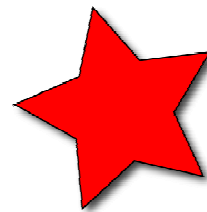


STAR NEWS

OCTOBER 2011



Marohn's Message

The school year has gotten off to a great start here at Saddlewood! The children are beginning to settle in to their daily routines and we continue to work to provide students with the best possible programs to meet each individual student's needs. Please keep in regular contact with the school as the year progresses.

As the children settle into their daily routines, I want to remind everyone of the procedures we have in place for dropping off and picking up students from school. Each morning, we ask that students arrive to school **no earlier than 9:00 am**. Between 9:00 and 9:10 am, students are asked to wait outside in the front of the building with their grade level peers. At 9:10, students are then released from the front of the building to report to their classrooms. Parents who are driving and dropping students off should use the side parking lot as their drop-off point. Students being dropped off should enter the building through the side entrance doors and report to the front of the building. Any student arriving after 9:25 should be escorted to the office by a parent to be signed in as a late arrival.

At the end of each day, parents who are picking up their children should wait in the gymnasium until dismissal begins at 3:15. After signing your child out, we encourage you to use the side entrance doors as you leave the building.

One final note regarding our arrival and dismissal routines: **Please be aware that the traffic circle in the front of the building is not to be used by any vehicles other than school buses between the hours of 9:00-9:30 am and again from 3:00-4:00 pm**. We appreciate your assistance with these routines as we work to ensure a safe and orderly beginning and end of our day at Saddlewood!

Open House was held on Thursday, September 15 and was a great success. It was great to meet so many families and to see the Saddlewood community together on this evening. A special "thank you" to the staff, the PTA, and everyone else who helped with the organizing and implementing of my first Open House at Saddlewood.

Wednesday, October 12 marks the date for the district's Bus Proposition Vote. I would like to encourage everyone to please come to school on this date to support the district's continued commitment to providing safe and efficient transportation for our children.

Many back to school notices were sent home with your children throughout the month of September. Please be sure to keep the office updated regarding any changes to your child's medical condition, emergency contact information, contact numbers, etc.

Please be aware that our Parent conference days begin in the month of November. Tuesday, November 1 will be a full day conference date for all of our Pre-K students. Additionally, Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 16 are both full day conference dates for all of our Pre-K through grade four students. If you have not done so already, please look to begin making arrangements to schedule a day and time to meet with your child's teacher.

I am looking forward to an exciting month of school and to our continued commitment to building a successful school-home partnership as the year progresses. Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions as the school year moves forward!

Michael Marohn - Principal

Letter from the PTA President

Happy Fall Saddlewood! Our new school year is well underway and off to a great start!

The **Fall Fundraiser with Cherrydale Fundraising kicked off on September 23rd**. **All orders and payments are due back to school on or before OCTOBER 14th**. Your family's support is greatly appreciated as we rely on this as the bulk of our funds! *Every order helps; no order is too small*. Friends and family are also welcome to make a straight donation to Saddlewood PTA if they do not care to place an order. If you have questions regarding the fund raiser please contact Christie Gebauer at cgebauer@nycap.rr.com or Mary Shelton at mshelton@nycap.rr.com.

The PTA welcomes every parent, guardian, teacher/staff member, or any family member of the Saddlewood community. Please consider joining us! Becoming a member does NOT obligate you to anything; you do/commit to whatever you can/like to do. Membership allows you to have your voice heard, be in on the decision-making process and become part of a group that strives to make our school the best it can be. To apply, please contact Megan Padelford at meglauren@yahoo.com or visit the South Colonie School District website at www.southcolonieschools.org.

This month we are looking forward to another fabulous **PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) Program**. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag, but rest assured that Mrs. Bomba and Mrs. Irons have come up with another AWESOME idea! Also, this year we have moved our **Scholastic Book Fair to the week of October 17th**. Each teacher will sign up for a "shopping time" and a notice will be sent home to let you know when your child(ren) will be able to shop at the Book Fair. Parents are also invited to come and take a sneak peek at our **Parent Preview Night on Monday, October 17th from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm**.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our **Frighteningly Fun Halloween Parade on October 31st at 1:45**. The kids get to thrill everyone by showing off their costumes in a parade around the front of the school and the District Office.

As always, you are invited to join us at our next **PTA meeting in the Library on October 11th at 7:00**. We would love to hear your ideas, comments and questions!

