



The Cougar Courier

Respect Others, Accept Responsibility
COUGARS ROAR!

East Amwell
Township School

Cougar Courier
April 2010—Vol. 10

The Superintendent's Corner

Greetings,

In the very near future, you will be receiving our Budget Newsletter explaining the 2010-2011 budget. At the April 1st Public Hearing, the Board will review areas of the budget that will be affected by the reduction in funding by the state.

Additional areas of the budget would have to be cut if the budget fails. It is extremely important that everyone votes in this year's school election on April 20th. Voting is a privilege and a responsibility of all citizens. The polls will be open at the Township Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 20th from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Mark your calendars.

Sincerely,
Edward Stoloski
Superintendent

School Activities

Art Club: Mondays and Thursdays

Computer Club: Monday - Friday @ 7:30 AM

Peer Leaders: See Miss Kulis/Ms. Daniel

Scoop: Newspaper: See Miss Anders

Environmental Club: April 14,21,28 3:15-4:15

Jazz Band April 13 and 27 8:15-8:45

MS Strings April 20 8:15-8:45

Music Club Grades 4 3:15-4:30

Music Club Grades 5
3:15-4:30

Music Club Grades 6-8
3:15-4:30



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 diverse and ever-changing society.

April 2010 Calendar

2-11: Spring Recess

12: Classes Resume

14: PTO Meeting

19-22: PTO Book Fair

20: Annual School Elections

20: End of 3rd Marking Period

26: Elementary Concert

27: BOE Meeting

30: School Spirit Day



Athletic Schedule

Softball / Baseball

14: Timberlane

16: Delaware

20: South

22: Kingwood

26: Readington

28: Timberlane

30: Delaware

The Principal's View

Dear Parents,

I would like to congratulate our students for an outstanding job in our Drama production Seussical Jr. This year we had just under 100 students participating. That is an incredible number for a school our size. Special thanks must go to our Advisors Mrs. Bily and Mrs. Hyatt.

Please mark your calendar for Monday, April 12th which is National Drop Everything and Read Day. We encourage the East Amwell Community to participate by spending one hour reading with your child on that day. Have a great Spring Break.

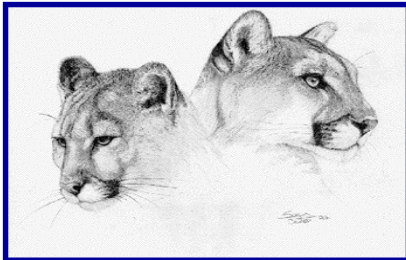
Sincerely,
John Capuano, Principal



A Message From Your Board of Education

Last month we reported that Governor Christie's reduction in State Aid this year would have an impact on our current programs. On March 19, we received our State Aid figures for the 2010-2011 school year. Our aid for next year was cut by \$360,045 compared to the budgeted amount for this year. While we had been planning on some reduction in aid, this was far more than anticipated. Since we received the aid numbers we have been examining all areas of the budget for cuts that would have the least impact on our overall programs while still maintaining a quality education for our students. We are looking at all areas in the budget and anticipate changes across the board including: administration and support services, instructional staff, field trips, extra-curricular programs, technology, facilities and benefits. Many of these adjustments are still being formulated for final adoption. All changes will be reviewed in a budget newsletter.

In addition to voting on the budget on April 20, there will be 4 positions on the Board of Education to be voted on (3- three year and 1- one year). Please review the candidate's statements provided and remember to vote on April 20.



Charles Miller

I have served on the East Amwell Board of Education for 21 years. During that time I have worked to insure that we provide a quality educational program for the children of East Amwell. I have also worked at making sure that all voices and viewpoints are heard in the decision making of the board. Given the current environment of funding cuts and greater State oversight I think that East Amwell faces many challenges in continuing to provide a quality education for our students with fewer and changing resources. I think my years of experience on the board, my educational background and work experiences, and my knowledge of the community will all be beneficial in making many of the many tough decisions we will face over the next three years. I want the best for our students, they deserve no less, but I also understand the obligation of working within the ability of the community to support the programs.

Four Candidate's Statements:

Charles H. Miles, Jr.: Incumbent for East Amwell school board. 3 year term

Like most tax payers my concern is to limit my own tax burden. As a school board member I've learned that both the state and the federal government have mandated expenditures over which we have no control. My goal is to balance the two in the best interest of those who aren't aware of either, our young! Providing an environment that is safe, healthy and conducive to the wonderment of childhood is paramount.

