

# Primrose PTA

Newsletter

Volume 1

September/October 2010

Dear Parents,

Greetings!!! We hope that you have all transitioned well into the new school year!

Primrose is again a paper-limited school, so we hope that you are keeping up with all of the PTA happenings via our e-mails. We are sending out one weekly e-mail each Sunday night that is meant to keep you updated on all of the PTA news at Primrose. Occasionally, we will have to send out an additional e-mail during the week but we are really trying to keep it to one e-mail per week. If you have not had an opportunity to sign up for PTA e-mail, please go to our website and do so (<http://www.somersptacouncil.org/PRIMROSE/HOME.htm>).

Our Primrose Book Fair will be held the week of October 25<sup>th</sup> with a Family Night on October 26<sup>th</sup> and "Donuts for Dads" on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The kids will visit the book fair during their library time and have the opportunity to purchase books.

Red Ribbon week will also be held the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. The PTA will again be bringing in Lou DelBianco to put on a show about responsibility and making healthy choices.

If you have not had an opportunity to send in your Membership form or Directory information, please do so as soon as possible because those committees are trying to finalize the Directory so it can be distributed. Please remember, only those that are Primrose PTA members will get a hard copy of the Directory.

Our Holiday Happiness Committee is hard at work already. We had more than 90 vendors sign up already! Our Co-chairs, Cathy Vinci and Sally Krauss are again planning this amazing event. You will see information shortly about pre-ordering Somers Merchandise. They have selected some really nice items to sell, so be sure to look out for that! Last year, they successfully added a movie room and Silent Auction. The Silent Auction was an amazing, exciting, unique part of the day. The children and adults were busy making their "bids" on such a wide variety of items and experiences. There was some much excitement generated by this one table last year, parents and children can't wait to see it return again. The Primrose community is already whispering about what might be available to bid on this year!

If you have any time to volunteer either to help out in the planning of the event or to help out for a few hours that day, please consider doing so. Holiday Happiness is our single largest fundraiser and it supports so many great programs at Primrose.

In closing, thank you to all of the countless volunteers who keep our thriving organization going! We could not do it without you!

Warm Regards,  
Nicole Brownstein and Kristen Iorizzo  
Co-Presidents of the Primrose PTA



# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*

*A note from our Principal*

The school year is off to a wonderful start. For me, coming to Primrose has truly been a place of great beginnings. While I have been at Primrose since July preparing for the opening of school, I have to say that the highlight so far has been the opening day of school when we welcomed 744 students. Every school year is such an important milestone and we were so happy to welcome everyone back to school. I am thrilled to report that the opening of school has gone smoothly and that our classrooms are humming along and as if there was no summer. The school supplies have been put away and meaningful learning is well underway.

At each Open House, I was happy to welcome so many of you. I am thrilled to be at Primrose and to be part of the Somers Central Schools. I have spent the majority of my career in the Chappaqua Central Schools where I was a classroom teacher, reading specialist and most recently an assistant principal. As I set out to look for a principalship, I was engaged in searches throughout the county but from the moment I came to Somers I thought that this could be the place. With each subsequent interview, I could see that this is a place where I wanted to be and a place where I could be an asset to teaching and learning.

I have spent the summer getting to know teachers, staff and parents. I have learned about what it is that you value and the areas where you think there is room for improvement. I know that as a community, you value Primrose and the work that takes place here.

This summer, in working with teachers, we have solidified a number of initiatives that we will be working toward.

In **English Language Arts** effort continues on the implementation of a comprehensive word study program and the continued support of student learning in the readers and writers workshops.

As we look at the integration of **science, math and technology**, we will continue our implementation of **Everyday Math**, refine our science practice in preparation for a Tri-State team visit, and promote sustainability and environmental awareness through the use of our school garden.

We are also looking at our communication with parents in the form of a revised report card. We will be holding some coffee sessions throughout the fall to share our work in this area.

My goals for the year include:

- Becoming fully immersed in the Primrose Community. I hope to do this by getting to

know you and most importantly your children. Please feel free to stop me and talk to me, tell me about what you value and where there is room for improvement.

- I also want to continue and honor the good work that is taking place. I hope to look at this work critically, with an eye toward the future and the skills and habits of mind necessary for students to be responsible and productive citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- I hope to continue to foster a culture where children are comfortable, happy and feel connected to both children and adults so that important learning can take place.

In closing, I want to share with you a poem I shared with staff on the first day of school. In all aspects of our lives, I feel it is so important to be able to give our best attention to others. For me, this means leaving my Smart Phone in the office when I am visiting classrooms and leaving it in my pocketbook when it is "family time" so that I am available to give others the attention they need and deserve. This poem comes from Teaching with Fire: Poetry that Sustains the Courage to Teach.

