



The

HAWKEYE NEWS

Charles F. Patton Middle School

Published by the CFPMS PTO *December/January, 2006*

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Second Term Principals' Coffees

If you did not have a chance to attend the November Principals' Coffees, there will be another opportunity! Look for details in February!

PTO MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 4th @ 9:15am

This is the Annual Project Vote Meeting - everyone is welcome to attend!

Principal's Message



Dear Parents:

As we are about to enter a new year we begin to think about the people and the areas of our lives which are important to us. We identify our strengths and areas of growth and make plans to continue current and to create future success. Planning for success is only natural at the start of a new year or when we begin a new stage in our lives.

Dr. Peter C. Scales, a Senior Fellow with the Search Institute of Minneapolis, Minnesota, published an article entitled Care & Challenge—The Sources of Student Success. In this article he makes several points as to the keys of a successful school experience. Many of us are aware of and practice these points on a daily basis, but they are worth repeating.

A major characteristic of any middle school is the relationship between students and staff. Dr. Scales has reviewed over 800 scientific studies and concluded, "...Schools that nurture positive relationships between students and among students and teachers are more likely to realize the payoff of more engaged students achieving at higher levels."

A second major characteristic of a middle school is a challenging academic curriculum. Dr. Scales supports this major characteristic by writing, "Students are more likely to experience success in school when they experience both caring and academic challenges."

Any school that maintains a balance of a caring environment and an academically challenging curriculum will increase the likelihood for success by a student. The caring environment creates a place where a student wants to be and an absence from school becomes a rare event. As the student attends class he believes that his teacher truly cares about his well being through daily contact and interactions. As this relationship and belief grows the student will focus on the teacher and the lesson at a higher level. This increased focus will lead to a higher level of student engagement by the student. To maintain this higher level of lesson engagement the student must be presented a curriculum that will challenge and improve his levels of ability and knowledge.

No matter how successful a school is at establishing the proper balance between a caring environment and an academically challenging curriculum, success at school requires parent support. Parents who are nurturing, set high expectations for their children, and maintain these expectations typically have children who enjoy a high level of success at school. Dr. Scales states, "Studies regularly conclude that parents' aspirations and expectations for their children are even more important than their socioeconomic status in explaining school achievement."

Communication between parents and teachers is crucial to student success. Adults must communicate with each other if they are to provide the support needed for the student to succeed. When a student knows that his parents and teachers communicate effectively it typically results in the student trying harder, feeling more confident and earning good grades. It also shows the student that school is important.

Simply stated, schools and parents are and must be partners in education if children are to experience success at school.

Best wishes for new and continued success in 2007,

H. C. Pollock, Assistant Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

December

- 7 PTO Meeting 9:15 AM
- 12 Winter Concert: Chorus /
Orchestra 7:30 pm @ UHS
- 15 Collate Hawkeye Newsletter
- 15 6th Grade Mixer 2:30-5:00 PM
7th & 8th Grade Dance 7:15-9:30 PM
- 25-29 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess

January

- 1 No School
- 4 PTO Meeting 9:15 AM
- 9 Winter Band Concert 7:30 PM @ UHS
- 15 No School
- 16 Hawkeye Newsletter Submissions Due
- tba 8th Grade Parent Meeting w/ Guidance
- 18 8th Grade Course Selection Night-
Parents
- 19 Half Day - Early Dismissal (91st Day)
- 26 Open Gym 7:00-9:00 PM

February

- 1 PTO Meeting 9:15 AM
- 9 6th Grade Mixer 2:30-5:00 PM
7th & 8th Grade Dance 7:15-9:30 PM
- 13-15 PSSA Writing Test - 8th Grade only
- 16 Hawkeye Newsletter Submissions Due
- 19 No School
- 22 "Wizards" PTO Fund Raiser
- 28 Collate Hawkeye News

Paperless Hawkeye News

Beginning with the February 2007 Issue, the Hawkeye News will go paperless! All issues are available for viewing on the school website - www.cfpms.ucfsd.org.

