

# H.S.A Home & School Association Happenings H.S.A

October, 2006

Mendham Township Schools

Joan Bundschuh, President

## President's Parlor...

with Joan Bundschuh



We officially kicked off the 2006-2007 school year with our first H.S.A meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was very well attended and we received very favorable feedback on our new

location, the Staff Development Room. In our monthly meetings we have four key objectives for our attendees. We hope we were successful in achieving them in our first meeting. We want our participants to walk away from our meetings feeling like they had an opportunity to *Network*. We want them to be *Informed* and to feel as though they have gained

valuable insight through first hand information provided by our

### Contents

President's Parlor	1
Upcoming Events	1
Grade Level News	2-3
Other Committee Reports	2-5
H.S.A Board Members	6
Volunteer Shout Out	6

Superintendent, Principals, Director of Special Services, in addition to H.S.A. Board and Program Chairs. Our new location helps H.S.A. members to feel *Connected* to our school and helps us foster a closer *Home and School* relationship. Our final objective is for our participants to feel *Empowered*. Through increased awareness we enable our members to decide where their contributions can make the biggest difference.

As an organization, we want to ensure that our Board, Program Chairs, Committee Chairs and all of our committed volunteers are focusing their efforts to achieve a common goal. We developed our **Mission Statement** and we will use it to help guide us in all decisions that pertain to all current and future programs sponsored by the H.S.A.



### H.S.A. Mission Statement

*The Home and School Association, within the Township of Mendham, is a partnership of committed volunteers that include parents, teachers and administrators who are dedicated to offering exceptional programs which enhance the educational experience of every child.*

## H.S.A Membership

If you haven't done so, it is not too late to join the H.S.A by sending in your \$15 dues. Membership provides you with an excuse pad, envelopes and school directory!

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to either school's front desk along with your check made out to M.T.H.S.A.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Next H.S.A Meeting.....Wednesday, November 1, 9:15a.m.  
*Elementary School Staff Development Room*
- ◆ Elementary School Parent Conferences.....November 6, 7, 8
- ◆ School Closed - NJEA.....November 9-10
- ◆ ½ Day Early Dismissal.....November 22
- ◆ School Closed - Thanksgiving.....November 23-24
- ◆ ½ Day Delayed Opening.....November 27 (delayed two hours)

## Elementary Notes...

from Chris Morrison-Burns

The Elementary School Room Parents had their initial meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> to kick-off the new school year. We had a great turnout for the meeting and everyone has been so enthusiastic. The teachers have all been working with their parents and have told me what a wonderful group they are. Thank you so much for being so committed!



We have been able to compile all of the students' emergency contact information into a complete listing for our Back-Up Emergency Phone Chain. Room parents are ready to provide backup to the Connect-Ed Telecommunication System should it become necessary. The Emergency Phone Chain will also be activated in the event of an emergency that would cause us to send the children home early from school.



We have had a very busy month at the Elementary School. Fire Prevention Week was October 9<sup>th</sup> - October 13<sup>th</sup>, School Violence Awareness Week was October 16<sup>th</sup> - October 20<sup>th</sup> and Mendham Township Tigers showed their school spirit on the 27<sup>th</sup> with Spirit Day! Lastly, we finished out the month with our wonderful and creative students marching in the Halloween parade which is always so much fun to see.

I would like to close by thanking Cindy Ravel, Joy Lia and Andrea Gilchrist for helping me decorate our lobby and the H.S.A. bulletin board, they look awesome!!

A couple of things to look for in November: the Mini-Marathon and Parent-Teacher Conferences. Keep a look out for information coming home soon.

## Cultural Arts - Elementary School

Brenda Grant

This year's schedule of Cultural Arts assemblies has been approved and scheduled. Our first event was held on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> with "Exit 9" a percussion group from Rutgers University. They performed for the third and fourth grade. They were an exciting group whose first trip to our school proved worthwhile.

We are looking forward to "How the Body Works" by Marvelous Marvin on Monday Oct. 30, 2006. This is a great show and will be presented to the entire school.



Several members of our committee attended the Young Audiences Showcase in Short Hills, NJ and are busy deciding the best schedule for next year. We are also tossing around the idea of having an arts event at the end of the year, but this is still in the works.

