

Albany Avenews

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALBANY AVENUE PTA
VOL. 15, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

PTA in Action



OFF THEY GO! Smooth Start volunteer Margaret Hroch assists kindergarteners as they get off the school bus during the first week of school.

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SEPT/OCT 2008

Upcoming Events

- September 5:
Fall Fundraiser begins
- September 9:
PTA meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- September 15 & 16
School pictures
- September 16:
Family Reflection Night
- September 19:
Fall Fundraiser ends
- September 27:
Welcome Back BBQ
- October 7:
PTA meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- October 21:
Family Reflection Night
- October 31:
Halloween Parade

Albany Avenue PTA Goes Green!

This year, in order to help save the environment and cut down on paper waste, Albany Avenue PTA has launched a new website to communicate its news and events to our PTA families. Check it out! The website address is www.albanyavenuepta.org.

Newsletters will now be available on our website, and there also will be about 50 hard copies located in the main office. If you have any questions, feel free to either contact us through the website or drop a note in the PTA mailbox, the big green box located in the main office.

We love to hear from you!

Membership Drive

Please support the Albany Avenue PTA. The membership fee is only \$7 per person. Your support is an important part of the funding for many of the programs and events that the PTA brings to the students of Albany Avenue.

You will be receiving your membership form shortly. Please complete the entire envelope. Dues can be brought to school with your child or returned to the PTA mailbox in the main office.

By providing us with your email address, you will enable us to contact you regarding PTA events.

—Theresa Laietta



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From the Desk of Mr. Valentine, Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

It is hard to believe that summer is over. I hope that everyone had some time to recharge and relax. It has been a very busy summer at Albany Avenue. We have finished writing our essential core curriculum in writing and look forward to implementing it in grades K-5. We are excited to offer two new 6:1:1 classes at our school. Ms. Felice Shapiro will be teaching our 1,2,3 class, while Mr. Ray LoFaro will be teaching our 4,5,6 class.

Many of you may have heard that Ms. Simonetti has accepted an Assistant Principal position in another district. While this is a great loss for us, I am happy to announce that Mr. Kevin Schwab is returning to Albany Avenue and will be teaching 4th grade. We also have two experienced teachers joining us from other school districts. Mrs. Lillian Masseria will be teaching Kindergarten and Mrs. Maura Westerman will be teaching our 3rd grade collaborative class. Finally, Mr. Matt DeMasi will be our new band director. Mr. DeMasi previously worked at Howitt Middle School. While there have been a lot of changes in our staff, we are very confident that all of our new staff members will raise the level of instruction for all of their students.

As with every summer, our secretaries and custodians did a tremendous job preparing for the opening of school. Schedules are in place, and the school looks beautiful. If you haven't already, please be sure to view our new murals in Albany Avenue's K-1 hallway, the bus lobby and the 4th grade hallway. Mrs. Yvonne Dagger spent the summer here beautifying our hallways.

Everyone at Albany Avenue is excited to be back to school, and we are looking forward to a wonderful school year.

From the desk of
Mrs. LoRusso,
Assistant Principal

Dear Albany Avenue Families,

Welcome back to another school year!

We hope all of you had a restful summer and are energized for a great year. A special welcome to our new Albany Avenue Families and our Kindergarteners, the new Farmingdale Class of 2021! We are so happy to have you here, and we hope all of the parents will join us at the first PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 9, at 7:30 in our cafeteria, which we call Heritage Hall. Our PTA at Albany Avenue is a great group headed by President Pete Scozzari. Come hear all the wonderful things available for you and your children to participate in!

Things get started right away with no time wasted. The Fall Fundraiser began on September 5, and our Open House takes place on September 8. Our first bus safety drill takes place Tuesday, September 9, and the first Board of Education meeting will be at Howitt on Wednesday, September 10 at 8 p.m.

The following week at Albany Avenue, we have School Pictures on Monday and Tuesday, September 15 and 16, and the 5th Grade will have the PRACTICE New York State Social Studies test on the 19th, which is also the day our Fundraiser ends.

We also will be having our first Family Reflection Night on Tuesday, September 16. These are nights when homework will not be assigned so that you, instead, can take that time to do activities as a family, such as playing games together, reading together, taking walks, talking together, etc.

Finally, on Saturday, September 27, there is a Welcome Back barbecue planned.

Lots of happenings here, as always, at Albany Avenue! By the way, if you haven't seen them already, check out our beautiful new murals in our Fourth Grade and Kindergarten hallways!

Best wishes for a great year, everyone!

Cultural Arts

To kick off the Character Education program this year, artist John Denaro will visit Albany Avenue the week of Sept. 22. Teachers will discuss a character trait word with their class, and each student will be asked to draw a picture of what that word means to them. Mr. Denaro will come up with a theme based on how the grade interpreted the word and draw this interpretation on the walls of Heritage Hall, which the children will help to paint. —Margaret Hroch



Family Reflection Nights

The Character Education Committee has developed the idea of Family Reflection Nights. These are one-night-a-month nights where a family doesn't have to worry about homework, can turn off the outside world and spend quality family time together.

