



The Foghorn

Volume 7, Issue 6

February 3, 2012

2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR: SAILING TO NEW HEIGHTS!

Happy Leap Year! Can it really be February already? Where has the time gone? Well, lately a group of hard-working volunteers have been spending tons of their time getting ready for our February 10th **Winterfest Dinner and Silent Auction**. The PTA is getting all a-tither with excitement about this great fundraising event for the whole family. Thank you to everyone who generously donated items for classrooms baskets and auction items. Since we know you're informed about this event, we'll just remind you to buy your adult dinner tickets and raffle tickets online now (Italian cuisine and decadent dessert bar, anyone???) or by using the forms sent home in backpacks. Don't wait until the night of the event since there'll be a limited amount and tickets will be \$15 instead of \$10 (for PTA members) or \$12 (non-PTA members). Remember, all kids are free! How can you resist the 50/50 raffle - \$10 will get you the opportunity to win 1/2 of the pot 'o cash prize while the other half goes to the school. Win-win! And, you don't want to miss out on the plethora of fun activities and goodies that you can buy with 1 RED raffle ticket (\$1 - and the more you buy the cheaper they are!) Is your head spinning from raffle ticket excitement and you need clarity and instruction? Go to our website (www.cottagelakepta.org) and click on the Winterfest link—all the info you need to find is there!

Speaking of winning, congratulations to the Flinn family in Mrs. Jackson's class for winning the Early Bird Special! Since they purchased their raffle tickets by the early bird deadline, they won two 50/50 raffle tickets! As of the time this document was published (Wednesday) the 50/50 pot is up to \$700!



Foreign Language Program:

Cottage Lake Parents: Are you aware that foreign language classes start at the highschool level in Northshore School District schools, unlike many other districts in the state which start in Jr. High? There's currently a proposal to incorporate foreign language classes at the junior high level, which was initiated by a letter to the district written by local citizens. NSD responded to that letter and is willing to meet for discussion. We are hoping to find an interested party to represent Cottage Lake Elementary in the upcoming meeting with the Northshore District Assistant superintendent of Secondary Education, Carolyn O'Keeffe, and the Director of Secondary Curriculum. We need folks who are good communicators and who are positive, step by step, consensus builders and solution enablers. If you are interested in attending the meeting on behalf of CLE, please contact west-coaststancins@gmail.com. More information can be found at our website.



PTA Executive Team for 2012-2013.

Interested in serving on the PTA Executive Committee? We have open positions for next year and want YOU! Ashley Sarmany leads our nominating committee (elections happen next month!) so please contact her for more information. (thicket23@yahoo.com).



Cottage Lake PTA Mission Statement

Our definition of "Success" is to connect **School, Home, and Community**; coming together to give... **Every Child, One Voice.**

Your PTA Officers:

Presidents:
Jodie Howerton
Kristen Bragg

Treasurer:
Megan Pickering

Secretaries:
Ariel Nugent
Jenni Young

Events:
Kres Jones
Jen Haldi

Communications:
Marilee Cipra

Fundraising:
Theresa Rumens-Shabro
Francine Sullivan

Mark Your Calendars:

February 7
PTA General Membership Meeting - 7pm

February 10, 6-9pm
WINTERFEST!!!

February 20-24
Mid-Winter Break

Winterfest Auction Events (you didn't think we were done talking about it, did you?) ☺

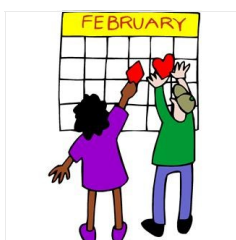
Yep, we're excited about Winterfest. And we're excited to share a new Winterfest development. Following are events that are being auctioned off as part of the Winterfest Auction, but you have the opportunity to buy your tickets online NOW (using the Winterfest icon) to guarantee your spot. You can also buy your tickets for these events at the auction... if there are any spots left!

Saturday, February 18th, 6:30-8:00pm: Pottery Painting Party at Creatively Yours Ceramic Painting Studio inside Crossroads Mall (near Old Navy and Hallmark). Guests receive free entry as well as free bottomless margaritas, chips and salsa - you simply have to pay for the piece of pottery you want to paint! 18 spots are available.

Saturday, March 3rd, 7:00pm-11:00pm: Girls Night Out at Belltown Billiards! Free pool, pitchers of beer and appetizers. Cost is \$10 and there are 40 spots available.



Saturday, March 31st, 4:30-8:00pm: Guys Night Out at Belltown Billiards! Free pool, pitchers of beer and appetizers. Cost is \$10 and there are 20 spots available.



Upcoming Events and Educational Forums - Busy! Busy!

Tuesday, February 7th, 7:00pm: General Membership PTA Meeting in the CLE Library.

Friday, February 10th, 6:00pm-9:00pm: WINTERFEST DINNER and SILENT AUCTION!!!!

Monday, February 13th, 7:00pm-8:30pm: EDUCATION FORUM - Do Unions Protect Bad Teachers? Myth vs. Reality: How the teacher evaluation system works in Northshore. Bothell High School Library. Presenters will include Tim Brittell, NSEA President, and Northshore School District administrators and teachers.