Thank you again for your continued support; we couldn't do all that we do without it.

Sincerely,
Teri Blake - PTA President

“READ YOURSELF SILLY!”

Our annual PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) Program will kickoff Friday October 14th at morning program. We are planning silly skits, jokes and more to tickle your funny bone. So...get ready to 'read yourself silly!'

Nurse's News

The health office has been busy processing and recording physicals and evaluating students for illness, accidents and many other reasons. Thanks for all of the paper work I have received to date.

Here are some "seasoned" reminders:

With good weather, our students will be outside for recess. Please have them wear appropriate shoes for play/playground equipment.

Physicals for any new students, PreK, Kindergarten and grades 2 and 4 are due in October 30th in the health office unless you have called me with a specific date for your child's appointment. Any physical dated after September 1, 2010 will satisfy the NYS requirement. Our School Physician (Access Health Systems) is also available to perform this mandated physical free of charge by appointment only. The phone number is 782-2200. Please call me if any questions.

All medications should be brought in by an adult accompanied by a physician's order, the medicine in the original container (with label intact) and you must sign the permission sheet in the health office. Please remember this procedure also covers over the counter meds such as Tylenol, Motrin etc. Please be advised that you too can come in and give medications to your own children as the need arises.

Children can come and brush their teeth in the health office after lunch. This mostly pertains to students with orthodontic appliances in their mouths. I have a place for them to leave their own individual Ziploc bag with their toothbrush/toothpaste etc. It is their responsibility to brush during recess/lunch time.

Please call the office daily if your child is absent due to illness or appointment. If we do not hear from you we will be calling. Continue to update contact numbers since they can be so important in an emergency or if your child is ill.

This month is Fire Prevention Month. Please spend some time talking with your children about escape routes and meeting places. Many of our area fire houses are also hosting open houses so you might want to take them there for a visit.

I will start screening vision and hearing this month. If I note any difficulty, I will be contacting you via phone to discuss.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Have a great October!

P.S. Next month we will be having a Non-Perishable Food Drive in the Spirit of Thanksgiving. If there is any family that might need some assistance please contact me.

CHARACTER ED CORNER

Welcome back to Saddlewood School - a school where Character Counts and Manners Matter. The Character Education Committee and the entire staff are dedicated to helping students become good citizens and successful learners. We encourage all students to be mindful of the personal space of others. We expect children to speak in a thoughtful and respectful manner. Through books, songs, and modeling, children will see good examples of the life skills that will help them develop into successful people. Morning program serves as a time when we gather as a school community to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and learn strategies to use when dealing with others. If we all work together, we can help students reach their academic and potential. Here's to another great year at Saddlewood!!!

The Fall Fund Raiser is underway!

The PTA uses the profit we receive from this fund raiser to support the various programs we bring to the Saddlewood community.

In the past this has included:

- * Scotia-Glenville Museum visits to each classroom.
- * Author visits
- * Music Assemblies
- * Character education programs
- * Arts and Education events
- * Literacy Fund
- * Homespun dance
- * Olweus Bully Prevention Program
- * Parents As Reading Program (PARP)

We greatly appreciate your participation and support of our efforts. The PTA receives 40-50% of the sales from the three brochures included in the Cherrydale Farms Fundraising Packet. Every order helps!!

If you have friends or family that would like to support the Saddlewood PTA but are not interested in making a purchase we will gladly accept a donation. Please be sure to return all orders and payments on or before October 14th. All checks should be made payable to SADDLEWOOD PTA.

Thank you again for your continued support .



STUDENT BANKING HAS RETURNED!

Saddlewood PTA has partnered with Capital Communications Federal Credit Union (CAPCOM) for Student Banking. Students will be given the opportunity to make deposits to their very own savings account every Thursday after morning announcements. If you have questions or would like to be a banking volunteer please contact Ann Spratt at aspratt@nycap.rr.com.

**OUR 1st BANKING DAY IS
OCTOBER 6, 2011!**

PTA Officers 2010-2011

President
Teri Blake
869-4185

Vice- Presidents
Christie Gebauer
869-8989

Mary Shelton
869-0474
Sherri Fyan
869-1011

Treasurer
Ann Spratt
869-9615

Recording Secretary
Beth Bomba
869-1592

**Corresponding
Secretary**
Megan Padelford



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