

# HKMS Cougar Connection

January 2012



## CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Wed., Jan. 18	HKMS Band Concert; 7 pm; SSES Cafetorium
Fri., Jan. 20	PTA Meeting; 9:15 am; Easton Library Community Room; all welcome
Wed., Jan. 25	HKMS Choral Concert; 7 pm; SSES Cafetorium
Thurs., Jan. 26	Counseling Team's Book Discussion; 9:30 – 10:30 am; Media Center;
Tues., Feb. 7	EARLY DISMISSAL; Prof. Development; 12:10 pm (1 pm SSES)
Tues., Feb. 14	Easton Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 pm; HKMS
Mon., Feb. 20 – Fri., Feb. 24	NO SCHOOL; Presidents' Day + February Break

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S PEN by Kathy Burke

Connecticut's newly enacted secondary school reform requires schools to provide students grades 6-12 with supports and experiences that will prepare them for success in post secondary education and beyond. To that end, the HKMS Professional Development Day on January 13<sup>th</sup> focused staff training on the development and implementation of Student Success Plans for the 2012-2013 school year. The workshop, conducted by the Joel Barlow guidance department, outlined the state framework for Student Success Plans.

The Student Success Plan is an individualized student driven plan that will be designed to address individual student needs and interests and thus promote an environment that encourages every student to stay connected to school. The plan will begin in the 6th grade and continue through high school to provide the student support and assistance in setting goals for social, emotional, physical and academic growth.

Currently, many of the supports that secondary reform requires at the middle school level are already in place at Helen Keller Middle School. Student interest surveys and career exploration are completed through the guidance curriculum. Our PE/Health curriculum promotes positive physical health, team work and respect for the needs of others.

Another key element of the Student Success Plan is the creation of advisory groups monitored with trained mentor teachers. The purpose of these advisory groups is to establish and maintain positive interpersonal relationships with peers and adults. Advisory groups meet regularly to help ensure that every student remain fully engaged in the school community.

Currently we are in the process of forming an Advisory Task Force to continue to research and develop an appropriate advisory model for HKMS. We will keep you informed of our progress.

On another note, we congratulate the following students who were recognized at our monthly character breakfasts:

➤ **Honesty / November**

Katherine Jennings, Aiden Kelly, Sophia Biedermann, Brandon Muczynski, Jack Dehler, Julia Silverstein

➤ **Citizenship / December**

Kacey Hartmann, Jonathan Lam, Megan Luckart, John Scully, Elizabeth West, Thomas Carter

## Nurse Notes - Reminders for Grade 6 Parents



The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade health assessment form (physical form) is due by the last day of school which is currently, June 21, 2012. If you have not handed in your child's grade 6 physical, please make your appointment early, as doctor's appointments fill up quickly as we move closer to spring. You may print a copy of the physical form from the HKMS website, by clicking on the "Nurse" title, on the left hand side of the front page, then clicking on "Health Assessment", and following that link to the Physical Form.

*Please be aware that there are state immunization requirements for incoming 7th grade students for the fall of 2012.* The requirements include a second dose of varicella (the chicken pox vaccine), an updated DTAP vaccine (tetanus), and the meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine. If you have any questions about the physical or the immunization requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the HKMS nurse at 203-268-8651 ext 6.

## Counseling Team's Book Discussion Group

Please join us again to share and discuss thoughts and insights into the second book of our book discussion series, Getting to Calm: Cool-Headed Strategies for Parenting Tweens & Teens, by Laura Kastner, Ph.D. and Jennifer Wyatt, Ph.D. on Thursday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the HKMS Media Center. Please send Kim Heran, HKMS social worker, an email at [kheran@eastonps.org](mailto:kheran@eastonps.org) if you plan to attend. (It would be helpful if you read the book in advance, however, if you can't you will still find the discussion worthwhile.)

