

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION • FAIR HAVEN NJ • MAY/JUNE 2012

PTA President Letter

Dear Fair Haven Parents,

So this is it—our last newsletter together! I have so enjoyed sharing our PTA happenings and my phrases of inspiration with you! It has been a blast and I will miss our letters. But alas,—I have one more for you here...

First, allow me to update you on the cool happenings that are going on at both Sickles and Knollwood over the next two months. At both schools, we have our Staff Appreciation week from May 7th–May 11th. This is a special week when we get the chance to thank the tremendous staff that nurtures and teaches our kids everyday. We also have our Family Fun Water Park Outing on June 19th. I do not think I need to tell anyone about the level of fun that is had by kids of all ages at the water park. It is several hours of pure heaven in the form of the lazy river and the big slide...ha!

Of course, please don't forget the School Supplies fundraiser! Last year, the school supplies event went super and was so unbelievably easy! Could there be anything better than NOT having to visit Staples over the summer? Yes! Having your child's supplies delivered to school with no work on your part—yeah!

I also want to take a moment and thank all of you for reading the newsletter and for getting involved in SO many awesome and meaningful ways. You took my challenge to heart Fair Haven families and brought on the "steam and made the water boil"...The PTA has had

a very successful year and we will have many opportunities next year to enhance and enrich your child's education.

Now, you know that I won't sign off with you until I have shared some inspirational quote to keep you going through the summer. I have been thinking a lot about karma and kindness and compassion these days. In yoga, they say that compassion is everything—the key to happiness in those that surround you and ultimately for your-self. Everything starts with compassion.


Kindness seems to work the same way and will be forever connected with compassion. Recently, I found a very cool YouTube video about kindness. If you Google "Kindness Boomerang"—a video from a non-profit organization called Life Vest Inside comes up. Please take the time to watch—it rocks. The music is contagious and it depicts an act of kindness that travels through downtown Red Bank and finally returns to the one who started the original act. It is a beautiful display of what we can all do every day, each and every one of us. Let's all decide to do it. I'm in.

And here is my ending quote...


"One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness—it is usually returned." —Joseph Joubert, French writer

Have a fantastic end of school year and even groovier summer,
Tracy Rehder

Nominating Committee

At our April General Public PTA meeting, we voted on a Nominating Committee for the 2012–2013 Executive Board. If you would like to be nominated for a board position, please contact one of our Nominating Committee Members: **Cathy Alescio** at calescio@comcast.net, **Elaine Lehnert** at elehnert@verizon.net, or **Amanda Stevens** at astevens197@verizon.net. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates at our May PTA meeting and the new board will be voted in at our final meeting in June. For more information, please **contact Tracy Rehder** at trehder@yahoo.com or **Laura Nolan** at laurafhpta@gmail.com. 

Open Committees for 2012–2013

There are many opportunities to become involved in the PTA. You can chair a committee or volunteer to work on one. It is a great way to meet other parents, while helping our children's schools. We are busy planning for next year. Look for exact openings in an e-mail blast to be sent out shortly. In the meantime, **contact Laura Nolan** at laurafhpta@gmail.com and you will be added to our list of interested parents. 

Sickles Art Day

"FAIRY TALES AND FOLKLORE"

Thank you to all the parent volunteers and local vendors who made for a fabulous Fairy Tale Sickles Art Day this April, we are so grateful and could not have done it without you!



Volunteers Needed

FIFTH GRADE BABYSITTING CLASS

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Fifth Grade Babysitting Class. The classes will be held on May 30th and 31st in the APR at Knollwood. **Please contact Erin Simpson at ejsridge@verizon.net or Gail Flammer at flammer5@verizon.net if you are interested in helping out.** ✍️

Student Art Show

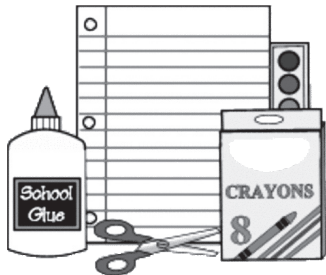
Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with the Art Show at Knollwood. The evening was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone.



School Supplies

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND.

A fantastic fundraiser that helps you and benefits the PTA!



