

Welcome to **THE FOCUS**. This **WEEKLY** email is intended to streamline communications between school and home by providing one regular update on topics of general interest, reminders, etc. We hope this helps reduce the amount of duplicate email you currently may be getting from multiple sources. *NOTE: This is an official email of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District. It is not affiliated with the email list servs maintained by individual school PTOs (i.e., Dog Byte, WolfFlash) and other parent organizations.*

**January 27, 2012**

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### **REMINDER: K – 12 Early Dismissal on Monday, January 30th - Staff Development.**

Attention Parents of Special Education Students Transitioning from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade – On Thursday, February 16, from 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Timberlane Middle School Social Worker, Sarah Blaikie, will hold a special meeting for parents of special education students who are transitioning from grade 5 to grade 6. Topics of interest will include addressing fears about transition, various academic placements, and any other concerns you may have. Don't miss this opportunity to meet other parents of special education students and meet the middle school case managers. The meeting will take place at the middle school in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade House Center. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Blaikie at: [sblaikie@hvrsd.org](mailto:sblaikie@hvrsd.org) or 609-737-4004, ext. 4131.

Language Arts and Mathematics Placement Procedure Meetings - Informational meetings for parents will be held at Timberlane Middle School on February 9 and 16, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, in the Eighth Grade House Center. Both meetings will present the same information regarding the steps taken in the placement procedures for 6th grade language arts and mathematics. For more information please see the following link:

[http://www2.hvrsd.org/academics/mathematics/Documents/Parent\\_Meeting\\_Invitation\\_11-12.pdf](http://www2.hvrsd.org/academics/mathematics/Documents/Parent_Meeting_Invitation_11-12.pdf)

Chat with Dr. Smith - Dr. Smith encourages anyone who would like to discuss the district budget, our school programs or services to contact his office. He has set aside time from 8:00 am to 9:00 am each weekday to take your calls at 609.737.4000, x2101.

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Got Plans for College??? – Attention juniors and parents...get the latest information on college planning on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 pm, in the high school cafeteria.

Save Lives - February 16 is the Student Council's second blood drive of the year. The blood drive will take place from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, in the PAC lobby. Community members who wish to donate are welcome.

## TIMBERLANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Attention 8th Grade Parents!!! - Mark Your Calendars! - There will be a grade 8 to grade 9 transition program for all 8th grade parents at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday, February 8, at Central High School. A copy of the letter can be found on the TMS website.

Yearbooks are Now on Sale! - If your child is interested in purchasing a yearbook, please visit the Timberlane webpage. Purchases can be made electronically or by sending in an order form. The deadline for orders is March 16.

Spring Athletic Season - Spring Sports at Timberlane include lacrosse, baseball, softball and track. (6th grade may only participate in track.) The Spring Sports season will begin on Tuesday, March 13, for baseball, softball and lacrosse and Tuesday, March 20, for track. In preparation for the season, students will need to be medically cleared prior to participation. The district will be offering in-school physicals performed by school physicians on February 6, at a cost of \$25. Parents may sign up for an appointment by calling the Timberlane

Health Office at (609)737-4004, x3. Appointment slots are limited - sign up is on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in a school physical, please call the Health Office as soon as possible. **The deadline to submit medical forms to our health office for students participating in baseball, lacrosse or softball is Thursday, March 8, at 3:00 pm. The deadline to submit medical forms to our health office for students participating in track is Thursday, March 15, at 3:00 pm.**

Spring Sports Informational Meeting - There will be a meeting on Monday, February 6, during homeroom for any 6th, 7th or 8th grade student interested in participating in a spring sport: baseball, softball, lacrosse or track. The meeting will take place in the gym.

End of the 2nd Marking Period - The end of the second marking period is Friday, January 27. Report cards will be accessible to parents in Infinite Campus on Tuesday, February 7.

## **BEAR TAVERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tuesday, January 31 - Principal's Office Hours from 9:30 - 10:30 am. Take advantage of this opportunity to drop in and meet with Mr. Arcurio to discuss topics of your choosing.

Thursday, February 2 - Ground Hog Day! Will Phil see his shadow?