### Middle School Memo...

from Beth Shea

It's October and hopefully we are all settling back into our routines. Let's hope it is a beautiful, cool, crisp fall. If you haven't done so already, please stop by the Middle School to see the gorgeous fall decorations outside the main entrance. Thank you to Sue McGinley for making our school look so festive.



The first H.S.A. lunch treat is coming up on Halloween and will be served by the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Room Parents. If you haven't already paid your lunch treat dues please do so immediately. By the time you read this newsletter, the sixth

graders will have had their first game night which is being held Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School.



Thank you to all of the Middle School parents who have volunteered to serve as 2006-2007 Grade Parents. They are as follows:

<u>5th Grade</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Tracy Lowry*	Marcella Carney*	Graceanne Burleigh*	Laurie Santomo*
Deb Randolph	Annette Lasko	Lynda Condie	Lauren Mulcahy
Dana Emerson	Sue Lander	Virginia Stannard	Eileen Phillips
Linda Sharland	Maryann Tralka	Catharine Brookman	Janet Richards
Georgia Koumantzelis	Ann Terwilliger	Sue Browse	Joanne Dunlap
Aileen Adelhelm	Sharon Morris	Lisa Rapp	Kate Turner
Pam Richmond	Donna Cerrato	Eileen Spathakis	Christine Filippini
Susan McKeon	Tina Kjaero	Clair Button	Jane Ikeda
Liz Freeman	Kathy Mszanski	Donna Sarno	
Pat Theiss		Sue Gamgort	
Laura Medenbach			
Barbara Borken			
*-Grade Leader			

Are you using your excuse pads and payment envelopes provided in your H.S.A member package? There is no need to use them sparingly. You can always get additional pads and envelopes. Send an envelope to the front office at either school requesting the number of pads needed and include a payment of \$1.00/per pad. Payment envelopes are also available for \$1.00/per 10 envelopes.

## Parent Network

Patty Mullens & Lynne Sprague

The school year is well underway and, by now, we hope that you have checked out the **Parent Network schedule on the school web site!** We are planning some very interesting programs for the year and are continually updating the schedule with additional topics. Be sure to check it out on a regular basis.

We have kicked off the Parent Network year with an opportunity to hear from some of our senior school administrators. Hopefully, you have either already attended or plan to attend one or all of the following:

Wednesday, October 18th,  
Mrs. Christine Johnson, Superintendent,  
"Student Achievement, Curriculum & Instruction and Plans for the Future"

Thursday, October 26th,  
Mr. Michael Craver, Elementary School Principal,  
"Open Forum for Parents"

Tuesday, November 7th,  
Dr. P.J. Ciccone, Middle School Principal,  
"The Building Environment and Supplemental Programs"

Thursday, November 16th,  
"Organizational Skills for You and Your Elementary School Child"

In an effort for each speaker(s) to address the areas of interest, you are encouraged to submit your questions in advance of each Parent Network presentation. Watch out for the orange flyers that come home through your child's backpack with specific information about each session.

Do you have ideas or suggestions for us? If so, please either get in touch with your grade level Parent Network representative or contact Patty Mullens or Lynne Sprague directly. Parent Network Steering Committee names and contact information is available on our school web site.

## Money Matters

with Loretta Davie



We're off to a great start for the H.S.A. As of the end of September we have 534 families who have joined the H.S.A. and over 21 teachers! That means that 80% of you have joined this year - thank you! If you have not joined yet and are still interested - there is still time. Just send in a check for \$15 payable to the MTHSA to either school and we'll be sure to get you your directory ASAP! Thanks as always for your support. Your membership fee helps to pay for our directory as well as for the administrative costs we accrue throughout the year!

## Middle School Cultural Arts

Paul Pazniokas, Jeff Rich and Leslie Long

Cultural Arts kicked off the new school year by kickin' out the jams. On September 20, the talented trio known as Squeaky Clean performed their most popular show, *Rave On! The History of Rock 'n' Roll* to the entire middle school.

The hour-long presentation featured a selection of classic rock hits, chosen for the era and genre they represented, along with informative descriptions of the music, the performers, and the times in which it was created. From Buddy Holly through the Beatles, they took us on a fun journey back to the origins of today's rock music. To give our youngsters a glimpse of the world of the fifties and sixties, a visual presentation of slides and video clips accompanied the entire performance.

