



# The Cougar Courier

Respect Others, Accept Responsibility  
COUGARS ROAR!

**EAST AMWELL  
TOWNSHIP**

**Cougar Courier**  
February 2009—Volume 5

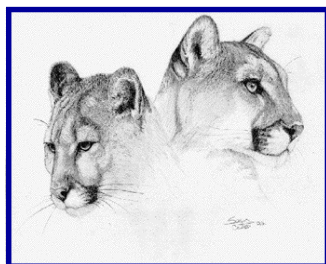
## The Superintendent's Corner

Greetings,

January and February is budget time. We will be working very hard to finalize numbers for the 2009-2010 budget. Word from Trenton is that once again our funding will be frozen; so we will do our best to keep our costs in line while maintaining a quality education for the children of East Amwell. Everyone needs to vote in the April Election! If you are not registered to vote, please do so before the deadline. Call the school office if you need registration information.

Sincerely,

**Edward Stoloski, Superintendent**



## The Principal's View

Dear Parents,

What do the following items have in common: the Rock Wall, the school banners, the new curtain on the stage, the Game Show Assembly, and the many sound field systems in our school? Do you give up? All these items were purchased or funded by our PTO. Our PTO does an outstanding job providing our school with those little extras that make East Amwell such a special place. Please remember to support and get involved with this excellent organization.

Remember to save the date, Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00PM – 9:00PM. We are hosting our Second Annual East Amwell Night at the Flemington **Friday's**.

## School Activities

Art Club: Mrs. Gallagher: Per Special List @ 8 AM

Art Club: Mr. Shuler: Every Monday @ 8 AM

Computer Club: Monday thru Friday @ 7:30 AM

Ski and Snow Board Club: Feb. 4, 11, 18 @ 3 PM

Music Club 4th Gr.: Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 3:20 PM

Music Club 5th Grade: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 3:20 PM

Jazz Band: February 3, 17 @ 8:15 AM

Middle School Strings: Feb. 10, 24 @ 8:15 AM

Peer Leaders: Ms. Kulis / Ms. Daniel Wed. @ 8 AM

Scoop: The School Newspaper:

Environmental Club: Feb. 9, 11, 18, 25: 3:15 PM

Cheerleading: Feb. 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12

### Cougar Carbon Footprint Project

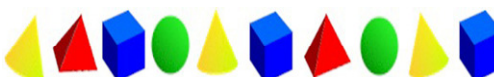
What is the carbon footprint of East Amwell School? Do students and staff recycle enough paper, plastic and sneakers? These are the questions that the Cougar Carbon Footprint project are trying to answer. This heightened awareness of the environment is topped off with demonstrations and hands on activities set for Earth Day, April 22nd. An assembly on recycling scheduled for Friday, February 30th kicks off this initiative.

This evening was a great success last year, and we hope that many of our parents/guardians, students, and staff members will take a moment to attend this event.

In addition, Hunterdon Central is sponsoring the following two events: A 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Night on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30PM to 8:00PM and a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Game Night on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. The high school will be sending out information regarding these two events.

Sincerely,

**John Capuano, Principal**



## February 2009 Calendar

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Education Foundation Meeting       | 3  |
| Report Cards Issued                | 5  |
| Staff In-Service                   | 6  |
| School Closed                      |    |
| PTO Meeting 9:15                   | 11 |
| President's Day                    | 16 |
| School Closed                      |    |
| Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM | 17 |
| School House Reads                 | 26 |
| School Spirit Day                  | 27 |

### Athletic Schedule

- 2/3 Basketball Timberlane Home (Boys and Girls)
- 2/5 Basketball Kingwood Home Boys Away Girls
- 2/10 Basketball Alexandria Home Boys Away Girls
- 2/12 Basketball Delaware Home Boys Away Girls
- 2/18 Basketball PDS Away Girls Only
- Sending District Tournament TBA



### School Vision Statement:

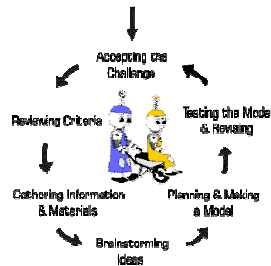
*East Amwell Township School District... is a safe, supportive community that recognizes all students as unique individuals and provides opportunities for academic, artistic, cultural, emotional, physical, social and character development in a*

## Family Tools and Technology: 4th Grade Family Affair

It has been over 15 years that the Board of Education decided to sponsor a family oriented afterschool activity called Family Tools and Technology. This hands-on, science and technology oriented program has been very successful over the years with 10 to 20 families taking part in the program each year.

This year the East Amwell Education Foundation is co-sponsoring FTT providing supplies and moral support. The instructors for FTT are Mr. Shuler and Mr. Colt. In

### FTT Problem-Solving Model



the past Mrs. Gallagher also lent her expertise to this high energy program.

FTT was developed by professors at The College of NJ to encourage students to get interested in the sciences.

Today Rutgers University is the home base for FTT.