Paper copies will be available by subscription at a cost of \$1.15 per issue, or \$5.75 for the remaining February - June issues. Checks should be made payable to CFPMS PTO and sent in an envelope marked Newsletter Paper Subscription. Please include your child's name and the home address to which it should be sent.

SCHOOL CLOSING / DELAYED OPENING INFORMATION

There are a number of ways to obtain information regarding school closings or delays.

UCFSD School Closing/Delay Number is 850.

Primary notification will continue to be through radio and television. Please listen to the radio or check the stations or websites listed below for information on closings, late arrivals, or early dismissals due to inclement weather.

KYW-1060 AM (www2.kyw1060.com)
NBC News Channel 10 (www.nbc10.com)
ABC News Channel 6 (<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi>)
CBS News Channel 3 (www.kyw.com)
WCOJ-1420 AM
WDEL-1150 AM
WJBR-99.5 FM
WSTW-93.7 FM
WILM-1450AM

If possible, district administration will post school closings and delays on the **UCFSD Web site**, www.ucfsd.org.

To receive **e-mail announcements** such as School Closings, join the **U-CF News ListServ** by sending a message from your e-mail address to lists@ucfsd.org with only SUBSCRIBE UCFNEWS in the body of the message (no subject is necessary).

Lastly, you may phone the Patton **PAM message line** at 610.347.2364

Hawkeye News Submissions

Please e-mail your submission to editor Kim Byk at kim@utcorp.com or drop off items in the school office PTO mailbox. The deadline for all items is January 16 to make the February issue. For questions or to be placed on the newsletter "deadline reminder list" e-mail or call 610-347-0683

Collating the Hawkeye News

We need YOUR help with the Hawkeye News! The next collating date is **January 31th, 9:00-10:00 AM** in the cafeteria. Mark your calendar to come and help! For questions or more information, please contact Holly Manzone at 610-793-9772 or hollymanzone@bigplanet.com

PTO President's Message



It is hard to believe it's December already! Hope you all had a restful Thanksgiving break. Some of the highlights that took place during the month of November were the **Student Led Conferences** and the **Buffet Brunch** which was held for our teachers. The brunch was another *spectacular* job done by our Hospitality Committee chaired by **Nancy Harris** and **Jennifer Scales**. Thank you Nancy and Jennifer and to all of those wonderful parents who sent in food or helped out. The staff truly enjoyed every bite!

The **Winter Orchestra and Chorus Concert**, held on December 12th, was a wonderful success! Kudos to all who participated! The Winter Band Concert will take place on **January 9th at 7:30 p.m** in the **High School Auditorium**. Please mark your calendar and come out to enjoy this event! Friday, December 15th was the bi-monthly 6th Grade Mixer and 7th & 8th Grade Hawk Night Dance, and a good time will be had by all! Thanks to all volunteers for helping with this event!

To all **8th Grade** parents, **January 18th** is **Course Selection Night** at the High School. In addition, Patton PTO will host the **8th Grade Parent Transition Meeting with Guidance** which will be held at the Middle School. The date for this Transition Meeting will be communicated via e-news shortly. It is highly recommended that all 8th grade parents attend these two informative opportunities to help prepare and transition your student for high school.

There are other important dates in January to remember. In lieu of our regular monthly PTO meeting we will have our yearly special **PTO Projects Vote meeting on January 4th** at 9:15 a.m. This meeting is devoted to deciding the allocation of the PTO funds to the Special Projects that have been requested by Patton staff. All committee chairs are requested to be in attendance at this meeting. The meeting is open to everyone interested in seeing how the money raised by the PTO is spent. **Open Gym** will be **Friday, January 26th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** This will be the last Open Gym of the year so if your child hasn't had an opportunity to attend before, plan on checking it out!

