

Palmer PTA News

February 2011

Published for the Palmer Elementary School community

DON'T FORGET ...

Monday, Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

Gertrude Hawk fundraiser begins

George Steele nature programs



Thursday, Feb. 17

Family Math and Reading Night
Auld and Cole auditoriums
6-8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 18

School closed
Teacher in-service



Saturday, Feb. 19

PTA pancake breakfast
Applebee's
8-10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 21

School closed
President's Day

Wednesday, March 2

Science Spectacular
6:30-8 p.m.



Monday, March 7

Gertrude Hawk orders due

**Monday, March 7-
Wednesday, March 9**

Artist in Residence Program
Fourth grade classes

Tuesday, March 8

PTA Founder's Day dinner
6 p.m.

PTA meeting
7 p.m.

Auld Auditorium



DIGGING OUT... Winter brings closings, delays

In December, when the Palmer third- and fourth-grade choirs sang "No School Tomorrow" during their winter concert, nobody knew just how prophetic their words would be.

Since then, the Easton Area School District racked up eight "inclement weather" closings, one delayed opening and one early dismissal—and students had plenty of time for sledding, snowboarding, snowball throwing and snowman making.

Snow and ice prevented the PTA from meeting on both Jan. 11 and 18, and prompted many schedule changes.

This month, Palmer students are catching up on classroom work and school activities.

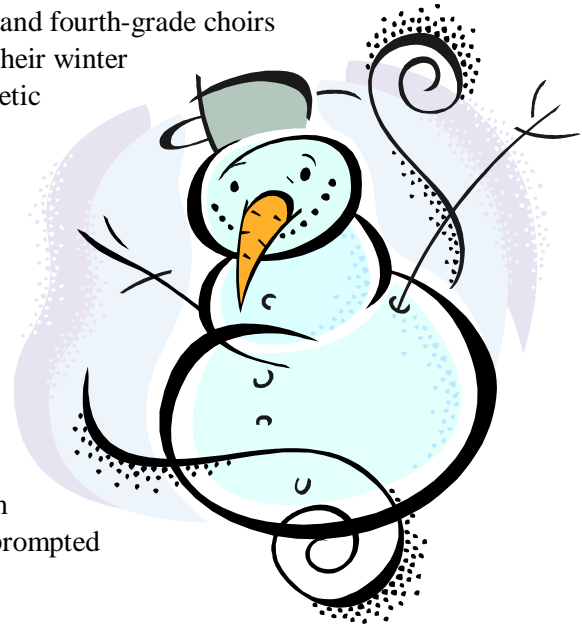
On **Monday, Feb. 14**, students exchanged Valentines, and kindergarten and fourth-grade students attended programs led by **science and nature educator George Steele**.

During the same week, on **Thursday, Feb. 17**, families will attend a pirate-themed **Math and Reading Night**..

On **Saturday, Feb. 19**, during President's Day weekend, the PTA will hold a **pancake breakfast at Applebee's** on Route 248.

March activities include the **Science Spectacular**, from **6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 2**, the **Spring Fling dance**, from **6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 18**, and **Family Night at Chick-fil-A**, from **5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 23**.

March also will bring the annual **PSSA tests for third- and fourth-graders**, to be administered from **Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 25**



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PTA board nominations due



Anyone who would like to nominate—or be—a candidate for the **2011-12 Palmer PTA Executive Board** is asked to contact any of the current board members **before the March 8 PTA meeting**.

All positions—president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary—are open.

Nominations will be announced March 8 and the election of officers will be held at the **April 12 PTA meeting**.

Founders' Day is on the way

Palmer PTA officers and members from years past will gather with current officers and members at **6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8**, to enjoy dinner and a program in celebration of **PTA Founders' Day**. The regular PTA meeting will follow at **7 p.m.**



The National PTA celebrates Founders' Day on Feb. 17 as a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families.

For more information, please contact **PTA President Rebecca Miller** or any of the other PTA board members.



Keep on clipping!

There's still time to enter the PTA's second **Box Tops for Education** contest of the school year.

The student who brings in the most Box Tops will win a **\$25 gift certificate** to the retailer of his or her choice. Students from the classroom that collects the most Box Tops will receive certificates to the School Store. Deadline is **Monday, Feb. 28**.

