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Subject: Grafflin Weekly Newsletter February 3, 2012

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From: Grafflin PTA (grafflinvicechair@gmail.com)

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To: jillkranz@yahoo.com;

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Date: Friday, February 3, 2012 8:00 AM

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# Grafflin Weekly Newsletter

February 3, 2012

The TLC word of the month for February is Friendship.

## Important Dates

2/7 Special Ed. Middle School Informational Meetings on Schedule Reconfiguration: 9:30 a.m. Seven Bridges or 7:00 p.m. Bell (4th - 7th Grade Parents)

2/16 Special Ed. Transition to Middle School Parent Meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Seven Bridges) (4th Grade Parents)

2/20 to 2/27 Winter Recess: SCHOOL CLOSED

## Report Cards Will Not Be Mailed Home This Year\* So Sign Up for Access to Infinite Campus

This year, the elementary report cards will be available online through Infinite Campus, the District's student information management program. The first report card will be available on the parent portal by the end of the school day on February 17th. If you do not already have access to Infinite Campus, please sign up for a portal account as soon as possible in order to avoid any delay in viewing your child's report card. The sign-up process can take up to two weeks. The first step in the process is to fill out and submit an Infinite Campus Portal Agreement to the District's Business Office. Click [HERE](#) for a link to instructions and the form. You will then be sent an Activation Key by US mail which you will use to create your Portal Account. Please be aware that an account cannot immediately be created to give you portal access. The Infinite Campus Portal Agreement form must be submitted and then reviewed by the District.

There is no need to sign up again if you already have an account for an older child. Each family needs only one account to view information on all family members in the district.

\*Hard copies of the report card will be printed and sent home only by request. Please let the school office know if you wish to receive a paper copy of your child's report card.

## Kindergarten Registration for 2012/13

Kindergarten registration will take place earlier than in the past (March 14 and 15). Packets will be mailed home in February. If you anticipate enrolling your child in kindergarten at Grafflin School in September and would like to know whether he/she is on our mailing list, feel welcome to check with the Grafflin office (238-5560). You may want to suggest that your friends and neighbors do likewise. In order to appropriately staff our kindergarten for the fall, we would like to have an accurate indication of

3/2 Family Movie Night  
5:30 to 7:30  
p.m. (Grafflin  
cafetorium)

3/7 Staff Development  
Day: EARLY  
DISMISSAL at 1:15  
p.m. (lunch served)

## Quick Links

[Grafflin PTA](#)

[Chappaqua PTA](#)

[Grafflin Elementary  
School](#)

[Chappaqua Central  
School District](#)

## Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

2/28 at 8:15 p.m.  
(HGHS)

Board of Education Meetings are held on Tuesdays (usually twice per month) at HGHS (unless otherwise noted). For more information on B.O.E. News, go to [www.ccsd.ws](http://www.ccsd.ws) and click the Board of Education tab. B.O.E. meetings are replayed on Cablevision Channels 75/76/77 or Verizon Fios TV channels 45/46/47. You may visit New Castle Community Media center's website at [www.nccmc](http://www.nccmc) and watch at your own convenience.

the number of incoming students.

## Order Your DVD of the 1st Grade Performance: BEAR SNORES ON!

The 1st Grade performance of BEAR SNORES ON! is available for purchase on DVD. Please return the completed order form sent home with your child, along with a check made out to the Grafflin PTA in the amount of \$12. If you need an additional form, they are available in the Main Office. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH.** DVDs will be delivered to your child's classroom. If you have any questions, please contact Ethylene Ziegler at [ethziegler@gmail.com](mailto:ethziegler@gmail.com).

## A Message from the Health Office

At this time of year, many children (and adults) suffer from one or more of the many symptoms associated with the "common cold" and flu. These upper respiratory and gastrointestinal complaints leave many of us with the question, "How sick should my child be to stay home from school?" Although there is no concrete answer, there are some guidelines that may help you in the decision making process.

Please keep your child home if he/she has:

- Fever-- A child needs to be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) in order to return to school. (Exception: A physician's written OK to return to school along with a medication order from the physician).
- Severe Cough--- This pertains to a cough that is so severe that he/she is unable to attend to tasks or concentrate in the classroom.
- Purulent (yellow or green) nasal discharge-This may be indicative of an infection.
- Communicable disease-- These conditions include chicken pox, staph and strep infections, impetigo, flu, and conjunctivitis or pink eye.
- Nausea and vomiting-- If your child has vomited during the night or in the early morning, your child should not come to school that day.
- Fatigue-- Early bedtime is a must for young growing bodies.

If a child has been ill, his/her resistance is low. By returning too early, your child will be exposing him/herself to other children's germs as well as exposing other children and the staff. Please keep your child home if he/she is sick. Also, please reinforce preventive techniques at home. Frequent hand washing is the most important method of reducing cross contamination and preventing spread of infection. Also encourage your child to use tissues to cover coughs and sneezes. If your child is "iffy" and you decide to send him/her to school, please make sure that he/she knows where you will be and how to reach you.

