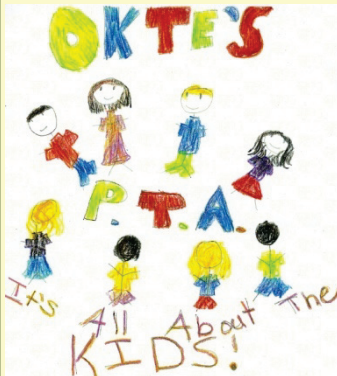


November 2011
Volume 2, Issue 2

All students will achieve their highest potential academically, socially and emotionally. Always moving forward.



President's News

Dear Okte Families and Friends,

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here. Time is really flying by! We hope that you all were able to take advantage of the fantastic events the PTA has put on this past month.

On October 6th, the K-2 students at Okte participated in Jumpstart's 6th Annual Read For The Record. The story this year was Llama Llama Red Pajama. A big "Thank You" to the teachers who took time out of their busy day to stop and read this fun story to their classes. With our help, Jumpstart was able to break a world record by reading to 2,184,155 children from around the world. As an added bonus, we were happy to donate a copy of Llama Llama Red Pajama to each of the K-2 classrooms. Thank you, Jen Hurd for coordinating this very exciting PTA program.

You should have all received your child(ren) school pictures, which were taken on October 20th. Once again, the Lifetouch photographers did a wonderful job keeping things running smoothly during the day, while the kids gave their best smiles. If your child was absent or missed picture day for whatever reason, or if you wish to have their pictures redone, Picture Retake Day will be held on Tuesday, November 29th. A note went home with all the information you will need to know. A big thank you to Kathy Sirianni Blood for all your hard work!

October ended with a "spookacular" Monster Mash...thanks to Paula Gretzinger! Students (and some adults) came dressed in great costumes ready to play carnival games, eat treats, have their faces painted and enjoy the hay maze and haunted house in the gymnasium. If you get a chance, please stop by the cafeteria and check out the incredible display of pictures Molly Jacobson put together from this very memorable event!

November is PTA's Healthy Lifestyle Month. We were thrilled to be able to provide all the children at Okte with some healthy snacks, as well as some tips on healthy eating habits. Ask your child(ren) about the juicy grapes or crunchy carrots that were handed out to them during the month of November!

Our annual Scholastic Fall Book Fair took place on November 1st through November 4th. Once again, our library was transformed into an exciting "book store" where the children were able to purchase books for

themselves, as well as their teachers. The book fair is a wonderful way to introduce students to some new books and also reintroduce them to some old favorites. Thank you to Carrie Arena for all that you did to make this event possible.

Looking ahead to December, we have more in store! On December 2, we hope that you will join us at our 2nd Annual International Celebration, which will take place in the gymnasium at Okte. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the many different celebrations that take place during this time of year. We are pleased to announce that this year, the International Celebration will be "free of charge." Please be on the lookout for a flyer with all the detailed information on this exciting event!

Our After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) is fast approaching. Please note that the registration date has been changed. Originally scheduled for Thursday, December 1st, it will now take place on **Tuesday, December 13** from 6-8 in the lobby at Okte. Be on the lookout for the ASEP brochure which will be sent home during the first week in December.

Our next PTA is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 7th at 7 pm in the library**. We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Jordana Tourcotte, who will be helping us stay uncluttered and organized during the holidays and everyday. Please consider joining us. As always, babysitting and refreshments will be provided.

The annual Staff Appreciation Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 16th. We will be treating our wonderful faculty and staff to a traditional holiday meal. Be on the lookout for a "call for chefs and bakers" to help make this a delicious and memorable meal for all. Notices will be going home soon.

The PTA is very "thankful" for all the support that we have received from our Okte families so far this year. We want you to know that if you haven't sent in your Pledge Drive card, there is still time to do so. All that we do as a PTA is supported financially through donations from our families, as well as the fundraisers that we run throughout the year.

We would like to extend a very Happy Thanksgiving wish to you and your family.

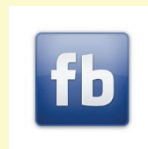
Kathy Crouth & Amy Valtin

Okte PTA Co-Presidents



Upcoming Events

- 11/11 No School
Veteran's Day
- 11/24-25 No school -
Thanksgiving
- 11/29 Picture Retake Day
- 12/2 International
Celebration
- 12/7 PTA mtg.
- 12/8 - 9 No school -
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
- 12/13 ASEP
Registration
- 12/16 - Staff
Appreciation Holiday
Luncheon



Remember to
Follow us on facebook
For up to date program
news
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We're on the Web!
www.shenet.org/okte



2011-2012 Reflections Program Theme: "Diversity Means..." National PTA Arts in Education Program Congratulations to our Okte Winners for 2011-2012

In Literature:

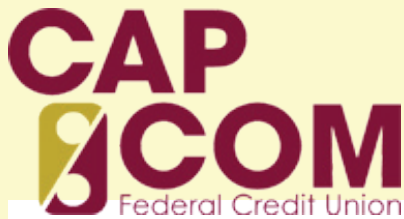
Jesse Ferraioli	5th grade
Hannah Franklin	5th grade
Purva Shenoy	5th grade

In Visual Arts:

Sofia Zambri-Moran	Kindergarten
Madeline Franklin	3rd grade
Payton DeCrescente	5th grade

Honorable Mention in visual arts was also awarded to:

Zoey Nadal	2nd grade
Keira Delaney	3rd grade
Kayleigh Nadal	5th grade



School Banking Updates and Exciting News for PM Kindergartners!

