
 <p>Washington Lincoln</p>	<p>SIGNATURE SCHOOLS OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & DEVELOPING MINDS</p>  <p>Kirk Road Elementary</p> <hr/> <p>Kirk Road PTA Newsletter Late Winter 2007</p>	<p><u>PTA Contact Information:</u> President: Larry Baldasare Vice-President: Teresa Fovel Treasurer: Michelle Mabee Secretary: Carol Johannes Email: ptakirkroad@yahoo.com Kirk Road School: 966-4300</p>
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Upcoming Events

March Events			April Events		
• Read Across America	2	Fri	• Spring Recess - No School	6-13	Fri-Fri
• NYS Math Assessment gr. 3,4,5	5-9	Mon-Fri	• PTA Meeting/Budget Presentation	TBD	
• Book Fair	12-16	Mon-Fri	• Bulldog Basketball	20	Fri
• Pizza Bingo	16	Fri	• 5th Grade Social	26	Thu
• 3rd Grade Social	29	Thu	• Parent/Teacher Conf Day - CANCELLED	27	Fri
• Professional Development – No School	30	Fri	• Science Expo	TBD	

Kirk Road Parents:

Please remember to save all eligible "Box Tops for Education" as well as Campbell's soup labels to earn money and educational products for our school. Box Tops or eligible UPC codes from Campbell's Products can be sent into school with your child - there is a box in the Main Office/front lobby area for easy drop-off!

Visit the following websites for a listing of all eligible products for both labels and box tops - there are many!! As always, thank you so much for helping our school!

Listings of eligible products:

Campbell's Soup Labels

www.labelsforeducation.com/eligibleproductsEN.aspx

Box Tops for Education

www.boxtops4education.com/index.aspx

Due to lack of entries, the January and February newsletter editions were combined into one "Late Winter" Edition.

Don't forget to check our website, at www.ptagreeceny.org/kr for current updates, newsletters, and other helpful information for our families!

From The Principal's Desk:

February 2007

Dear Parents / Guardians,

This has been an exciting school year in regard to Technology. As many of you know Kirk Road School has been using technology in the classroom with the use of a mobile lab of laptop computers. I am excited to share that the NEW Computer Lab is now in place. Each classroom has an orientation and teachers have started to block in regular times for their students to use the Computer Lab.

We have been working hard to integrate and weave technology into our professional practice as a school. Part of this plan has been through staff training and the integration of a new online resource. In November, as part of a staff training teachers were introduced to numerous ways in which technology can be used with our students. Beyond using a word processing program, teachers had an opportunity to experience digital movies, pod casts created by students, power point presentations, ways to utilize the Internet through web quests for students to explore information, and other creative ways to integrate computers into our content areas. Part of the focus of this staff training was to recognize the way in which technology is used in the market place and in business and to recognize that computers are an integral, rather than adjunct, part of the educational process.

In addition to helping teachers move their students forward in the classroom, we have also been working hard as a school to create valuable online resources for the community and our teachers. This school year, we have updated the Kirk Road Website to reflect current information. This can be found on the Greece Central School District Website (www.greece.k12.ny.us) under "schools." We have also developed a teacher resource area for Kirk Road that keeps current documents and forms right online for teachers to have the most up to date information. In addition a website was created to connect teachers at Paddy Hill and Kirk Road online. As sister schools we have developed a resource that connects the major initiatives that are a part of our professional practice and professional beliefs. I would like to highlight Ms. Kaaren Thompson, Administrative Intern for Paddy Hill and Kirk Road, who designed the online resources website and updated our school website. Ms. Thompson's technological expertise is a great asset to our school community.

We have been using technology this school year in an integrated way for not only students, but also teachers and our parents. Now this newsletter is online. This initiative is focused on modeling how technology is used in the world so that we can be thoughtful in the way we plan and develop these skills in our students here at Kirk Road. It's interesting to remember where technology was in 1997, and to imagine where technology will be in 2017. Finding ways to prepare our students for tomorrow's marketplace is in how we plan today.

Sincerely,

☺ *Ms. Critchlow, Principal*

From the Kirk Road Health Office

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with early symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. In general, during cold and flu season, unless your child is significantly ill, the best place for them is in school where they have all already been exposed to the same germs and where they are less likely to expose other more vulnerable people, like the very young or very old, to their routine bouts of cold and flu. Remind and show your children to discard used tissues promptly, not to share personal items, to cough or sneeze into their elbow to keep germs off of their hands, to keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water. Suggest that they silently sing the Happy Birthday song twice while washing their hands. However, there are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home for a day to rest or to arrange for an appointment with your health care provider. The following are a few such situations that warrant watching and possibly conferring with your health care provider:

- 1. Persistent fever greater than 100.4° orally, including a fever that requires control with medication, like Tylenol**
- 2. Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea, to profit from sitting in class all day**
- 3. Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class**
- 4. Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill, that persists longer than 48 hours, OR after known exposure to a confirmed case of Streptococcal throat infection**
- 5. Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth that might be impetigo, or a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox, OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever**
- 6. Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning**
- 7. Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache**
- 8. Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear**
- 9. Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever**
- 10. Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.**

Whenever there is an outbreak of a specific contagious infection, the school sends out a notice to alert you to watch out for any symptoms. If your child starts to develop symptoms, it is important that you alert your own health care provider that your child had possible exposure. Be sure to ask your provider when it is safe for your child to return to school, both for your child's health and for the health of the rest of the school. If you send your child to school even though you suspect there is significant illness as described above, please call the school nurse to provide her/him with phone numbers where you can be reached that day should your child become more ill and require early dismissal.