## **Making Contact**

I believe  
The greatest gift  
I can conceive of having  
from anyone  
is  
To be seen by them,  
heard by them,  
to be understood  
and  
touched by them.  
The greatest gift  
I can give  
is  
to see, hear, understand  
and to touch  
another person.  
When this is done  
I feel  
contact has been made.

-Virginia Satir

I am looking forward to a getting to know you and especially your children and will work hard to ensure that your children have a rewarding school year at Primrose.

*Katie Winter*

# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school! We are so happy to have all of our Primrose friends back at school and we welcome our new kindergarteners. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a wonderful, productive school year.

As we mentioned at our Open Houses, we have many ways that we communicate with families. We feel it is important for our school community to have an inside look within our schools. We have many ways we do this including:

- our school website, which can be accessed at [somersschools.org](http://somersschools.org). Here you will find information about our school including a link to our Primrose blog, a staff directory, our parent handbook, monthly calendars, menus, forms, and access to our teacher websites. You will also be able to access our district web page.
- Channel 18 you are able to see video from special events from all of our schools
- connect ed which is our phone communication system that we use to call all of the families within our district in case of an emergency including snow days and/or early dismissals

Please make sure we have the most up to date information in regard to email addresses and phone numbers.

At our Open House we also reviewed general school reminders. Here are a few that we wanted to reiterate to all families:

- School Hours are 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Please make sure to have your child in on time. Children are considered late after 8:15 A.M.
- Parent drop off is from 8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M. It is located in the back of Primrose. Please only use this service if it is absolutely necessary. All cars must wait for an adult from the school to come over to their car before letting their child out. Parents should stay in their cars at this time. Please do not allow your child to walk between cars or get off on the street side when using parent drop off. Parents should also stay in their cars when they are using parent drop off. After 8:15 A.M., please drive your child up to the main office and walk them in.
- Parent pick-up begins at 2:10 P.M. and it is located by the lower parking lot. When using parent pick-up, please park your car and wait for the doors to open. Please do not knock on the door or windows while waiting. If it is past 1:45 P.M. we ask that you use parent pick-up.
- Visitor parking is located in front of the school and it is available from 8:30 A.M. – 1:45 P.M. Please do not pull up to the front of the building if the buses are present either in the morning or the afternoon.

And finally, I wish everyone a wonderful school year. I am looking forward to a great year.

Ms. Anaya

Assistant Principal



*A message from Asst. Principal Anaya*

# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*



A goal that we have for all of the Primrose children is to become competent and confident problem solvers. One way that we endeavor to achieve this goal is by having the classroom teacher and the enrichment teacher team-teach to work on math problem solving units.

There are many strategies that the students may use to solve math problems. As you know, there are many ways to solve a problem. When using any strategy, the children are learning to follow the Four Step Problem Solving Method. These steps are:

Step 1- **FIND OUT** the important information, what the problem is, what the problem means, and what question must be answered in order to solve it. Circle the important information which includes numbers, units, and the question.

Step 2- **CHOOSE A STRATEGY** that is best to solve the problem such as Act Out or Draw a Picture etc.

Step 3- **SOLVE IT**- Work through the problem, find the answer, and record the information.

Step 4- **LOOK BACK**- Reread the problem and check the solution. Look for errors.

The first strategy that the second graders have learned is "**Act Out or Use Objects.**" In order to solve these problems, the children moved around various manipulatives such as rulers, pipe cleaners, chips, straws, pattern blocks, spiders, and unifix cubes to solve their word problems.

Presently, the second graders are learning the strategy of "**Make or Use a Picture or Diagram.**" The children are learning how to use or make a picture to solve a problem. The goal of this strategy is for the children to learn how to draw simple pictures to solve problems or to use pictures to solve problems. Examples of this include map reading, drawing a picture of a room in the house, looking at the picture on the outside of the box when making models, and drawing diagrams of animals, machines, trees and flowers etc.

First grade will begin their study of problem-solving in late October.

Kindergarten will be given an overall introduction to problem solving by the classroom teacher.

*Rosemary Bernstein*

*September 21, 2010*

*Enrichment*

# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*

We are off to a great start in Kindergarten! The children are quickly making friends and settling nicely into the full day routine.

The kindergarteners are taking turns with their new friends and learning to care for their classrooms. They have been busy drawing painting, counting, and looking at books. The children enjoy listening to stories and talking about them too.

Kindergarteners love to attend gym, library, music and art each week. You can help make sure they are prepared for gym and library by knowing which day they need to wear sneakers and when their library books are due back.

We thank all our kindergarten families for supporting the work done at school. With a good night's sleep, nutritious breakfast and healthy snack, you can help your child be ready for learning each day. Children are reassured by healthy routines and are more able to function respectfully and responsibly when they know what is coming next.

