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Elysian Charter School of Hoboken

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Harry Laub, Ph.D., Director

Elysian Charter School
Weekly Newsletter

March 5, 2012 Vol. 7 Issue 24

Please note that the school newsletter is sent out on Mondays. When Monday is a holiday, the newsletter is sent the following day. If you have news, please send it to lynneshapiro@rocketmail.com by 3:00 PM on Mondays.

Harry's Corner

The Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Once a year the Elysian Community gathers for its Annual Business Meeting. Like everything at Elysian, the meetings turn into a community event and a celebration of our successes.

This is a highly important meeting, which requires a quorum (fifty voting members). If we do not achieve a quorum, the meeting must be rescheduled—so please come and come on time!

First the business stuff. The Annual Meeting provides all members of the Elysian Community a voice in the governance of the school. At the meeting new trustees are elected and bylaw changes are voted on. This year we have five openings on the Board of Trustees

(we have a nine member Board, with each member having a two year term. Members may run for up to three consecutive terms). This year bylaw changes include amendments to change the number of voters considered to be a quorum at the annual meeting (currently it is fifty, the new amendment raises it to seventy). The proposed bylaws also define exactly who is a voting member more clearly. You can see all of the proposed changes on the Board page of our website, under "View Board Meeting Agendas" at http://www.ecsnj.org/board/board.aspx.

Also at the Annual Meeting there will be a celebration of Elysian's children and the successes over the year. The Rock Band will be performing. Our own 8th grade humanities teacher, Joe Golossi, will be presented with an award from the World Trade Center Tribute Museum (he is one of ten teachers in the United States, and the only one from New Jersey) for his teaching of the issues that surround 9/11.

This is also an opportunity to break bread with you friends and neighbors, and perhaps meet some of the new people who have joined our community. There will be a pot luck dinner served in which members of the community are asked to bring a dish to share. Free babysitting will be provided, which will include dinner for the children. Please email (donna@olah-reiken.com) or call (201-925-2057) Donna Olah-Reiken to reserve a place for babysitting.

Please note: Parent -Teacher Conference Week will be April 16 - 20th

Please mark your calendars. Teachers will be sending home sign up sheets as the dates near. **This is a change from the original calendar.**

Square 1 Art is in this Week!

Square 1 art is to be delivered on Tuesday, March 3, 2012. In order to get it out to the students as fast as possible I am asking for three volunteers for Wednesday morning.We have to break out the shipment and deliver to each classroom. Please email me at tgc437@optonline.net. Thank you for the support

Tracey Calvanico

Square 1 Art Coordinator

Annual Meeting is Tuesday, March 13 - Mark Your Calendar!

The Elysian annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 13 at 6:00 PM in the Rue Gym, 301 Garden Street. It is imperative we have a quorum at this meeting. If we do not have a quorum, we will need to reschedule until a quorum can be reached. The purpose of this meeting is to elect candidates onto the school board. We will also be voting on important changes to the by-laws. It is a great opportunity to get to socialize with other parents and staff and enjoy a yummy potluck dinner. Ken Nilsen and Anne Murphy will update us on the exciting strategic long-term plans for the school and other school information will be announced.

Please see the Elysian website, http://www.ecsnj.org/board/board.aspx for the by-law changes and further details of the event. John Mercado also has copies of the by-law changes in the Rue office. Email Pam Cushing (Pamcushing@verizon.net) or Donna Olah-Reiken (Donna@Olah-Reiken.com) with any questions.

News From Friends of Elysian

We are less than a week out from Elysian Charter School's most festive night of the year! The Annual Friends of Elysian Fundraising Dinner and Auction will be held this Saturday, March 10th, 2012 at the Westin Hotel in Jersey City from 7-11PM.

Thanks to all of you who have purchased tickets and to all the generous donors who have provided so many wonderful items for our auctions and donated to our teacher ticket fund. It's going to be a great night for our school and the Elysian Technology Fund! Proceeds from the night will go to put new computers, smart boards and tablets in our classrooms by September 2012.

Tickets ($135 each) will be on sale through Wednesday, March 6th, so there is still time for you to be counted among the Friends of Elysian who will be coming out to support our school's technology fund.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. Teacher and staff tickets are $75 each. To purchase tickets go to www.friendsofelysian.org or contact Kim Demopoulos (kim.demopoulos@ubs.com), Eileen O'Brien (scotchies@aol.com) or Donna Olah-Reiken

(donna@olah-reiken.com).

