

Cougar Connection

A Publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA
April 2010

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.."
— Helen A. Keller



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The Cougar Connection is a monthly publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA.

Previous issues of the Cougar Connection can be found on the Helen Keller Middle School website at:

<http://www.helenkellerps.org>

and the Easton PTA website at:

<http://www.eastonpta.com>

Principal's Pen

Dear Parents:

Dear Parents:

Spring is finally arriving in Easton.... and not a minute too soon. It's a good feeling knowing that most of the snow is behind us and that days filled with sunshine and flowers are around the corner.

Spring is a time of rejuvenation and for our students, especially our 8th graders, it is a time of new beginnings and endless opportunities. Our 8th grade students have completed the course selection process for 9th grade and should have an excellent fourth quarter at HKMS.

We have had many exciting times at Keller over the past few months. Student Council dances, fundraising for victims of Haiti, planning our Geography Family Night, math meets --- to name just a few. Our band and choral programs have produced great concerts and at least ninety of our students are rehearsing almost daily for our school play. Kyle Astle and Brian Walsh just initiated a Track Team and, nearly 65 students have joined!

Continued on page 2...

CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

4/2	Good Friday - No School
4/8	Professional Development, 12:10 Dismissal
4/9 & 10	School Play 6:30 - Joel Barlow
4/13	Easton BOE, 7:00 PM - Media Center
4/14	Family Geography Night, 6:30-8:00pm
4/15	Tom McMorran to speak to 8th Grade parents 7:00PM - Media Center
4/16	Report Cards Issued
4/19- 4/23	Spring Recess - No School
4/23	Track Meet - Ludlow, Fairfield
4/26	Town Meeting on Budget 7:00-10:00 - SSES
4/28	Chorus Concert, 7:00-8:00pm - Joel Barlow
4/29	Full Faculty Meeting, 7:30-8:00 - Media Center
4/29	8th Grade trip to Hartford Stage (Mark Twain), All Day - Hartford, CT
4/30	Girls Night Out, 6:00-8:00pm
4/30	Scholastic Book Fair - Media Center

Newsletter Topics.....Location

Principal's Pen.....	page 1
Calendar @ A Glance	page 1
Be Involved	page 2
75th Annual Easton Volunteer Fireman's Carnival.....	page 2
News from the PTA Presidents.....	page 3
Take A Walk In My Shoes	page 4
Media Center News.....	page 4
37th Annual Spaghetti Dinner	page 5
Boys' and Girls' Night Out	page 5
April 2010 Calendar	page 6
HKMS Birthday Book Club Form	http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/hkms_birthday_book_club.pdf

continued from page 1

We have students who have achieved high levels of success in the Reflections contest sponsored by the PTA – Gianna Forte has been selected to compete at the national level for dance/choreography. Sophie Eng placed third in the state in the photography category.

Other high achievers include those nominated to receive the CAFE Student Leadership Awards (Liana Viselli and Scott Bindelglass); the Western Connecticut Superintendents' Awards (Brittany Jones and Sam DeLise) and the Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar/Leader Awards (Alyssa Lyon and Teddy Hancock).

Congratulations to all of our students for these accomplishments!

We are thankful to you – our parents- for the ways you are helping our students achieve wonderful milestones. We work hard every day to make opportunities available for our students to learn and grow. We could not do this without your support.

As we move closer to the final quarter of the school year, we will continue the quest for learning and commit to ending the 2009-2010 school with a strong finish!

Joan C. Parker,
jparker@eastonps.org
Helen Keller Middle School Principal



BE INVOLVED

Friday, April 9 at 9:30 am - PTA Meeting
Location: Easton Public Library Community Room

Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm - BOE Meeting
Location: Media Center

Monday, April 26 at 7:00 pm -
Annual Town Meeting Budget Adoption
Location: SSES

Tuesday May 4 (tentative date)
VOTE, VOTE, VOTE at SSES

Celebrate
**THE 75TH ANNUAL
EASTON VOLUNTEER
FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL!**

Save the Dates!

August 3rd to Aug 7th



News from the PTA Presidents



TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK: May 3 - 7

A great time to help out and show your appreciation to the wonderful teachers and staff at HKMS! We will need volunteers to assist with our plans for the week, including baking and set-up. Please look for more emails to come for your help, or contact Dina Massey at dmmassey@optonline.net.

REFLECTIONS

Thanks to everyone who submitted something for the Reflections Program, and a special thanks to Kelly Soloway for organizing it all. At HKMS, we had the following submissions and winners:

- Gianna Forte, 1st place, Local, 1st place, State; work sent on to National PTA in Washington DC for judging; Dance/ Choreography
- Sophie Eng; 1st place Local, 3rd place State; Photography.
- Thomas Carter: 1st place, Local; Film/Video Production
- Megan O'Connor: 1st place, Local; Literature
- Juliet Meskers: 1st place, Local; Visual Arts

HKMS SPRING BOOK FAIR

We need volunteers... Please sign up to help at the HKMS Book Fair during the first week of May, including the Spaghetti Dinner. It's a fun, easy job and a great way to spend time in the school. All we need is an hour or two of your time. Please contact Lisa Burghardt at lburghardt@aol.com or Carol Weinschel at the school library, cweinschel@eastonps.org.



