

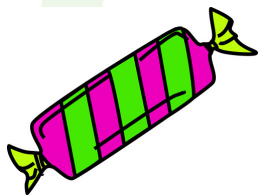
Albany Avenews

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALBANY AVENUE PTA
VOL. 18, ISSUE 2

NEWSLETTER

A Sweet Idea

Once again, Albany Avenue is taking part in the Halloween Candy for Soldiers program. We have sent HUNDREDS of pounds of candy overseas thanks to the generous donations from parents and students. This year, we are going to participate once again and are asking our Albany Avenue families to donate their leftover candy from Halloween. Rather than eating it or throwing it out, families are encouraged to bring their candy to the school, where it will be bagged and sent to an orthodontist, Dr. Steven Boral, who organizes the candy and ships it overseas.



Please note:
We are accepting donations:
ONLY --Tuesday,
November 1st
and Wednesday,
November 2nd.

Please drop your candy off in the Albany Avenue Main Lobby.

Thank you for your continued support!



Many classes celebrated Johnny Appleseed's Birthday in September. In this photo, Kindergardeners show off their apples!

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, October 4: PTA meeting, 7:30 p.m., Heritage Hall
- Wednesday, October 5: Cultural Arts Program Hip Pickles Grades K-5
- Wednesday, October 12: Kids Stuff Fundraiser begins
- Tuesday, October 25th: 3rd graders "Raptors and Other Birds of Prey" show.
- Friday, October 28: Kids Stuff fundraiser ends.
- Friday, October 28: HalloweenFest, back field, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 31: Halloween Parade, 9:40 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 15: School Photo Retake Day
- Tuesday, November 25: 5th graders will attend a phenomenal assembly on achievement in academics and athletics!
- School store is officialy open.... Hours are from 9:00 am to 9:20 am daily.



PTA....Add Your Voice! Membership is \$8

Membership is the foundation of the PTA. Your membership supports many PTA-sponsored programs and also supports the State and National PTA's that lobby for the benefit of ALL children. In order to participate in any PTA activity — class parent, helping hands and fifth grade, to name a few — you must be a paid PTA member. Membership is not limited to parents of children in our school. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members are all welcome to join.

~Barbara Hayden, Membership Director

ALBANY AVENUE NEWS

From the desk of Mr. Valentine, Principal



Dear Parents,

As most of you know, Albany Avenue is committed to make all of our students lifelong readers. Over the holiday weekend, I came across this article written by author James Patterson, I thought it was timely and wanted to share it with parents.

“Sorry, moms and dads, but it’s your job -- not the schools’ -- to find books to get your kids reading and to make sure they read them.

Here’s some good news: This can often be as easy as teaching children to ride a two-wheeler or to throw a baseball. Case in point: When our son, Jack, was 8, he wasn’t a gung-ho reader. Now, I’m sure my wife, Sue, and I have made a half-million mistakes raising Jack, but we decided that he was going to read every day.

We then told Jack we were going to help him find books we promised he would like: the Mom-and-Dad “Reading Can Be a Joy” Guarantee. We picked out “The Lightning Thief,” a book in the “Warriors” series, “A Wrinkle in Time,” “Al Capone Does My Shirts,” a novel from my own “Maximum Ride” series, and a few others. By the end of the summer, Jack had read half a dozen books that he loved, and his reading skills had improved dramatically.

Here’s a simple but powerful truth that many parents and schools don’t act on: The more kids read, the better readers they become.

The best way to get kids reading more is to give them books that they’ll gobble up -- and that will make them ask for another. Yes, it’s that simple. $1 + 1 = 2$. Kids say the No. 1 reason they don’t read more is that they can’t find books they like. Freedom of choice is a key to getting them motivated and excited. Vampire sagas, comics, manga, books of sports statistics -- terrific! -- as long as kids are reading. Should they read on e-tablets? Sure, why not? How about rereading a book? Definitely!

Speaking of boys, here’s how to get reluctant readers -- er, boys -- reading and loving it.

Continued on page 3

From the desk of Mrs. LoRusso, Assistant Principal



Dear Albany Avenue Families,

October is here and the children are well into their work of math, reading, and writing. With all of the academic learning, we also have completed many fire drills, bus drills, and SAVE drills. The students have been doing great with them, maintaining order and really adhering to safety rules.

Tuesday night is PTA at 7:30. It is so important to join PTA and become involved. Your children really get excited when they see you up at the school and being part of their learning environment. The Albany Avenue PTA is an incredible group of people and you will make wonderful friendships.

In this newsletter, you will see the Albany Avenue Healthy Snacks Menu from the Wellness Committee. A frightening statistic nationwide is that 1 in 3 children is considered obese! Hopefully, by reeducating ourselves and teaching our young children healthy eating habits and exercise habits, we will be able to turn this statistic around. Please review this healthy snacks menu and either send in snacks from this menu, or send in other healthy snacks of your choice. Also, don’t forget the “MyNutrikids.com” plan for paying for your child’s lunch in advance. It can be done on-line through a “Paypal” account and makes it so much easier to pay for lunches. It also can help you track what your child is buying and you can monitor what they buy.

This week we are looking forward to having the return of “Hip Pickles” and later in the month, Grade 2 will be hosting “Triple AAA” for a safety seminar. At the end of the month, it will be fun to see the Halloween parade. Make sure you bring your cameras!

Have a great month!

