

## PTA Newsletter

*February issue 3*

The PTA met on 1/12/09 at EBMS.

The January 12, 2009 PTA meeting was held in the cafeteria of EBMS at 6:00 pm; approximately 25 people were in attendance.

For the first half hour, the members split into 5 groups and compiled a list of questions, concerns and rumors' involving the district's building changes. Each group shared their comments noting repetition of many topics. Some of the topics covered in the lists include: bus changes, grade level configurations, moving the district office, closing AES and/or MES, and the safety of the Millerton building. These sheets were taken to the Board of Education Facility meeting at 6:30 by Mrs. McEnroe; some teachers and parents also attended this meeting. The list was not given to the BOE that night, but a compilation of the comments was made and given to the superintendent and BOE members with the hope that these topics would be addressed in a public forum in the next weeks.

Marilyn Unger, AES nurse, and member of the Playground Committee reported that there would be a spaghetti dinner with jazz music entertainment on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm, to raise funds for playground equipment. Due to the possible building changes, the playground location would not necessarily be at AES, but the need will exist wherever the primary grades are located. By the time the total amount is raised, the committee feels that the district long range facility plan will have been determined.

There was a discussion regarding a spring fundraiser and it was determined that a fundraiser(s) was necessary to cover the items that have been budgeted for the second semester. Plans for a Spring Fling for adults are still being researched.

There was a discussion regarding healthy snacks and how much control is possible in the classrooms. Some elementary school staff members stated that they always encourage the parents to send healthy snacks to school, especially when it will be shared, but it is very difficult to 'force or demand' this. It was suggested that when the nutrition committee meets, this could be a topic for further discussion. If anyone is interested in joining this committee or receiving information, please contact Joanne Boyd, 373 7805.

Some comments were made by parents of middle school students, particularly 6<sup>th</sup> graders, that they 'felt' a lack of communication between the school and home. Their children did not bring home flyers and the parents would like to be more aware of school and extra-curricular activities.

President Sue Pomeisl asked the members if they would be interested in attending a meeting in which the high school and middle school principals would discuss the security of their respective buildings; strong interest was expressed.

PTA officers and members have been attending the monthly BOE meetings and BOE Facilities Committee meetings. BOE meetings are held the first and second Mondays of each month. Facilities' meetings are usually scheduled on a Monday before a BOE meeting. At the January 21<sup>st</sup> Facilities meeting, members from the Amenia Town Board were present and the discussion included the Town acquiring the AES building for a town hall. If the school district sells a building for less than market value, a vote is needed for approval. BOE president Dale Culver was hopeful that the vote could be included with the May school budget vote. He and Board members feel that the buildings were paid for with taxpayer money and the buildings should remain as assets to the towns. The mayor of Millerton was also present and the future possibility of the village and Town of NorthEast acquiring the Millerton building was discussed. No decisions have been finalized regarding the grade level configurations for Sept. and future years. Public Forums are being planned. Possible February dates and locations will be determined by the BOE.

### **Next PTA Meeting- March 9, 2009 at the High School @ 6:00pm**

Baby sitting available for school aged children.

**From the Elementary School Playground Committee**  
THANK YOU to all the parents who contributed to our huge success at the spaghetti dinner held on 1/29. We raised close to \$900. Watch out for other upcoming fundraisers this spring.

# PTA

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## *Vice President News*

### **AES**

THANK YOU to the parents and grandparents who assisted the children at the Holiday Shop. Tori Alexander, Laura Calabrese, Holli Dunlavey, Vicky Jasmin, Brenda Johnson, Herb Johnson, Dawn Klingner, Brenda Renna, Brendha Rivera, Casey Swift, Sharon Veseley, and Renee Whitehead.

If you are interested in helping with future events please feel free to contact Kristen Lazarus at 518-789-9405.

### **WES**

Special thanks to Lynn Buckley for sponsoring this year's reading challenge reward. The students who participated in the reading challenge received a free movie pass to a movie night that was held at Webutuck Elementary on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Fun was had by all. Thanks also to all volunteers that helped make it a successful evening. Great job to all the students who kept reading over the summer. Thank you Mrs. Buckley for donating the proceeds of the movie night to the PTA.

### **EBMS/ WHS**

#### **From middle school**

Middle school principal, Dieter Schimmelpfennig, would like to encourage all parents, particularly parents of middle school students, to check the website periodically. Mr. Schimmelpfennig writes an informative monthly newsletter.

#### **From High school**

The Webutuck high school yearbook, *Webtide*, is now available for order. The price of the yearbook is \$65 and order forms were mailed home and are available in the high school office, or order on line at [www.jostensyearbook.com](http://www.jostensyearbook.com). Order yours today and support the yearbook.

## *Upcoming Events*

The PTA will host a special meeting, “**Providing a Safe School Experience**”, on **Monday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the high school**. Principals, Jay Posephney, Dieter Schimmelpfennig, and Katy McEnroe, will discuss security and student safety topics. The meeting will cover district procedures, building security, ‘what if?’ scenarios, and question and answer time. Please make every effort to attend.

The PTA will sponsor several **Friday Family Movie Nights**, a fun way to support the PTA's school programs! The first Movie Night will be Feb.20<sup>th</sup>. 6:30 pm at Webutuck Elementary School. Save the date – more information will be sent home.

### ***Get connected.....***

Sign up and receive information from the Key Communicator. A great way to receive *up to the minute* school district information via email.

Contact Tracy Trotter at [ttrotter@webutuckschools.org](mailto:ttrotter@webutuckschools.org)

### ***2008-2009 Officers***

President Sue Pomeisl  
AES VP Kristen Lazarus  
WES VP Ella & Trini Stevens  
EBMS VP Herb Johnson  
WHS VP JoAnn Herald  
Secretary K-5 Dawn Marie Klingner  
Secretary 6-12 Joanne Boyd  
Treasurer Mary Murphy  
and

**Parent volunteer YOU... Join today**

**\*\*\*There will be a public forum  
“Discussion on school building  
usage” on Wed. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm  
in the Amenia Town Hall. This will  
be televised live on Amenia's  
Channel 22\*\*\*\*\***