



The Staples Scoop



Wednesday, March 24th, 2010



CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Wed., March 24	Board of Finance "Cut Session" for Education; 7 pm, Easton Sr. Center
Through this Friday	EARLY DISMISSAL; Parent-Teacher Conferences; 1 pm
Through this Friday	PTA Job Fair SSES Lobby; 1 - 3:30 pm
Thurs., March 25	Recognition Party for all Reflections Participants (details in this issue)
Fri., March 26	School Spirit Day; Wear your Favorite Team Colors
Sat., March 27	Annual SSES Art Show; 10 am – noon
Sat., April 3	D.A.R.E. Race
Wed., April 7	Diversity Day; 4 th Grade; Big Gym
Fri., April 9	PTA meeting, Guest Speaker, Tom McMorran, EPL Com. Rm., 9:30 am
Thurs., April 8	EARLY DISMISSAL; Prof. Development; SSES at 1 pm; HKMS at 12:20 pm
Wed. April 28	Parent Education Event, 7:30 pm. Look for details in the next SCOOP!
Fri., May 7	Grade 1 Hosts Town Meeting (<i>note change of date</i>)
Sat., May 22	PTA (Adult) Spring Social; Fairfield Museum
Wed., June 23	Tentative Last Day of School

THE PRINCIPAL'S SCOOP *by Kimberly Fox-Santora*

On Monday night, the Easton Board of Finance had an opportunity to hear from the Easton residents about matters that concern them the most with regard to the budget proposals for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Thoughtful questions and well-articulated comments were raised, specifically in support of the education requests.

Tonight at 7 pm the board of finance will meet with the board of education to discuss the budget proposal of 2.79% over last year's budget and then determine a final budget for the board of education. Within this 2.79% proposed budget, Samuel Staples will:

- Lose one full-time classroom teacher at the grade 3 level, resulting in an increase in that grade's class size to between 22 and 23 students per class;
- Lose one full-time art teacher;
- Defer half of the technology request;
- Negatively affect the strong arts program we have come to celebrate through our HOT (Higher Order Thinking) School membership;
- Lose classroom teachers' weekly common planning time which is regularly used to analyze student work, design lessons, and plan for students with special needs. Common planning time is a vital instructional practice used to foster consistency of instruction across classrooms and build instructional capacity in individual classroom teachers. Eliminating this process would be detrimental to our focus on instructional excellence and a step backward from best educational practice.

If the board of finance restores money to the board of education budget, we might be able to preserve some or all of these positions at SSES. Conversely, if they elect to reduce the budget further, we will lose all of the above, as well as additional programs, services, and personnel.

The board of education and administration are deeply appreciative of the many parents who have been attending board of education meetings and board of finance meetings during the past several weeks. It

will be very important to have a strong parent presence at the meeting tonight. Please make every effort to attend to show your support of quality education in Easton.

**Board of Finance Meeting
Easton Senior Center
650 Morehouse Road
7:00 PM**

School Spirit Day is this Friday

Wear your Favorite Team Colors on Fri., March 26th. Please note the School Store will not be open, due to the truncated lunch periods during Conference Days.

Come to the Annual SSES Art Show on Saturday

Join us this **Saturday, March 27th** from 10 am – noon at Samuel Staples for an exciting day of visual art! Art work created by every student will be on display in the main lobby, hallway and cafetorium. Each student K-5 will have a two-dimensional and three-dimensional work on display, that's over 1500 works of art! Bring the whole family for an exciting day - and don't forget your camera!



The Art Show Needs Volunteers!

Parent volunteers are needed to help set up the show this **Friday, March 26** between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm. If you can help out for any amount of time on that day, please call or e-mail one of the art teachers with the times you are available. Thank you!

Mr. Bates abates@eastonps.org or voice mail ext. 301

Ms. Keleher rkeleher@eastonps.org or voice mail ext. 201

Mrs. Traggianese atraggianese@eastonps.org or voice mail ext. 111

THE PTA SCOOP

Reflections Contest Reception is This Thursday

Please join the Easton PTA for an awards reception and exhibit of Reflections entries this Thursday, March 25th at 3 pm in the Library Community Room. Delicious treats will be served and ribbons will be awarded to everyone who participated this year. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Solway at kellysolway@gmail.com.

Class Coordinators Needed for Super Scribes & Scribblers

The ever-popular Super Scribes and Scribblers, coming this June, will showcase a written piece of work from children in every grade, pre-K through 5th. A parent volunteer is needed for each classroom, to assist the teacher with this project. Tasks involved can easily be completed from home! For more details, please visit: <http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/superscribes.pdf>

PTA News:

- **Student directories** are on sale in the main office for \$12 each; School Calendars are \$5. Cash or checks payable to the Easton PTA.
- **PTA Job Fair:** Stop by the PTA table in the lobby this week during Parent Teacher conferences to see what committees may interest you for the Spring, or for next year! Share your ideas for new committees. 1 -3:30 pm.
- Check out the **Lost & Found** during Parent Conferences. The Lost & Found, located next to the Teacher's Lounge, is filling up. Please check for your child(ren)'s jackets now, because when warm weather arrives you'll never miss them! *The L&F contents will be donated to charity at the end of March.*
- We are looking for folks to help with set-up and clean-up for the **PTA Spring Social**, Sat., May 22nd at the Fairfield Museum. Contact Lesilie Kelly, LKCurran@aol.com, or Laura El Wardany, lelward@optonline.net.

March's SEPTA Meeting

Easton Special Ed PTA (SEPTA) monthly meeting will be Tues. March 30th at 9:30 am in SSES' Cafetorium. Special guest will be new superintendent of schools, Dr. Michael Cicchetti.

