

# The Penguin Press

Benjamin J. Phelps Elementary School

November 10, 2009

Looking Ahead.....

## Dates to Remember:

November 11  
Veterans Day/No School

November 12 (6:30 PM in Café)  
Butter Braid Delivery

November 12 (7:00 PM in Café)  
PTO Meeting

**November 16-20**  
**Month of Giving Pet**  
**Donations (see**  
**inside for details)**

November 17  
School Banking Day

November 25  
Early Release Day

November 26 & 27  
No School  
Thanksgiving Break

November 25  
Early Release Day

November 30- December 4  
Month of Giving- Instant  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
donations (see inside for  
details)

December 3  
Caroline Ingals visits 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
(Cost of \$730 - paid with PTO  
funds)

December 9  
Early Release Day

December 9  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
Pick up Meadow Farm  
Fundraiser in auditorium

## Important Information!!



Butter Braid Delivery Date is this Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30 PM in the Café before the PTO meeting!

Please remember you must pick up your order (or have it  
picked up) this evening or your order will be donated to a  
local food shelter or sold to parents in attendance.

## Principals Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In this month's message I want to share what I consider to be alarming news. A recent study found that American children aged 2-11 are watching more television than they have in years. New findings from The Nielsen Company show kids aged 2-5 now spend more than 32 hours a week on average in front of a TV screen. Kids' ages 6 to 11 spend a little less time, about 28 hours per week watching TV. This is probably due in part to the fact that this age group is most likely attending school for longer hours (thus not able to watch as much TV as the younger group). Here are the statistics:

### Average Weekly TV and Peripheral Consumption

Total	TV	Among All Kids 2 – 5			
		DVR	DVD	VCR	Game Console
Over 32 hrs	24 hrs 51 mins	1 hr 29 mins	4 hrs 33 mins	45 mins	1 hr 12 mins
Total	TV	Among All Kids 6 – 11			
		DVR	DVD	VCR	Game Console
Over 28 hrs	22 hrs 9 mins	59 mins	2 hrs 28 mins	18 mins	2 hrs 23 mins

This trend of increased viewing among children mirrors the overall increase in media consumption that has been tracked over the last two years across TV, Internet, Games and Mobile phones. The majority of viewing though is done watching live TV, including commercials.

When kids are watching TV, they are not outdoors getting fresh air and exercise and they are not reading or talking with others. They are also being exposed to a lot of commercialization. I challenge us all to take a look at the viewing behavior of ourselves and of our children.

# Phelps PTO News



President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

*Stacy Wieners*  
*Kellee Morello*  
*Tom Dobrowolski*  
*Christine Patterson*

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

Editor: *Jennifer Bonfiglio* [Phelpsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:Phelpsnewsletter@yahoo.com)

## 2009-2010 PTO Meeting Schedule

November 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 9<sup>th</sup>  
January 13<sup>th</sup>  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
April 14<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>  
June 9<sup>th</sup>

All meetings are held in the school cafeteria at 7:00 PM

## PTO Meeting Agenda November 12, 2009

- 6:30 PM \*\*\*\*\* Pick up Butter Braids\*\*\*\*\*
- 7:00 PM
1. Meeting begins
  2. Inspire Works Enrichment presentation (a fee based optional after school program for children; cooking, drama, lego, art, etc...)
  3. Waste Free Lunch Update
  4. Vendor Night (12/14/09)
  5. PTO Holiday gathering discussion
  6. Gift Card Service



## BAKE SALE RESULTS



**BIG THANK YOU** to all who pitched in and helped make the Election Day Bake Sale / Raffle a **HUGE** success! **The PTO raised over \$1,600!!** Special thanks to those teachers and faculty members who came and supported our event as well!

### Student Directory Update

Unfortunately the response to the Student Directory was not what we had hoped for. Because the participation level was extremely low, we have decided to try it again next year when we can provide multiple opportunities for families to participate.

All checks for Directory orders will be destroyed OR REFUNDED IF DEPOSITED!  
All cash payment will also be refunded

### Capri Sun Recycle Reminder

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!



# A Month of Giving

Welcome to our annual tradition, the Month of Giving. This is an opportunity to teach our children that we give - not to expect anything in return, but to know we made a small difference in someone else's life. The Month of Giving will begin November 16<sup>th</sup> and end December 18<sup>th</sup>. Tables will be set up in the front hallway for your children to place their donations. We are looking forward to another successful Month of Giving, and thank you in advance for all your support. If you have any questions please feel free to Contact Lisa Grenier at 786-3629 or email [lisa184@verizon.net](mailto:lisa184@verizon.net) or for a specific week contact the coordinator listed below.



**Week 1**  
11/16 - 11/20

**THOMAS J. O'CONNOR** Animal Control & Adoption Center cares for nearly 4,000 stray, abandoned, abused and neglected animals each year and consists of about 50% dogs and 50% cats. TJ O'Connor also has an adoption program for unclaimed animals in their care looking for a second opportunity to find a "forever home."

