



Chester Elementary School

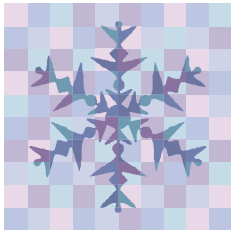
Mr. Michael K. Barile, Principal

23 Ridge Road, Chester, Connecticut 06412

Phone: 860-526-5797 Fax: 860-526-3570

www.chester.k12.ct.us

**February/March
2012**



"The students and staff have been thoroughly engaged in a great deal of learning. I am pleased to report that we had a terrific first half of the year with our new Academy initiative.."

Inside this issue:

Important Dates	2
Health Office	3
Service Learning	3
Social Development	4
Book-of-the-Month	4
Theme for February	4
PTO News	5
PTO Upcoming Dates	5
PTO Fundraising	6
PTO Notes of Thanks	6
Tri Town Services	7
Parks & Rec Info	8

A Letter From the Principal

Dear Parents,

As you will note throughout the newsletter, many terrific activities occurred over the last two months. The students and staff have been thoroughly engaged in a great deal of learning. I am pleased to report that we had a terrific first half of the year with our new Academy initiative.

Whether it be hands on, higher order thinking lessons that teachers engage students with, creative cultural arts performances, beautiful hanging art in the hallways, or student-led Town Meetings, Chester Elementary is forever dedicated to moving forward and attaining new heights with the primary focus being student achievement both academically and socially.

As you know, students in grades 3-6 are scheduled to take the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs). The testing period begins on March 6th. A letter and calendar were sent home recently. If you did not receive one, please stop by the office to pick up another copy.

During testing, it is important to minimize the stress that children may be facing. Often, students will place stress upon themselves. Although teachers are trying to alleviate the stress that children may be feeling, it is important that parents also help their child relax.

During the testing period, it is important that your child continue to go to bed at an appropriate time and wake early in order to consume a nutritious breakfast.

Please note that only one test will be administered per day and will occur during the morning hours. A grade-by-grade schedule is listed below. Attendance and promptness to school are important.

Those students arriving late will not be able to enter the classroom once administration of the tests has begun. In addition, students will not be able to be removed from the classroom until the test has been completed.

I thank you for your continued support and partnership.

As always, it is an honor to be serving as principal of Chester Elementary School.

*Your Partner in
Education,*

Michael K. Barile
Principal

CMT Grade Level Starting Times:

- Grades 3 & 4— 8:50 am

- Grades 5 & 6 —10:30 am

Important Dates to Remember

February

- Feb. 7 (T) PTO Meeting
7:00 pm—Library
- Feb. 8 (W) Chester Budget Workshop 1
6:00 pm—Central Office
- Feb. 9 (Th) Grade 2—Animal Report
Presentations
9:00—11:00 am
12:30—2:00 pm
- Feb. 10 (F) Early Dismissal at 1:00 pm
Professional Development
- Feb. 10 (F) PTO BINGO Night &
Basket Raffle Event
6:00 pm—Gym
- Feb. 15 (W) Informational Night for 5th
Grade Parents about
“Growing Up Videos”
6:00 pm—Library
- Feb. 16 (Th) Chester Budget Workshop 2
6:00 pm—Central Office
- Feb. 20-24 Winter Vacation

March

- Mar. 6-22 CMT Administration
Grades 3-6
- Mar. 2 (F) Town Meeting
2:15 pm—Gym
- Mar. 13 (T) PTO Meeting
7:00 pm—Library
- Mar. 15 (Th) Social Development Night
6:30 pm—Gym
- Mar. 19 (M) Chester Budget Workshop 3
6:00 pm—Central Office
- Mar. 21—23 Early Dismissal Days
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 21-23 PTO Book Fair
- Mar. 22 (Th) Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm—CES Library
Vote on 2012/2013 Budget
- Mar. 26 (M) Cultural Arts—All School
Sirius Coyote
Time: 9:30—Gym
- Mar. 28 (W) Invention Convention
& Science Fair Open House
Time: 6:30—8:00 pm—Gym
- Mar. 29 (Th) Invention Convention
Judging—9-12 pm—Gym



“Eating in the morning boosts your metabolism and gives you energy to start the day.”

