



# The Staples Scoop



Wednesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010



## CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

|                |                                                                         |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat., Dec. 4   | HKMS Pancake Breakfast; 8 – 11 am                                       |
| Thurs., Dec. 9 | EARLY DISMISSAL; Prof. Development; 1 pm                                |
| Fri., Dec. 17  | School Spirit Day: “Wear a Scarf to School”                             |
| Fri., Dec. 17  | Principal’s Coffee; 9:15 am; ( <i>note change of date</i> ); Cafetorium |
| Fri., Dec. 17  | “Festival Winds” Community Concert; 7 pm; Cafetorium, \$5               |
| Fri., Dec. 24  | NO SCHOOL – Holiday Recess Begins                                       |
| Mon., Jan. 3   | School Resumes                                                          |

## PRINCIPAL’S SCOOP by Kimberly Fox-Santora

I hosted Thanksgiving this year and learned that I am much more a creature of habit than I realized. I like routine and order and discovered that I can not operate at full capacity when my mind is split between too many things. This Thanksgiving, I had many guests in my kitchen, and I was distracted by so many people going in and out of my refrigerator, asking me questions about work while I was trying to follow a recipe. Suffice it to say, the cauliflower dish suffered and needed to be quickly removed from the table.

I share this with you to draw a comparison with your children, our students. Children need routine as it helps them establish a sense of comfort and confidence whereby they learn how to manage their time and attention. While at home, you are managing bedtime and homework routines; at school, we are managing students’ work schedules and learning expectations. Establishing routines at school helps students to feel safe in their learning environment and take risks in their learning. Over time, most students enjoy the satisfaction of completing an assignment successfully.

When students arrive late or leave school early, routines are disrupted and students’ work can be negatively affected. While some teachers do maintain an unfinished work folder for the first half of the year, most teachers phase out such folders once the mid-point of the school year has passed. I encourage you to consider the importance of school routines and help us reinforce the expectation of order. Please keep late arrivals and early dismissals at a minimum as we work together in establishing good learning habits for a lifetime.

As we approach the always hectic holiday season, it understandably may become harder for your children to focus on school. I urge all of you to speak to your children about the importance of good habits, while still making time to find joy and excitement in this wonderful time of year.

On a separate note, we are observing an increasing number of ***students being dropped off at school in the mornings before there is supervision for them.*** While some students sit quietly, others are engaging in some inappropriate behavior. For the safety and well-being of our students, unsupervised children are not permitted in SSES until 8:45 am, when the morning supervisors arrive.

If you require before-school child care, please contact Easton Parks & Recreation, which provides a program that is held at SSES.

## Pre-School Applications Available

The Samuel Staples pre-school is accepting applications from Easton residents for its 3s and 4s programs for the 2011-2012 school year. Both programs are from 9 am to 2 pm, five days a week, following the Easton school calendar. Please contact Stacey Barnard ([sbarnard@eastonps.org](mailto:sbarnard@eastonps.org)) for more information.

## THE PTA SCOOP

### Reflections Submissions Due by Jan. 5th

The Easton PTA will again host the Reflections program for all students in Easton, from pre-school to high school. Participation can be in six arts areas; Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Dance Choreography, Musical Composition and Film Production. You may enter a piece of work in more than one category, and you may have more than one entry in the same category. Art entries are critiqued against children in the same grade division. Recognition is from the local to the national level. Learn more by visiting [www.PTAreflections.org](http://www.PTAreflections.org).

To participate, entries will be received in the main office at SSES until January 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.. For a copy of the entry form and to find out the program rules, please visit our website at [www.eastonpta.com](http://www.eastonpta.com). Please read the rules carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your Reflections Chair, Claire-Anne Meskers, at [meskers@optonline.net](mailto:meskers@optonline.net) or 203-374-5566.

Thank You:

- Diane Karazulas, Lori Lesko and Sharon Stemme for the Pie Sales Fundraiser
- Claire-Anne Meskers, Mary Johnson and Julie Herkimer for Picture Retake Day.
- Patti Wunder and her business, Easton Place Designs, for designing and donating stationery for the PTA.
- Claire-Anne Meskers and her Turkey Trot Committee: Susan DiScipio, Nadeen Tichy, Rachel Rios, Rita Roman, Laura T. Jones, Brittany Jones, and Stephanie Frangenes and Erin Meskers (aka The Turkey),
- The SSES community who so generously contributed enough food to the Turkey Trot to support 254 families in need during Thanksgiving and the December holidays. .

### The Scoop Scoop

The Scoop is published every other Wednesday (for the most part) and distributed by SSES' email Listserv. **Next issue: Wednesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit any information – in MS Word format -- by the Saturday evening preceding publication.

