

# The Village School Voice!

October/November 2011 . : Village School Parent-School Association News

## IMPORTANT DATES

---

**October 10** Professional Development Day, SCHOOL CLOSED  
(Staff Full Day)

---

**October 11** PSA Meeting 9:30 AM

---

**October 12-13** Picture Day

---

**October 17-21** Red Ribbon Week

---

**October 19** School Bus Safety Drill

---

**October 21** Ladies Night Out

---

**November 7** End Of Marking Period

---

**November 8** PSA Meeting 9:30 AM

---

**Nov. 10 – 11** NJEA Convention,  
SCHOOL CLOSED

---

**November 11** Veterans Day

---

**November 17** Evening Conferences  
6-8PM

---

**November 18** Afternoon Conferences  
HALF DAY SESSION

---

**November 21** Afternoon Conferences  
HALF DAY SESSION

---

**November 22** Afternoon & Evening  
Conferences  
HALF DAY SESSION

---

**November 23** HALF-DAY SESSION

---

**Nov. 24-25** Thanksgiving Holiday,  
SCHOOL CLOSED

---

**Nov. 28 – Dec 2** Holiday Showcase

---

## A Message From The Principal

*Mr. Brian Schillaci*

Welcome back everyone! We are so happy to see our wonderful returning students and families, a fantastic group of new students and families, and an outstanding staff! I am so excited to help lead Village School forward with you for the 2011-12 school year. The staff, students, and families have been outstanding in getting us off to a great start. This has been one of the smoothest school openings, and I am enjoying every minute of being here with you at Village School!

Remember our three hopes for the children this school year---Safety, Learning, and Fun!

Our Back-to-School Nights were a wonderful time to meet so many of our Village School families. Parental participation is one of the biggest reasons our children are so successful. The connection built between teachers, parents, and students is key for children to achieve in all aspects of school. But, don't stop with just one night. Please make sure you follow up with additional contacts throughout the school year.

By working together as a team, our students will be the ones who reap the rewards.

There will be so many things to highlight throughout the course of the school year, but I would like to begin with a focus on our Rain Gardens at Village School. This project has been a cooperative effort between many organizations, both in and out of the school district. Through these collaborative efforts we will be able to bring the children real life experiences in understanding and helping our environment right here at school. The children had a chance last year to hear about the Rain Gardens' importance in helping right here in Holmdel. In addition, the students had an opportunity to plant flowers, grasses, and plants at each of the four rain gardens. We again have several ideas mapped out to continue real life learning experiences, through our science curriculum, while enjoying this wonderful addition to the school. This year, thanks to the Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence (HFEE), our staff and students will be able to enjoy the new "Outdoor Classroom" in the Rain Gardens' courtyard. We are very excited about this addition to our new learning space!

I would like to thank everyone again for the wonderful support you have shown us over the first several weeks of school. We are off to a great start, and I am very much looking forward to a wonderful year. I wish you the best, as we begin this journey together for a fantastic 2011-12 Village School experience!

# ATTENTION!

"Like" the PSA on Facebook! Here's a link to the Village School Parent School Association Facebook page. Click "like" so that you can automatically get important updates on what's going on with the PSA in your Facebook News Feed!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Village-School-Parent-School-Association/192253380794117?ref=ts>



## A Welcome Back Message From The Assistant Principal



*Dr. Dionne Ledford*

Welcome back to a brand new school year at Village School! It seems like only yesterday, we were waving good-bye to our little "Villagers" and wishing them a safe and fun-filled summer! It is my hope that this message finds you in good spirits, good health, and having fully enjoyed the summer months!

Mr. Schillaci and I are pleased to report that our first days of school went smoothly and proved to be a successful beginning to the new school year! This was accomplished through the coordinated efforts of our Village School PSA and the fabulous group of parent volunteers who committed themselves to being here to assist the children for the first week of school. It shows that when parents, teachers and administrators work collaboratively, it sets a positive tone for the school community that lasts throughout. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank **all** of you who assisted us on the first days of school, as it is because of you that the children had a positive start to the school year and are off to a great start! ☺

As we move beyond the first days of school into the new school year, please remember the importance of the "parent / school connection", as this is a key factor in determining the success of your child in school. Therefore, we ask that you initiate and maintain open communication with your child's teacher and the building administrators. Mr. Schillaci and I are always here to provide support and guidance whenever necessary in order to ensure a productive academic year for each child. The administrators and teachers here at Village School are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of your children and to ensuring that each child receives the highest quality educational experiences.

