



The Staples Scoop



Wed., Nov. 18th, 2009



CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Tues., Nov. 17 - Fri., Nov. 20	EARLY DISMISSAL; Parent Teacher Conferences; 1 pm
Fri., Nov. 20	School Spirit Day
Tues., Nov. 24	PTA Pie Fundraiser Pick-Up; HKMS Cafeteria; 2:30 – 5 pm
Wed., Nov. 25	EARLY DISMISSAL; Thanksgiving Break; 1:25 pm
Thurs./Fri., Nov. 26-27	NO SCHOOL; Happy Thanksgiving!
Mon., Nov 30	Reflections Contest Entry deadline. Theme; Beauty Is..."
Fri., Dec. 11	PTA meeting; Easton Library Community Room; 9:30 am
Fri., Dec. 11	PTA Brass Concert & Singalong (ticket info. in this issue); SSES; 7 pm
Mon., Dec. 14	EARLY DISMISSAL; Professional Development; 1 pm



THE PRINCIPAL'S SCOOP by Kimberly Fox-Santora



I hope that your children shared with you the exciting visit that we had last Thursday. As part of our celebration of Veteran's Day, we were fortunate enough to be visited by a Blackhawk Helicopter. The pilots were active duty Army and Marine soldiers who spoke to our entire school about their work and later let the children climb inside the helicopter to take a closer look. A special thank you to the Vassallo family for making the contact with Sikorsky Aircraft. This visit will undoubtedly have a lasting impression on our students.



In an effort to promote community during the holiday season, the PTA came to me with the wonderful idea of a **Turkey Trot**. Apart from our Blackhawk visit, there are few occasions when our entire school can come together in a spirit of solidarity. For this reason, I love the idea of all children exercising simultaneously!

On Tuesday, November 24th, we will assemble all of the students outdoors from 2:40-3:10 pm. With the help of our P.E. teachers, we will have the K-2 students 'trotting' around the perimeter of the lower soccer field, and our 3-5 students will 'trot' around the perimeter of the upper soccer field. Each student (and staff member) can elect to 'trot,' 'prance,' or 'swagger' at his/her own pace. When the whistle blows to announce the end of the event, students will line up in a pre-determined spot with their classroom teacher.

If it rains the night before, the grass will be too wet for the **Turkey Trot**. As an alternative, the K-2 students will 'trot' around the bus loop, and the 3-5 students will trot around the car loop. If it rains on the 24th, the **Turkey Trot** will be cancelled.

When someone does not have enough food, they have difficulty "trotting for joy." To help those who might be hungry at Thanksgiving, we ask that each student bring in a canned good or other non-perishable item to participate in the **Turkey Trot**. The teacher can check off their name if they have already brought an item in or share one with a friend that day if someone forgot. (*We do not want anyone left out because they forgot a canned good.*) Teachers can pay a \$1 for a cut-out turkey badge or sticker to wear on the day of the **Turkey Trot**, and the money is then donated to a local food bank. Each student will walk out to the event carrying his/her item and place it in one of the many boxes we will have available. As students trot around the field, they will get a lasting impression of how generous our community can be. Students will need to bring warm clothes and sneakers on the 24th.

On behalf of the SSES staff, I wish you and your family a restful and delicious Thanksgiving recess.

SSES Pre-School Registration Is Open

Samuel Staples Pre-School is now accepting applications for its 2010-2011 full day programs for 3- and 4-year olds. For more information, please send an email to sbarnard@eastonps.org or call 203.459-9689.



New! Every time you shop with your Stop & Shop card through March 25th, you can earn A+ Bonus Bucks points for SSES, for which SSES will receive cash. (You can track the amount at the bottom of your receipt.) Be sure to register your Stop & Shop card at www.stopandshop.com/aplus. SSES's ID is 05774.

THE PTA SCOOP

Easton Winter Concert! Friday, December 11, 7 p.m. SSES Cafetorium

Come join your neighbors at this fabulous, town wide, Winter Concert event! A Brass Quintet will perform beautiful, holiday (Christmas and Hanukah) and popular music. The SSES Music Department has prepared a special Sing-a-long section with songs your child has learned in music class. The Art Department is working with the 3rd-5th graders to provide the handmade art work/decorations. Perfect for all ages! Tickets are \$5. Doors open at 6:30. Refreshments will be available. See flier in this SCOOP for more details and ticket order form.

National PTA Reflections Contest Entries Are Due by Monday, Nov. 30

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM IS IN FULL SWING!

Arts education not only cultivates imagination, self-expression, and creativity, but also plays a vital role in the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Easton PTA and the Reflections Committee are asking all parents to encourage their children to enter this year's Reflections competition.

The Reflections Program provides a venue for students to creatively express themselves and be recognized for their interpretation of a pre-selected theme by submitting works in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts.

This year's theme is: "BEAUTY IS..."

General information, rules and an Official Entry Form are available at www.eastonpta.com from now through November 30th.

Students may submit as many works as they wish in one or any of the six categories. Multiple entries are not only accepted, they are widely encouraged. The entries will be judged by local artisans and educators within our community. The works selected to represent Samuel Staples Elementary School, Helen Keller Middle School and Joel Barlow will advance to the Connecticut District level of competition. The entries could then advance to the State of Connecticut level, and finally the National level of competition in Washington D.C.

