

TIGER TALK

Volume 9, Issue 7

March 2010

Dear Springville Family:

As I mentioned last month, I planned to tell you about a book entitled iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind. However, it wasn't very good. It was rather alarmist about the potential impact of technology on our brains, and by extension, our social skills and interaction with others.

What I found more interesting was a article about the role "free play" has in the social development of children. Boston College developmental psychologist Peter Gray suggests that social play was used by our ancestors to enable the development of a highly cooperative way of life, and has implications for human development today. Gray notes that psychologists, educators, and the general public are once again becoming interested in free play: "People are beginning to realize that we have gone too far in the direction of teaching children to compete. We have been depriving children of the normal, noncompetitive forms of social play that are essential for developing a sense of equality, connectedness, and concern for others."

He goes on to stress that "free play" is freely chosen, age-mixed, and not adult organized, distinct from video games, watching TV or structured extracurricular activities and sports. Gray contends that while engaged in self-organized play, children learn to compromise, get along with others, and anticipate and meet others' needs. "To play well, and to keep others interested in continuing to play with you, you must be able to see the world from the other players' point of view."

That certainly is something we strive towards during recess. Students coordinate and structure their own games, with adult supervision. We want students to negotiate the creation of games and their rules for themselves, within a safe and controlled environment. The same thing can happen outside of school hours. So when the snow (finally) melts, and our neighborhoods are once again clean and dry, send your children out to make up their own games with one another. You'll not only help them to get exercise and fresh air, you'll be helping them build social skills, harmony and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gailen H. Mitchell

Peter Gray. Play as a Foundation for Hunter-Gatherer Social Existence. *American Journal of Play*, Spring 2009

**SPRINGVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
520 HARTFORD ROAD, MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054
856.231.4140**

COMING EVENTS

March

- 3 Pretzel Day
- 3 Evening Conferences – ½ DAY
- 4 Afternoon Conferences – ½ DAY
- 8-12 Kindergarten/1st Grade Round-up
- 8-15 Parade of Artists
- 9 American Footsteps Assembly
- 14 Family Bowling Day
- 16 BOE Meeting – Work Session
- 17 2nd Grade Math Night
- 19 Market Day Orders Due
- 23 BOE Meeting - Regular
- 24 PTO Meeting – 7 PM
- 25 Market Day—Pick Up
- 26 Ladies' Night Out
- 29 Eve of Passover – ½ DAY
- 30 Passover – NO SCHOOL

April

- 1 End of 3rd Marking Period
- 2-9 Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL
- 15 Igloo Skating Party
- 20 School Budget Vote
- 21 PTO Meeting - 9:30 AM
- 23 Market Day Orders Due
- 27 Spring Picture Day
- 27 McDonald's Night
- 27 BOE Meeting – Reorganization
- 29 Market Day Pick Up
- 29 Author Day
- TBA SchoolKidz Sale

**Thank you for your
generosity!
We collected \$1242.11 for
the American Red Cross'
Coins for Haiti!**

PTO PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am so humbled and proud to be a part of such a generous and caring community. From the piles of shoes donated for children in Haiti, to the outpouring of support of the One-For-Books program, Springville families show how much we care!

Even with wintery weather, our Book Fair was a HUGE success thanks to a great group of volunteers and supportive staff and parents. Our kids enjoyed some fun days of crazy hats, socks, backward and inside out days as rewards for their support. Some more rewards are on their way! On March 3rd, our kids will enjoy a special snack of soft pretzels as a thank you from the PTO, and I hear that Dr. Mitchell has one more reward in the planning!! At the midway point of the Book Fair, we had already almost DOUBLED our goal for One-For-Books...having collected over \$800 to buy books for children in need! We should all be very proud and commend our kids for showing such support of a great cause!

Our Ladies' Night Out is right around the corner. The donations have been pouring in, making this year's raffle baskets the best ever! RSVP's are due March 12th. Any questions can be directed to Barb Rimerman at Rimerb@comcast.net. Every penny earned goes directly back to Springville and our kids. Last year we were able to buy additional playground equipment which the kids have enjoyed all year. One of our goals for next year is to be able to sponsor more educational and entertaining assemblies for our kids. Please consider getting a group of friends together, or send in your reservation and come out to meet other parents from Springville. Of course, this is open to any friends or family. I've heard through the grapevine that some parents from neighboring schools may even be attending!! It's a night you won't want to miss!

