


HKMS Cougar Connection

December 2011



CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Fri., Dec. 16	Student Council Holiday Dance; 7-9 pm; \$10 (\$5 with new toy donation)
Fri., Dec. 16	Community Winter Concert; presented by ELF board; 7 pm; SSES
Fri., Dec. 23	Full Day of School
Mon., Dec. 26 – Mon., Jan. 2	NO SCHOOL: Happy Holidays! 
Tues., Jan. 10	Easton Board of Ed Meeting (with budget presentation); 7:30 pm; HKMS
Thurs. Jan. 12	Easton Board of Ed Budget Workshop; 7:30 pm; HKMS
Fri., Jan. 13	NO SCHOOL – Professional Development
Mon., Jan. 16	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wed., Jan. 18	HKMS Band Concert; 7 pm; SSES Cafetorium
Wed., Jan. 25	HKMS Choral Concert; 7 pm; SSES Cafetorium
Tues., Feb. 7	EARLY DISMISSAL; Prof. Development; 12:10 pm (1 pm SSES)

PRINCIPAL'S PEN by Susan J. Kaplan

On the evening of Monday, December 5th nearly forty parents found their way through a very dense fog to Helen Keller Middle School to hear a presentation sponsored by our PTA on "What Your Kids are Doing in Cyberspace: And Why You Need to Know." The guest speakers Richard Colangelo, Senior Assistant State Attorney, and Gabriel Rossi, Instructional Designer and Media Consultant for schools, museums, hospitals and universities, informed parents about recent trends in adolescent activity in the new playground of the cyberworld.

The focus of the evening was to update parents on what pre-teens and teenagers are currently doing on computers and mobile devices, and discuss strategies that can be used to help steer clear of cyber-bullying and protecting their digital reputation. The speakers shared an important strategy that parents may use to engage their children in a discussion about cyber safety and social media sites like Facebook. Children may be reluctant to listen if they are simply given rules of online safety and told how to protect their digital image (footprint). The advice is to simply ask your children to explain or teach you about some of the features of Facebook. Through navigating the website with your children, you can learn about and discuss privacy settings and the issues of keeping an appropriate digital profile. Many parents start their own Facebook accounts primarily as a vehicle for understanding the site and being aware of the world their children are exploring.

I would like to thank the HKMS PTA Co-Presidents, Dona Zappulla and Ruth Straughn, and our speakers, Richard Colangelo and Gabriel Rossi, for a most informative evening.

On behalf of the entire staff at Helen Keller Middle School, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

Thanks to everyone who has sent in class dues so far. As we communicated by e-mail, we ask that each student make a one-time class dues contribution that will help pay for CMT snacks and Teacher Appreciation during his or her entire time at Keller. We haven't yet reached our goal to fund these activities for current students, so if you haven't already done so, will you please send in a check made out to Easton PTA or cash. The one-time class dues per student are:

- 6th Grade: \$15
- 7th Grade: \$10
- 8th Grade: \$5

Thank you for your support!

PTA Reflections Deadline is Right After Break

Entries will be received in the main office at HKMS until January 4, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. For a copy of the entry form, and to find out the program rules, please visit our website at www.eastonpta.com. Please read the rules carefully. All forms must be submitted to be considered for the next level of competition. If you have any questions, please contact your Reflections Chair, Claire-Anne Meskers, at meskers@optonline.net or 203-374-5566.

E.L.F. Presents the Winter Concert

Friday, December 16th at 7 pm at Samuel Staples Elementary School. This event is free and open to the public; RSVP is appreciated at <http://bit.ly/sG8AfP>. This concert is funded by personal donations made by the E.L.F. Board in appreciation of our community.

Boys Basketball Holiday Tournament

JBHS will host their annual Holiday Tournament on Tues., Dec. 27th and Thurs., Dec. 29th. Admission is free, and there will be half-time events for elementary and middle-school kids during the varsity games. More at: <http://www.barlowboysbasketball.com/>

Cougar Connection Info

The Cougar Connection is a joint publication of the Easton PTA and Helen Keller Middle School. It is produced the 15th of every month, September through June, and distributed by HKMS' email Listserv. To add or change your email information go to <http://www.helenkellerps.org/> and click on "Join Our Listserv".

Please submit any information – in MS Word format -- by the 12th of each month. Questions and submissions to Cathy Dunsby at cdunsby@yahoo.com

Important Websites

www.helenkellerps.org

www.eastonpta.com

www.er9.org



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HKMS..... "MEDIA MADNESS "

The HKMS Media Center would greatly appreciate your support!

With your donation we can continue to build and update our media center with new book releases and student favorites.

A **\$20** donation will be used to purchase books for the students to enjoy reading as well as academic books for enrichment. Books purchased will be marked on the inside cover with a bookplate(s) dedicated to your child or family. Donations can be made at any time during the school year.

Student reading suggestions are always welcome and encouraged!!

Questions? Please e-mail Kim Lenoci at: mrskiml@yahoo.com.

***** tear off *****



Enclosed is our \$20 donation to the Media Madness book drive.

Checks may be made payable to : "Easton PTA - Media Madness" and brought/sent to the Main Office. Please note "Media Madness" on your envelope.

Child's/Family name for dedication

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