Fourth grade students and their families meet for six sessions that focus on fun, hands-on warm-ups and challenges. Some of the challenges are building a new green friendly aircraft,

building a lookout tower to prevent forest fires, and designing a Lego vehicle.

Critical thinking, brainstorming and model design are some of the skills developed during this family oriented educational experience.

## The Scoop: The MS Newspaper

### GO DISCOVER RUN By: Sara Galik

“On your mark ... get set ...Go!” On October 3, 2008, the discovery Run took place, and all the runners ran great. From 3-8 grades, everyone gave it their all.

Everyone, parents and students, gathered at the back of East Amwell Township School, just outside the gym to witness a great race. That is what they got.



At around, 1:15, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls ran the half mile. The basic course started at the gym, around all of the backstops, and parallel with the corn field. Emma Goldstein of Mrs. Parillo's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class came in first for the girls.

“I feel that the term (practice makes perfect) is true because it gets your muscles ready and stretched so you don't hurt yourself. It helps a lot,” says Emma. Next came the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys' turn. This race was won by Mark Saponara in Mr. McAfee's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

The next round was very exciting. For the 5/6 grade races, Olivia Zengel and Tyler Bothers, both in Miss Falivene's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, were the champions. Tyler won the boys race in the last several yards by passing Cole Hantz to get to the finish first. It was a real nail biter. After the race, Tyler said that he felt great, and that many people told him, ‘good job’!

The last pair of races were the 7/8 grade girls and boys races. First up were the girls. Kaitlyn Berdard won by a lot. Last came the 7/8 grade boys race. Vincent Harnett won this final race. It must help with the practice with being on the cross country team.

The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have to run the mile course. For this, you have to follow the cornfield by the road, follow the empty field, pass the trees, go around the backstops, follow those trees, pass the shed and run directly to the finish line which is where the start is. It is a long way to go. That is very impressive to run, and at such great times that were accomplished!

Everyone ran a great race! Congratulations to all of its participants. Remember, it doesn't matter if you came in first or last. The only thing that matters is if you tried at all.



*Our mission is to strengthen, foster and support the expansion of educational opportunities for East Amwell community residents.*

## Play Ball: From The Desk of The A.D.

The Lady Cougars and Boy's Basketball teams participated in the Delaware Township Holiday Tournament over the Winter Break. This Middle School classic hosts four local schools: South Hunterdon, Kingwood, East Amwell and the host school Delaware. Over the years this clash of local titans has proven to be a quality event while school is on break.

Both squads won their first games with the boys beating Kingwood qualifying for the finals. In the championship round the Ladies fought hard but lost to Delaware and the Boy's proved victorious against South. Congratulations to both squads and their coaches.



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## Trout in the Classroom- A Fifth Grade Grant

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade recently received a science grant from Trout Unlimited, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to trout preservation, trout education, and environmental restoration. ([www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)) In fifth grade science the students have the opportunity to watch the development of Brook Trout, New Jersey's State Trout and a native species. This connects with learning about New Jersey's environments, ecology, problems facing New Jersey ecosystems, and the life cycle of animals.

Our students here in fifth grade are so excited about the experience of watching trout develop as it is an area of development that would be hard to see in the wild.

Trout, when hatching, move to the bottom of a stream habitat and remain there until they have eaten or absorbed their egg sack. Therefore students would not get to visually see this action, but in the classroom they are able to witness this stage in development.

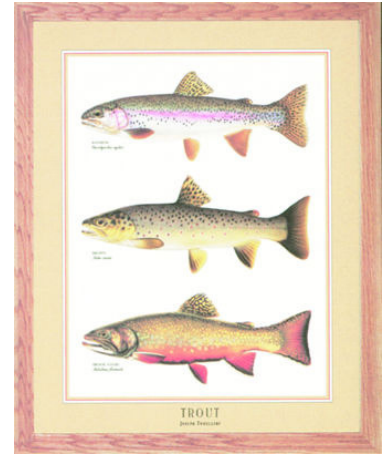
Additionally, the students are learning the body parts of the Trout, the life cycle of the Trout, how the aquarium habitat mimics the natural stream habitat, the requirements of trout in each different stage, and the stream ecosystem to name a few of the objective being learned.

Students are also observing the trout and recording the tank temperature, the water

clarity, the amount of hatched trout, and the amount of trout that have not survived. Within the next few weeks students will begin to feed the trout pellet food and observe their growth. This will also be a time to notice survival rates of trout. In the classroom, they do not have any predators, in the wild they have many. This is a comparison that the student will be able to apply to the trout study.

This is a really great experience for any age students and I am very happy that fifth grade was able to volunteer to raise these animals for New Jersey's stream ecosystem. In April or May, the Brook Trout will be released into a New Jersey waterway to live naturally.

