

The Panther Point



Glebe Street Elementary School Newsletter for the month of SEPTEMBER, 2009

How good it is to have everyone back! The school simply is not the same vibrant place without the children! We've been hard at work over the summer getting things ready for them! Welcome, new students and families! I would like to encourage you to become supportive members in our very fine Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and take an active role in your child's education at Glebe Street Elementary School by supporting the instruction that your child(ren) receive here from our excellent staff.

There is a strong tradition of educational excellence at Glebe Street Elementary School. Each one of us, from the tiniest kindergarten student to the principal to our hard-working custodian directly affects our children's educational experience. We can work together to grow children who will be valuable contributors to society. Consistently cultivated behaviors, solid work, and constant attention to good character building and maintenance of that good character will help our children to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Presently we have guidelines in place for good behavior in the form of a Code of Conduct. Our *Glebe Panther Pledge* is posted everywhere throughout the building as a reminder of that code of conduct. All of us need to work tirelessly together to model and maintain great character traits that are espoused in Glebe Street Elementary School's new character education model.

Please share with your child the importance of good behavior in school, the importance of excellent academic performance, the display of empathy and compassion for each other, as well as respect for their school in every way (teachers, students, support staff, and the school building and grounds). A good place to start is with the pillars of character...

- **COURAGE**
- **TRUSTWORTHINESS**
- **RESPECT**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **FAIRNESS**
- **CARING**
- **CITIZENSHIP**
- **CONFIDENCE**

The understanding and practice of these eight very important aspects of good character and leadership will produce results for your child in a very personal way, but also enable our students to learn in a safe and content environment. Learning in such an environment always produces better academic understanding and achievement.

I believe that our students, staff, and community are among the finest in the world, and there is no limit to what we can achieve *together*. Our goal will be to help our children to aim high, and reach high in every way possible.

Cheers for a great year ahead!

Mr. Crankshaw, principal

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER Welcome Back!

- 9-9 First Day of School! Kindergarten Parent Information Meeting, 1:30 pm. Kindergarten students dismissed with parents. MUM SALE BEGINS.
- 9-10 In School Welcome Back assemblies.
- 9-14 AIS Services and Resource Services begin.
- 9-15 MUM Sale Pick up, 3:00-6:00 pm.
Elementary School Instrumental Demonstration Night, 7:00 pm. @JHS
- 9-16 First Grade Information Night, 6:30 pm.
- 9-14 SDM Meeting, 4:30 pm.
PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm. (All parents welcome and encouraged to attend!)
- 9-17 Board of Education Meeting 7 pm. JHS
- 9-18 School Pictures
Homeroom Parent 'Drawing', 3:30 pm.
- 9-24 Accelerated Reader Night 6:30 pm.
First Student Council Mtg., 3:10-4:00 pm.
Student Council Meeting 3:10-4 pm.
PANTHER CART
- 9-29 OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 pm.
- 9-30 PTA Reflections Workshop 3:10, Art Room

OCTOBER (looking ahead...)

- 10-1 Board of Education Meeting 7 pm. At Glebe—Parents, staff, and students invited
- 10-2 Lunch with the Principal
- 10-5 Reading Readiness Begins (grd. 1,2)
Homework Club Begins, 3:10-4:00
- 10-8 Chili-Soup Cook-OFF!
- 10-12 National School Lunch Week (10-12 through 12-16)
- 10-19 SDM Meeting, 4:30 pm.
PTA Meeting, 6:00 pm. Special School Report Card Presentation!
- 10-22 Student Council Meeting/Panther Cart
Accelerated Read Night 6:30 pm.

Please note: Families are encouraged to visit www.flu.gov for the latest information and recommendations for the upcoming flu season...

YOUR GLEBE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Your PTA membership does not obligate you to volunteer for committees and projects that involve your time. Through your membership dues (\$4.00) you will help to provide contributions for the following PTA activities throughout the year:

- ▶ Arts In Education Assemblies ▶ Art Show & Ice Cream Social
- ▶ Book Fairs ▶ Fall Festival ▶ Playground and Recess Equipment ▶ Accelerated Reading Program ▶ Beach Party/Luau
- ▶ Santa’s Workshop ▶ Beautification of our School Grounds
- ▶ Reflections Program ▶ School Pictures ▶ Yearbook ▶ Talent Show ▶ Scholarships ▶ Refreshments and Hospitality ▶ PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) program ▶ Academic Fair ▶ Box Tops/Printer Cartridges for Funds ▶ Hot Dog/Chili Cook-out
- ▶ Character Education ▶ and more...

