



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Shatekon
Elementary School**
PTA Newsletter

January 2009
Volume 2, Issue 4

Shatekon PTA Newsletter

A note from the President

December was pretty quiet from the PTA standpoint, but with the holidays and weather, I am sure we all had more than enough to do to make up for it. Hopefully you are all getting through this winter ok; I wish you all the best.

With the economy the way it is, it is the number one thing on most people's minds. Dr. Robinson will be focusing on the funding cuts by the state this Saturday during his 'Community Conversations' so if you would like to find out more, be sure to attend.

I have mentioned it a few times, but this is the last year for the original officers. If you or someone you know would like to step up and take on one of the roles, please let us know.

Our meeting this month is on Tuesday, January 21st, from 7-9 pm in the Shatekon cafeteria. We will have food samples from the spring fundraiser available to try out. This was one of the best meetings we had last year! Please come and join us if you can!

As always, thank you for your support.
John Belkevich
Shatekon PTA President

Shen Inventors

All students (K-8) in the Shenendehowa District are invited to invent something new in this year's Shen Inventors Program. Inventions can be as simple or complex as a child wants. Furthermore, inventions do not have to be built, but must be described on a display/poster board. You may attend the informational meeting at Skano on Jan 14th, but it is not mandatory. The Display Date for the inventions is February 7th at Clifton Park Center during the Winter Carnival. Every participant will receive a t-shirt and either a gold, silver or bronze medal.

We hope that Shatekon has many inventions to share! More information will be sent home with your student(s). Please call Lisa Dickert @ 348-2166 for details.

Arts in Education...

We welcome the New Year with a visit from the Scotia Glenville Traveling Museum as they take our second graders on a *Journey Through the Solar System* on January 7th and 8th. On January 13th, the Scotia-Glenville Museum travels back to Shatekon to present *Furry Neighbors- Our Local Mammals* to our kindergarten classes. Children will learn how different animals have met their basic needs of finding food, shelter, and escaping predators. Children will examine the skins and skulls of local mammals such red fox, black bear, opossum, chipmunk, beaver, porcupine, gray squirrel and others.

The Shenendehowa Jazz Ensemble will perform for grades K – 5 on January 22nd. This is a great opportunity for our students to see other students playing musical instruments and realize that someday they can do this too.

From January 26th through the 29th, poet /author Jackie Sweeney is in residence with Shatekon second grade. During this residency, Ms. Sweeney will work intensively with students and teachers in their classrooms to encourage clear thinking and word choice as they explore and improve specific writing skills and techniques.

"Where do we go from here?"

Dr. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent, Shenendehowa Schools, will be the guest speaker at the January 15th SAGE Meeting, 7pm, Koda Cafeteria, Shen Main Campus.

Dr Robinson will discuss plans for the school district along with information regarding current and planned accelerated classes designed to address the needs of high ability learners at all grade levels.

Please, do not miss this meeting if gifted education is important to you.

The Saturday Scholars program sponsored by SAGE will also be discussed at this meeting. For questions or for further information please contact Linda DeMasi at 877-5813 or email at sagenews@yahoo.com"

**Building Lifelong Character:
Nurturing Responsible Behaviors and
Growing Self Esteem**

Sponsored by Karigon and Orenda PTAs

An Essential Parenting Seminar By Randy L. Cale, PhD., Child & Family Psychological Services

You have one chance to experience this valuable seminar. Why would you not attend this important training? It's free, it's powerful, and you can learn how to transform your life at home!

- *Where: Karigon/Orenda Cafeteria*
- *When: January 28, 2009 6:30PM*

NOTE: SNOW DATE February 5, 2009 6:30PM

Please RSVP to Alison Heller at helleralison@gmail.com

Holiday Tea and Sweets...

...has been rescheduled to January 12th! We are looking for 2 volunteers to clean-up at 1:30, and some bakers to send in some yummy treats. Please contact Tami Grasso at 281-1716 or fgrasso@nycap.rr.com by 1/9 if you are able to help. Thanks!

Tea & Sweets will still be held if Shen has a 2 hour delay on Monday 1/12, if school is closed then I will have in on Wednesday 1/14.

Got pictures?

We are looking for parents to submit pictures for consideration for the yearbook. Any candid shots you may have taken at any school events will be considered.

Photos can be emailed to Alice Thornton and Becky Strait at Shatekon_Yearbook@hotmail.com.

Almost March Madness

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, February 26th (5:30 - 8:30) marks the debut of Almost March Madness, an inter-school basketball tournament featuring faculty and staff as players and cheerleaders. Come cheer on Shatekon as we face off against teams from Tesago, Arongon, Okte or Skano. Tickets and t-shirts will be on sale the beginning of February on a first-come, first-serve basis. More information will be sent home in the near future. Get ready for a fun, inexpensive family night out and watch your teachers play some b-ball. For more information, contact Michele Lehman at trevsmom@nycap.rr.com or 383-9218 or Lisa Campo at ljcampo@hotmail.com.

Looking for ASEP Programs!

Are you creative? Do you know another language? Why not facilitate an ASEP program? If you're are interested, please contact Jenn Connell at jenn1con@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

Community Conversations w/ Superintendent

Saturday, January 10th, 9:30 AM
Tesago cafeteria

Holiday Tea and Sweets

Monday, January 12th (snow date 1/14)

Shen Inventors Meeting

Wednesday, January 14th, 7 PM
Skano cafeteria

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

****NO SCHOOL****

Monday, January 20th

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, January 21st, 7 PM
Shatekon cafeteria

BOE Study Session

Tuesday, January 27th, 7 PM
Gowana library

Half Day (K-5), PTA Bowling 12-2

Friday, January 30th

PARP Begins

Monday, February 2nd

Almost March Madness

Thursday, February 26th, 5:30-8:30 PM



Community Conversations

January 10, 2009, 9:30am, Tesago cafeteria
All are welcome to attend and ask questions or express concerns/suggestions to the Superintendent.

Focus will be on the plan to deal with an impending deficit reduction assessment by the state which could mean up to \$5 million less in state aid for 2009-10.