Finally, I want to thank those of you who were able to join us for our last PTO meeting. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was most informative and enlightening to have an open discussion with Dr. Rath, Mr. Wachter and Marie Reynolds about various issues related to Springville and the Mt. Laurel school district. Our next PTO meeting is on March 24th at 7:00PM. Please join us as we discuss ways to improve our methods of communicating with the parent body.

Let's hope we've seen the end of the snow for this season, and that March will come in more like a tame lion this year!

Regards,

Barbra Wilen
PTO President

MARCH PTO EVENTS



Family Bowling Night

Join your friends from Springville Elementary for two hours of bowling on **Sunday, March 14, 2010** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Laurel Lanes. The price is \$10 per bowler, which includes shoe rental, 2 hours of bowling, pizza and soda. There will also be cosmic bowling!! Look for reservation information in your Wednesday folder. If you have any questions, please call or email Jean Mizia at 856-437-6665 or jmizia@comcast.net.

Ladies' Night Out

Don't forget to send in your RSVP's for Ladies' Night Out. Deadline to submit is Friday March 12th. Any questions, please contact Kate Strax at 856-722-8046. Ladies Night Out is **Friday, March 26th!**

ARE YOU DOING SPRING CLEANING?

The Springville Library accepts all donations of gently used books, including preschool board books and paperbacks! Questions? Contact Mrs. Trace, our librarian, at ktrace@mountlaurel.k12.nj.us.

KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE ROUND-UP

Please tell your friends and neighbors all about registration for September 2010 incoming Kindergarten and any new First Graders who did not attend Springville for Kindergarten. Registration for new students entering Springville this fall will be during the week of March 8-12.

Times are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:30 - 3:00 PM; also Wednesday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

All Kindergarteners must be 5 years old before October 1st. Please bring along your child's birth certificate, copy of their immunization records and three proofs of residency. If you have any questions, please call 856-231-4140.

THANK YOU!



Many thanks to everyone that participated in the Papa John's Spirit Night during Theater Week. We raised \$122 just eating pizza.



Thank you to Joyce Lauer for coordinating Family Bingo Night! About 175 people enjoyed a night of Bingo, snacks and door prizes! And a very special thanks to Ms. Roseberg for taking the time to call the numbers this year!

SCHOOL KIDZ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Our teacher generated school supply kits for the 2010-2011 school year will be available for sale starting on Wednesday, MARCH 10th. Don't think about school supplies next year!!! REALLY beat the crowds!! Deadline for orders is Friday, March 26th, with delivery the last week of school. Please contact Sandy Bauer with any questions at bauer97@comcast.net.

BOX TOPS AND LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Congratulations to the winner of February's Pretzel Party **Ms. Garber's class!**
Our Box tops submission this month raised another **\$489** for the school, bringing the total for Box tops this year to over **\$1200!!!!** Thank you! Keep on clipping! Our next deadline is April 16th.

MARKET DAY

All Market Day orders are due by FRIDAY, March 19th!! PICK-UP is Thursday, March 25th from 4:45 until 5:45 pm at Hillside Elementary (in the Gym).

Never tried Market Day? Curious about it? Contact Barb Rimerman for details about this delicious monthly PTO fundraiser at rimerb@comcast.net.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Scrip orders are due by Thursday, March 18th and pickup Friday, March 26th. Questions? Suggestions? Contact Lisa Parikh at 856-778-0799 or Lifrac@comcast.net.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT - WE NEED BASKETS!

If you have any extra baskets, no matter the size, please considered donating them to our largest fundraiser of the year!! They can be dropped off at the PTO conference room...thanks!

COME TO OUR SECOND GRADE FAMILY MATH NIGHT

DATE: WED., MARCH 17, 2010

TIME: 6:30-7:45 P.M.

VENUE: SPRINGVILLE CAFETERIA

***Refreshments provided by PTO/parent donations**

LEARN:

- *How to help your child with math at home**
- *Activities and games to help make math fun**
- *How math instruction in schools is changing**

TAKE HOME:

- *Ideas for games/activities**
- *Information Booklet**
- *Math Website Information**

STAFF:

Dr. Mitchell, Principal

Mr. O'Keefe, Curriculum

& Instruction Supervisors

Mrs. Donchez, Math Specialist

Second Grade Teachers (Mrs. Gaines, Mrs. Haverstick,

Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Wasserman, Ms. Crowley)

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL BY MARCH 10

_____ **YES, I plan to attend Springville's Second Grade Family Math Night**

Parent name(s): _____

Phone or email: _____

Child's full name: _____

No. people attending: _____ **Teacher's name:** _____

_____ **Please contact me to donate a refreshment for the event.**