With winter being right around the corner and ice and snow soon to follow, we'd like to thank **Robin Kitay** and her volunteers for coordinating and organizing our **Phone Chain**. As parents, we are hoping your work was done in vain! Thank you Robin! In the event of school closings, notification will be made via the phone chain, radio, television and district web site. For the exact listing of radio and television station coverage, please see page 2 of this newsletter, or log onto the District Web Site. This information may also be communicated via e-news.

As a reminder, beginning with the February issue, The Hawkeye News will only be available on-line unless you subscribe to receive a paper copy. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for additional information if you are interested in receiving a paper copy, or contact **Kim Byk** (kim@utcorp.com) or **Holly Manzone** (hollymanzone@bigplanet.com)

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

- Tammy Everitt & Lori Joseph, co-Presidents

School Board Coffee Chats "NO FOOLIN WE'RE TALKIN ABOUT SCHOOLIN"

Individual School Board members will be at local coffee houses (Starbuck's Glen Eagle & Dilworthtown and Harrington's in Kennett) on the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30-10:00 AM. Come and chat informally with a board member about any school issue you would like to discuss. We see this as a way to improve informal dialogue between the board and members of the community.

The next scheduled dates: December 5th and January 2nd.
Please contact Therese West if you have any questions (tbwest2@verizon.net).

The Great Patton Pumpkin Decorating Contest of 2006

The 2006 "Great Patton Pumpkin Decorating Contest" was a Huge Success!!! This annual, Prime Time, Team Building activity was coordinated by the CFPMS Art Teachers Mrs. Little & Mrs. Ferron, and the CFPMS PTO. The overwhelming creativity led to steep competitions, yet we have our chosen winners! Thanks to all staff and students who participated in the event!

Pumpkins and gourds were generously donated by Willowdale Farmers Market, Northbrook Orchards, Barnards Orchards, Marlborough Valley Corn Maze, Chadds Ford Greenhouse, Giant, Fenz, & Super Fresh, & several CFPMS families. We are grateful for all of our pumpkin helpers, Tammy Everitt, Gigi Hennes, Cathy Hungke, Joan Elvin, & Veronique Liska, and our *anonymous judges*!

Award Winner's of the three entry categories include...

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Winning Prime Times</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| "Patton Pirates Take Hawk Harbor" | 6 | Little / Shuster |
| | 7 | Eshelman / Ferron |
| | 8 | Bascilio / Cipolini |
| "Curriculum Tie-In" | 6 | Rnauer / Edwards |
| | 7 | Carroll / Baumgardner |
| | 8 | Spizini / Quinn |
| "Prime Time &/or Team Spirit" | 6 | Spisak / Chi |
| | 7 | Kropp / Ilgenfritz |
| | 8 | Garber / Bailey |

Our "Boo Hoo" / Runner's up Awards include Prime Times Marshall, Collins, Bunting and Stump.

This year's "Best Adult Pumpkin" goes to the CFPMS Office Staff, and our Final Winner, the Great Patton Pumpkin, is Mrs. Hadley's Prime Time with . . .

"Hadly's Harbor."

Congratulations to all Winners & Participants!

Please visit the CFPMS Pumpkin Gallery on Enews for all our entries.

~ Nancy Harris & Denise Solon, CFPMS PTO Pumpkin Contest Coordinators

UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL USED BOOK SALE

Collection date: **February 3rd, 2006**
Sale dates: **February 23rd & 24th, 2006**

Please start saving books for all ages, software, video games, tapes, videos, DVDs, CDs, reference books, etc. for donation. Donations can be dropped off in your school's lobby beginning in January.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The UHS Book Sale keeps growing each year. More adult volunteers than ever are needed beginning in February, so grab a book-loving friend and join us for fun and laughter while sorting and pricing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Janice Clark (610-388-2666)

jjclark@comcast.net

Leah Gower (610-347-0277)

gowers@comcast.net

Judy McClasky (610-793-4511)

heyjude@snip.net

Linda Mercner (610-793-0855)

lmercner@comcast.net

Jane Lawrence (610-793-9285)

janelawrence@comcast.net

Patton eNews

The Patton eNews is used to send home timely information regarding school and PTO events via e-mail. If you would like to be part of the eNews mailing list, send a blank e-mail to:

Pattonenews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please remember to then respond to the email invitation generated by the list in order to join.