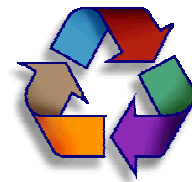
Sharon Ernst  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher



## Recycling Committee

The East Amwell Township Recycling Committee is seeking one or more students to become committee members. Due to the graduation of two student members, the Recycling Committee is looking for one or more youth members. The interested student should be in grades 5-7 and be concerned about recycling and the environment.

This is your chance to get involved. Come to the next recycling Committee Meeting held at the Municipal Building the second Tuesday of every month. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM.



## The Smart Classroom

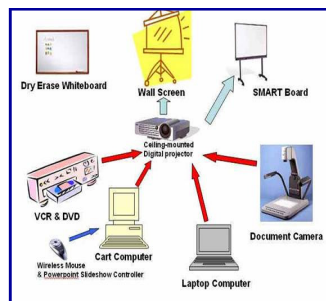
The Smart Classroom initiative is moving ahead at EATS. With the first stage of the project in full swing stage, five classrooms using the wireless Tablet PC and LCD projector, two is coming into focus.

The Technology Department received a grant from Extron Electronics and M and S Communications to outfit Miss Anders' classroom with the tools to better use her wireless equipment.

Surround sound was installed with easy access connection to the schools Media Distribution system, DVD and vcr capabilities. Video streaming is made easier by a toggle system that enables Miss Anders to

switch from wireless to Ethernet network connectivity.

Miss Anders has been a pioneer in implementing the Tablet PC in Middle School. Miss Anders has been selected to present at the annual TechSpo convention in Atlantic City.



## The Drama Club

Auditions for Annie, the Drama Club's Spring production, will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:15pm-4:30pm in the Music Room.

There will be a read through on Monday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:40AM-8:40AM for ALL CAST members in the music room.

Students will receive a detailed calendar of additional rehearsals at this time.

Mrs. Bily and Mrs. Hyatt



"All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women  
merely players; They have  
their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays  
many parts, His acts being  
seven ages. "

*Shakespeare*

## From The PTO President

The PTO had a very busy December and January. Our Frosty's Workshop was a wonderful success. Our guest of honor arrived by a classic Thunderbird convertible. It was a big hit with the students. A special 'Thank You' goes out to Shelley Connelly and Sandy Janosik for chairing this event and to Jamie Rizza for being a great sport by playing our special guest.



December also brought us a gold exchange night where area residents were able to cash in their unwanted gold to a gold broker. The PTO raised \$500 for hosting the event. We had a great turnout and many of the attendees walked out with some extra spending money for the holidays.

Our gift card program is still running monthly. This is a great way to show your support for the PTO without spending extra money on unwanted items. If you are interested in participating, check out the PTO link on the school website for more information.

The students were recently treated to an assembly called the 'Brain Show'. Students from grades Kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed testing their knowledge of academic subjects along with some pop culture.

Additional assemblies have been scheduled for the rest of the year.

Our middle school committees have been busy preparing events for students 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please keep a look out for flyers and e-mails announcing dates and times.

Our Gallery Time program has been up and running for the past few months. Ask your child about what piece of art work or artist they were introduced to.

In late February, we will be rolling out our Gertrude Hawk spring fundraiser. We have not offered Gertrude Hawk in several years. The gift products are of the highest quality and purchases will be delivered in time for the Easter holiday.

If you are interesting in helping out, please contact me at any time.

As always, thank you for all of your support.

Lisa Saponara

## Character Matters Mrs. Roznowski

The students in grades K-5 continue to receive kindness links for good deeds. Students in K-5 are still very excited about receiving *kindness links*. The link is making its way down the hallway. Each Tuesday, two students from different grade levels are selected to read a link on EATV. This month, the middle school teachers are having students nominate other students when they spot an act of kindness. The students will receive a Paws Applause cards and will be eligible for a prize at the end of the month.

On Friday, January 16, our school tuned into an EATV broadcast of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. As a school, we also viewed the inauguration on January 20.

February is Black History Month. Classrooms will discuss the importance of different African Americans and their contribution to society. Each class is asked to think of a character trait that they display and three ways they follow the trait in their classroom daily. Class responses will be displayed on the front bulletin board.

## Board Notes

### Summary of the January 20, 2009 BOE Meeting: Board Actions:

- Approved final report for the NCLB 2008 grant in the amount of \$97,119.
- Accepted the state approved IDEA 2009 grant in the amount of \$104,404.
- Accepted Extron Electronics classroom technology equipment grant valued at approximately \$6,500. (including installation).
- Approved resolution for roof replacement work.
- Approved the District Professional Development Plan for the 2009-2010 SY.
- Approved FMLA for Lauren Roznowski beginning Sept. 1, 2009 followed by an extended maternity leave of absence for the remainder of the 2009-2010 SY.
- Approved AFLAC as a voluntary payroll deduction.
- Approved Michael Turner as a substitute custodian for the 2008-2009 SY.



We would also like to encourage families to come to Flemington Friday's on Tuesday, February 10 between 5pm and 9pm. Students will love to see their friends and their teachers.

Thank you for continued support with our character program.