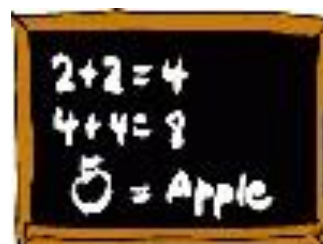
As I mentioned at this year's **Back to School Nights**, Village School is a *wonderful* place for children to receive an education and this because the students, parents, teachers and administrators work together to make this school a *true* learning community. I look forward to our working together this school year! ☺

Warmest Regards,

*Dr. Dionne Ledford*

*Assistant Principal*

*Village School*



# President's Report

*Suzanne Niro*

*The school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize.* Franklin D. Roosevelt

It is hard to believe that only 80 + days ago we had started summer vacation. But we are in full swing for another great school year. Thank you to Linda Fernand of our Hospitality Committee who saluted our teachers and staff with a terrific Back to School Luncheon on September 9th. Another big thank you to the many parents who brought homemade desserts to top off that wonderful lunch. As usual, the teachers were very appreciative of our efforts and thank you cards are still coming in.

The first monthly PSA Meeting took place on September 13th with a large crowd of parents eager to see what we have in store for our kids for the 2011- 2012 school year. Thank you to the

many new parents who attended the Kindergarten Meet and Greet on September 21st and were eager to sign the volunteer rosters for the many events throughout the year. Thank you to Ruth Davis for coordinating this event and allowing the new Kindergarten parents an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

Our Spirit Wear Sale is still ongoing and business is booming, with another Bee making his appearance on t-shirts and sweatshirts. Many thanks to Lisa Goldberg and Darlene Kiss for providing these items just in time for ordering at Back to School Night and Kindergarten Meet and Greet.

New this year is our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Back to School BBQ Movie Night! Due to rain we had to postpone it to September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Pay your \$5 membership and you pay only \$5 for this event. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and watch Toy Story 3 with many other families. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks, Snacks and Ralph's Ices available for sale. Movie begins at sundown.

There are many busy people working hard at one of our biggest events of the year -- "Ladies Night Out"! This event will be back at Eagle Oaks Country Club (just 7 minutes from Delicious Orchards) on Friday, October 21st. Grab a friend, come alone or make a table of ten to join in this really terrific night of great baskets, music, laughter and fun! The cost is \$75 which is inclusive of all food and beverages.

I am so excited about working with a terrific Executive Board filled with parents that continually give their all for Village School. Many thanks to the following parents who have joined me this year:

**Lynn Saporito** - *Vice-President Communications*

**Michelle Prager** - *Vice-President/Fundraising1*

**Michelle Sottile** - *Vice-President/Fundraising2*

**Suzanne Gestrich** - *Recording Secretary*

**Purvi Shah** - *Treasure*

**Darlene Kiss** - *Appointed Board Liason*



Please join us for our next PSA Meeting on October 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. We have our sibling movie corner so our younger kids are always welcome and an attendance drawing each month! Come out and learn about the many events such as Bingo Night, Family Skate Night and the Spring Carnival and please feel free to see how you can volunteer and make a difference in your child's life and school!