For more information on the program, as well as the **Redner's Save-a-Tape** and **Campbell's/Pepperidge Farm Labels** programs, please contact **Deb Perry** at **610-438-4285, debperry@rcn.com**.

Keep numbers current

If you've changed any of your telephone numbers this year, or if a trusted family member, friend or neighbor has moved away, please don't forget to contact the school to change your **emergency contact information**. Remember, if your child becomes ill or is injured during the school day, he or she will need you!



Thanks to all those who cooperate in providing this valuable information.

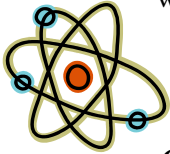


Get set for the Science Spectacular!

More than 180 Palmer students have signed up to participate in the school's **2011 Science Spectacular**, to be held from **6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 2**, in the Auld and Cole auditoriums.



Students who participate will receive a "**science fair survival kit**" that includes pencils, rulers and other tools to help with projects. Participants will also receive a **2011 Science Spectacular T-shirt**. Those who stay at the fair to answer questions about their project will be entered in a **drawing for prizes**.



For more information, please contact organizers **Marcella Cardone, 610-258-2121, marcella.cardone@rcn.com**, or instrumental music teacher **Maureen Williams, 610-250-2521, williamsm@eastonsd.org**.



Ahoy! Math and reading treasure awaits

"Lil' mates" and "Big Mates," also known as students and their parents/guardians, are invited to attend a **Math and Reading Night** from **6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17**.

The event will include a variety of math and reading activities, which will be set up at "X marks the spot" locations throughout the **Auld and Cole cafeterias**. Refreshments (not including grog) will be served.

All participating students will receive a **treasure map** on which to mark each completed activity. Those who hand in their maps on the way out will be entered in a **raffle for special prizes**. Each treasure-seeker will also receive a **bag of take-home activities**.

For more information, please contact "Cap'n" **Jenni Parsons, 610-250-2521, ext. 23021, parsonsj@eastonsd.org**.



Breakfast at Applebee's

Palmer families (and the **Palmer Panther!**) will have the chance to chow down on delicious pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee on **Saturday, Feb. 19**, at the PTA's **Family Day Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant** on Route 248.

Families may buy vouchers in advance or pay at the door. The cost is **\$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5 to 12 and free for children under 5**.

The PTA's November family food event, held at **Frank's Pizza and Restaurant**, raised **\$350** and the January event, held at **Five Guys**, raised **\$145** to help fund programs, activities and events for students.

For more information, or to **volunteer to help at the breakfast**, please contact **Nancy Ebert at 610-559-7918, chief2466@rcn.com**.

Sportswear!

The PTA's annual **Sportswear Sale** netted **\$339.50** to help support programs, activities and events for Palmer students.



A few tie-dyed T-shirts are still available. Please contact **Nancy Ebert at 610-559-7918, chief2466@rcn.com**, or **Mary Lou Hessling, 610-923-8259, marylouhessling@rcn.com**, for more information.



CHEERS for PEERS!

Several dozen Palmer parents, students and teachers volunteered their time, energy and talent at events over the past few months.

Rebecca Miller, Jill Patullo and guidance counselor **Jenny Volchko** organized the Thanksgiving Food Drive and members of the **K-Kids** helped sort the food and gather it in baskets for families.

Nancy Ebert and **Mary Lou Hessling** organized the **Sportswear Sale** orders in November and pickup in December.

Deb Troxell organized **Breakfast with Dads** in December and **Tiffany Pursell** helped during the event. **Kevin Pursell** and his employer, **Johanna Foods Inc.**, donated apple juice and orange juice.

Nancy Ebert organized the **family food events** held in November at **Frank's Pizza and Restaurant** and in January at **Five Guys**. "**Paws**" the **Palmer Panther** entertained at the Frank's Pizza night.

Amanda Shepherd organized the **Barnes & Noble Bookfair**, held Nov. 29. Enrichment teacher **Phyllis Finger** organized the poetry reading at the Bookfair and teachers **Christina Lynn** and **Sarah Shive** helped with activities.

Jamie Burgey and **Jennifer Dellatore** organized the **Holiday Store**, held in December.