**In need of:** old towels and blankets so the animals have a warm, soft place to sleep. Paper towels, toys and treats for the animals, gift cards to stores such as Dave's Soda, or just about anything you'd use at home.



**Week 2**  
11/30 - 12/4

**AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB** is a community service organization committed to the betterment of our community through support of the arts, home life, education, conservation, public and international affairs.

**In need of:** Mashed Potatoes and Gravy. These items will be combined with additional items collected by other Agawam Schools to help create Holiday meals served to the people in our community.



**Week 3**  
12/7 - 12/11

**TOYS FOR TOTS** is a mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.

**In need of:** New and unwrapped toys

**Coordinator:** Stacy Weiners 786-5039 [Stacyjaz@comcast.net](mailto:Stacyjaz@comcast.net)



**OPEN PANTRY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.**  
Post Office Box 5127, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101-5127

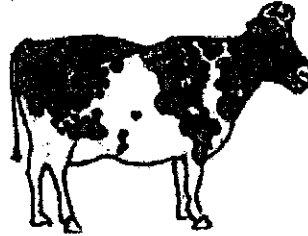
**Week 4**  
12/14 - 12/18

**OPEN PANTRY'S EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY (EFP)** provides non-perishable groceries for people in need. Both individuals and families in the Springfield area come to the EFP on an emergency basis. In 2008, EFP provided non-perishable food/groceries to over 27,000 people, half of whom were children.

**In need of:** Tuna, Rice, Pasta, Dried Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Baby Formula, Shampoo and Toothpaste.

**Coordinator:** Kristy Consolini [kconsolini@comcast.net](mailto:kconsolini@comcast.net)

Phelps School MOO-Cool Coupon



We RECYCLE to help keep our world GREEN

Kids who recycle on milk cartons or juice boxes will get a MOO-Cool Coupon for being responsible! Our big WASTE FREE DAY is Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> but milk carton recycling will be ongoing in all the schools in the district. See <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/> for more information and what you can do to be WASTE FREE !

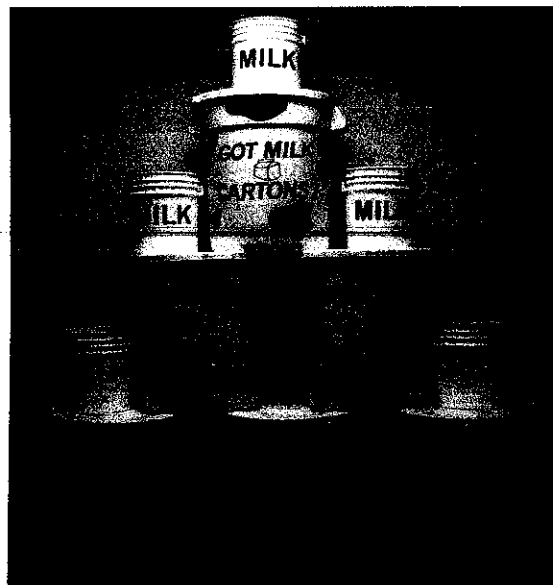
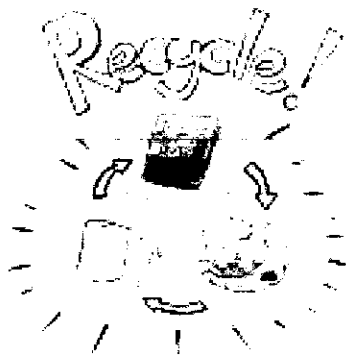
**A Typical American Lunch  
(DISPOSABLE)**

- sandwiches sealed in plastic bags
- fruits and vegetables in plastic bags
- prepackaged chips, cookies, fruit bars, granola bars, cheeses, and fruit leathers
- prepackaged yogurts, apple sauces, and puddings
- crackers, pretzels, chips, and other snack foods sealed in plastic bags
- disposable juice boxes, juice pouches, soda cans, water bottles, and milk cartons
- plastic forks and spoons
- paper napkins
- reusable lunchboxes and disposable paper and plastic bags

**A Waste-Free Lunch  
(REUSABLE)**

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- cloth napkins
- stainless-steel forks and spoons
- reusable drink containers
- reusable lunchboxes

\*With this type of lunch, lunch food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well.



**Benjamin Phelps Elementary School Gift Card Service 2009**

Will you be purchasing gift cards for the holiday season? If Yes, let Phelps PTO do the shopping for you! Below is a list of participating retailers and gift card denominations along with percentages that the school will be able to earn per card. Please call Jennifer Bonfiglio @ 789-9661 with any questions.