## JBHS "Buy a Key" Piano Fundraiser



Joel Barlow High School is raising money to purchase a new concert piano for the school's music department to replace JBHS's old piano, which is in desperate need of replacement. Thanks to the generous contribution of donors over the last few years, the Council has raised \$12,600 of the \$30,000 needed. To raise the remaining money, the PTSA Arts Council is running a Buy-A-Key Fundraiser to "sell" all 88 keys. A donor can "buy" a key ranging in price from \$150 to \$500 or a music note for \$25, \$50 or \$100. Bench-level donations are also welcome at \$1,000. Donations in any amount are tax deductible and can be sent to Joel Barlow High School ATTN: PTSA Arts Council, 100 Black Rock Turnpike, Redding, CT 06896. For further information or questions, please contact PTSA Arts Council Co-Chair Peggy Ordway at 203-452-0034.

## Easton Little League Sign-Ups

Open to boys and girls residing in Easton and born between May 1, 1999 and April 30, 2008. For complete info and fees and to register online, visit [www.eastonlittleleague.com](http://www.eastonlittleleague.com) or in-person at the Helen Keller Middle School Cafeteria on:



- Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: 9 am – 12 pm
- Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: 5 pm – 7:30 pm
- Saturday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: 9 am – 12 pm

NEW for 2012 – Enhanced Player Development Sessions (included with registration)



## Girls' Softball Registration is Open

Register now through Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at [www.redding-eastonsoftball.org](http://www.redding-eastonsoftball.org). Season starts with indoor practices in March! Questions to [reddingeastonsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:reddingeastonsoftball@gmail.com) or call The Boys & Girls Club at 938-9785.

## Register for Spring Lacrosse Online

Girls and boys in grades K – 8 are invited to register for spring lacrosse at [www.re-lax.org](http://www.re-lax.org). RELAX Season Orientation, SWAG sale, and Meet the Coaches is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 28th at JBHS (noon to 2 pm). Season opens March 10! Less than 90 days away! Visit the website for complete information.



## Easton Little League Hosting “Batting Cage” Party

ELL is hosting an adult’s-only benefit to raise money for an outdoor batting cage on Friday, February 10th, 8 – 10 pm at Brennan's Shebeen (at Smith Richardson Golf Course in Easton off of Morehouse Road). Tickets are \$60 per person / \$90 per couple and can be purchased online at [www.eastonlittleleague.com](http://www.eastonlittleleague.com) in the registration section. Includes an open bar, appetizers, raffles and a great time! If you are unable to attend but wish to make a donation, please contact Treasurer Steve Holm-Hansen, at [steven.holm-hansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steven.holm-hansen@sbcglobal.net)

# VITAL FIRE SAFETY FOR ADULTS

**Thursday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7p @ the ECC**

**Do YOU know what to do if your house caught on fire?**

*Does your child have more recent fire safety training via school than you do?*

*We do so much to protect our children. This could be the most important 60 minutes of your life...*

*After the tragic Christmas fire in Stamford, the **Easton Community Center** is teaming up with the **Easton Fire Department**, the **Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1** and the **Easton Fire Marshal's Office** to present '**Vital Fire Safety for Adults**'. There will be information presented that every household **NEEDS** to know in order to avoid incidents of fire and to increase your family's chance of survival in a fire.*

*The evening will begin with a very captivating intro followed by a video showing an actual home on fire with time lapse and temperature, and include a presentation by **Easton's Deputy Fire Marshal, Lucy Crossman** and **Easton's 1st Assistant Fire Chief, Steve Waugh**. The event will end with a Q&A period from the audience. Complimentary refreshments will be served. **Material presented will be of a mature nature including discussion on death so we ask that children under 13 not attend event.** Please be prompt, as very important information will be discussed from the start. The event is **FREE** (babysitting is WAITLIST ONLY) but we ask you to **please RSVP** via Eventbrite at [www.eastonfiresafety.eventbrite.com](http://www.eastonfiresafety.eventbrite.com)*

**RSVP via Phone: 203 459-9700**



**Mail to: Easton Arts Council, P.O. Box 142, Easton, CT 06612**