

The Middlebrook Messenger

June 8, 2009
Volume 0809, Issue 4

Principal Patricia Colello

Principal's News

Dear Middlebrook Parents and Friends,

It's June and the 2008-2009 school year has flown by! We have had a very successful year marked by our students' continued academic achievement as well as their contributions to the school and community at large. Of particular note are the success of our peer tutor-reading program that began this year under the direction of Mrs. Michaels and our Wellness Committee under the direction of Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. Plumb and Mrs. Siebold. We are very proud of all our students' hard work. They have certainly made a difference at Middlebrook School.

As parents, I know that you must be very proud of your children's progress and the staff appreciates all you have done this year to support our mission. Your hard work at home, in the classroom, through the PTA and Father's Club continues to make a difference in the learning environment at Middlebrook School. We truly value all of your support during the past year.

Kindergarten News

The end of the year is fast approaching!

We have been so busy this spring learning about our community. We have read and

discussed stories about different communities and community helpers. Now we know how everyone works together to make our community a better place for all of us.

We have also been learning about insects and how they grow. We watched our caterpillars make chrysalises and then emerge into beautiful butterflies. We have read and written about a variety of insects. We will complete our year with the study of ocean life.

As we approach summer, I would like to suggest a few ways to help your child to continue the progress he/she has made this year. The easiest is to read daily with your child. You also might consider taking a few moments for oral math computation while riding in the car. Finally, write to your child in a journal about your day, this will prompt him/her to answer you. This most definitely will be a great way to improve writing and provide a special connection for the two of you.

Now it is time to look forward to those sweet days of summer! I wish you a healthy, happy and relaxing summer. Finally, on behalf of the staff our best wishes go with the fifth grade students as they head off to middle school. You have made a difference at Middlebrook School and we will miss you.

Have a happy and relaxing summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Patricia Colello



Our celebration of the marriage of Q&U took place the end of May. All the letters of the alphabet attended, along with the students and their parents. A reception immediately followed the ceremony.

We are so proud of all the students! They have worked very hard learning the letters, muscle words and number concepts. Please continue to practice these skills during the summer.

Have a wonderful, happy summer!

Remember to read a book a day!



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Upcoming Events

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- ◆ FIFTH GRADE GRADUATION AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 6/26

First Grade News



The first graders have had a “spring of science.” We enjoyed planting in the Middlebrook gardens with thanks to our PTA for providing the lovely butterfly friendly plants. In each of the classrooms we have observed first hand the miracle of insect life cycles with our ladybugs and painted lady butterflies.

During the Beach Week we have studied the creatures of our

oceans. The ocean has four zones and first graders are always fascinated to find out who lives in each of the zones. It seems that the Abyss which is the darkest and deepest ocean zone is a habitat to some of the most dangerous creatures on earth.

As we end the year we thank you for all your support and we value the hard work you put forth on behalf of all the children

Second Grade News

May has been a busy month in Grade 2.... It is hard to believe we are almost at the end!

In reading, our children have been working on studying non-fiction text, asking questions, predicting, and inferring. They have been learning and applying all their wonderful reading strategies and becoming very comfortable with reading independently. Second graders have also been researching Famous American landmarks. With the help of our librarian, the children are working in groups to research and then type reports on the Liberty Bell, the White House, the Bald Eagle, Statue of Liberty, the Lincoln Memorial,

and the American flag. In Math, the children are working on solving subtraction problems by subtracting in parts and developing fluency with addition and subtraction. Keep practicing those math facts! This month we have begun our soil unit in science. The children have collected soil from different areas outside and have observed and recorded their observations. The children are very excited about studying plants in worms in the final weeks of school. The Second Grade teachers would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout this school year. It has been a pleasure teaching your children. Enjoy the summer.



Third Grade News

Third Grade has had an awesome third trimester! First of all, the Expo was a huge success. After months of practice, students put on an impressive show filled with exciting music from around the world! Also, we went on two educational field trips. Our visit to Old Mine Park in Trumbull gave students the opportunity to apply knowledge from our rocks and minerals unit, and use rock hammers to break off their own pieces of granite, marble, quartz, and more! They learned to classify and sort minerals based on specific characteristics, as well as, identify plants and growth around the pond.

Thank you to all of the parents who helped with our McDonald's lunch. It was a special treat! Our most recent trip was to Trumbull Historical Society, where students were able to tour an old building filled with artifacts from the 17, 18 and early 1900's. In addition, photographs of historical landmarks, businesses, and Trumbull's first pioneers were also seen and discussed. This also ties in with our pioneer unit for social studies. So, where are we off to next? The Bronx Zoo on June 8th to study animals and their habitats. It should be a roaring good time!



