

THE WASHINGTON NEWS

SPONSORED BY THE WASHINGTON PRIMARY PTA 2011-2012



Monthly Minders

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

November 28 - December 16th

Washington Toy Drive begins & ends

Wednesday, November 30th

Open House for Primary Schools @ HHS

Friday, December 2nd

Holiday Boutique

Monday, December 5th

Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 22nd

Winter Songfest

December 23rd - January 2nd

Winter Recess

Washington Primary School

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENTS

GREETINGS!

We have had quite a school year so far. We have been very lucky to have worked with so many great people who are so willing to give their time and effort towards creating a positive atmosphere for the children and families here at Washington Primary. We are hoping this year brings us more of those moments and more people coming forward to make new memories. So far, we have gotten off to a great start. The rain did nothing to dampen the children's enthusiasm as they enjoyed their first day back to school. Our new Superintendent, Mr. Polansky was on hand to observe the eager students bounding from their buses to their classrooms. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Harris introduced us to the Community First Aid Squad of Huntington and the Huntington Fire



First Day of School

Department respectively at the Washington Community days in October. Halloween brought us many interesting and original costumes as the children and teachers marched in line during the Halloween parade.

Our second annual Washington Family Fun Night at the Book Revue was well

received. Children enjoyed making book marks at the craft table. Mr. Malle's music students treated us to an early musical concert, and parents got a chance to get a head start on holiday shopping. Thanks to all who

came down and showed their support!

We were very saddened to say good bye to one of our beloved teachers, Mrs. Joanie Balsari who passed away a short time ago. She will forever be in our hearts and life will not be the same without her.

SHARI AND TERRY, Co-PRESIDENTS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON PRIMARY SAY FAREWELL TO BELOVED TEACHER, JOANIE BALSARI

Joan Balsari wasn't one for pretenses. What you saw is what you got. She was a genuine article and known for "telling it like it is." The veteran teacher was the same way in her second grade classroom at Washington Primary School, where she joined the faculty in 1996.

Mrs. Balsari passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. She had continued teaching her class well into the new school year only to learn that the cancer had spread.

"Joanie was loved by all of us here at Washington and losing her is devastating," Principal Marsha Neville said. "She was a professional who worked hard to give her students a fantastic classroom experience. The



kids really liked her and so did their parents. To say she will be missed is an understatement. She is irreplaceable."

"The Huntington School District has lost a real gem," Superintendent James W. Polansky said. "All of us were so very saddened to learn of Mrs. Balsari's passing. She will always be remembered for putting her students first. Her efforts on behalf of the children of this community will have a lasting impact as these young people mature and have families of their own. We were blessed to have her in our midst."

Mrs. Balsari was known for playing classical music in her room while students read or completed a writing assignment. She bounced around the building throughout the

day during breaks in her schedule, stopping to kiss and say hello to co-workers.

Mrs. Balsari, who served a stint as the Huntington High School junior varsity girls' tennis coach, enjoyed Washington School's diversity. "All of the students really get along with each other," she said last year. "It doesn't take them long to become good friends."

At Washington, Mrs. Balsari taught first and second grades. She could be tough one minute and a real softie the next. She liked getting right to the point and the kids appreciated that. Her classes always had a lot of laughs. "Getting up every morning and going to school gives me such a good feeling," she said. "I love seeing the children coming through the door with so much energy and a twinkle in their eyes."

In Remembrance of Joan Balsari, a Memory Garden will be dedicated in her Honor here at Washington. It will be a beautiful evergreen garden. All donations are welcome from our Washington families for this project. Please have checks and money orders made out to Washington PTA and place in the PTA box at the Front Office. Thank you.

WASHINGTON PRIMARY'S 2ND ANNUAL HARVEST HOEDOWN IS A BIG HIT!

Washington Primary School students were talking about the second annual PTA Harvest Hoedown for days in advance of the big event. A throng turned out last Friday night and enjoyed games, dancing, face painting and even a tattoo station. PTA volunteers, Michele



**Harvest Hoedown
11/18/11**



**One of our
"custom"
wrapped mummies.**

Deegan and Ilene Fucci, coordinated the evening which featured plenty of activity stations to keep hundreds of students and family members busy. The entire Washington community was able to get involved in one way or another. Teenage volunteers from Huntington High School and J. Taylor Finley Middle School pitched in and



**Lots of smiles at the
Harvest Hoedown!**

provided "invaluable" assistance at the game stations, Mrs. Deegan said. The popular dance floor drew a crowd. A mummy-wrap station was a fun addition to the evening. There was even a "Harvest Hoedown Art Wall" where volunteers assisted students and their siblings in creating festive art work destined for display in the hallway.

Meanwhile, outside the gym area where many of the activities occurred, students enjoyed hula hooping, sack races, and "kick the pumpkin." "Don't worry, no real pumpkins were harmed during that activity," Mrs. Deegan joked. PTA volunteers seemed to have the market cornered on games. But,

what's a party without pizza and treats? That was covered, too. Washington welcomed back Sweetie's Candy Cottage again this year and hot slices of Jonny D's pizza were also enjoyed by all. The biggest surprise of the evening came when "Mario" and "Luigi" appeared in person to shake hands and take pictures with students, courtesy of 'Play n' Trade' in

Huntington Village.

With all the fun at last week's Harvest Hoedown, one can only wonder what new ideas and special surprises are in store for next year's third annual event. "The PTA really outdid itself this year," Principal Marsha Neville said. "Everyone had a great time. The kids really enjoyed it."



**Harvest Hoedown
"ART WALL"**



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and "Luigi" appeared in person**

WASHINGTON PRIMARY ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE FEEDS OVER 300 FAMILIES

The Washington Primary Thanksgiving Food Drive ran from Nov. 3- Nov. 18 with each class being assigned an item that the Helping Hands Rescue Mission needed in order to provide Thanksgiving breakfast and dinner to needy families in our area. Each class made their own box to collect the food and add a personal touch of holiday cheer.

The Rescue Mission was thrilled with our participation, and with

the idea that our Washington students were learning how much a small gesture of kindness could make a big difference in our community.

As Mr. Al loaded the beautifully decorated boxes into the Rescue Mission's van, Rev. Gaines and Ms. Kim from Helping Hands visited each classroom to say "thank you," and "Happy Thanksgiving." The children were THRILLED to find out that Helping Hands would be able to provide a Thanksgiving supply box to over 300 families!



**FAMILY FUN NIGHT
WASHINGTON PRIMARY NIGHT AT THE
BOOK REVUE IN HUNTINGTON VILLAGE**

On November 18th, Washington Primary PTA held its second annual fundraiser at the Book Revue in Huntington. Along with the Book Revue, other merchants in town offered their support of our school. Ben and Jerry's gave back a generous donation from their sales to Washington Primary families, and Book Revue in house Cafe also offered the same incentive. In the end it was a very enjoyable day that lasted into the early evening. Special thanks go out to all of the teachers who gave their time and effort to read stories to the children and to all families who shopped their way closer to Holiday bliss! Another special musical treat was orchestrated by Mr. Malle and his fourth grade music students who put on an amazing musical performance! The individual solos were not to be missed! Mrs. Deegan and Mrs. Ribando once again, masterfully handled the craft table keeping our kids busy while Moms and Dads shopped to their heart's content making the evening a huge success. Thank you so much!



**Huntington Community Squad and
the Huntington Fire Department visit
Washington!**

