

Lopatcong Township Schools

PTA Newsletter



We're off to a great start!

Dear Parents:

I'd like to thank all those who signed up for Three For Me Volunteer Program during Open House. In case you missed getting one, attached is sign up form filled with opportunities to be involved.

Thank you also for approving our budget for this year at our General Membership meeting on September 21st. We're off to another active year of various programs for our children as well as providing support to you and our teachers.

I ask that you take just one minute to complete our parent survey that is attached. We're focusing on providing you with more interesting topics and activities and really need your input.

Enjoy the cooler weather and all the activities this month has to offer – Almost Anything Goes, the grand finale of Theatre Week, and of course those Halloween Parties – for the kids and adults!

Be safe and have fun!

Lee Rozycki

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PARENTS:

Look for the following addendums in this issue!

1. PTA Community /Parent Awareness Survey
2. Three for Me sign-up form
3. Three for Me pledge card
4. NJPTA Legislative Day Training Information

Please take the time to read and respond! Your help and input *are appreciated!*

International Walk to School Day!

October 4

Join families and students across the country on this day by walking to school. Help cut down on congestion and pollution. Teach your kids traffic safety while benefiting from exercise.

Live too far to walk? Park and walk the last part of the route. Band together with other families in your neighborhood to create a walking school bus (similar to a car pool, but on foot).



OCTOBER

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 3 "Almost Anything Goes" practice
7 p.m. - MS Gym
- Oct. 5 PTA Market Day Pick-Up
6-7 p.m. - MS
- Oct. 7 "Almost Anything Goes" performance
6:15 p.m. - MS
Doors open 5 p.m. Refreshments sold
- Oct. 9 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Teacher In-Service
- Oct. 9-12 Theater Week practice
3:10-5:45 p.m. -MS
- Oct. 10 Fire Prevention Week
Bd of Ed mtg - 7:30 p.m. - MS MPR
- Oct. 11 Faculty Mtg. ES - 2:50 p.m.
MS - 3:15 p.m.
- Oct. 13 Theater Week practice 3:10-4:45 p.m.
Performance - 7:00 p.m. - MS
- Oct. 16 PTA Exec. Bd. Mtg. 7:30 p.m. - ES
- Oct. 19 & 24 Drama Club auditions
3:15-5:30 p.m. - MS
- Oct. 27 Last Day Marking Period 1 - MS
Halloween Parties - ES
- Nov. 3 MS Report Cards Sent Home

KEY: ES- Elementary School; MS - Middle School
APR -All Purpose Room; MPR - Multi Purpose Room



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Location Change for November Board Meeting!

The Board of Education will hold it's November Board meeting on November 14 at 7:30 pm at the Lopatcong Elementary School on Route 57.

Come see the enhancements to the Elementary School.

Important Contacts

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

859-0800

Laura Ruggiero, Main Office ext. 211
Jennie Secula, Main Office ext. 210
Dr. Rossi, Superintendent/Principal
Mr. Eagleburger, Assistant Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL

213-2995

Terry Lynch, Main Office ext. 2100
Teri Fogt, Administrative Asst. ext. 2200
Mrs. Kowalchuk, Principal
Mr. Geisel, Assistant Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Teresa Barna, Business Administrator
213-2995 ext. 2500

Ernie Gallant, President
Bill Taggart, Vice President
Robert Edinger
Dennis Drake
Terry Glennon
Kurt Kessler
Frank Kish
Greg McGann
Jesse Rozycki

PTA

Lee Rozycki, President
Tracy Keating, Vice President
Linda Weiss, 1st Vice President
Karen Larsen, Corresponding Secretary
Daphne Mengucci, Recording Secretary
Bill Taggart, Treasurer

November Newsletter

Deadline:

Friday, October 20!

Send submissions to:
Lopatnewsletter@yahoo.com
or call Kim at 859-1128.

***A sincere thank you to all
newsletter copy volunteers!***

Superintendent's Report

Dear Families,

Hopefully by the time you read this note your family is back in the swing of things, getting re-acquainted with the daily routine of school life. The first couple weeks are always an adjustment period; however, we look forward to a great school year filled with new opportunities and achievements. Having personally attended and spoken at all back to school nights I believe there is genuine excitement going into the academic term. The buildings look great (thanks to our custodial group), teachers have spent considerable time preparing for classes, and the administration and staff have every confidence in what the next ten months will offer our students.

