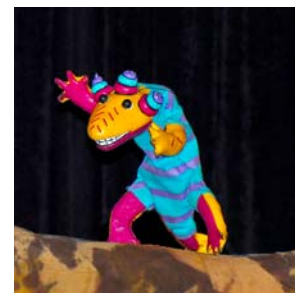


PTA Newsletter



Crabgrass Puppet Theater Visits Elementary School

On November 29th the Elementary School children were treated to a very entertaining puppet show from the Crabgrass Puppet Theater. The performance was titled "Jabberwocky." They showcased a nonsensical poem from Lewis Carroll's *The Looking Glass*. The rod-style puppets relayed the poem and asked the audience if they understood it. When of course, the audience replied "no!" the performers explained the meaning and style of the poem. They also showed the audience how the puppets worked. The children were fascinated and really enjoyed the show.

On another note - we are beginning to plan our biggest event of the year - Day of the Arts. The event will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss it! This event is free to all and open to the public as well. It is a day for children of all ages to experience many different forms of hands-on crafts and demonstrations by local artists and performers. If you would like to help in any way with this event or have ideas and suggestions for artists and demonstrators, please contact either Ann Pisani or Wendy Gatyas. (See contact information below). We are holding our first committee meeting on Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 PM at Panera. All are welcome to attend even if you are not on the committee.

Happy Holidays to all and hopefully we will see you at our January 12th meeting!

Wendy Gatyas 859-3446 wgatyas@verizon.net
 Ann Pisani 454-9695 ann.pisani@verizon.net

What's Inside

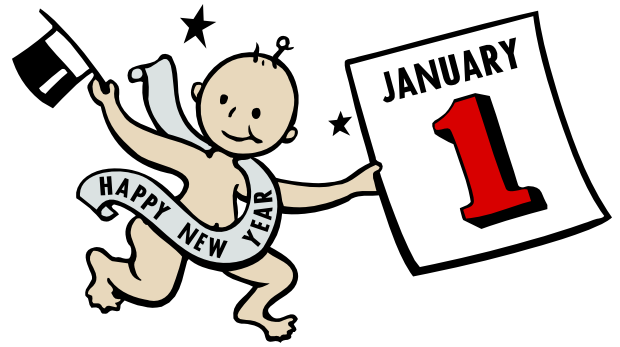
A Panther's Pause	Pg 3
Elementary School Buzz	Pg 4-5
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January

Dates to Remember

- Jan. 6 PTA Market Day Pick Up
MS—6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - MPR
- Jan. 11 Board of Ed Mtg.
MS—7:00 p.m. - MPR
- Jan. 12 Cultural Enrichment Committee Mtg
Panera Bread—7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 14 Dress Alike Day
ES & MS
- Jan. 17 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 18 PTA Executive Board Mtg.
MS—7:30 p.m. - Community Room
- Jan. 19 Forensics Tournament
MS—3:15pm
- Jan. 21 Family Movie Night
MS—7:00pm - MPR
- Jan. 28 PTA Market Day Online Order By Date
www.marketday.com
- Jan. 31-Feb. 3 PreK & Kindergarten Conferences
Elementary School
- Feb. 3 PTA Market Day Pick Up
MS—6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - MPR

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



Important Contacts

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

859-0800

Laura Ruggiero, Main Office ext. 3400
Ginny Remetta, Main Office ext. 3300
Mrs. Pede, Superintendent
Mr. Eagleburger, Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL

213-2995

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

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.lopatcongschool.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Teresa Barna, Business Administrator
213-2995 ext. 2500

Bill Taggart, President
Kurt Kessler, Vice President
Wade Caccese
Dennis Drake
Robert Edinger
Ernie Gallant
Joe Kennedy
Ed Krusman
Bob McFarlane

PTA

Kim Fritts, President
Tracy Keating, Outgoing President
Joan Stickel, Vice President
OPEN POSITION, Recording Secretary
Russa Nollstadt, Corresponding Secretary
Bill Taggart, Treasurer





A Panther's Pause

How exciting (for some) that we may have some snow in the near future. Fortunately, the first snow may come when our students are enjoying their winter break! As I look forward to January and 2011, Lopatcong Township will surely have much activity in which our school families can be involved. During this month, we will debut a podcast on our website featuring our board president and vice president. Be sure to visit our website at www.lopatcongschool.org for this and other key events! In addition, the following important dates should be noted on your home calendars:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 (7:00 meeting start) – There will be a special presentation at our Board of Education meeting for 8th grade students and their parents. The Director of Guidance at Phillipsburg High School, Mr. Robert Feltmann, will provide a presentation on high school scheduling that is sure to help our families with the freshman scheduling process.

