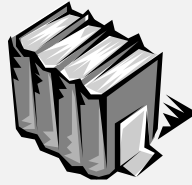


**LET'S READ  
TOGETHER!**



**Shatekon  
Elementary School**  
PTA Newsletter

February 2008  
Volume 1, Issue 6

## Shatekon PTA Newsletter

### A note from the President

Can you believe spring is just around the corner already (I know the groundhog had something different to say...)? I hope you all have taken time out of your schedule to participate in PARP. We have a few great events coming up this month; we hope you all enjoy them.

I wanted use this forum to let you all know that we are working to make our PTA one that makes people feel welcome, and does its best to support the school and community. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to us. We want to involve everyone, but only *you* can ensure your involvement.

Our meeting this month is on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9pm in the Shatekon Library. Our librarian, Mrs. Russell, will be showing us her website and Ass't Superintendent Bob Melia will be there to speak about the Parent Portal. Please come and join us! (I have it on good authority that there will be sweets for all of us to enjoy at this meeting...)

Thank you for your support.  
John Belkevich  
Shatekon PTA President

### Attention All 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

#### Important Notice to All Fifth Grade Parents:

NYS law requires that **all** incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students be vaccinated for varicella and in addition all students are required to have a Tdap booster (brand names-Boostrix or Adacel) in order to enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. Please schedule these with your physician's office as soon as possible and you can submit the necessary paperwork to me before the end of the school year. Be aware that most pediatricians in our area carry Adacel which requires the student to be **eleven** in order to receive it. Parents of students whose birthday falls after the start of school in the fall should contact their physicians to schedule their appointments and then let me know when they are so that I can relay that information to the middle schools. Any questions, please call me @ 881-0581

Thank You,  
Dee Hughes, R.N.

### Arts in Education...

We ended January with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip to the historic Palace Theatre in Albany for the stage production of "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie".

February will be a busy month for Arts in Education program at Shatekon...

On February 15<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled from February 1<sup>st</sup>), we will welcome James Bruchac, an award winning Native America author and storyteller. He will enchant students with animal tales for younger grades and Adirondack Tall Tales for upper grades.

February 4 - 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will work with poet and author Jacqueline Sweeney for a shared week-long poetry and writing residency. She will reinforce many specific writing skills, and introduce many writing techniques to improve creative expression.

Third grade will explore the fascinating world of hawks, owls and falcons on February 7<sup>th</sup> with Beth Bidwells' visit. They will learn about the special adaptations that put these animals at the top of the food web.

Fifth Grade will examine the important characteristics of light, including reflection and refraction through simple experiments. Scotia Glenville will visit Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. They will use prisms to study aspects of color. The students will end the program by making a kaleidoscope to bring home.

Thank you for your continued support of these programs.

### Kindergarten Readiness Panel

**February 13th at 7 pm**, the Shenendehowa Council PTA will present a Kindergarten Readiness Panel consisting of members of the Shenendehowa CSD. It will be held in the Tesago/Skano cafeteria. This is an adult program and it is free.  
Snow date: February 27<sup>th</sup>

Please call Evelyn at 373-2320 or e-mail: preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org with questions.

## Are You Reading Together?

As you know, February is PARP month at Shatekon. Consult the PARP calendar that was sent home for information about the activities planned and ways to make this month a powerful statement for our children, showing them that not only is reading important, but it is fun!

A few of things planned...

- Library Family Night on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
- Kick-off assembly rescheduled to Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Family Story Night on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

Happy Reading.

## New Ways to Communicate

Shenendehowa has unveiled 2 new ways to communicate with the community:

1) The district has established an after-hours number, 371-4004, for people to call when there is a situation after-hours that needs attention. (This is not a substitute for calling 911 for emergencies)

2) The district is unveiling its new "Heard it through the Grapevine" page. While the Shenendehowa community is fairly large, rumors fly through it pretty quickly. This pseudo-blog is an attempt to provide people with accurate information on a regular basis. Just click on the Grapevine graphic or on this link: [www.shenet.org/grapevine](http://www.shenet.org/grapevine)

## Library Family Night

### **Stock up for February Vacation!**

The Shatekon Library will be open Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm for our Shatekon families. Come and checkout our brand new books on all kinds of non-fiction topics. Explore with your children topics like robots, crafts, animals, folktales, national parks, islands, Alaska, sports. Perhaps you can help your child choose a new series book. Have your child show you how they discover what the library has to offer. You can borrow magazines from our selection and "try before you buy" as you decide if it is one you would like to subscribe to for your child.

We also welcome the opportunity to meet you as well! Hope to see you on February 13<sup>th</sup>!

## From the Shatekon Library...

The American Library Association has announced the coveted Newbery and Caldecott Winners.

The Caldecott Medal is "awarded to the most distinguished American picture book for children" and that was awarded to **The invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick.

The Newbery Medal is "awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children". The 2008 Newbery Medal winner is **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village** by Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd.



## PARP Kick-Off Assembly Rescheduled



**We had to reschedule the PARP kick-off assembly (originally Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>) because of the weather that day. James Bruchac will now be coming to Shatekon on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

<http://www.jamesbruchac.com/>

## Upcoming Events

### **Kindergarten Readiness Panel**

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7pm  
Tesago/Skano Cafeteria

### **Spring Fundraiser Orders Due**

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Library Family Night**

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm  
Shatekon Library

### **PTA Meeting**

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-9pm  
Shatekon Library

### **Shatekon PARP Kick-off Assembly**

February 15<sup>th</sup> (in school)

### **PARP Family Story Night**

Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm  
Shatekon