Within that frame of reference, the K-8 math program has a new look and feel. In the K-5 arena, an entirely new program of studies, equipped with hands-on manipulatives and technology integration, is part of the new landscape. In grades 6-8, articulation agreements with our sending district partners have formalized a strong foundation for all students as they prepare for high school and beyond. In particular, for the first time, a grade eight honors section was established, one that is run through the high school and attended by students from the entire cluster. In reading, our two specialists are working with teachers to create a structure whereby each student is reading at his or her developmental readiness level (be that on-grade, remedial or enriched).

Lopatcong Township School District will establish a district mission statement, one that expresses our vision of the K-8 experience. Toward that goal, we have targeted several categories that we'd like your feedback on. At some point in the near future we will be sending home a form that will ask for input about what a Lopatcong educational experience should entail. Once we have gathered information from as many sources as possible we will put together a committee to analyze the feedback and craft a mission statement. That statement will be presented to the Lopatcong Board of Education for adoption. The long-term utility of having a mission statement is to connect our educational decisions to it, using it as a guide as we move forward.

Also looking forward, I know that the PTA has many great programs and opportunities for parents and students alike to become a part of. I heartily encourage you to join with them in a quest to enhance programs for our students. It has been a fast start to the year already, with many exciting and new facets of the Lopatcong experience at hand. I look forward to continuing a positive partnership with all stakeholders and hope the fall season is as colorful for you as the foliage that surrounds New Jersey.

Educationally,
Dr. Rossi

Elementary students: Mark the following days in your calendar to show your Panther Pride. Please keep safety in mind!

Nov. 16	Crazy Sock Day
Dec. 14	Favorite Team Day (wear a shirt or uniform, no cleats)
Jan. 18	Dress Alike Day
Feb. 15	Inside Out Day
March 2	Dr. Seuss Day (dress like favorite Dr. Seuss character)
April 19	Silly Hat Day
May 24	Red, White, and Blue Day
June 7	Hawaiian Day
Every Friday is Blue and Gold Day!	

**Do you
have
School
Spirit?**

**Go Panther
spirit!**

Musical Notes

Welcome to the Lopatcong Middle School Instrumental Music Program 2006/07.

The Instrumental Music program offers various levels of performance groups. These consist of 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band, 7th and 8th Grade Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Our instrumental students will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work and achievement during the Winter and Spring Concerts, the 6th Grade All-Star Band Concert, the Phillipsburg High School Intermediate Honor Band Concert, the Music Festival, and other events.

Band students commit to attend a lesson once a week (lessons are scheduled in rotation), to attend band rehearsals (rehearsals cannot be made-up), to participate at concerts and to study at home. The materials needed are an instrument, a band method, a book of solo/studies, and optional accompaniment software. Instruments are rented or purchased from private companies. However 5th and 6th grade students interested in playing low brass instruments, (the baritone horn) may be able to borrow the instrument from the school.

The primary reason for studying an instrument is simply the love of music. It is a wonderful experience that students will retain for the rest of their lives. That being said, there are many other spin-off benefits of playing an instrument. Ongoing studies continue to demonstrate the relation between making music and higher S.A.T. scores, better teamwork skills, better abstract reasoning and improved self-discipline and diligence. What better reasons than these is there to pick-up a band instrument?

So welcome aboard the beautiful world of instrumental music!

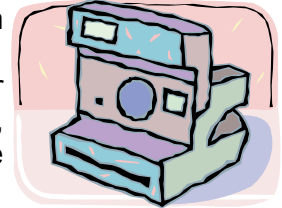
Rodolfo Crevani
Band Director



Say Cheese!

The Community/Parent Awareness Committee is looking for families to donate old Polaroid cameras and 1 package of film to be used for a "Random act of Kindness" project.

Please send in your used camera to Mrs. Burd, Guidance Counselor at the Elementary School.



You belong in PTA Join now!

Did you know that in addition to helping your child, your involvement as a PTA member can have direct benefits for you – discounts, information, resources, and more. Your benefits as a member of PTA include:

- Exclusive members content at America's number one resource for parents – PTA.org
- The PTA Parent – an e-newsletter written especially for parents and PTA members, filled with great resources and helpful information, and delivered to your e-mail box every two weeks
- National PTA and state PTA conventions, at special member rates, that will help you grow as well as network with other PTA members
- Voting rights at your local PTA, state PTA, and National PTA (with some restrictions), enabling you to have a real say in your child's future through PTA
- Special offers from corporate sponsors and benefit providers

Please look for the Invitation to Join flyer which will be coming home by way of the "backpack express." You may also send in an envelope marked "PTA Membership" with child's name, grade and teacher. Dues are \$5 per individual. If both parents/guardians join, the cost is \$10. For more information, call Laura Gulick, 213-0701 or e-mail lau-

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What's going on at the
**Middle School Media
Center**

Doing Research?