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 (6:30-7:30 at the Middle School) – Our Special Education Parent Advisory Group will meet with representative parents from each level of these specialized programs. *We are currently in need of a pre-school representative, so if interested, please contact me at your earliest convenience.* This meeting will involve introductions as necessary, date selection for meetings for this school year, possible scheduling scenarios for the 2011-2012 school year, and an overview of the program to be held on Wednesday night regarding the reading programs to be introduced.

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 (7:00-8:30 at the Elementary School) – Parent explanation/training of some of the specialized reading programs in which our staff will be trained. It is my hope that any parents/guardians of children in any of these special education literacy programs will be able to attend this evening's program.

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 (7:00-8:30 at the Middle School) – Mrs. Kowalchuk will host a special presentation for all middle school parents highlighting the Writing Workshop that has been implemented across the grades at the middle school. This session will assist parents in the “nuts and bolts” of the process, as well as highlight some of the key activities that have been a part of the program to date.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 (9:00 A.M. at the Middle School) – Our first “Coffee with the Superintendent/BOE members” will be held in the middle school conference room. We are looking to have discussions with community members as we are in the midst of the budget process. Please call 908-213-2995 x2200 to register.

Recently, I have had the pleasure of meeting with some teachers before school as part of a book discussion group. One of the recent chapters included information on what constitutes a quality piece of literature for children. As I searched for information to enhance this chapter, I came across a book I had given to my daughter when she first began her teaching career entitled, *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden* by Edith Pattou. As the cold winter weather is upon us, I thought I would leave you with this wonderful abstract from the book which parallels a teacher in the class to cultivating a garden: “...She [He] knows that different plants need different things... each plant has its own shape...some grow quickly...some need gentle care, a special watching over...” The selection is well worth a read on a cold winter day! May 2011 bring all that you are wishing and hoping for.



Living and Learning in Lopatcong,
Vicki Pede, *Superintendent*



Elementary School Buzz

Preschool Press



Winter has arrived! Snow has been the focus in the preschool class and they have worked on many items that focus on snow. The preschool students have been working on creating a winter forest by painting green trees with white paint for snow. They also made ice skates for the preschool pond, which was frozen over. The preschoolers are also making snowmen for the display case. Preschool has the display in January, so check out the neat projects all the preschool classes had contributed to the display.

~Mrs. Torcivia

Happy Holidays from Preschool! Preschool has been very busy this month with getting ready for the holidays. The students have been working on patterning and have become very good at this skill. Some of the thematic units that we did in December included: winter, gingerbread and the holidays. The children are learning how to take turns by playing different games such as, The Jingle Bell game, Who's Missing, Memory and Candyland.



~Miss Duaine and Mrs. Mansfield

Child Study Team Services

The Child Study Team services are available to children ages 3 to 21. Children experiencing physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive, and/or social difficulties may be eligible for special education and related services. Parents should contact the Child Study Team Office at (908) 213-2955 ext. 2800 for further information. Babies from birth to age 3, who are thought to have a developmental delay, may receive assistance from the Early Intervention Program. To access this service, parents should contact the Special Child Health Services at (908) 689-6000 ext. 258 or 259.

Second Grade Holds Polar Express Day

Happy New Year! It was an exciting time for the second graders as we said goodbye to 2010. We recognized December holidays focusing on the theme of light, since light plays a significant role in festive celebrations in the forms of candles, stars, and holiday lights. The children created holiday Acrostic poems, and decorated ornaments, gifts, and snowflakes for our school display case for the month of December.

The second graders participated in a Polar Express Day in December. Our Polar Express Unit encompassed a variety of literary and math activities and culminated in the viewing of "The Polar Express" movie by all second graders. The children (and teachers!) enjoyed wearing pajamas for Polar Express Day! Our Polar Express activities coordinated with our Making Meaning Reading Program, as the children focused on the following comprehension strategies: Visualization, Inferencing, and Making Connections. As one of our writing activities, the children related to the boy's excitement in the story, and made a connection about a time when they were excited and incorporated details to write about this special time.



We would like to thank all the parents and family members that helped with holiday parties and participated in class events during the past year. As we welcome 2011, we look forward to your continued involvement throughout the year. Thank you!

