

December 2009

December Dates:

- 12/5 District Conversations 9:30 am Chango Café
- 12/15 Third grade field trip to NYSTI
- 12/16 Chango Winter Concert 7pm Gowana Auditorium
- 12/18 Movie Night 7-8:30 pm
- 12/24 Winter Recess

NOTE: Next PTA Meeting January 11, 2010 at 7pm.

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Chango PTA News



Letter from the President

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

The Chango Elementary PTA is looking forward to many exciting opportunities throughout the year. We look forward to your continued involvement.

We are fortunate to have a very active and involved parent group – in other words, a high level of volunteerism. PTA has created and supports many programs including, field trips, parent education and many fun filled evening activities with our families. Thank you in advance for all the contributions of time, resources, and donations you will make toward your child's learning experience at Chango. **Have a happy and healthy holiday, til next year!! Be well.**

Idalia I. Sepúlveda - Chango PTA President

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Chango Announcement Board (Chango Drive) – Thomas Fiffe – thank you for keeping us families “on top” and current on in/out’s at Chango.

Bake Sale: Jennie McLaws – what delicious treats we had during the election, thanks for coordinating.

Scholastic Book Sale: Nancy Kinkead and Emily Bowman – dynamic duo, many thanks for coordinating the wonderful volunteers!

School Spirit Wear: Karen Calhoun many thanks for helping us get our school spirit gear!

Reflections: Amy Merkle/Krista Ferguson – thanks for working to further develop our children’s abilities to express themselves through the creative arts!

Fall PTA fundraiser is now finished. Our “hats off” to Maria Fiffe, Karen Calhoun, Melissa Vlachich for all their hard work and efforts to coordinate such an effort.

Mrs. Barbagelata – your awesome talk at November PTA meeting was “out of sight”.

Mr. Donnelly: Thanks for organizing our boys & girls basketball teams! Awesome dude!

Chango Night Out at “Moe’s Southwest Grill” - We hope you had fun meeting and making new friends and connecting with some of your favorite school staff! Stay tuned for word on our 2nd event in January 2010!

Mrs. Tirone and Danielle Rigney– for your help watching our kids at the November PTA meeting.

Don't
Forget
Your



AND.....



Soup for Schools

Reminders from the Main Office.

1. Now that the cold weather is here, please send your children to school with appropriate outdoor clothes. We will be going outside for recess as long as the temperature is above 20 degrees F. Children will not be permitted on the playground in the snow without boots. Also, please remember to put your child's name on the inside of all clothing items.
2. Please remind your children to check for lost clothing items at the Lost and Found located at the back door to the playground. Items not claimed by the Winter Recess will be donated to a local charity.
3. Important: When visiting Chango, please remember to stop by the Main Office and "sign in". Also, please fill out a Visitor Sticker and wear it some place visible for the duration of your stay.
4. Notes should be sent to school for children's absences, early dismissals, and tardiness. Please include your child's full name and teacher's name in the note.



POLAR EXPRESS

Friday, December 18th, 7 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:30)

Free Admission!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



WE'LL EVEN PROVIDE THE POPCORN!!!

Bring your pillows and Blankets to our Cafeteria Movie Theater!

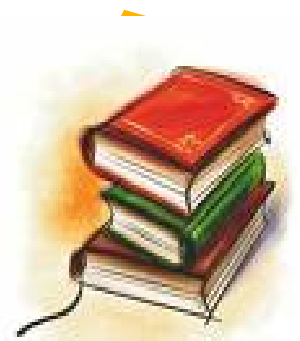
Bring some food or juice boxes to put on the sharing table!

Come and enjoy this timeless holiday treasure of a movie!!

PTA Sponsored Programs

On December 15th, the third grade class will go to see "King Island Christmas" at the NYSTI.

Beautiful music illuminates the spirit of giving in this joyful tale of community based on a true story of a tiny Alaskan village on King Island in the Bering Sea.



Do you realize that many of the educational programs your children enjoy are paid for by the PTA?



