



## From Our Principal

Dear Orange Avenue Families,

As the winter season quickly approaches, the OAS staff and I wish everyone the warmest wishes for the holiday season. We hope that the time will be relaxing, rejuvenating and safe for all of you. We appreciate all that the parents and community do for our students and know that all of you deserve some time to enjoy your families.

We hope that your Thanksgiving break was full of family, friends and relaxation. The next several weeks tend to be frenzied and busy, and my hope is that we will help our children slow down and enjoy every minute. We truly appreciate the support and camaraderie we experience with our parent community. Without you, our students could not be successful. I am particularly thankful for each teacher and dedicated staff member on this campus. Every day they choose to be here with integrity, enthusiasm and professionalism.

Please visit our school website for information regarding the Really Rockin Recess program and our OAS Parent Survey. We also encourage parents to review the HIB legislation found on the district website.

Please be reminded that starting December 15, we will treat each day as an inclement weather day. Elementary students should report to the auditorium at 8:25 am and middle school students can report to the cafeteria at 8:00 am. Students are not permitted to enter before those times due to the lack of supervision. The main entrance and the Hazel Street entrance will be the doors open to students. Parents are encouraged to drop-off in the Orange Avenue Pool Parking Lot or on Hazel Street. If dropping off in the front of the school or in the staff parking lot, please be reminded of the following:

### *Kiss-n-Go Lane*

- Pull up as far into the lane as you safely can
- Students may **only** exit car on passenger side
- Parents must stay in car
- Students must be prepared to exit the car before you get to the school (books, instruments and backpacks must be ready to go and not in the trunk)
- Drivers must be ready to move on as soon as students leave the car

Information about school closings and delayed openings can be found on:

- TV 35
- Channel 4
- 101.5 FM
- OAS website
- Honeywell instant alert system



## From Our Principal (cont.)

### *Kiss-n-Go Lane*

- Please do not pass waiting cars and cut to the front of the Kiss-n-Go lane
- Please carefully re-enter traffic and use a turn signal

The Art Service Club is sponsoring a drive to collect new hats, mittens and scarves to be donated to Cranford Family Care. Please help us to provide these items for people in need right here in Cranford. Just bring your donation to room 41 as soon as you can.

We will dress our holiday snowmen in the items before we donate them, just for fun. You will have the opportunity to see your donated gear on display at the upcoming holiday concerts. So, dress a snowman and do some good for the community - bring new hats, gloves and scarves to the art room! Thank you for your generosity, OAS!

Have a wonderful holiday with your family.

Sincerely,

Michelle Vella  
OAS Principal



## From Our PTA President

The month of November seemed to fly by with so many early dismissals and days off. As we head into December, I just wanted to thank all that helped to make our book fair such a success, especially Karen Guydan, Maureen Garbarini and Jen Garrison who chaired this event. The PTA was able to help fulfill teacher wish lists with money raised. The online book fair continues through December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Student of the Month program also started up again, thanks to Katie Marchesi for organizing the treats for the recipients and their families. We also had our first PTA sponsored assembly that featured a speaker from The Little People of America who discussed dwarfism.

December starts off with Aids Awareness day on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The Holiday Boutique follows on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> where the students have the opportunity to shop and purchase gifts for family and friends. The OAS PTA also has a Holiday Tea on the 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon, hosted by Melina Thompson. All teachers, staff and volunteers who support the PTA are invited to attend. Information follows in the newsletter.

Enjoy the month and have a great holiday break.

Sincerely,

Jodi Klimko  
OAS PTA President





## Turkey Planters Class Project

Mrs. Compton's class made turkey planters. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, after school, several students met at the Nursing Home on Birchwood to give them as centerpieces to the residents. The students also took the planters home and decorated their dining room for Thanksgiving dinner. Nice work!



## Time to Play!

Are you interested in improving the play area at OAS? Then consider volunteering for the school playground committee being formed this fall. This group of volunteers will work with the administration to research grants and sponsorship opportunities for funding new equipment and other initiatives.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Donna Crawford at (908) 709-6257.

## Student of the Month

Here are the dates for the Student of the Month ceremonies to take place this school year. Start time is 9:30 a.m.

December 19

January 23

February 27

March 19

April 16



## Turkey Drive Thank You!

Thank you to all the PTA volunteers who helped with the Turkey Drive on November 19. The OAS location collected 42 turkeys, 696 lbs. of food and \$120.00 this year (as compared to 84 turkeys, 555 lbs. of food and \$22.00 in 2010).

