



Okte Elementary School

1581 Crescent Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065

WOW! September sure did go by fast! We hope you and your children all have settled in after what was a busy yet exciting start to a new school year.

**PTA Newsletter
October 2008**

Our Welcome Back BBQ was enjoyed by many...we certainly were not going to let a little rain get in our way of having fun! Although we had to bring the festivities inside, everyone still had a blast. Families enjoyed the delicious food and desserts and the children (and even a few adults) danced away to the sounds of the DJ. It was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm and willingness of so many parents to stick around until the end to help clean up! Thank you so much to Joanne Barry, our event chairperson and PTA Vice President for all of her hard work in order to make this event the success that it was! Joanne started preparing for the barbecue in the summer and focused on every detail to pull off a wonderful evening. Another BIG thank you goes out to the Krause family who once again catered our delicious barbecue, offering quite the variety of foods, and then in the end, donating all of the proceeds right back to the PTA! How generous! Thank you so much. If you see the Krause's around, make sure to give a "thank you" as their donation will mean even more wonderful things for the children of Okte!

Our Open Houses went off wonderfully! We're sure everyone enjoyed meeting your children's teachers and getting to visit the classrooms. As co-president's we enjoyed meeting so many of you and informing you of the important role the PTA plays in our school. If you haven't joined yet, please do! Make a difference!

Our Fall Fundraiser has now officially ended. We want to thank parents, grandparents, family and friends who supported this event! Not only will you be receiving some great items, you have helped to finance our Cultural Arts Program and several other programs that our children will benefit from in the coming school year. Thanks so much to our committee co-chairs, Christine Cimmino and Allyson Nadler for handling this fundraiser. We know your work has only just begun, as now you need to tally everything up, place orders and set-up delivery. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Looking for something to do on your day off on Thursday, October 9? Join us for a day at the movies!! Our Family Fun chairperson, Jennifer Franze, has made arrangements for us to attend a showing of the Beverly Hills Chihuahua at CCM at 1:00 pm. For more info, contact Jennifer at MandJFranze@aol.com. What a nice way to spend quality time together - thanks Jennifer for planning such a fun event!

The Reflections deadline is fast approaching. Please encourage your child/student to consider the theme "WOW" and create their own work of art just for fun! Please have your submissions to the office no later than October 24th.

Our annual Monster Mash preparations are well underway. The committee chairperson and Halloween specialist, Meredith Lounsbury, is hard at work with her committee to ensure this event is as terrific as always! Save the date - this "ghoulish" gathering is being held Saturday, October 25.

Our Fall Book Fair begins October 27th. This is a great way to stock up on books to read or give as gifts. Our book fair offers a variety of books for children as well as adults. This is just another way to inspire them to read as much as then can. The event co-chairs, Claudia Tate and Stacey Schaffer are busy making arrangements and will soon be reaching out for volunteers. Please consider helping out where and when you can.

Stay connected...you can find more information on our website. We list all important dates and upcoming events. Log on to www.shenet.org and click the link to Okte Elementary and then click Okte PTA.

Pam Kelly and Wendy Reynolds
Okte PTA Co-Presidents

Deborah Price, Principal
<http://www.shenet.org/okte/okte.htm>

Pam Kelly, PTA Co-President
Wendy Reynolds, PTA Co-President

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA...

10. Your child asked you to.
9. Knowledge and pride - be informed!
8. Kids are the priority - you can help make the difference.
7. Togetherness - your child will be so proud to have you help out at events when you can.
6. A good example from Mom and Dad - show your kids you care about their school and their education.
5. Network of support and advocacy. Be a part of the "magic" that makes our school so successful for the students, teachers and parents alike.
4. Witness Improvement. By getting involved you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes.
3. Watch yourself grow. By volunteering you can gain valuable experiences. It's an opportunity to put your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause - your child and the children in your community.
2. Speak Up. Because the PTA is a forum for exchanging ideas, you are encouraged to make suggestions. PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
1. Your donation of \$5 helps underwrite PTA sponsored programs for Okte students. A few PTA sponsored programs are Arts in Education, After School Enrichment, PARP, Monster Mash, Math Madness, Fall and Spring Book Fair, Moving Up Day for fifth graders, Shen Inventors, Science Fair, Ice Cream Social, and Dad's Dinner. With your donation we can keep these programs and add more.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

Yom Kippur; No School

October 9

Columbus Day; No School

October 13

PTA Meeting

October 22

Monster Mash

October 25

Parent Teacher Conferences; No School

November 3 and 4

Veteran's Day; No School

November 11

Community Conversations with the Superintendent are scheduled for:

- October 25, 2008, 9:30 am in the Acadia Library
- December 6, 2008, 9:30 am in the Skano Library
- March 14, 2009, 9:30 in the Arongen Library
- April 25, 2009, 9:30 am in Cheryl's Lodge
- May 16, 2009 9:30 am in the High School West Cafeteria

ABSENCE AND DISMISSAL NOTES

When you send these notes to school with your child please put your child's first and last name on the note and the name of the teacher. All of these notes come down to the office and it can be difficult to tell which student the note is about when there is only a first name on the note. Thank you, Linda Schiavi, Okte Office.

