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Charter School of Hoboken

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Harry Laub, Ph.D., Director

Elysian Charter School Weekly Newsletter

October 3, 2011 Vol. 7 Issue 4

Please note that the school newsletter is sent out on Mondays. When Monday is a holiday, the newsletter will be sent the following day. If you have news to send,

please send it to lynneshapiro@rocketmail.com by 3:00 PM on Mondays.

Harry's Corner

Week of Respect

As part of New Jersey's anti-bullying law, the first week of October is designated as the "Week of Respect." If we know anything about preventing bullying, we know that students who have learned to respect others are far less likely to be bullies. Students who have a good sense of themselves are less likely to be bullied. We have ongoing activities that are designed to teach our students respect and caring. Each of the teachers will be working with the students on activities that promote respect amongst their classmates and respect between children and adults. Depending on the grade level, activities may include discussions, reading of stories, historical studies, role playing and discussion of real life situations. Additionally, our social worker, Diane Sasso, is available to work with teachers and children to discuss how to handle various situations that may present themselves.

I recently came across this quote from Oprah Winfrey:

"Real integrity is doing the right thing when nobody's going to know whether you did it or

not."

This is the impetus behind our "Caught Doing Something Good" program. Our students frequently do something that helps out a peer, an adult or the school in general. Any adult in the school can recommend a "Caught Doing Something Good" certificate for a student. We know that we don't hit all of the good things that children do, but we do hope to promote a culture that has members of our community supporting each other. One of the most gratifying parts of this program is the response that I get when I announce a certificate in the classroom—the other children always applaud!

The Week of Respect is only a starting point. It helps to create a focus on something that is a yearlong goal for our children.

Back to School Nights

This week we will have our Back to School Nights. These are an opportunity for the teachers to present to you each class' curriculum and provide an overview on how the class functions. Back to School Night will take place for the Demarest classes on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30 p.m. and for Rue classes on Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. The Book Fair will be open during each of the Back to School Nights. This year it is located in the Demarest Building's Library, which is located on the first floor of the school building.

Please Note: The open house is not an appropriate time for individual conferences about children; rather it is designed to be a presentation about what occurs in the classroom. Individual parent conferences are scheduled for the week beginning October 31st. At that time you will have an extended period of time in order to sit down with your child's teacher and go over his/her progress. Of course, if there is an urgent issue, you are encouraged to make an appointment with your child's teacher right away.

There will be babysitting available on both nights. There is a \$5 fee per family. Please rsvp to the Rue Office.

Book Drive - Donate Books for the Peace Corps

The eighth grade was recently partnered up with two Peace Corps volunteers in the

Philippines and Turkmenistan. One of the benefits of this partnership is that it gives us a chance to learn about other cultures through the eyes of other students around the world. Both of our volunteers, Laura (Philippines) and Geri (Turkmenistan), are English teachers who are also involved in various educational projects in their community. Laura is in the process of transforming one of the empty classrooms at her school into a resource room/ library/after school enrichment center by gathering English language literature for young adults and teens, and by collecting board games as well as educational videos and popular PG- rated DVDs. Geri's side project is to increase the number of children's books (in English) at the schools in her community. While there is a strong demand for these books, only one of the school's in Geri's community has any, and only the students of that school are allowed access to those books. Geri is also trying to find educational software for elementary students to use. While the students at her school take computer classes, they often just sit in front of the computers because the teachers don't know what to teach on the computers.

We are going to help our volunteers by running a book drive to help improve their community's libraries and schools access to English language literature and other learning materials. We are asking the families in our community to donate any of the below materials, both used and new.

Our book drive will collect donations starting October 4 and running through October 31. There will be donation boxes inside/outside classrooms at Rue, while there will be three boxes under the community board at Demarest. We will be accepting used and new items such as:

- Children's/ young adult books (from picture books to teen/young adult literature)
- Board Games and/or card games with instructions and all of the pieces
- Educational software (math games, typing instruction, software that assists in story writing, etc. Any grade level from k-12)
- Educational DVDs (Nat Geo, for instance) and popular PG-rated DVD's

Families can also buy books for our drive at the school's annual book fair which is taking place this week in Demarest. We have already reserved a spot for "Peace Corps donations." Families may also help out by donating money to help offset the cost of shipping these items. Families may visit the schools' website, go to the "Pay For School Services" icon, and find the link titled "Donations for Peace Corps Books." Donations could be for any amount. We are hoping to begin shipping the materials out around the holidays.

We appreciate your willingness to help us with our book drive and will keep you posted as to our progress.

Sincerely,

Joe, Abbas, and the rest of the Eighth Grade

Thank you From Romania

I recently received a "farewell" package from my class' Peace Corps partner in Piatra Neamt, Romania, which was full of maps of the region, tickets, small pieces of pottery, dvds of national poets, and homemade scarves, purses, and utensils- the last three of which my two year old took as her own!

Also included was a certificate of appreciation from the local library. For the last two years, my former eighth graders and their families donated over 500 books in assisting the library's commitment to having English literature available for the community's use - particularly to children. Although the certificate is made out to me, it does highlight the contributions of my former students and the Elysian community, without whose help this could not have been possible.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in last year's bake sales and donated change in my bucket while I solicited spare change from my kids as they came back upstairs from lunch. And especially to those eighth grade families past or who are still here- thanks so much for your support!