Fall has arrived and the children will be learning about apples, pumpkins, and leaves. Somers' Firefighters will be coming to Primrose to teach us about fire safety and to show us their equipment.

We look forward to an exciting fall and a wonderful year!

Kindergarten Teachers  
and Teaching Assistants



# PRIMROSE *A Place of Great Beginnings*

We are off to a great start in First Grade! The children have seemed happy to be back in school, reunited with old friends and making new ones. The classroom routines and procedures that have been introduced and practiced will help our classrooms run more smoothly all year. The children have adjusted to the new routines and have become eager learners.

Each day in Reader's Workshop we have had time to browse through books in our classroom libraries and talk with our friends about them. We have been listening to wonderful stories and reading the morning message together. Through these books we have practiced making predictions about what the book might be about or what might happen next in the story. We have also worked on making connections between something we've read in the story and something that has happened in our lives. Writer's Workshop began in September. First Graders have been writing about important people or events in their lives. We have been reviewing the letters of the alphabet and their sounds to help us write words. We have also been learning about words and their parts so that we can become better readers, writers and spellers. Our classroom word walls have been growing too.

In Math we have been focusing on number writing and recognition, as well as counting in a variety of ways. We have been learning to write tally marks as another way to represent a number. Using the calendar we have been reviewing the days of the week and the months of the year.

In Science we have begun our unit on Classification. We have been exploring ways of sorting objects as well as developing the vocabulary to describe their attributes. Our trip to Stuart's Fruit Farm provided us with additional opportunities to practice these skills. A special thanks to the PTA for their help with the cost of our trip to the apple orchard.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year and many more "firsts!"



Sincerely,  
First Grade Teachers

*First Grade News*

# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*

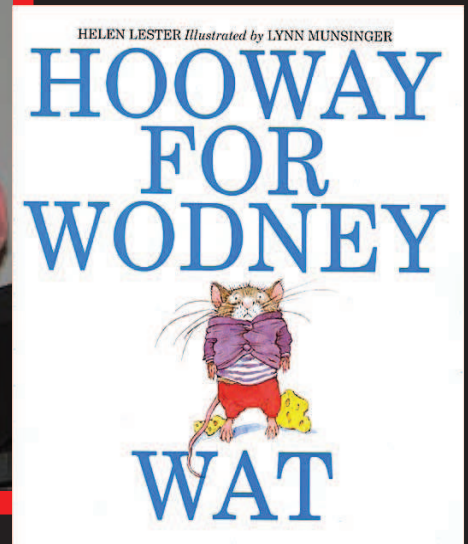
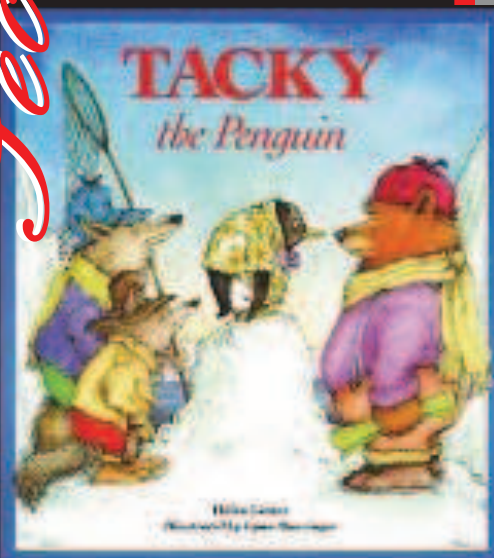
Second Grade is off to a great start. We are working hard on launching reading and writing workshops. Instruction in the areas of math, science, social studies and health have commenced. We would like to thank all the parents who have encouraged their children to read and write over the summer. The practice has paid off. Great Job!

We are enjoying the butterfly/sustainability garden which is in full bloom with sunflowers. The first grade vegetables have been harvested and enjoyed by the local food bank. Now the second graders continue to harvest and the first graders are planting fall and winter produce. We have been busy decorating the bulletin boards and like to look at what other classes put up.

This year promises to be successful and exciting. Thank you in advance to the PTA for all of the wonderful programs, assemblies and authors you provide.

The Second Grade Teachers & Assistant Teachers

*Second Grade News*



# PRIMROSE

*A Place of Great Beginnings*

*Box Tops for Education*



***Keep sending in those Box Tops!***



## Our September Winners

Kindergarten

First Grade

Second Grade

*Brendan Mc Sweeney*

*Carleigh Carbonaro*

*Robert Davidson*

*Lauren Ward-Willis*

*Daniel Bonner*

*Jimmy Shalley*

*Rachel Lamb*

*Sean Collins*

*Lauren Delzjo*



Don't forget the ice cream parties at the end of the year!