Dr. Ciccone introduced the show by telling everybody, "I'm very excited about today's show because I love rock 'n' roll, too. In fact, I was a drummer in a rock band."

The Cultural Arts committee made a Study Guide available to all teachers a week before the show, for those classes looking to tie in the event to their classroom activities. We evaluate the success of every show by the audience response, comments from teachers and staff, anecdotal reports from parents and kids, and whenever possible written feedback. An Evaluation Form distributed to the faculty for the Squeaky Clean program measured a variety of parameters on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The overall rating for the program by the teachers was 4.6, indicating a well-received performance.



Dr. Ciccone introduces Squeaky Clean and tells everybody he was a drummer in a rock band.

With our first program now complete, Cultural Arts is busy planning a wide variety of visual and performing arts events for the rest of the school year. We will explore different art forms, including poetry, pottery, music, acting, and many others. Our Volunteer Committee has met to start the process of picking and choosing programs with which we will be involved. Keep in mind, we're always looking for more volunteers to get on board, so let one of us know if you want to join the fun. One important project that could use volunteer support is the Eighth Grade Legacy Art project. If you'd like to help our graduating class create a lasting work of art for the school, contact Paul Pazniokas. You can reach him by e-mail ([ppazniokas@voteword.org](mailto:ppazniokas@voteword.org)) or call 973-543-5864. No special art skills required!

# Computer Clue for the Month

from Donna CasaGrande

When you are cleaning and organizing, one area you shouldn't forget is your computer. Here are three simple steps that will help you to organize your computer files for easy access.



1) Have a filing system for your documents.

"My Documents" is like a big filing cabinet. Create new folders inside where you can sort and store your documents. For example, create a folder called "Taxes" to keep any forms or documents that you needed for filing. Inside the "Taxes" folder you can have a folder for each tax year.

2) Discard old files.

While you are sorting your documents into new folders, discard any files that you no longer need. Note: You can right click on a document and select Properties to find out a files size, the date that it was created and when it was last used.

3) Back up your files.

It is always a good idea to backup your data on a regular basis. Two easy ways to do this are to burn a CD or store your files on a flash drive.

Want to help the schools while increasing school spirit?

Order a cool colored car magnet with the District's new mascots



Each magnet is only \$5

Detach order form below and return to either schools' main office

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

If ordering for more than one child please indicate which child's homeroom you would like order delivered.

Mendham Twp. Elementary School Tigers - Quantity \_\_\_\_ X \$5= \_\_\_\_\_

Mendham Twp. Middle School Bulldogs - Quantity \_\_\_\_ X \$5= \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Enclosed - \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to MTHSA

Return form and payment to either schools' main office

## Who would we be without our Volunteers?

Our first major fundraiser has concluded and the support once again has been outstanding! A big thank you to all of the families that participated by placing orders with Sally Foster Gift Wrap. This fundraiser was organized by **Diana Price, Susanne Ricca and Terri Christmann**. All the assistance provided by parent volunteers made the sorting and distribution of hundreds of boxes a manageable task! Thank you!

Are your kids savoring their new books? Thanks to the effort and time of **Andrea Brillaud and Tracy Lowry** who organized another successful fundraiser for the H.S.A. The Middle School Book Fair has just come to an end. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers that helped make this event run very smoothly.

As a member of the H.S.A you have probably used your Directory on more than one occasion. If you noticed that any information needs to be **updated**, please notify **Athena Bertucci** by email at [bertucchihome@verizon.net](mailto:bertucchihome@verizon.net). All update requests must be received by **Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** if you wish the change to be included in an addendum that will be published mid November.

### ◆ 2006-2007 H.S.A Board Members

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**Linda Heffernan**, Chair of the Table Top Luncheon, is working on the details of this favorite event. If anyone would like to volunteer their time and creativity to working on the committee please call Linda.

Not only did the October H.S.A. meeting have a huge turnout but it also had delicious goodies to munch. Hats off to the October Hospitality Hostesses, **Linda Sharland, Liz Freeman, Joy Lia and Cathryn Killam**.

**Thinkbin Family Calendars** are still available.  
Large Calendars - \$15  
Small Calendars-\$12  
Please contact **Donna Vicarisi** at 973/543-0680 for more information.

## 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](http://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](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)