We would like to thank everyone who has been participating in the school banking program this year! Like any new program, we have encountered a few bumps in the road but we hope to be turning a curve! Your children have been amazingly patient while we've worked out the kinks. They should all be congratulated on the exemplary behavior they have exhibited every week while they wait patiently to do their deposits.

In an effort to smooth out the deposit process, School Banking was moved to the Computer Lab on November 18th. Signs are posted on school banking days notifying students of the location change. Also, students should be reminded to go to their classroom first and inform their teacher that they will be participating in School Banking.

And now the exciting news for PM Kindergarten! Okte's Kindergarten teachers have graciously agreed to collect the deposits from PM Kindergarten's on Thursday afternoons (only). A school banking representative will collect the deposits and provide the receipts back to the teachers to be distributed to the students on Friday afternoon. If you have not yet signed your child up for school banking, you may do so at any CapCom branch. If a registration packet is needed or if you have any school banking questions, please contact Kristin Abate at kabate71@hotmail.com.

Remember, CapCom has a Great Grades program! Just have your child bring a copy (printed from the Parent Portal is fine!) of their report card on Friday, December 16th or December 23rd. CapCom will deposit \$10 in your child's account just for having a report card they are proud of!

Okte collects 1786 books!

PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) is proud to announce that the Okte community collected 1,786 books for the Schoharie Public Library. The books and movies were happily received by Kathy and Margaret, staff members of the Schoharie Public Library. They were extremely delighted to receive such beautiful books and they will be cherished by the Schoharie community when the library re-opens in the spring. Colleen Franklin, chairperson from PARP would like to thank all the faculty, students and staff for all their generosity. Thank you to Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Sansone, Mrs. Borgman and Mrs. Fiorillo for reading to our Okte families on PARP Family Night. Then finally, thank you to Carrie Arena and Wendy Reynolds, Kim Ferraioli and Marybeth Decrescente. Special thanks to Mrs. Bailey for helping coordinate all the PARP activities.

Peace, Love, Books!

Bookfair was out of this world



This year's Okte Book Fair was a great success! Students, parents and teachers alike were all able to find a book that they could enjoy. Thank you to all the parents that volunteered their time with setting up the all the displays for the book fair and assisting students finding their favorite books. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Bailey for sharing her Library and providing her expertise during the week of the book fair.



Green Thumbs

Thank you to all of Okte's 4th & 5th grade "Green Thumbs"! We had a little rain, but also made a plan for the spring planting that is designed by you! So, as flowers start to bloom next year, know that it wouldn't have been possible without your help! THANK YOU!!



Parents/Guardians:

To help cut down on the use of paper at Okte, we will be sending a lot of announcements, notifications, etc. by email. If you are not receiving any of Okte's emails check your Junk Email. If you still are not receiving, please verify with the office that we have your correct email address.

National PTA News

November Fast Facts:

<http://www.nyspta.org/pdfs/publications/FastFactsNovember2011.pdf>

Fast Facts Page:

<http://nyspta.org/publications/fastfacts.cfm>



We had a great response from the Box top collection sheets collecting over 3000 in one month! Treats went out to 5 students picked at random from returned sheets.

Box tops are collected throughout the year so keep sending them in and look for more fun soon!

There are extra collection sheets in the office. Bags of clipped tops are fine too.

School Directories

School directories have been sent home. If you are a current member of Okte's PTA, you should have received your free copy. If you are not a member of the PTA, it is not too late to join. The cost is \$5.00, and you will receive a directory for free, as well as helping your child's school. If you wish to purchase a directory, please send \$1 in a sealed envelope, marked TO: MRS. JACOBSON, with your name, your child's name & teacher. A directory will be sent home within a week. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Jacobson at Mommajake@msn.com.

To All Parents/Guardians of Okte Students

When sending a note to school with your child for dismissal or an absence please be sure to write your child's first and last name on the note with the teacher's name. Sometimes it is hard to tell which "Samantha or Johnny" the note is about especially if your child's last name is different from yours.

Play dates and going on the buses.

The Shenendehowa transportation department will only bus a child to a friend's house for a play date when both the students ride on the **same bus**. The buses **will not transport** your child to a friend's home for a play date if they ride on different buses.



While doing your holiday shopping online register with boxtops to earn points for Okte in cyberspace!



Holiday Giving Project

This year the fifth grade students will continue the tradition of the Holiday Giving Project. The fifth grade students will put together approximately 20 - 25 baskets to be given to families or individuals less fortunate or struggling through the holidays. As the classes make the gifts we are asking for donations of toiletries, (like the ones you get in hotels) and any gifts that you may like to "regift". Baskets at least 12 - 18" in diameter are needed as well. Items will be collected in a box in the office.

Please have items in by December 10. Again we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Okte Community.

*Thank You
Fifth Grade Teachers*



We are still looking for chair people for Moving Up Day (this is usually a 4th grade parent), Scholarship and a Co-Chair to work with Pam Kelly on Shen All In. If anyone is interested, please contact anyone on the PTA board for more information.

**We are Thankful for all our PTA Volunteers
~ Many feathers in one TURKEY!**

Molly Jacobson -
Gardening Club and
School Directories

Kathy Sirianni Blood
- School Pictures

Jen Hurd - Jumpstart
Read

Colleen Franklin -
PARP

Paula Gretzinger -
Monster Mash

Carrie Arena - Fall Book Fair

Craft Elf
2007