Jill Casterline organized the **Family Movie Night**, held January 28. Helping at the event were **Tricia Geiger, Rebecca Miller, Jill Patullo, Fran Raneri, Sherri Repsher** and **Deb Troxell**. In addition, **Lisa Bowman, Jamie Burgey, Tricia Geiger, Melissa Hess, Bill Wilbert** and **Krista Woods** donated water and juice.

The PTA sends a big thanks to all!

The show must go on! Help it happen

Palmer students will be showing off their singing, dancing, acting, musical instrument-playing and comedic skills this spring during the annual **Variety Show**.

To help all that happen, **Mary Vincent** and **Carol Satanik**, former Variety Show organizers whose children no longer attend Palmer, have agreed to organize this year's show, along with first-grade teacher **Judy Paukovitch**. But the organizers say they still need lots of **parent volunteers** to make sure that rehearsals and the show itself go smoothly.

Please contact **Mary Vincent**, 610-515-9933, mary.vincent@rcn.com, if you're able to help.



Breakfast is a hit

Palmer students and their dads sat down for a fun morning meal in early December, courtesy of the PTA and helped by a small fee paid by the dads.

Breakfast with Dads organizer Deb Troxell says **196 dads** and their children enjoyed the meal.



Movie Night is fun

About 100 kids and parents spread out sleeping bags and blankets in the Cole Auditorium, nibbled on popcorn and watched *Toy Story 3* on Friday, January 28, during the PTA's **Family Movie Night**.

A good time was had by all.

REFLECTIONS: Together we did!

Palmer first-grader **Grace Li** has earned the opportunity to move on to the state finals of the **Reflections competition**, after placing in the council and district levels.

Grace, a student in Stacey Andreas' class, earned awards in the **Primary Music** category.

Six other Palmer students earned awards at the council level. Third-grader **Reeves Brehm** placed first in the **Intermediate Literature** category. Second-grader **Michael Clark** placed second in **Primary Literature**, fourth-grader **Bridget Fitzgerald** placed second in **Intermediate Photography**, fourth-grader **Nicholas Hamel** placed second in **Intermediate Visual Arts**, first-grader **Matthew Clark** placed third in **Primary Literature** and fourth-grader **Hannah Guerra** placed third in **Intermediate Music**.



*Posing with their award ribbons for their entries on the theme **Together We Can** are **Michael, Matthew, Grace, Bridget, Nicholas, Reeves** and **Hannah**. Congratulations to all!*

Bookfair fun at Barnes & Noble



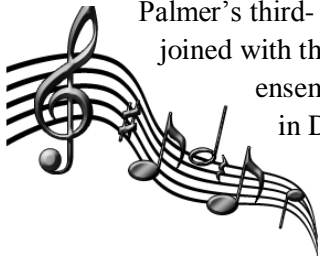
*Third-grader **Reeves B.**, left, reads from his book and second-grader **Cat C.**, above, reads one of her poems.*

Palmer students read original poetry, participated in a scavenger hunt, played games, sipped “frappuccinos” and picked out books during the PTA’s **Barnes & Noble Bookfair**, held Nov. 29.

The evening also included third-grader **Reeves Brehm** reading his original book *The Magic Baseball Glove* and **Jennifer Moyer’s** kindergarten students’ display of their favorite books. Third-grader **Emily Hessling** won a “Think Fun” game and **Leslie Guffy’s** third-grade class won a contest to name a drink—the **Palmer Panther Twist**.

By the event’s end, the PTA had netted **\$1,150.71** from bookstore and online sales.

Winter harmony



Palmer's third- and fourth-grade choirs joined with the fourth-grade strings ensemble in the Cole Auditorium in December to present an amazing **Winter Concert** performance.

Strings ensemble members, sporting bells, Santa hats, elf hats and reindeer antlers, played "A Jazzy Jingle" and several other selections on their violins, violas, cellos and bass.

The choirs also performed a variety of selections, ranging from the third-graders' sweet, simple rendition of "Silent Night" to the exuberant "No School Tomorrow" by both choirs.

The PTA and Palmer community thank instrumental music teacher **Maureen Williams** and vocal music teacher **Gail Hines** for working patiently and diligently with the young musicians—and for organizing the concert.



Clockwise from top: Ashlea F. concentrates on her bass part. Jacob W. is intent on playing his violin music. The third-grade choir performs "Silent Night." Violist Sarah M. plays her part. Fourth-grade choir members get dramatic during the final verse of "No School Tomorrow."