To add or change your email information go to [www.er9.org/sses/](http://www.er9.org/sses/) and click on "Join Our Listserv". *Please be sure to inform the school office of any changes to your email address.*

Questions and submissions to Cathy Dunsby at [ssesscoop@yahoo.com](mailto:ssesscoop@yahoo.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## EASTON WINTER CONCERT

### “Festival Winds”



Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Samuel Staples Elementary School

\$5 per person

(Ages 2 and under free if seated on an adult's lap)

The Easton Winter Concert is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and enjoy an evening of festive holiday music. **Grammy-nominated musician Jeff Scott is back again this year with the highly talented quintet, Festival Winds.**

Bring your good cheer and prepare to enjoy some fabulous music! The concert is appropriate for all ages and will include a **Holiday Sing-a-Long** (our SSES students will be practicing in music classes).

**Due to limited space, ticket reservations will be required.** (Payment accepted in order it is received). Pre-ordered tickets will be held at the door the night of the concert. Last year's concert was sold out days before the event. The Easton Winter Concert is a PTA-sponsored event open to ALL Easton residents.

\*Delicious home baked goods for sale

\* Raffle tickets for a locally grown fir tree

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### EASTON WINTER CONCERT

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Checks made payable to “Easton PTA”

(Your support helps the PTA bring quality Art, Culture, Education & Science programs to our school)

Please submit completed form and payment to the SSES office. Mark envelope: PTA Winter Concert. (Or mail to: Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton, CT 06612)

Questions? Please contact: [EastonACES@gmail.com](mailto:EastonACES@gmail.com)

# Winter's Corner

By Susan DiScipio



*Winter at Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater, Florida*

Welcome to Winter's Corner - a new column in the SCOOP! As you read in Mrs. Fox-Santora's letter in the last SCOOP, SSES students are going to be hearing a lot about a very special dolphin (our school mascot), named Winter, during this school year.

First, I'd like to introduce you to the book, Winter's Tail (a Junior Library Guild 2009 selection), told by Juliana, Isabella, and Craig Hatkoff. It delivers an important message of perseverance, friendship, kindness, and universal acceptance. In this true story about a rescued dolphin we learn that, "If Winter can, I can too! Anything is possible!"

Winter's Tail makes the perfect connection to our Character Attribute words that you see hanging in our cafetorium and in each grade's neighborhood. The words are: Perseverance, Kindness, Honesty, Tolerance, Responsibility, Integrity, Citizenship, and Respect. Further as Mrs. Fox-Santora said in her letter, Winter's Tail is, "A natural link to our continued efforts to enhance students' appreciation of diversity."

The purpose of this column, then, is to keep parents updated on what SSES students are learning about Winter in their classrooms and to provide you with resources if you and your children would like to learn more about Winter at home. This column may also lead us to other inspiring animals.

For now, our focus is on Winter's Tail, which all SSES teachers will be reading aloud to their students this week and next. If you'd like to learn more about Winter, please go to [www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com)

I would also like to acknowledge the Easton Learning Foundation (ELF) as the sponsor for all of SSES' Winter activities slated for this school year.

Kindly yours until next time...

## GIFT CARD CENTRAL: IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN PERSONAL SHOPPER



*The holidays are on their way and Gift Card Central is here to save the day!  
Gift cards are the perfect gift and Easton SEPTA gift cards do not incur fees.*

The following is only a small number of available retailers and their denominations. There are two ways to order:

1. Go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>. Provide your email address and SEPTA's account number, which is E2L4B2AB22968. Place your order then pay through PrestoPay online or send a check to "Easton SEPTA" c/o the SSES office.
2. Use this form to place an order. If a retailer is not listed write out the retailer name and denomination and we will contact you.
3. We will contact you and deliver your cards when they arrive.

| RETAIL                 | QTY | TOTAL | EATERIES/SUPERMARKETS     | QTY | TOTAL | KIDS LOVE 'EM     | QTY | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| Aeropostale \$25       |     |       | Bruegger's Bagels \$10    |     |       | Build-a-Bear \$25 |     |       |
| Banana Republic \$25   |     |       | Cold Stone Creamery       |     |       | Claire's \$10     |     |       |
| Bath & Body Works \$10 |     |       | Dunkin' Donuts \$10       |     |       | Disney \$25       |     |       |
| Bed Bath & Beyond \$25 |     |       | On the Border \$25        |     |       | EB Games \$25     |     |       |
| Best Buy \$25          |     |       | Outback Steakhouse \$25   |     |       | Game Stop \$25    |     |       |
| Champs Sports \$25     |     |       | Panera Bread \$25         |     |       | Icing \$10        |     |       |
| Dick's \$25            |     |       | Sam's Club \$25           |     |       | iTunes \$15       |     |       |
| Gap \$25               |     |       | Stop & Shop \$25          |     |       | Subway \$10       |     |       |
| J. Crew \$25           |     |       | <b>MOVIE THEATERS</b>     |     |       | Toys R Us \$20    |     |       |
| JCPenney \$25          |     |       | Cineplex Odeon \$25       |     |       | <b>GENERAL</b>    |     |       |
| Kmart \$25             |     |       | Loews Cineplex \$25       |     |       | CVS \$25          |     |       |
| Kohl's \$25            |     |       | Multiplex Cinemas \$25    |     |       | Hallmark \$25     |     |       |
| LL Bean \$25           |     |       | Regal Entertainment \$25  |     |       | Home Depot \$25   |     |       |
| Land's End \$25        |     |       | <b>BOOKSTORES</b>         |     |       | HomeGoods \$25    |     |       |
| Lord & Taylor \$25     |     |       | Barnes & Noble \$10       |     |       | Lowe's \$25       |     |       |
| Macy's \$25            |     |       | Borders \$10              |     |       | Mobil \$50        |     |       |
| Marshall's \$25        |     |       | Waldenbooks \$10          |     |       | OfficeMax \$25    |     |       |
| Old Navy \$25          |     |       | <b>EVERYONE LOVES 'EM</b> |     |       | Shell \$25        |     |       |
| Sears \$25             |     |       | Amazon.com \$25           |     |       | Staples \$25      |     |       |
| TJ Maxx \$25           |     |       | Restaurant.com \$25       |     |       | Walgreen's \$25   |     |       |
| Wal-Mart \$25          |     |       | Starbuck's \$10           |     |       |                   |     |       |

