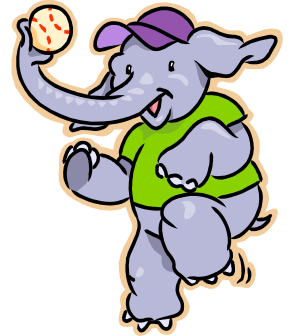


## PTA NEWS

Dear Parents and Teachers,

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Summer is almost here which means that another school year has ended and time to get ready for some summer fun! For me, personally, this is a happy time but a sad time. My third and last child, Danielle, has now finished second grade and it is time for us move on to SIS! Primrose has been a very special place for us - a place with beautiful memories, lots of wonderful things learned and friendships made. Truly enjoy your children and their time at Primrose, they grow up much too quickly!

OK, so I will put my tissues away and move on to business - The Primrose PTA had another successful year! Many thanks to all the parent volunteers, administrators, faculty and staff who helped us accomplish so much.

As the school year winds down and since our last newsletter, the PTA has continued to:

- be active in funding class trips
- provide the Second Grade Students with a commemorative T-Shirt and special celebration at Reis Park, complete with DJ, food and fun activities
- host Family Night
- arrange the Kindergarten Bus Ride for next year's incoming Kindergarten class
- produce a wonderful memory book, Pipeline, for each and every Primrose student
- provide mini grants to teachers for the enrichment of their students
- provide student assemblies

At our last PTA meeting, we approved next year's budget, our slate of the 2008/2009 Executive Officers, as well as a gift to Primrose - a new front entrance welcome mat. Be sure to look for it sometime before the start of the next school year.

In closing my last article for the Primrose newsletter, there are so many people I'd like to thank for an incredibly wonderful and enjoyable year. First my executive officers, Linda Morgante, Susan Taylor, Rebecca Williams, Kim Curryn-Castellano and Faith Cartisano – I could not have done this without you. Without their effort, support and hours of work behind the scenes, we would not have accomplished everything we set out to deliver to our children and school. Thank you to all the committee chairs who worked so hard throughout the course of the year. All the time and effort you put in to ensure all programs and events were scheduled, coordinated and planned, you did an outstanding job and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you Mr. Fisher and Ms. Anaya and the Primrose faculty and staff. It has been truly a pleasure to work with you. I have truly enjoyed my term as Primrose PTA President. It has been a rewarding experience. Good luck and much success to next year's incoming Co-Presidents, Susan Taylor and Rebecca Williams and their executive board.

To all, have a fun, safe, healthy and relaxing summer!

With all my best,

Kathy Cucchiarella, Primrose PTA President



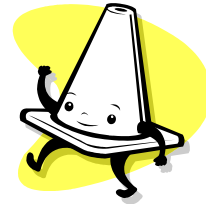
Dear Parents,

As this exciting year comes to a close, I want to thank you for the ongoing support you have shown to your children, and to our school. Our mission is truly a partnership, and we could not succeed the way we do without your help.

With the summer, come thoughts of staying safe at home, at camp and on vacations. I will be conducting safety assembly programs this month, and Resource Officer, Trooper Williams, will come up from our high school to join us.

We will cover the following topics:

- Stranger safety
- Knowing about 911
- Knowing your address and phone #
- What to do if you get lost
- Wearing seat belts/booster seats in cars
- Ways to stay safe at the beach, around swimming pools
- Thunder/lightening safety
- Bicycle safety/wearing helmets



Obviously, these topics are ones you have likely discussed with your family, and our teachers have addressed through our safety curriculum. By reinforcing the safety message, I hope that everyone will have a happy and healthy summer.

As always, remember to find time to read to, and with, your children every day. We have all worked so hard to help our students grow as readers, writers and thinkers, and summer practice will ensure that they will maintain their skills and continue to make progress.

On a personal note, thank you for your continuing involvement; through the PTA, volunteering, helping with homework and school projects, providing the love and guidance that all children need, and all the other small things that parents do each and every day.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Fisher

I feel as if I blinked my eyes and the school year has passed. We are now approaching June, the time of year where we are planning vacations, preparing to head off to summer camp, and spend some quality time with the family. At school, end of year celebrations are being planned, teachers and children are enjoying their last month together, and thoughts of the next school year are starting to creep into everyone's mind.

