

Looking Ahead.....

**Dates to Remember:**

January 27 (3:30-4:30 P.M.)

**A Second Step Coffee & Conversation**

January 28

**Early Release Day**

February 4

**PTO Meeting**

February 10

**Uno's Night**

**February 10**

The Kids Dentist visits Kindergarten

February 16-20

**Winter Vacation  
No School**

**March 3**

PTO Meeting

**March 3**

School Banking Day

**Mark the Date!**

March 26 Ice Cream Night & Book Fair! Details to come!



# The Penguin Press

Benjamin J. Phelps Elementary School

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to take this opportunity to talk with you regarding the importance of school attendance. Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teacher's lessons are carefully planned to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, assess progress, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children are not in school, they fall behind. And the more days that they miss, the harder it is to catch up. Schools are also required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. Our attendance rate is part of determining whether we make "adequate yearly progress" according to the No Child Left Behind Act. That is where you come in.

It may be tempting to pull your children from school for a family trip, but this is not advisable. Why? First, it gives your children the impression that their schooling is not your top priority. And when they miss classwork, even if you ask for make-up work to be sent home ahead of time, they can fall behind because they're missing many hours of instructional time each day.

Please remember to show and tell your children that attendance is important - whether it is a child in school or as an adult on the job. You'll be helping them succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely,  
Teresa A. Urbinati  
Principal

## Teacher's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you so much for your generous donations of supplies for our technology/engineering program! Many of the materials that you have sent in have already been put to good use in our classrooms. Your support is sincerely appreciated!



Thank you again!  
Mrs. Herberger , Science Teacher



# PTO NEWS

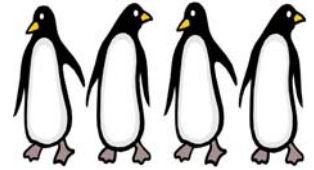


President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Stacy Wieners  
Debbie Dobrowolski  
Tom Dobrowolski  
Traci Croteau

[phelpspto@yahoo.com](mailto:phelpspto@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Bonfiglio



**PTO Meeting**  
**February 4**  
**7:00 PM**

## PTO Elections for 2009-2010 School Year

Vice President  
Secretary  
Committee Chairs  
List will be sent home in April,  
Vote will be at May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting!  
Interested...or have any questions??? Email us!



## Enrichment News

February 12<sup>th</sup>  
(Grades 1 & 2 only)

**Jeff Danger, Science Ranger** offers educational, entertaining, and fun science programs to engage and motivate children to continue science studies, improve test scores, and pursue science-related careers. He is known for his ability to translate scientific concepts to ideas children can understand and to make them laugh at the same time

[www.sciencerangers.com](http://www.sciencerangers.com)

## More Enrichment News

April 1<sup>st</sup>  
(Grade 4 only)



**Mark Binder**  
**Author, storyteller, nice guy**  
is coming to Benjamin Phelps School.....

[www.markbinder.com](http://www.markbinder.com)



**Agawam Stadium Blankets**  
**SOLD OUT!**  
**Thank you!**



**Tuesday February 10, 2009**  
**5:00 pm - 9:00pm**

Cut out the coupon to the right and bring it with you, so our school will earn 20% of your check!

**A TASTY WAY**  
**TO RAISE DOUGH.**



Uno will donate up to 20% of your check to:  
To Benefit: Phelps PTO  
Fundraiser Date: 5-9-2/10/09  
Valid only at:

820 West Columbus Avenue  
Springfield  
733-1300

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for dates listed above.

## PHELPS PTO Box Tops for Education Contest

Phelps School will be holding a classroom Box Tops for Education Contest from Monday, January 12 - Friday, February 13.



Phelps School earns 10 cents per box top. Box tops can be found on many General Mills products. (For a complete list of participating products visit [btfе.com](http://btfе.com)). Please be sure to send all your box tops in with your child.