Generous and Talented Third Graders

Third graders have been very busy little bees this month! The students collected a large number of donations for both *Common Sense for Animals* and *Foster and Adoptive Family Services of Warren County* in lieu of a gift exchange. The doggies and kitties at Common Sense will appreciate the food, litter, and cleaning supplies this cold holiday season. And, the children being cared for through Foster and Adoptive Services will definitely enjoy the toys they'll be receiving! A big "Thank You" to our third graders for having such generous hearts.

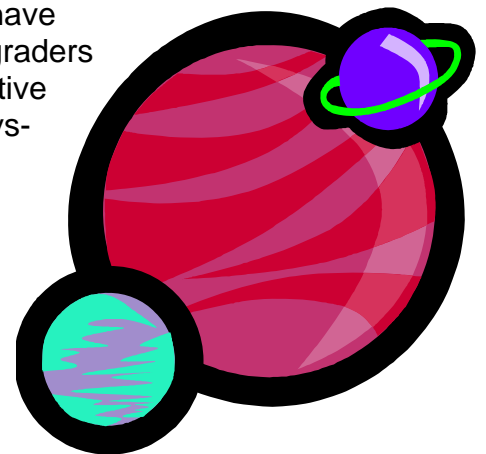
On a different note, third grade shared gifts of another kind with their amazing talent show! The show was performed to go along with the book *Rosy Noses, Freezing Toes*, a story about how the Pee Wee Scouts put on a show to earn a music badge. The Lopatcong version not only had music, but also comedy, magic, and gymnastics, among other acts. There was even a surprise teacher performance! What a gifted group we have!



Fourth Grade Report

It's a new year and fourth grade is working hard. Fourth grade held their annual collection for the *Heifer International Program*. We raised \$135.39 for families less fortunate. Thank you for all the donations to help make our collection a success!

In math, the students are practicing multiplication facts, learning how to multiply by multi-digit numbers, reading graphs, and collecting data. Fourth grade has been learning questioning and wondering strategies to help further understanding while reading. Students have been learning how to sway opinions with persuasive writing. Fourth graders also have started to learn about creative writing with the use of narrative stories. In science, fourth grade has been studying about the solar system as well as Earth's weather. Early exploration and the American Revolution have been the topics of focus in social studies.





Middle School Scoop

Celebrating the Journey

The 5th graders jingled through the month of December. We “decked” our hallway with festive snowmen and winter scenes. We are “walking in a winter wonderland” everyday.

In science classes, students learned about the migration of whooping cranes. They tracked the actual migration on a website and designed their own news broadcast. Students enjoyed acting as newscasters, meteorologists, scientists, and whooping cranes.



On December 23rd, we enjoyed a holiday assembly. Mr. Crevani led the band as they performed holiday tunes for the students. We enjoyed each others’ company with food and fun.

5th grade ended the year on a “high note” with a festive sing-a-long. The holiday songs filled us with the spirit of friendship. Team 5 wishes all of our students and their families a healthy and happy new year.

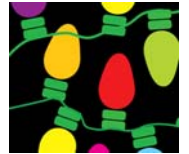


Grade 6 News

Grade 6 social studies classes are studying ancient Egypt. They have interpreted hieroglyphs, and used this knowledge to translate their names into this form of writing. Students learned about the process of mummification, construction of the pyramids, and the reigns of the great pharaohs. Mrs. Ruane even discussed a newly discovered pharaoh – King “Hankenahen”!



In language arts, students completed a writing and art project. They wrote similes connecting colors with items associated with the winter holiday season. The poems were copied onto oversized Christmas lights and displayed in the 6th grade wing. Snowflakes completed the festive winter look.



In science, students have taken a “hands on” approach to rocks. Mrs. Beenders’ classes constructed mobiles classifying the three types of rocks. They also participated in labs to examine and identify various rocks.



Math classes have explored a variety of math concepts, from computation of fractions, to measures of central tendencies, to rules of divisibility. Lessons were “amped up” through live performances of “2 + 1” math songs by Mr. Hank and Mrs. Bercau. Students showed their enthusiasm for this different approach to learning math by participating in the songs. Science may have rocks, but “Math Rocks”!

~Team 6

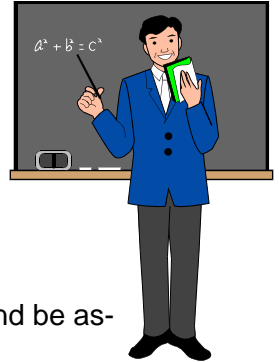


Clothing Drive a Success

The first Chain Links Club clothing drive through Big Brothers Big Sisters was a huge success. Thank you to everyone in the community who donated.