As you plan your summer months, there are so many ways to support your child's growth academically and socially. Encourage your child to keep a journal this summer. They can include drawings, pictures, labels, and words that can track all of the experiences they'll engage in this summer. It can become a memory book they



can keep forever. You may want to purchase a small tote bag for your child where they can keep their favorite summer readings. They can carry poetry books, fiction and nonfiction books, children's magazine and their journal/memory book. As you're reading your favorite New York Times bestseller on the beach they can read some of their favorites as well.

There are so many books out there that focus on family vacations and summer experiences. *When the Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant is one of my all time favorites. It is about annual family trip and getting reacquainted with cousins, aunts and uncles. Another favorite is *My Rotten Red-headed Older Brother* by Patricia Polacco. This is a book about a brother and sister and their experiences growing up together with a dose of sibling rivalry added. And finally the book, *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin is a journal written from the perspective of a worm throughout the seasons of the year. It really captures a child's attention with its humorous illustrations.

On a final note, I'd like to thank all of the children and the families of Primrose for welcoming me into their community and into their families this past school year. It has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you. I look forward to being your Assistant Principal in the coming years and participating in your child's life on a daily basis. Have a wonderful summer!!!

-Haidee Anaya

# PTA MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The PTA Mini-Grant program provides teachers with an opportunity to apply for funding for new and innovative projects or items which are typically not covered by the School District. Teachers are invited to submit a request if they have an idea that would enhance their students' educational experience. The requests can benefit the students of an individual class, a particular grade level or the entire school. As of May 19, 2008, the PTA has supported almost \$2,000 for the following approved Mini-Grants that were applied for by the Primrose teachers:

- \* \$250 was used to purchase Kapla Building Blocks for Mrs. Rose Smith – Art Program. The Kapla Building Blocks stimulate creativity and encourages teamwork and social interaction skills. The children will also be using logical reasoning, motor skills, hand-eye coordination and building skills to create their structures.
- \* \$285 was used to purchase a Nano Ipod and Ipod speakers for Mrs. Rossini – Music Department. Both items will allow Mrs. Rossini to play music for the school over the loud speaker, in classrooms and in the cafeteria. These items will also allow the Music Department to create a listening library.
- \* \$32 was used to make Retelling Story Strings for Mrs. Kegler's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class. The Story Strings provide visual clues to help children retell a story they just listened to.
- \* \$282 was used to make Retelling Story Strings for the entire Kindergarten Grade Level & Special Education Teachers. The Story Strings provide visual clues to help children retell a story they just listened to.
- \* \$250 was used to purchase 13 copies of the book titled Rugby & Rose by Nan Parson Rossiter, one book for each Kindergarten class. This book ties into Kindergarten 100 day penny project where all of the pennies collected from the entire Kindergarten class was donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind.
- \* \$250 was used for costumes for 2 second grade classes, Mr. Tetro and Mr. Mahoney. The costumes will be utilized during the classes presentation of their Glow Musical performed with Mrs. Rossini.
- \* \$648 was used for the Art Department. The Art Department is purchasing an ELMO Digital Visual Presenter. This equipment can project both 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional art work as well as text onto a large screen for the entire classroom to visualize. This Digital Visual Presenter offers an interactive use of technology for the entire Primrose School.

The PTA Mini-Grant program is proud to have purchased these items for the Primrose School. We know that they are new and innovative items that have and will enhance the children's education.

Maria Vitale

Mini-Grant Chairperson

[Mvitale912@optonline.net](mailto:Mvitale912@optonline.net)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Primrose Greeting Table

To ensure a safe environment at Primrose, the PTA is looking for volunteers to staff the Primrose Greeting Table outside the main office for the 2008-2009 school year. The responsibility of the Greeting Table Volunteers is to welcome visitors to Primrose and make sure that all visitors sign in and take a pass.



Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday for the following time slots:

8:15 – 9:45 AM

9:45 – 11:15 AM

If volunteering one day a week is too much of a commitment, please consider volunteering every other week, every third week, once a month or as a substitute.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact :

Christine Spencer at [cspencer1971@yahoo.com](mailto:cspencer1971@yahoo.com) or 277-0898.

## SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS

Through your generous support of our events, SEF raised more than \$50,000 this school year. More importantly, we awarded more than \$40,000 in grants and scholarships to the district.

Please mark your calendar for Monday, October 6 for our annual Golf Outing which this year has a new location—Mahopac Golf Club. Details are on the SEF website at [www.sefny.org](http://www.sefny.org).

Have a safe and happy summer and thanks again for your support!

### Somers High School PTSA Annual Clothing Fundraiser

Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

9 am to 11 am — SHS Parking Lot



*Clean out those clothes with our annual clothing fundraiser. All proceeds from this fundraiser goes right back to our children in the form of programs or events. All clothing donated is tax deductible and the clothing is used throughout the United States and Abroad for those less fortunate or recovering from disaster.*

It is simple...clean out those basements, closets, pack all items tightly in black garbage bags and drop off between 9 and 11 a.m. on June 29<sup>th</sup> in the SHS Parking Lot, (Look for Red Balloons)

Items accepted are:

Shoes, boots, sneakers, cleats, crocs, sandals, coats, sweaters, blouses, shirts, pajamas, hats, gloves, scarves, sheets, blankets, hard plastic toys, belts, dresses, gowns, suits, T-shirt's, shorts, socks, sportswear.

A tax receipt will be given upon request. Any questions, please contact Debbie Aidala at [dca1958@aol.com](mailto:dca1958@aol.com)

"Round and round the seasons go" and now, in Spring, our kindergarten "scientists" continue to explore nature in books, magazines and real life too ! Our classrooms have caterpillars, butterflies, and ants in ant farms for us to observe. Our young children have planted seeds that have sprouted into little seedlings. We are looking forward to learning more about nature when Mr. Robinson brings live birds and reptiles to Primrose. And we will use our explorer eyes, ears, and hands when we go to Stepping Stones Museum. All these experiences inspire our children to write beautiful poems and stories that they share with one another!



Thank you PTA for bringing Michael Graham's Puppet Show, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to Kindergarten. We enjoy reading fairy tales and going on exciting adventures with the characters.

We wish our new First Graders and their families a wonderful summer ! It has been a joy working with you ! While you're having fun outdoors playing and exploring nature, remember these words to the tune of "Let's Go Fly A Kite".

**"Let's go read a book. Sit in our cozy nook.**

**Let's go read a book and meet the characters.**

**See the places they go. Find out what happens to them.**

**Oh, let's go ..... read a book !"**

**And for non-fiction books,**

**"Let's go read a book. Open it up and take a look.**

**Let's go read a book and learn something interesting.**

**Trees, insects, and animals,**

**People, places around the world.**

**Oh let's go ..... read a book !"**

Happily,

Our Kindergarten Teachers & Teaching Assistants

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## FIRST GRADE NEWS



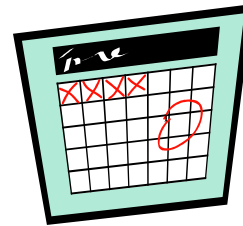
It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is quickly approaching and our "little" first graders are not so little anymore. In May we welcomed into our classrooms the opportunity to witness the life cycle of an egg to chick. It has and continues to be one of our most memorable units. We connected our learning to Non-fiction reading and writing about oviparous animals. Also, in Science, many first graders began their Seed to Plant unit. Our young scientist had an opportunity to investigate germination of seeds in the classroom. Many have also sowed and nurtured some plants and vegetables that will be replanted into our Second Grade Butterfly Garden. The children will have the pleasure of watching over these seedlings even when they enter the second grade this upcoming September.

An important field trip that also took place in May was the trip to the Somers Library. First Graders had the opportunity to get new library cards and to take out books. The Somers Library reported that over 100 new library cards were issued! First Grade teachers encourage their students to use their library cards over the summer. Remember parents, two months is a long time, so keep those minds growing by reading with your child everyday. Children need to read every day as well to practice their own reading skills. Use this special time over the summer to have your child write letters to family members far away or even make a book about their summer vacation to share with their new teacher in the fall!