The classroom that collects the most box tops during the contest period will be rewarded with a pizza party, compliments of the PTO. Second prize is a class movie and popcorn. Third prize is a munchkins and juice party.

In 2008, Phelps School earned \$890 thanks to all your help!

## Help Wanted! PTO BY-LAW review committee



The PTO by-laws have not been reviewed or updated since 2004. We are looking for a small group of Phelps parents to share ideas to bring our by-laws up to date! Email- [phelpsppto@yahoo.com](mailto:phelpsppto@yahoo.com) if you are interested!  
The current by-laws can be viewed on the Phelps PTO webpage.

## PTO Agenda February 4, 2009 7:00

Welcome

Treasure Report

Secretaries Report

Principal's Report

Teachers Representatives

VOTE on Yearbook - Color or B/W, ZOOM Insert?

Fundraiser ideas for Fall of 09-10 school year

Ice Cream night / DJ Update – Traci Croteau & Bev Walsh

So you think your Smarter than a 4<sup>th</sup> Grader – update

Tips for Teachers- Discussion

Read- a – thon – update – Cindy Drummond

MOVIE Night update – Bev Walsh

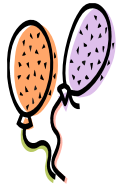
## Pie and Cookie Fundraiser Top Sellers (over \$200)



1. ADAM D., Room 20, \$304.00
2. HANNAH B., Room 18, \$268.00
3. DOMENIC C., Room 16, \$241.00
4. ISABELLA N., Room 22, \$225.00
5. LUCAS R., Room 6 \$210.00
6. ALLISON C., Room 14, \$209.00

## Phelps January Birthdays

Isabella 1/6, Frederick 1/8, Ian 1/8, Athena 1/10, Sabrina 1/10, Cuba 1/11, Caroline 1/11, Danielle 1/12, Brie' Anna 1/14, Alexander 1/17, Tia 1/18, Mollie 1/18, Leah 1/18, Kayla 1/19, Kevin 1/21, Irina 1/21, Samantha 1/21, James 1/22, Matthew Long 1/22, Megan 1/23, Joseph 1/27, Linda 1/28, Taia 1/28 Jared 1/29, Mirah 1/30, Nicholas 1/30, Dillon 1/30, Brandon 1/30, Emily 1/31



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If your family drinks Capri Sun Juice, you may send in the empty pouches to the PTO. The pouches are recycled and used to make products such as handbags and pencil cases. Phelps school will earn money for each pouch turned in. Thanks again for your support. GO GREEN!



### Looking for a Shriners Volunteer

The Phelps PTO is in possession of a large quantity of Aluminum can pull tabs.

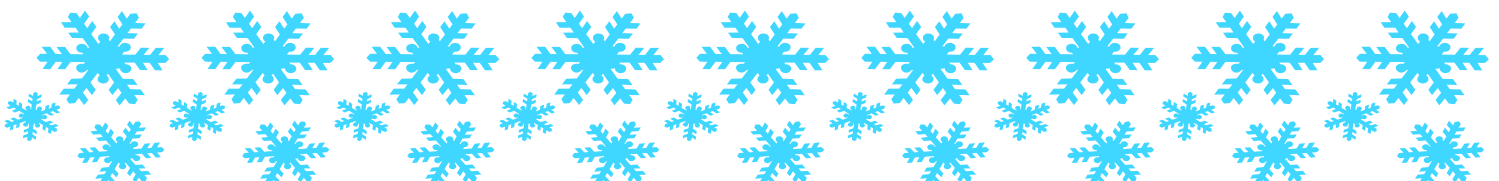


If anyone knows a Shriner who would like to pick these up, please contact the PTO at [phelpsPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:phelpsPTO@yahoo.com)

Another Reminder...



Please email [MariaHardy4@aol.com](mailto:MariaHardy4@aol.com) with any SCHOOL photos of your children and their friends for the yearbook.



**A Month of Giving**  
**Thank You!!**