I hope you find these tips to be helpful.

Carol Losey, Grafflin Nurse

## Extra, Extra, Extra . . . Save Those **BOX TOPS!**

Our collection drive is well underway! Thank you to everyone who has dropped off their clipped Box Tops. We will be collecting Box Tops through **Friday, February 17th**, which is the deadline for this collection period. So, if you've been clipping and saving them, please bring them in before that date. Click [HERE](#) to see a complete list of brands and products with the Box Top label. Simply clip out at home and send in with your child to drop off in the collection box. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact either [Jocelyn Herman](#) or [Joan Schildkraut](#).



## A Message About **Physical Education Attire**

Please remember to have your child(ren) dress appropriately for Physical Education class on the two days that they participate in P.E. **In particular, please make sure that they wear or bring sneakers.** Of course, the inclement weather means that boots may be worn to school (which are also necessary items for outdoor recess activity). However, in that case, the children must still bring sneakers in order to fully participate in P.E. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that your children do not miss out on the exercise, skill development and fun that these classes offer.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Recycling Drives HOLIDAY CARD & COSMETIC CONTAINER DRIVES ENDING**

Save your holiday, birthday and thank you cards! The Grafflin Environmental Committee will be collecting all types of cards for the St. Jude's Ranch for Children Recycled Card Program. The children participate in making the new cards by removing the front and attaching a new back with a new message. The result is a beautiful new card made by the children and volunteers. The benefits are two fold: customers receive "green" holiday cards for use and the children receive payment for their work and learn the benefits and importance of "going green". **NOTE: Please send only card fronts (rip off message side of card) Also, we cannot accept cards with photos of people on them. Illustrations and generic photos are fine. This drive will run until the beginning of February.**

**Emptied Cosmetic Containers will continue to be collected at the Green Station until TODAY February 3rd! We will be sending them off to the make-up company Origins who will be recycling the hard plastic.**

## **NEW RECYCLING DRIVES FOR FEBRUARY!!! EYEGLASSES**

We are now collecting gently-used prescription eyewear and non-prescription sunglasses. All donations will be sent to the LensCrafters/OneSight Vision Program. OneSight works together with trained volunteers from LensCrafters to create Global Clinics that provide those in need around the world with free eyewear, eye exams and the ability to live a fuller life. It's a great cause and a great way to repurpose your eyewear!

### CEREAL BOX COLLECTION

For the month of February, we will be collecting cereal boxes for local artist Michael Albert. Michael will be at the Chappaqua Schools Green Fair on April 14th making collages out of these cereal boxes. Michael's collages can be historical, geographical, mathematical, literary or musical... but they are always very original and very cool! Please help keep the art coming by dropping your flattened cereal boxes (in good condition) in the collection box at the Green Station.

### Thank you to . . .

Mr. Hiller, Mrs. Jablon, the First Grade teachers, the parent volunteers and, of course, the wonderful performers, who made the First Grade performance of BEAR SNORES ON! a huge success.

The Giving from Grafflin Committee for organizing the post-holiday toy drive. Also, a big thank you to all who donated used and new toys for this drive. We delivered bags full of toys, books, games and movies to 7 different local agencies - Blythesdale Hospital, Leake and Watts in Yonkers, Mount Kisco Child Care Center, Pediatric Cancer Foundation in Scarsdale/Valhalla, Green Chimneys in Brewster, Ossining Children's Center and Neighbor's Link in Mount Kisco. The children at these organizations will certainly benefit from the generosity all of the Grafflin families who participated.

Kristen Renzulli and Lori Venturino and the Yearbook Committee for collecting Yearbook Orders and their hard work on the Grafflin Yearbook.

Lisa Haunss-Sanz and Cathy Hildenbrand and the Environmental Committee for their ongoing work on the various recycling drives at Grafflin.

### Attention Special Ed/504 Parents: Middle School Schedule Reconfiguration Meetings

*A note from Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Director of Special Education:*

On February 7, 2012, informational meetings will be held for parents whose children will be receiving special education services at Robert E. Bell or Seven Bridges Middle Schools during the 2012-2013 school year. While your children will continue to receive the appropriate services to meet their individual needs, we are offering this opportunity for parents to meet with administrators in order to ask questions they may have regarding the schedule and how special education services will be provided. Please plan to join us on February 7th at either session: 9:30 a.m. at Seven Bridges Middle School Lower Commons or 7:00 p.m. at Robert E. Bell Middle School Cafeteria. We hope to see you there.