Fifth Grade News

Mrs. Bossio's class held the Potato Olympics in room C-5 during the last week of May. Student sponsors guided their Potatolympian through events such as gymnastics, equestrian, and weightlifting. Students reviewed and sharpened their Math Skills during the Potato Olympics as well as had some fun.

The gold medalist was Natalie sponsored by Angel Panton-Lula, the silver medalist was Clare sponsored by Diana Jones, and the bronze medalist was Chloe sponsored by Marceline DeAngelis. Though not every Potatolympian won a medal, every student enjoyed the experience.



Art News

The annual art show at the Trumbull Mall is here! May 28 through June 10, student artwork from the Trumbull Public Elementary, Middle, and High Schools will be on display for all to view.

The opening reception was a success! It was a pleasure to see many

Middlebrook students and their parents in attendance. Congratulations to all those Middlebrook students whose artwork was chosen to be displayed in the show!

From Mrs. Edwards in the art room



Library News

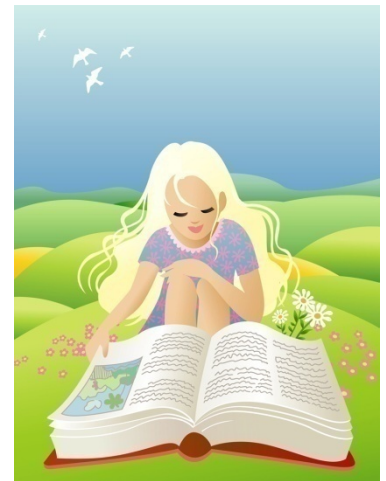
Middlebrook students participated in many exciting experiences this spring season in the library. Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, students enjoyed visiting with authors and a storyteller during our Literature Week in April. The children were exposed to many examples of the authors' work in anticipation of the visit. In addition, upper grade students researched the authors, and our first grade classes created a book titled *Biscuit's Adventures at Middlebrook School*. This was based on the author's, Alyssa Satin Capucilli, style of writing, and we presented the book to her. This year, students have shown great success in research skills, use of technology, and their ability to use the library independently.

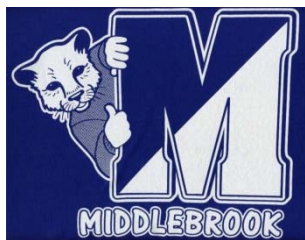
The week of June 1st will be the last time students may select books from the library. All library materials borrowed by parents or students must be returned by **June 12th**. Please remind your children to return all their materials since we still have a number of students with overdue items or fines dating back to January.

If a book is lost, please send in a check (payable to Middlebrook School) that covers the replacement cost of the book.

Thank you to our PTA on behalf of the students and teachers for the generous donation to our library of many books through Scholastic, Inc. Also, thank you to the many families who have participated in Middlebrook's Birthday/Gift Book Club this year. A reminder about our Birthday/Gift Book Club - some parents have inquired about giving a special gift in honor of a teacher, or graduating students, or for a birthday gift. We have several new books available for donation to the library in honor of your special someone. The titles and suggested grade levels of the books are listed on our website (on the media center page). If you have any questions, please contact me for more information at 452-4413 or e-mail @ LBalzano@trumbullps.org.

Have a fabulous summer, and be sure to enjoy some great books!
Mrs. Balzano





2008-2009 PTA Officers

President – Vinnie Long

1st VP – Robin Bova

2nd VP – Sue Wyckoff

3rd VP – Pat Colello

Secretary – Sara Matschke

Treasurer – Michele Karpowich



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2009-2010 PTA Officers

President – Lisa Hughes

1st VP – Kim Johnson

2nd VP – Oz Yorulmaz

3rd VP – Pat Colello

Secretary – Cindy Andrzejewski

Treasurer – Jannise Castaldi

PTA President's News

Dear Middlebrook friends and families,

Hello & Happy Spring! Can you believe it? The school year is almost over and you can just feel the excitement and promise of summer days as you walk through the halls at Middlebrook. The children are definitely excited for summer vacation as I'm sure we all are. For many of us it feels like the end of an era, as our children move on to middle school and beyond.

Over the last three years, I have had the honor of serving as your PTA President. I would like to take this final opportunity to thank those who have been invaluable to me throughout the years. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Executive Officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Robin Bova has served two consecutive terms on the executive board, first as Co-President and most recently as the 1st Vice President. Her dedication to Middlebrook made her a key member of the PTA. Robin put much thought and creativity to the test when she created the Middlebrook Website. She has since put that creativity to use on the Middlebrook Yearbook. Sue Wyckoff took on the position of 2nd Vice President and moved full speed ahead. The last four Bingo Nights have been a huge success due to her incredible organizational skills and sense of duty. She's also been instrumental in putting together the Middlebrook Directory which was reinstated three years ago after a three year absence. Sue is also a key member of the 5th Grade Activities Committee. She's currently working on the 5th Grade DVD Slide-Show to ensure that every child is represented and that the graduates all leave with a piece of Middlebrook history. Our PTA would not be complete without the dedication of our Treasurer. Michele Karpowich is accountable for ensuring that we all operate within our financial means and controls the PTA budget. She works hard to ensure that the money spent is always in the best interest of the children.

