

# Washington Primary School Newsletter

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## What's Inside

Grade Level News	2
Jammin in the Gym	2
Parents as Reading Partners	2
Book Fair	2
Healthy Choices	3
Chess Club	4
New School in District?	4

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Family Book Fair Night  
March 11, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Variety Show  
March 12, 7 p.m. @ Jack Abrams School  
FREE EVENT!
- ◆ Board of Education,  
March 15 and March 22, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Spring Picture Day  
March 18
- ◆ PTA Meeting, Mar. 24  
@ 7:30 p.m.

## A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Would you like to spend some quality one-on-one time with your child? Would you like to share your scientific interests with a growing young mind?

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to consider **working on a science fair project with your child!** It's not too late! Our Washington Primary Science Fair will be held this year on **Tuesday, March 23, 2010.**

Each class will prepare a class project and each student is encouraged to do an individual project. New this year is our evening viewing time from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

If you haven't already, please send in a

note to your child's teacher stating that your child will be submitting a project. You will then receive a packet with instructions. The packets are also available on-line at our Washington school Web page. Be sure to follow the scientific method and the directions that are given, because this year our top scientist's projects will be entered into the Brookhaven National Lab Science Fair in May.

**All projects must be brought to school on March 22, 2010.**

Any questions - don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Neville

## Serve on the PTA Board

We're still looking for moms and dads to join the Board for the 2010-2011 school year. Anyone interested can contact the 2010 nominating committee chaired by Mrs. Shari Harris.

If you are interested please contact Shari at SHA587@aol.com.

The PTA is a powerful voice for our children; a relevant resource for families and communities; and a strong advocate for public education. Please consider the difference your ideas can make when shared with a team of wonderful parents and teachers.

## In Our Community

The BOE approved the donation of two 6' commercial benches contributed by Mr. Robert Conte from the old Burger Haven location at Depot Rd. and Pulaski Rd. The benches will be painted and secured on either side of the front entrance at Washington Primary School just in time for Spring. The PTA contacted Mr. Conte back in October to discuss the possibility of acquiring the benches and he generously donated them to the school district. We will invite Mr. Conte to come and visit the school and see the benches in their new location that will offer a place for parents to sit at the beginning or end of the school day. The Washington Primary School Families salute Mr. Robert Conte!

## Snow Day Makeups

We've had quite a long winter when it comes to snow here on Long Island.

As of March 8, we have had three days of no school due to the snow. Therefore, the Spring break and Memorial Day break will be shortened to make up for the classroom time lost. So take note: **school will be in session on Monday, April 5, Thursday, May 27, and Friday, May 28.** School will be closed for the national Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 31.



*Kindergarteners "rock and roll" at Jammin in the Gym.*

## Kindergarten and First Grade News

The 100th day of school was a very exciting celebration for our kindergarteners! Students created artistic posters using 100 items and proudly paraded them through the halls for their higher grade colleagues to view. They decorated themselves with glasses and hats designed with the number 100. Check out their creative

100<sup>th</sup> day artwork in the hallways next time you visit school.

First grade students got a special visit from the dentist recently to learn about good oral hygiene. They also have been busy writing their own "Tooth Story" about losing their first and second tooth.

## Second and Third Grade News

The second grade social in February was a great success! The children enjoyed making piñatas to take home.

Each child was each given a balloon to blow up and paste strips of newspaper on. As they waited for the first layer of the piñatas to dry, the children had pizza and made ice cream sundaes. They finished their piñatas by pasting strips of red, white and pink streamers, colors of Valentine's Day.

Mrs. Nancy Levine and Mrs. Karen Gentile received a well-deserved round of applause at the end of the event for their hard work in organizing this crafty fun social.

Second AND third graders traveled to Huntington High School to see a special production of Aesop's Fables. Coming up for third graders: the Butterfly Conservatory! More information to follow.

*Second graders made piñatas and enjoyed pizza and ice cream at the second grade social.*

## Jammin' in the Gym Fun



## Parents as Reading Partners, March 2-22

The Parents as Reading Partners program is in full swing. **Help us reach our 100% participation goal** by reading with your child 15 minutes each day!

It's a great way to spend quality time with your child. Each week send in the reading record that was sent home with your child. Your child will receive a special gift from the PTA. In addition, our PTA-sponsored Book Fair is scheduled for March 10-12, with the Family Book Night taking place

Thursday March 11 at 7 p.m. in the library. This special evening will once again include "Deal or No Deal Book Bingo" in the gym, with many great prizes!

You can make a donation so that a child who can't afford a book can receive one! To do so, send a check or cash to school in an envelope marked "PTA: Book Fair Donation. Checks should be made out to Washington PTA. Look for information in your child's

## Grocery Shopping: What You Need to Know

Advertisements and marketing messages reach young consumers in a variety of ways—television, radio, magazines, music, the Internet---and they're everywhere---homes, schools, child-care settings, grocery stores, shopping malls, theaters, sporting events, and airports. So it's important to be aware of how ads and marketing messages influence your family's eating habits.

Food and beverage marketing has a strong influence on our children and are often not in line with recommended healthful diets. "Food and beverage advertising on television influences children ages 2-11 years to prefer and purchase high-calorie and low-nutrient foods and beverages," says the Institute of Medicine's *Food Marketing to Children and Youth: Threat or Opportunity?* report overview.

