



Penguin Press

Paumanok
Elementary School
PTA Newsletter

October 2018

Upcoming Events

- 10/3 -- **PTA Mtg** at 9:45am in the Chill Zone,
10/3 -- **Night Recap** at 7:30pm
10/8 -- **No school**
10/12 -- **Miss Chocolate** fundraiser ends
10/18 -- **October Assembly—Halloween Spooktacular**
10/19 -- **Spiritwear Sale** ends
10/24-27 -- **Book Fair**
10/27 -- **Fall festival** 12-3pm
10/29-31 -- **Fall Novelty Sale** during lunch periods
10/31-- **Safe Halloween** at HSE
11/5 -- **Paumanok Paint Night**
11/7 -- **No School**
11/12 -- **No School**
11/13 and 11/15 -- **Evening Teacher Conferences**
11/14 -- **PTA Mtg** at 9:45am in the Chill Zone
11/14 -- **Night Recap** at 7:30pm in the Chill Zone
11/16 -- **No School – Day Teacher Conferences**
11/22-23 -- **No School**
11/28-30 -- **Holiday Boutique Sale**

A Note from Mrs. Cooper

Organization Is The Key!

If you're anything like me, weekday mornings can be a chaotic circus trying to get kids up, dressed and fed while also trying to prepare myself for a busy day. Getting kids up and out of the door in the mornings can be a real challenge. I have heard some interesting and even funny stories from parents over the years about their morning adventures! To help keep your mornings running more smoothly, try these following steps:

- **Plan Ahead** - Have your child prepare for school at night. For example, choose an outfit and fix lunches.
- **Organize** - Keep important items in the same place each day. A great spot for backpacks is by the front door.
- **Make a List** - Write down things your child needs to bring to school (permission slips, lunch, homework, etc). Post the reminder in a visible area.
- **Stay Positive** – Keep a good attitude infused with humor and light-heartedness.

Good Luck!

Source: Marva Collins, *Values: Lighting the Candle of Excellence*, 1996, Dove Books.

President's Corner

Happy Fall everyone! This is always a busy time of year! We hope everyone has settled in and the school year is going well!

The PTA is off to a terrific start. We were happy to see so many of you at the New Parent Tea and at our first PTA meeting. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to be Class Parents and District Committee Representatives. Please don't be discouraged if you are not a Class Parent this year – there are still many opportunities for you to volunteer a little (or a lot) to help make this school year a success.

Despite the weather, Movie Night was a lot of fun. The students had a chance to rekindle friendships and parents were able to meet other parents in their grades. Meet the Teacher night was busy as many of you were able to stop by the PTA tables. If you still want any information, please visit our website for forms.

This month we are underway with our Membership Drive, introducing our new Spiritwear designs, fundraising with Miss Chocolate, and selling Kid Stuff Coupon Books. October 27th will be our annual Fall Festival from 12pm-3pm. It is a tremendous success each year as students get to engage in fall activities with their friends. The Fall Book Fair will be October 24th-26th during the school day. Make sure to send your child in with money if they want to participate.

If you have any other event ideas you'd like to see or you would like to volunteer to help at an event, please feel free to email us. We look forward to seeing you all at our next PTA meeting on October 3rd at 9:45am and 7:30pm.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Jose

Rita Karagiannis

PTA Co-President

paumanokpta@gmail.com

917-402-2515

PTA Co-President

gkaragiannis00@gmail.com

917-622-4973

Let's Get to Know Mr. Vitolano!

Tell Us a Little About Yourself: I spent my entire career to this point as a classroom teacher in the New York City Department of Education. I completed my school leadership program through Stony Brook University in 2016 and was excited to join the Half Hollow Hills district as an administrator this year. My wife and I have two energetic boys ages 7 and 4. They keep us very busy with soccer, lacrosse, and basketball practice. We do a lot of fun activities as a family on the weekends, and try to go away on vacation when school is closed.

1. *What school did you work at before coming to Paumanok?* I spent 12 years working as a classroom teacher at P.S. 38 and P.S. 176 in Queens. I taught students in grades 3, 4, and 5 and worked with children in the Gifted and Talented program and the ICT classes.
2. *Did you always want to be a principal when you were growing up? If not, what did you want to be?* When I was growing up, I wanted to be a baseball player. I loved playing all sports as a kid, but baseball was my favorite. When I prepared for college, I dreamed of being a sportscaster on radio or television. Later on, I shifted my focus to teaching because I always enjoyed working with kids during my time as a camp counselor and substitute teacher.
3. *What is the best part of your workday?* The best part of my day is morning bus duty. I love standing on the bus platform as so many students arrive with smiles for school. I've already gotten lots of waves and hellos from students of all grades. It makes a new Paumanok member feel very comfortable!
4. *Do you have any pets?* I have an awesome dog named Bailey. He is a Cavachon, which is a mix between a cavalier spaniel and a bichon frise. He is nine years old but still very playful. He is white with brown ears and brown markings. He loves playing with his toys, going for neighborhood walks, and hiding under beds.
5. *What are your hobbies?* When I have free time, I enjoy playing golf during the warm weather and skiing with my friends and children. I love spending time at the beach and enjoy traveling to Cape Cod and Canada. I also enjoy running, and recently completed a half marathon, which is 13.1 miles.
6. *What would the students be surprised to find out about you?* Students might be surprised to find out that I was a newspaper writer before becoming a teacher. I reported on local high school and college sports and helped edit and layout pages when I worked for Newsday from 2001 to 2005.