The Importance of Eating Healthy in the Morning



We have all known for a while that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. And, it is! Eating in the morning boosts your metabolism and gives you energy to start the day. Now, it is time to make sure our children’s breakfast is healthy and well-balanced.

This will give our children more energy and help them concentrate on their work. Also, a good night’s sleep is just as important! Below are some quick and easy breakfast ideas to get them off to school on time!

- * A whole-wheat tortilla wrapped around a low-fat cheese stick plus a bunch of grapes.
- * A hard boiled egg, whole grain crackers, and 100% apple juice.
- * Whole-wheat toast topped with peanut butter and sliced bananas with 1 cup fat-free milk.
- * Crunchy high fiber cereal, blueberries, and sunflower seeds swirled into low fat vanilla yogurt.

Eating well definitely helps children do well in school. It also keeps our children healthy so that they can stay in school!

Eat Healthy and Be Healthy, Nurse LeAnn



Service Learning Project Update

In December, through a school-wide initiative of collecting items for patients with chronic mental illness, the Helping hands academy delivered personal wellness items to the clients at Gateway Community Treatment Center. The students shared cupcakes and milk with the clients. It was a very meaningful field trip for the students and the clients.

In the upcoming months, students at Chester Elementary School will be participating in a service learning project with our Sister School in Haiti. We will be collecting funds to purchase school supplies for the students in need.

“13th Annual Social Development Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 pm”

13th Annual Social Development Night—Save the Date!

13th Annual Social Development Night

Thursday March 15, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Chris Poulus is a World Champion Bicycle Stunt Rider who has a rare gift of inspiring, empowering and entertaining his audience like nothing you have experienced before.

Since 1988, audiences around the world have been riveted by Chris’ words of wisdom and captivated by his athletic ability.

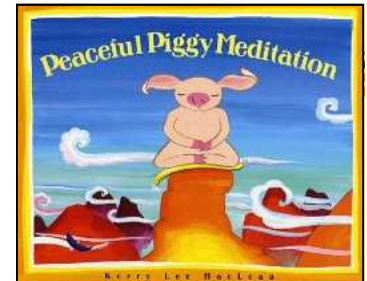
You won’t want to miss him! Ice Cream sundaes will be served after the performance.

February’s Social Development Book-of-the-Month

Peaceful Piggy Meditation

by Kerry Maclean

Sometimes life seems like it's all about hurrying--so many places to go! And sometimes it's hard when things don't go your way--it can make a piggy angry and sad. So how do young piggies find a peaceful place in a frustrating world? They meditate!



Please know that there is no Book-of-the-Month for March.



Our Social Development theme for February is patience!

PTO Update & News

Basket Raffle And Bingo Night

Friday, February 10th, 6 to 8 pm in the CES gym:

18 wonderful baskets have been put together by classrooms, thanks to the hard work of room parents, teachers and the generous donations from YOU!

Please join us for a fun filled night of bingo and basket raffle. You will have a last chance to buy raffle tickets and a chance to win!

Many CES teachers and staff will be there, calling bingo numbers and drawing the winning raffle tickets! Free popcorn and drinks will be served.

Admission is \$1.00 for one bingo card, with additional cards 25¢ each.

Each family must bring a bingo prize.

We will also be collecting numbers of new Adams cards for eScrip signup.

DON'T FORGET THESE ONGOING ENDEAVORS:

Help your child be a Super Saver through Save for America and Liberty Bank. Open a student saver account at Liberty Bank (with as little as a penny), then students can make deposits on Tuesday mornings prior to the start of school in the computer room with a CES volunteer. Each time a student makes a deposit at school, he/she receives 10 Super Saver Points. The points accumulate and the student earns a prize! If you can assist with the deposits, about an hour once a week, or for more information please contact Sheila Robida - at 860 227-4853 or srobida@comcast.net.

Keep collecting Box tops for Education, Campbell's soup labels, used cell phones and printer cartridges for future collection drives (including another clothing drive in the spring).

Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 7th: PTO meeting
7:00 pm in Library (originally scheduled for February 14)

February 10th: Basket Raffle And Bingo Night
Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the CES gym

"Basket Raffle & Bingo Night, Friday, February 10th, 6 to 8 pm in the CES gym"

PTO Update & News Continued

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING NEWS

We have set a fundraising goal of \$17,000 and we have raised more than \$12,000 so far. We need YOUR help getting the rest of the way:

--Be sure to keep collecting Boxtops for Education, Campbells soup labels, used cell phones and printer cartridges.