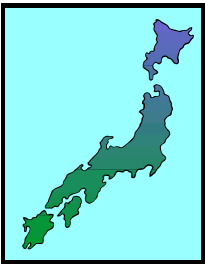
Grade 7 Classroom Highlights

The pre-algebra classes are reading chapters on polynomials as an extra assignment to what they are already learning. This will soon lead to factoring which is a major part of algebra. Students will be factoring on various homework assignments the rest of the year in hopes that this will give them a big advantage when they take algebra. Four classes are currently working on percents which is a major part of the 7th grade NJ ASK. They are also being taught how to solve multi-step, open-ended questions and have to provide a detailed explanation as to how they solved the problem.



7th grade students have been requested to assist in Mrs. Barna's Class. They will sign up and be assigned dates and times that they can help in the class.

7th Literature: Students have just finished their first literature circle for the year. The theme of this cycle was Historical Fiction and students are now completing a culminating research project to discover the historical accuracy of their novel by looking into the events and people portrayed in the novel.



7th grade social studies students have been working on creating "Japan travel brochures" for the past few weeks. Students have included specific themes of Japanese history such as the geography of Japan and how it affects their diet, common religious practices, samurai warfare and art and culture. Students are looking forward to seeing their brochures hang on the 7th grade banner.

The Lopatcong Middle School student council hosted ***Almost Anything Goes*** on November 12th, 2010. Mrs. Ruane, Mrs. Fernandez and the executive board worked diligently in the weeks prior to the event, organizing games, refreshments and teams. All of the profits for the event were donated to the Lopatcong fire department. In total, we raised \$1,350. This is the most money raised for the fire department since the program was started many years ago.



The seventh grade science students are learning about the history of genetics, especially, about traits and inheritance. They are predicting the probability of possible traits passed from one generation to another using Punnett squares.

In addition, they are learning how living things are classified based on their characteristics and how these characteristics help living things survive. The students will continue to learn about genetics and DNA and what can happen if there is a misfire or mistake within the genes of an organism. To conclude the unit, the students will solve a simulated case (mystery) called "Twins or Not?" using the genetic evidence provided for them. They seem to enjoy this activity and are often surprised by the outcome.



In language arts, students are continuing to grow as writers in Writer's Workshop. Students have been working on their rough drafts and final piece for Choice Piece #3 due January 3rd. Students will be presenting their pieces when we return from the holiday break, and are excited to share their work as budding authors.

Eighth Grade Attends Encore Performance

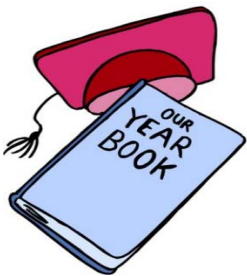
On Thursday, December 2nd the eighth grade traveled to Allentown's Symphony Hall for the Encore Performance by the Chamber Theatre Group. Chamber Theatre Productions (CTP) provides students and teachers with original adaptations of classic short stories. Their productions are specifically designed to complement both middle and high school curricula. Rather than present only one story per performance, CTP has developed a unique format of presenting five separate short stories by five different authors within a 90-minute time frame, allowing a broad range of styles and genres for teachers to highlight within their classrooms. The five short stories performed by the acting group included Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," Guy de Maupassant's "The Necklace," W. W. Jacobs's "The Monkey's Paw," and Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." A new addition to this year's production was an excerpt from Poe's "The Raven." After studying the stories in literature class, the students enjoyed seeing the tales performed on stage. Besides being used as a valuable teaching tool, the production provided students with a field trip experience that was both educational and entertaining.



Attention 8th Grade Parents!

Please watch upcoming newsletters for information and dates regarding preparations for and meetings for 8th Grade Graduation. Thank you!

Tracy Keating, Chair, *8th Grade Graduation Committee* (908) 213 -1450
or franktracyk@verizon.net.



8th Grade Yearbook Ads Class of 2011

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Each year the Lopatcong Township Board of Education purchases a yearbook for each graduating eighth grade student. In addition, you are invited to send a special note of congratulations to your child in the upcoming yearbook. This is done in the form of a short ad consisting of **no more than 40 words** with the option to include a photograph (recent or childhood). *Please note that including a photograph in the ad will not alter the cost.* For the price of \$18.00, you may place an ad which expresses your warm wishes and congratulations to your son or daughter. The ads will appear in color in the yearbook.