Sign up for Remind

Stay informed of upcoming events and all things PTA:

Go to

www.remind.com/join/paumpta

or text @paumpta to the number 81010

Kid Stuff Books

KidStuff Books are still available! Send in \$25 to the PTA labeled Kid Stuff Books and we will send it home with our child.

Thank You...

September brought us a lot of varied weather. We wanted to thank all the parents for their flexibility with the Movie Night. Your role modeling really taught our children how to handle frustration.

We had another great Photo Day. Hopefully, everyone will be happy with the pictures of their child(ren). Thank you to Christine Kessler and Claudine Caviness for doing a great job organizing the day once again.

Thank you to all the Class Parents for organizing class lists, collecting class funds, and working with our families during Meet the Teacher Night.

Finally we wanted to extend a thank you to the custodians and security at Paumanok. Custodians: John, Sean, Craig, and Jason and Security: Joe and Chris. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the events we run are safe and fun. This month we had a lot of pitfalls, and they were always there with a smile and a solution. Make sure to say hello and thank you when you see them.

SEPTA

HHH SEPTA is a district wide organization that works together with Paumanok PTA to build strong partnerships among parents, teachers, administrators, existing PTA's and the community to become better advocates for our children. We focus on informative speakers, social and special events for all children and members of our community, including those with an IEP or 504. We offer tools, knowledge and support about various issues so every child is able to reach their full potential. We hope you join our family by becoming a member. You can also join online by visiting our website HHHsepta.org or facebook Half Hollow Hills SEPTA. Together we can make a difference!!

Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month. Did you know there are a few things you can do to protect your family in case of a disaster. **Plan a fire drill.** Practicing a drill will help everyone know what to do if there ever is an emergency. You should identify two exits from rooms, identify how to check doors for heat, and specify a meeting place outside. **Check and maintain smoke detectors.** Test smoke detectors at least once a month. Fire prevention week is October 7-13. Visit firepreventionweek.org for more information.

Book Fair is Coming!!!!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
OCTOBER 24-27th

FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival is just around the corner, October 27, 12:00- 3:00 @ Paumanok, rain or shine. Come enjoy all the **FREE** fun including crafts, carnival games & prizes, DJ, Reptiles Unleashed, Gaga Ball Pits sponsored by Crestwood Day Camp and more! Food for purchase includes Kona Ice and Little Joe's Pizza. New this year is a costume parade and contest starting at 2pm. Please, no masks or weapons! We have also added a Vendor Fair for some fun shopping opportunities. We can't wait to see everyone there!

We are looking for adults and students 8th grade up to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering for fall festival, please contact Cathy Sanfilippo(littlecathys@gmail.com). If you are vendor and would like to participate please contact Aimee Prole at paumanokpta2vp@gmail.com.

Stay Informed

I hope all of you have signed up for our **constant contact** mailing list. If you haven't, please go to our webpage at <http://www.paumanokpta.org> and sign up. You can also find a lot of information and forms on our **website**. I also encourage you to take a few minutes to read through the monthly **PTA newsletter** and like us on **Facebook**, and sign-up for the **Remind App**. You will find these resources very helpful as they provide information regarding all of the great happenings at Paumanok this month.

Membership Matters!!

Help "Break the Ice" Join the Paumanok PTA Membership Drive School Wide Challenge

Your child's class could win a prize!

GOAL: We want to achieve 100% MEMBERSHIP!

Who can join the PTA? Parents, grandparents, teachers and community members can join

The top three classes with the highest percentage of **PTA PARENTS** enrolled by Friday, October 19, 2018 can win any one of three awesome baskets:

Basket #1-Art Supplies

Basket #2-Board Games

Basket #3-\$5 Scholastic Coupon for each child in that class to be used at the Fall Book Fair

Th Paumanok PTA helps create a strong community for our children and raises money to fund special programs throughout the school year.

You don't need to attend PTA meetings or volunteer your time...just by joining, you will make a positive impact! So be a part of our community and become a member today!

Membership Matters!!! Support the PAUMANOK PTA and support our children!

What does a District Committee Rep do?

There are so many things that go on in the district, we need representatives from our school to attend meetings throughout the district and report back. When you have a question or want to voice a concern, one advocate you can utilize is our PTA district committee representative. Please visit our website to find the district representative from our school and speak to them about your concerns so they can advocate for Paumanok.

We Need You!!!

Do you want to volunteer but are afraid to commit? A lot of people appreciate the work they see being done, but don't think that they can help. It's no exaggeration, every little bit helps. Everyone has something they can contribute. Sometimes people donate items the PTA can use, sometimes you have a special talent that can really be helpful, and often just giving an hour can mean the difference between the success or failure of a project. Never be discouraged, if you let us know your schedule, we will find something for you to do.