From the PTA President
Carrie Marxen

April is finally upon us! Spring Break...spring flowers...is it too early to say that warmer weather is coming? Well, it is not too early for the PTA to start thinking about the 2009–2010 school year! Our future President, Amanda Stevens, is already starting to put together her team for next year. The next couple of newsletters will detail any committee chair positions that are open. Being a committee chair is a great way to be involved with your child's school. Some committees are short-lived, while some are active all year. Some require face to face meetings, while others can be done completely from the comfort of your own home. Some are easy, some are...well...not as easy! In the long run, they all give you a sense of satisfaction having taken on a task and seeing it through, all while supporting our kids and our schools.

Please look over any open positions listed. Don’t hesitate—chair assignments go quickly!

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

From the Superintendent
Kathi Cronin

The annual school and budget election will take place this year on Tuesday, April 21st, from 4:00pm–9:00pm. Registered voters may vote in person or by absentee ballot. Voting absentee is a simple process and voters no longer have to state a reason for voting absentee. If you think you may be busy on April 21st, or if you have a member of your family who is a registered voter but will be away or at college on that day, then voting by absent is the perfect solution! The following link will allow you to download an absentee ballot form at www.visitmonmouth.com. Absentee ballot forms are also available in the school offices for your convenience.

I encourage all families and community members to participate in the school and budget election on April 21st!
PARENT POWER!
One of the best ways to support your PTA is to volunteer

Open Committees for 2009–2010

FUNDRAISERS
Note Card Fundraiser: Coordinate a drive that creates note cards out of our children's artwork.

Coupon Book: Coordinate the Coupon Book sale which helps save money and raise money for the school at the same time.

CURRICULUM, COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS
Art Appreciation Grade 4 (2 positions): Help coordinate volunteers who will present information about artists and their artwork to the fourth grade.

Community Safety and Awareness: Interested in helping to keep our kids safe? Work with the Fair Haven Police department to expand knowledge of programs designed to keep our children and community safe.

Holiday Gift Giving (2 positions): Help make a difference to those in need during the holidays. Coordinate gift giving programs with local charities and organize the drives in the schools.

Third Grade Sickles Science Club (2–3 positions): Coordinate volunteers and a prewritten science program and help get our third graders get excited about Science.

School Flowerpots: Make our schools look beautiful! Help keep the planters filled with seasonal flowers.

Parent Book Group: Love to read? This one might be for you. Select books that will inspire other parents and be discussed in the Sickles library at the end of each month.

Publicity: Help get the word out about our school and/or PTA events by working with newspapers and local media.

Friends of Different Learners: Help needed to organize and update resource binders available to the community on various topics related to different learning styles.

Knollwood Book Fair
The Knollwood Book Fair will be April 20–24 in the Knollwood library/media center. (The same week as the Sickles Book Fair.) The Book Fair will be open during school and until 3:30 pm each day. Wednesday night there will be evening shopping hours 6:30 pm–8:30 pm. Parents are always welcome to come.

The 4th and 5th grade students come to the fair twice during school: once to browse, and a second time to buy. Sixth to eighth graders only come once, so remember to send them to school with book-shopping money on their one book fair day. Checks should be made payable to the Fair Haven PTA. For 8th graders, most of the required RFH summer reading books will be on sale. We'll have copies of the reading list for you too. We need volunteers (see page 3).

Important Dates
• Cultural Enrichment Assemblies:
  – Franklin Institute, Program on Flight (April 13th)
  – Battle of Monmouth—for 6th grade (April 24th)
• Student Art Show, Knollwood (April 16th, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm)
• Fourth Grade Art Appreciation, Knollwood (April 17th, 8:30 am–11:30 am)
• The 2009 PTA House Tour, “Fair Haven’s First Floors,” (June 3rd)
• Family Fun! Keansburg Runaway Rapids (June 18th/Rain date, June 19th)

Family Movie Night
Tuesday, April 21st, 6:00–8:00 pm, Sickles APR
Join us and enjoy animated movies created by children of all ages from Small Factory Productions, complete with popcorn and refreshments. Movie Night attendees will have the chance to enter a raffle to win enrollment in Small Factory Productions Summer Camp program! Come to Movie Night, donate a $1 to “One For Books” and you’ll be entered to win!

“One For Books” $1 donations will be accepted all week during the book fair for another opportunity to win a Small Factory Productions Summer Camp session!

Students will also have other opportunities to enter grade- and school-wide raffles. Third graders enter a Book Fair Poster Contest. Send in photos of your “reading stars” reading their favorite book. Photos will be displayed on the Walk of Fame.

Please contact Christine Hearn, at 219-6653, or cjc209@hotmail.com, or Donna Francis, at 747-6031, or wbilldonna@msn.com for further information.

BoosteR Club Spring Fling
Friday, May 1st, 7:30 pm
The Raven and The Peach
Live Music, Food and Silent Auction!
To benefit Knollwood sports program
Reservation form will go home soon.
PTA Book Group
Talent Meets Passion in “The Element”
With his signature wry British wit, Sir Ken Robinson offers readers, “The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything.” When natural talent and personal passion meet, people can arrive at “the element” where they feel most inspired, at ease, and can achieve their greatest success and happiness. The creative stories of famous and lesser-known individuals illustrate the power of creativity, influence, attitude, aptitude and raw talent. Find your path and encourage your children on their own journeys. Join us for inspiration and discussion on Tuesday, April 28th, 1:30pm–2:30pm, in the conference room at Sickles. Please contact Kate Appezzato at kappezzato@hotmail.com with questions and future title suggestions.