**Please check back for delivery dates and times!**

Name:				Date:							
Address:				Phone No:							
City:		State:		Zip:		Rrn#					
Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total
99 Restaurant \$25.00	13%		\$	Country Buffet \$25.00	5%		\$	Limited, The \$25.00	9%		\$
A&P Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	9%		\$	Longhorn Steakhouse \$25.00	9%		\$
A&P Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$	Crate and Barrel \$ 10.00	8%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
A.J. Wright \$25.00	7.00%		\$	CVS/pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches \$10.00	10%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	7%		\$	Domino's Pizza	5%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	4%		\$	Dressbarn \$25.00	8%		\$	Mobil \$50.00	1.5%		\$
American Eagle Outfitters \$25.00	9%		\$	Dunkin Donuts \$10.00	4%		\$	National Amusements \$25.00	9%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	10%		\$	EB Games \$25.00	3%		\$	Office Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Eddie Bauer \$25.00	10%		\$	Office Max \$25.00	5%		\$
Auto Zone \$25.00	5%		\$	Express \$ 25.00	10%		\$	Old Navy \$ 25.00	9%		\$
Babies-R-U's \$20.00	1.5%		\$	Exxon \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Olive Garden \$25.00	9%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	9%		\$	GNC \$25.00	8%		\$	On The Border \$25.00	11%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	13%		\$	Gulf Oil \$25.00	2%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	5%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	13%		\$	Gymboree \$25.00	13%		\$	Overstock.com \$25.00	8%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Hard Rock Cafe \$25.00	10%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	9%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	3%		\$	Hollywood Video \$10.00	16%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	9%		\$
Blockbuster \$10.00	7.00%		\$	Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$	Papa Gino's \$10.00	10%		\$
Blockbuster Specialty Card \$12.00	15%		\$	Home Shopping Network \$25.00	8%		\$	Payless Shoes \$20.00	9%		\$
Bloomingdale's \$25.00	12%		\$	HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Bon-Ton \$25.00	8%		\$	Hometown Buffet \$25.00	5%		\$	Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$
Bon-Ton \$100.00	8%		\$	Icing \$10.00	9%		\$	Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Borders \$10.00	9%		\$	iTunes® \$15.00	4%		\$	Pizzeria Uno \$ 25.00	12%		\$
Borders \$25.00	9%		\$	J. Jill \$25.00	11%		\$	Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop	8%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	6%		\$	Red Lobster \$25.00	9%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Jiffy Lube \$30.00	10%		\$	Red Robin \$25.00	9%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	12%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabrics \$20.00	6%		\$	Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$
Cabela's \$100.00	12%		\$	KFC \$5.00	8%		\$	Ruby Tuesday \$25.00	6%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	Kid's Foot Locker \$25.00	9%		\$	Ruth's Chris Steak House \$50.00	10%		\$
Chili's Bar & Grill \$ 25.00	11%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$	Sally Beauty Supply \$25.00	12%		\$
Chuck E. Cheese \$10.00	8%		\$	Kohl's department Store \$25.00	4%		\$	Sam's Club \$25.00	2%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	L.L. Bean \$25.00	15%		\$	Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$ 10.00	8%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	17%		\$	Sephora \$20.00	4%		\$

Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total
Star's Supermarket \$5.00	4%		\$	Starco \$50.00	1.50%		\$	Uno Chicago Grill \$25.00	12%		\$
Shell \$25.00	2.5%		\$	T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7.80%		\$	Via \$25.00	2%		\$
StopRite \$25.00	4%		\$	Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$	Via \$50.00	2%		\$
Stevens \$25.00	8%		\$	Target Outlet \$25.00	8%		\$	Via \$100.00	2%		\$
Sports Authority \$25.00	11%		\$	Texaco \$25.00	2%		\$	Wal-Mart \$ 25.00	2%		\$
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	8%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	7%			TCI Friday's \$25.00	9%		\$	Waldgreens \$25.00	8%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$	The Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	Wendy's \$10.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop \$25.00	4%		\$	The Container Store \$25.00	8%		\$	Williams-Sonoma \$ 25.00	8%		\$
Subway \$10.00	3%		\$	Toys-R-Us \$20.00	1.50%		\$	Zappos.com \$25.00	8%		\$

**LOCAL RETAILERS**

Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total
Casa di Lisa \$25.00	10%			EB's \$25.00	10%			s			
\$50.00				\$50.00							

Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total	Product	%	Qty	Total

TOTAL PAGE 2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL (TOTAL PAGE 1 & PAGE 2) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CASH: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for orders: Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>!**

Please make all check payable to: Phelps PTO

Delivery dates and times will be announced, but will be prior to Christmas vacation!

Please sign below if you want your order sent home with your child on the delivery date or you will be required to pick up your order on the delivery date!

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Phelps PTO is not responsible for lost or destroyed gift card after they are delivered.



## Agawam Apparel

Back by popular demand the **Agawam Apparel Sale is BACK!** Order forms will be sent home this week. Phelps School is the ONLY elementary school selling these items at this time! So... don't forget to ask your friends or relatives that attend other schools!

Sample Sizes can be found in the Copy Room under the table.

**Orders can be turned in any time ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>. Orders will NOT be accepted after Nov 30<sup>th</sup> & will be in before the Christmas Break.**

**Checks made payable to Phelps PTO, please have your phone number and child's room on the check. There will be a \$25 charge for bounced checks.**

**If you have any questions, please call Stacy 786-5039**