CHANGING FAMILIES

(An old program with a new name.)

Changing Families is the group formerly known as Banana Splits. It is a program for children who come from a home where the parents have divorced, separated, remarried and children who have never met a parent or have lost a parent. Changing Families is an in-school peer support program that is designed to help children explore, express and understand their feelings due to a family change. If you would like your child to be a part of this group please feel free to call me at 881-0543 or e-mail me at rockeric@shenet.org. Thank you.



Join the Okte Community
for the International
Walk to School Day
October 8, 2008



Attention: All Okte Families
Haunted House and Halloween Treats
Friday, October 17th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
67 Southbury Road, Crescent Estates South

Cub Scout pack 62 is hosting a
Halloween Haunted House for all ages!!

Come by and enjoy a Halloween celebration.
There is fun for everyone. Enter "if you dare"
the Haunted House full of Halloween frights.
For the little ones, a separate Spooky House will
be available. There will be hot dogs, drinks,
treats and raffles. Please come and join in the
fun. The West Crescent Fire Department will
be available to help with traffic and safety.

The event is free but donations will be accepted
for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
in recognition of the families in our community
affected by these blood related cancers.

For more information, please call Scott or
Ellie Bartow at 371-5591 or
sbartow@nycap.rr.com.

WANTED PTA REP FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The responsibilities of this person would be to attend monthly Special Education committee meetings and report back to the PTA so that information can be passed along. It is basically a way to help others find out all that is going on with Special Education throughout the district. If you are interested please contact Pam Kelly at pkelly325@nycap.rr.com.

Monster Mash 2008!
Saturday, October 25th - 2:00-4:00 pm
Okte Elementary School
This is a free event!

Invitation and more details will come home
with your child soon!
We are in need of about 40 volunteers to man
the games for 30-minute intervals. If you'd
like to volunteer, please contact Joanne Barry
at 280-057 or jbarry6@nycap.rr.com
Hope to see you at this Spooktacular event!
Meredith Lounsbury, Event Chair

THANK YOU...

WELCOME BACK BARBECUE - On behalf of
the PTA barbecue committee I would like to
thank all the volunteers and families who
attended the Welcome Back to School
Barbecue. A special thank you to the Krause
Family for moving their kind hospitality to our
location and especially for the DELICIOUS
FOOD! Almost 500 people attended and it
was a huge success thanks to all of you!
Joanne Barry

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Okte PTA is hosting the annual fall book fair October 27 - November 4 in the library. Can you give an hour or more to support this wonderful event? Volunteers are needed for the following:

Friday, October 24, 4:30 pm - Set Up
Monday, October 27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday, October 28 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday, October 29 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Thursday, October 30 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Friday, October 31 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Monday, November 3 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday, November 4 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Every class will visit the book fair at a scheduled time and in order for them to do so we need your help. Please e-mail Stacey Schaffer at the4schaffers@nycap.rr.com or call 373-9614 to schedule a time that would work best for you.

PTA TO HOST FLU CLINIC

The PTA is committed to helping keep children, parents and community members healthy during this flu season. That is why on November 7, 2008 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm we are hosting a vaccination clinic at Okte for the whole family. Qualified health professionals will administer vaccinations. Each vaccination will cost \$30. Medicaid and Medicare Part B will be accepted from those eligible. Pre-registration along with payment is required by October 29. To register call 1-866-782-3014 or log on to www.pta.org/flushotclinics.

FALL FUNDRAISER PICK UP!!

The orders from Great American Opportunities will be delivered to Okte on **Monday, October 27th**. They must be picked up in the cafeteria between **3 pm and 7:30 pm** that day. Please make arrangements to pick up your child's/children's order if you are unable to do so.

Thank you very much for your continued participation and support of this annual fundraiser! Your co-chairpersons, Christine Cimmino, 371-2863 ccimmino@nycap.rr.com and Allyson Nadler, 383-1170 allyson@nycap.rr.com or TNadler@nycap.rr.com

Reflections - "WOW!"

National PTA Arts in Education Program

The theme for the 2008-2009 Reflections program is, "WOW!" Students are invited to create an entry in one or more of the following six categories - Literature, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Film Production, and Musical Composition. Students/parents should obtain an entry form and specific rules for each category either from the Okte main office or via the Okte website. (Visit Shenet.org, click on Okte Elementary, then chose the PTA link for Forms and Reflections.)

Local judges will choose Okte finalists in each of the six categories. There will be two grade levels for the judging: K-2 and 3-5. All participants will receive recognition for their work and attend a Reflections celebration later in the school year. Okte finalists will move on to a state competition.

The deadline for submitting entries to the Okte office is **Friday, October 24, 2008!**

Please encourage your child/student to consider the theme, "WOW!" and create their own work of art just for fun! Student involvement in this program was fantastic last year and I'm hoping to see the same excitement and involvement from Okte teachers and students this year too! If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Fishbein at 373-7916 or RobertaFishbein@nycap.rr.com

THE OKTE GARDEN CLUB IS BACK!

Fall is here and now is the time to plant for Spring! We are looking for those interested green thumbs to join in the fun! Look for the sign up sheets that will be going home for further details!

