

Cougar Connection

A Publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA
October 2010

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.."
— Helen A. Keller



Assistant Principal's Pen

Dear Parents:

It was so wonderful to see so many of you here last week for our HKMS Open House. The support you give your children is the main reason our children thrive here at Helen Keller Middle School. Mrs. Parker preliminarily shared our March 2010 CMT results with you that evening. You will certainly hear more from us regarding our plans for continuous improvement of student achievement this year. Mrs. Parker and I are extremely excited about this school year.

On another note, our Fine and Practical Arts (FPA) classes are larger than usual this year. Two positions, one physical education teacher and one music teacher, were lost at Helen Keller Middle School due to budget cuts. Our FPA teachers are working very hard to maintain the quality educational program that they have

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CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

- 10/8 No School - Staff Day
- 10/11 No School - Columbus Day
- 10/15 PTA Meeting @Easton Library
(Guest Speaker: Superintendent,
Dr. Mike Cicchetti) 9:15 am.
- 10/15 Transition Dance - 8th Grade
JBHS 7 - 9:30 pm.
- 10/21 Early Dismissal 12:10 pm - Staff Day
- 10/22 QSP Drive begins and runs through
until November 2
- 10/29 Student Council Dance 6:30 - 9 pm

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The Cougar Connection is a monthly publication of Helen Keller Middle School and the Easton PTA.

Previous issues of the Cougar Connection can be found on the Helen Keller Middle School website at:
<http://www.helenkellerps.org>

and the Easton PTA website at:
<http://www.eastonpta.com>



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HKMS Birthday Book Club Formhttp://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/hkms_birthday_book_club.pdf

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always delivered to your children. As usual, they are looking forward to a very productive school year. Please support these teachers should they contact you regarding any behavior issues they encounter in their classes. Expectations have been explained, but larger class sizes may mean that students will be required to demonstrate more patience than has been required of them in the past. Please know that Mrs. Parker and I will work diligently to restore the positions that have been cut from our programs to alleviate this condition next year. Thank you for supporting our teachers by expressing to your children that their work, effort, and behavior in all classes at HKMS are equally important.

I continue to be impressed each day by the hard work your children are doing and by the dedication of each staff member at Helen Keller Middle School.

Best regards,

Susan J. Kaplan,
[\(\[skaplan@eastonps.org\]\(mailto:skaplan@eastonps.org\)\)](mailto:skaplan@eastonps.org)
Helen Keller Middle School Assistant Principal



News from the PTA Presidents

Dear Families,

What a busy month! It goes without saying that September brings with it the transition from Summer to School days, the acclimation of our children to their new classes, the reconnection with friends, and deciding what their current school year will look like in terms of sports and extracurriculars.

With our first month of school already behind us, we want to thank you all for an overwhelming interest in being involved at HKMS. Much of this centers around our extra-curricular programs that are off to a great start - with more ideas coming down the pike. Again, we welcome any ideas for additional enriching opportunities for our kids. Just send us a quick note at hadair@optonline.net or stoneybell@sbcglobal.net.

As the Fall begins, we have lots to look forward to and encourage you to join us in our efforts for the following:

SKI CLUB: Be one of 4 trip leaders, ski or simply sit in the lodge as a "home base" for the kids.

BRICK FUNDRAISER: We're looking for someone to continue running this successful effort! (Minimal time commitment.)

BOOK FAIR (Dec. and May): Volunteer a 2-hour shift in the media center.

SCHOOL STORE: Volunteer an hour every other Friday, starting Oct. 1.

To get involved in any of the above, contact us at hadair@optonline.net or stoneybell@sbcglobal.net.

PTA Meetings Evolving to Meet Your Requests

In an effort to make PTA meetings more accessible for people, we invite you to join us at our monthly meetings where we'll kick-off the meetings whenever possible with guest

speakers to speak to current issues. Following the speaker, we will segue into our monthly business that we'll hope you can join us for, but understand if you have to sneak away.

Our Friday, October 15th meeting will begin with Superintendent, Dr. Michael Cicchetti where you will be able to chat with him over coffee, listen to information he has to share regarding current efforts and ask any questions of him you may have. Please join us at 9:15 in the Easton Library.

SKI CLUB

This month we will be notifying all HKMS families about Ski Club Registration (including the process and the cost.) Again we will be skiing at Ski Sundown with 4 trips planned: (Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Jan. 28 and February 4.) The Ski Club is one of our most popular offerings so we encourage you to mark the trip dates on your calendar and join us at the registration meeting (date TBD).

