



PTA NEWS

Upper Freehold Regional PTA Newsletter - Back-to-School 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

September

- 14- PTA Meeting – 7pm MS
- 20 – PTA Reflections Begins
- 23- Stone Bridge MS BTSN
- 26- Newell ES Photos
- 27 – PTA Fundraiser Begins
- 28- Stone Bridge MS Photos
- 30 – Newell ES BTSN

October

- 1- Newell ES Walk-a-thon
- 12- PTA/EQUITY Meeting – 7pm ES
- TBD – MS Redbird Rumble
- 28- ES Halloween Fest – 5pm Westhaven Farms

November

- 1- Box Tops for Education Due
- 3- Reflections Due
- 9- PTA/RISE Meeting – 7pm
- 10- Clothing Drive
- 12- Science Night Live
- 15 – Wishing Tree Begins
- 15-19 – Newell ES Scholastic Fall Book Fair

A Letter From the PTA President

Welcome back students, parents and teachers!! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer. I am especially excited to return this year as your PTA President with the opening of our brand new Stone Bridge Middle School and Newell Elementary School acquiring the space they have needed for so long now. I am pleased to inform you about the numerous programs and educational opportunities we are offering the students and families of both schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

Our first major goal is the improvement of our website in our effort to GO GREEN- PART II. We have added an electronic payment option for all transactions this year to help simplify processes, continue to conserve natural resources and utilize the incredible innovative options the internet offers us on a daily basis. All updates, information, program offerings, and PTA happenings will still be yours at the touch of a button. Whether you are an avid emailer, a Facebook user and/or on Twitter, you can connect with us directly to stay current with what's new. We've made it simpler this year to communicate with our community. For those who haven't "crossed over" yet, we have a hard copy option to stay connected with you, too! Otherwise, all our flyers, membership forms, fundraisers will once again be sent electronically. Please visit our website at www.ufrpta.org and click the "SIGN UP" button to submit membership information, volunteer sign-ups, etc...

The second goal is to increase our PTA membership by 20% this year. Unfortunately with the introduction of the new website and on-line membership sign-up last year, we lost more than 250 members. So if you were among those lost in the shuffle of the new sign-up, please know we missed you terribly and would love for you to come back and support our kids and the programs we offer.

The third goal is more sensitive to the separation of the ES and MS with the exciting opening of Stone Bridge Middle School and Newell Elementary School having the space they need to grow! The schools will have separate fundraisers and initiatives specifically aligned with the needs of the students at each school. They will attend various assembly programs and participate in special funded programs to enhance their grade level curricular needs.

Please take the time to read through this Newsletter to see how you can become or continue to be an integral part of our PTA. There are so many opportunities for you to get involved to become a part of the process in making a difference in the lives of each student at Newell Elementary and Stone Bridge Middle Schools. Remember, our PTA's motto is *Partners Together Achieve*, and we can't build the pathway to tomorrow for the benefit of all the students without your help and support.

Once again, I look forward to another exciting and fun-filled year with each of you and your children.

Fondly,



Thanks for your support of our PTA!
Please send any feedback via:
www.ufrpta.org

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**UFRE/MS PTA Sponsored
Assembly
Programs:
2010-2011**

The UFRE/MS PTA once again is happy to announce our sponsorship of the following assembly programs for the 2010-2011 school year. We continue to support character education programs, enhance unit curriculum, promote arts appreciation, and fund special programs for each grade level. All assembly programs are reviewed and presented by Young Audiences New Jersey who partner with many reputable



See firsthand the impact of your involvement as a PTA volunteer and three hours is all we need. Research shows when parents are more involved, they are better able to support their children's learning, and their children do better in school. Three for Me creates opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education, both in and outside of the school. Remem-

ber to sign your Three For Me Promise Card and make a difference for each child and to make our PTA even better than before.

Sign up at
www.ufrpta.org



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
~Gandhi



\$\$ Stone Bridge Middle School Store to Open \$\$

The Stone Bridge Store will open in September during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will sell spirit wear and school supplies. The store will be located in the school cafeteria. Jennifer DeMauro and Eleanor Amato are the school store coordinators for the PTA. The purpose is to provide the students with opportunities to purchase Stone Bridge Middle School memorabilia in its opening year. We also plan to use the store for students to learn basic business practices, budgeting, inventory control, etc. The educational piece, however, will not start right away, but be developed and implemented over the upcoming year. We will be look-



"Fun"-raising : A Bang For Your Buck

Fundraising is the PTA's primary source of revenue and provides the means to conduct its numerous programs such as school assemblies, ES and MS family fun programs, and special Artist-in-residence programs for each grade level.

This year Newell ES and Stone Bridge MS will have separate "fundraisers." The ES students will host the Fourth Annual Walk-A-Thon. Students will be encouraged to participate and obtain sponsors to help support our programs. 10% of the proceeds raised will be donated

to the local food pantries to help those in need.

