

Cougar Connection

A Publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA
January 2009

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



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Cougar Connection Deadline—The Cougar Connection is a monthly publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA. We welcome submissions from the HKMS community. Send your school-related and PTA-related articles to Lisa DeVoto at lisadevoto@optonline.net one week before the first of the month. Previous issues of the Cougar Connection can be found on the Helen Keller Middle School website at <http://er9.org/hkms> and the PTA website at <http://www.eastonpta.com>.

Principal's Pen

Dear Parents and Students:

As 2009 starts, Mrs. Kaplan and I encourage you to begin the year with a challenge! Why not participate in the DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition, one of the foremost student science and technology prize programs in the United States and Canada? Now entering its 23rd year, the DuPont Challenge has two primary objectives: to help increase science literacy and to motivate students to excel in communicating scientific ideas.

The DuPont Challenge offers students (and parents) the opportunity to discuss a scientific discovery, event, theory or technological application that has captured the family's interest. Awards are given in two divisions: Junior Division (Grades 7-8-9) and the Senior Division (Grades 10-11-12). First, second, and third place student winners are awarded an expenses-paid trip (with a parent) to the WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT and the Kennedy Space

Center! The deadline for the submission is January 31, 2009. For complete details visit www.thechallenge.dupont.com where the entry rules are clearly detailed. Or, come and visit Mrs. Kaplan or myself to review your thoughts. Remember, this is not mandatory. Just a fun way to begin the new year.

Sincerely,

—Joan Parker,
Helen Keller Middle School
Principal

Change in Time Off

The professional development day originally on the calendar for Monday, January 26 has been changed to Tuesday, January 20. January 20 will now be a full day off for students rather than January 26.

There will be no school on Monday, January 19 (Martin Luther King Day) and Tuesday, January 20 (Staff Day), but there will be school on Monday, January 26.

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Reflections Contest Deadline January 7, 2009	http://www.eastonpta.com/committees_j_r.html#reflections
Family Fun Night, Harlem Globetrotters	http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/harlem_globetrotters.pdf
Birthday Book Club Form.....	http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/hkms_birthday_book_club.pdf
PTA Membership Form	http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/membership_2008.pdf
Easton Learning Foundation STARS Form.....	http://eastonlearningfoundation.org/stars_hkms.pdf

Kids Who Care (KWC)

KWC is a community service club that focuses on animals in shelters and children in need. This year, we are planning many projects. We will be making dog/cat toys for the animals in shelters, raising money to purchase video games for the kids in hospitals, and even do a "dog wash" to raise money for our initiatives. Our mission is help animals and children in need and in doing that, gaining leadership skills and making friends. Meetings will be held on Friday mornings at 7:30 AM in Mrs. Thomas' conference room. All are welcome.

—Mrs. Thomas, Guidance Department

Family Fun Night
See the Harlem Globetrotters
February 20, 7 PM
Arena at Harbor Yard, Bridgeport
Deadline for Tickets: February 4
http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/harlem_globetrotters.pdf

News from the PTA Presidents

Happy New Year to you all and well wishes for 2009!

Please consider attending our PTA meetings to help plan changes for the new year. We have updated our by-laws and we'll have more changes to come in the future. Our first meeting for the new year is on Friday, January 9th in the Library community room.

Thank you to Lisa Burghardt and volunteers for helping to coordinate the HKMS Book Fair. Your assistance helped to make this the best year yet!

PTA volunteers continue to be our best asset so please step forward in 2009 and volunteer for something you enjoy doing.

All HKMS Clubs and after school activities funded by the PTA or run by our volunteers are well underway. There may still be time to join. Check the monthly calendar for meeting dates and times for Newspaper Club, Debate Club and Wrestling Club.

Reflections Contest

January 7th is the deadline for the Reflections contest. Please go to the PTA website (http://www.eastonpta.com/committees_j_r.html#reflections) or email Kelly@oneetiquetteplace.com for details.

Uno Chicago Grill Day

January 14th is Uno Chicago Grill Day for the Easton PTA. Vouchers will be posted to the Easton PTA website, and sent out through the listserv.

Keep an Eye Out for These Activities in 2009

Cookie Dough Sales, Parent University, Teacher Appreciation and our surprise spring event.



Brick Dedication Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a parent or parents from each grade who will coordinate the campaign for graduating families of 8th graders and others in the spring. The materials are all prepared for this venture. Bricks are dedicated to graduating class members and installed around the flagpole area at the pickup loop. Call Margot Abrams 459-4759 for more information, or if you are interested.

Upcoming PTA Meetings

January 9	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room
February 20	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room
March 13	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room
April 24	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room
May 15	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room
June 5	9:15 AM	Easton Town Library Community Room

Shopping Online?

Please think Box Tops and start at www.btfe.com! When you link through the Box Tops for Education Marketplace, you save time and energy and earn cash for our school, too. HKMS will receive a donation of up to 8% back on every qualifying purchase, at no additional cost to you. Some of the dozens of participating retailers are Lands' End, Pottery Barn Kids, Gap, Williams Sonoma!