If you are interested in placing an ad, please complete the order form on page 9 and return it by January 14, 2011, with a check for \$18.00 made payable to **Lopatcong Township School District**. All completed forms and questions should be forwarded to Mrs. Conner at Lopatcong Township Middle School.

Sincerely,
Yearbook Ad Staff

Class of 2011 Yearbook Parent Ad Forms

2010 – 2011 Yearbook

Lopatcong Township Middle School

Student Name

Parents Name

Home Address

Parent Signature

Town/State/Zip

Home Telephone

Check # (payable to Lopatcong Township Middle School) \$18.00

Due to limited space, ads must be NO MORE THAN 40 WORDS

Message:

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF A PICTURE IS INCLUDED

November Rachel J. Scott Kindness Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the Rachel J. Scott Award for November.

From Left to Right: Nick McAuliffe (Grade 5); Alexa Tauriello (Grade 7); Raphael Pacis (Grade 8); Shawna Laman (Grade 6)



Almost Anything Goes!

This year AAG was held on November 13th. Hopefully, every team had an enjoyable time and each contestant participated to their fullest. AAG has been held in our school for many years and this was another successful performance. The Almost Anything Goes teams were the M & M's, Swedish Fish, Skittles, Jolly Ranchers, Chips Ahoy, Oreos, Blast from the Past, Geezer Gang, and Nutty Professors. In the end, the Blast from the Past won. The Skittles captured second place, while the Nutty Professors took third. The Chips Ahoy and Geezer Gang took fourth and fifth. As the Swedish Fish got sixth, the Oreos made it to seventh. Finally, the Jolly Ranchers ended up in eighth place and the M & M's took ninth. The 2010 Almost Anything Goes was a big success. The \$1,350 that was raised at this year's Almost Anything Goes went to the Fire Department. Almost Anything Goes was very entertaining, fun, and interesting. We hope the fun will continue in the future.



Lopatcong Middle School Honors All Who Served

The staff and students of Lopatcong Township Middle School recognized Veteran's Day in four special ways this year: Veteran Guest Speakers, a flagpole ceremony, a POW/MIA Flag Dedication, and a Wall of Honor.

Veteran Guest Speakers

On Tuesday, November 9, four local Veterans were invited to share with the students a firsthand lesson on Military History: Mr. William Hunt, a WWII Veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. William Nixon, a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Navy, 1st Sergeant Michael R. Buckles, an active duty Marine, and Mr. Terry Lee, a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Coast Guard.



The 5th grade students had the privilege of learning about WWII from Mr. Hunt, grandfather of fifth grade student, Teresa Hunt. This Navy Pilot was only 18 years old when he was aboard an aircraft carrier that had just previously pulled out of Pearl Harbor prior to the attack that brought us into the War. Mr. Nixon shared stories of camaraderie and sacrifice as he served on the USS Parle. He also allowed the sixth grade students to try on his Navy Uniforms as he explained that each was designed to function as a lifesaving device.



Vice President of the Warren County War Memorial Corporation, Mr. Lee expressed the importance of remembering and honoring our nation's history. As a member of the Board of Directors for Rolling Thunder, Mr. Lee taught the seventh graders the significance of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/ MIA) flag. (Please read about the Veteran's Day Ceremony to find out about the POW/ MIA flag that is flying at the Middle School.)



1st Sergeant Buckles has spent the past 17 years on active duty, which included 3 years as a drill instructor and 3 combat missions. His current perspective on military life revealed to the seventh graders that our freedom is not free. 1st Sergeant Buckles, donned in his dress blues, was a living, breathing example that men and women are continuing to serve and protect our nation.



The stories of loss and sacrifice, the values of honor, courage, and commitment, and the cost of our freedom were the objectives taught that day. Through student questions, respectful interactions and sincere thank you cards, it was clear that the students demonstrated an understanding and appreciation for our Veteran Guest Speakers.

Flagpole Ceremony

On November 11, Veterans Day, all who work and learn inside LMS could be found situated around the flagpole to honor all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Words cannot express the sincerity that was displayed during that November morning tribute.

The students, administration, teachers, and support staff, along with Board Member, Mr. Ed Krusman and a number of local Veterans joined together to pledge allegiance to our flag. The ceremony also included the Star Spangled Banner sung by the chorus led by Mrs. Kohl, President Obama's Veterans Day Proclamation (read by Mr. Geisel), America the Beautiful (performed by the band and led by Mr. Crevani), and taps which was performed by Miriam Kontoh and Gabrielle Taylor.