Many thanks to the PTA for sponsoring our Red Grammer program. The children as well as the teachers always enjoy the songs and dance! On behalf of all the first grade teachers ... we wish you a wonderful and safe summer!

Upcoming events in June include:

- Red, White and Blue Picnic for Flag Day on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- First Grade Field Day is on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- "You Read, I Read, We All Read For Ice Cream"
- Celebration – June 17<sup>th</sup>
- First Grade Tag Sale is on June 25<sup>th</sup>



## SECOND GRADE NEWS

This has been an amazing month for Second Graders here at Primrose.

There have been so many interesting experiences and adventures. The PTA provided Primrose with a sing-a-long with Red Grammer. High school students visited the second graders and shared their learning through books they created about Nigerian Folk Tales.

Our classrooms are packed with new learnings each day. We have been studying fractions, measurement, place value and multiplication strategies in Math.

As always, in Language Arts, we read together in guided reading groups, shared reading and independent reading.

The students are continuing to grow in fluency and comprehension. Many of us are working on our Grandparent Interview Books, while others are doing non-fiction research, reading biographies, writing responses to books, poetry and writing letters to our friends and teachers.

Science and spring have given us lots of opportunities to explore our studies in Lifecycles. We are discussing the Butterfly Lifecycle and each class will watch them transform from larva, to chrysalis, to Painted Lady Butterflies. Our butterfly garden is a beautiful place to release them into nature.

Our visits to S.I.S. reinforced the fact that very soon our Second Graders will be moving on to Third Grade. The students were met by their pen pals and given guided tours of their new school. All in all, it's been a very exciting month and it's hard to believe we will soon be saying good-bye. We will miss all of our second graders but will look forward to hearing about their achievements in the years to come!!

PRIMROSE PTA  
Holiday Happiness  
Saturday, December 6, 2008

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

As we all head off for summer vacation, preparations are already taking place for the annual Primrose PTA Holiday Happiness craft fair.

Holiday Happiness is a tremendous event that is a long standing tradition to both Primrose as well as holiday shoppers. Money raised from this event helps fund great programs that are enjoyed by our children - Authors Days, Red Ribbon Week, Family Night, Field Days, Parent Programs, Memory book – just to name a few. We need your help to make this day a success. We are looking for volunteers (dads too!) that would like to head up any of the following committees - you can do this on your own or recruit a friend to do it with you:

Nail and Face Painting, Game Room, Program Sales, Publicity,  
Sand Art and Vendor Registration.



**For more information  
please contact:**

Jennifer Maestri 243-9525  
jenmaestri@aol.com

Maria Marschke 276-2347  
lmsemarschke@optonline.net

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION WINNERS!**

### **Box Tops for Education is a year round fundraiser!**



Our school receives \$.10 for every box top sent in.

If every student participates, that's \$\$\$ for our school.

Grandparents can clip too!

The PTA would like to thank our parents, teachers and staff for participating in this great fundraiser! Because of your help, we have raised over \$1,100 to help pay for the fun programs for our kids. As summer approaches and vacations begin, please continue to collect and save box tops. September will be here in no time and the PTA needs your continued support!

### **Our April winners are:**

**Kindergarten:** Deanna B., Alessandro S., and Matthew R.

**1st grade:** CJ F, Claire H., and Joanna R.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Graders:** Connor G., Lauren H., and Breanna M.

### **Our May winners are:**

**Kindergarten:** Keira F., Thomas P., and Luke P.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade:** Christopher K., Jordan S., and Patrick B.

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade:** Alyssa K., Aiden M., and William M.

### **Congratulations!!**

**Note:** It is very important that you cut out the box tops on the line first and *then* write your child's name, teacher and grade on the back of each box top.

(Please do not send in Campbell's labels for Education or Betty Crocker points.)

# SOMERSPTACOUNCIL.ORG

School Calendar

Committee Information

Newsletter Archive

Download Time-Saving Forms



Our website will provide you with the most up-to-date information on events and news of the PTA as well as all of the exciting activities and programs happening at Primrose throughout the year!



## PARKING LOT SAFETY!

With so many parents & children coming and going, please make certain that you **ONLY** park in **DESIGNATED** parking spots.

