



# The Staples Scoop



November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011



## CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Week of Nov. 14	Food Bank Week
Tues., Nov. 15 –	EARLY DISMISSAL; 1 pm; Parent-Teacher Conferences
Fri., Nov. 18	
Tues., Nov. 15	Easton Board of Ed Meeting; 7:30 pm; HKMS
Wed., Nov. 23	EARLY DISMISSAL; 1:25 pm (HKMS at 12:40 pm)
Thurs., Nov. 24/	NO SCHOOL; Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri., Nov. 25	
Fri., Dec. 9	EARLY DISMISSAL; Professional Development; 1 pm (HKMS regular day)
Tues., Dec. 13	Easton Board of Ed Meeting; 7:30 pm; HKMS
Fri., Dec. 23	Full Day of School



## THE PRINCIPAL'S SCOOP by Kim Fox-Santora

My hope is that your children had lots to share at the dinner table last Friday evening. Our Veterans' Day celebration was truly very special, and everyone's greatest wish was that the students left school filled with pride for their country and inspired by the sacrifices that soldiers make every day.

Our morning began with two SSES Town Meetings where students met a soldier through Skype and asked questions about their job and managing their feelings when they are feeling scared or lonesome. Both gentlemen, Sgt. Masri and Sgt. Brown, were dynamic speakers who conveyed very honest reflections about what they love about being a serviceman and what they have learned about themselves from serving in a war. The students' were focused, quiet, and interested in the discussion, and I believe this experience will have a lasting impression.

At the conclusion of our questions, the students stood proudly and sang the most beautiful rendition of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" to our honored guests. It was an emotional moment for all of us, including the soldiers who were clearly holding back the tears. We shouted a big 'Thank You' and said our good-byes. From there, each student and staff member walked outside to the car loop to plant a little American flag inside a stencil that reads 'Thank You.'

For the balance of the school day, the students learned about the different branches of services by rotating among the teachers in their own grade level. I hope the students enjoyed their experiences as much as the teachers did.

It is important for you to know that these activities were conceived by our school's Veterans' Day Committee. As is often the case at SSES, many other teachers and staff offered additional help: Mrs. Kim Duffy in Grade 1 arranged our connection with Sgt. Masri, her former kindergarten student, and Ms. Kloeblen in Grade 2 made our connection with Sgt. Brown, a dear friend of her family. Mr. Bates and Mrs. Traggianese made the Thank You stencils, and Mr. Cooper and Mr. Dolecki developed the SMART Board lesson for the song so that the classroom teachers could practice with their students. One of the most unanticipated and exciting moments of the morning was hearing Mr. Cooper's guitar, Mr. Dolecki's saxophone, and Mr. Joe Clark's piano lead us in song; it was spectacular. Finally, a special note of appreciation goes to our technology experts, Mr. San Souci and Mrs. Lynne Duffy, who rearranged their work schedules so that they could support our technology needs. It was a rewarding, collegial experience which we believe honored our veterans accordingly.

## It's Food Bank Week -- Friday is "Food Bank Spirit Day"

The week of November 14-18 is **Food Bank Week** – we ask our school community to fill the base of the lobby staircase with donated food. In keeping with this, Friday's School Spirit Day will have a "Food Bank Spirit" Day theme. Due to the abbreviated schedule of early dismissal, the School Store will not be open. But look for our December 16<sup>th</sup> opening, featuring new fuzzy socks and gloves in SSES colors!



### School Calendar

The current (tentative!) last day of school for this academic year will be Thurs., June 21, 2012. Complete information on how any future emergency school closings will impact the school calendar is here:

<http://www.er9.org/Calendars/Revised2011-2012SchoolYearCalendar.PDF>

## Samuel Staples Pre-School Accepting Applications for Next School Year

For more information on SSES' full-day pre-school programs for 3- and 4-year olds, please contact sbarnard@eastonps.org or (203) 459-9689.

## THE PTA SCOOP

### Student Directory Update

Wouldn't an extra copy be handy in the car? Additional copies of the new student directory are available for purchase at \$10 for current PTA members and \$12 for non-members. Please send a check payable to the "Easton PTA" to the school office, attn: "Student Directory".

### "What Your Kids are Doing in Cyberspace...and Why You Need to Know" Presentation

Join experts Rich Colangelo and Gabriel Rossi on Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the HKMS Media Center as they bring you up to speed on what kids are doing on their computers and mobile devices. They'll also discuss strategies you can use to help your tween or teen steer clear of cyber-bullying -- especially given Connecticut's new anti-bullying laws -- and protect their digital reputation -- which will someday be examined by college recruiters and potential employers.

### Odyssey of the Mind Update

Odyssey of the Mind teams are forming! Get a team together of seven students (maximum) and a few parents to coach. Coach training is on 12/4/11 for all those parent coaches interested and Student Day is 11/19/11, both at Bristol Eastern High School. The PTA has also voted to register HKMS in the Grades 6-8 division. Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think "outside of the box" by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. There are long-term problems to begin working on for the state tournament on 3/31/12. Check out [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org) and please contact Stephanie Frangenes Loo at [sfrangenes@yahoo.com](mailto:sfrangenes@yahoo.com) with any questions.

### Want to Get Involved and Don't Know How?

Please contact Sharon Stemme at [sharonstemme@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonstemme@yahoo.com) if you are interested in learning more about ways you can help out. There are several opportunities in the spring to get involved and we would love your help!



**Congratulations** to Claire Dunsby & Justin Calvert, for submitting the most BoxTops and Labels for Education labels for the summer contest. They each received a gift certificate to the School Store. Thanks to all who submitted labels!

