



## Principal's News

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of our faculty, parents and students, I welcome all of our families to Livingston Avenue School for the new school year. I hope that you all enjoyed the time to vacation, relax and rejuvenate this summer. Who knew how much we would all need the respite, as the last 2 weeks required intensive preparation and recovery efforts for so many of our families? I take to heart the devastation that our community endured and I hope to be part of the rebuilding of spirit and strength for so many Cranford residents that have been affected. Please be sure to reach out to me and our staff for any support that we can provide to you and your family.

Over the next year, I look forward to working with you, our dedicated teaching staff and the wonderful children of this school. We are so fortunate to have our new third graders, the fourth graders from BPS and 8 children new to Cranford join our school.

**Close communication and parental involvement** are important to our success. Please explore our school website, at [www.cranfordschool.org/las](http://www.cranfordschool.org/las) where you will find updated information, calendars, activities, forms and staff members' contact information. We are committed to do our part for the environment yet keep in touch, therefore, flyers, newsletters and announcements from our school, district and PTA will be sent electronically, rather than sent home in the backpacks. Throughout the year, I welcome your input and encourage you to call, email or come in to share your ideas. My door is always open to you.

Keeping our doors open to children is equally important. If your child needs some extra help, our teachers are happy to schedule a time for your child to meet for some one-to-one assistance. Sometimes that personal attention makes all of the difference.

On a related note, you probably know that extra-curricular activities are an important extension to our elementary program. Students who remain connected to school outside of the regular school day are likely to try harder and perform better than if they do not. You can expect our **Clubs and**

**Activities Brochure** to be sent home with your child during the second week of school. Please take the time to review the clubs that we will offer this year with your child to decide which one(s) your child would like to make a commitment to joining. Enrollment will take place during the last week of September. As we have for the last few years, the advisors will come together with me to ensure that all of our children who are interested will have the opportunity to participate in at least one club of their choice or possibly more based upon the enrollment.

We have so many exciting events coming up this fall, including an outdoor movie night, kindness celebrations, and some spooky fun. I appreciate the tireless efforts of our PTA members who plan and coordinate many of these memorable events. I encourage you to support the PTA and help us reach our goal of 100% membership. The membership drive along with some fundraisers results in countless free events for the children as well as \$10.00 per child donated to their yearly field trip.

I am very grateful to our PTA Gardening Committee for coming together to plant mums and beautify our grounds for opening day. You can enjoy the fruits of their labor when you join us for Back to School Night on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you then, if not sooner.

Sincerely,  
Dineen Seeley

## Welcome Brookside 4th Graders

We wish the circumstances were different, but we are thrilled to have you with us!



### PTA Executive Board

Sue Fichiera  
[thefichieras@comcast.net](mailto:thefichieras@comcast.net)  
President

Jen Hunt  
[jennyfur\\_hunt@verizon.net](mailto:jennyfur_hunt@verizon.net)  
1st Vice President

Vicki Spurr  
[sspurr@comcast.net](mailto:sspurr@comcast.net)  
1st Vice President

Joanne Kalnins  
[Joanne.Kalnins@verizon.net](mailto:Joanne.Kalnins@verizon.net)  
2nd Vice President

Dineen Seeley  
[Seeley@cranfordschool.org](mailto:Seeley@cranfordschool.org)  
3rd Vice President

Tracy Aszklar  
[paulandra@comcast.net](mailto:paulandra@comcast.net)  
Corresponding Secretary

Karen Hoffman  
[jhoff@comcast.net](mailto:jhoff@comcast.net)  
Recording Secretary

Susan Clark  
[slvandam@verizon.net](mailto:slvandam@verizon.net)  
Treasurer

### School Information

Absence Line: 709-6748  
Nurse Damm: 709-8030

Lunch Tickets are sold every **Wednesday** (new day)

Weekly -5 tkts/\$11.00  
Bi-Weekly -10 tkts/\$22.00  
Monthly-20 tkts/\$44.00

### School Schedule

Regular Session -  
8:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
Single Session -  
8:15 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.  
Delayed Opening -  
9:50 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
Lunch -  
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.



## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER 2011

- ◆ Fall Clean Up & Planning 9/1
- ◆ First Day of School and Parents Welcome Coffee 9/12
- ◆ Book Fair 9/16
- ◆ Open House/PTA Meeting 9/19
- ◆ Class Parent Tea 9/20
- ◆ 4th Grade Bike Rodeo 9/23
- ◆ Kids Night Out - Movies Under the Stars 9/23
- ◆ Class Pictures 9/28
- ◆ School Closed! 9/29 & 9/30



The Class Parent Tea will be held on Tuesday, September 20th from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. We will be contacting class parents after school begins. Contact Tracy Aszklar, paulandra@comcast.net

Not receiving your school emails?? If you are experiencing any problems or have concerns receiving LAS PTA information via email, please contact Michael Mangini at [manginim@cranfordschools.org](mailto:manginim@cranfordschools.org) or call him directly at 908-709-8876/2.