John R. Bedard, CPA:

My name is John Bedard and my family has lived in East Amwell Township for 12 years. We have four children attending East Amwell Township School and a freshman at Hunterdon Central. I am seeking election to the Board of Education for a one year term. As a CPA and local business owner, I feel that I have the financial and practical experience to assist the EATS Board with the challenging decisions that lie ahead. East Amwell homeowners, whether they have children or not, have a vested interest in preserving the quality of our school. As a parent and homeowner, I would like the opportunity to contribute to the decisions that make EATS a continuing asset for our community.

George Marturano:

Hello, my name is George Marturano and I'm running for my third term on the school board. My wife and I moved to East Amwell 20 years ago and we've never regretted that decision. At the time we didn't know anything about this town versus any other in Hunterdon County. Since then, we've raised two lovely children here who both attended East Amwell Township School. My son is getting ready to go off to college this fall and my daughter will graduate East Amwell Township School this spring.

The funny thing I see when I walk around during school functions is that there are a lot of parents faces that I no longer recognize because they are parents of children in the lower grades. For those people who don't know us, I want to let you know that we care about all the children in town as well as our own. We were the types of parents who volunteered as the classroom parent, chaperone on class trips, coach soccer and softball, etc.

I intend to continue volunteering my time sitting on the Board of Education and try to make the best decisions to care for all the children in town. Thank you.



The History of April

April is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar, and one of four months with a length of 30 days. April was originally the second month of the Roman calendar, before January and February were added by King Numa Pompilius about 700 BC. It became the fourth month of the calendar year (the year when twelve months are displayed in order) during the time of the decemvirs about 450 BC, when it also was given 29 days.



The derivation of the name (Latin *Aprilis*) is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the Latin *aperire*, "to open," in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open," which is supported by comparison with the modern Greek use of ἀνοιξις (opening) for spring. Since most of the Roman months were named in honor of divinities, and as April was sacred to Venus, the *Festum Veneris et Fortunae Virilis* being held on the first day, it has been suggested that Aprilis was originally her month Aphrilis, from her Greek name Aphrodite (*Aphros*), or from the Etruscan name *Apru*. Jacob Grimm suggests the name of a hypothetical god or hero, *Aper* or *Aprus*.^[1]

The birthstone of April is the diamond, and the birth flower is typically listed as either the Daisy or the Sweet Pea.

New Jersey State Elementary Olympiad

What an exciting and memorable day for East Amwell School and our Science Olympiad Team! The team's accomplishments in demonstrating an understanding and master of science, mathematics and technology concepts were evident as they won first place in the New Jersey State Regional Elementary Science Olympiad. Our team displayed not only the knowledge and problem solving skills required but also the ability to work together as a team.

The competition consisted of twelve events of which East Amwell won five first place medals, three 2nd place, two 3rd place and two 5th places. Our team members are as follows: **Brendan Canterbury, Lauren Howarth, Brian Inglin, Joey Pollack, Bryce Totten, Caleb Balsan, Julia Dinmore, Chandler Hubert, Hudson Kleber, North Runk, Miranda Wagner, Brian Ciarrocca, Niki Ryan, Aly Quirke, and Walt Wynkoop.** Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cahill and Mr. Skip Woolston also helped coach our team. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Cahill and Mr. Woolston along with community members Mrs. Carol Ammann, Mrs. Stephanie Ciarrocca, Mr. Malcolm Lowenhaupt and Mrs. Carol Ryan were judges at the Olympiad held on February 24, 2010.

This is the ninth Science Olympiad hosted by East Amwell School. The New Jersey State Elementary Olympiad appreciates all the support, time, and talents from the people mentioned above, along with the East Amwell Board of Education and Administration, Norm Matthews and his custodial team, Chris Colt, and Peacocks Country Store.



East Amwell Pre-school September 2010

East Amwell Pre-school To Begin September 2010

East Amwell Township School is accepting applications for all East Amwell children ages 3 and 4 for its Pre-school Program.



The half-day program will cost \$350.00 per month with transportation being provided by the parent. There are three slots remaining. If you have additional questions, please call 908-782-

6464, ext. 210.