The report also says that, "The top four grocery items children ages 8-12 years select, without parental permission, are high-calorie and low-nutrient foods and beverages. Candy, carbonated soft drinks, and salty snacks or chips, were ranked among the top leading items that teens ages 13-17 years old purchase with their own money." By educating your children about nutrition and advertising techniques, however, you can act as a counter-influence on your children's eating habits.

### What You Can Do

#### Pay Attention

When you shop, pay attention to your instincts and consider your choices carefully. Are you choosing a product that might not be as healthy as another, simply because the packaging is attractive or its advertising campaign is clever? Figuring out why you are inclined to make certain purchases is the first step in overcoming impulses prompted by advertisements and becoming a smarter shopper.

#### Talk to Your Kids

Kids, especially young kids, don't yet understand the persuasive intent behind advertisements. But you can help your

children learn how ads try to influence their choices. When you watch TV together or listen to the radio, ask your children about the products in the commercials and how they try to persuade the audience to buy a particular brand. At the store, look at packaging and the placement of different items on shelves, and discuss how this may make you notice some brands over others.

#### Make a List

To cut down on impulse purchases and the "nag factor" from your kids, make a list before you go to the supermarket. If your children are with you, make sure they have eaten beforehand, and make it clear that you are buying only the items on your list, and only the brands that you know are healthier options. Ask your kids to help you find some of the items on your list.

#### Do Your Homework

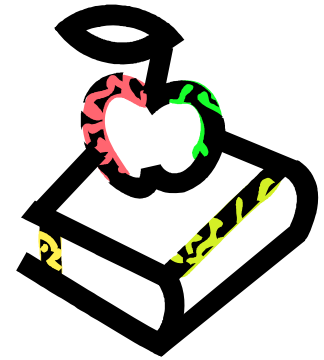
It's not always easy to judge how healthy the different items on a restaurant menu are. Many restaurants, however, especially large chains, post the nutrition details of their menu options online, or will give them to you upon request in the restaurant. You may be surprised about the nutritional content of the meals and decide to make different choices. Decide in advance what you will order.

#### Hold a Taste Test

For staple products hold a blind taste test in your kitchen---using generic and brand names of a few products. Once your family members have decided which option tastes best, reveal the brands and discuss whether their selections matched their (and your) expectations. Did a package make you think a certain brand would be better? Does the healthier brand actually taste better?

#### Where You Can Go

- \* The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)
- \* Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu)



*Healthy snacks provide energy and contribute to better concentration at school and while doing homework.*

# Huntington Chess Club for Children

Washington Primary  
School  
78 Whitson Road  
Huntington Station, NY  
11746

Phone:  
631-673-2090

The Huntington Children's Chess Club welcomes current and new participants (8 years and older) to join us on Saturday, March 6th at 3:30-4:30 for 4 weeks. The cost is \$40.00 and will meet at the Huntington Main Branch Library. For further questions, please contact Nancy L. at 631.547.0140 or via e-mail at: [taetoo@verizon.net](mailto:taetoo@verizon.net).

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## 300 Nassau Road?

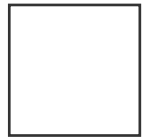
Superintendent of Schools John J. Finello spoke at a recent PTA meeting about the possibility of acquiring the former Touro Law School building on Nassau Road in order to relieve crowded conditions in schools and administrative offices in the district.

Roger Smith of Burton Behrendt Smith, an architectural and engineering firm, is looking for ways to outfit the building for public school student use.

Roger Smith from the firm said he has reviewed the current condition of the building, and believes that acquiring and updating it for reutilization as a public school would be less expensive than building a new school or adding on to current schools in the district.

“Washington  
Primary School...a  
respectful  
community”

We're on the Web!  
[Washington Primary](#)  
[Washington PTA](#)



## Letter from PTA Presidents

There was no mistake in the words 'WINTER Recess' this year, winter is exactly what we experienced! Due to the storm right before the break, both contingency snow days were used when the district made the decision to keep the schools closed on February 10th and 11th. As a result, the Memorial Day week-end will be a 3 day week-end as opposed to a 5 day week-end. Snowmen and snow angels could be seen throughout the community as well as sledding and snow boarding in the parks. Although the weather was dangerous at times, many children were able to enjoy the fluffy-slippery outdoor activities winter brings us. At times we may have had some very sore parents, having shoveled mounds of snow, but that didn't stop them from coming out to Family BINGO night or the Second Grade Social, both were very well attended. We'd like to thank School Superintendent Mr. Jay Finello for being our guest speaker at our January 27th PTA meeting and offering the parents a great deal of insight into the overcrowding issue we face in our school district and the resolves that are currently being considered.

This month we're looking forward to the Variety Show, Book Fair and participating in the PARP program. The variety show is a free night for families to come out and support the children as they entertain the audience with various performance acts. The book fair is always an exciting experience for the children as well as the adults. The school Librarian, Miss White, has a few favorite activities planned for family book fair night. **Parents/Family/Friends As Reading Partners** is a month long exercise that we hope will encourage parents to share a little of their time reading to our children. You'll receive more information in your child's folder as to how to participate.

Please make your best efforts to attend the Board of Ed meetings this month as the Board will be discussing the 2010-2011 school year budget. It is extremely important that our concerns are addressed during this crucial time. Non-mandated programs may be in jeopardy. The budget will be proposed for vote next month. You can also stay informed by visiting the school districts website, and attending the monthly PTA meetings.