Special thanks to Mrs. Hooey, Mrs. Chan, Mrs. Marinucci and Mr. and Mrs. Santos, who gave their time on a busy Saturday to help load the turkeys onto the truck. Thanks also go to the students who helped by loading turkeys, hauling food and holding signs to attract donations.

A special shout out to Mrs. Eimer and the Proud Cougars who helped on Saturday and also helped with the food drive in school during the week. At a time when 1 in 6 Americans suffer from food insecurity, it is wonderful to see our school community step up and lend a hand. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Patricia Pavlak  
Educational Media Specialist

## Charity Bake Sale a Success!

Thanks to all who participated in our Charity Bake Sale. We were able to send \$200 to UNICEF (which will be doubled through corporate donations) and \$200 to The Humane Society. Thank you also to Meghan Reilly and Karina Vizzoni for helping us run the table.

Sincerely,

Mallory Vollbrecht and Cameron Hay



THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Orange Avenue School  
901 Orange Avenue  
Cranford, NJ 07016

Phone  
(908) 709-6257

Fax  
(908) 272-3025

Website  
[www.cranfordschools.org/oas](http://www.cranfordschools.org/oas)

2011 - 2012  
PTA Executive Board

President  
Jodi Klimko  
[jklimkopta@gmail.com](mailto:jklimkopta@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sharon Appleby  
[sharon.appleby@prudential.com](mailto:sharon.appleby@prudential.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Celeste Kirkikis  
[photogreetingjcj@aol.com](mailto:photogreetingjcj@aol.com)

Treasurer  
Kristin Santos  
[cranfordsantosfamily@gmail.com](mailto:cranfordsantosfamily@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary  
Kerry Rokicki  
[kerry.rokicki@verizon.net](mailto:kerry.rokicki@verizon.net)

Corresponding Secretary  
Teresa Wilson  
[tszwilson@comcast.net](mailto:tszwilson@comcast.net)

## PTA Membership

It's never too late to join the PTA! Remember, 100% parent and staff participation is our goal. Membership forms can be found every month in the Orange Gram or on the district website by following the link for the OAS PTA. Our thanks to everyone who has supported us so far this school year.

Any questions please contact Celeste Kirkikis  
at [photogreetingjcj@aol.com](mailto:photogreetingjcj@aol.com)

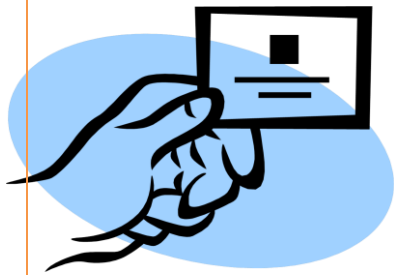
## PTA General Membership Meetings

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:30pm

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 7pm

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 7:30pm

Meetings are usually held in the OAS library.  
Please join us! Hope to see you there!



# Orange Avenue School PTA

## PTA MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

**Membership fees support the National, Local and OAS PTAs. Help us reach 100% participation!**

**Yes, I want to ensure the OAS PTA is able to do great things for our children. Count us in:**

Family Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Member #1 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$8.00**  
Name

Member #2 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$8.00**  
Name

Member #3 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$8.00**  
Name

Member #4 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$8.00**  
Name

**Donation** ..... **\$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**\*Please consider a donation—100% of your contribution goes directly to OAS PTA\***

**TOTAL Membership/Donation** ..... **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to OAS PTA  
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**

**Return completed forms and payment to Celeste Kirkikis**

Membership questions? Contact Celeste Kirkikis at [photogreetingcj@aol.com](mailto:photogreetingcj@aol.com).



## The OAS PIA Holiday Tea

Please Join us For a Cup of Cheer  
You Work so Hard Throughout the Year  
Teachers, Bakers, Class Moms, too  
Committee Members, Chairpeople  
We're Talking About You!

Wednesday, December 14, 2011  
Open House  
1:30- 5:00pm

at the home of  
Melina and Bill Thompson  
14 Cranford Avenue

Jen Murray  
[jennifermurray@aol.com](mailto:jennifermurray@aol.com)



## **OAS Holiday Boutique**

**Thursday and Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

**The Holiday Boutique will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at OAS. Once again this year, the committee has purchased nice quality gifts that will range in price from \$1 to \$5. Any profit made will benefit the school. A few examples of the bargain holiday shopping available are a leather wallet for \$5 or beautiful bracelets, necklaces & earrings for \$3 or \$4. Sibling gifts and pet gifts will also be available.**

**\*\*\*Please have you child bring a bag to school to bring their purchases home.**

**If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to work the boutique, please contact:**

**Karen Guydan: [kguydan@verizon.net](mailto:kguydan@verizon.net)**

**Elisa Lang: [Elisa1234@verizon.net](mailto:Elisa1234@verizon.net)**



**Show Your School Spirit with an OAS MAGNET!**

Great for the car, the fridge, or your locker.

