



## CET News 6/18/10

Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School

<http://cet.croton-harmonschools.org>

### Message from Ms. Maloney, Principal

Dear CET Families,

I would like to use this last newsletter to recognize some of the many accomplishments that have taken place this school year as well as contributions that have been made. I am very proud of a CHEF grant that one of our third grade teachers, Shirl Kaplan, was awarded this year. Mrs. Kaplan came up with the idea for the EARTHHeart Garden, a flower garden that would teach children about gardening while also reinforcing empathy. Under the leadership of Mrs. Kaplan, the third grade teachers planned and implemented a “hands-on” experience for their students that supported their study of plants, a topic taught in third grade. Within a six month period, the ground for the garden was broke, fencing was installed, raised beds were built and filled with topsoil, and seeds were planted. Now the plants are being distributed. Each class has been asked to select a person that they feel is in need of a little cheering up or someone who deserves a big “thank you”. A flower from the EARTHHeart Garden will be given to each person selected.

This was our first year implementing Science 21, a hands-on, inquiry based program that integrates math, technology, and language arts. There are four units of study at each grade level in which physical, earth, and life sciences are addressed. This program was well-received by teachers and students and had a positive impact on the amount of time spent teaching science this year. We plan to continue with this program next year.

We were fortunate to have four authors visit CET this year! These visits were organized and paid for our by our PTA. Author, Peter Lourie, recreated his journey down the Hudson River in a canoe, and Carin Berger shared how she reuses materials and objects to illustrate her stories. Tony Abbott, author of the popular The Secrets of Droon series talked about how ideas are everywhere! For the second consecutive year, author and illustrator, Jerry Pinkney met with second graders to talk about his work in his Croton-on-Hudson studio. Opportunities to meet and hear from “real-life” authors and illustrators are very inspiring to our students. The presentations given also help children understand the process involved in writing a book and getting it published.

SEPTA has done a great job arranging speakers for evening presentations who address issues and concerns that parents have in general about their children. This year they brought in presenters who spoke about nutrition, art/music therapy, depression, and effective parenting techniques. These evenings always prove to be informative. Be on the lookout for information next year on these events.

I hope that you have read the bi-monthly newsletters that our special area teachers wrote this year as a way to increase communication about their programs. Their newsletter is comprehensive, addressing what is taught at each grade level, as well as activities and events families can participate in to enrich their child’s appreciation of the arts. This newsletter is also accessible on our school website.

Speaking of our school website, this is another area that we addressed this year. Our new technology teacher and webmaster, Deba August, spent endless hours redesigning our

Dr. Edward R. Fuhrman  
Superintendent of  
Schools

### Important Dates

**June 23, 24 & 25**—Early Dismissal at 11:45 am

**June 24**—Grade 4 Principal’s Assembly in the Multipurpose room at 10:00 am

**June 25**—Last Day of School

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**Last day for chicken fingers was June 16.**

**Last day for pizza was June 17.**

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### Picnic Schedule

**Kindergarten:** June 23 at CET, 9:45—11:15

**Grade 2:** June 21 at CET, 11:00—2:00

**Grade 3:** June 21 at Senasqua, 10:30—2:00

**Grade 4:** June 22 at Senasqua, 11:00—2:00

website making it easier to use, and providing access to more information and resources. As we move forward in reducing our use of paper district-wide, it is my hope that families rely on our website to stay informed of CET happenings, school and district policies, and as a way to access necessary forms.

In commenting on accomplishments, I want to end by acknowledging the accomplishments of three of our teachers who will be retiring at the end of June. Mrs. Jane Lucas, kindergarten teacher, has been teaching at CET for the past 18 years. She has brought so much to the kindergarten program, supporting thematic units like the Gingerbread Man, Oviparous Animals, and Eric Carle, and advocating for play and student facilitated centers. Mrs. Lucas seamlessly makes connections across all curricular areas within a given theme. She has provided numerous children a wonderful introduction to education. Ms. Kathe McBride, second grade teacher, is leaving CET after 38 years of service! Ms. McBride knows how to engage students in their learning. It is not uncommon to see students in her class performing puppet shows, working on a project, listening to books on tape, or working collaboratively on building a puzzle. Her students are always busy doing something! In addition to providing her students with hands-on experiences that enhance student learning, Ms. McBride creates a community of learners who create a strong bond with their teacher and one another. Special education teacher, Mrs. Rochelle Honig, has spent the past 25 years at CET working with children with special needs. Mrs. Honig is sensitive to the needs of the students who need support. She provides the necessary modifications for students to be successful, and she acknowledges students for their efforts and accomplishments. Each one of these teachers has not only made an impact on a large number of students over their careers, but on the teachers that they work with on a daily basis. They are leaders; they believe in education and are always in pursuit of more knowledge and ways to impart that knowledge to the students they teach. I wish them well as they enter the next phase of their lives-retirement! ☺

I wish all of you a happy and healthy summer!

Warmly,

*Kelly Maloney*

### **News from Mrs. Megan Argenio, Assistant Principal**

As we say good-bye to another school year, I wanted to take a minute to wish you a very happy and relaxing summer. Enjoy playing outside and spending quality time with your family and friends.