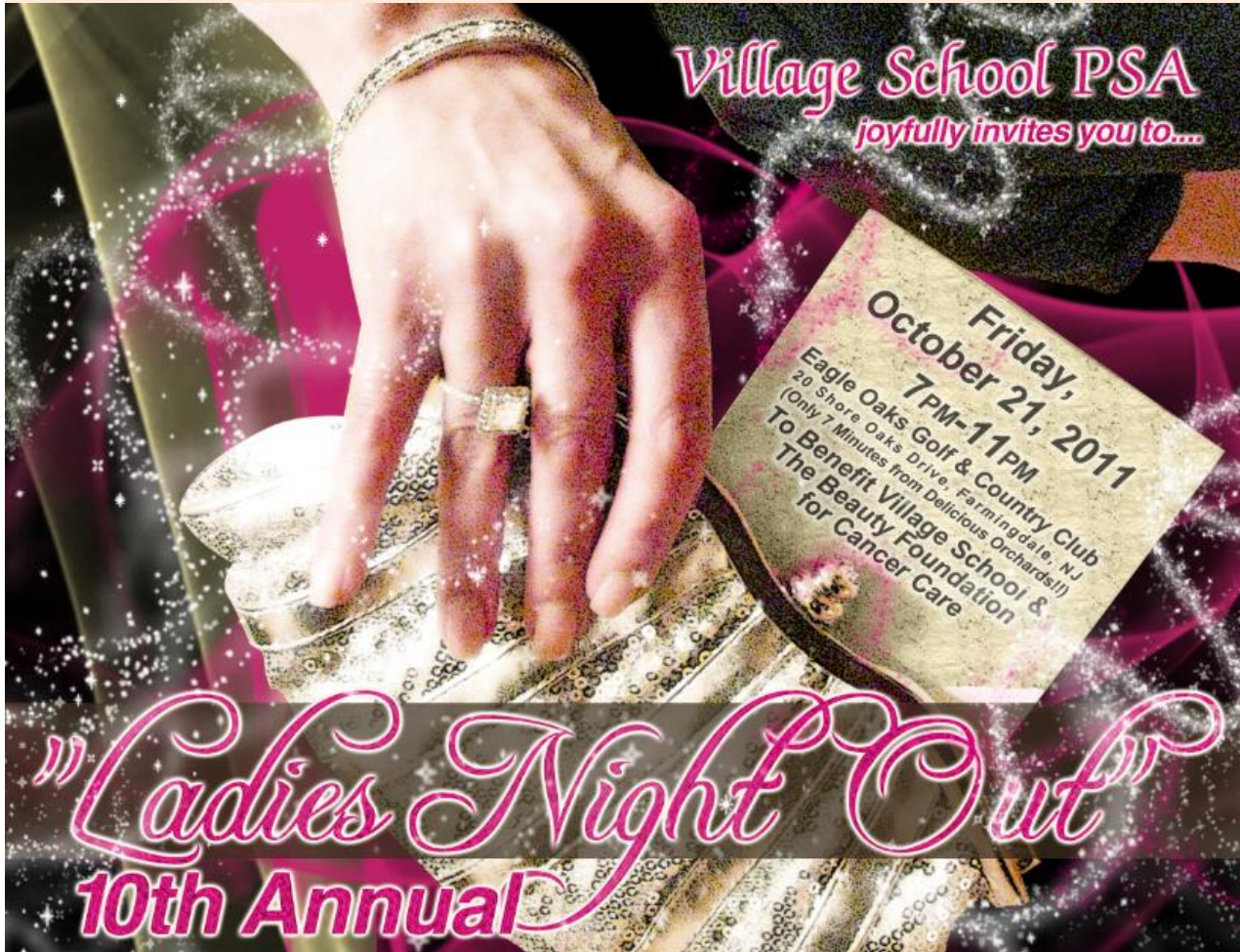
**The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.** ~Sydney J. Harris

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at

**PSAPresident@live.com or (732) 233-7474.**



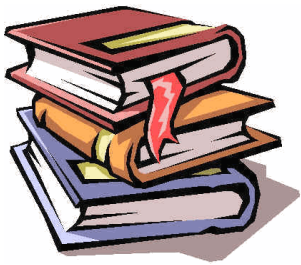
# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies Night Out



## Memory Book

A new school year brings with it preparation for a new Village School Memory Book! Your school historians are back on the job and working hard to capture the many smiling faces at our school. Every child peruses the pages at year end hoping to find at least one snapshot of themselves smiling back. Give your child a chance; help us out by sending pictures of your child from school related functions during the current 2011-2012 school year. Some suggestions would be the first day of school as they waited patiently at the bus stop, enjoying the PSA's first Welcome Back Barbecue showing of Toy Story 3, birthday parties in class, science experiments, Halloween parades, etc. E-mail your photos to [psahistorian@live.com](mailto:psahistorian@live.com)





**The Village School Store is in need of volunteers. The school store runs once a month during your child's lunch period. This is a great fundraiser to be part of during the school year. We could not offer this fun and convenient experience for our children without your help.**

**If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers, please contact**

**[PSASchoolstore@live.com](mailto:PSASchoolstore@live.com)**

**Thank you!**



## **FROM OUR PSA LIAISON**

Greetings and welcome back parents to another great school year here at Village School. Whether you work full-time, part-time or you are a domestic engineer there are many options here at Village School for you to volunteer. Many things can be done right from your home. So please step up and volunteer for one or more of the many great opportunities the PSA has for your children. If you would like to volunteer please drop me, Darlene Kiss, an e-mail at [PSAliaison@live.com](mailto:PSAliaison@live.com). Thank you.

Darlene Kiss





## **THE PSA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE.....**

The very first multi-school, parent website for all of your needs in one place.

