

Okte Elementary School

1581 Crescent Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065



Welcome Back to School!

**PTA Newsletter
September 2008**

Welcome new and returning Okte families to what is sure to be a wonderful school year. We hope each and every one of you had a fun filled and relaxing summer.

We should start by introducing the PTA Executive Committee:

Pam Kelly, Co-President

Donna Gatazka, VP of Academics

Amy Valtin, Treasurer

Wendy Reynolds, Co-President

Joanne Barry, VP of Non-Academics

Donna Cuva, Secretary

The PTA has a great line-up of events planned for this year that will be educational, fun and exciting! Of course none of the events would be possible if it weren't for the wonderful volunteers the Okte community has been blessed to have. Thank you so much! To all of our newcomers, please join this wonderful group of volunteers we already have...you will certainly be a nice addition and you will feel so good about helping the children have the best experiences possible.

By joining the PTA you help make a difference in the education and quality of life for our children. Your membership fee gives you a voice in important matters that affect our children. It will also help you gain a better understanding of the school system; be a positive role model for kids; get to know other parents; support a multitude of enrichment activities at our school; understand school policies; and partner with school administration and staff.

The Kindergarten and New Family Orientation was held on August 28th. A big thank you to Lisa Gordon who worked so hard on making the transition to kindergarten or to a new school easier for our children. Her work began in the middle of the summer while most of us weren't even thinking about back to school yet. Thanks Lisa for your hard work and dedication to Okte!

Our Hospitality committee led by Debbie Rivers will be hosting a Welcome Back Breakfast for our wonderful teachers and staff this Friday, September 5th. Thanks so much Debbie for organizing such a terrific event! We're sure it'll be great!

Our Welcome Back BBQ plans are well underway! Joanne Barry, the committee chair is seeing to a perfect event which the PTA will be hosting on Friday, September 12th right here at Okte. Please plan on attending. Enjoy great food, see old friends and meet some new ones. This event is always a lot of fun...save the date!!!

All families will be receiving the Fall Fundraising packet on Monday, September 15th. This fundraiser runs through September 29th. This is our main source of funds for all the programs that benefit our children and staff throughout the year. Remember...if you are not interested in purchasing any of the offered items, you can still make a donation to the PTA! Thank so much for your support!

Open houses are as follows:

Grades 3 - 5 Tuesday, September 16th

Grades K - 2 Tuesday, September 23rd

These evenings are a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher as well as hear about all of the wonderful programs here at Okte. You'll even get the chance to visit your child's classroom and see all the work already under way! In addition, you can stop by our Membership table and join the PTA!

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.

Looking forward to a fantastic year,
Pam Kelly and Wendy Reynolds, Okte PTA Co-Presidents

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

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

JOIN THE OKTE PTA...

By joining the PTA you help make a difference in the education and quality of life for our children. Your membership fee gives you a voice in important matters that affect our children. It will also help you gain a better understanding of the school system; be a positive role model for kids; get to know other parents; have input into decisions that affect our children; support a multitude of enrichment activities at our school; understand school policies; and, partner with school administration and staff.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

Welcome Back Staff Breakfast

September 5

PTA Welcome Back Barbecue

September 12

Fall Fundraiser

Begins September 15 -

Ends September 29

Open House for Grades 3-5

September 16

Open House for K-2

September 23

PTA Meeting

September 24

School Pictures

October 2

Yom Kippur; No School

October 9

Columbus Day; No School

October 13

PTA Meeting

October 22

Monster Mash

October 25

SCHOOL BANKING...

School banking will be starting on September 11. Volunteers are needed Thursday mornings 8:45-9:30 am. If you are interested please call Claudia Tate @ 348-0262 ASAP.



FALL FUNDRAISER...