We are always looking for volunteers to help with these events! If you are interested in volunteering or have any suggestions or comments, please contact us through the School District web-site:

johnstownschoools.org

P.T.A Officers for 2008-09 school year

- Kimberly Preston, *President*
 - Shelley Yerdon, *1st Vice President*
 - Cathy Preston, *2nd Vice President*
 - Virginia D’Amore, *Recording Secretary*
 - Kimberly Kortz, *Treasurer*
 - Kathy Simone, *Corresponding Secretary*
 - Bobby Jo Haveerly, *Public Relations Coordinator*
 - Kathy Leibowitz, *Teacher Representative*
 - Misty Houser, Lisa Askew, *Central Council Representatives*
- Please return this form in an envelope with your membership fee.

FOOD SERVICE LUNCH and BREAKFAST!

Free and reduced breakfast and lunch applications are sent home with your child on the first day. Please complete the applications and return them to school by **Wednesday, September 16th**. If you have any questions please call the office.

Please check carefully the school lunch menu (it is attached to this newsletter). On it, one can see the regular cafeteria meal. Please notice that there is an alternate lunch, as well. The alternate lunch choice will be offered each day.

- Lunch is \$1.75 per day.
Reduced lunch is \$.25 per day.
- Breakfast is \$1.00 per day.
Reduced breakfast is \$.25per day.

Please make payments on-lin through www.mynutrikids.com or use the “MyNutrikids” link at www.johnstownschoools.org. Checks for the correct amount should be made to “Greater Johnstown School District”. Payments can be made in advance. Please make every effort to maintain a balance on your child(ren)’s meal account.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

Please read over with your child/children the GJSD Code of Conduct you should have received with all of the first day materials. The codebook serves as a guide for student expectations and displaying good citizenship in school and in the community. Please be aware that our Board of Education has adopted this code for all of our schools, and expects that it will be fully enforced as written. Please feel free to call Mr. Crankshaw with any questions. Copies are available in the front office.

EXCUSES

Parents are required to provide a **WRITTEN** excuse that is signed by a parent/guardian when a student is absent, tardy or leaving school early. This is a New York State Education Law. Please send an excuse with your child in the morning if your child needs to be dismissed early or is tardy, as well as the day your child returns to school after being absent. Please notify the school if your child is going to be absent. If your child is late you need to sign him/her in and if he/she leaves early you must sign him/her out.

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SUPPORT! JOIN TODAY! PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND RELATIVES ARE ALL WELCOME TO JOIN!

Child’s Name: _____

Teacher’s Name: _____

of Memberships: _____ x \$4.00 (each)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Names of Members: (\$4.00 each member, please)

BUS SAFETY NOTE:

Please send in notes to change bussing students daily by **NOON**. Too often the front office receives calls late in the day to change bussing arrangements and this makes it difficult for the staff to get the information to the student *and* the transportation department. The safety of our students is our top priority. Thank you for your cooperation.

Announcing NEW and CONTINUING PROGRAMS at Glebe Street Elementary School 2008-2009 academic school year

PEER RELATIONS SKILLS PROGRAMS

- Peace Table Project: Lessons include concepts such as positive, appropriate use of our hands, ears, mouths, and bodies, especially when angry; ideas for calming down, playing fairly, and talking problems out...
- I'm Special: Research based program designed to increase the students' self-esteem and sense of identity, to develop decision making and communication skills, and to promote a better understanding of feelings...
- Steps to Respect: A bullying Prevention Program: A research based program designed to decrease bullying at school and help students build more supportive relationships with each other through a series of skills lessons.

- **PANTHER POINTS,**
- **PANTHER CART, and**
- **LUNCH with the PRINCIPAL**

components of our character education program

PEER READING PROGRAMS

ACCELERATED READING PROGRAM

HOMEWORK CLUB

STUDENT COUNCIL

READING READINESS

SAFETY PATROL

D.B.Q. WRITING WORKSHOP

SCHOOL BANKING

READING with the PRINCIPAL

STUDY SKILLS GROUP

ENRICHMENT 'CLUBS'

These 'clubs' are under the auspices of the Glebe Street Elementary School Shared Decision Making Team, and supported by volunteers on staff and in our community. Meetings are from 3:10-4:00, and specific dates for them will be announced.

- Book Discussion/Reading Club. (chairpersons—Mrs. Mary Jablonski/Mrs. June Coleman) This club will encourage reading and language expression. Focus will be specific to primary, intermediate, or middle-school leveled student readers.
- Culture Club. (chairpersons—Mrs. Melissa Livingstone/Mrs. Lesa Levin) Meetings are coordinated with presenters of language lessons, travel experiences, cooking, etc.
- Student Newsletter/Writing Club. (chairpersons—Mrs. Pamela Colasanti/Mr. Crankshaw) This will be a quarterly newsletter with monthly meetings meant to serve student's creative needs and encourage excellent writing communication skills.