Here are the Character Kid winners for the month:
November ~ Citizenship / Thankfulness

K: Lucas Willis (J - AM)

1: Yeva Klingbeil (B)

2: Jessica Pepe (H)

3: Katie Flood (F)

4: Margaret Sramek (M)

5: Spencer Dankulich (P)



2009-10 Chango PTA Board Contact Info



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H1N1 News from the School District

The district has been and remains in communication with New York State and Saratoga County Health officials, as well as with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in an effort to provide the most current information regarding H1N1 to our school community. The district is closely monitoring the H1N1 situation in coordination with the aforementioned agencies.

We ask for your assistance in two areas:

- 1)Keep a sick child at home, and
- 2) encourage proper hygiene, especially frequent hand washing.

District/School Efforts:

- Hand sanitizers are readily available in multiple areas throughout school buildings and students are encouraged to use them in addition to washing hands frequently.
- Custodial staff has stepped up efforts to continuously wipe down commonly touched areas (door knobs, key boards, etc.)
- Buildings and buses are being cleaned on a much more diligent scale and frequency.
- Nursing staff stands ready to see kids who may be experiencing symptoms.

Available Resources:

Please visit the school district website at www.shenet.org for the documents: “Flu Guide for Parents,” “Talking to Children About the Flu (Novel H1N1): A Parent Resource” and the “What To Do if You Get Sick.”

Awareness can make all the difference...

Together, we can help keep our children happy and healthy!

Shenendehowa Wrestling Club

Who? All 1st – 6th grade students

Start Date? December 7th, 2009

Registration Date: November 30 and Dec 2nd, 2009 @ 6pm in Shenendehowa High School East near the wrestling room.

Youth Wrestling Cost: \$40.00

Practice Schedule (HSE Wrestling Room):

1st – 3rd grade students – Monday and Wednesday 6:00pm – 7:00 pm

4th – 6th grade students – Monday and Wednesday 7:15pm – 8:30pm

Site: Shenendehowa High School East (Wrestling Room)



For more information, see the Chango PTA website.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Malta Community Center Dance Classes**—Hip Hop Classes and a Winter Break Dance Jam Camp. See our Chango PTA website for more information and class schedules.

- **HOLIDAY PARTY - Malta Community Center** Sunday, December 13 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A free family event (for Malta residents) featuring activities such as holiday crafts, puppet show, balloon sculpting and of course, a visit from Santa Claus. Santa arrives at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will also be provided. Registration is required by Wednesday, December 9.

Free to Malta Residents (Please bring a canned good for donation)

- **Now Open—MAUI PLAYCARE Drop In Babysitting Service**
 - for Children Age 2-8
 - Hourly Rates
 - Tons of Fun for the Children



Chango Checkpoint

Check in here each month to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!



Busy, busy, busy...that's how to describe the month of November from a PTA perspective! But busy is good. We kicked it all off with "sugar and spice, and everything nice" with the **Election Day Bake Sale**. Did you know that any home baked goods eaten immediately after voting have no calories? (amazing what we can justify if we put our minds to it). The spread of goodies was fabulous! Many thanks to all those who baked for this event and those that donated their time to "man the booth" and sell items during the day. Kudos to Jennie McLaws for her great job chairing this event (and all her wonderful touches to make the tables of treats look so tempting).

Our (PTA) biggest fundraiser of the year is the **Scholastic Book Fair** and once again it was a huge success. Nancy Kinkead and Emily Bowman chaired this event and because of their dedication, it ran like a well-oiled machine. Thanks also to those who flexed more than a few muscles moving and unloading boxes to transform the gym into a book store that was very conducive to shopping. Teachers...thanks for taking time out of your classroom day to bring the children down to shop. They had a blast and it all contributed to making this event a triumph. Once again we had many, many volunteers working the cash register throughout the week-long event. We could not have done it without all of you.



The toughest thing with the **Fall Fundraiser** was trying to decide between scrumptious chocolates, hand-crafted candles, cool NFL items, and the traditional wrapping paper. And then when you give up trying to decide, you just buy them all because they are great products and the proceeds benefit the PTA! This year we had a great selection of items from Genevieve's. For all those who place orders, stay tuned as delivery is tentatively scheduled for the week of December 7th. Many thanks to Maria Fiffe for all her work researching companies and finding Genevieve's for us. Thanks also to her crew of volunteers who have collected orders and are planning the details around pick-up.