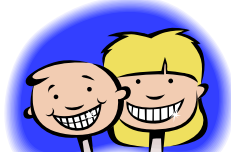
The kids are back to school, the leaves are starting to change, and everyone is starting to think about apples, pumpkins and . . . **The Okte Annual Fall Fundraiser!!** Well, even if you haven't thought about the fundraiser yet, that's okay; your children will be bringing home an envelope with all the information. The sale starts on **Monday, September 15th** and ends on **Monday, September 29th**. This year we are pleased to be partnering with **Great American Opportunities** (formerly **Kathryn Beich**), one of the oldest fundraising companies. There are hundreds of wonderful, useful, quality products to choose from including a jewelry catalog. The children will also be able to sell to out of town family and friends with a special on-line pin number for our school. In addition, the children can earn an array of cool prizes. The PTA has always been appreciative of all the support we receive from parents and teachers in our fundraising efforts year after year. We know that we can count on your support this year as well! Thanks again! 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.

Okte, Okte, How Does Your Garden Grow?
Join the fun of watching your hard work and love
of Okte and you will know.
The Okte Garden Club is back...
more information to come!



FALL PICTURE DAY is Thursday, October 2nd. Look for information in the coming weeks.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...



We are looking for volunteers for picture day. We need help keeping kids organized and happy AND to make sure they don't comb their hair TOO much! If this sounds like a job for you please contact Lisa Gordon @ ljgordon@nycap.rr.com or 348-0985. Thank you.

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES...



Looking for something to do on your day off on Thursday, October 9? Join us for a day at the movies!! There will be a showing of the Beverly Hills Chihuahua at CCM at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$6.50 per person and due on or before October 3, 2008. Don't miss a chance to see a movie with a friend. A sign up sheet will be coming home soon!! If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Franze at 528-1369 or e-mail her at MandJFranze@aol.com.

CLIFTON PARK YOUTH HOCKEY...

Registration is now open for the mite program. This 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. Registration is also open for the mini-mite program. This 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 8788328 or minimite@nycap.rr.com. To learn more visit their website <http://eteamz.active.com/cpyha>.

THANK YOU...

The Okte PTA would like to thank *Ellie Bartow* for the wonderful job she did with Moving Up Day. For the first time in several years the PTA hosted a Moving Up Day barbeque for our graduating 5th graders and their families. Ellie and her committee did a phenomenal job of putting together a wonderful celebration. It took many hours of planning and implementing and it was obvious to all who attended that no stone was left unturned. Ellie's commitment to this event made it the success that it was!

Thank you Gary Krause for all of your help with Moving Up Day. We greatly appreciate you and your staff member doing all the cooking.

Great Job Ellie and Gary, Okte PTA Executive Board

I would like to thank everyone who helped with kindergarten screening phone calls: *Roberta Fishbein, Susan McGuire, and Wendy Reynolds*. Thanks again for all your help. ...Lisa Gordon

Thanks to everyone who made kindergarten/new family orientation a success: *Donna Gataska, Jackie Pfaff, Wendy Reynolds, Pam Kelly, Stacey Schaffer, Trish McCarvill, Kristin Gregor, Christine Cimmino, Jennifer Franze, and Roberta Fishbein*. It was truly a team effort. ...Lisa Gordon

BOOK FAIR

The Okte PTA will once again host the annual fall book fair. This year's edition will present hundreds of top book and software titles, posters and more from Scholastic Books. We are sure the selection of materials will please our students, parents and staff.

The book fair will be held in the library from October 27 - November 4. For your convenience, the book fair will be open during parent/teacher conferences November 3 and 4.

You can also help increase your child's classroom library with the *Classroom Wish List Program*. Simply select one or more book wish donation cards from the wish list display.

Reflections - "WOW!"

National PTA Arts in Education Program

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students:

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

HELP OKTE FARN FRFF EQUIPMENT...

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: 15758. 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 Sep 4 thru Dec 4 this year. 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
- Prego products and V8 products CLEAN LIDS ONLY
- Products included are:
 - All Campbell's red label soup
 - Pace Sauces, Pepperidge Farm Products
 - Only UPC's with Campbell's label for education PICTURE INCLUDED
 - Any bonus certificates can be submitted as is
 - Campbell's Supper Bakes Meal Kits
 - Prego Pasta Sauces, Swanson Broth

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