Those with lines or fire lines are off-limits!

## PTA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to the Primrose PTA !! This year's final membership count for our school is 624.

Before the year comes to a close, the Primrose PTA wanted to let you know about some changes planned for our Membership drive for next year. We will be offering individual PTA Memberships for \$10.00 per member (look for the membership flier in your summer mailing in August) beginning with the 2008/2009 school year.

An important fact to remember about Membership...each school is an individual PTA Unit. What that means is if you have a child in Primrose and SIS you must join the PTA at EACH school. Joining at one school does not cover you for another.

Many people may not realize that one or two volunteers on the PTA compile, edit, copy and distribute our student directory each year. This is a monumental job that we are lucky these volunteers are willing to take on. Beginning in the 2008/2009 school year, *you will receive a student directory along with your PTA membership.* The PTA is proud to offer this service to its members, and thanks the Primrose community for its support of the PTA each year.

We hope you will consider becoming an active member of the PTA next year. Many hands make light work and we could certainly use yours!

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Adams

# Primrose PTA Newsletter

## Going Green in '08-'09

In an effort to save trees, money, "woman-power" and stress at the copiers, the Primrose PTA Newsletter will be "going green" next year.



You will receive one paper copy of the newsletter in your child's backpack next fall. In that issue, there will be notice that it will be the last paper copy distributed and from that point on all newsletters will be posted only on the PTA website. When each new newsletter is ready to be posted to the website, you will receive an emailed message saying that it is ready and that you should follow the link in the email to read all of the important information about PTA events at Primrose.

We will continue to have a few copies of the newsletter in the Main Office at Primrose for those who would like to pick up a paper copy.

*Thank you for helping us to make the earth a little greener—*

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT**

The Wee-Folk Art Show is scheduled for the same night as Family Fun Night .

Originally, the date was set for Friday, June 6th.

**The NEW DATE is Friday, June 13th.**

Please note the change of date!!!!

All second graders will be displaying a 3-D castle project they had an option of working on independently . These projects will be on display in the Royal Courtyard (weather permitting) on June 13th during Family Fun Night. We look forward to seeing you there!

We would like to thank Doris Smith for all her hard work and dedication in serving as the additional art teacher throughout the past years. We will welcome Mrs. Colleen Sheehy (High School, Art Teacher) who will be taking on this new position for next year.

You will still see Mrs. Smith working in Primrose however, she will be working as a permanent substitute, in the library, and supporting students in the school.

# We Did It!



Dear Somers Parents:

As most of you know the funding for the Student Resource Officers have been put back into the state's budget for 2009. We are very lucky to continue to have Officer Todd Williams in our schools and working with our children.

Somers PTA Council would like to thank all the individuals that took time out of their busy schedules to write letters in support of our Student Resource Officer. Our effort resulted in over 5,000 letters being sent to each Governor Patterson, Senator Vincent Leibell and Assemblyman Greg Ball.

It is amazing what can be accomplished when people come together for a common goal.

Sincerely,

Somers PTA Presidents



F.Y.I.

Dear Somers Parents,

The PTA has historically sponsored a summer school store that coincided with the pickup of pre-packaged school supplies for Primrose and SIS students at the end of August. This has historically been a service to the community and was not intended as a fundraiser. Due to the increased availability at office supply stores and large department stores that offer a wide variety of school supplies at great prices, we have decided to discontinue this service. The SMS School Store will continue to operate as it normally does during the regular school year.

Pre-packaged school supplies will continue to be offered to parents of Primrose and SIS students.

Look for more information about this in backpacks and on our websites.

We hope this advance notice will help you prepare for the fall school year. We appreciate the support that you all have given to this program in the past and we hope for you all to have a safe and very relaxing summer.

Leah Irvine, SMS PTA President



Thanks to some very dedicated and hardworking volunteers, we have had a wonderful year at the Publication Center.

Thank you to Mr. Tetro, our teacher coordinator, and to Mr. Fisher and Ms. Anaya for their support. I also want to thank our "roommate", Mrs. Weiner.

You have been great to share an office with!

**PUBLICATION CENTER**

Have a wonderful, fun and safe summer

Brigitte Pugliese