Joe Golossi

8th Grade Humanities Teacher

Lunch Forms

If you did not turn in the Free and Reduced Lunch form (which was in the packet of forms you received) you need to do so as soon as possible. **ALL FAMILIES MUST HAVE A FORM ON FILE** - even if you choose not to apply for aid. If you do not have your form, please find it on our website: <http://www.ecsnj.org>, under Parent Forms.

Physical Education Dress Code

Please make sure your children wear sneakers on PE days. No Crocs, sandals or boots because they are unsafe for play and they ruin the gym floor. If your child wears inappropriate shoes, he/she will not be allowed to play. They will sit out and earn a zero for the day.

Casey Mizzone
Elysian Physical Education Teacher

PE Students of the Month - September

Congratulations to Isaiah Ayala (4th grade) and Aracelyz Arias (5th grade)!

These students put forth great effort in their PE classes and demonstrate a positive attitude and good sportsmanship.

Shop Elysian's Online Book Fair, October 3 - 14

Please send the link below to family and friends who are unable to attend the fair but who may want to buy books as gifts.

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/elysian>

Send wish lists to family and friends!
Browse an expanded book selection!
All orders ship to school with no shipping fee!

Track to Begin

Check your child's backpack. Track applications and information will be sent home on Wednesday. Track will officially begin in October.

October Lunch Orders

Please be sure to get your lunch order in by 11:00 AM this Wednesday.

PTSO Corner

Upcoming PTSO Events: Topics	Date	Chairpersons and Speakers-
Scholastic Book Fair	10/4 - 10/7	Jennifer Lisimachio and Team
PTSO Meeting	10/12	Kathy Mone - Finances
Halloween Party	10/29	Susan Chait, Stacy Mello and Team
PTSO Meeting	11/2	Diane Sasso – Anti-Bullying
Innisbrook Sale	November	Tenesh Weber
Kumba Day	12/10	TBD (3rd Grade Parent team)
PTSO Meeting	2/7	
PTSO Meeting	1/4	
Chili Dinner	1/21	Paul Demopoulos, Ted Mauseth
Square One Art	January	
PTSO Meeting	2/1	
PTSO Meeting	3/7	
Spring Fling	3/16	
PTSO Meeting	4/4	
PTSO Meeting	5/2	
PTSO Meeting	6/6	
End of Year Picnic	6/14	Melissa

Lunch on Tuesdays

Send in a bag lunch for the Hoboken Shelter. We collect lunches every Tuesday. Please look for a letter about this program in your child's backpack tomorrow. Contact: Jennifer Giattino, 201.780.6779

Pay Online for Class Trips, Lunch, Before and Afterschool

Go to www.ecsnj.org. and click on "Pay for School Services". Please enter the MONTH for which you are paying under "comments." For more info contact School Business

Administrator Kathy Mone (201) 876-0102 kathymone@gmail.com

October Calendar

Tuesday, October 4

Elysian Book Fair opens, as does the on-line Book Fair.

Seaquest participants meet in Mike's Room, 3:00 - 5:00 for Plankton Discover and a possible trip to Pier A Park for collection.

Hoboken Family Alliance Fair, 5:00 - 8:00, Hoboken High School. Elysian Volunteers wanted to help with outreach, see above.

Wednesday, October 5

Back to School Night, Demarest, 6:30 PM, for parents of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades.

Book Fair Open during the day and a half hour prior to Rue Back To School Night and after Back to School Night Ends.

Middle School "Culture of Death" Seminar visits Historic Green-Wood Cemetery.

Thursday, October 6

Back to School Night, Rue, 6:30 PM, for parents of K,1,5, 6, 7, and 8th grades.

Book Fair open during the day and a half hour prior to Rue Back To School Night and after Back to School Night Ends.

Friday, October 7

8th Grade visits NYC art galleries in Chelsea.

Shereeza's class sees *The Little Prince* at the New Victory Theater, 11:00 AM performance.

Book Fair closes in the afternoon.

Monday, October 10

School closed for Columbus Day.

Tuesday, October 11

New Victory Theater visits the Kindergarten and First Grades to prepare students for seeing *White*.

Wednesday, October 12

Angela's class goes to New Victory Theater to see *White*, 10:30 performance.

Seaquest Participants meet in Mike's room , 3:00 - 5:00 PM for Enviroscape Lesson and Oil Spill Activity.

High School Information Night, 6:30 PM, Rue Building Gym, for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their parents.

Thursday, October 13

Megan's class sees *The Little Prince* at the New Victory Theater, 11:00 AM performance. The 2nd grade goes to Howell Farm in New Jersey.

Monday, October 17

The New Victory visits the 4th grade for a post-visit workshop about *The Little Prince*.

Tuesday, October 18

Seaquest Participants have a day-long trip (9:30 - 3:00) to Liberty State Park for seining and birding.

Wednesday, October 19

Half day of school for staff development, 12:30 dismissal. Afterschool program is available as usual.

Thursday, October 20

Josie's class goes to New Victory Theater to see *White*, 10:30 performance.

Tuesday, October 25

Melissa's class goes to New Victory Theater to see *White*, 12:30 performance.

Wednesday, October 26

Seaquest Participants meet in Mike's Room, 3:00 - 5:00, for Fish Anatomy.

After School Trip, 4:30 PM performance, to see *World of Sports* at the New Victory Theater, more info to follow.

Saturday, October 29

Elysian's Annual Halloween Party, more info to follow.

Monday, October 31

Parent Teacher Conferences begin.

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