

# The Valley Wire

## PV PTA Newsletter



EMAIL: [PVPTA@PVCSD.ORG](mailto:PVPTA@PVCSD.ORG)

Volume 11, Issue 1, September 2011

### President's Corner...

Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all new families! I am very excited for the new school year and to be serving as the President of the PTA. I look forward to working with the talented and truly dedicated members of the PTA, teachers, and staff at both the Elementary School and the Middle School.

The PTA consists of parents, teachers, and staff that want to bridge the gap between family life and our children's school life. In keeping with that ideal, the PTA hosts many fun and informative events, including a Back to School Family Picnic, Family Math Night, Family Science Night, Grade Level Events, Arts in Education (AIE) Committee, and Parent Education speakers such as Dr. Anthony Wolf (author of *"Mom, Jason's Breathing on Me!"*: *The Solution to Sibling Bickering* and other parenting books). Dr. Wolf's presentation was a huge success and the overwhelming feedback has been that parents would like to have more such events.

In order for the PTA to be an effective assistance to the school, active participation by parents is essential. Parents often feel they cannot participate in the PTA because they cannot attend all meetings or be on campus during the day. The PTA wants every parent to be able to participate. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. We can match your availability and interests to needed tasks. There are endless possibilities in how you can help.

With the new year brings new events and informative workshops to look forward to. Help us make a difference and join the PTA!!

**Andrea Raetzer**  
President of the PTA



The first PTA meeting of the school year will be held on September 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the ES.



### PTA Calendar

#### September

School Opens for Students	9/6
Back to School Picnic ES 5:30 p.m.	9/9
Back to School Night Grades 1, 2 & Childside ES 7:00 p.m.	9/15
Back to School Night MS 7:00 p.m.	9/20
Back to School Night Grades 3 and 4 ES 7:00 p.m.	9/21
PTA Meeting ES 7:30 p.m.	9/26
Rosh Hashanah School Closed	9/29-30

#### October

ES/MS Picture Day	10/6
PTA Grade 5 Event MS Café 6:30-8:00 p.m.	10/7
Columbus Day School Closed	10/10
Emergency Evacuation Drill Dismissal 15 Minutes Early	10/14
PTA Kindergarten Pizza and Pumpkin Event ES Café 6:30-8:30 p.m.	10/21
PTA Meeting ES 7:30 p.m.	10/26



# An Eye On School Administration

## Staff Spotlight



**Kathy Hill**

Hi, I'm Kathy Hill and I am the nurse at PVES. I'm very proud to say that this September will be my 6th school year in the ES. I grew up in Yorktown with my parents, 2 brothers and sister. I had always wanted to be a nurse and after graduating from High School, I applied and was accepted to Westchester Community College's nursing program where I graduated and earned my LPN license. I was able to work full time as an LPN while going back to school and getting my RN license. I love working at PVES, I enjoy getting to know all the students and working with the wonderful staff. I currently live in Cortlandt Manor with my husband, Eric and our daughter Courtney. We are huge Disney fans and when I am not at school we enjoy planning our next Disney World vacation!!

## A Note from the PVFT

Welcome Back to School! The Putnam Valley Federation of Teachers would like to welcome all parents and students to the new school year. We hope you all have had a joyful and restful summer, and are eagerly looking forward to the school year ahead. Over the summer, many of our teachers have been involved in professional development workshops, graduate courses, summer conferences, and curriculum development. For educators, summer is a time for rest and renewal, but also a time when we gather new instructional tools, plan for the year ahead, and stay current on new technologies and teaching strategies. This year we will all be faced with many challenges as we are still feeling the weight of a struggling economy. The PVFT will do its part to work with the district and community to get through these tough times while maintaining the highest quality education for our students. Working together will be paramount and we look forward to open and honest communication with the PTA/PTSA executive board as we move throughout the year.