**These meetings are open to parents of 4th Graders who will be entering Middle School next Fall, as well as parents of 5th through 7th Graders. These meetings will focus on the schedule reconfiguration, as opposed to the Feb. 16th meeting, which will focus on transiting into Middle School for parents of 4th Graders (or parents of younger students looking ahead).**

### Parent-to-Parent Networking Session for Parents of Current Special Ed/504 4th Grade Students Re:

## Transitioning into Middle School

Thursday, February 16th, at 9:30am, Seven Bridges Lower Commons

Attention current 4th Grade parents of students with IEPs or 504 Plans (parents of children in lower grades are also welcome to attend): The Chappaqua PTA Special Education Committee is hosting a parent-to-parent networking session for parents of current Special Ed and 504 Plan 4th grade students in anticipation of upcoming CSE meetings and the transition to middle school that your child will soon be encountering.

We have invited parents of current Middle School students with IEPs or 504s to act as Subject Matter Experts. Possible topics include everything from riding the bus and managing lockers to how to best handle your child's CSE meeting. We would like to start assembling a list of questions, so think of everything that you would like to know and email your questions to the Co-Chairs of the Special Education Committee of the Chappaqua PTA, Karen Bazik ([cafekaren@gmail.com](mailto:cafekaren@gmail.com)) or Nancy Davidson ([nano66@optonline.net](mailto:nano66@optonline.net)).

## Chappaqua Young Writers' Conference

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (8am-12pm)

The Young Writers' Conference needs you!

The YWC is a one day writers' workshop that is attended by approximately 150 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a unique opportunity to be involved in a special committee that inspires our future leaders. This is a Chappaqua PTA event involving all schools. This year's conference boasts an impressive roster of highly talented and acclaimed presenters including writers, editors, producers, news correspondents, documentary and screenplay writers, and other professionals.

But we are only half way there - we really need a few more people to join the committee and give us a hand. The majority of work takes place the day of the event, but there is still some planning left to do. In addition, we are still welcoming anyone who would like to present a workshop. If you have a talent - think about sharing it with the kids in your community.

If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Lisa Zimbalist Bianchi at [Zimbalistbianchi@gmail.com](mailto:Zimbalistbianchi@gmail.com) or (914) 325-0607.

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE \*\***

## For The Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund Annual Fundraiser

Join us for creative cuisine, paired wines and a fabulous silent auction to benefit the Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund and to honor Lyndall Boal, the third recipient of the annual Ed Habermann Award.

Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Award Presentation at 8:00 p.m.

Crabtree's Kittle House, Eleven Kittle Road, Chappaqua

More information to follow.

**Upcoming Dates and Times for Coffee & Conversation  
with Superintendent Lyn McKay**

- February 29th, Bell, 7:30 - 9 p.m., Topic: TBD
- June 14th, Westorcharad 9:30 - 11 a.m., Topic: End-of-Year Recap

## Chappaqua PTA Fundraisers: Sally Foster Gift Wrap and Givenik

Will you be seeing a show in the New Year?

\***Givenik.com** is an exciting new way to get discount tickets, premium seats and group rates to Broadway and Off-Broadway shows and support the Chappaqua PTA! The PTA gets 5 percent of your ticket purchase. To learn more or to browse available ticket offers, please click on the special Givenik link located on the PTA's website [www.chappaquapta.net](http://www.chappaquapta.net), or go directly to [www.givenik.com/index.php/ChappaquaPTA](http://www.givenik.com/index.php/ChappaquaPTA).

Still need gift wrap for birthdays and other celebrations?

\*Fans of **Sally Foster Gift Wrap** can still purchase products online and support the PTA. Go to [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) and use account number 181309.

## Chappaqua PTA Dues

The Chappaqua PTA provides important programming for students and parents. The Chappaqua PTA maintains the PTA website ([www.chappaquapta.net](http://www.chappaquapta.net)), manages the PTA email system and helps produce the district calendar, three vital school/community communication links. Membership adds your voice to national/state PTAs which provide valuable advocacy services for children.

**Membership is required for participation in PTA-sponsored activities such as theater and ASE.** Chappaqua PTA dues are \$15 per family. Please visit [www.chappaquapta.net](http://www.chappaquapta.net), where you can access the Chappaqua PTA'S new online payment system to pay by credit card or download and print an order form to mail in with your check.

## Greeley Youth Lacrosse -- the Fastest Game in Town

If your child plays lacrosse or shows an interest in the sport, we encourage you to attend! Registration for spring lacrosse is currently open at [www.greeleyyouthlacrosse.com](http://www.greeleyyouthlacrosse.com).

## Submissions Deadline for Weekly Newsletter

Please note that any submissions to the Weekly Newsletter need to be submitted to [Chris Madden](mailto:Chris.Madden) by the Monday prior to the requested publication date. Thank you.

## Contact Us

Jillian Pohly - Grafflin PTA Chair - [graflinchair@gmail.com](mailto:graflinchair@gmail.com)

Chris Madden - Grafflin PTA Vice Chair - [graflinvicechair@gmail.com](mailto:graflinvicechair@gmail.com)

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