Magnets are blue and gold and oval-shaped measuring approximately 6" x 3½", and only \$5 each!

To order, simply complete this form and place it in an envelope marked "School Magnet Sale" along with your check made out to OAS PTA.

Questions? Contact Karen Ricardo at (908) 276-7967 or [gerryandkaren@verizon.net](mailto:gerryandkaren@verizon.net)

Please order the following:

Magnet \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity Total

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade/Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting OAS!

## *Animal Food and Supplies Drive*

*Please Help Girl Scouts get their Silver Award!*

*All proceeds go to the Jersey Animal Coalition*

*Please Donate In This Box!!!!*

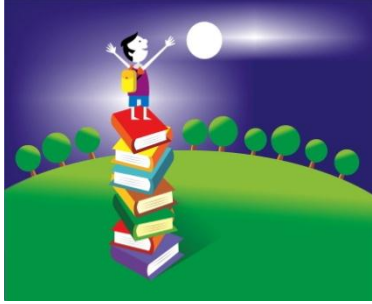
### *Items needed:*

- *Dog and cat food*
- *Dog and cat treats*
- *Dog and cat toys*
- *Dog and cat Beds*
  - *Cat litter*
  - *Newspaper*
- *Cleaning Supplies*
- *Grooming items*
- *Hand, paper, and regular towels*
  - *Blankets and washcloths*
- *Misc. Pet supplies (leashes, collars, bowls, Etc.)*

**BOX IS LOCATED IN MAIN HALLWAY,  
OUTSIDE OF OFFICE.**

*Thank you for your support!*

*Jillian Walter, Amanda Bush, Katie Drewniak, Sabrina Huwang*



## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

We hope you are all enjoying your new books, posters, erasers etc. We are happy to report the book fair was a wonderful success. Our new location worked well, the book selections were great (if a little lean.....we are aware many of you are waiting on books!) and our volunteers were hard working and extremely helpful.

Our amazing sales staff/heavy lifters/wish list fulfillers include: Kristin Ganley, Lisa Trotta, Denise McGowan, Michele Howlett, Debbie Linthicum, Sue Besnecker, Christine Larrabee, Kathyne Yoon, Leanne Templeton, Kerry Rokicki, Debbie Scorese, Claudia Zuckerman, Christine Levenstein, Kerry Bissell, Shahla Savino, Teresa Wilson, Megan Walsh, Jenn Mooney, Cathy & Molly Kanterman, Lisa Durant, Lisa Iredell, Billy, Dana & Will Garbarini, Wade & Jack Garrison, Emily, Thomas & David Guydan. We truly could not have made it through the week nor had such a successful book fair without you!

Thank you to Mrs. Vella for her book talks (authors take note: this is as good as getting on Oprah's book club!). Thank you, teachers, for making your wish lists and getting your students excited about the book fair. Thank you to Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Loffa and Mrs. Joyce for keeping an eye out for deliveries, last minute copies and all kinds of support. A great big thank you to our helpful and strong custodians, Janis and Dave, for all their hard work too.

Many thanks to all the families who so generously participated in the teacher wish list/One for Books program, it was truly an amazing success. The PTA was able to fulfill the wish lists of the elementary teachers and the middle school language arts teachers, enhance the OAS library as well as deliver a basket of assorted books to Cranford Family Care. Scholastic will also donate one book for every dollar raised in One for Books to schools affected by Hurricane Irene.

Last but of course not least, thank you to all the parents who so generously sent in their children with an envelope of money, a blank check and in some cases a credit card!

### Happy Reading!

Maureen Garbarini, Jenn Garrison and Karen Guydan: Book Fair Chairs

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Notes

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Things are cruising, as we have already completed 3 months of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Year!