(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag Dedication

During last year's guest speaker activities, Mr. Lee, of Rolling Thunder, graciously offered to donate a POW/MIA Flag to the school. Rolling Thunder is an organization whose purpose is to remember our service men and woman who were lost and never found during times of war. Mr. Lee came through with his promise and dedicated the flag to Lopatcong Township Middle School during the Veteran's Day Ceremony. ***The next time you pass by the flag, take a moment to remember those who never returned home.***



Wall of Honor

Lopatcong Middle School Librarian, Mrs. Jackie Ellard, designed a Wall of Honor, which displayed the names of Veterans and their branch of service. A letter was sent home to the families of Lopatcong Middle School students in late October requesting the names of friends and family members who served in the military. An overwhelming response of names were returned and placed on red, white, and blue stars. The stars are currently displayed in the form of a huge flag and stripes that leads toward the gym.

Mrs. Ellard also acknowledged the administrators, staff members, faculty, and board members who are Veterans:

Mr. Thomas Bakely	Army National Guard
Mr. Dennis Drake	United States Army
Mr. Stephen Geisel	United States Army
Mr. Henry Hooper	United States Air Force
Mr. Kurt Kessler	United States Army
Mrs. Nicole Kocsis	United States Marine Corps
Mr. Ed Krusman	United States Army
Mr. Maynard Reeves	United States Army



The Veteran Guest Speakers, Flagpole Ceremony, POW/MIA Flag Dedication, and the Wall of Honor made this past November a month of patriotism and gratitude. It was both humbling and rewarding to know that the Lopatcong Community supports and appreciates their Veterans.

***Thank you to all who contributed to these events.
Thank you Veterans.
Semper Fi***



Monday, January 17th Martin Luther King Jr. Day

At the time of this January newsletter deadline, classes were busy wrapping up the 2010 year and celebrating holidays. Stay tuned to the next issue to hear how our students honored and recognized MLK Jr. Day.



Tough Choices - Beyond Anger Management

FOR TEENS AGES 13-17

Tough Choices - Beyond Anger Management will address social and emotional competency. This program runs for three consecutive weeks. Each two hour program session will include the following components: information and education exercise, relaxation skill building, and an activity cognitively appropriate and related to the topic. Certificates awarded upon completion.



Where:
**Family Support Organization of Hunterdon, Somerset,
 Warren, Morris and Sussex Counties**

114 South Second Street
 Phillipsburg NJ 08865

When:
 Saturday 1/22/11, 1/29/11, 2/5/11
 11:00am to 1:00pm

Cost is free!

Call 908-213-9932 ext.16 to register or email
kking@fso-hsw.org

Tough Choices Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ **(C)** _____

Age: _____ **Gender: M / F**

Saturday (1/22/11, 1/29/11, 2/5/11) from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Referred by: _____

Any medical conditions we should be aware of, please indicate below.



Media and Fine Arts Report



Hurray for Honk!

Congratulations to Cast and Crew of Honk, Jr. on a wonderful production in December! Over 80 students participated as cast members, sound, light, and stage technicians, publicity members, and set and prop managers. We're so proud of you!

~Mrs. Bellfy, Mr. Crevani, & Mrs. Keating



Chorus...in the Spotlight

Congratulations to the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade choruses for their wonderful community performances and the annual Winter Holiday Concert! The 5th/6th grade Chorus performed at the Warren County Retired Educator's luncheon on December 7th. The 7th/8th grade Chorus performed at Christkindlmarkt on December 10th.

The 5th/6th grade Chorus opened the Winter Holiday Concert with the traditional holiday carol, The Holly and the Ivy, accompanied on flute by Mrs. Bercauw. This was followed by Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and a fun choreographed piece called Hip Hop Reindeer. Student rappers and dancers were featured in this piece. Michael Bai, Corey Hawk, Michelle Bai and Raphael Pacis were featured piano soloists.



The 7th/8th grade Chorus began their part of the concert with a "New Age" song called The Colors of Winter. The Girl's Ensemble performed "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and a choreographed piece called "Gonna Catch That Santa." A boy/girl ensemble performed "Baby It's Cold Outside." The girls were featured in the Mariah Carey pop classic, "All I Want for Christmas is You" and the boys were featured in Bruce Springsteen's hit "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town." Raphael Pacis performed an incredible rendition of The Grinch on the piano that folks were talking about for days!