If you would like to volunteer in any way to help coordinate, organize, or present for any of these clubs throughout the year, please contact the (chairpersons)

NEW GLEBE STAFF SPOTLIGHT!



We are fortunate to have two new support staff members at Glebe Street Elementary School this year! Miss Jessica Freis will be serving as our school psychologist this year (Mondays), sharing an office with Mrs. Stephanie Nasadoski (Bordis), our School Counselor (Wednesdays). Also new to Glebe this year, but not new to The greater Johnstown School District are Mrs. Amy Kollar (grade 5) and Ms. Ellen Jones (kindergarten). Mrs. Ann Blackwood, Mrs. Lynne Kortz, and Jeremy Batty will be coming on board to fill the crucial role of teacher classroom aide. Our new cashier is Mrs. Marge Fisher, and Mrs. Laurie Harris will assist Mrs. Mittler in the kitchen! Last, but not least, we welcome Mr. Michael Fleming to Glebe as afternoon-evening custodian. Let's offer them a Panther Pride welcome!

GLEBE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Friday, September 18, 2009 is "Picture Day" at Glebe Street Elementary School. Order forms and money envelopes will be sent home prior to pictures being taken. Please have your child bring in the order form with payment the day that their picture will be taken. Make-ups will be November 6.



OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House will be held Tuesday, September 29, 2009

at 6:30 pm.

All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to visit the classrooms and become acquainted with our school and staff. We will be sending home more information at a later date.

Throughout the evening, the PTA will have information available for the parents on how to become more involved in their child's education as well as sponsoring

VOLUNTEERS

Anyone wishing to volunteer in the Greater Johnstown School District needs to be approved by the district. Volunteer forms are available in the front office.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

A Message from Mr. Crankshaw...

How did you read that question? Did you sense exasperation (EMPHASIZE the capitals), "just exactly WHAT do you WANT from us? Or was it more like a whiney, "wha' d'YOU want from US?" We're neither whining nor exasperated – we really DO want to know, "what DO you want from us?"

Of course it's the law to send your child to school to 'get an education'. Rightly so, you expect that your child will learn in the safest environment possible. You want your child to be happy and to enjoy school. *But what are the things you expect your child will learn at Glebe?* This is your community and your school and your children, after all. However, your child will spend not less than thirty hours of prime time with us each week for forty weeks in a year. What will he or she learn while with us? Would you like to know how we plan to shape your child through our responsible interaction with him or her?

Your child will learn language. He will learn math. She will learn science and social studies. Our children consistently show themselves to be the strongest academic performers in the state of New York in these areas (*see the Glebe's school report card at www.nystart.gov*). He will learn about the environment...and history...and technology. She will learn about her body development in physical education...how to put ideas to paper...how to read. Your child will also learn to become a person of character and courage and confidence - a contributing citizen within a community. We will teach and model all of these things. We'll strive to let the Glebe Panther Pledge guide our actions. We will do so with high expectations, and we will be tireless about it. And we will depend upon the support of parents and the community.

However, beyond learning about good character traits and essential academic

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS POLICY

The district defines perfect attendance as "NO ABSENCES, INCLUDING NO TARDIES AND NO EARLY RELEASES." The only exceptions are for school-sponsored trips and activities. Please note that "Take Your Child to Work Day" is considered a school-sponsored activity. Please call the school at 762-3714 if you have any questions.

RETURN FORMS

Please return the following forms:

- Health History
- Computer Use Form
- Emergency Closing
- Free & Reduced Lunch
- Elementary Absence Notification
- Emergency & Contact Information/Authorization
- Cumulative Folder Form

skills is something also of great importance – leadership. We will need to focus on educating *young leaders* – that is to say children who *practice, demonstrate, and know* good character traits. Good leadership is essential – good leadership can be learned at an early age, and children can be good leaders from within.

I've been doing some reading over the summer. Steven Covey's book, "The Leader in Me", highlights qualities (he calls 'habits') of highly effective people. It is affirming and reassuring to know that we're (our collective Glebe community) on the right track with our students, and it's heartening to know that Glebe works in partnership within our community to support children and give them a real jumpstart when it comes to acquiring those 'habits' or qualities.

In a nutshell those habits include: Taking initiative and responsibility; setting goals and making plan to reach them; prioritizing and organizing; having courage and being positive; being a good listener; being humble and working well with others; taking care of one's body and making good choices. These qualities or 'habits' define good leaders, and it's never too early to guide and teach our children.