Please join us at:

**[WWW.HOLMDELPARENTS.ORG](http://WWW.HOLMDELPARENTS.ORG)**

Feel free to browse the site for an up close view of all four Holmdel District Schools

- Pay your PSA Membership
- Donate through the Write-A-Check Campaign
- Pay for an event that interests you
- Become a Volunteer
- Contact a member of the PSA Board

All in one convenient place!

Through our partnership with a Holmdel based web design firm, [Rahvalor](#), we were able compile the information from all four schools that is most pertinent to you as a parent and give you one user friendly environment to go to make you the most organized and well informed parent in Monmouth County!

**PLEASE NOTE:** All future correspondence from the PSA will be done expressly through this website.

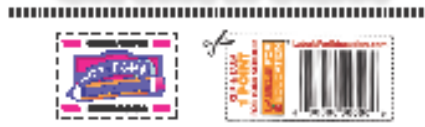
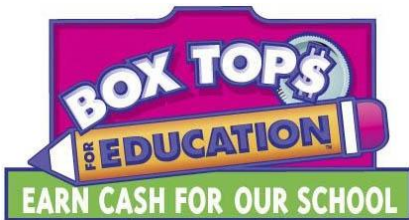




are there  
**Box Tops**  
 in your  
**Lunch Box?**



**Remember to clip  
 and send to school!**



**Box Tops & Labels for Education** can be found on these and **many many** other products:

- Dannon® Danimals® & Dan-o-rino™ yogurts
- Go-GURT™ and select Yoplait® yogurts
- Green Giant® fresh produce
- Nature Valley® bars and granola thins
- Nestle® Juicy Juice®
- Pepperidge Farm® breads & rolls
- Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers & grahams
- V-8® juices
- Ziploc® bags
- Welch's® jellies, jams & spreads

email [PSAboxtops@live.com](mailto:PSAboxtops@live.com) for a full list of participating products

**Box Tops** earn cash for Village School  
**Labels for Education** earn supplies & equipment for Village School  
**Ask** Grandparents, babysitters & other family members to clip Box Tops & Labels for Education too!  
**Questions?** email Sandra & Nicole at [PSAboxtops@live.com](mailto:PSAboxtops@live.com)





## **GO GREEN COMMITTEE** **2011-2012 School Year**



The Village PSA Go-Green Committee is a parent volunteer group that promotes environmental awareness through fun and educational activities. In the past the committee has:

1. Been instrumental in reducing the amount of trash created during school lunches.
2. Educated students by providing assemblies regarding environmental issues.
3. Held an annual sale of reusable earth-friendly products to help reduce the use of plastic water bottles and other disposable lunch items.
4. Requested and received recycling bins for use in every classroom in the school district.
5. Implemented recycling for items that are not ordinarily recycled, such as fruit juice pouches, individual snack wrappers and glue sticks to name a few. The school receives money for each item and then the items are up-cycled into new products such as handbags and pencil cases. Funds collected are used for green initiatives.
6. Worked to make Holmdel Schools a model for other schools on "Going Green."
7. Partnered with township environmental committees to bring Green initiatives to the school.
8. Held Earth Week events including an Earth Day Walk and Dance, a daily green tip announcement, No Garbage Lunch Day, and an Arbor Day tree planting.

The Go-Green Committee is always looking for new members and new ideas. If the environment and healthy-living are of interest to you, or have any questions, contact Tara Brunner or Vanessa Merhi at [PSAGoGreen@Live.com](mailto:PSAGoGreen@Live.com)

---



# EXCITING HFEE NEWS

## SPRING DINNER DANCE

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE BIENNIAL HFEE SPRING DINNER DANCE  
WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012 AT  
TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB



## VILLAGE SCHOOL RAINGARDEN CLASSROOM AMENITIES

After fundraising over \$22,000 during the course of the 2010-2011 school year, the ribbon was cut at the Village School Raingarden on June 14th. We are so thankful for all your generous donations which helped create a beautiful outdoor classroom that will enhance the science curriculum at Village School. Take the time to come and visit this environmental gift of learning and beauty.



## SCRIP PROGRAM

The HFEE will continue its participation in the SCRIP PROGRAM which will allow you to conveniently purchase gift cards to over 600 retail and online stores at face value. The HFEE receives a percentage of every purchase that is made. For your convenience, we will be selling the gift cards at each of the school's Back-To School nights.



## ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a letter regarding our Annual Giving Campaign. Please consider donating to the HFEE. We have donated over a million dollars back to the HOLMDEL schools since our inception in 1996. Our gifts are in every school and have benefited all of our children's' educations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT [HFEE.ORG](http://HFEE.ORG)