

STEVENS STAR



PTA Newsletter



May 2009

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



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 6th

PTA Meeting
Library Media Center, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 7th

Walkabout and Ice Cream Social
7:00 -8:00 pm

Week of May 11th

Grade 2 Terra Nova tests

Tuesday, May 12th

Board of Ed. Mtg, H.S., 7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 13th

Staff Appreciation Day

Friday, May 15th

Half Day, grades 1-12
Noon dismissal for Elementary

Saturday, May 16th

Stevens Goes Green

Tuesday, May 19th

School Budget Vote
High School Gym - 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday, May 22nd and

Monday May 25th

No School

Wednesday, May 27th

Stevens Concert at H.S., 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 3rd

PTA Meeting
Library Media Center, 7:00 pm

Board of Education Update

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

This is the way Charles Dickens' classic tale of the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*, begins. It is also how the President of the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, Peter Aust, started his address at that group's annual dinner last week. And it certainly is an appropriate quote for our district.

"It was the best of times"...

At the April 21st school board meeting we had our annual review of student performance in each of the buildings within the district. The administration team shared messages of progress across our student populations. While quite a bit of work remains to be done, the longitudinal study of our student trends is moving in the right direction.

Many of you have attended the community forums recently hosted by the district and heard a recap of BH achievements. Top 5% in Newsweek magazine, one of the top districts in the Business Review and, most recently, the State Education Department released their School Report Cards and BH-BL has the highest graduation rate of any Suburban High School.

"It was the worst of times"...

Unfunded mandates, outdated legislation and other cost components outside the control of this district continue to strain the limited resources we have. The current economy has placed an unprecedented pressure on the public school funding model. This year the board hosted additional community forums in order to incorporate as much public opinion as possible into the budget development process. On May 19th, you will have an opportunity to exercise your right to vote on the budget, as well as new buses and school board candidates. I encourage you to go to the polls in this important election.

Thank you for all you do to make this district a great place to educate our children.

John Blowers

School Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 19th
High School Gym - 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

5th Grade Party Information



Here's your last chance to get that great shot of your 5th grader participating in class or in a school activity into the 5th Grade Memory Book. If you have photos you'd like to share, forward them to Lynette Albright at ldalbrig@nycap.rr.com or send them c/o Natalie Albright in Mrs. Sinnenberg's class.

If your 5th grader was not at Stevens in kindergarten, please send a kindergarten photo to be included in the book.



BOOK EXCHANGE



Hey kids -- do you have a ton of books -- but nothing to

read?! Here is your chance to exchange the books you are finished with for 'new' books from your friends and classmates. Start looking through your bookshelves, in your nightstand, under the bed... wherever those once-loved books like to hide! (We always seem to find the best ones between the mattress and headboard!)

The school book exchange will take place during the week of May 18th. More information to follow in backpack mail.

Julie McIntyre

News from our PTA President

Wow, the end of the year is right around the corner! The hot days we have had really make it feel like summer.

We need to give a big thank you to **Bob Rafferty** a.k.a. Science Bob for his hard work, and the volunteers who helped make Science Nights a success!

Our next PTA event is the **Ice Cream Social** held in the cafeteria during Walkabout on May 7th at 7:00 pm. Free Stewarts ice cream. ☺

Don't forget **Staff Appreciation Day** on May 13th. PTA will be hosting a lunch for the staff and if you can help out with food donations please contact Sue DeVito at 384-0121 or Tricia Letendre at 399-4602.

PTA is hosting a **Bullying Workshop** on May 4th at 7 pm in the High School Blue Room for parents. This is an important subject and I hope you are able to attend.

At our next PTA meeting on May 6th at 7 pm, we will have formal nominations of incoming officers. We will be voting on the nominations at the June meeting.

And finally, if you have a red committee folder, please be sure to hand it in. ☺

Cathy Todd – Stevens PTA President, 399-4438, ctodd00@msn.com

Health & Wellness

Fitness Fridays Coming in May!! A chance for our Steven's Superstars to enjoy some fun fitness activities before the school day begins! Each Friday there will be something different to try like obstacle courses, runs, and jumping rope. Parental volunteers may be needed, so be on the look out for more information.



Mascot Update! We've narrowed our entrants down to two! It won't be long now before we have a winner and a new Stevens' School Health and Wellness Mascot!! Thanks again to all who participated in the submission of ideas!

Have a fun and fit May everyone! Donna

Stevens Goes Green Plant Sale



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLANT ORDERS. If you were not able to pre-order plants, there is still time to participate. We will have many additional perennials, flowers and vegetables on sale on **FRIDAY MAY 15th AND SATURDAY MAY 16th**! Come join us and support the Stevens PTA and the many valuable programs we sponsor for our children!

REMINDER!!!

We will be asking parents of students to divide existing perennials from their gardens for us to sell at the Stevens Goes Green Plant Sale. Please think about what you have in your garden that you may want to divide. You may bring plants to Stevens on Friday afternoon, May 15th or arrange to have us pick them up the week before the event. Plants can be placed in recycled containers or in plastic shopping bags.

All plant orders must be picked up on Friday afternoon between 4:30-6:30 p.m., May 15th or Saturday morning, May 16th from 9-11 a.m. We will have a drive-up area in front of Stevens for those just picking up their plants. If you are unable to pick up your plants on that day, please call Kathy Welch or Tricia Letendre and we will arrange delivery to you.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF THE PLANT SALE! If you have any questions or you can volunteer for the plant sale, please contact chairpersons Tricia Letendre at 399-4602, or Kathy Welch at 885-6980.

2008-2009 Stevens PTA Officers

President

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ctodd00@msn.com

President-elect

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Linda Fieldhouse, 884-2620
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PTA Teacher Representatives

Sue Cifaratta and Betty Hanson
scifaratta@bhbl.org
bhanson@bhbl.org

ATTENTION CHAIRPEOPLE:

If you have a red folder that you are done with for the year please return it to the PTA mailbox.



Our Parent Education Committee presents a Bullying Workshop

On *Monday May 4th at 7:00 pm*, the PTA will be sponsoring a Bullying Workshop by Girls Incorporated. It will be held in the *High School Blue Room*.

**We encourage all parents to attend.
This event will cover all age levels.**

If you have any questions please contact
Dina Baker, Parent Education Chair.

Staff Appreciation Day to be held May 13th

The PTA will be hosting a luncheon for the staff.
If you can help out with food donations please contact
Sue DeVito at 384-0121 or Tricia Letendre at 399-4602.

Emailed or written submissions must be received by the 1st of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

Submissions by e-mail should be sent to
mgrabb@nycap.rr.com

Staff

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