

Cougar Connection

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

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



Helen Keller Middle School
360 Sport Hill Road
Easton, CT 06612

<http://www.helenkellerps.org>

Phone:
203.268.8651

Fax:
203.268.6105

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>

Principal's Pen

Dear Parents:

The lazy days of summer now behind them, our students began the school year with high-five greetings between friends and smiles galore. "I am ready to be back," said one Keller student, "I miss my friends during the summer break."

399 students are enrolled this year; the certified enrollment count for 2010-11 will be taken October 1st.

Here's the first event you need to attend: **HKMS Open House next Thursday, September 16th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.** You will have an opportunity to meet our superintendent, speak with support staff, hear expectations from each of your child's teachers, join PTA and tour our new Engineering Lab. It promises to be a great evening.

Best regards,

Joan C. Parker,
[*\(jparker@eastonps.org\)*](mailto:jparker@eastonps.org)
Helen Keller Middle School Principal

CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

- 9/1 Welcome Back! First Day of School
- 9/6 Labor Day - No School
- 9/9 Rosh Hashanah - No School
- 9/14 Picture Day (Media Center)
- 9/16 Open House - 7 - 9 pm
- 9/24 Staff Day - Early Dismissal - 12:10 pm



Newsletter Topics.....Location

Principal's Pen.....	page 1
Calendar @ A Glance	page 1
News from the PTA Presidents.....	page 2
Media Center News.....	page 3
PTA Membership Form.....	page 4
September 2010 Calendar.....	page 5

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

News from the PTA Presidents



Dear Parents,

To new and returning parents: Welcome to the 2010-2011 School Year! Your PTA at Helen Keller is being headed again by Heidi Adair and Laura Jones, both parents of seventh grade boys this year. We are excited to have this opportunity again. Our role is to serve as liaisons between the parent community and the Keller community of teachers and staff. We look forward to your ideas, input and feedback as to how we can make the most of your child's experience at Helen Keller.

Even though our children find more independence at the Middle School compared to Elementary School, your involvement is still important, and we try to make it possible. Listed below are some ways that you can make a difference at the school:

- Coordinate or help at the BOOK FAIRS (December and May, 2-hour shifts)
- Help at SCHOOL STORE (every other Friday, 11-1)
- Volunteer for TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK activities
- Chair or chaperone SKI CLUB
- BAKE for special events
- Assist at SCHOOL LIBRARY
- Offer your special talents/interests through EXTRACURRICULARS

Join/Renew your 2010/2011 PTA Membership

Easton has one PTA that supports programs at both Helen Keller Middle School and Samuel Staples Elementary School. Look for the attached Membership Form (page 4), or visit the PTA website: www.eastonpta.com for a membership form and to see more details of PTA activities and volunteer needs.

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- September 10, 2010
- October 15, 2010
- November 12, 2010
- December 10, 2010

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

A bright yellow rectangular banner with the text "Join your PTA Today!" written in a large, blue, bubbly, hand-drawn font.

Media Center News

There have been several major changes in the Media Center area. We have weeded our collection and moved some of the bookshelves so the Media Center is much more open and inviting. There is a patriotic display right near the entrance and we are currently working on a Technology Museum...from the past to present. For those who did not know, there is also a Parent Collection which is available for check-out.

The HKMS website has undergone a transformation and will continue to change. Use the Navigation Bars on either side to locate information. The Learning Resources and Technology link will enable you and your students to access our collection from home. Our School Store will be open again and is fully stocked so if your child needs something, the prices are all affordable. We continue to collect used toner cartridges for the Funding Factory Recycling Program. This has proven to be helpful in keeping the environment green and providing us with a few dollars for extra special items for the Media Center. Please support this program.

If you have any free time and would like to volunteer your services, the Media Center would welcome you with open arms. Keeping the shelves in order is a challenge. We look forward to a very exciting year with your children. Stop in and say hello.

Carol Weinshel,
Director of Learning Resources & Technology,
cweinshel@eastonps.org



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

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Welcome Back! First Day of School	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day No School	7	8	9 Rosh Hashanah No School	10	11
12	13	14 Picture Day (Media Center) Bicycle Safety Class	15	16 Open House 7 -9 pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Staff Day - Early Dismissal - 12:10 pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		