presence of their School Buddies. During the summer months our School Buddy Coordinators, Laureen Jacobson and Kay Sutaria, were busy arranging for these students to meet. Thank you to all the students that participated in this program which helped new students transition into our school.

I am looking forward to working closely with the women on the H.S.A. board and all of the incredibly generous parents who have already committed to work on numerous activities and events scheduled for the year. Since starting in my new role I have been amazed by the number of parents that have contacted me to say "just let me know where I can help this year". The success of the H.S.A. is directly linked to parent involvement. The commitment and dedication of our Mendham Township parents is sure to translate into a successful year.

Please join me as the H.S.A. kicks off the new school year with our first General Meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 4th** in our new location, the Elementary School Staff Development Room. I look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Next H.S.A Meeting.....Wednesday, October 4, 9:15a.m.
Elementary School Staff Development Room
- ◆ Elementary School Pictures(K-2).....Thursday, October 5
- ◆ Elementary School Pictures(3-4)..... Friday, October 6
- ◆ School Closed - Teacher Training.....Monday, October 2
- ◆ Middle School Parent Conferences..... October 24, 25, 26
- ◆ Elementary School Parent Conferences.....November 6, 7, 8

Elementary Notes...

from Chris Morrison-Burns

My name is Chris Morrison-Burns and I am the newly elected Vice-President of the H.S.A for the Elementary School. I look forward to working with all of the great parents, teachers and staff throughout the year to make this school year a great one! One of the things that I think is so amazing, is the involvement of the teachers and the parents in making MTES such a wonderful school to attend.



On that note, I have been diligently working on the room parents for the 2006-2007 school year and I think that all of the teachers will be thrilled with their parent volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank EVERYONE who volunteered for the room parent positions and if you were not chosen this year, please sign up again next year. There will be many opportunities to become involved in the children's activities throughout the year, so watch out for my phone call, I've got your numbers!

The following is a list of the room parents for this year:

Kindergarten:

Mrs. Culbertson--Mary Pargano/Kelly Gaffney
Miss Sansone--Jennifer Ryan/Catherine Killam
Miss Mastrogiannakos--Debbie Miller/Laurie Rickles
Mrs. Allen--Barbara Meyer/Jess Beckerman

Third Grade

Mrs. Cohen--Kathy Agoglia/Felicity Otis
Mrs. Klacik--Melinda Lucas/Terri Christmann
Mr. Rossi--Lisa Braumann/Diane Keena
Miss Hornyak--Laura Trinkoff/Michelle Holland

First Grade:

Mrs. Picerno--Monica MacLean/Helene O'Neill
Mrs. Klinger--Liz Pechock/Dawn Smith
Mrs. Marcelliano--Diana Price/Lisa Haarmann
Mrs. Cofield(O'Connor)--Joanna Walker/Cathy Ann McGrath
Mrs. Fiumara--Kathy MacDonald/Nancy Wintz

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Milow--Renee Arezzi/Laura Bianco
Mr. Clausen--Denise Abel/Andrea Gilchrist
Mrs. Smyth--Karyn Monaghan/Meredith Parish
Mrs. Russell--Diana Chapis/Jamie Bell
Ms. Langer--Paige White/Natalie Rasegnola
Mrs. Barlow--Cheryl Gonzalez/Kate Molnar

Second Grade:

Miss Cullinan--Patricia Smith/Lisa Tafro
Mrs. Gallagher--Tricia Elgarten/Kristi Miller
Mrs. Pieper--Sherri Pellecchia/Pam Handen
Mrs. Obremski--Laura Ford/Beth Smith
Mrs. Gabrielson--Nancy Anderson/Tish Musell

Money Matters

with Loretta Davie



Welcome back to a new school year - I hope that it will be a great one for your children and for you. As treasurer I'd like to remind you of some basic housekeeping issues. If you are working on a committee and incur expenses on behalf of H.S.A activities, please keep your receipts and submit them to me. I have put together a reimbursement form which is available in hard copy form at both schools or online under the H.S.A. tab of the school website. Of course, I have plenty of them too. Please just fill out the form, attach your receipts and submit them to me so I can cut you a check. If for some reason you lose your receipts, just give me a call and we can work it out.

If you are chairing a major committee please make sure you speak to either me or to Joan Bundschuh regarding the budget for your affair well in advance of the start of the event. This just helps to keep us both on the same page and makes things run more smoothly. Thanks!