## Happy Retirement, Mrs. Greenstein!

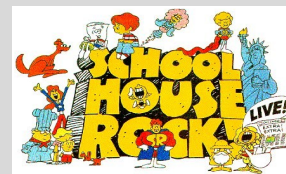
Jill Greenstein has been a respected school psychologist for almost 40 years. She began working in PVCSD in 1978, has worked in all 3 PVCSD school buildings, and has provided support to countless students and families in our community. She is passionate about how children learn and how to increase educational success. Her continued training led her to receiving her Diplomate with the American Board of School Neuropsychology in 2003. In her retirement, Jill will have more time to be with her granddaughter, Kayla. Jill enjoys a variety of interests such as tap dancing, mah jongg, tennis, quilting, photography, reading, rooting for the Yankees and baking. She volunteers through her synagogue and the Blood Bank. She plans on traveling with her husband Joel throughout the United States and beyond.

**Best wishes to Mrs. Greenstein!**



## ES School Play

This year the Elementary School 3rd and 4th grade play will be **School House Rock Live! Jr.** Auditions will be on Wednesday, September 14th and Monday, September 19th. Keep a eye for more information in the weekly distribution. We look forward to another fabulous performance!



# Helping Your PTA

**Coming Soon!**

*Our New PTA website!*



*Get involved and keep informed!*

We would love to hear from you this year! If you have anything that you feel is newsworthy for an upcoming publication, please share it with us via email at:

[carolynderubeis@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynderubeis@hotmail.com) or  
[maggieschiffer@optonline.net](mailto:maggieschiffer@optonline.net).

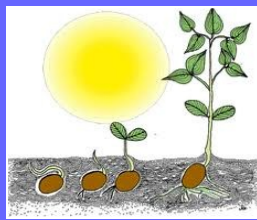
**Carolyn DeRubeis and Margaret Schiffer**  
PTA Newsletter Co-Chairs

The PVPTA would like to welcome

★ **Andrea Raetzer** ★

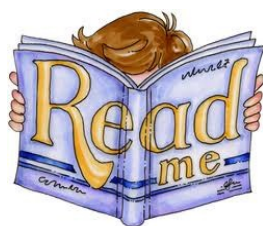
to her new role of PTA President! We look forward to a successful 'PTA' year!

Teachers plant seeds of knowledge that grow forever!



## 2011-2012 PVPTA Executive Board

Andrea Raetzer	President
Jeanine Garofalo Margaret Schiffer	VP ES
Mary Lyons Shannon Millicker	VP MS
Liz Mello	Treasurer
Elaine McGinty	Corresponding Secy.
Jessica Francis	Recording Secy.
Barbara Parnly	ES Teacher Liaison
Cheryl Kahn	MS Teacher Liaison
Stacey Tompkins Maria Zadrina	Past Co-Presidents
Jeannie Denike Dana Lopez	Committee Chairs



Good Luck to all of our children at the ES, MS and HS during this 2011-2012 School Year!



Donna Sillery checks off a student's name on the Summer Reading Challenge chart.

### **Elementary School Summer Reading Challenge is a Success!**

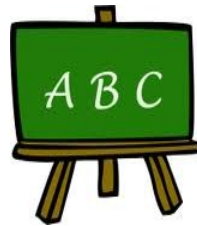
Over 120 Elementary School students participated in the first Summer Reading Challenge which was introduced to help maintain the level of reading achieved during the school year. If a student read for 30 minutes each day and completed the reading log, he/she received a small prize each Thursday during the summer. Students who participated all summer will be acknowledged at a school-wide assembly.

# Tracking PTA Activities

## Join the PTA

It's the start of another great school year and time to JOIN THE PTA! A membership form was sent home via email. Keep informed, have a voice, show support!

**Our children need you!!**



## Welcome Back!



The PTA welcomed teachers and staff back to school with these beautiful chocolate pops. Thanks to Margaret Schiffer for hand-making the artful treats!

## And the award goes to...

Thank



You!

In June, the annual PTA ABCD (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) Award was presented to Trish Beatini and Maria Roman for all of their hard work and outstanding dedication as the Co-Chairs of Grade Level Events at the Elementary School. Their families were on hand to watch them receive the PTA's prestigious award! Thank you Trish and Maria for all you have done!



The short school supply list for the Elementary School was due to a very generous donation of school supplies purchased for the students by the Elementary School. Items already purchased included: binders, folders, colored pencils, writing paper, glue, scissors, rulers, markers, and crayons. Thank you, Mrs. Edelman!



## SAVE THE DATE!!

October 21, 2011  
Kindergarten Pizza  
and Pumpkin Party!

6:30 p.m. ES Café