

TURTLE TALK

Box Top Winners!

Wow, the Shaker Road box top counters were kept busy counting this fall! We are happy to report that Mrs. Peabody's class got to the 1,000 box top goal the fastest and will enjoy a pizza party. Sara Kelly was the individual winner. Congratulations Sara!

Overall, almost 7,000 box tops were collected. We earn 10 cents per box top which means we will get nearly \$700 — a nice contribution to support Shaker Road activities such as Scotia Glenville programs and other enriching events.

The fun doesn't stop now; keep clipping & collecting and we will announce our next contest in the spring. The Community Program Committee thanks everyone who participated!

— Jenn Dwire



From the Principal's desk

Shaker Road's ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant

Thanks to our friends at Red-Kap, who own and operate the Shaker General Mobil at the corner of Osborne and Albany Shaker Roads, Shaker Road Elementary School is the recipient of a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance (EMEA). Red-Kap has contributed an additional \$100. The \$600 grant is to be used to support instruction in math and science. Those two content areas are the focus of the EMEA efforts and we are most grateful for their investment in our school programs. This is the second time in three years that Red-Kap has helped us secure an EMEA grant. In the past, the grant was used to invest in math and science projects that occurred in the school courtyard and on the Imagination Station playground. Thank you, Red-Kap!!

Stuff the Bus with Toys for Tots



The South Colonie Central School District's annual Stuff the Bus with Toys for Tots program kicks off the day after Thanksgiving (11/25/11), which is more commonly known these days as "Black Friday." Now in its fifth year, this program has been immensely successful in support of the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Additionally, the pride that our students and their families experience by knowing that they are helping others is very much in evidence on the day we stuff the bus. Shaker Road's opportunity to stuff the bus with toys for tots is Monday, Dec. 5 at 9:15 am. All donated toys must be new and unwrapped. Although there will be a collection box in the school lobby for toys to be donated, most folks have found it best to send in their donated toy(s) on the day we stuff the bus. Others may send it into the classroom ahead of time so that they know it will be there on the day we stuff the bus. However you decide to participate, please know in advance how grateful we are for your support. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Mr. Dollard at school.

The Shaker Road Giving Tree and Holiday Helping Hands

Our annual Holiday Giving Tree Program has been a school tradition for a long time. The Holiday Giving Tree Program provides an opportunity to assist families in our Shaker Road community who are in need of help during the holidays. Students, staff and families are invited to participate in this meaningful experience by taking an ornament from the Giving Tree, purchasing the specified gift for a child, and returning the gift (with ornament attached) to Shaker Road. Gifts are generally less than \$25. Letters have been sent home with the students further explaining how the Giving Tree Program works. If you would like your child to participate in the Holiday Giving Tree Program, please complete the permission slip attached to the letter and return it to your child's teacher.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Parents, please remember to notify school of any changes in your contact information. New work number? Change of address? New cell phone number? Please let us know. We will update this information on our school records and with the Emergency Notification System.

2011-2012 PTA Officers**President:**

Christine Horton

Vice Presidents:Rebecca Leach
Dana McLeod-Small
Kelly Mateja**Treasurer:**

Rhonda Bachman

Recording Secretary:

Mary Nescot

Corresponding Secretary:

Jamie Sbardella

Turtle Talk CommitteeClarisse Banks –
risseypooh@hotmail.com
Tricia Savoca —
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Albany, NY 12205**Phone:** (518) 458-1440**Fax:** (518) 459-1283**Contact the PTA at:**shakerroadpta@gmail.comwww.facebook.com/shakerroadPTA**Don't Miss This Meeting!**

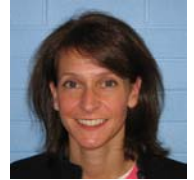
Our PTA meetings are the heart of our organization. While all the 'real' work is accomplished by our committees, it is these meetings where we are able to come together and join forces! At our next meeting, the PTA Executive Committee would like to show our thanks for attending our meetings and/or volunteering your time on a committee by inviting you to dinner! Our next meeting will be on **Dec. 6th** in the evening. We will need a headcount so please RSVP. Specific time and location TBA. Please respond to Shakerroadpta@gmail.com.

Meet your Shaker Road staff

Up this month for our mini-profiles: The third grade teachers, reading teachers, our librarian and Library assistant. We asked everyone the following questions: "How long have you been at Shaker Road?" and "What do you like most about your job?"

Karen Amundsen

"I began my time at Shaker Road as a kindergarten student. I was so thrilled 11 years ago to begin teaching at the same school that I had attended. What I like most about my job is the love of learning that goes on here. To see and experience the excitement that occurs as new learning takes place is really amazing. Shaker Road is a great place to be!"

**Lisa Berner**

"This is my 10th year at Shaker Road Elementary School as our Library Media Specialist. What do I love? Everything! I love the kids, the teachers, the parents, the whole shebang! I started as a librarian's assistant at the Colonie Town Library right down the road so it was an amazing and wonderful fit to move right down the road to Shaker Road. I had also had many of the students as toddlers/preschoolers before I had ever arrived here. It has been amazing to watch everyone grow up over the years. I love my job, encouraging a love of reading and natural curiosity, and our community."