Please make checks payable to: "Easton SEPTA" and return this form to the SSES office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver to: [ ] My home or [ ] My child's backpack \_\_\_\_\_ (teacher's name)

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

|                               | <b>NEXT ORDER DEADLINES</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Holiday Orders</b>         | 12/2 and 12/10              |
| <b>Procrastinator's Order</b> | 12/17                       |

**Library Scoop** – For details on the below, please call the library at 203.261.0134.

- **Holiday House Tour:** Friends of the Library invite you to stroll through six private Easton homes decorated in holiday splendor; this Sat., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am – 3 pm. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children ages 7-15. Lunch (generously catered by Panino's in Monroe) is \$10 and served in the Easton Library Community Room.
- **Community Spirit Tree Lighting:** Come kick off the holiday season with the Friends of the Easton Library and Easton Parks and Rec. Department, at our first Community Spirit Tree Lighting. Join us for hot cocoa, warm cider, homemade cookies, a holiday sing-a-long, and the magnificent voices of the Joel Barlow Select Choir. This Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (tree lighting at 6:15 p.m.), in front of the Easton Library. Suggested admission, one non-perishable food item that will be donated to the Easton Senior Center Food Pantry.



## Two Food Drives This Saturday



### Easton Volunteer EMS “Stuff a Rig”

Easton Volunteer EMS is hosting a non-perishable food drive called "Stuff a Rig" (that's "stuff an ambulance") on Saturday from 10 am - 3pm at Easton Volunteer EMS headquarters located adjacent to the Easton Village Store. The food will be delivered to Operation Hope in Fairfield. Of course the goal is to fill the ambulance! Children are invited to bring non-perishable food items and see the EMS ambulances. The EMTs will also offer free blood pressure screenings to visitors during the food drive.

## Barlow Students at Adams School House

A group of Joel Barlow High School students will collect items for local food pantries this Saturday from 11 to 2 pm at the Adams School House, located at 345 Westport Road. All non-perishable holiday foods are welcome, such as canned vegetables and soups, gravies, cranberry sauces, and stuffing. The Adams School House will be open to visitors, and admission is free. Historical Society members will answer questions about the school's past. In addition, complementary cookies and warm cider with spices will be served. For more information, please call (203) 581-0750 or email HSEastonct@gmail.com.

## ECC Scoop

Please call the ECC at 203.459.9700 to register for any/all of the below events:

- Kids' Night Out: This Friday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- On Sat., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, the ECC will have holiday events all day:
  - Breakfast with Santa: 9:30 – 11 am
  - Holiday Gingerbread House Making: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
  - Kidless Shopping Day: Noon to 6 pm

## ELF Party is Friday Evening

- You're not too late! ELF's Holiday Cocktail Party is this Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-10 pm at Brooklawn Country Club. You can buy tickets at <http://www.eastonlearningfoundation.org> as well as bid on the fabulous auction items. Babysitting is available at the ECC (see above).

**Easton  
Learning  
Foundation**

## Register Now for Redding-Easton Softball 2011



Online registration for the 2011 Spring Season is now OPEN for girls ages 6 to 14. Visit [www.redding-eastonsoftball.org](http://www.redding-eastonsoftball.org) for details, and enjoy an early registration discount for families signed up by January 14, 2011. And, if you register and pay by December 31, 2010, you will be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate to Sports Authority. New (and free!) clinics this year include: Weekly After-school Skill Building Clinics for each age division and a series of free coaching and parent session. Visit the website for fee information and FAQ. If you have any questions, please email [reddingeastonsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:reddingeastonsoftball@gmail.com) or call the Redding Boys & Girls Club at 203.938.3166.