BOE Candidates’ Night
The Fair Haven PTA and The Monmouth County League of Women Voters Presents the 2009 Board of Education Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30pm in the Knollwood All Purpose Room. Come to ask questions and hear the platforms of each of the six candidates for the Fair Haven Board of Education. Any questions, please contact Amanda Stevens at astevens197@verizon.net.

Volunteers Needed

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK, MAY 4TH–MAY 8TH
We need volunteers to help with contributions and other tasks. Contact Sarah Stypa at sstypa@mac.com or 842-5297 to volunteer.

SICKLES ART DAY, MAY 22ND
Many volunteers needed to make this day a success. We need Craft leaders, full-day and half day help or take home jobs for before the event. Please contact Tracy Rehder (tldreher@yahoo.com or 747-4837), Tori McAndrews (mcandret@mac.com or 212-8750), or Judy Horan (judyandjohnhoran@aol.com or 758-1162) to volunteer.

CLASS AMBASSADORS FOR 2009–2010
Looking for one Ambassador for the following grades next year: First, Second and Seventh. Please contact Suzy Manelski by May 15th (933-9093 or suzy@manelski.com) to volunteer.

SICKLES AND KNOLLWOOD BOOK FAIRS, APRIL 20TH–APRIL 24TH
Important events that can only happen with your help. Various positions still open. Contact Randi Walker/Sickles (randi_rubin@yahoo.com) or Helen Heintz/Knollwood (helen.heintz@gmail.com) to help out.

Note Card Fundraiser
Giving thank-you cards and short notes is so much more exciting when they are designed by your child! Have your child start thinking about their design now so they’ll be ready to draw when the materials come home. The order forms and drawing cards will arrive home with your child soon. Just have them draw their design on the order form and we will transform them into a set of note cards with envelopes ready for gift giving or personal use! Please contact Danielle Gasperini if you have any questions at danielle_gasperini@verizon.net.

PTA Book Group
Talent Meets Passion in “The Element”
With his signature wry British wit, Sir Ken Robinson offers readers, “The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything.” When natural talent and personal passion meet, people can arrive at “the element” where they feel most inspired, at ease, and can achieve their greatest success and happiness. The creative stories of famous and lesser-known individuals illustrate the power of creativity, influence, attitude, aptitude and raw talent. Find your path and encourage your children on their own journeys. Join us for inspiration and discussion on Tuesday, April 28th, 1:30pm–2:30pm, in the conference room at Sickles. Please contact Kate Appezzato at kappezzato@hotmail.com with questions and future title suggestions.

The Spring Used Clothing Drive
The Spring Used Clothing Drive begins on April 1st and ends on April 24th. We can accept your used wearable clothing (men’s, women’s and children’s); shoes and accessories (belts, handbags, scarves, ties, hats); soft household items (bedding, curtains, tablecloths and towels); stuffed animals and SMALL toys. Please put all items in plastic garbage bags and drop off on the front porch at 18 Browns Lane, Fair Haven. Additional drop-off will be at Sickles School during the evening hours of the Sickles Book Fair on Tues., April 21st. Questions, please contact Donna Ridgeway at 842-8625.

Sickles Art Day 2009
May 22nd has been set aside as Sickles Art Day 2009, so mark your calendars! This year our craft theme is “Sickles in Space!” Many volunteers are needed to make this day a success. Volunteer forms will be sent out soon. Please sign up and help out that day! No art experience needed!
Sickles Book Fair

Reading can make you a star!
April 20–24th, Sickles Library

The Book Fair will be open after school until 4:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with additional shopping hours on Tuesday and Thursday until 8:00 pm.

This year’s fair will feature, wonderful book titles for children in grades Pre-K–3, reference books, adult titles and activity books. There will be “Teacher Wish Lists” for fair attendees to purchase books for classrooms. In addition, a “One For Books” program to benefit school libraries and three charities will be available, as well as, raffles and fun theme-related activities.

Children will preview books at the fair with their teachers and then bring home a list of the titles they are interested in for purchase. Book selections from this year’s fair will also be read to each class prior to the fair. Volunteers are still needed for daytime and evening hours. Contact Randi Walker, at 530-6513, or randi_rubin@yahoo.com to volunteer.

PTA Luncheon Raises Over $23,000!

This year’s PTA Luncheon, was a great success meeting our goal, and raising just over $23,000 for our schools! Almost 300 people attended and enjoyed both the luncheon and fashion show that featured apparel from Grove stores Glow & Tula and fabulous jewelry by Susan Hodgkiss (Susan’s Creations). Venue coordinator Stacy Ross did a great job making sure the Sheraton provided our guests excellent service.

Our Luncheon could not take place without the support of area merchants and businesses, families and volunteers. We’d like to thank the Luncheon Committee Chairs: Cathy Alescio, Vicky Bogardus, MaryBeth Bull, Kelly Busch, Susan Culbert, Loretta Daluise, Elizabeth deQuillacq, Stephanie Dey, Carrie Eustace, Danielle Hester, Nenita Kilper, Meagan Longo, Jennie Lucci, Adriene Makstein, Sarah Maris, Carrie Marxen, Lisa McCabe, Jannette McManus, Megan Pelino, Dara Pfeil, Tracy Rehder, Stacy Ross, Beth Sillen, Erin Simpson, Kathryne Singleton, Susan Sorenson, Jennifer Sullivan, Jackie Wilhelm and Pat Wood and all of the people who worked on the committees.

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