

# Joyce's Voice

November 2009

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*Joyce Kilmer Elementary School PTA/ (856)667-3903*



Dear Kilmer Family,

My name is Liz Snyder, and I am the President of the Joyce Kilmer PTA for the 2009-2010 school year. I am happy and honored to serve once again as the leader of an organization that promotes strong parent involvement in our school and advocates for the success of all of our children. I want especially to welcome all of the parents, students, teachers, and staff who are new to our school this year. And whether you are a new or returning, I urge you to become a member of the PTA!

Through newsletters, e-mail, our website, and our meetings, Kilmer PTA allows parents to be aware of and to respond to school activities and issues. In addition, it allows parents to network with other parents, to learn new skills, and maybe even make a new friend or two. Some of the ways Kilmer PTA contributes to our children, teachers, and school:

- Funds and organizes cultural arts and other educational assemblies
- Runs Family Nights (such as the Costume Ball and our very popular Skate Nights)
- Supports SCOPE Parent Education Nights
- Donates funds to community families in times of need
- Makes recess clubs available free to Kilmer students (Chess Club, for ex.)
- Purchases new supplies (such as library books and playground balls) and contributes to school beautification
- Funds transportation for field trips
- Organizes events and fundraisers such as Teacher Appreciation Week, Scholastic Book Fair, Kilmer Spirit Shop, and Holiday Secret Shop

The Executive Board's top goal this year is to increase our membership, and we have already exceeded last year's total. For those who have already joined, thank you very much, and if you haven't, please consider joining us! Contact Christine Rutkunas, our VP for Membership, with any questions.

In light of the flu pandemic, PTA has also been concentrating on Health and Safety. The board recently voted to devote health and safety funds to purchasing hand sanitizer dispensers located outside the APR, in the library, and in other areas around the school. Our Health and Safety VP, Donna Clear, is working closely with Mrs. Michael, our school nurse, and with Mr. Morton, to keep a close eye on issues of cleanliness in the school. I want to wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Yours,

Liz Snyder

Kilmer PTA president

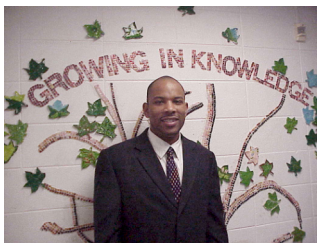
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Home of the  
Kilmer Cubs!



## Principal's Pen



Dear Parents and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today! I am extremely pleased to report that the school year has gotten off to a great start. As I am sure you have heard we are implementing some new processes this year that we feel will prove to be beneficial for your children. This year marks the first year of our use of the Rigby Literacy by Design reading program.

Literacy by Design is a research-based, structured program that was designed by some of the top educators from around the country. The program focuses on enhancing comprehension through differentiated instruction. The program provides great information about student progress, as well as the tools needed to help students make progress. We have also implemented a daily intervention/enrichment period that is designed to allow our children the ability to receive daily intervention or enrichment without losing any time from their primary instructional areas. All of our teachers work together to teach the specific, targeted skills that our children need to experience academic growth.



Probably the most confusing change has been the implementation of a five day elementary rotation. The five day rotation was implemented to ensure an equal distribution of days throughout the school year. Typically, most school holidays occur on the same day of the week, which causes students to consistently miss certain subjects. This has been greatly reduced due to the five day rotation. The current five day rotation is posted on the district's website under the News and Info link or you can find it at the following address:

<http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/news/calendar/ElemCalendar.cfm>



Finally, this time of the year represents a time to be thankful in reflecting on the many positive things we have in our lives. On a personal level I am especially thankful to have what I consider to be the greatest job in the world! I have the opportunity to interact on a daily basis with a dedicated staff, a wonderful group of young people, and passionate parents! Thank you for entrusting us with your children!

Sincerely,  
Kwame R. Morton, Sr.  
Principal



## Ways and Means Committee – Mindy Dooner

The school year has started with many successful fundraisers, thanks to all our parents and teachers! We had our Scholastic Book Fair in September. In addition to being a profitable fundraiser, we were able to offer our Librarian, Mrs. Wood, \$600 to spend on books from the Scholastic Catalog. She was able to add 30 books to the school library!

Our Entertainment Book Fundraiser was new this year, but proved to be a great success! Thanks to everyone who purchased a book, and also to those who got us extra

orders by asking co-workers, friends and family!

We now are finishing up our Sally Foster – Cookie Dough Fundraiser. These orders will be available the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Upcoming events:

Silver Diner Night – Wednesday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 5–8pm

Barnes and Noble Night – Wednesday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 5–9 pm

Holiday Secret Shop – Week of Dec. 7–11<sup>th</sup>

Thanks again for all your support!



## Fifth Grade Committee Update

The Fifth Grade Committee is responsible for providing the fifth grade class a memorable final year at Kilmer! Each fifth grade student receives a yearbook, t-shirt and beach towel as keepsakes of their time here. The class also takes a trip to Clementon Park and has a pool party at the end of the year. To help pay for these activities, we have planned the following fundraisers:

- Yankee Candle sale runs through November 13<sup>th</sup> with a pickup date of December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The Hoagie Heaven fundraiser will run from November 9<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> with delivery on November 24<sup>th</sup>

- Our annual Shop Till You Drop will be held on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> from 7–9:30 pm
- The Garden State Discovery Museum Membership and All Fired Up Gift Certificates run through March 31<sup>st</sup>
- We will host a scrapbooking day and Silpada Jewelry night during the winter
- Other fundraisers to be announced in future publications