Environmental Science Summer Camp

The Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District is hosting a Summer Environmental Science Camp.

This 8 week fun in the sun camp begins June 28 and ends the week of August 16. Contact the district for more information: hcsd687@embarqmail or call 908 788-9466.



Project: Character County

Working With Peer Leaders
and Lower Grade Students
Writing Character Matters
Letters.



Monthly Poetry

April Showers

April showers bring May flowers,
That is what they say.
But if all the showers turned to flowers,
We'd have quite a colorful day!

There'd be bluebells and cockleshells,
Tulips red and green,
Daffodils and Chinese squill,
The brightest you've ever seen.

You'd see tiger lilies and water lilies,
Carnations pink and blue,
Forget-me-not and small sundrop
Glistening with the dew.

We'd have fireweed and milkweed
And many more different flowers.
Mexican star and shooting star,
Falling in the showers.

And if all the showers turned to flowers
On that rainy April day,
Would all the flowers turn to showers
In the sunny month of May?

For the Environmental Club Section

Terra Cycle Collection have been booming this year! From trash, we have collected almost \$400.00 dollars. Yet, collected items are still making their way into our trash. We receive 2 cents for each of the following items... Drink Pouches, Chip Bags, Pretzels Bags, Candy Wrappers, Energy Bar wrappers, Used Sharpies, Used Pens, Used Expos, Used highlighters, Cookie Wrappers, empty butter spread tubs, empty bottle glue or glue sticks.

Also we are always collecting...ink cartridges, cell phones, DVD discs, Video Game Discs, Ipods, toner cartridges

Here is a good website to learn about ways to help reduce fuel usage in cars and how it is unhealthy for individuals.

<http://www.stopthesoot.org/>

Additionally reports from Monarch Watch have stated that the Monarch population has been significantly altered, due to landslides in Mexico. These preserves house all of the Monarch butterflies from our area. Therefore projections are that this year there will be significantly less Monarchs than previous years heading toward the North East Coast Region.

This past August/September I personally released 400 Monarch butterflies with the help of the fifth grade. These were collected by me from my own milkweed plants, my family's milkweed plants, and milkweed here at the school (that the Environmental Club planted). It is a great life cycle to watch and a wonderful experience overall.

I would love the opportunity to show the community/students how to care and house any Monarch eggs and larva to promote population survival. Additionally helping the population to grow would enable more to travel to Mexico. Please contact me through e-mail: sernst@eastamwell.org if you are interested by April 12th. Please include your name and your child's name- so I can send material home. I will then select a time/date to discuss and demonstrate how I care for the larva at home and how you can too! Thanks! (Sharon Ernst, 5th Grade Teacher, East Amwell Township School)

PTO

We have hope your children enjoyed the PTO's Spirit Week activities. We saw some great hats, funky hair and great school spirit. Congratulations to the winners of our M&M trivia contest. There were 2,171 M&Ms in the jar. Frank White of Mrs. Zengel's 4th grade class was our grand prize winner with the closest guess of 2,117.

A great big thank you to the many teachers who participated in our Borders Story Time. The children who enjoyed the event were treated to some great books. Following the event, families headed over to Chili's to enjoy a bite to eat.

The PTO will be running a 50/50 raffle in May. Three winning tickets will be pulled on May 26th. 1st place will take home 42% of the pot, 2nd place 5% of the pot and 3rd place 3% of the pot. Additional information will be sent home at the end of April.

The Spring Book Fair is scheduled for the week of April 19th. Parent Night is Tuesday, April 20th from 3:15 – 7:00.

The next PTO membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14th at 9:15 am. At this meeting, nominations for President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary will be made. The nominations will sit until the May 5th meeting where a vote will take place. If you are interested in any of the available positions, please contact me at (908)782-9251.

Upcoming events – details to follow: Teacher Appreciation Week / Mother's Day Plant Sale / 7th/8th Grade Beach Party

5th/6th Grade Game Night / Clothing Drive

Lisa Saponara

lisa_saponara@yahoo.com



The East Amwell Township School will present its annual Elementary Concert on Monday, April 26th at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. Musical groups performing will include the Intermediate Band, Third Grade Recorders, Elementary Strings, and Fifth Grade Chorus. Please come and enjoy the musical selections that our young musicians have prepared. **Skip Woolston Instrumental Music Director / Pamella Bily Vocal Music Director**