The MS students will continue to sell engraved Bricks to adorn the entrance at the new middle school. Another "fun-raiser" will be added in the spring.

The PTA will continue to host the Scholastic Book Fairs in the Fall and Spring seasons as well as the Holiday Boutique for student shoppers.

For those families who prefer to take the simpler approach to financially support the programs our PTA provides the students at both

schools, there is an option to forego participating in any of the fundraisers just by writing 1 check. It would simply cost \$35 per student to fully cover the costs of all our programs and business costs for the year. So for \$35 per child for the entire year of fun-filled programs and events, that's a real bang for your buck!! If you prefer this option to support our PTA programs by JUST WRITING A CHECK, please select the **Membership Plus** benefit on the Membership Form E-Form found at www.ufrpta.org.

Even during this tumult-

uous economic time, we strongly encourage all members to get involved any way possible to support our fundraising efforts because in the end, it's all for the kids!!

~The "Fun"draining Team





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FAMILY FUN FOR ALL UFR Students

Newell Elementary School: Family Programs

This year the ES students will have the opportunity to continue to participate in the following family fun programs : Halloween Fest, International Night, BINGO Night, and Science Night Live. All four events have proved to be educational, entertaining, and exciting fun for all. Please mark your calendars and make plans to bring your kids and their friends to these great PTA nights.

Stone Bridge Middle School: Family Programs

This year we will continue the special family fun nights for Stone Bridge Middle School. We will host the 4th Annual Redbird Rally, bring back the Redbird Rumble

for its 2nd year this October hoping to ignite school spirit, and host the return of Redbirds Got Talent in the spring to encourage those with talent to share their special gifts. We look forward to seeing you at all the PTA family fun nights throughout the year!

~ Programs Committee



EQUITY

Founded in 2005, EQUITY is an action team of parents, teachers, educators and community members who work together to enhance the academic experiences of K-8 students in the Upper Freehold Elementary and Middle Schools. EQUITY is a standing committee of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and a "sister" committee to Recognizing Issues in Special Education (RISE). EQUITY members strive to enhance the educational experiences of all students with an emphasis on those who demonstrate advanced performance or potential. Equity's goals are to provide a forum for information exchange among parents, educators and the community, strengthen and enhance the development of schools and classrooms in which both equity and excellence are persistent goals, enabling each and every child to achieve his or her potential, Sponsor academic in-school, after-school and summer enrichment opportunities for all students, and Advocate and support the Upper Freehold Elementary and Middle Schools in the develop-

"Together We Can"

The arts are a vital part of a complete education and they help students succeed in school and in life. National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Program. This year's PTA Reflections Program theme is "Together We Can"

Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are encouraged to submit works of art in six arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes, but is not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage).

Look for more information to come along...our contest begins September 20th.



CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRODUCT UPDATES

FROM THE BOX TOPS and CAMPBELL'S TEAM

UFRE/MS ranked 9th in NJ in overall Box Tops Collection for 2009-2010!!

Have you been saving your Box Tops this summer? If so, you are on your way to winning our first contest of the school year! This year our students will again have three chances to win the **Battle of the Box Tops**, including the grand prize pizza party. As in the past the class which submits the most Box Tops will win a special treat and prize. **However, this year we will also reward one class at each grade level with a special little thank you prize for all three contests!** The names of all winning classes will be posted on the Box Tops bulletin board that is located near the gym as well as listed in the PTA newsletter. Keep an eye out for our **Battle Plans Chart** to see how your class is doing throughout the year. The first contest ends **November 1st**; so send in those Box Tops!



We are looking forward to the best year ever!

The Box Tops Team



UFRPTA is Green

Visit us at www.ufrpta.org and sign up to be a member today. Sign up for the events you would like to help out with to earn your Three For Me hours. Sign up to become part of our e-mailing list so we can continue to keep the lines of communication open to all while saving resources. Remember PayPal is now available for payment.

Deadline for Fall Membership Drive is October 1, 2010!! Members only will receive a copy of the PTA Student Directory along with their membership card(s).

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****PLEASE fill out the below portion and return ONLY if you do not have access to a computer and cannot communicate with us electronically.**

Please check one of the following Membership Options:



Regular Membership

_____ Single Membership \$10.00

_____ Family Membership \$15.00 (Membership cards for 2 individuals)

Membership Plus

(Just Write a Check Fundraiser - exemption from other PTA fundraisers for the year)

_____ Single Membership

\$10.00 plus \$35.00 x _____ (# of children) = \$ _____ total contribution

_____ Family Membership (2 cards)

\$15.00 plus \$35.00 x _____ (# of children) = \$ _____ total contribution

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

YOUNGEST Child's Name: _____

Grade/Teacher's Name: _____

*Send to the attention of : Membership Chair via PTA Mail in the Main Offices of
Newell Elementary School or Stone Bridge Middle School.*