**Jennifer Glynn**

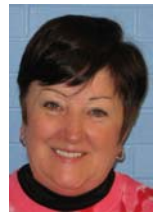
"My time in South Colonie actually started over 20 years ago when I was a student teacher for a first-grade class right here at Shaker Road! When I was hired by the district in 1998, I felt like I was coming home. I have been at Shaker Road since then, except for one year at Forest Park and some years spent at home with our three babies. What I love most about my job as a reading teacher is the excitement of watching young children learn how to read, it truly is such a rewarding and wonderful experience. I feel blessed to be able to come to work every day to their sunny, smiling faces in addition to the fantastic group of teachers and parents who make up the Shaker Road community. It really is true what they say: Shaker Road is a very special place and I feel grateful to be a part of that."

**Allison Jeffers**

"I started working at the Shaker Road library in September of this year. However, I am not new to the school. I started here as a parent back in 2000 and finished up in 2008. My two boys are in the middle and high schools now. It was great to come back and see all the teachers and staff, again. What I like most about my job are the kids. They are a joy to be around and make me smile every day. I love seeing them learn and hearing their stories. I am very happy to be back at Shaker Road."

**Betty Peabody**

"There are many reasons why I enjoy teaching. First, I enjoy seeing the enthusiasm across a child's face when they are excited about their learning. I love the ah-ha moments when a child finally has an understanding about a concept being taught. I feel satisfied when a child perseveres to be successful with their learning. These reasons and many more have helped me reach 25 years of teaching at Shaker Road. During that time I have taught second, third and a multi-age class of grades three and four. I also taught reading at both Lisha Kill and Sand Creek. Prior to coming to South Colonie, I taught science in grades 7-12. Although I have worked in other buildings and districts, Shaker Road holds a special spot in my heart because of the students, the parents and the staff here!"

**Greg Sherwin**

"This is my eighth year here at Shaker Road! I have taught both 3rd and 4th grade in this school, looping once with a class of students. I have also been a math specialist and a 5th grade teacher in Connecticut prior to becoming a Shaker Roadian. There are many aspects of my career that I love, however I have to say my favorite is watching young minds become problem solvers, and the look of satisfaction on the kids faces when they have accomplished something that used to be out of reach."

**Caielen White**

This will be my 10th year teaching third grade at Shaker Road. Before that I taught fourth grade for two years in Virginia. I am very excited because this year I am teaching social studies to all of the third graders. This was always my favorite subject in school, maybe because it was the subject my Dad taught, too. I love helping kids explore the world and enjoy seeing them get excited about other cultures.



What's Going On: DECEMBER



Thursday, Dec. 1

After School Enrichment (ASE) Arts & Crafts* — 3 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 2

School Spirit Day — Wear Shaker Road gear or red and white!
School Banking

Monday, Dec. 5

U.S. Marines visit Share Road – Toys for Tots "Stuff the Bus"
Pick-up – 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Grade 3 Scotia Glenville "Discovering Deserts"*, community room
9:15 – 10:30 a.m. — White
10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. — Peabody
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. — Sherwin
PTA Meeting — Date and time TBA

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Holiday Shopping for Students*
Carol Singing at Colonie Center — 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8

Holiday Shopping for Students*
Grade 4 "Hawks, Owls & Wildlife" Presentation — 1:30 p.m.
community room
ASE Arts & Crafts* — 3 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 9

School Banking
Holiday Shopping for Students

Thursday, Dec. 15

ASE Arts & Crafts* — 3 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16

School Banking

Monday, Dec. 19

Kindergarten Holiday Sing Along — 10 a.m., cafetorium

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Site Based Committee Meeting — 8-11:30 a.m., conference room

Wednesday, Dec. 21

K-4 reports card distributed
Grade 2 Candy Houses/Holiday Party — 12:30-2:30 p.m.,
community room
Grade 1 Country Celebration — 1:45-2:30 p.m., classrooms

Thursday, Dec. 22

ASE Arts & Crafts* — 3 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 23

School Banking

Monday, Dec. 26-Jan. 2

Holiday Break

Tuesday, Jan. 3

School Resumes

Friday, Jan. 6

School Spirit Day — Wear Shaker Road gear or red and white!
School Banking



* Program supported by the Shaker Road PTA.

Earn some green for Shaker Road!

With your help, Shaker Road can earn \$chool Bucks. Take your original cash register receipts from any Colonie Center store, including the movies and restaurants, to the Guest Services Desk (located on the lower level of the mall between Glen Peters and CVS). Your receipts will be stamped and Shaker Road will receive credit for your purchases. If you forget, just send your receipts into school; we'll register them for you! If you'd like the receipts back, put your name on an envelope and we'll send them home with your child.