--Please notify us with your new Adams card number.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM...

Many thanks to all those who gave generously to The Giving Tree to help CES families in need--the CES Community who donated gifts, chair Heather Hart, committee member Meg Skowronek, Diane Amara, school social worker, and the Social Development Committee.

Craft Night was a fun holiday event with lots of great crafts, made special this year with the addition of Deep River Elementary School crafters! Thanks to all the crafters, those who donated supplies and treats, and chair Amy Safran.

Thank you to all of those who sent in Box tops for Education and Campbell's soup labels. The winning class will be announced soon!

Thank you to Amy Gordon Pullin for all her hard work on the basket raffle, and to Maria Koslawy for doing such a great job wrapping them!

Hope to see and hear from you! We look forward to working together to make great things happen for CES kids!

Co-presidents Kristie Valentino, tvalentino02@comcast.net and Gail Norling, gnorling@snet.net



Little Things Mean a Lot

All kinds of small, simple actions can mean a lot to children and youth. Whether done by adults, young adults, or young people themselves, the action ideas listed below are ways to start asset building or to expand the asset building you're already doing. Read the ideas and choose one (or make up one of your own) that you'd like to start doing right away.

Ideas for Young People

- Start a book club with friends and read just for fun.
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter, nursing home, or community center.
- Discuss with other young people in your neighborhood what's good about where you live and what you could do to make things better.
- Get to know an adult you admire.
- Make a point of saying hello to your neighbors.
- Watch a little less TV and find something new and interesting to try. (How about arts and crafts? crocheting? playing an instrument?)
- Identify something each member of your family is good at and learn from them.
- Say more positive things to friends and family than negative ones.
- Offer to help a younger child with school work or hobbies.

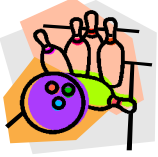
Ideas for Adults

- Speak positively about young people and defend them when other adults put them down.
- Organize a musical instrument drive to encourage people to donate used but working instruments to a school or youth program.
- Take time to play or talk with young people who live or work near you.
- Find out whether young people in your neighborhood have safe, healthy places to go after school.
- Learn the names of children and teenagers in your neighborhood and greet them by name.
- When young workers at a grocery store, drug store, or fast-food restaurant wait on you, greet them in a friendly manner and compliment them on something (their unusual hairstyle, their good work).

Chester Parks and Recreation February Programs

Please call 526-0013, extension 223 for information or to register for a program!

Forms are available outside the Parks and Recreation office, at Chester Elementary School, and at <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php>



Early School Dismissal Day - Bowling Activity

Students in grades 1 through 6 may join the Chester Parks and Recreation staff on Friday, February 10, when there is an early dismissal from school. The Bowling field trip leaves from Chester Elementary School by school bus, directly following the early dismissal. The children will return to Chester Elementary School at 4:30. The fee is \$22. A snack will be provided.



Roller Rink!

The Chester Elementary School multi-purpose room will become a roller rink after school on Tuesdays, February 28, April 3, and May 8. Skate to your favorite music! Bring your roller skates or rollerblades and a helmet. The activity is staffed by the Parks and Recreation Camp Counselors and open to students in grades 1 through 6. The price is \$5 per day. Select as many or as few days as you wish! Please register two weeks in advance so that we may provide the appropriate supervision.



Children's Jazz Dance Medley!

Dance for children is offered on Tuesdays at Chester Elementary School for grades K through 4. The program will meet in the gym on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Help choreograph and learn new combinations while having a fabulous time! Christine Perry, BFA in Dance Performance, instructor and professional dancer. The fee is \$20 for four classes.



Theatre Workshops for Children



Children in grades 1 through 6 may attend theatre workshops on Tuesdays, conducted by Elise MurphyMulligan of Tigertale Theatre. The program will meet at Chester Elementary School on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3. Create a character! Dream up a play! Perform it for your family and friends! The fee is \$40 per session.

Summer camp and swimming lesson registration has begun! Visit our web site <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php> for information on a summer filled with fun!