2011-2012 Annual Appeal Update
The Friends of Elysian would also like to thank the following families who have recently shown their support for the 2011-2012 Annual Appeal. Thanks to the generosity of these donors we are getting closer to our goal of 100% participation from the entire community of parents, teachers, staff. The Annual Appeal is open until May 15, 2012, so there is still time to be a part of this effort. It only takes $1 to be counted in this year's appeal. To donate visitwww.friendsofelysian.org or send in your pledge cards.

David Laub
Verna & Matthew Pazaras
Tracie Saunders
Eva Haragova & Robert Harag
Joy Lumbres
Mary Guthrie
Jennifer & Mac Hartshorn
Kathy & Bruce Prussack
Michele & James McCue
United Way of New York
Robin Erichsen
Karen Drake
The Goodman Family
Frances & Brian Jennings
Lia & George Mariscal
Luminita & Michael Castlen

Suzan & David Best
Thomas O'Brien

8th Grade Improve a Life Project:One Laptop Per Child

For my Improve-A-Life project I am trying to raise one-hundred dollars for the organization One Laptop Per Child, which sends laptops to poor countries so kids can use the Internet to learn more about what's going on around the world and to give them a better overall education.

In order to raise this money **I'm hosting a Wear a Funny or Ugly Shirt Spirit Day this Friday, March 9.** Please show your support by wearing an ugly or funny shirt and/or

bringing in a dollar. I look forward to seeing all of your crazy shirts this Friday!

Thanks. Nick Schwanse

Food Service

If families have experienced a change in finances, for any reason, please be advised that you are eligible to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch at any time during the year. All calls and inquiries are completely confidential. Call, 201-876-0102, or email me, suzgilbertson@yahoo.com. The application can also be downloaded from our website at www. ecsnj.org - go to Parent Involvement, then forms.

Susan Gilbertson

Club News Update

The first session of clubs was a big success. Exactly 100 students participated in the After School Enrichment Clubs. Eleven scholarships were provided by parents who donated $133 to the scholarship fund. Nine parents, 3 staff members, 8 Elysian students and one former Elysian parent volunteered their services to make the clubs happen. A big "THANKS!" goes out to everyone involved! Some clubs will continue for a few more weeks. Please make note of it.

Susan Gilbertson

The following clubs will end on the following dates:

MONDAY
Embellished Bag – March 5, possibly March 12 to finish projects
Basketball – Ends March 19
TUESDAY
Paper Mache – over
Drum Drum Club – over
Photo Club – over
Writing Workshop – to continue indefinitely
WEDNESDAY
Chef's Club - over
Science Club – over
THURSDAY
German club – ends March 8
Sewing Cub – ends March 8
Origami - over

Be A Volunteer Club Leader for Elysian Afterschool Enrichment Clubs!

Thinking about hosting a club?

Here is information that may help you decide:

SESSION II – March 26 – May 11
(**Session II Proposals due back Friday, March 9, 2012 – e-mail or office**)

"Free" Aftercare for your child on the day of the club! Elysian parents who wish to lead a club can have their child/ren attend the After School Program for free during the time of the club. The children must be of the ages of K – 8 and must attend our school. As of this time, we do not have care options for children under the age of Kindergarten.

What are Enrichment clubs? The Clubs are fun/educational groups run by Elysian staff, parents or friends of the children of Elysian. Their purpose is to provide experiences outside of school which will further enrich the lives of our children. Clubs in the past have provided opportunities in many areas that children might not normally experience. The philosophy of the clubs mirrors that of the school, in that children will be encouraged to explore their potential and experience the joy of learning in a safe, nurturing environment.

What does a Club leader do? The Club leader is someone with a hobby, talent or interest that he or she would like to share with children. Leaders volunteer their services, but can expect

to be reimbursed for materials purchased (please keep receipts). He or she should be comfortable working with a small group of children (usually no more than 10). Club leaders should arrive no later than 2:45 PM and may leave as soon as all children are picked up at 4:00 PM by either their parents or After School. Leaders are responsible for clean up afterwards. If a Club meeting is canceled for any reason, it is up to the Club leader to notify parents, students and the Elysian office that the Club will not meet.

Times - Clubs meet Monday through Thursday. Clubs are not held on Fridays.
Please call Susan at 201-876-0102 to discuss other possibilities.