For more information on how the program works or to keep posted on how Shaker Road is doing, visit www.shopatcoloniecenter.com and click on the "School Bucks" program.

Shaker Road has joined the My Coke Rewards for Schools program. That means by drinking the Coca-Cola products your family already enjoys, you can get My Coke Rewards points and donate them to help our school! It's easy to help, once you have purchased your favorite Coca-Cola products, go to www.mycokerewards.com/school, register, enter your codes to collect the points, enter Shaker Road as the school to donate the points to and then select "Donate". It takes only four steps!

Don't forget to log your receipt from your picture with Santa.

— Jenn Dwire and Sue Mantica

Thank you!

On behalf of the Shaker Road PTA I would like to wish you a fantastic holiday season. Thank you for all the support you have given to the children at Shaker Road from clipping your box tops to sending in your fundraising to selling pizza at family fun nights, to name a few! We are truly fortunate to have such an active PTA that is able to provide many enriching activities to our students and foster a wonderful sense of community as well. Many hands make light work and I am grateful for all the help you have given to our PTA this year. Together, we can make a difference! From my committee to yours ... Happy Holidays!

— Christine Horton

Who doesn't love popcorn!

Enjoy this month's recipe from www.cookinglight.com for a tasty and healthy treat.

Popcorn Brittle

Store brittle in an airtight container for up to four days.

Ingredients

Cooking spray
5 ½ cups plain popcorn
1 ½ cups sugar
6 T light corn syrup
¼ cup water
3 T molasses
1 T butter
½ t baking soda
½ t vanilla extract
¼ t salt



Instructions

Line a baking sheet with foil coated with cooking spray. Place popped corn in a large zip-top plastic bag; seal. Crush popcorn using a meat mallet or rolling pin; set aside. Combine sugar, syrup, and water in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook 1 minute or until sugar dissolves, stirring constantly. Cook, without stirring, until candy thermometer registers 270° (about 8 minutes). Stir in molasses and butter; cook until thermometer registers 290° (about 5 minutes). Stir in baking soda, vanilla, and salt. Stir popcorn into boiling syrup mixture. Working quickly, pour popcorn mixture onto prepared pan; spread to ¼-inch thickness using a wooden spoon coated with cooking spray. Cool completely; break into large pieces.

Shaker Road Holiday Shop

The Shaker Road Holiday Shop is opening its doors once again from Dec. 7- 9. Students will have the opportunity to shop with their class on Wednesday or Thursday. On Friday, we will be open in the morning for all last minute shoppers! Gifts range in price from 25 cents to \$8 and there is something for everyone on your child's Holiday list!

— Kelly Mateja

Yearbooks now on sale!

The Shaker Road 2011-2012 yearbook is now on sale! All books ordered in December will cost just \$15, that is \$2 off the spring price! The cost goes up in 2012 so look for the order form in your child's backpack or email shakerroadyearbook@gmail.com and order yours today! We are also accepting messages of love starting at \$2 per message.

— Christine Horton

Parents As Reading Partners

Congratulations Shaker Road! We have had spectacular participation with our PARP program this year! You deserve to celebrate! Look for details coming home soon for our PARP Kids Night at Shaker Road on Thursday, Dec. 15! We will host a fancy tea party in the cafeteria and a Bey Blade tournament in the Gym! Don't miss it!!

— Lisa Berner

Wee Deliver Holiday Cheer Contest

Wee Deliver would like to see our Shaker Road students spread some holiday cheer this month! The students will be asked to write holiday greetings and draw pictures to share with the residents of evergreen Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation facility in East Greenbush. The classroom with the most participation will win a pizza party sponsored by the PTA. Additional information for the Wee Deliver Holiday Cheer contest will be coming home soon!

Thank you to all those who participated in the Wee Deliver Stamp Design contest!! The winning designs were made into stamps that will be used for all students to use when sending out letters through the mail system.

Anyone who wishes to send a letter to a Shaker Road student or staff member may use our mail system! All students have an address which is printed in the school directory. If you would like to send one letter or send out all your Holiday cards our PTA volunteers will gladly deliver them for you!!

Shaker Road Site Based Committee

Our Shaker Road Site Based Committee meets monthly. We discuss academic issues and oversee our building's implementation of our district goals.

We are currently monitoring district initiatives for Writing and Balanced Literacy, in addition to the areas of school safety, staff collaboration, parent communication, anti-bullying, and character education. SBC reports their work monthly to the entire Shaker Road staff and the District Office. For December, the SBC will make decisions on the Shaker Road building budget for the 2012-13 school year.

Many thanks to our Site Based Committee representatives:

Theresa DiMarino – Kindergarten
Elizabeth Dollard – Grade One
Jo-Anne Hines – Grade Two
Greg Sherwin – Grade Three
Erika Bushey – Grade Four
Judy Glasser – Pupil Services
Lisa Marinucci – Reading/Library
Charlene Bologna – Support Staff
Bob Lachut – Support Staff
Rhonda Bachman – Parent
William Dollard – Administrator

Take the Shaker Road to learning