Please contact Jeanne Polries at

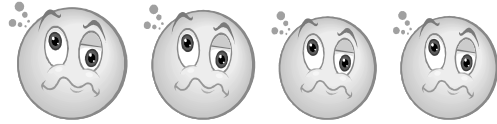
jeanries@comcast.net with any questions.



Help Wanted!

Volunteers are needed for the February 22nd

Wizards Game! Please contact Trish Bohn (etbohn@aol.com) for information.



OOPS!

Unfortunately there is a typographical error on the cover of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District Directory.

The Unionville High School Fax Number is:
610-347-1890

Please change this on your copy. Thanks!

Unionville-Chadds Ford 2007 Community Scholarship Fund

The Unionville-Chadds Ford Community Scholarship Fund awards scholarship dollars to high achieving Unionville High School graduating seniors.

Donors to the Unionville-Chadds Ford Community Scholarship Fund will be listed and thanked in the 2007 graduation program and in the high school newsletter. If you or your business would like to contribute and support this worthwhile community fund, please complete and return the form below.

Checks payable to: UCF Community Scholarship Fund

Mailed to: UCF Community Scholarship Fund

Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Road,
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please include my name in the commencement program:

_____ yes

_____ no



BUS NOTES

If students are going home with a friend on another bus both students need to have a note from home. This also applies to students who ride the same bus but are getting off at a different stop. Both students also need notes for this.

Curriculum Corner

By Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Assistant Superintendent
December, 2006

Just as the holiday season brings us a flurry of activity, the months leading up to the holidays also bring a high degree of curricular activity in the district. Therefore, this month's report is intended to provide you with information about the district activity in curriculum. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the following is occurring:

At the November 20 board meeting, John Nolen was named as the new Elementary Director. John has served the district as the Principal of Hillendale Elementary School. I am personally very pleased with this appointment and delighted to have him on our curriculum team. At this meeting, the board also approved six new high school courses including: 9th grade Honors Western Civilization, 11th grade Honors U.S. History, 11th grade Honors English, Music Technology 1 and 2, and AP Music Theory. Because of these changes at the 11th grade honors level in English and Social Studies, students are now able to take one or both of these courses separately or take the interdisciplinary 11th grade American Studies course.

We are also fortunate to have three major curricular reviews taking place this school year. A committee of teachers and administrators has been meeting to resolve the issues of the district's grading scale, the reporting out of grades, weighting of courses and GPA calculation. A new survey was put on the district's web site to elicit input from students, parents and community members. Surveys were also distributed to the faculty in each building. Two other committees are also meeting to review our K-12 language arts and science programs and make recommendations for improvement.

As always, please feel free to contact me at bohern@ucfsd.org or (610)347-0970, ext. 3316 with your questions or comments.

It is with great sincerity that I wish you peace and happiness this holiday season!

STEP is a nationally known educational program for parents, which presents a democratic, practical parenting style to raise cooperative, responsible children.

This 4 part series for parents of middle school & high school age children, will be presented by Yvonne Nass, Certified Parent Educator (back by popular demand!)

- **December 7th – Communicating with Respect**
7:00–9:00 PM, Patton Middle School Library
- **January 11th – Using Consequences to Develop Responsibility**
8:30–10:15 AM, Patton Middle School Small Cafeteria
- **January 18th – Encouraging Self Esteem**
8:30–10:15 AM, Patton Middle School Small Cafeteria

The program is free and open to everyone.
Bring a friend! No registration required.
Come to one or come to all!

