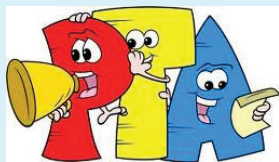
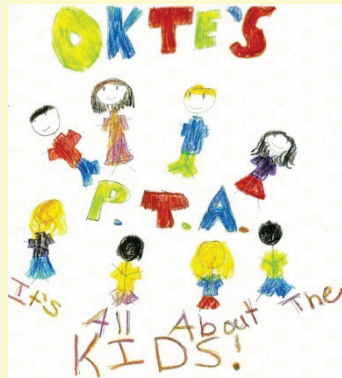


Okte Elementary PTA Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2011
Volume 2, Issue 1

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



Upcoming Events

- 10/4 PARP begins
- 10/7 School Banking Begins
- 10/11 No School - Columbus Day
- 10/19 PTA meeting
- 10/28 Reflections deadline
- 10/28 Monster Mash
- 11/1-4 Book Fair
- 11/8 Fall Fundraiser pickup
- 11/11 No School Veteran's Day

President's News

Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all our new families. We hope you are all able to attend our amazing Welcome Back BBQ at Krause's Grove last month. Jacquie Timpanero, our chairperson, put 110% into this event and it showed. We also want to thank Gary Krause and his family for once again donating all proceeds from this event to the PTA. Their generosity is unmatched and we will forever be grateful for what the Krause family has done for our PTA.

Hopefully, your children have settled into their new school routine and are back into the swing of things for what we are sure will be a fantastic year! Our Okte PTA Executive Board Members for the 2011-2012 school year are: Kathy Crouth (Co-President), Amy Valtin (Co-President), Caryl Hugg (Secretary), Mike Delaney (Treasurer), Jill Delaney (VP of Non-academic programs) and Carrie Arena (VP of Academic programs). The PTA executive board was very busy this past summer planning and organizing many wonderful programs and events for the coming year. We hope you will get involved this year...whether it be attending our PTA meetings, chairing a committee, volunteering your time at an event, or just supporting us by attending our many terrific programs. Our strength is in our volunteers and we can only be successful with your help!

Our membership drive is in full force. We are off to a great start with over 340 members! Your membership is extremely valuable to the Okte Elementary PTA. Each membership gives us a stronger voice when advocating on important issues that affect our children at both the state and national level. Please consider joining if you haven't already. We look forward to having you as part of the Okte PTA and encourage you to **support the organization that supports your kids!**

As many of you know, our Fall Fundraiser kicked off on September 12th. This fundraiser is the most important one of the year, as it funds all of our Arts in Education Programs for the year. Programs such as Scotia Glenville traveling workshops, visiting authors (Peter Laurie, Gail Gibbons), artists, musicians, as well as field trips to theatrical performances and science museums...just to name a few! This year, we decided to try a different approach. In addition to our usual "Catalog" fundraiser, we instituted our **1st Annual Pledge Drive**. In years past, we relied solely on a

fundraising company to help us raise money needed to support our PTA programs here at Okte. But we noticed that in the past few years, sales have dropped quite a bit. While there may be a variety of reasons why, the PTA board has decided to try a different approach...**A Pledge Drive**. What we love about the Pledge Drive is that it saves time AND the PTA keeps 100% of the money raised (compared to the catalog fundraiser where our profits are about 50%).

We recognize that there may be many of you who look forward to the catalogs each year and will continue to support us with your catalog orders. It's just that now there are options. So, however you choose to support the PTA, we thank you!

Hopefully, you all signed up for our e-mail list at your child's open house. Our continuing efforts to go "greener" this year will enable us to save both time and money. Our goal is to notify our Okte families of all PTA events, reminders, etc.. via a "weekly bulletin." We will also continue sending our monthly newsletter electronically, as well. If you weren't able to sign up, please let us know. As always, your e-mail addresses will not be shared with any other organizations!

Be sure to check our website often for current/updated information on all our programs and events throughout the year. Just log on to www.shenet.org, click on the Okte link and click on PTA (on the left-hand side) or go to www.oktepta.org.

On behalf of the PTA Executive Board, we thank you in advance for all your support. If at any time during the school year, you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Here's to a GREAT year!

Kathy Crouth & Amy Valtin

Okte PTA Co-Presidents

(Kathy Crouth Kathy@innstuff.com)

(Amy Valtin pvaltin@nycap.rr.com)

We're on the Web!
www.shenet.org/okte



New this year ...

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Search Okte PTA



2011-2012 Reflections Program Theme: "Diversity Means..." National PTA Arts in Education Program

The theme for the 2011-2012 Reflections program is, “**Diversity Means...**”. 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 can 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, and then select the PTA link, then Programs and Events and Reflections. All the forms regarding the program will be found there.)

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. The entries of the finalists will then move on to regional judging and possible state competition. All

participants will receive recognition for their work and attend a Reflections celebration later in the school year.

Please encourage your child/student to consider the theme, “**Diversity Means...**” and create an original work of art, just for fun! Student involvement in this program was fantastic last year and we are hoping to see the same excitement and involvement from Okte teachers and students this year too!

If you have any questions, please contact the Okte Reflections Chairpeople:

Trish McCarvill at 373-7988 or JMCCARVILL@NYCAP.RR.COM
Molly Jacobson at 373-9917 or MOMMAJAKE@MSN.COM



McDonald's Night! Tuesday, October 25th from 4:30-7:00

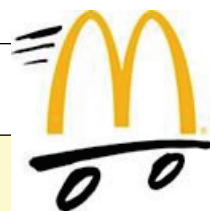
Save the Date

Please join us at McDonald's on Crescent Road for our
McDonald's Night Fundraiser to benefit the Okte PTA!