Mrs. LoRusso

Vice Principal

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Checks for all fundraising should be made out to ALBANY AVENUE PTA and include your phone number. All returned checks are subject to a returned check bank fee.
—Karen Kane, Treasurer

ALBANY AVENUE NEWS

Cultural Arts News



Thanks to your ongoing support of our fall fundraiser. We are bringing in the annual favorite "Hip Pickles - Music with a Message" show on Wednesday, October 5th! Grades K through 5 will get to rock to the upbeat, high energy, interactive performance from this award winning drum band! Always a fan-fave! Then, on October 25th our 3rd graders will get to experience up close "Raptors and Other Birds of Prey" in a fascinating show brought in from the Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary. Looking ahead to November, 5th graders will attend a phenomenal assembly on achievement in academics and athletics! --Thanks Sharon Piraino

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First, try to understand that boys can be a little squirrely when it comes to reading, and what's squirrely about them needs to be praised and encouraged.

Boys should be made to feel all squishy inside about reading graphic novels, comics, pop-ups, joke books, and general-information tomes -- especially the last. Guys-Read.com has categories such as "Robots," "How to Build Stuff," "Outer Space, but with Aliens," and "At Least One Explosion." It's a wonderful site for finding books that will turn boys on to reading.

Teachers and school administrators might want to consider this: in many schools, there's a tendency not to reward boys for reading books like "Guinness World Records" or "Sports Illustrated Almanac" or "The Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock and Roll." Too often, boy-appealing books are disproportionately overlooked on recommended reading lists.

Big mistake. Tragic mistake. Avoidable mistake. It's all about attitude. If your kids' school library isn't a boy magnet, the school probably needs to check its attitude.

Where to find books your kids will gobble up.

ReadKiddoRead.com, GuysRead.com, and Oprah.com's Kids Reading List are excellent resources, and they're simpler to use than an iPhone. The American Library Association and the Young Adult Library Services Association have recommendations for terrific books, easily found by searching "ALA reading lists." Drop EverthingandRead.com has a "Favorite D.E.A.R. Books" tab on its home page.

Most libraries and bookstores are extremely generous with their time and help. Kids and parents should visit Scholastic and other book fairs. Free or low-cost books for schools are available (while supplies last) at ReadKiddoRead.com, FirstBook.org and ReadertoReader.org.

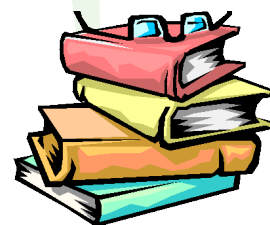
Reading role models, please apply here.

Let's face it: Most of us don't realize it, but we are failing our kids as reading role models. The best role models are in the home: brothers, fathers, grandfathers; mothers, sisters, grandmothers. Moms and dads, it's important that your kids see you reading. Not just books -- reading the newspaper is good too.

Now, this entire article probably took you only a few minutes to read. Please don't let your effort end here. Take your kids or grandkids or students to a library or a bookstore or go online to search for some books right now. Your taking action will speak louder than words to kids about the power and glory of reading: First you read, then you get up off your seat and do something to fix the problem."

I believe to develop lifelong readers, we need to continue to work together to provide our children with the most opportunities to practice the skill of reading. High interest books will go a long way in creating lifelong readers.

Thank you,
Joseph Valentine
Principal



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OCTOBER 2011

Healthy Choices

Suggested Snack Schedule

WELLNESS Committee is looking for ways to encourage healthy eating and healthy choices. The following schedule is for some healthy choice snacks for the months of October/November.

WEEK OF:	SUGGESTED SNACK:
Oct. 10	Granola; Yogurt; Fruit
Oct. 17	Apples; Strawberries; Peaches
Oct. 24	Cream Cheese and Celery Sticks
Oct. 31	Granola; Yogurt; Fruit
Nov. 7	Deli Meat and/or Cheese rollups
Nov. 14	Applesauce
Nov. 21	Sliced grapes; Broccoli and Ranch
Nov. 28	Yogurt; Applesauce

HalloweenFest

HalloweenFest is set for Friday, Oct. 28, after school on the back field. Come in costume!

Chili's will be serving food, and we will also have a Pumpkn Patch, crafts, live DJ and more! Additional info will be sent home in your child's backpack.

—Jenn Pantorno, Family Fun Chair



Box Tops

Start collecting your Box Tops coupons! The first contest of the year is on. The class that collects the most Box Tops wins a class party! If you didn't sign up to volunteer for the Box Tops Committee, you can still send in a note with your child that you wish to be contacted. All money raised by collecting Box Tops goes directly to our children at Albany Avenue. Happy collecting!

—Jill Lewis-Flood, Box Tops Chair



Fundraising/Kids Stuff Books

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Fall Fundraiser. Your support will help bring more programs for our children throughout the year. Kids Stuff Entertainment Books will be going home with your youngest child this month. The cost of the book is \$25.00. There are many great coupons for movies, sporting goods stores along with retail stores like Kohls. If you do not wish to purchase the book it must be returned. The deadline for orders is October 28th. Any questions please contact Beth Capucciati at 795-2408 or bcapucia@optonline.net. Thanks!

Photo Retake Day

For parents who wish to retake their child's school photo, Retake Day is November 15. There will be a box in the main lobby to return all pictures except the class picture, which should be kept home.

—Kathy Pantelias, School Pictures Chair

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2nd Vice President, Ways and Means
3rd Vice President, Cultural Arts
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Recording Secretary
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Contact us: Drop us a note in the PTA mailbox in the main office, or send an email to: newsletter@albanyavenuepta.org.

We'd love to hear from you!