



# The Staples Scoop



December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011



## CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

Fri., Dec. 9	PTA Meeting; 9:15 am; Easton Library Comm. Room; <i>all welcome</i>
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. 16	School Spirit Day (theme TBD); School Store open
Fri., Dec. 16	Town Meeting; Grade 2 hosts; 2:15 pm
Fri., Dec. 16	Holiday Concert presented by ELF; 7 pm; Cafetorium
Fri., Dec. 23	Full Day of School
Mon., Dec. 26 – Mon., Jan. 2	NO SCHOOL; Holiday Recess

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S CORNER by Cheryl Mammen

In the 2011 legislative session, the Connecticut General Assembly revised the state's bullying law. These changes were primarily based on the legislation currently found in New Jersey and Massachusetts, whose legislation is highly regarded. The new definition of bullying has changed to include cyber-bullying and extends the definition to prohibit bullying outside of school if it creates a hostile environment, infringes on the rights of the target at school, or substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a school. In addition, it expands the time frame from incidents occurring within one school year to looking at patterns over time.

The structure within schools will also have some modifications. Each district is required to appoint a Safe School Climate Coordinator, and in Easton, Marie McPadden will take on these responsibilities. Every school must designate a Safe School Climate Specialist to investigate all suspected acts of bullying and to coordinate necessary training and data collection. I will be the Safe School Climate Specialist at Samuel Staples Elementary School. A committee must also be formed within each school. Samuel Staples has a well represented team that includes teachers on the primary and intermediate levels, a special education teacher, specialists, Officer Mark, and a parent. By January 1, 2012, each school district must submit a Safe School Climate Plan which should include proactive steps to promote social-emotional learning. While currently being developed, part of our plan includes a partnership with Officer Mark and Assistant State's Attorney, Rich Colangelo. Together, they have developed an assembly about bullying behavior which will be presented to Grades 4 & 5 next week.

In order to determine a baseline on the climate at Samuel Staples, a random sample of classes will be selected to participate in a survey to determine how comfortable students feel at school. Permission slips will be sent out to classes that have been chosen.

Continue to listen to your children and help them to differentiate between unkind behavior and bullying. **"A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself."** At school, we ask lots of questions to help us determine if one person has power over another as the differential of power helps us verify if the behavior is that of a bully. If you believe your child is being bullied, please contact your child's teacher or me.

## **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](mailto: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!



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

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. 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 Students Collecting School Supplies for Nicaragua**

BuildOn, a Joel Barlow group, is seeking donations of school supplies to be sent to Nicaragua through Connecticut Quest for Peace. A donation bin is in the SSES silo through Dec. 23rd for your donations of new and good condition school supplies such as pens, pencils, chalk, crayons, small toys, scissors, rulers, small calculators, markers, pencil sharpeners and spiral notebooks. For more information visit <http://www.buildon.org/> and <http://www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org/>. Questions to Brittany Jones at brittj14@gmail.com.

### **Be a Falcon "Puck Kid"**

Have a son or daughter who loves hockey? The Falcons are looking for "Puck Boys" and "Puck Girls" this year. We're looking for 2 players at each of the 11 Falcon home games to help the Falcons out! After the Falcons and visiting team finish their pre-game warm-ups, the puck boy/girl will go and grab all the pucks from the nets. They will then be announced with the starting Falcon line-up and stand on the blue line during the nation anthem! For more info, and to see which games are available, visit <http://barlowhockey.com/>

### **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 info at <http://www.barlowboysbasketball.com/>

## THE TOWN SCOOP

### **8th Grade Breakfast is this Saturday**

The annual 8th Grade Pancake Breakfast is this Sat., Dec. 3rd at HKMS from 8-11 am. The theme is "Board games"; tickets are available at the door for \$6 (\$6.50 for sausage) or from any 8th grader. Please consider bringing a new board game or toy to be donated to an underprivileged Bridgeport child

### **Girl Scout Holiday Craft Fair & Bake Sale**

This Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at Notre Dame of Easton (lower level) following all of the masses. Come support Easton Girl Scouts!



### **Easton Library & Parks & Rec Tree Lighting**

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with our 2nd annual Christmas Tree Lighting this Sunday, Dec. 4th, from 4 -6 pm *in front of the library*. Bring the whole family for an evening of Christmas carolers, holiday refreshments and one very special guest from the North Pole!

### **Buy Tickets & Bid Online Now for ELF's Holiday Benefit**



Check out some of the wonderful auction items available through ELF's holiday cocktail party, including some fun items and experiences donated by SSES teachers and staff. The online bidding ends Fri., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and continues in person at the party on Sat., Dec. 10th at Aspetuck Valley Country Club. A link to the auction and ticket sales is at [www.eastonlearningfoundation.org](http://www.eastonlearningfoundation.org)

### **Easton Learning Foundation's S.T.A.R.S. (School Teachers Are Really Special)**

Need a teacher gift? Want to tell a special teacher or staff member how much you appreciate them? ELF is once again offering our STARS! Place your order and we will deliver a star for your child to decorate and deliver to their teacher. If you don't want to decorate a STAR, ELF can deliver a certificate directly to your honoree. Your tax deductible donation will honor a teacher and support Easton students and educators by funding teacher grants and cutting edge technology. For more information or an order form, visit <http://www.eastonlearningfoundation.org/stars.html>. Orders will be accepted through Wednesday, Dec. 21st. Contact [jenniferluckart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenniferluckart@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### **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. 22nd – Dec. 10th. 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:

- **Breakfast with Santa:** Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11 am; \$5 per child.
- **Make a Gingerbread House:** Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>; 11:30 am -12:30 pm; ages 5+; Members \$30 /Non-Members \$35
- **Family Rock Climbing;** Half price! Fridays, Dec. 2, 9 & 16; 5-7 pm. Members: \$5 child/\$7.50 adult.
- **Parent's Night Out:** Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 – 10 pm
- **"Kid-less Shopping" Day:** Sat., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>; 12-5 pm

### **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!

	ORDER DEADLINE	ESTIMATED ARRIVAL
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.