Big Y

Please remember to choose our school when you shop at the BIG Y. We earn points which we can exchange for supplies.

Not Too Late to Join Boys and Girls Wrestling

Boys and girls in grades K–8 are invited to sign up for Easton Cougars Youth Wrestling. Practice is 3:45–5:15 PM Mondays and Fridays in the HKMS gym, ending in mid-March. This program is free (but you need a \$35 check made out to HKMS Activity Fund if your child will be competing against other

schools). Bring: shorts/sweatpants, t-shirt, wrestling shoes, water. Questions, please contact Phil LiCastrì at Pnl63@optonline.net or 268–5501. The registration form is at http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/wrestling_registration_2008.pdf.

—Margot Abrams
(margotaz@optonline.net)
and Kathleen Wasmer
(kathleenmom@optonline.net),
Easton PTA HKMS Co-Presidents

2009 Easton Little League

Registration and Winter Clinics

For all the details and fees visit our website at www.eastonlittleleague.com.

Registration - at the Helen Keller Middle School cafeteria:

- Saturdays, 9–11 AM – Jan. 10th, Jan. 17th, Jan. 24th
- Wednesday, 5:30–8 PM – Jan. 21st

ELL baseball is open to boys and girls who reside in Easton born on, or after, May 1st, 1996 up through April 30th, 2004.

Winter Baseball Clinics: 9 weeks!

- Pitching Clinic: 1/31, 2/1, 2/8
(Ages 9 and up and must have participated in AA)
- Hitting, Fielding Clinic: 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22

All Hitting, Fielding Clinic players are required to have completed a year of T-ball. Players must be born on, or after, May 1, 1996 and on, or before, April 30, 2002.

Keller Teller Newspaper

The first issue of the *Keller Teller* came out in December, and was distributed to the HKMS community. The Newspaper Club meets Monday mornings before school in the Media Center, 7:30–8 AM. The club publishes the *Keller Teller* several times during the school year. Copies of the newspaper are distributed to the HKMS community. (See previous issues at http://www.eastonpta.com/committees_a_i.html#newspaperclub.)

The staff has begun work on the second issue of the school year. New members are welcome to join the club, and anyone who cannot attend meetings but who likes to write is welcome to submit an article to the Keller Teller mailbox in the main office.

—Lisa DeVoto,
Newspaper Club Parent Advisor

Joel Barlow's Second Annual Jewelry Auction

Over 40 pieces of jewelry all handmade by the award winning jewelry students at Joel Barlow High School
Friday, January 16th, Easton Library Community Room
(snow date: Saturday, January 17th)

7–8 PM: Auction preview, meet the artists, refreshments

8 PM: Live auction excitement with the return of Milo Cramer as our auctioneer!

All proceeds benefit our Lakota friends in South Dakota and Stetson Elementary School in Maine.

A \$5 donation for admission is most welcomed.

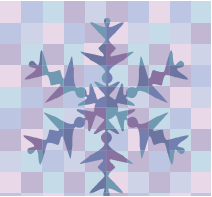
Snow date: Saturday, January 17th 7 PM

For more information contact Lee Skalkos

lskalkos@region9ps.org

938-2508 x1167

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	A, B, C, D, E, F indicates class schedule for that day (subject to schedule changes)			1 NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)	2 NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)	3
4	5 A 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	6 B 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	7 C Reflections Contest Deadline 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:40–8 AM—Student Council 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	8 D 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	9 E 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 9:15 AM—PTA Meeting 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	10
11	12 F 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	13 A 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	14 B 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 12:10 PM— EARLY DISMISSAL Uno Chicago Grill Day	15 C 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	16 D 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	17
18	19 NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Day)	20 NO SCHOOL (Staff Day)	21 E 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:40–8 AM—Student Council 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	22 F 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	23 A 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	24
25	26 B 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	27 C 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	28 D 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club	29 E Band Concert	30 F 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club REPORT CARDS	31 Deadline for Dupont Challenge Science Essay Competition

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 A 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	3 B 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	4 C 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:40–8 AM—Student Council 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	5 D 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	6 E 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	7
8	9 F 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	10 A 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	11 B 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	12 C 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	13 NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)	17 NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)	18 D 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:40–8 AM—Student Council 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	19 E 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	20 F 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 9:15 AM—PTA Meeting 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club 7 PM—Famiv Fun Night	21
22	23 A 7:30–8 AM— Newspaper Club 2:45–3:45 PM—Math Club 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	24 B 7:30–8 AM—Yearbook Club 7:35–8 AM—Select Choir	25 C 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 2:45–3:45—Debate Club 2:45–3:45—Weather Club 3–5 PM—Play Rehearsal	26 D 12:10 PM— EARLY DISMISSAL Uno Chicago Grill Day	27 E 7:30–8 AM—8 th Grade Govt 7:30–8 AM—Gang Green 7:30–8 AM—Jazz Band 7:30 AM—Kids Who Care 3–5:15 PM—Wrestling Club	28

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(subject to schedule changes)