We welcome any other ideas or assistance. Please contact Stacy Hoffman [shoffman37@verizon.net](mailto:shoffman37@verizon.net), Mimi Hutchinson [MAMIMAKA@aol.com](mailto:MAMIMAKA@aol.com), or Linda McCollum [linda1015@aol.com](mailto:linda1015@aol.com)



## Positive Behavior at School

By Jane Murphy, Basic Skills Teacher



PBSIS stands for Positive Behavior Support in Schools. At the beginning of the school year all the students attended Instructional Events during which they were reminded of the school's expectations for behavior – on the playground, in the hallway, in the bathrooms, in the APR, and in the classrooms. Throughout the year teachers are looking for students who demonstrate an understanding of these expectations. Students receive a Cub Coupon when they are caught doing the right thing. Every Monday morning there is a drawing, and one student from each grade level gets to pick a reward activity. They might

choose an extra 15 minutes of recess, a homework pass, an extra library book, leading the morning pledge, announcing the cub coupon winners, or reading aloud to another class. During Kilmer Day, at the end of the month, all the coupons earned during the month go into a jar for The Big Drawing. Excitement mounts when the names of the lucky winners are drawn! Monthly prizes include a mystery bag of treats, lunch on the stage, lunch with the principal, pajama day or healthy snack for their class. We are happy to see how many Kilmer students are recognized regularly for demonstrating positive behaviors!

What do you do with **Greeting Cards** when the occasion has passed? Throw them away?

Of course not!

Send them to the Library!

I cut the cards into strips and recycle them as **bookmarks** for the children. Not only is it environmentally friendly, it reinforces proper book care.

Help us today.

Send in your old greeting cards and I'll do the rest.

Thank you,

Mrs. Wood



## First Grade News

There have been so many exciting things happening in 1<sup>st</sup> grade! We have recently completed our first writing unit and had our author celebration. Students fixed and fancied up their selected piece and shared their stories with their classmates. We are now in unit 2 and students are writing small moment stories. Our students have recognized themselves as authors from unit 1, and are now in the process of writing with more detail and zooming in on a small moment.

In Math, we are continuing to build number sense and students have been learning many new games. Please continue to practice such games at home to help strengthen your child's number

sense and fluency.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders truly seemed to enjoy their recent visit to the Cherry Hill Fire Station. We are continuing to talk about fire safety within our classroom and our roles/responsibilities in and out of school.

We encourage you to take advantage of authentic reading, writing and math opportunities. Play word games at the dinner table or in the car, allow your child to count your pocket change, encourage list and letter writing, etc. As you send your child off to school, ask him/her what he/she will write about in Writers' Workshop. It's our partnership that makes the difference!



## Third Grade News

The third graders have been working very hard! In math, the students have been reviewing place value, estimating and making change. They have also been practicing their addition and subtraction facts each week, in hopes of mastering them. The children have become responsible and more consistent in finishing their assigned homework each night.

Guided reading groups have already been formed in reading. The children have been employing the strategies of making connections and asking questions to help them engage with the stories they read. They are also reviewing various phonics skills to

assist them in decoding text. Some groups have used sticky notes to assist them in remembering what they have read. Of course, all boys and girls are encouraged to read for pleasure at home!

In writing, all the classes are writing personal narratives. The students have been learning how to tell a story across their fingers, and then elaborate it with details. They have tried to begin their narratives with a catchy lead, and then revise and edit it to improve meaning. All students are trying to include thought-shots within their writing, as well as sound words. They are learning to write for longer periods of time without stopping.



## Joyce Kilmer PTA

[www.chlive.org/kilmerpta/](http://www.chlive.org/kilmerpta/)

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**Comment or  
Contribution  
for the next edition of  
*Joyce's Voice*?**

**Email  
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## Character Education Committee

Catch the WE CAN spirit! Mrs. Michael, our school nurse, has begun putting together her annual food baskets for some of our Kilmer families. She is gathering non-perishable (canned) food items for Thanksgiving meals.

It's a big job and she can't do it alone! CAN she count on your help?

CAN you send in canned fruit, vegetables, gravy or stuffing to help with this collection? Let's help her make the Thanksgiving Holiday a little brighter for some of our families. Thank you!



## Membership Committee – Christine Rutkunas

Joining PTA is easy and provides many benefits for all of our children. Your membership supports many different activities at Joyce Kilmer. Your Kilmer PTA membership has other benefits as well. When you join the Kilmer PTA, you are automatically a member of the NJPTA and the National PTA organizations. Information on the benefits of these memberships can be found on their websites – [njpta.org](http://njpta.org) and [pta.org](http://pta.org)

This year our membership goals include a 25% increase over last year's general membership and a 100% membership from our faculty. We are very close to achieving both goals. If you have not yet joined, please join now! Membership is just \$8 person and \$5 more for each additional household member. Membership forms can be found on the Kilmer PTA website at <http://www.chlive.org/kilmerpta/>

## *Important Dates to Remember!!!*

- Nov. 12 – PTA Meeting
- Nov. 17 – Literacy Night, grades 3-5
- Nov. 18 – Silver Diner Night
- Nov. 20 – Shop 'til You Drop!
- Nov. 23 – Pick up Sally Foster Orders
- Nov. 24 – Pick up Hoagie Heaven Orders
- Nov. 25 – 1:00 Dismissal
- Dec. 2 – Pick up Yankee Candle Orders
- Dec. 2 – Barnes & Noble Night
- Dec. 7-11 – Holiday Secret Shop
- Dec. 15 – Chick-fil-A Night
- Dec. 23 – 1:00 Dismissal