Getting your child's school supplies has never been easier.

Watch for a flier with more information coming home in May.

Any questions contact: Gail Reid, (Sickles) at gail_reid@verizon.net or Laura Simeone, (Knollwood) at lsime1@verizon.net.

28th Annual PTA Luncheon a Success



Thank you to everyone involved in this year's PTA Luncheon, "Anchors Away," held at Branches Catering in Long Branch. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon dining with family, friends, and neighbors, as well as school staff and administrators. Attendees could try their luck to win one or more of the over 175 auction baskets and the dozen silent auction items available and/or take their chance playing two popular games—shuffleboard and a ring toss for a prize.

Funds raised at the luncheon will help pay for many important programs in our schools. This event could never have taken place without the support of so many individuals. Thank you to the wonderful "Anchors Away" committee, parent volunteers, the PTA Board, the faculty and staff at Sickles and Knollwood, who as always went above and beyond for us this year.

A HUGE thank-you also to area merchants, businesses and individual family and neighbor-

hood donors. A listing of all who donated is posted online at www.fairhavenpta.com. Please take the time to check the list and let the vendors and sponsors know how much we appreciate their generosity.

We send a final **special thank-you** to our four Grand Prize Raffle Underwriters: **Fair Haven Fitness and Karate, KICK Fitness and Dance, Mario Venancio, Gloria Nilson Realtors and Two Rivers Travel** for underwriting our \$3,000 travel voucher to "sail away" (or fly) to the destination of their choice.

Also with great gratitude we mention **Daisy Chocolates** for the delicious trays of goodies on our tables for dessert, **Grape Beginnings** for underwriting our entire Ring Toss Game and **Coastal Décor** for assisting us with our gorgeous tablescapes.

Thank you to everyone who joined us aboard the S.S. Fair Haven this year. We look forward to seeing you next year for another fabulous afternoon! ✍️

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Nenita Kilper for keeping us "green" with her useful earth-friendly tips.

Adriene Makstein for expertly creating and editing our newsletters.

George DiSpigno from The Copyroom, for printing our PTA newsletters all year.

Patty Cruz and **Lauren Steets** for cheerfully distributing our newsletters.

Beth DelVecchio and **Carolyn Riley** for tirelessly copying and distributing all of our flyers.

Mary Newman and **Sarah Stypa** for creating a fabulous Staff Appreciation Week.

Carolyn Rue and her committee for overseeing a successful TCSP.

Sharon Everett for chairing our ever-growing Box Tops for Education program.

Kim Browne for successfully chairing our membership drive.

Josephine Lindgren for breathing fresh air in to our new recycling program.

Marie Noglows for single-handedly running the Super 50/50.

Jenni Lucci and **Judy Horan** for expertly organizing our class parents all year.

Kerri Kostulias and **Cathryn Danielczyk** for making a fantastic Water Park Day happen once again.

Kelly Busch for chairing the much needed Goodwill committee.

Cathy Alescio for chairing the Community Safety and Awareness program.

Tara Jordan for organizing our recess equipment committee.

Ellen Ashinoff and **Kathleen Beausoleil** for running our Friends of Different Learners Program.

Laura Oncea for expertly chairing our Publicity.

Andrea Wigington for running our very popular Third Grade Science Club.

Stephanie Lynch and **Kirsten Ward** for planting all of our lovely flowers in our school flowerpots all year.

Gail Reid and **Laura Simeone** for taking over our Second Annual School Supplies program.

Carrie Eustace and **Stephanie Lynch** for seamlessly running our Sickles Art Gallery.



Friends of Different Learners

COFFEE AND CHAT

Friday, May 18th, 2012
10:00 am–11:00 am

Home of Ellen Ashinoff
42 Brookside Avenue
Fair Haven, NJ

RSVP to **Ellen Ashinoff**
at eashinoff@gmail.com

All parents are welcome!

PTA Meeting

Thursday, June 7th at 7:45 pm

Undici's, W. River Rd. at Bingham Ave., Rumson
Proposed PTA officers will be voted on.

Parents Night Out

(after the PTA meeting, 8:00 pm)

Please join us to celebrate the end of the school year!












Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided.
Beverages will be available for purchase.

Sickles Art Gallery

May (Grade 1): **Isenberg, Bennett & Leahey**
June (Grade 3): **Hughes & Daly**

Go Green, Fair Haven!

TOP TEN TIPS FOR GREENING YOUR SUMMER (FROM TREEHUGGER.COM)

-  **1. Steppin' light:** Find local activities with low environmental impacts like a trip to the local park, woods, zoo, ball game, or beach with friends to relax. Time spent with friends and family can be a great way to catch up and have fun. Picking up that new book you've been meaning to read while lounging on the deck is another great way to pass the time and leave a smaller footprint behind.
-  **2. Cool and easy:** Air conditioning can offer much-needed respite from the heat and can make sweaty nights bearable, but be sensitive to overuse. Turning up the thermostat a few degrees on your AC is a great way to save tons of cash while making the planet a cooler place at the same time.
-  **3. Up in your grill:** Love to BBQ? Propane burns much cleaner than either wood or charcoal briquettes. If you can't resist charcoal, try a natural product—much cleaner than your traditional briquettes. Of course, when you're done grilling, use natural cleaning products to keep your summer as chemical-free as possible. Tests show it's just as tough on grime as traditional cleaners, but won't leave that chemical residue behind to leach into your next burger or grilled tomato.
-  **4. The local roundup:** Buy food locally. Farmers markets are great places to shop, and ensure that the veggies you're eating hot off the grill or mixed in a salad haven't traveled thousands of miles just to reach your plate. That cuts down on the use of fossil fuels, which leads to significantly reduced levels of pollution and resource depletion over your typical tomato bought at the local supermarket.
-  **5. The green plate special:** Use reusable dishes rather than plastics or Styrofoam. If you absolutely must use disposables, make sure to pick up compostable varieties beforehand to put in the compost bin when you're through.
-  **6. Greenie bikini:** Look for eco-friendly products like clothing, swimsuits, sandals, towels, and skin care. Each of them is a step in the right direction, and you might just fall in love with a product or style you never knew existed.
-  **7. Charge!:** Pick up a solar backpack or device to take with you on day trips. That way, whether you're at the beach or on the go you'll be able to run and recharge a wide range of portable devices on solar energy. Save a buck by cutting out the electric company and giving your rechargeables the solar power they deserve.
-  **8. No poison, please:** Instead of DDT, use products like garlic barrier to ward off mosquitoes. Traditional products certainly do the job, but they can end up turning your backyard into a deathtrap for every other kind of living thing that drops by for a visit. Make sure to apply it when you think it won't rain for several days, and the garlic alternative should treat you right. Also, planting rosemary is a natural and low-tech way to block skeeters.
-  **9. Wet and wise:** Water usage levels are a big deal throughout much of the U.S. and the summer drought season can really make things tough. Be certain to watch what you use, water plants only when necessary, and take a few minutes to install a low-flow showerhead. They're simple steps that can make a big difference.
-  **10. The greener road:** Have to travel long distances to arrive at your dream destination this summer? Consider making it by road or rail rather than by plane, but be sure to offset your carbon emissions no matter what mode of transportation you choose. Companies and non-profit groups like Terrapass, Climate Care, MyClimate, Native Energy, and American Forests all offer ways to offset the damage done when you pick up and travel to places unknown. 

MAY/JUNE CALENDAR*

5/7–11: Staff Appreciation Week, Sickles and Knollwood

5/17: PTA Meeting, Knollwood, 1:30pm

5/30–31: 5th Grade Babysitting Class

6/7: PTA Meeting/Parents Night Out, Undici's, 7:45pm

6/18–19: Single Session Days

6/19: Last Day of School

*Dates are subject to change

Save the date!

PTA FAMILY FUN Water Park Outing Runaway Rapids, Keansburg, NJ

TICKETS ARE \$11 EACH



Tuesday, June 19th, 2:00pm–4:00pm

Rain Date: Wednesday, June 20th, 2:00pm–4:00pm

Questions, contact Kerri Kostulias at

**k_kimball@yahoo.com or Cathryn Danielczyk
at cjdanielczyk@yahoo.com.**