In addition, we are still collecting names for Trip Coordinators for each trip as well as chaperones. Our list is growing so please let us know if you would like to be considered part of the team.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

When you Join/Renew Your PTA Membership

Easton has one PTA that supports programs at both HKMS and Samuel Staples Elementary School. Look for the attached Membership Form (page 11), or visit the PTA website: www.eastonpta.com for a membership form and to see more details of PTA activities and volunteer needs.

And, seriously, we know you want, and need, at least one of those invaluable School Directories!



PIES ARE COMING!

Choose from six delicious varieties that will be delivered frozen and will be ready to heat and serve. All pies are \$12 and will be available for pick-up in the Keller Cafeteria, on Monday, Nov. 22nd from 2:30-5 pm. Please order by Nov. 5, using the form at the end of this edition. Proceeds benefit Samuel Staples and Helen Keller student enrichment programs. Questions to Diane Karazulas at 203.268.2305 or pkarazulas@optonline.net

Been Meaning To Have Your Family's Photo Taken?

The PTA is offering a great deal through Capitol Photo Interactive. It's easy:

- You schedule the session at your convenience – indoors in their Fairfield studio or outdoors at Sasco Beach or with fall foliage.
- For only \$185 (which includes a \$25 donation to the PTA), you get all the proofs, plus one 8x10 and two 5x7s prints.

For more information please see:

http://www.eastonpta.com/pdf/Photo_fundraiser10.pdf

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings held at 9:15 at the Easton Library Community Room:

- October 15, 2010 - Guest Speaker: Dr. Cicchetti.
- November 12, 2010 - Guest Speaker: TBD
- December 10, 2010 - Guest Speaker: TBD

Heidi Adair (hadair@optonline.net)
and Laura T. Jones (stoneybell@sbcglobal.net)
Easton PTA HKMS Co-Presidents

A Few Words From the Media Center:

It is becoming increasingly important to recognize one's vulnerability when surfing the web. For that reason, I am urging you to check the privacy settings on your own computers and those of your students.

Both sets of instructions listed below come directly from the Microsoft website.

1. Open Internet Explorer by clicking the Start button Picture of the Start button, and then clicking Internet Explorer.
2. Click the Tools button, and then click Internet Options.
3. Click the Privacy tab.

Information about cookies:

"Websites use cookies to offer a personalized experience to users and to gather information about website use. Many websites also use cookies to store information that provides a consistent experience between sections of the site, such as a shopping cart or customized pages. With a trusted website, cookies can enrich your experience by allowing the site to learn your preferences or allowing you to skip having to sign in every time you go to the website. However, some cookies, such as those saved by banner ads, might put your privacy at risk by tracking sites you visit."

To delete cookies:

1. Open Internet Explorer by clicking the Start button Picture of the Start button, and then clicking Internet Explorer.
2. Click the Tools button, and then click Internet Options.
3. On the General tab, under Browsing history, click Delete.
4. Do one of the following:
 - a. In Internet Explorer 7, click Delete Cookies, click Yes, and then click Close.
 - b. In Internet Explorer 8, select the Cookies check box, and then click Delete.

One more word of advice: back up your data and do it often! Better safe than sorry.

*Carol Weinschel,
Director of Learning Resources & Technology,
cweinschel@eastonps.org*



Eighth Grade Government:

This week the eighth grade class voted for their five officers to lead Eighth Grade Government. We are proud to announce that this year's Eighth Grade Government Officers are:

President - Sam Bartlett
Vice-President - Elizabeth Bobroske
Secretary - Lorenzo Marchetti
Treasurer - Olivia Greenspan
Administrative Liaison - Jack Pantalena

For the next two weeks, we will be meeting with officers only in Mrs. Dunkerton's room (225) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 7:30. Starting October 13th, whole class meetings will begin and will take place every Wednesday and Friday morning promptly at 7:30. We encourage every eighth grade student to be an active member of Eighth Grade Government. This includes attending Wednesday and Friday morning whole class meetings. We look forward to the upcoming year and seeing what mark this eighth grade class can leave on Helen Keller Middle School!