### Successes and Upcoming Activities in December

- **DVD – Pictures were due by 31 October!** If you haven't submitted your pictures, please send them to [Bill@cranfordians.com](mailto:Bill@cranfordians.com) along with the names of those in the pictures. If you have questions please contact Kim Reiber ([creiber@verizon.net](mailto:creiber@verizon.net)) or MaryAnn Tompkins ([mommyt@hotmail.com](mailto:mommyt@hotmail.com)) for more details.
- **PRETZEL SALES:** We have seen great profits on pretzel sales when we have one, but have had limited people volunteer to sell. As we are behind on fundraising, we will now be selling pretzels 2x/month. Proceeds will go towards funding Class Night and other 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities. Schedule of dates will be sent thru email blast. **Please help where you can! If you have any questions or are able to volunteer (or possibly co-chair) please contact Cathy Triano ([cktriano@verizon.net](mailto:cktriano@verizon.net)) or Eileen Leahey ([Eileen.leahey@pseg.com](mailto:Eileen.leahey@pseg.com)).**
- **7<sup>TH</sup> / 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE DANCES** – the **next dance will be on Friday 09 December 7-9:30PM at OAS**. Subsequent dances will be held on **10 February and 30 March**. If you are able to volunteer to help with the dances, please contact Elisabeth Lynch ([ell0755@aol.com](mailto:ell0755@aol.com)), Sheri McMahon ([mcmahonjoe@aol.com](mailto:mcmahonjoe@aol.com)) or Tara Jaeger ([tbzjaeger@gmail.com](mailto:tbzjaeger@gmail.com))
- **JOE CORBI PIZZA AND COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER – Sales packets will be distributed the week of 12 December.** This fundraiser (to raise money for the individual to go on the Class Trip) provides a great opportunity to prepare for the Super Bowl. Forms must be returned by 06 January with scheduled delivery of product on 19 January.
- **GERTRUDE HAWK FUNDRAISER – Sales packets will be distributed the week of 16 February.** This fundraiser (to raise money for the individual to go on the Class Trip) provides a great opportunity to prepare for Easter, Passover or Mother's Day. Forms must be returned by 02 March with scheduled delivery of product on 23 March.
- **STAIN STICKS SALES:** I have used it successfully to clean out spaghetti sauce and blood. If you are interested in getting a stick contact [Johanna.A.Kornberger@Accenture.com](mailto:Johanna.A.Kornberger@Accenture.com) or seek them out at the pretzel sales.

### Ongoing Preparations for Activities in early 2012

- **Next Parents' Meeting – Will be scheduled with Gertrude Hawk Pickup.** Key topics will include updates on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip to Boston and our progress on the various fundraisers/activities for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class.
- **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLOTHING DRIVE** was such a great success we decided to do a second one in March/April. More information will be available in the coming months.

Thank you again for your support thus far. Please keep the momentum going! Have a great holiday season!

Jo Kornberger – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coordinator  
[Johanna.A.Kornberger@Accenture.com](mailto:Johanna.A.Kornberger@Accenture.com)  
973-809-3065

## ***OAS Dates to Remember:***

December 1, 2011		Grade 3-5 P2E Discovery Day
December 1, 2011		AIDS Awareness Day
December 2, 2011	9:00-3:00	Grade 8 German trip
December 5, 2011	2:07-2:50	Grade 6-8 MS Chorus Rehearsal
December 6, 2011	7:30am-10:45	Gr. 4-8 Chorus rehearsal/performance
December 6, 2011	9:30am	Winter Choral Assembly
December 6, 2011	7:30pm	Winter Choral Concert
December 7, 2011		Grade 3 P2E Brain Bowl
December 8, 2011		Holiday Boutique
December 9, 2011		Gr. 6-8 P2E Discovery Day
December 9, 2011		Gr. 5 P2E Global Awareness CHS
December 9, 2011		Holiday Boutique
December 9, 2011	3:00pm	Grade 8 Pretzel Sale
December 9, 2011		End Grade 6 Cycle 2 Classes
December 9, 2011		End Grade 8 Elective 1 Trimester
December 9, 2011	7:00-9:30pm	Grade 7/8 Dance
December 12, 2011		Grade 8 Joe Corbi Fundraiser begins
December 12, 2011	8:00pm	Board of Education Meeting
December 13, 2011	3:00-6:00pm	Musical Auditions
December 14, 2011		Grade 3 Camden Aquarium
December 14, 2011	1:30-5:00pm	PTA Holiday Tea
December 14, 2011	3:00-6:00pm	Musical Auditions
December 15, 2011	3:00-6:00pm	Musical Auditions
December 16, 2011		Progress Reports Grade 3
December 19, 2011	9:30-11:00	Student of the Month Ceremony
December 19, 2011	pm	Grade 5 Engel Center
December 20, 2011	9:30-10:10am	Elementary Instrumental Assembly
December 20, 2011	7:00pm	Elementary Instrumental Concert
December 22, 2011	9:50-10:30am	Middle School Instrumental Assembly
December 22, 2011	7:30pm	Middle School Instrumental Concert
December 23, 2011	12:30pm	Early Dismissal
December 26-30, 2011		School Closed
January 3, 2012	7:00-9:00pm	Superintendent Open Agenda BAS
January 4, 2012		Gr. 3 P2E Think Tank
January 4, 2012	9:00-11:00	BPS Grade 5 DARE Graduation