Entries, accompanied by a completed Official Entry Form, are due in the Main Office of each school by 3 pm on Monday, November 30th.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kelly Solway at kellysolway@gmail.com.

Helen Keller Book Fair Runs Nov. 30 – Dec. 7

The HKMS December Book Fair will be Nov. 30th – Dec. 7th from 8:10 am to 3 pm daily. Featuring adult and juvenile bestsellers, cookbooks, and a fabulous selection of gift books for purchase. Extended hours are Saturday, December 5th, 8-11 AM (during the Pancake Breakfast).

Make Your Holiday Shopping Easier With “Gift Card Central”

Everyone loves a gift card! Easton SEPTA (Special Ed PTA) is selling hundreds of types of different gift cards in different denominations at face value – and your purchase supports Easton special education. There are two easy ways to order:



1. Go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/>. All you need to provide is your email address and SEPTA's account number, which is E2L4B2AB22968. Choose from the hundreds of available gift cards and add what you'd like to purchase to your shopping cart, then drop a check for the total amount to Easton SEPTA c/o the SSES office.
2. Green paper order forms, highlighting just a sample of the hundreds of cards in different denominations offered, were sent home in backpacks. More are available online in the last Scoop edition, or by emailing EastonSEPTA@hotmail.com.



Upcoming holiday order deadlines are Dec. 4 and Dec. 16. Gift cards will be hand delivered to your home, or can be picked up at school. Each gift card comes with a note that you can include, letting your gift recipient know that your gift supported special education. Questions to EastonSEPTA@hotmail.com or call Mary at 203.372.2103.

The Scoop Scoop

The Scoop is published every other Wednesday (for the most part) during the school year and distributed by mail via the Listserv. To add or change your email information go to www.er9.org/sses/ and click on “Join Our Listserv”.

Next issue: Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. 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

EASTON WINTER CONCERT

Festival Brass



December 11th 7:00 p.m.

Location: Samuel Staples Elementary School

\$5 per person

(Ages 2 and under free if seated on lap)

The Easton Winter Concert is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and enjoy a holiday musical performance! Seniors, families and all Easton residents are invited to attend this town wide event! **Festival Brass will perform a mixture of Holiday (Christmas and Hanukah) and Popular (show tunes) music.**

Festival Brass is a highly talented Brass Quintet. Ensemble member credits include: a **Grammy nomination** (Imani Winds), member of "**Lion King**" orchestra on Broadway, performances with Branford and Wynton Marsalis, the Count Basie Orchestra, "Saturday Night Live" band, Taj Mahal, Miles Davis, Tito Puente, Liza Minelli, Lincoln Center Jazz and Afro-Latin Jazz orchestras and numerous album and movie soundtracks.

The Easton Winter Concert is appropriate for all ages and will include a **Holiday Sing-a-Long!** SSES students will be learning the sing-a-long songs through the music department.

Due to limited space, ticket reservations will be required. (Payment accepted in order it is received). Pre-ordered tickets will be held at the door the night of the concert.

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EASTON WINTER CONCERT

Name (s): _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

of Tickets: _____ X \$5 = Total \$ _____

Cash/Checks made payable to "**Easton PTA**"

(Your support helps the PTA Enrichment Committee bring quality cultural programs to our schools)

Please submit completed form & payment to SSES office.
Mark envelope: PTA Enrichment - Easton Winter Concert

OR

Mail completed form & payment to:
Samuel Staples Elementary School
515 Morehouse Road
Easton, CT 06612
Attn: PTA Enrichment - Easton Winter Concert

THE TOWN SCOOP

Support ELF's School Teachers Are Really Special (STARS) Program

The Easton Learning Foundation has STARS available to help you recognize those special staff members that make a difference every day. Make a tax deductible donation of \$5 to \$25 and ELF will deliver a beautifully packaged cardstock star to you. Your child can then decorate the star and deliver it to your honoree. All proceeds benefit Easton students and educators by funding teacher grants and cutting edge technology.

STARS will be available during afternoon conference hours at the ELF table in the lobby. To order a star contact Jennifer at 445-0204 or visit our website at <http://eastonlearningfoundation.org/stars.html> for an order form.

ELF is turning 5! Please save the date: Sat., March 13, 2010.

"Seussical the Musical" at Joel Barlow High School this Weekend

JBHS' Fall Musical runs Thurs., Nov. 19 – Sat. Nov 21st. For ticketing and information, contact Barbara Bloom, bbloom@region9ps.org, or Ian Cieplik at 203.938.2508 or theatre@region9ps.org



ECC Scoop

Please call 203.459.9700 to reserve for below:

- Breakfast with Santa: Sat., Dec. 5th, \$5 per child. A Kidless Shopping Day follows.
- Holiday Camps: Dec. 28, 29 & 30; and Jan. 18 & 25; 8 am – 6 pm; members \$50, non-members \$60 per day.

Annual Library Children's Party is Dec. 6th

FRIENDS of Easton Public Library invites all FRIENDS members and families to be our guest at the Children's Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6th from 3-5 pm in the Easton Library Community Room. Entertainment by Lynn Lewis and Friends, crafts, snacks and lots of holiday cheer. Register at EPL desk so we know that you are coming! Questions? Contact Barbie Powell (bgpowell@optonline.net). If you are not a member of Friends yet, stop by the library and become a FRIEND today!