So...What *DO* you want from us? Hopefully, It is what we all wish for each of our kids, That is to treat each day with them as a gift, an opportunity, a challenge, and a responsibility to teach them the academic, social, emotional skills important for successful futures, while teaching them academic and leadership skills and principles that will have an immediate impact today and into the future.

“IMPORTANT SAFETY PROCEDURES”, page 5

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Teacher instruction begins promptly at **9:00am**. It is imperative your child is on time and attends school every day with a positive attitude. Being on time, good attendance, and a positive attitude will lead to success.

The school opens at **8:30 AM for those students attending breakfast**. If your child is not eating breakfast at school we urge them to arrive at 8:45 AM. Students can go directly to their classrooms at **8:45 am**. Dismissal is at **3:05 PM for Kindergarten students and 3:10 PM for Grades 1– 6**. Grades K-4 will be dismissed out of the front doors while grades 5 & 6 will exit out of the north doors. This will help alleviate the congestion at the front doors during dismissal.

Unless infirm, parents and/or family members are asked to please wait outside under the portico area (or inside between the two sets of doors during inclement weather). At all times, parents are asked to obey the traffic laws and parking regulations in and around the Glebe Street School. Please read box (to the right), entitled 'TRAFFIC SAFETY'.

BUILDING SAFETY PROCEDURES

Access to the elementary buildings will be through the main entrance only. This entrance will be open for students and visitors from 8:30-4:00pm.

ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING AND WILL RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS or FILL OUT A NEW VISITOR'S STICKER BADGE FOR ANY REASON. As per GJSD BOE policy, VISITORS MUST ALSO STATE THE NATURE OF THEIR VISIT and BE ADMITTED at the DISCRETION of the PRINCIPAL.

Any person not having a visitor's pass (or sticker badge) will be asked to leave the school or go to the office to get one.

As parents arrive in the morning with children, PARENTS WILL BE UNABLE TO ESCORT CHILDREN TO CLASS-ROOMS. It is necessary that all visitors remain in the foyer area, and allow the children to gain independence, learning to proceed to their classroom on their own.

During dismissal, the same protocol will be followed. Unless you are infirm, please remain outside under the portico area (or inside between the two sets of doors during inclement weather).

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Many families drive their children to school. While many children still do walk to school, more seem to arrive by vehicle each year. In 1966, when Glebe Street Elementary School was designed, no one could have imagined the marked increase in vehicle traffic to and from school. With this in mind please observe the following:

- BE PATIENT and COURTEOUS when parking, dropping off your child(ren), or picking them up. Please think of others.
- **NEVER DROP YOUR CHILD(REN) OFF INTO GLEBE STREET. DO NOT DOUBLE PARK EVEN FOR A MOMENT TO DROP THEM OFF THERE. ALWAYS ESCORT YOUR CHILD(REN) SAFELY TO THE SIDEWALK IF YOU ARE PARKING ON GLEBE.**
- PARKING AT THE MOUTH OF THE PARKING LOT ENTRANCE IS NEVER ALLOWED.
- PLEASE PARK (never double-park) IN THE PARKING LOT whenever possible.
- PLEASE TEACH YOUR CHILD(REN) WHERE YOU WILL BE TO MEET THEM, should you be picking them up by car. They will learn where to look for you.
- ALWAYS OBSERVE SIGNS AND CONES PLACED THROUGHOUT THE PARKING LOT.

Thank you for observing these building procedures!

HEELIES, SKATEBOARDS, and BICYCLES

*Heelies and Bicycles are allowed on school property. However, both require safety helmets by law. No child will be allowed to proceed home without the proper safety attire. Heelies need to be removed before entering the building. Bicycles will be parked and locked. Students must walk bicycles while on school property for everyone's safety. Please teach your child(ren) these safety requirements. We want them to be **safe and happy** while considering these modes of transportation to and from school. Skateboards are not allowed on school property.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Mrs. Cromer

In an effort to provide a safe playing environment for all students in Physical Education class, students are asked to remove all jewelry during class. It is understandable that certain circumstances require earrings to be left in until the 6-week healing process has ended, and we make provisions for such students. Once the 6-week period of time has expired, those students are also expected to remove earrings. The best place to leave them is at home where they remain in a clean environment. If your child is able to remove them without assistance, a zip lock bag or small plastic container may be a solution for keeping jewelry safe and clean in your child's classroom during Physical Education class time.

Please consider making sure that your child's sneakers can be securely laced and tied tightly so that they do not come off easily without being untied. Too many times students not wearing proper footwear step out of their sneakers while playing, leading to an increase in the potential for foot, ankle, lower leg and knee injuries. Several sneakers have flown through the air during activities in PE class and recess, increasing the risk of injury to other children as well. Although skateboarding shoes and slip-on shoes etc are very fashionable, they prove to be hazardous in class and recess.