McDonald's will donate 20% of the total sales for that night to the PTA!

Come enjoy a night out, dine with your friends, and maybe even be served by your favorite Okte teacher or staff member! See you there!

Psst! The Drive-Thru counts, too!



Fall Pictures



Fall school pictures by Lifetouch will be on Thursday October 20th. If you are interested in helping out that day with organizing the kids and making sure they look picture ready, contact me at Kathys007@yahoo.com. We will need volunteers for one hour time slots from 9am - 3 pm. If you have any questions you can also call me at 371-0430. Thank you!

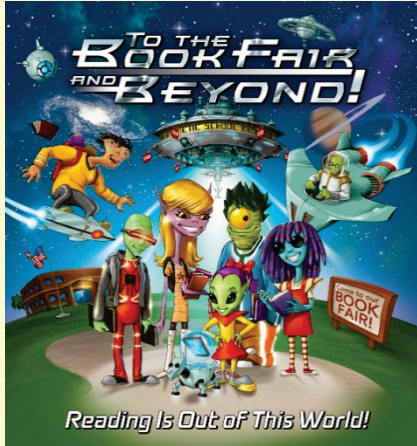
-Kathy Sirianni-Blood



School Banking

School banking has started. We are happy to have CapCom as our School bank this year. School banking will take place every Friday morning from 8:45-9:15 in the front lobby at Okte. If you have not signed up to participate in banking you still can- it is never too late to start help teach our children the value of saving. When you sign up, your child will receive a CapCom school banking bag and t-shirt. You can pick up a banking packet in the main office at Okte.

We are also in need of additional volunteers to help with school banking on Friday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Kristin at kabate71@hotmail.com.



****SAVE THE DATE****

Okte's fall book fair will be Nov 1-4. We will be sending home information and volunteer requests shortly. Please think about helping us during our book fair this year.

Monster Mash

A Monsterously fun night is planned for Friday October 28 At Okte! The Fun will begin at 6:30 and will continue until 8:30. There will be games , facepainting, a haymaze, music and so much more!

We are still in need of volunteers ~ Please contact [Paula Gretzinger](mailto:webnpaula@hotmail.com) via email at: webnpaula@hotmail.com



Back to School BBQ

Thank you to all the Okte families who came out for the Okte Annual Welcome Back BBQ. The weather held out for us, the food was filling and delicious and all the kids had a great time dancing and running around the grove. It was a great night to get together with your Okte friends and family!

I want to thank all the Okte parents who generously volunteered to help throughout the night, Krause's Grove for showing us a wonderful time, Conway Entertainment's DJ Kyle and all the merchants in the community who so generously donated a raffle prize



Sincerely,
Jacquie Timpanaro, 2011 Welcome Back BBQ Chairperson



[earn more for your school](#)

- Earn eBoxTops™ for your school when you shop online
- Enter for chances to win thousands of Bonus Box Tops for your school each month
- Enjoy recipes using Box Tops products
- Save with monthly coupons for your favorite brands

[track your school's earnings](#)

- See how close your school is to reaching its goal with regular earnings updates. Compare your progress to other schools in your area and across the nation. It's a great way to stay informed—and motivated!

[be part of a community dedicated to education](#)

People who join Box Tops for Education are passionate about helping schools succeed and giving students more opportunities to learn. With online tools to connect to other parents—in your school as well as across the country—you'll have instant access to a group of people just like you. It's a community dedicated to learning—not just for kids, but for their parents, too!



Register your Price Chopper card with the "tools for Schools" program and OKTE earns points towards free playground and classroom equipment. Every time you shop, points are automatically credited. Anyone can sign up and designate OKTE as their school of choice. So, get your neighbors, friends, parents, and grandparents registered for great free stuff for our kids

www.pricechopper.com

PLEASE NOTE: Shoppers must re-enroll their Price Chopper Advantage card to participate in the 2011-2012 program!

Check out www.oktepta.org for a link to this program

A Note of thanks

Kristin Gregor for taking such great care of our new Kindergarten students and new families during New Family Orientation and Kindergarten Screening – Also for kicking off the new school year with all the information that was put up on our PTA Bulletin Board and the outside sign

Sue McGuire for taking orders and getting the back to school supplies to all the students on the first day of school

Jacque Timpanero for all her hard work in planning and executing a phenomenal Welcome Back BBQ.

Kathy Crouth for putting together such wonderful Welcome Back Goody Bags for all Okte faculty and staff

Deb Dorn for chairing our fall fundraiser this year. We really appreciate all your efforts!

Trish McCarvill for starting off the school year with a phenomenal membership drive!



In the Community



REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2010 SEASON

Programs Available for Ages 3-18

MITE PROGRAM

- ☉ Learn to Play Hockey
- ☉ Increase skating skills
- ☉ Girls & Boys ages 6-8 with Skating Experience
- ☉ Professional Skill Development
- ☉ Practices and Games

Contact Tom Rourke @ 280-4309 or croukel1@nycap.rr.com

Mini-MITE PROGRAM

- ☉ Learn to Skate
- ☉ Learn to Play Hockey
- ☉ Girls & Boys ages 3-7 with little or no Skating Experience
- ☉ Professional Skill Development
- ☉ Periodic Games

Contact Dave Schulman @ 383-3977 or dave_minimite@hotmail.com

For all Clifton Park Youth Hockey Association programs for ages 3-18
Please Visit

www.cliftonparkyouthhockey.com

National PTA News

October Fast Facts:

<http://nyspta.org/pdfs/publications/FastFactsOctober2011.pdf>

Fast Facts Page:

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