Throughout the years, she has served on other important committees such as Room Mothers and Yearbook and most recently, the Middlebrook Newsletter. She single-handedly revamped the look of the newsletter, renamed it the "Middlebrook Messenger" and made it her own. Sara Matschke took on her role as PTA Secretary and expanded that role by making herself indispensable behind the scenes. She willingly took on a 3rd year in this position and never missed a beat. Her optimism and enthusiasm will never be forgotten. Because of everyone's dedication, we were able to move Middlebrook into a new electronic age. The Middlebrook website was established, along with the Electronic E-news blast, making it easier to keep up with the latest happenings at Middlebrook and throughout the Trumbull Public School system.

One of our greatest achievements was the official opening of the Middlebrook courtyard. This project started in 2004 when Pam Wickham and I established the School Enhancement Committee. Our mission that year was to create a space for outdoor lessons and quiet reading; a peaceful place where the children could enjoy the sunshine and serene atmosphere of the outdoors. With Mrs. Collello's support and the help of parent volunteers and the Father's Club, we spent many backbreaking hours clearing the courtyard of neglected and overgrown weeds, bushes, trees, and debris. The slow transition from old to new was complete with the installation of the patio last year. The patio will always be a remembrance of days past. It continues to be a dedication to past and present students, teachers, and staff and most of all, a piece of Middlebrook history.

PTA President’s News (contd)

For many of us this is the end of the road, I am delighted to have been a part of this wonderful team and look forward to honoring all the retiring committee board members at our PTA Installation Dinner next week. I have the privilege of installing the new Executive Officers for the 2009 – 2011 terms. I am confident that they are motivated and willing to meet the challenges of running the PTA for the next two years. They will carry on the tradition of encouraging parent involvement so that PTA sponsored events will continue for the students and staff. The best of luck to Lisa Hughes, Kim Johnson, Oz Yorulmaz, Cindy Andrzejewski and Jannise Castaldi!

Most of all, I want to thank the Middlebrook parents, Mrs. Colello, the teachers and the office staff! It is with their support that the Middlebrook PTA continues to make a difference in helping our children succeed inside and outside the classroom!

Sincerely,
Vinnie Long
PTA President

Want to submit something to the newsletter? Please contact Michele Karpowich at mandjkarpowich@yahoo.com.



Teacher Appreciation News

The Teacher Appreciation Committee would like to thank all those families for their monetary donations towards Teacher Appreciation week. The teachers received extra money for supplies, a digital photo frame for the office...check it out, right now it has pictures of field day...and a little gift for our lunch staff, for all they do. A special thank you to all the families who donated the deliciously, wonderful food that made teacher appreciation week such a

success. Those generous families supplied food for over 80 staff members. The teachers and staff loved it!!!!!! Thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up. Your time was appreciated.

(... and a special thank you to Janet and Annettethey know what they did!!)

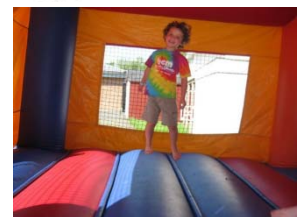
Thank you again,
Teacher Appreciation Committee



Middlebrook Father’s Club

The Father’s Club would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Spring Fling a great event, including everyone who helped plan, set up/clean up, as well as work at the event. We’re also thankful for the baked goods and raffle donations and of course all the smiling faces. These events cannot happen without all of your help.

Oz Yorulmaz and John Karpowich have finished their term as Co-President’s and Dean Fabrizio and Anthony Mancini will be their replacements.



Wellness Committee News



Middlebrook 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders were challenged this spring by their Student Wellness Committee Representatives to add a vegetable or fruit and to each and every meal for one week. Students logged their choices in chart form and returned the charts at the end of the challenge.

Students responded with lots of great healthy choices, including everything from avocados to watermelon. The classroom with the highest participation from each grade won a smoothie party, to be enjoyed this month.

The winners were:

3rd grade: Miss Iannacone's class, with 100% participation!

4th grade: Miss Massi's class, with 100% participation!

5th grade: Mrs. Bossio's class



Yearbook News

If you haven't purchased a yearbook yet, there are still some available. The cost is \$15.00 and they will be handed out the last week of school.

If you would like one, please send in a check made out to the Middlebrook PTA or cash in an envelope marked "Yearbook".

Please include your child's name and teacher's name.

Any questions? Please contact Robin Bova at 459-1375 or Mary Angelucci at 452-0185.



Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Summer!!