The choruses combined for the traditional carol, Silent Night, featuring Honor Soloists Rachael Horun (Rebecca Nixon for Christkindlmarkt) with the eighth graders all holding candles. Featured in O Holy Night was parent soloists Mrs. Kaydryn Lattig and Mr. Donald Nixon. The concert concluded with Chorus President Rebecca Nixon conducting an audience participation medley called A Holiday Sing-Along.

Albemarle

Four students who were selected to attend Albemarle, the summer camp of the Princeton American Boychoir were recognized at the concert for their achievement. Congratulations to Heather Cronin, Tafari Maignan, Liam Nixon and Prad Rao!



National Honors Choir

Congratulations to Rachael Horun for being selected to the 2011 National Honors Choir! In March, Rachael will perform in Chicago at the National Choral Director's Conference with students from all over the country. Rachael is the second Lopatcong student to receive this high honor, congratulations!

Musical Notes

The future is here. The Lopatcong Band program is developing a true on-line class. Band students will be able to practice, record, and post their assignments from a computer at home or at school. Mr. Crevani will be able to listen to, comment on and grade the recordings from a computer as well. Parents will be able to follow their child's progress and receive reminders. Everything will go through the secure Smart Music web server. More updates will follow on this exciting new teaching tool.

Congratulations to the Lopatcong Band students for the great performance at the annual Holiday Band Concert. The concert featured the 5th grade band, the 6th grade band, and the 7th and 8th grade band. The event ended with the Jazz Band performing an enthusiastic "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch". Good job Lopatcong Band!



In January, Mr. C will visit the Elementary School to present the band instruments as well as the Lopatcong instrumental music program. Parents and students are also invited to a demonstration and a trial of band instruments during the Day of Arts on Saturday, March 5th. This event will take place at the Middle School and will also feature a performance of the Lopatcong Concert Band and Jazz Band. Participating Lopatcong 4th grade students will receive a token of recognition.



Do you have an old instrument sitting full of dust in your basement? Do you have an old unused suitcase cart (needed to roll heavy instruments)? Please consider donating it to the Lopatcong School. If you wish to do so, please contact Mr. Crevani at crevanir@lopatcongschool.org or at 213-2995 ext. 1403.

Media Center News

Pizza Hut Book It! program continues

- Grades K – 6
- Receive free personal size pan pizza coupons for reading.
- Elementary School – Please see your homeroom teacher.
- Middle School – Grades 5 and 6 are required to read 200 minutes per month.
 - Please hand in your forms to Mrs. Ellard by the end of each month.
 - Additional forms are available in the Library
- Program ends March 31



Doing Research?

Visit the Middle School Library on the school website. Click on the "Web Resources" link to find reliable resources. For databases, such as Facts on File and EbscoHost, use the following to log in.

User Name: lopatcong

Password: panthers

The Web Resource link will also help you to "cite" your sources. For students required to include a Works Cited page in their research paper, view the Elementary or Secondary MLA Citation Samples. These links provide samples and templates to help you complete your paper using the NEW MLA rules.

For additional help, stop in the Library.



PTA Announcements and Information



Dear Lopat Families-

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday break and got to spend time with friends and family. It seems there has been an awful stomach virus that has hit our community. Hope everyone is feeling better.

PTA had a busy December. We held our first ever Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This was also our second year of the Lil' Shopper's Holiday Shoppe. Our room representatives were busy with coordinating and running the winter parties in the classrooms.

January has us working out the details for the second half of the school year's activities. Committees are getting together and planning. On that note, I am starting to form two committees. One is **Teacher Appreciation Week Committee** and the other is **Spring Carnival Committee**. If you would like to help organize or help in any way with either or both of these events, please email or call me.



February 9th is our next General Meeting. We will celebrate our PTA Founders (past PTA presidents) and pick our nominating committee for the upcoming April elections for new PTA officers. Please try to attend.

Sincerely,

Kim Fritts, Lopat PTA President

kafritts@verizon.net 908-763-9562

A BIG thank you goes out to everyone who donated a turkey for the Thanksgiving Baskets. It was greatly appreciated.



Thanks for Supporting the Food Drive

The Lopatcong Township PTA and Middle School Student Council would like to thank everyone for their generosity during the December Food Drive. Once again, we delivered a large amount of food to Catholic Charities. Thank you.

We would also like to thank an anonymous donor who dropped off a laundry basket full of food to the Township Building which was also picked up and delivered to Catholic Charities.