Use reliable sources...

Students are encouraged to use Jersey Clicks, EbscoHost, and Facts On File databases on the "Web Resource" page of the Middle School Media Center website (www.lopatcongschool.org).

User Name: lopatcong Password: panthers

Scholastic Fall Book Fair:

November 16 – 22

Item Collection is on!

Please continue to collect the following items. Collection bin is located in the Library. Thank you for your support.

1. Empty ink cartridges
2. Box Tops coupons
3. **NEW!!!** Campbell's – UPC Codes
NOW instead of labels

*Lopatcong Middle School Drama Club
Announces*

**Auditions for
"Schoolhouse Rock, Jr."**

When: Oct. 19 & Oct. 24
Time: 3:15 to 5:30
Where: Middle School All Purpose Room

Students will be asked to sing and do a short movement combination.

**All students must see Mr. Crevani for a permission slip and an audition time. No one can remain after school to audition without a signed permission slip.

Direct all questions to Mrs. Steele @ 908-859-0800 ext. 257 or steelep@lopatcongschool.org

5th Grade Blast Off!

Fifth grade has rocketed off to a great start! Our new "explorers" have had a chance to meet and greet each other by writing acrostic poems, using their names. We're learning how to change classes and bring our materials to class. The students are doing a great job!

We are "blasting out" bullying by learning how to treat each other with respect. Having fun versus making fun is a good lesson for all to remember.

Fifth grade has "explored" the opportunities available at their school. They toured the library with Mrs. Ellard and became acquainted with the many resources available. Also, the students were introduced to both the chorus and the



Chorus Notes

Chorus Orientations were held for all students. They were given the opportunity to audition for the Choral program over a two week period during Panther Period. One hundred students auditioned.

Rehearsals began the week of September 25 for 5th/6th and 7th/8th Grade Chorus.

In addition to the Winter Holiday and Spring Concerts, some other opportunities the program presents are attending a Broadway musical in March, community performances, NJ All-State auditions and the Princeton American Boychoir assembly. We're looking forward to an exciting year!





“Three for Me” Recognition Zone

We would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers for keeping their promise to volunteer at least three hours at Lopatcong Township Schools in September.

Susan Adams
Laura Gulick
Tracy Keating
Kim Koslowski
Kris MacQueen
Daura McMahon
Daphne Mengucci
Suzanne Schaefer
Betty Trauger

If you would like to participate in the Three for Me program, fill out the form included in this newsletter. Don't forget to send in your card when you've completed your hours so we can recognize your commitment to Lopatcong Schools!

7th Grade News

Social Studies

Mr. Brekne's Social Studies classes are holding a German Court. They will be working in groups to write a skit to perform in front of the class. Each group will be given a different scenario or supposed crime to bring to trial. The rest of the class, or jury, will decide a verdict and if they find the accused guilty will impose a wergild, or fine.

Science

The seventh grade students started off the year in science with enthusiasm and excitement. How can they not?! Science is so much fun! In September, they analyzed data by constructing line graphs by hand and then by using the computers in the computer lab.

In addition, the students learned how to use the Boreal microscopes by exploring what happens to the specimen as viewed through the dual ocular lenses. Who says sharing isn't fun?! This month the students will learn what makes up all living things and experiment with these elements in a hands-on lab.....really hands on, with the gooey mess and everything. Stay tuned for more cool science in the next issue.

Math

The Matrix program started up again on Wed., September 20. Over 40 students signed up for the morning program. WOW!

Course 2 math students have been working on Geometry. This would be unit 7 of the book.

Pre-Algebra students are just about finished with unit 1 Algebra Toolbox. Next unit will be Integers and Exponents.

On a fun note; The Pi song was a big hit for the last two years. Having the students learn about circles thru music was fun. Stay tuned for a brand new song! It's about FRACTIONS!! YUK!!!



Attention All Middle School Parents:

As a reminder, please take note of the following transportation rules!

Walkers

Students from Delaware Park, Morris Park, Rose Hill Heights, Brakeley Park and Strykers Road will enter the building at the Buckeley Hill entrance.