This year, the ENTIRE Albany Avenue School will participate by having NO HOMEWORK assigned on these nights or tests scheduled for the following days. What follows is the Family Reflection Night schedule for the school year (please note, these are all Tuesday nights).

- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16
- January 20
- February 24
- March 17
- April 21
- May 19
- June 16

Helping Hands

If you can spare a minimum of one hour a week, the Helping Hands committee needs your help. Helping Hands is a program that brings PTA parents into the kindergarten classrooms to give the teachers an extra set of hands during the start of the day, center times, and/or at the end of the day. Volunteers are also needed in the library when the kindergartners are present. All parents are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer, please email me the days of the week, times and number of days per week you are available. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

—Lisa Byrnes
lisaby@verizon.net
798-8873



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School Pictures

This year, we will be taking Fall School Pictures only. There will NOT be a spring photo shoot. We would like to welcome our new photographer, Irvin Simon Photographers.

Pictures will be taken early this year, on Monday and Tuesday, September 15 and 16. As in the past, the date for your child will be highlighted on his or her order form, so please mark your calendars.

The due date to return the pre-paid order forms is Thursday, Sept. 11, so please return the forms to your teacher prior to this date. Please read the new forms carefully, as there are special instructions for multiple child families.

The backgrounds are Blue, Green and Red, so be sure to pick your background on the order form and dress your child accordingly.

Re-takes will be taken for absent children on Monday, Nov. 3. A reminder will be sent home prior to this date.

We are looking forward to making this a smooth and fun photo shoot. If you have any questions, feel free to call Irvin Simon Photographers at 516-437-4700, or me at 516-798-4947.

—Loralee Puppa
Albany Avenue Picture Chair

Albany Avenue's Welcome Back BBQ

The Albany Avenue PTA is sponsoring its 1st Welcome Back BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All of Albany Avenue's families and teachers are welcome to come and

celebrate the beginning of a new school year. We are asking for a \$5 donation per family to help pay for the cost of the event. While Applebees is serving hamburgers and hot dogs, Vinny Filipelli of High Voltage Sounds will be busy spinning the latest tunes. Bring a blanket, some lawn chairs and drinks for the whole family. Let's get the school year off to a great start. Come play with classmates, meet new parents, say hi to teachers and have fun with the Albany Avenue PTA!



—Diane Grossman
Committee Chair
799-8949

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Smooth Start

A very special Thank You to everyone who volunteered their time to make Smooth Start such a success. Because of you, our incoming kindergarteners were given

a special welcome that helped to ease the transition to their "new" school. Your time and effort helped to make the first couple of weeks of school less scary and less chaotic for the children, and I know that the teachers greatly appreciated the assistance they received in their classrooms.

Thank you so much for all you have done — once again, the program was a huge success because of your efforts. It was a pleasure working with all of you and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

—Dorene Kaufman
Smooth Start Chair

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

CHECKS FOR ALL FUNDRAISING SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO ALBANY AVENUE PTA AND INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER. ALL RETURNED CHECKS ARE SUBJECT TO A RETURNED CHECK BANK FEE.

The Power of the PTA

It takes many helping hands to make our PTA programs and events run smoothly and successfully. Please think about joining one or more of our committees. Whether you have only a little time or a lot, we need you! We're sure you'll find a committee that sounds interesting to you, and we promise you will find it to be a rewarding experience.

Committees:

Activewear
Anti-Bullying
Blood Drive
Book Swap
Boxtops
COPE
Family Fun/
Healthy Choices
Fifth Grade
Flying Carpet
Helping Hands
Hospitality
Jenkins
Jumprope for Hearts
Newsletter

PARP
Project Self-Esteem
PTA Dinners
Kindergarten
Registration
Reflections
Relay for Life
School Kits
School Pictures
School Store
SEPTA
Smooth Start
Student Appreciation
Welcome Back BBQ
Youth Council

Did you know...?

Our Fall Fundraiser began on Friday, Sept. 5, and ends on Friday, September 19. This year, as part of Albany Avenue's "going green" efforts, with any purchase made in our fundraiser, you will receive a reusable tote bag. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to the new school year.

—Lisa Pugliese
Ways and Means

2008-09 Executive Committee

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2nd Vice President, Ways and Means
3rd Vice President, Cultural Arts
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Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Membership Director
Classroom Representative
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Diane Monteleone

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Editor:
Dina Santorelli Rhein

Contact us:
Drop us a note in the PTA mailbox in the main office, or send an email to:
newsletter@albanyavenuepta.org.