The National PTA's cultural arts program (**Reflections**) has concluded at the unit PTA level (Chango PTA being our unit). Congratulations to the 13 entries for their great creativity in showing what "Beauty is..." to them. We had entries in the Visual Arts and the Literature categories. The top 3 from each of these categories have been moved along to the Regional level. On Jan. 9th, the regional winners will be forwarded to the state level. Winners from both the unit and regional level will be announced in the new year so stay tuned after the holidays. Thanks Amy Merkle for all your work with this.

November kicked off the beginning of our PTA supported **Pizza Hut Book It!** program. This is a wonderful way to encourage children to learn to love reading. Aside from the reward of the stories they read, children completing the monthly Book It! calendars will receive a Reading Award Certificate (for a free, one topping Personal Pan Pizza). This program will run monthly through the end of March, with new calendars being sent home at the beginning of each month. Thanks to Jodi Galpin for spearheading this.



Here's the "line-up" of events for the month of December.

December 18 (Friday) – Movie Night. We are finalizing approval to hold a Movie Night just before the holidays. Watch your email for more details once this is all confirmed...a holiday classic is in the works!

December 1-31 – Pizza Hut Book It Reading Program. Encourage your child(ren) to chart their progress on the December Book It! reading log. The goal is to have them read (or be read to) for 20 minutes each day. Completed calendars should be returned to the school the first week of the following month in order to receive a Reading Award Certificate. Let's help our kids learn to love reading and enjoy it for a lifetime!

Anytime – School Pictures. If you missed picture retake day and are still wanting your child's picture redone, you have the option of taking your child to the *Images 4 Kids* studio located at 31 Greylock Dr., Wilton, NY 12859. It is by appointment only, so call first to schedule (879-4459) and remember to mention you are with Chango.

If you have questions or comments regarding any PTA events, please contact Krista Ferguson at chango-events@yahoo.com.

Did you know?

Students who reported having all four types of reading materials (books, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias) in their home scored, on average, higher than those who reported having fewer reading materials.

Reading, Literacy, & Education Statistics, The Literacy Company, Scottsdale, AZ 85260



Books that Make Great Gifts:

The Velveteen Rabbit (Ages 4-8)
My First Kwanzaa Book (Ages 3-7)
Guess How Much I Love You (Ages birth to 5)
Charlotte's Web (Ages 8-12)
The Polar Express (Ages 5-8)
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Ages 7-12)
The Kissing Hand (Ages 3-8)
The Best Hanukkah Ever (Ages 4-8)



Other Great Items for Readers!

Clip-on Book Light (www.bookitprogram.com)
Mouse Pad (cafepress.com)
Drawstring Bag (alastore.ala.org)
Hoodie ([shop First Book](#) - a portion of every sale will help provide books to children in need)
The Slanket (theslanket.com)

Titles about Giving & Family:

The Keeping Quilt (Ages 4-8)
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters (Ages 4-8)
When I Was Young in the Mountains (Ages 4-8)
The Three Questions (Ages 6-9)
The Hundred Dresses (Ages 6-9)
The Hundred Penny Box (Ages 6-9)
The Family Under the Bridge (Ages 7-11)
Ruby Holler (Ages 9-12)
A Season of Gifts (Ages 12 & up)

More Holiday Titles:

Habari Gani?: What's the News?: A Kwanzaa Story (Ages 4-8)
Hanukkah Moon by Deborah Da Costa (Ages 4-8)
Humphrey's First Christmas (Ages 4-8)
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Ages 9-12)
The Magic Menorah: A Modern Chanukah Tale (Ages 9-12)
Seven Days of Kwanzaa (Ages 9-12)



** Please contact our Pizza Hut Book-It Chair, Jodi Galpin, if you have any questions at: jjoygalpin@yahoo.com **