Finally, if you know your child is still running a fever, it is not a good idea to simply tank them up with Tylenol and send them onto school because as soon as the medicine wears off, you are apt to get the dreaded call from the school nurse to leave work and come to pick up your feverish child. It is better to let them stay home in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are off all medicines and ready to learn for a full day in a classroom. If you find a pattern of your child's asking to stay home from school, especially if they are falling behind or appear anxious by the thought of attending school, or if there does not appear to be any obvious physical symptoms, it may be a good idea to contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns. Remember, whenever you keep your child home from school, please call the Kirk Road School Nurses, at 966-4305, in advance of the start of the school day and leave a message that your child will be absent.

Christine Hyland, RN, BSN and Nancy Handley, RN, BSN

Volunteer Opportunities...

PTA NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE: The Kirk Road PTA is looking for volunteers to coordinate the Kirk Road PTA Newsletter and/or the Kirk Road PTA website for the 2007-2008 school year.

PTA Newsletter: a once a month newsletter to update Kirk Road families on the happenings of the PTA and school events. Involves organizing entries into a newsletter format, and forwarding finished copy to the Website coordinator for posting on the Kirk Road website, as well as making copies for families who have requested to continue receiving paper copies of the newsletter (currently less than 20 families).

PTA Website: A new PTA website was launched in December of 2006, and is a work in progress as we add new features to provide another way for families to conveniently stay up-to-date and informed of the happenings in our school! Involves posting completed newsletters and other Kirk Road news updates to the website.

Both of the above opportunities can be completed primarily from home, and training can be provided to give next year's coordinator(s) a great head start!

PIZZA BINGO: The PTA is also looking for a coordinator to run the Pizza Bingo events for the 2007-2008 school year! This is a fun event for our families which also helps to raise money to offer events like field trips, grade level socials, as well as other enrichment opportunities for our students. Training is available!

CHESS CLUB: The PTA is also in need of a Chess Club Coordinator to run a Spring 2007 session of Chess Club for our interested students. If a coordinator is not found soon, the spring session of Chess Club unfortunately cannot be offered to our Kirk Road Students.

FIRST NIAGARA SCHOOL BANKING: The Kirk Road School Banking Program is looking for adult volunteers to assist our other parent and student volunteers in coordinating the banking program for the remainder of the school year. Banking is held on Thursday mornings from approximately 9am until 9:30 am. Training provided!

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please send a note to school with **your** name and contact information, to the attention of "PTA Newsletter/Website", "PTA Pizza Bingo", "PTA Chess Club" and/or "School Banking Program" and the current coordinator(s) will contact you with further information. Thank you in advance for your help!!!

From the Heart of Kirk Road

Hello Parents and Students,

We have now collected 58 bags of clothes! We can't believe the support of this school community. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

As you sort through your closets in anticipation of warmer weather, keep "From the Heart of Kirk Road" in mind. We'd love the opportunity to pass on your beautiful clothes to other children.

Sincerely,
Linda Ward and Ruth Chupp

News from Mrs. DeWolf, School Counselor

The Community Task Force on Bullying Prevention Poster Contest

I would like to congratulate Janelle H. (Mr. Reale's class, 4th grade – Kirk Road) and Katelyn S. (Mrs. Allen's class, 1st grade – Paddy Hill) for having their Anti-Bullying Posters selected to be displayed at Strong Museum during No Name Calling Week (January 22-28). Fifty out of 1,765 posters were selected because of their artwork, content and messages. We hope some of our families got a chance to view the display at Strong Museum to see all the posters that take a stand against bullying!

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. DeWolf, School Counselor, at 966-4375.

Winter Family News

Mrs. Nordhausen - 3rd Grade - Family D

The third graders are gearing up for the math exam in March! They have been reviewing coins and money value and completing practice exams. They are also studying England and are currently on a pretend trip to this faraway country, and are keeping a detailed journal of their experiences there each day!

Family C - Ms. Bauer, Mr. McGrain, and Mr. Dennison

Family C would like to send out a special thank you to the PTA parent volunteers for the staff appreciation luncheon that was provided on December 20th, 2006

Family C would also like to extend our thanks to all of the students, families, and staff who donated items to our Caring Tree. We collected the following items: 27 pairs of gloves, 18 pairs of socks, 11 scarves, 22 hats, 3 ear bands, 4 pairs of sweat pants, 3 sets of hats/gloves, 11 sets of gloves/hats/scarves. These generous contributions were greatly appreciated and the items were donated to a local charity. Thank you again!

Elementary School Calendar Change Announced

School will be held on April 27 for all pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students. The Parent Teacher Conference Day previously scheduled for that day has been cancelled to make up for the February 14th snow day. All middle and high school students were already scheduled to be in school on April 27.