Club Leader Assistance – Thinking of leading a club but afraid to do it alone? We can sometimes find others interested in helping out. Call Susan and 201-876-0102 or e-mail atsuzgilbertson@yahoo.com

Yes! I would like to lead a club!
CLUB PROPOSAL FORM
Session II – March 26 – May 11 (6 weeks)

Proposals Due Friday, March 9, 2012 / Return to Office !
Or email: suzgilbertson@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Child: _____ Class: _____

Telephone: Hm._____ Cell: _____

E-Mail:_____ Work:_____

Name of Club: _____

Grade levels included: (Circle all that apply) K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

How many children total in the club? _____

List the type of space needed: _____

Give a summary of what a typical club day would be like. Be sure to include topics and activities.

List expenses associated with this club as well as necessary items & how much they will cost. You will be provided a reasonable amount up to which you may submit receipts for reimbursement. If you feel expenses will be more that $10 per child, list the expected cost per child.

Days Available - __Monday __Tuesday __Wednesday __Thursday

*Questions? Call Susan at 201-876-0102

PTSO Corner

Upcoming PTSO Events:	Date	Chairpersons and Speakers-Topics
PTSO Meeting	3/7	Meet the Board Candidates Panel
Annual Meeting	3/13	
Spring Fling	3/16	Middle School Spring Fling (Kim Demopoulos and Melissa Kleckner)
PTSO Meeting	4/4	Middle School Info Night (Esp. recommended for 3-8)
PTSO Meeting	5/2	PTSO Elections! Have a say in who runs events and works with next year's chair.

PTSO Meeting	6/6	Review and plan for next year
End of Year Picnic	6/14	Melissa Kleckner (2012-13 PTSO chair)

Autopay Now Available

The school now has the ability to automatically debit your credit card or bank account for regular monthly payments such as afterschool. Please let me know if you would like to go on autopay. We will be able to refund you if you decide not to use a month, or discontinue billing if you drop our services. Please let the Business Administrator (Kathy Mone, 201-876-0102 or office@ecsnj.org) know if you would like to go on autopay. We will be able to refund you if you decide not to use a month, or discontinue billing if you drop our services.

Lunch on Tuesdays

Send in a bag lunch for the Hoboken Shelter. We collect lunches every Tuesday. Contact: Jennifer Giattino, 201.780.6779

Donate By.... Shopping ...or Matching Gift Program!

A fabulous Target REDcard receives a 5% discount at www.target.com and in stores.Register and 1% of Target purchases are donated to Elysian.
Campbell's Labels for Education: A&P doesn't participate, but Shoprite does, registeryour participating store card. Each product you purchase earns 1 point for Elysian.
Amazon: Yes, Virgina, there is a new Amazon widget on our Donate page and if you use it, up to 10% of each purchase is donated to us.
Innisbrook donates an incredible 50%! Use code #120231.
General Mills Box Tops from your home purchases are gladly received at the office at Rue. www.boxtops4education.com
iGive.com Shop at 900+ stores on the web or add the new iGive App to donate up to 26% of each purchase to Elysian.
Matching Gift Programs: Some companies will double, or even triple, individual tax-deductible contributions made by their employees to non-profit organizations. Friends of

Elysian Charter School is a 501/C non-profit association whose sole purpose is the support of the Elysian Charter School. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible. Check with your company's human resources department to find out about your company's program. They can give you a form to fill out and send to the Friends with your contribution.

Thank you for your continued support year round.

March Calendar

Wednesday, March 7

If you are unable to attend the March 13 Annual Meeting, absentee ballots can be cast starting today until March 13, 4:30 PM. Come to the Elysian office to fill out absentee ballot and place it in the ballot box.

6th grade to Liberty Science Center

PTSO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Pizza and childcare available. Panel: Meet the Board of Trustees Candidates

Friday, March 9

Club Proposals due today!

Spirit Day: Wear an ugly or funny shirt and donate a $1 for One Laptop Per Child Organization

Saturday, March 10

Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, The Westin Hotel, Jersey City, 7-11PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance, no tickets at the door (see above).

Tuesday, March 13

Absentee Ballots for Board of Trustees must be cast by 4:30 today.

Annual Meeting/Board of Trustees Election., voting begins at 6:00 PM, Rue Gym.

Thursday, March 15

Second Grade to New Victory Theater to see ***Lucky Duck***.

Friday, March 16

Community Meeting in the Rue Building, 8:30 AM, all families invited, all children should be dropped off at Rue.
Middle School Spring Fling

Monday, March 19

7:00 PM Board of Trustees meeting, Rue Building

Wednesday, March 21

Half-day of school, 12:30 dismissal, for staff development.

301 Garden Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030
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