Students from Country Hills, Belvidere Road and Belview Road will enter the building at the Stonehenge entrance.

A map of suggested walking routes to the Middle School is available at the Lopatcong Township Middle School.

Car Riders

Middle School Students who arrive and depart by car are to be dropped off and picked up at the BUCKELEY HILL entrance only. (This includes all students participating in morning activities).

Parents are to enter the lot and pull up to the closest available space nearest the school. Students are to exit the car on the right side only. Parents will then turn at the circle at the end of the driveway and exit by turning onto Buckeley Hill Drive.

Anti-Bullying: Tips for a positive school environment

“Creating a Positive Classroom”

1. Bullying is not allowed in our classrooms.
2. We don't tease, call names, or put people down.
3. We don't hit, shove, kick, or punch,
4. If we see someone being bullied, we speak up and stop it (if we can) or go for help right away,
5. When we do things as a group, we make sure that everyone is included and no one is left out.
6. We make new students feel welcome.
7. We listen to each other's opinions.
8. We treat each other with kindness and respect.
9. We respect each other's property. (School property, too.)
10. We look for the good in others and value differences.

“Having Fun versus Making Fun”

Having Fun

- Good-humored, friendly or playful teasing.
- Causes everyone to smile and laugh, including the “teasee,” the person who is teased. It is kidding and joking around.
- Fun and friendly teasing is a sign of friendship and does not damage one's self-esteem. Generally, parents and teachers DO NOT hear about this type of teasing because children do not come home upset. Most children don't even consider joking or clowning around as teasing because they generally perceive the act of teasing as negative and hurtful.

Making Fun

- Hurtful teasing often causes the person being teased to feel sad, angry, upset, afraid, embarrassed or helpless.
 - When cruel teasing and taunting occurs repeatedly over a period of time, it can be considered abusive. This hostile teasing includes tormenting, harassing or verbal bullying.
-

School Store News

Important Changes at the Elementary School Store!

Due to the elementary school day now beginning at 8:00 a.m., the hours for the School Store have been changed to the lunch time periods on Wednesdays. Beginning on Wednesday, September 20th, students in grade 3 had the opportunity to visit the school store during the 1st lunch period (11:30-12:00) and the students in grade 4 went during the 2nd lunch period (12:15-12:45). The following Wednesday, September 27th, grades 1 and 2 had the opportunity to visit the school store during their consecutive lunch periods and this schedule of alternating weeks will continue throughout the school year. By making this change, each student will now have the opportunity to visit their Elementary School Store at least twice a month. Below, please find the schedule by grade for the month of October so your child will know when he/she can visit the store next.

10/4 – 3rd and 4th grade
10/11 – 1st and 2nd grade
10/18 – 3rd and 4th grade
10/25 – 1st and 2nd grade
11/1 – 3rd and 4th grade



The store hours for the Middle School remain the same – every Thursday from 11:30 – 12:45.

Volunteers Needed

We still need volunteers to help at both school stores. This is a great opportunity to get involved, even just once a month, especially if you are available during the lunch time or work locally. Please call Robin Wodzisz @ 908-859-8088 if you're interested in volunteering.

What's New for Sale

Although we have depleted our stock of imprinted coin holders, jelly bracelets and car magnets, we still have plenty of Lopatcong zipper pulls for \$1.00, Lopatcong paw pencils for \$0.30 each and Lopatcong pencil pouches for \$1.50.

SPIRIT WEAR IS HERE! Both school stores are now carrying a limited supply of t-shirts, hooded pullover sweatshirts and zippered hooded sweatshirts. Prices are: t-shirts – youth=\$8.00/ adult=\$10.00; hooded pullovers – youth=\$18/adult=\$20; and zippered – youth=\$23/ adult=\$25. Both school stores will accept cash or checks made payable to the Lopatcong PTA. Popular sizes are going fast so show your school pride and pick up your Lopatcong pride spirit wear today!!

If there is something special you would like to see sold at the School Store or have any suggestions on imprinted items, just e-mail dwodzisz@verizon.net or call Robin Wodzisz @ 908-859-8088.

Thanks again to all parents, students and teachers for supporting your Lopatcong School



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month! **September 15 - October 15**

Let's honor and recognize the cultural, historical, and political contributions that the Hispanic community has made to our country. For more information, go to www.nea.org/readacross/hispanic.html.