Questions? hcarlino@comcast.net



Charles F. Patton Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2006



The meeting began at 9:22am. The minutes from the Oct. 5 meeting were reviewed and approved. In attendance were Bruce Vosburgh, Chris Pollock, Sandi Waibel, John Walsh and about 18 parents.

Principal's Report: Bruce Vosburgh thanked Lori Joseph and the parents who volunteered as greeters on Election Day. He thanked Dolores Leiser and Becky Welsh for the "awesome, fabulous" Halloween party. Parent Visitation Day went very well. About ten parents came to the principal's coffee for parents of incoming sixth graders. On Nov. 15 he will host another coffee and on Nov. 16 will host a Principal's Forum in the evening. Conferences will be Nov. 20 and 21 and students will be dismissed at 10:45 on the three days before Thanksgiving. Thank you to the PTO for the flowers and card he received after his father's death.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Everitt passed around Elizabeth Cerami's monthly financial report.

Guest Speaker: School board member Therese West gave an update about the board's communication outreach, including the following initiatives—

- A flyer that contains information about the role of the board, contact info about all members and their committees, types of meetings and answers to some frequently asked questions. This flyer is being made available at various district functions and in school offices.
- Within the week the school board will communicate via e-mail to district families. This will allow the board to provide updates about projects and programs currently in development and to give background info about the thought processes that went into the plans.
- The board wants to offer more opportunities for 2-way conversations, so they're holding informal coffees on the first Tuesday of each month. "No Foolin': We're Talking About Schoolin'" meetings will be held simultaneously from 7:30-10am at Harrington's Coffee Shop, and the Starbucks at Glen Eagle and Dilworthtown. A few board members will be at each location to talk with parents and other community members.

D Team Students: Broghan Heron and Katie Humphrey presented PTO committee chairs with "Who I Am Makes A Difference" awards. We thank them for their thoughtfulness!

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Council - Report in the November school newsletter. The next meeting will be Dec. 18.

School Photos - Retakes will be taken on Nov. 13.

Phone Chain - The chain phone list will be finalized by Nov. 13.

Hospitality - Thanks to all who helped with Parent Visitation Day. On Nov. 20 the PTO will provide a brunch for teachers. Nancy Harris and Jennifer Scales passed out recipes and egg bake pans, and a shopping list of needed items, for those who'd like to contribute. Please contact them to help.

Halloween Dance - Becky Welsh thanked all for their support, especially John Walsh for handling publicity so creatively. We had record attendance and hope the tradition continues. New chairs are needed for next year. About \$2300 were made.

Spring Carnival - The brainstorming meeting went well. The kickoff meeting will be held on Feb. 1. Contact Anne Miller or Linda Fisher for info.

Bike Drive - this year a record 150 bikes were collected. They are ready to be given away on Dec. 16.

Community Resource Network - Holly Manzone made an announcement about a new committee which is being formed in the district. Its goal is to build a network of talented community members to support students in many ways, including mentorships. They will meet on Nov. 15 at 7pm in the high school library.

Book Fair - Ann Valee said that the fair wasn't as successful as usual. It made \$1800 and should receive a \$150 rebate check.

Chris Pollock announced that families should be sure to have a plan in place for school closings and early dismissals.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16am.

Submitted by Laurie Brewer, Secretary

School Board Meeting Notes

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District School Board Meeting
Monday, November 20th, 2006



Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. All board members were in attendance.

Superintendent's Report: Sharon Parker highlighted the excellence that can be observed on a daily basis on school campuses. Timothea Trigg brought in Standard and Poor's latest "School Matters" report which indicated that UCFSD is the top performing school in our area.

Opening Resident's Comments: Resident's comments mainly addressed the high school expansion project and the impact it will have on taxes. Concerns were expressed by residents who do not have children in the district. They feel higher tax burdens which may be triggered by the cost of the high school project may force them to move from the area. One resident in East Marlborough explained that levying higher tax burdens on large land and farm owners through the costly building project only tempts these land owners to sell out to developers. Another resident expressed concern that the proposed project is full of costly additions that are not educationally based. The Board responded that they are aware that revisions must be made and that reassessments are ongoing. The public is invited to a presentation by the architects on 12/4/06 at 4pm in the High School LGI. Another resident wished to commend the high school marching band for an outstanding season and is pleased with the experience his child has had in their first year in the band.