**Groundhog Day History - European Roots** (Adapted from "Groundhog Day: 1886 to 1992" by Bill Anderson)

*Groundhog Day, February 2, is a popular tradition in the United States. It is also a legend that traverses centuries, its origins clouded in the mists of time with ethnic cultures and animals awakening on specific dates. Myths such as this tie our present to the distant past when nature did, indeed, influence our lives. It is the day that the groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy, and hence, shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.*

PEECH Preschool Tours – Are you interested in preschool for your 3 or 4 year old for the 2012-2013 school year? A tour will be offered at Bear Tavern Elementary on February 8, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Applications can be found on the district website. PEECH is the school district's integrated preschool program, designed to offer children the opportunity to learn and play with age-appropriate peers.

## **HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal's Reading Challenge!!! - Mr. Friedrich has challenged HES students to read 125,000 minutes. If the challenge is met, he will camp out on the roof of Hopewell Elementary School. This idea was conceived and voted on by members of our Student Council. Click [here](#) to learn more as well as download a reading log.

Hopewell Gazette - The January edition of our [monthly newsletter](#) is now online!

PEECH Preschool Tours – Are you interested in preschool for your 3 or 4 year old for the 2012-13 school year? A tour will be offered at Hopewell Elementary on February 8, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Applications can be found on the district website. PEECH is the school district's integrated preschool program, designed to offer children the opportunity to learn and play with age-appropriate peers.

February Fun - February Fun Registration has started and is filling up fast! This annual PTO -sponsored event will be held on three Saturdays (February 4, 11, & 25) from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. A variety of fun, recreational classes will be taught by volunteer instructors. Registration forms were sent home via backpack and forms are also available on our website. Classes are filling up fast, so please check the website before filling out your registration form: <http://hopewellelementarypto.shutterfly.com/februaryfun>

HES Science Fair Registration is Open - New Changes This Year! Science is a blast! The PTO-sponsored Hopewell Elementary Science Fair will be held Friday, March 16. Don't miss the exciting new things at this

year's Science Fair: 5th Grade Invention Convention, a Green Energy initiative, and more! All are great additions to old favorites like the Science Show, Scientific Parent & Community Expo, non-competitive project displays for Grades K-5, and the judged contests for Grades 3, 4, and 5. To learn more, visit <http://hopewellelementary.oursciencefair.com/SchoolHome.aspx>.

Virtual Backpack - Click [here](#) for the latest additions to Virtual Backpack.

## STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

No Name Calling Week! - Stony Brook has had an All-Star Week participating in No Name Calling Week. Students and staff have mixed up their outfits on Monday, celebrated peace and respect on Tuesday by wearing white, followed the golden rule by treating others the way they would like to be treated by wearing gold on Wednesday, celebrated different cultures on Thursday and culminated our week on Friday by wearing Stony Brook colors with an All-Star assembly. This week has been a great success creating dialog, understanding and strategies to help make Stony Brook a No Name Calling zone.

Reminder - 2<sup>nd</sup> Marketing Period Report Cards – Report Cards will be available to parents in the Infinite Campus Portal on February 7 in the evening.

Science Expo – Saturday, March 10 – All students K-5 are invited to participate. The purpose of the Science Expo is to provide students with an opportunity to investigate something about the world that interests them. We hope that it will be an exciting experience for students to do their projects and share them with their families, teachers, and friends. The Science Expo is noncompetitive, and each student's science project will be evaluated on its own merit. An interviewer will meet with each child and ask questions about the project. A certificate of recognition and a ribbon will be presented to each student who participates. To further enhance this day of learning, Mad Science® will present its popular new program, "Spin, Pop, Boom!" **Interested in participating? Please complete the registration form, parts A, B, C and D and return your completed form to the front office by Friday, February 15.** Registration forms can be found on the PTO website and Virtual Backpack.

Chinese Acrobat School Assembly - Students and staff will enjoy a show on Wednesday, February 1, in celebration of Chinese New Year. The program is brought to us by the PTO through the Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists, Inc.

## TOLL GATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**Early Dismissal, Monday, January 30** - Students will have an early dismissal on Monday, January 30, for staff development. The elementary schedule is as follows:

AM Kindergarten:	8:35 am – 11:05 am
PM Kindergarten	10:05 am – 12:45 pm
K Extension Program	11:05 am – 3:35pm
Grades 1 – 5	8:35 am – 12:45 pm

**Science Expo 2012, Friday, February 10, 5:30 – 7:30 pm** – This is a great opportunity for students who especially enjoy science or who are looking for an added challenge to demonstrate their knowledge, creativity and strengths to the Toll Gate community. All Toll Gators may participate.

**Report Cards** – Mark your calendars! Report cards will be available on the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus on **February 7**.