The next food drive will be incorporated with the national Souper Bowl of Caring campaign, so stay tuned for more information.



Lil' Shopper's Shoppe Budgeting Fun

A blizzard of little Lopatcong panthers descended on the PTA's Lil' Shopper's Shoppe in December. Students budgeted their money and gave a lot of thought to gifts for family and friends. Many, many thanks to all the "personal shopping assistants" who assisted the children with their shopping experience!

Cara Rosenberg	Kathy Petrillo
Patti Pace	Gwen Olah
Melissa Saykay	Gretel Hans
Russa Nollstadt	Anna Grundt
Joanna Kane	Twyla Bartlett
Daura McMahon	Trisha Rieger
Kim Garabo	Donna Stagaard
Maria Gural	Sue Flanagan
Dee Heinrichs	Paige Burt
Karen Eible	Craig Chiulli
Geri Barry	Nicole Chiulli
Susan Gurneak	



Attention 8th Grade Parents!

Please watch upcoming newsletters for information and dates regarding preparations for and meetings for 8th Grade Graduation. Thank you!

Tracy Keating, Chair, *8th Grade Graduation Committee*

(908) 213 -1450
or franktracyk@verizon.net.

Is the Newsletter Arriving in Your Inbox?

Did you sign up to receive the newsletter by email, but it isn't coming through?

We've been getting a lot of bounced back emails. Please add pta-news@lopatcong.org to your contacts to hopefully keep us from going to your spam folder. You can also contact us at lopatnewsletter@yahoo.com to let us know if you are having any difficulties with the newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, send your name, email address and student's name to us at lopatnewsletter@yahoo.com.



Community Connection

Township News

Christmas Tree pick-up will take place Monday, January 10, 2011 through Monday, January 31, 2011. Please place your tree curbside for free pick-up.

2011 Dog Licenses are due in the month of January. Rabies Certificate must be valid through November 1, 2011. If not, a rabies shot will be required before a license can be issued. There will be late fees assessed, per month, after January 31st.

Have a safe, healthy and happy new year! Check out the township website for all the latest Lopat happenings: www.lopatcongtownship.com



Family Fun Night Movie Night

Come on out to the
Middle School
Multipurpose Room

At 7pm on Friday, January 21st



International MOMS Club

Celebrate a New Year with Some New Friends!






The MOMS Club® of Lopatcong Area, serving Alpha, Lopatcong, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong, and parts of Harmony, would love to have you as a new member. We offer many fun activities such as playgroups, park days, arts and crafts, day trips, monthly meetings, seasonal parties, and Moms Night Out. January fun includes bowling, tumbling, lunch dates, and a trip to the Crayola Factory, to name just a few.

There's always something to do! To find out more, visit our chapter website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/momscluboflopatcong/>

Contact us by email at LopatcongMOMSClub@gmail.com or through Membership Vice President, Angela Schappert at stellar879@msn.com.

JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3  Schools Re-Open Full Day Session	4	5 Student Council Winter Leadership Conf. TCNJ Visit to <u>Warren Vo. Tech</u> 8 th graders	6 PTA Market Day -MS pick up 6:00-7:00 p.m	7	8
9	10	11 Bd of Ed Mtg @ 7:00 p.m. MS - Multi purpose room <u>Note:</u> Special presentation for 8 th graders & parents –PHS Guidance Dept. at this mtg.	12 <u>Faculty Meetings</u> 2:50-ES 3:15-MS	13	14 Dress Alike Day @ ES & MS 	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL 	18 Sp. Ed. Parent Advisory Mtg. @ MS-6:30 p.m PTA Exec. Bd. Mtg. 7:30 p.m Comm. Rm-MS	19 MS - Forensics Tournament -3:15 pm <u>Sp. Ed. Parent Literacy</u> Program @ ES library 7:00 p.m.	20	21 End - 2 nd Marking Period  Family Movie Night @ MS 7:00 p.m.	22
23	24	25 8 th gr G&T to NJ State House – Trenton Parent Writer's Workshop @ MS – MPR-7:00 p.m.	26 “Coffee w/Superintendent & BOE” @ MS Conf. Rm. 9:00 in the morning (Snowdate) MS Forensics Tournament	27	28 <u>Career Day @ MS 8th Gr.</u> (Snowdate) Family Movie Night @ MS MarketDay Order by Date www.marketday.com	29
30	31 Preschool & Kindergarten Conferences – ES 