Seeking Diversity Day Volunteers

SSES' 4th annual Diversity Day, a 4th grade program which promotes understanding and acceptance of differences, will be Wed., April 7th. Volunteers are needed in many areas, and you don't need to be a 4th grade parent. Please see: http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/diversity_day_2010.pdf for more information.

April PTA Meeting

Come to your April PTA Meeting with Guest Speaker Mr. Thomas McMorran. Mr. McMorran is the principal of Joel Barlow High School. He will help parents of elementary age students think about what we can do now for the future of our child's education. Mr. McMorran will discuss how parents of elementary school and middle school age students can take some simple actions now that can pay off later in your child's education.

Friday, April 9, Easton Library Community Room, 9:30 a.m..

Please Visit the HKMS Media Center 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 HKMS Summer Reading requirements in mind. Take a look at our SPECIAL SALE table for the very best selections reduced just for our 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 Weinshel, Director of Learning Resources & Technology, CWeinshel@eatonps.org.

THE TOWN SCOOP

Something Fun To Do With Grandparents This Sunday

Friends of the Easton Public Library invite children to spend the afternoon with their grandparent(s) or other special guest enjoying tea, tea sandwiches, cookies and a craft. This Sunday, March 28th, from 3-5 pm. Registration is required; please call the library at 203.261.0134, or stop by to sign up.

Register for Easton AYSO Through April 7th

Easton AYSO is now registering players for the 2010 Spring Season. *If a player was registered this past fall he or she is automatically registered for the spring season.* Easton AYSO has programs for children age 4 & up to 19 years old, with the older age brackets playing nearby CT towns such as Trumbull, Monroe and Bridgeport. Players must be 4 years by May 1st, 2010. Players can register on line at www.eastonayso.org; simply follow the on-line instructions. There will also be one in-person registration at the ECC on April 7th, 5:30-7:00 pm. Players who are new to the program must provide a copy of their birth certificate. The \$85 registration fee includes team photos, trophies and an end-of-season family picnic. Please contact Christine Calvert (ccalvert@optonline.net) for registration questions. ***All players MUST be registered by April 7th.*** Players registering after that date will be placed on a wait list for teams as they become available. Easton AYSO is an all-volunteer organization. Anyone interested in being a coach, assistant coach or referee is encouraged to contact Tom Auray (toma@bptfittings.com). We welcome both adult and youth volunteers (minimum age to become a Referee is 12). For additional information regarding the Easton AYSO program visit www.eastonayso.org

Easton Green & Clean Day is Sat., April 10th

Clear garbage bags are available at SSES, the ECC the library and other local spots. Please fill them with roadside litter and return to the Easton Town Garage (on corner of Rts. 136 and 59) between 9 am and 4 pm on the 10th. Sponsored by the Easton Garden Club. Questions to Cheryl Frier at 203.459.8338.

And save the date: The Garden Club's Annual GardenMart is Sat., May 8th (the day before Mother's Day).

Adult and Teen Volunteers Needed for Cemetery Clean-Up Day

Saturday April 10th 10 am - 3 pm. Adults and teens 13+ are sought to help clean, repair and reset tombstones in both Gilbertown and Center Street Cemeteries. Students who need to fulfill community service hours and Scout Troops are encouraged to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers interested in attending are asked to contact Lisa Burghardt for sign-up and further information at 203.581-0850 or LBurghardt@aol.com.

Worker Bees Needed

The 2nd Annual ELF Trivia Bee is Thurs., May 20th. Want to "bee helpful"? Please visit <http://www.eastonlearningfoundation.org/> for information on volunteering for the Bee.

ECC News: Please call 203.459.9700 for information or to register for:

- Parents' Night Out; Fri., April 9th; 6:30 – 10 pm;
- Receive an "Early Bird Discount" if you register for ECC Summer Camp during March
- *Save the Date:* Annual Golf Benefit at Connecticut Golf Club; Tues., June 15th

Historical Society of Easton hosts Free Lecture: "Mark Twain and Helen Keller"

Thursday, April 8th, 7:30 PM in the Easton Library Community Room. Though spanning different generations and lifestyles, Mark Twain and Helen Keller shared a mutual respect and admiration for each other. Redding Historian and Promoter of the 2010 Mark Twain Project, Brent Colley will share his research about the special friendship and lives of these two unique individuals and former local residents. For further information contact Events Director, Lisa Burghardt, at (203) 581-0850.

Joel Barlow Interact Club to Host a 5k Run/ Walk for Victims of Darfur Genocide

Joel Barlow's Interact club will host a 5k Run/Walk on Sat., April 10 (raindate is Sunday, April 11) at JBHS. Registration will begin at 10:30 am and the run/walk will begin at 11:00 am. Participants can chose to run or walk, so bring the whole family! The Interact Club is a community service club at Joel Barlow in which students organize local and national initiatives to help better the world. Proceeds from this event benefit an organization committed to raising awareness and aiding the victims of the Darfur genocide. Monetary donations would be very much appreciated. Save the date and spread the word! Questions to jmatthews@region9ps.org.

The Scoop Scoop

The Scoop is published every other Wednesday (for the most part) during the school year and distributed by email Listserv. To add or change your email information go to www.er9.org/sses/ and click on "Join Our Listserv". *The Scoop and the SSES Office do not update the Listserv.*

Next issue: Wednesday, April 7th. Please submit any information – in MS Word format -- by the Saturday evening preceding publication. Questions and submissions to Cathy Dunsby at ssesscoop@yahoo.com

Important Websites

www.samuelstaplesps.org

www.eastonpta.com

www.er9.org