## From the PTA President...

Welcome to the 2011/2012 school year at Livingston Avenue School. A special welcome to our new third graders, families new to Cranford and our Brookside fourth graders that joined us this fall. We're happy to have you all at LAS and we look forward to some fun programs that we'll all enjoy together.

The PTA Board was hard at work over the summer ensuring that this school year will be an exciting one for our students. We plan on bringing back many favorite events and are working on some fresh new activities as well. While many of our Committees/Events have chairpeople to run them at this point, there are a few that still need to be filled. Why not grab a friend and volunteer to run our Spring Plant Sale or become our PTC Sr. Representative? Likewise, we always need additional volunteers at ALL of our events. Please read our monthly newsletter and flyers that are e-mailed home asking for parent volunteers to simply help out at one of our many activities for our students. We rely on all of our parents to help make Livingston Avenue School a great school for our students!

At this time we urge you to fill out the paperwork being sent home on the first day of school to join the PTA and support our school! The main focus of the Livingston Avenue School PTA is to supplement and enhance our children's education by providing school assemblies, offering teachers mini-grants to assist them in purchasing state of the art educational items, assisting with after school clubs that would not be possible without the help of the PTA and many other programs that would not be possible for our students, especially during this time of fiscal constraints.

As always we welcome hearing from you, whether you have a suggestion or new idea, a question or concern, please feel free to call or e-mail any of our board members. Please remember your involvement with the PTA will benefit everyone, but the greatest reward is your child knowing you are involved in his/her school life, so please join us in making this year at Livingston Avenue School a success!

Here's to a great year,  
Susan Fichiera  
LAS PTA President

## Back-to-School Night

This year's Back-to-School Night will be held on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and hear about the curriculum for the school year. A brief PTA meeting to present the budget will be held as well as Principal Seeley's Welcome Address and the class visits. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Scholastic Book Fair

Its time to stock up on some great reading material for your children. The first Scholastic Book Fair of the new school year will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Room. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist the children with their purchases should contact **Lorraine Shubert** at [ims26@verizon.net](mailto:ims26@verizon.net).

## Book Collection for BPS

The Westfield area Y is collecting K-5th grade picture and chapter books to help rebuild the in-classroom libraries at BPS. Drop off boxes are located at all Westfield area Y locations at the Cranford Community Center. Books will be collected until September 17th

## Yankee Candle Sale



The LAS annual Yankee Candles sale will begin October 3rd and continue through October 21st. This is a wonderful fundraiser for our school and a great way to shop for the holidays without leaving your home. Your friends and family can review the 2011 Fundraising brochure or view the brochure online at [www.yankeefundraising.com](http://www.yankeefundraising.com) and call you with their order. The sale ends October 21st and delivery will be approximately 4-6 weeks after receipt of all orders. Please remember to make all checks payable to LAS - PTA. Sale packets will be available in the LAS office, please feel free to take one home. Thank you in advance for your support and feel free to contact **Christine Newport** at 653-1990, if you have any questions.

## Basket Raffle



*One WINNER takes it all!*

The LAS PTA will hold three basket raffles during the course of the school year, each with a different theme. Our 1st raffle, hosted by the 5th graders and held through October, will have a Fall Fun Theme. 5th grade students are each asked to donate one new "Fall Fun" related item. Any items you are willing to donate are greatly appreciated. If you prefer NOT to shop and purchase an item for the basket, we are happy to do the shopping for you. Monetary gifts and/or gift cards of any size are greatly appreciated; please drop off your donation envelope, marked Basket Raffle, in the PTA box. All LAS students are then asked to sell six raffle tickets to family and friends at \$1 each. The drawing will be held on Friday, November 11th with one lucky winner. Good Luck! Contact **Maria Baumann**, [baumann715@hotmail.com](mailto:baumann715@hotmail.com) or **Amy Burns** [BurnsAmy@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:BurnsAmy@orange.k12.nj.us), chairs, with any questions.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops for Education make it easy to help our school earn extra cash! Yes, cash! You can make a difference every time you go to the grocery store. You can find Box Top coupons on hundreds of your favorite products. Each coupon is worth \$.10 for our school. Simply clip them and send them to school! Please refer to the flyer that came home in your child's folder for a full list of Box Top products, details about the program and more about the contest! And questions, contact **Terri Hecht 908-653-0405** or [tphecht@verizon.net](mailto:tphecht@verizon.net), LAS Box Tops for Education Coordinator -- Save those Box Tops!!