## **It's PTA Reflections Time Again!**

"Put on your dancing shoes, grab a camera, or pick up a pen or paintbrush, and create! It'll be fun! The PTA's REFLECTIONS PROGRAM has begun!" What a difference the arts make. For math skills, social skills, creative thinking, self esteem, etc. Encourage your child's artistic exploration. Each year, the National PTA Reflections Arts Achievement Program challenges students to create art that relates to a specific theme. This year's theme is "DIVERSITY MEANS ...". Participation can be in six arts areas; Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Dance Choreography, Musical Composition and Film Production. You may enter a piece of work in more than one category, and you may have more than one entry in the same category. Entries are critiqued against children in the same grade division. Learn more by visiting [PTAreflections.org](http://PTAreflections.org).

The Easton PTA will be hosting the Reflections Program for all students, from pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade (high school entries are submitted to Joel Barlow High School PTSA). To participate, entries will be received in the main office at SSES and 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](http://www.eastonpta.com). Please read the rules carefully. All forms must be submitted to be considered for the next level of competition. Copies of the entry form and the program rules will also be available in the main office at SSES and HKMS. If you have any questions, please contact Reflections Chair, Claire-Anne Meskers, at [meskers@optonline.net](mailto:meskers@optonline.net) or 203-374-5566.

## **THE BARLOW SCOOP**

### **JBHS to Stage "The Wiz"**

Barlow Theater Productions will present "The Wiz," a 70's funk rendition of the classic "Wizard of Oz" on November 17, 18 & 19 at the Joel Barlow High School Auditorium. There is a Saturday matinee which is great for younger theatre goers! Details and ticket info at: <http://www.joelbarlowps.org/StudentActivities/Student.html>

### **Barlow PTSA and Redding Library Present Documentary Screening with Film's Director**

"BUCK, was created to move people to make changes in how they deal with horses and life's challenges. Buck Brannaman is a true cowboy who has overcome tremendous personal odds. This film intends to inspire, motivate and teach through principles of respect, partnership and trust rather than anger, fear and intimidation."

The JBHS PTSA and The Mark Twain Library are co-sponsoring a screening of the Award-Winning documentary BUCK on Tuesday, November 29 at 7 pm at JBHS. BUCK was directed and produced by Cindy Meehl, a Redding resident and mother of two Barlow Grads. Cindy will attend and stay for a Q & A following the screening. Tickets are available at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=etk86ncab&oeidk=a07e55ir24d5745bbcd>

### **Boys Basketball Holiday Tournament**

JBHS will host their annual Holiday Tournament on Tues., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and Thurs., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. 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/>

## **THE TOWN SCOOP**

### **Easton Garden Club Sponsoring Holiday Door Decorating Contest**

The EGC is renewing their "DECK the DOORS" contest, created to highlight local talent and the natural beauty of Easton. They seek entries from homeowners, businesses and public spaces in Easton. The competition runs Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Doorscapes will be judged on design creativity with an emphasis placed on the use of natural materials. The photo of the prizewinning doorway will be featured in the Easton Courier and the creator will receive a gift check from the Easton Garden Club. For more information and an entry form, visit: <http://www.eastongardenclub.com/deckthedoors.html>



**At the ECC** – please call 203.459.9700 to register for the below:

- **Parent's Night Out:** This Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-10 pm, for ages 4-12; members \$15/non-members \$20
- **Breakfast with Santa:** Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11 am

**Mark Your Calendar:**

- Annual 8th Grade Pancake Breakfast is Sat., Dec. 3rd at HKMS. The theme is “Board games”! Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased from any 8th grader.
- Change of date! ELF’s Holiday Cocktail Party and Silent Auction is Saturday, Dec. 10th at Aspetuck Valley Country Club. We welcome items for our silent auction.  
For more info: [www.eastonlearningfoundation.org](http://www.eastonlearningfoundation.org)



**The Scoop Scoop**

**The Scoop is published the 1st and the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month, Sept. 15 through June 1.**

Please submit any information – in MS Word format -- by a minimum of three days prior to publication.

The Scoop is distributed by SSES’ email Listserv. To add or change your Listserv information go to [www.er9.org/sses/](http://www.er9.org/sses/) and click on “Join Our Listserv”. *The Scoop and the SSES Office do not update the Listserv, but please be sure to inform the school office of any changes to your email address.*

Questions and submissions to Cathy Dunsby at [ssesscoop@yahoo.com](mailto:ssesscoop@yahoo.com)

## Skip the Mall and Shop at Home with Easton SEPTA's

# Gift Card Central

Make your gift shopping easier, while saving time and energy and supporting Easton special education! Gift cards are the perfect gift solution for everyone and there are hundreds of retailer gift cards available in multiple denominations:

1. Go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>. All you need to provide is your email address and SEPTA's account number, which is E2L4B2AB22968. Make your choices and add them to your shopping cart.
2. Either make a payment using PrestoPay, or write a check made out to "Easton SEPTA" and send it to Easton SEPTA c/o the SSES office. We will get your gift cards to you!

### HOLIDAY ORDERING DATES

	ORDER DEADLINE	ESTIMATED ARRIVAL
Black Friday Ordering	11/18/11	11/22/11
Holiday Order #1	12/1/11	12/5/11
Holiday Order #2	12/8/11	12/12/11
Hannukah & Last Ditch Order	12/15/11	12/19/11
Procrastinators' Order	12/19/11	12/22/11

Have a last minute gift to give? Need something and fast?

**We have a Gift Card Central Store with gift cards in stock for:**



Contact Mary Burke by calling (203-372-2103) or by email [meburke7@hotmail.com](mailto:meburke7@hotmail.com) if you are interested making a purchase.