Thursday, February 16th, 6:30-8:30pm: COMMUNITY FORUM - Bothell High School to Host Parent Forum Discussing Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Each year, Bothell High School takes on a topic that they feel is important to the community. This year they will be hosting a forum which discusses the topic of drug and alcohol abuse. This is a very important event to make the community aware of the problems associated with drugs and alcohol and how to help a student or friend that is having problems with one or the other (or even both). There will be guest speakers and a panel available for questions after the presentation. Location: Bothell High School Library.

Monday, February 20th: Focus Day

This annual event is the one day when students, parents, teachers and others members of our community who are concerned about the inadequate state funding of education can be seen and heard together by our legislators. Our #1 WA State PTA Priority Issue is the implementation of legislation which ensures that every child in Washington has the education they deserve, and that each district is funded adequately to do the job. Obviously, this requires change and it's difficult for the state to ignore masses of people demanding it in person. This year Focus Day is being held on February 20th, a school holiday! What better way to teach our children about appropriate ways to demand change than to attend Focus Day, see the Governor and other legislators in person, and march around the Capitol? NSD is offering a chartered bus service to Olympia for the event! Please contact Carol Sexton if you are interested in the bus service. Carol Sexton, Legislative VP for the Northshore PTSA Council. Cell/Text: 206-920-2942. Email: carol.a.sexton@live.com

Monday, March 5th, 7:00pm-8:30pm: EDUCATION FORUM - Your Teachers' Union: Evil Empire or Advocates for Quality Schools; How we are working together for our students. @ Canyon Park Junion High Library. Presenters will include teachers from several Northshore Schools.



Did you know...

That that PTA has purchased Owl Pellets for second graders every year for the past 5+ years? This is great fun for the students and a wonderful hands-on learning project. Guess what one of our teachers had to say about it? Read on!

“Dear Cottage Lake PTA Awards and Grants Committee: Room 104 [Mrs. Lein, 2nd grade] would just like to say a special thank you for your kind support of our Owl Pellet project! This was the culminating activity in our Human Skeleton Unit, and we have all enjoyed practicing what we’ve learned to reconstruct a complete rodent skeleton (using the Owl Pellets that the PTA bought for us). Shhh... don’t tell our class pet rat, Pumpkin, that we were dissecting rodent skeletons! So, please accept our sincere thanks. We appreciate everything you do for us, all year long! Warmly, Christy Lein and the students in Room 104.”



Rece Lewis & Oliver Bragg



Legislative News:

Last month our State Supreme Court made a decision vital to the health of our childrens’ education. Nancy Chamberlain, a former CLE parent, has summarized the finding and encourages you to speak to your legislators and/or sign an online petition from the League of Education voters (links and information on our website). “Our State Constitution says the State must fully fund, before ANYTHING ELSE, a program to amply provide for the education of all Washington children. The Court also defined what “amply” and “education” mean so that there is no wiggle room, and said that ‘the legislature may not eliminate an offering from the basic education program for reasons unrelated to educational policy, such as fiscal crisis.’ The court believes that legislation passed in 2009, whose goal is to reform the way education is funded by 2018, will satisfy the underfunding. The Supreme Court will retain jurisdiction, which means they will be making sure this happens, or they have the power to assign a ‘Master’ to oversee the entire State budget process. The Washington State PTA put it this way: ‘This is an historic victory, and starting today we have a new conversation. No longer are we going to petition over loss of school days or access to all-day kindergarten. Starting today, the cuts stop and funding starts. Starting today, our top priority – a basic education that prepares all kids for college and career -- is also the state’s top priority.’” Great news for Washington kids!

Fundraising Corner:

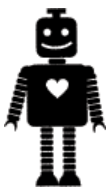
Do you ♥ Pizza? Dominos coupon cards are available from the PTA—they cost \$10 and include ten peel off coupons on the back. Each coupon is a buy one get one free with a savings potential of over \$100. To purchase a card, please contact nancy@thebatemans.com. What’s not to love?



Science Experiment du jour:

Try this at home: Magically balance a ball in the air!

Using a hair dryer, blow a stream of air straight up. Carefully balance a ping pong ball or spherical balloon above the airstream. Pull it slowly out of the flow. Notice that when only half the ball is out of the airstream, you can feel it being sucked back in. Let go of the ball and notice that it oscillates back and forth and then settles down near the center of the airstream. Tilt the airstream to one side and notice that the ball can still be suspended. Balance the ball in the airstream and then move the blower and the ball toward a wall (try the corner of a room). Notice the great increase in height of the suspended ball. When the ball is suspended in the airstream, the air flowing upward hits the bottom of the ball and slows down, generating a region of higher pressure. The high-pressure region of air under the ball holds the ball up against the pull of gravity. Science makes magic!



Keeping science in mind, save the date for the Cottage Lake Elementary Science Fair and Art Walk on Thursday, March 15th, from 6:30-8:00pm. Family and friends are welcome to view science projects in the gym and Building C (with hands-on science tables from Nature Vision, Inc. in the gym!), as well as student art displayed throughout the school.