## Chairpersons and Committee Members Wanted!!

The following committees are still in need of a Chairperson -

- Holiday Market Day Fundraiser
- Spring Plant Sale
- PTC - Senior Rep

(e-mail Sue Fichiera at [thefichieras@comcast.net](mailto:thefichieras@comcast.net) for a description of duties)

All Committees need additional volunteers to help out so please consider signing up

## CAMPBELLS LABELS

Do you buy Pepperidge Farm GOLDFISH or cookies (i.e. Milano, Chessman)? What about Prego Italian Sauces? V8 Vegetable juices? Pop Secret popcorn? If you answered "yes", then you are earning money for LAS!! Campbells UPC Label collections aren't limited to just Campbell's products. All you need to do is cut out the UPC section of the package/label and send it into school. It's as easy as that!! Look for the flyer that came home in your child's folder for a full list of eligible products and details about the program. Any questions, contact **Terri Hecht 908-653-0405** or [tphecht@verizon.net](mailto:tphecht@verizon.net).

## Kids' Night Out!



## School Photo Day!



This year's School Picture Day is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 28th**. Order forms will be sent out shortly which should be sent back in with your child on that Monday.

Join us for Movie Night, Friday, September 23rd at LAS! Students are dropped off at the school at 7:00 p.m. and will be supervised by PTA volunteers while they enjoy a movie under the stars (weather permitting). An adult must pick up at the conclusion of the evening. Volunteers are needed to help make this evening a success. If you are interested, please contact **Vicki Spurr** at [sspurr@comcast.net](mailto:sspurr@comcast.net) or **Jennifer Hunt** at [jennyfur.hunt@verizon.net](mailto:jennyfur.hunt@verizon.net).

## Yearbook Photos Wanted

Start taking pictures now!! The Yearbook committee will be collecting photos throughout the school year of PTA activities, classroom events and other occasions. Pictures will be accepted via email or leave "hard" prints in the PTA box marked Yearbook Photos with the identified students' names and grade. More information to follow in next month's newsletter.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bike Rodeo

Scheduled for **Thursday, September 22<sup>rd</sup>**, the PTA and the Cranford Police Dept. work together to teach the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students bicycle safety. There will be four different stations where the students ride their bikes through and learn important bike safety and riding skills. The students also have an opportunity to pre-register their bikes for a bike license prior to the rodeo. Once the children participate in the event they are able to ride their bikes to school and lock them up at the bike rack. The rodeo takes place on Livingston Ave where the police close off the street. Rain date is Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent volunteers are needed for about two hours that morning. Contact **Terri Hecht** at [thecht@verizon.net](mailto:thecht@verizon.net) to volunteer.

## 10/1/11 Planting Event!

### Our Beautiful Garden



The LAS Gardening Committee is planning an October 1st beautification of our school grounds. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Danielle DeCostello** at [dccodmarie82@yahoo.com](mailto:dccodmarie82@yahoo.com).

## Reflections Program

The PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program. Students can participate in the areas of literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts. This year's theme is "Diversity means..." Have your child think about what it means to them and then let their talent shine by creating an original piece of artwork! Official entry forms will be available soon or you can visit [www.njpta.org](http://www.njpta.org) and click under "awards and recognitions" tab and learn more. Workshops will be held during lunch time/recess in September and entries will be due in November. If you would like to volunteer please contact 497-0755. Chairperson: Dianne Hall.

## Other News...

### October Newsletter Information

**Deadline** is **SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>!!**

Send to **Maria Baumann** at [baumann715@hotmail.com](mailto:baumann715@hotmail.com)

### September 11 Remembrance

Date: September 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Place: WTC Park, Springfield and N. Union Avenues

### Union County MusicFest

Date: September 14-18, 2011

Place: Oak Ridge Park, Clark

LIVE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD! GREAT FUN! KIDS' KINGDOM - No Admission. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music!

### 5th Annual Centennial Village Music Fest

Date: Sept. 24, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Place: Lincoln School, Centennial Avenue

Fun for all ages. FREE ADMISSION. Bring your lawn chair

### Rising Above, A Musical Celebration of Hope (and Tricky Tray)

(Hurricane Irene Relief Fund)

Date: September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Cranford High School, 201 West End Place

Donation: \$20 pp/\$25 at the door. Checks should be payable to "Cranford Family Care". Donations are tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased at Cougar Headquarters, 415 Centennial Ave and at CHS in the mail office.

## Donate Items to LAS

As you begin your fall cleaning (or continue from the storm), please keep in mind items that LAS would welcome if you are looking to discard or donate them.

- Picnic tables (with attached benches)
- Board games for indoor recess time
- Recess balls and games
- Non-fiction, grade appropriate gently used or new books for our LAS classrooms