Annual Easton EMS Women's Tennis Tournament, Lunch & Silent Auction

It's fun, it's local and it's a great cause. Join us on Tuesday, October 5th at the Easton Racquet Club for the Annual Easton Volunteer EMS Tennis Tournament. All levels of play welcome. Join us for tennis, lunch and silent auction – or simply join us for lunch and fun! Registration forms attached to this newsletter.

Please contact Heidi Adair at hadair@optonline.net with questions or inquiries on donating auction items.

Keller's Junior Historical Society Club

Meets Tuesday, 7:30 AM

If your child loves history perhaps they would like to join Keller's Junior Historical Society Club. We meet every Tuesday morning in the Media Center at 7:30 AM from October 5th - June 7th, 2011. The Jr. Historical Society Club is open to all Keller students. An open mind and a desire to learn about Easton history is all that is required. We'll examine primary source documents from the 1800's including deeds, photographs, manuscripts, letters, diaries and more. Then students will utilize critical thinking skills to analyze these primary sources to determine integrity, bias and purpose. All students will be encouraged to research topics of their choice. For more information contact Lisa Burghardt, President of the Historical Society of Easton at HSEastonct@gmail.com or call (203) 581-0850.





Dear Students and Faculty,

The Keller PTA is sponsoring a pie fundraiser in plenty of time for Thanksgiving. There are 6 different varieties. They will be delivered frozen and will be ready to heat and serve anytime over the holidays. Sale dates: now through November 5.

Collect orders on the brochure form

Total each column, checking for accuracy
Remember to fill in all requested information.

Collect checks/cash at the time of order

Please make all checks out to Easton PTA

Return order form and payment to school by November 5, 2010,

Attention: Diane Karazulas

The pies will be available for pick-up in the Keller Cafeteria, on Monday,
November 22, 2010 from 2:30-5 pm

Proceeds will go towards Samuel Staples and Helen Keller
student enrichment programs.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions,
please contact:

Diane Karazulas

268-2305

pkarazulas@optonline.net

Easton PTA Pie Sale

Student's Name: _____

Phone: _____

Teacher: _____

Ask relatives, friends, and neighbors for support. Do not go door to door for orders.

Easton PTA Membership 2010-2011

Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Staff:

We invite you to join The Easton PTA. The PTA provides many programs for the students of Samuel Staples and Helen Keller Schools. By becoming a member, you will assist in providing these programs and many other activities. For existing members, this is your opportunity to renew your membership. For families, teachers, and staff new to our school, now is your chance to join and become an active participant of the Easton PTA. We also realize that due to busy schedules, many people are not able to donate as much of their time to the PTA as they would like, but we still encourage you to become a member of the organization.

Why Become a Member?

- The proceeds go to support many programs at SSES and HKMS, some of which are listed below.
- You **must** be a member to be a room parent or to be a committee chairperson.
- Membership shows our children how much we care for and support our school.
- You will receive a complimentary Easton PTA, Student Directory 2010-2011.

Activities and Programs Supported by the PTA

- Enrichment Programs – \$1,000 per grade
- Parent/Student Directory
- Staples School Calendar
- *SCOOP* – SSES Newsletter
- Student Enrichment Events
- Sport Events & Family Activity Nights
- Reflections
- Diversity Day
- 2nd Grade Play Productions
- *Cougar Connection* – HKMS Newsletter
- GR 5-8 Agenda Planner Notebooks
- Ice Cream Social

Please mail or return your tax-deductible check payable to **Easton PTA** to Samuel Staples School, 515 Morehouse Rd. Attn: PTA Membership to help support 2010-2011 programs. Thank you.

Parent Name _____

Student Name(s) _____

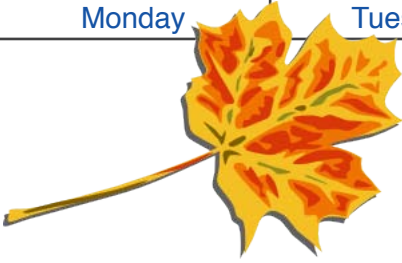

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Annual Membership Levels: ___\$15 family membership ___ \$25 patron ___\$50 star ___ \$100 superstar
___\$6 teacher

Parent/Guardian at: ___ SSES ___ HKMS ___ BOTH

October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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12	13	14	15	16	17 No School- Columbus Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Early Dismissal at 12:10 pm - Staff Day	32
33	34	35	36	37	38 QSP Drive begins and runs through until November 2	39
40	41	42	43	44	45 Student Council Dance - 6:30 - 9 pm	46
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