Routine Business: The minutes were approved and financial statements were filed.

Curriculum: (Mrs. Brown) reported that new courses have been approved for the high school. They are 9th grade Western Civ (honors), 11th grade honors English and US History, grades 9-12 Mustic Tech I and II, and grades 10-12 AP Music Theory. The curriculum council has again met and a public presentation regarding the grading system will be made to the board in January.

Finance: (Mr. Murray) reported that the tax study commission has met five times and recommendations to the board will be made on 12/11/10 at 7:30 pm. Work on the budget will occur earlier this year and therefore January and February will be busy months for finance.

Personnel: (Dr. Sweeney) reported the approval of seven professional conferences, three resignations, three reclassifications, eleven supplemental contracts, eleven substitutes, two new employments, three maternity related leaves, one half position elimination and creation of two new positions. Mr. Nolen, the HE principal has been reclassified to the new Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction effective Jan. 2, 2007. Many Board Members and parents expressed congratulations. HE principal search will commence. An interim principal will be announced in December and a new principal should be in place by July '07.

Transportation: (Mrs. Halstead) reminded parents to check the district website for stations that report school closings. Also, go over a plan with the children as to what to do if school closes early. The Board approved the purchase of five new 81 passenger buses from Rohrer Bus Sales for \$333,575 net after 5 trade-ins.

Communication: (Dr. West) reminded everyone to spread the word that a new program entitled, "No Foolin' We're Talkin' 'Bout Schoolin'" is held the first Tuesday of each month from 7:30-10:00 am at Starbucks at Dilworthtown and Glen Eagle as well as Harrington's in Kennett. A member of the Board will be in each location to talk with district residents. Dr. West also reported that the e-Board messages are being viewed as Spam because the email mailing lists are so long. New equipment that is being installed next week should resolve the problem.

Policy: (Mrs. Trigg) reported that the School Calendar has been revised for 2007-2008. Families are encouraged to view the changes on the district website and submit any comments to the board.

Student Representative: (Lexi Crampton) announced that teachers each received a \$200.00 gift toward classroom supplies. The money came out of funds the students had previously raised. Also, NHS Fall Blood Drive collected 72 pints of blood.

Building Directors:

Elementary Report - The principals reported that at Chadds Ford and Unionville Elementary, fifth graders joined together to celebrate Friendship and Veteran's Day. Joe Pitts visited UE to read to the children. HE is preparing for the winter concert. 4th and 5th graders participated in Reading Olympics and read over forty books. PES Book Fair was a success as was the popular Donuts with Dad.

Middle School - Mr. Vosburgh reported that student lead conferences were underway this week and thanked the PTO for providing the staff a covered dish luncheon. Also, an eighth grader's work was recently awarded and published in a Rehobeth paper.

High School -Mr. Fulginiti reported that Shakespeare in Hollywood went well. A cross country team member has advanced to the regionals and a choir member was selected for All East Choir. He also noted that numerous teams and clubs are beginning to advance higher and higher into more difficult levels of competition. Mr. Fulginiti is pleased with the job the first year teachers are doing. Also, the Art Gala was again a big success.

Closing Comments: Resident closing comments were made and concerns were expressed regarding the change in the school calendar. The change reduces the number of days off for the community fair from two to one. Superintendent Parker explained that Thursday is typically a set up day and that students should not miss school. The fair then runs for three days at which point students are off and are free to participate. Although concern was expressed that the presence of students may complicate the set up, Mr. Vosburgh, a long time supporter of the fair, and Superintendent Parker felt that new methods for fair set up will be in place to ensure student safety.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Cohan. Please email corrections or comments to tlcohan@yahoo.com