That's all for now - have a great school year and we look forward to a fantastic new year of H.S.A. If you ever have any money questions or concerns at all, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Middle School Memo...

from Beth Shea

Welcome back and welcome to our new students and families. I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer. It always goes too fast!

My name is Beth Shea and I am the Middle School H.S.A. Vice President. I have a 5th grade boy and 3 boys in high school



(which I still can't believe). I look forward to working with you this school year and hope we can enjoy the ride together.

September 5th was a busy day at the Middle School. It started with a delicious Back to School Luncheon for our staff. Thank you to Michelle Piscitello and Dan Wood for making this a wonderful lunch to remember and to all of the volunteers who helped serve.

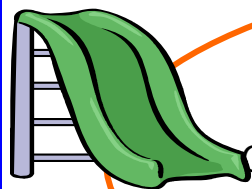
Later that day, the incoming 5th Graders were treated to an ice cream social. The children enjoyed making their own sundaes. They got to see their classmates and meet new friends. Thank you to Andrea Franklin and Aileen Adelheim for making their welcome special and a thank you to all the "scoopers".

A school tour and social was held later in the afternoon for all the new students. They met with Dr. Ciccone and Mrs. Ciottariello and their student "buddies" who helped them learn the ropes. Thank you to Lauren Jacobson for matching up our new students with their buddies.

I will be working with your grade parents shortly to organize the contingency phone chain, game days, and H.S.A. treats. Thank you to those who volunteered.

Just a reminder, if you haven't sent in your child's Holiday Lunch Treat money (\$5), please do so as soon as possible as the first treat will be served on Halloween.

At Back to School night it was a great to meet the staff and walk through our children's schedule. Thank you to Liz Freeman and Linda Sharland for providing refreshments and to all who helped serve. I hope you had a moment to check out the bulletin board in the main lobby. The students love to see the theme and to locate their names.

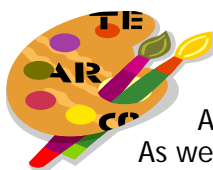


We are looking for passionate, knowledgeable, creative parents (or simply parents with wonderful ideas) to work on our Playground Committee. Generous funds have been raised and we are looking to provide both schools with much needed outdoor equipment. If you are interested please call Joan Bundschuh at 973-543-8599 or e-mail

joanbund@aol.com

Attention: ALL GREEN THUMBS!

We need your help at the Middle School. If you've ever noticed the planters that sit in the front of the school and said to yourself, "wow, they need some fresh plantings or at least some Miracle Grow", you should contact Beth Shea, 543-3266. The H.S.A. has the funds we just need the green thumbs!



Middle School Cultural Arts

Paul Pazniokas, Jeff Rich and Leslie Long

Another year, another group of creative, energetic... middle-school parents! As we start the school year, we invite you to join us in bringing all manner of arts to our young students. It's our mission to supplement the fine job that our arts and music faculty do, by donating our time and effort to the cause of the arts. From our rousing opening event to the smaller, more intimate presentations, by volunteering you'll have the chance to meet artists and performers - as well as the always-welcome opportunity to spend time at school, experiencing first-hand some of the more transcendent moments in your daughters' and sons' school day.

Our kick-off performance for this school year is the high-energy trio named "Squeaky Clean." This group puts on a fun, multi-media concert all about the history of rock 'n' roll, performing classic rock songs while offering insights as to the music's roots, what was happening in the world when the music was created, and how music takes on importance in our lives. The show is scheduled for September 20.



In addition to the special events that the Cultural Arts Committee organizes for all grades, we will also be working with the eighth-graders in the second annual "Legacy Art Project". This is the work of art to which all eighth-graders contribute and which will be permanently displayed for future generations to admire.

So there's certainly a place for you on our committee and we cordially invite you to have a ball with us - all for the benefit of your young ones.

Whether or not you volunteer, stay tuned for announcements and reviews of each event. Many of these reviews will come from your children - others you'll hear about from parents or from this newsletter.

But if you do want to come aboard, please call Jeff Rich (973/895-4460), Leslie Long (973/543-1577) or Paul Pazniokas (973/543-5864). All you have to say is, "Yes, I want to join you incredibly fabulous and fun people in one of the most fulfilling and edifying activities I could ever want!". Or something similar.

Cultural Arts - Elementary School

Brenda Grant

The Cultural Arts Committee will kick off the year with its first event planned for Friday, September 29th with Exit 9, which is a percussion drums ensemble. This event is for the third and fourth graders.