HELPING STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL STORE

The School Store is still opening every other Friday through the end of the year. If you can help out for an hour or two, please contact Liz Dehler, ebufano@optonline.net. Also, encourage your child to sign up to work at the School Store during their lunch hour.

BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

It's not too late to buy a book for the HKMS library in honor of your child's birthday this Spring. To ask about the program or get a form contact Kim Lenoci at mrskimi@yahoo.com.

*Heidi Adair (hadair@optonline.net)
and Laura T. Jones (stoneybell@sbcglobal.net)
Easton PTA HKMS Co-Presidents*



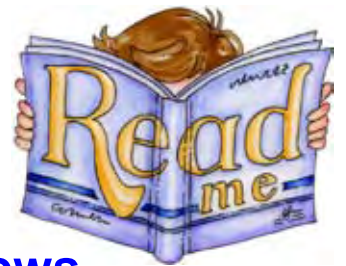
“TAKE A WALK IN MY SHOES”

Seventh Grade 21st Century classes will, once again, share their learning at the annual culminating feast. The countries selected for research are aligned with the 7th Grade Social Curriculum taught by Mrs. Jennifer Rose and Mr. Brian Walsh which furthers the collaboration between the Media Center and the classroom. Since two of the concepts of 21st Century Learning focus on collaboration and global studies, “Take a Walk in My Shoes” is an excellent way for students to work together, utilize the Easton Public Library resources and facility as well as create an end product with a partner.

For the feast, students will prepare dishes specific to their countries and share them in the Easton Public Library. The event this year will be held on May 17, from 6-7:30 P.M. Bernadette Baldino and her staff have always been so gracious and welcoming that we find people looking forward to the smorgasbord from one year to the next. Students and their families come together for an evening of multi-cultural celebration where they can explain the customs and culture of their countries and enjoy a delicious sampling of appetizers, salads, entrees, and, of course, desserts. As always, we will need some parent volunteers to assist with the set-up and clean-up. Please call or e-mail Carol Weinschel (203-268-8651 Ext. 419 or cweinschel@eastonps.org) if you are able to help.



We continue to be grateful to the parents who have purchased Birthday Books in honor of their children’s birthdays. Through this program, we have been able to purchase books that we, otherwise, would not have been able to do. Our students are reading more and it is heartening that they are requesting books for our collection. The Book Fair being held during the first week of May will be an excellent opportunity to purchase books for Summer Reading. I encourage you to read some of the Nutmeg selections because they are absolutely fabulous. I have teachers reading them and coming back for more. You won’t be sorry if you pick up a Young Adult Book...they’re great.



Media Center News

SUMMER READING BOOK FAIR

This year’s book fair will be stocked with affordable books for even the tightest budget. We will have Juvenile bestsellers and Nutmeg award winners selected with your children’s Summer Reading requirements in mind. Take a look at our SPECIAL SALE table for the very best selections reduced just for Keller families. We’ll have adult bestsellers, cookbooks for novice chefs, and special interest books for the sports and history buffs in your family. Book Fair hours are Monday, May 3rd until Monday, May 10th from 8:30 PM until 3:00 PM with extended hours on Friday, May 7th during the Spaghetti Dinner from 6 -9 PM.

For more information contact:

Carol S. Weinschel
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 Director, Learning Resources and Technology
 Helen Keller Middle School
 360 Sport Hill Road
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Join us for a night of Nintendo and pasta!

37th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

6-9 PM in the HKMS Cafeteria
Friday, May 7, 2010

Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the door or from any 8th grader!

Hope to see you there!!!



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT AND BOYS' NIGHT OUT

Save the Dates:

“**Girls' Night Out**” has been scheduled for April 30, 2010.

“**Boys' Night Out**” has been scheduled for May 21, 2010.



All HKMS students will be invited to come and relax with the girls or boys.

Food will be served.

More information to come!



April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black;"> <i>April Showers Bring May Flowers</i> </div> 				1 Mikey's Way Wear your favorite baseball team colors!	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5	6	7	8 Professional Develop- ment, 12:10 Dismissal	9 School Play -6:30 pm - Joel Barlow	10 School Play -6:30 pm - Joel Barlow
11	12	13 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 PM - Media Center	14 Family Geography Night, 6:30-8:00pm	15 Tom McMorran to speak to 8th Grade parents 7:00PM - Media Center	16 Report Cards issued	17
18	19 SPRING BREAK	20 SPRING BREAK	21 SPRING BREAK	22 SPRING BREAK	23 SPRING BREAK Track Meet - Ludlow, Fairfield	24 SPRING BREAK
25	26 Town Meeting on Budget 7:00-10:00 - SSES	27	28 Chorus Concert 7:00-8:00pm - Joel Barlow	29 8th Grade trip to Hartford Stage	30 Girls Night Out, 6:00-8:00pm Book Fair Begins	