Attention Crafty Families Vendors Wanted

The Okte PTA is bringing back the Holiday Craft Fair and we are looking for craft vendors. There will be a small table fee. The Date is December 5, 2008 - 5:00-8:00pm
For more information contact Donna Cuva 371-9484 (e-mail deecce19087@aol.com) or Wendy Hacker at 383-5170.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPEECH DEPARTMENT

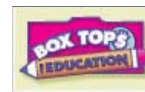
Check out the new Speech Department newsletter under Special Areas on the Website www.shenet.org/okte/okte.htm.

Due to scheduling and caseload demands there will not be a Sign Club this year. This was a very difficult decision to come to but Sign Club will resume next year.

EARN FREE EQUIPMENT FOR OKTE

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The Box Tops coupon clip program makes it easy to earn money for Okte. Simply purchase participating Box Tops products; clip the Box Tops coupon from the product and turn it in to our school either with your child or in the pink "Box Tops" box located in the office. When clipping Box Tops, try not to cut off the expiration date - coupons without these dates cannot be redeemed.



PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

Log on to www.pricechopper.com to register your Price Chopper AdvantEdge card for Okte's school code: 1 5 7 5 8. This will automatically earn credit for Okte every time you use your AdvantEdge Card. You don't need a password to register for "Tools for Schools." You only need to enter your 10-digit AdvantEdge card number and Okte's school code: 15758. (You also have the option of enrolling at your local Price Chopper). If you signed up for our school last year, you don't need to re-register. You may verify your enrollment at www.pricechopper.com. This year's program runs Sep 14 thru Feb 14.



HANNAFORD HELPS SCHOOLS

The Hannaford Helps Schools program runs from September 4 thru December 4. As you collect "School Dollars" from Hannaford, you may deposit them in the Okte container at Hannaford or in the Hannaford Box in the Okte office.

CAMPBELL LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Campbell's Labels for Education has begun but with different rules for submitting labels.

- No face labels
- Only UPC's with Campbell's label for education PICTURE INCLUDED
- Prego products and V8 products CLEAN LIDS ONLY
- Any bonus certificates can be submitted as is
- All Campbell's red label soup
- Campbell's Supper Bakes Meal Kits
- Pace Sauces, Pepperidge Farm Products
- Prego Pasta Sauces, Swanson Broth

For more details, visit <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/howtoclipupcs.aspx>.

CLIFTON PARK YOUTH HOCKEY...

Registrations are still being accepted for the mite and mini-mite programs. The mite program is designed for girls and boys from ages 6-8 with skating experience. They can learn to play hockey and increase their skating skills. For more information contact Joe Leinwol at 817-6974 or mitehockey@nycap.rr.com. The mini-mite program is designed for girls and boys ages 4-7 with little or no skating experience. In this program they can learn to skate and play hockey. For more information contact Frank Suozzi at 878-8328 or minimite@nycap.rr.com. To learn more visit their website <http://eteamz.active.com/cpyha>.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nick Cammarata an 8th grade student at Gowana, was diagnosed with leukemia this summer and is need of a bone marrow transplant. "Fight to be Healed" Soccer Clinic Fundraiser in support of Nick will be held on Friday, October 3rd, 2008 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Sportsplex of Halfmoon, Clifton Park. There will be a shooting clinic plus game play for ages 4-6, U8, U10, U12 & U14 players. The cost is \$20 per player. Pre-registration is being accepted at www.playerssoccer.com. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Cammarata Family and the "Fight to be Healed" Fund!! The clinic will be conducted by... SOCCER coaches & staff, including Miles *Joseph*, US Olympian & MLS Pro. Visit www.playerssoccer.com or contact ColleenW@nycap.rr.com to see how you can help.

On October 22nd, there will be a benefit luncheon for Hannah's Hope Fund at Outback Steakhouse in Clifton Park. Hannah is part of our Shenendehowa family. She is a pre-Shen student whose two siblings are currently in elementary school at Tesago. She was recently diagnosed with Giant Axonal Neuropathy (GAN), a life threatening disease. There are two seatings for the fundraiser at Outback: 11:30-12:30, and 1:00-2:00. The cost is \$20 and it covers a 3-course meal. For those unable to attend, Take-Out is available (same price/same food options) for pick-up at noon. Tickets for the luncheon must be purchased in advance no later than October 15 by calling Wendy Page at 383-6965 or Janet Buckingham at 877-8970, or by emailing hannahsoutbacklunch@yahoo.com. There will be a raffle at each seating, with all proceeds also benefiting Hannah's Hope Fund. If you, your company or someone you know has an item to donate, please let Wendy Page know.

Catie Hoch Foundation Outback Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2 seatings at 11:30am and 1pm. Holiday shopping and raffles galore! Take out available (must pre-order). Tickets are \$20 (100% of the proceeds go to CHF). To order tickets call Laurie Carpenter at 899-7893 or go online to www.catiehochfoundation.org.



Is your daughter interested in joining Girls Scouts? Or are you interested in starting a troop? For assistance with either contact Nancy Feiker, Troop Organizer via e-mail www123hik@aol.com.