For anyone wishing to join the Elementary School Cultural Arts Committee please call Brenda Grant, chairperson, at 973-543-0418. We had our first meeting of the year on September 19th. Exciting plans were made for the year ahead of us. We'll update you in next month's newsletter.

Please help me welcome two new co-chairs to the committee. They are Helene O'Neill and Mara Nydam.

Parent Network

Patty Mullens & Lynne Sprague

Welcome back! We are looking forward to offering parents another year of informative and relevant topics as they relate to our children and their education.

For those of you who are either new to the school or would like a refresher, Parent Network is a positive forum in which key areas are addressed to reflect parent questions, concerns or interests through a series of presentations by either our school administration, teachers, the child study team or external specialists. It is also a great opportunity for parents to assist each other in the changes occurring in our children in each grade level through discussion and shared experiences.

We welcome both new and returning Parent Network Steering Committee members. Our school administration representatives are: Mrs. Christine Johnson, Superintendent, Mrs. Elaine Lombardi, Director of Special Services, Mr. Michael Craver, Elementary School Principal, Dr. Patrick Ciccone, Middle School Principal, and Rachel Tubbs, MS Guidance Counselor.

New parent members on our committee are: Laura Trinkoff, Joanna Walker, Allyson Bush, Leslie Goryeb, Wendy Olsen, Nancy Anderson, Paige White, Diane Tolley and Donna Stefanelli.

Returning parent members are: Janet Richards, Aileen Adelhelm, Pam Richmond, Susan McKeon, Melinda Lucas, Kim Maki and Debbie Replogle. **Welcome to all!!!**

Watch out for the bright orange Parent Network schedules that will be coming home to you regularly through backpacks. In addition, an updated Parent Network schedule will be on our school web site throughout the year.

Your Parent Network Steering Committee will be working hard to continue to offer programs of great relevance and interest to you. Please be sure to come to the meetings! Call either Patty Mullens at 543-7082 or Lynne Sprague at 543-0396 should you have any questions, comments or interest in getting involved.

We look forward to another great year!



The Hospitality Committee is looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to help with refreshments for the HSA Meetings. If you would like to bake, supply paper products and make the meetings festive, please contact either Linda Sharland at 543-1204 or Liz Freeman at 543-3149. Any and all participation is truly appreciated!!



Numbers of Necessity

- ◆ Mendham Township Elementary
973/543-7107
Kindergarten Hours: 8:55a.m. – 12:55p.m.
Elementary Hours: 8:55a.m. – 3:35p.m.
- ◆ Mendham Township Middle School
973/543-2505
School Hours: 8:10a.m. – 2:50p.m.
- ◆ Link to the schools' website –
www.mendhamtwp.org

What would we do without our Volunteers?

From Michelle Piscitello, Welcome Back Luncheon Chair - On Tuesday, September 5th, a dedicated group of elementary and middle school moms and dads gave their time to help throw a luncheon in honor of our schools' teachers, office and board staff, transportation department and custodial department. The afternoon was filled with the aroma of wonderful Italian foods and desserts as our guests enjoyed their visit to the Italian Bistro. Everyone enjoyed delicious foods prepared by our own parents and by Rosie's Trattoria. Many thanks to all of those who helped. The list is way too long to name everyone, but you all know who you are. A bigger thank you goes out to the elementary and middle school professionals who take such pride in what they do. Have a most enjoyable year.

A special thank you to Dan Wood for once again arranging for fantastic food at another H.S.A event. The food at the Back to School Lunch was delicious and all your effort is appreciated!

Thank You for helping make the Ice Cream Social a memorable event for our 5th Graders!!! Andrea Franklin, Aileen Adelhelm, Kate Englehardt, Sue Mc Ginley, Jess Beckerman, Marie Beggan, Dorothy Esporin, Liz Freeman, Linda Sharland, Clare Button, Pam Richmond, Debbie Riccardi, Kerri Purdy and Lisa Maurer.

◆ 2006-2007 H.S.A Board Members

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Our School Buddies help make a new students' transition to our school smoother. Thank you to all the students who participated in our buddy program. A special thank you goes out to our Middle School Coordinator, Laureen Jacobson, and Elementary School Coordinator, Kay Sutaria for the time they dedicated to this valuable program.

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 will once again "earn free stuff" for our schools. It isn't just Campbell's soup labels. Check them out at www.labelsforeducation.com