**Over the summer, I am assigning you homework!** This year, we have focused a lot on healthy eating and being conscientious of the world we live in. **Please show me in a picture or describe in writing how you and your family stayed healthy this summer and what you did to better our world.**

Be well and be safe. We look forward to welcoming you back in September. ☺

### **CET PTA**

A very big thank you to Shannon Varekamp and Elke Raskob, outgoing officers, for all of their hard work this past year. The time spent both in the school and at home ensuring the PTA ran smoothly is truly appreciated. Our new officers for the 2010-11 school year are: Kristi Godek & Jennifer Kooney, Co-Presidents; Nancy Principato, Treasurer; Ivy Lewis & Petra Geiger, Vice Presidents; Jennifer Minihan, Secretary.

Have a wonderful summer. **Save the Date:** September 24 - Ladies Night Out. Please check [www.cetpta.com](http://www.cetpta.com) for upcoming dates.

## Closing of School

The last day of school for the 2009 - 2010 school year will be **Friday, June 25**. The schedule for the last week will be as follows:

**Monday & Tuesday, June 21 & 22:** Full days of school

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, June 23, 24 & 25:**

1. All students grades K through 4 will come to school on the regular morning buses.
2. **Dismissal will be at 11:45 a.m.** for walkers and pickups. If a parent has any questions regarding transportation, please call Mrs. Rochelle O'Mara (271-4675).
3. **The first buses will depart at 12:00 and the second buses at approximately 12:10 p.m.**
4. As in past years, there are no lunch periods.

### CHILDRENSPACE

Childrenspace will operate through the last day of school. On Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 & 24, children who are signed up for these days, **MUST BRING LUNCH from home**. On Friday, we will celebrate with our end of year party with sprinkler and games. Food will be provided on Friday.

**The first day of school for students for the 2010-11 school year is Tuesday, September 7.**

## Summer Reading Joy 2010

by Marca Grant & Melissa Heckler

**“Reading can be a road to freedom or a key to a secret garden, which, if tended, will transform all of life.”**

Katherine Paterson

First, there's the joy factor. Then there's the comfort factor. Then there's the family bond building factor. And finally, there's the mind building/expanding factor. All this from the (FREE!!!) age-old tradition of reading aloud. As your children's librarians, school and public, we encourage you to use some of your summer leisure time to read aloud to your children. Sure, it's nice for them to curl up with a good book and read on their own, but there's nothing like the joy of a good read aloud to share great stories and create lifelong memories.

Be sure to visit the Croton Free Library this summer where you can choose an old favorite, or an exciting new book. Bringing your children to participate in the Summer Reading Program, **“Make a Splash-READ!”** gives them an opportunity to be recognized for taking the effort and time to keep reading over the summer. This year you can also register on line, set a reading goal and keep a reading log through a link on the home page. Check the web site for special programs throughout the summer at [www.crotonfreelibrary.org](http://www.crotonfreelibrary.org).

### Summer Hours in July and August:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	10:00-9:00	Wednesday, Friday	10:00-5:30
Saturday	—10:00-1:00	Sunday - closed in July and August	

**“A library is a feast to which we are all invited.”** Katherine Paterson

## From the Health Office

Mrs. Judy Cohen & Mrs. Marianne Holden

**Thank you** to everyone who donated sweat pants, underwear and hair bands to the Health Office this year. As you do summer cleaning, please keep us in mind, especially for pants with elastic waists, sizes 6-10. Donations of both boy and girl underpants are always appreciated.

We want to remind you that any time your child has an annual physical exam, please send us a copy of the physical exam record (either the CET form or your doctor's own office forms are acceptable) and the immunization record. These can be sent in or dropped off over the summer and at any time during the school year. We encourage you to keep a copy also.

If your child has medications in the Health Office, please remember to pick up all medication up by July 2 or they will be disposed of.

Have a safe, healthy summer, and please protect your children from the sun!!

## Health & Wellness by Jennifer Minihan for CET Building Planning Council

### Using Food as a Reward-Why it is Sending the Wrong Message to our Kids

The ultimate goal of rewarding children is to help them internalize positive behaviors so that they will not need a reward. Rewarding children in the home or in the classroom does not need to involve candy or food. Using candy or food as a reward reaches beyond the short-term benefits of good behavior.

Rewarding children with candy or food:

- Encourages overeating of foods high in sugar and fat
- Teaches children to eat when they're not hungry
- Teaches children to reward themselves with food
- Teaches children to connect food to mood
- Contributes to poor health
- Undermines healthy habits

In addition, giving children candy on a regular basis helps to foster a sweet tooth and decreases the chance the child will be open to eating a wide variety of foods needed for growth and health. Research on child feeding practices has shown that foods used as "rewards" become more desirable to children than if they had not been used as rewards. Put simply, children come to like sweets more and want them more than they would otherwise. By giving children empty calories as a reward for good behavior, we are saying, "Here is something unhealthy for you because you behaved so well." Does this make sense?

**Below is a list of alternatives to candy and food which can be used at home:**

- Stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- Receive a "mystery pack" (notepad, folder, sports cards, etc.)
- Coloring books
- Stamps
- Stencils
- Extra stories at bedtime
- Special bubble bath
- Go to the library for special story time
- Key chains
- Special pens; markers; crayons
- A special adventure trip (e.g. museum or aquarium)
- For older children-maybe a friend sleeping over