

THE MEMO

PTA Newsletter

Haddonfield Memorial High School

November/December 2006

From the President

Thank you to everyone who belongs to the PTA. Your generosity to give your time and talents plays a vital role at HMHS.

Today, I urge you to write to Senator John Adler, co-chair of the State Reform School Funding Committee, to express concern with state funding for Haddonfield. *State funding for Haddonfield's children in regular education has been virtually eliminated.* A sample letter provided by our school administrators is posted on our PTA website, www.hmhspta.org. Please give your attention to this important issue of tax relief.

Last, the PTA will not meet in December. Join us at our next PTA meeting on **Monday, January 8th, at 7:30 p.m.** in the HS library. It will feature a Guidance Department program.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Gail Arruda
President, HMHS Parent Teacher Association
856-429-6751
info@hmhspta.org

HMHS SPIRIT

Many thanks to our volunteers for all you do for HMHS.

Elaine Ercolani	Directory
Tracey & Frank Steiffel	Campus Fall Plantings
Pat Peacock	College Night
Lynn Brandt	
NHS students	
Sue Heindel	Membership
Leslie Seneski	
Meredith Wickman	The Memo
Sharon Garnier, RN	Oct PTA Speaker
Joanne Miller	Teacher Appreciation
Tina Kaupe	Voter Registration
Julie Vick	Nov PTA Program

WWW.HMHSPTA.ORG

To receive email alerts, current announcements and the PTA newsletter, The Memo, in your inbox, sign up online at www.hmhspta.org.

The Memo will **not** be mailed this year.

PTA NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 8th, at 7:30 p.m. in the HS library

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – JOIN THE PTA!

Sue Heindel, 428-6641, or Leslie Seneski, 427-9201

So far, PTA dues and donations are significantly down from last year. We are asking that your family join the PTA by contributing a \$26 donation. Every donation makes an impact at HMHS.

Your contribution of any amount helps in funding programs including:

Anti-Bias Program
CCSLN
Class Trips
Graduation Reception
National Honor Society
School Assemblies
Student Community
World Affairs Counsel
and so much more

Please forward your check (payable to HMHS PTA) marked "PTA Membership" to the school office or mail to: Sue Heindel, c/o HMHS PTA, 401 E. Kings Highway, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

HMHS WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The HMHS World Affairs Council opened their 2006-2007 season by attending South Jersey Model United Nations at Eastern HS in Voorhees on Saturday, October 28, 2006. Nineteen students attended this event. Seniors Patrick Goodfellow (International Law Commission) and John Marshall (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) served as committee chairs. Three students received awards: senior Andrew Marchetta (Honorable Mention - Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), and sophomores Jocelyn Perry (Best Position Paper - Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee) and Emily Tomlinson (Best Novice - Economic and Financial Committee). This year, the World Affairs Council is scheduled to attend five additional conferences including two four-day conferences. This year's officers are seniors Emily Borden, Patrick Goodfellow, and John Marshall and juniors Brianna Fram and Matthew George.

- Jeff Boogaard

Parent's Underground Guide

The Freshman Dance

-Bernadette Duncan Belton

For parents of freshmen, particularly parents of first-born high school students, the words "Freshman Dance" can start them twitching. For many students, this is the first opportunity they will have to attend a dressy "date" dance. Many students find it stressful to ask someone and many parents find it stressful to think of their 14 & 15 year old daughters (especially) going in a car with 17 year old junior boys.

Relax. It really is, for the most part, an evening of harmless fun and a cute photo op in a school culture where there are very few occasions for kids to dress up and practice adult social skills.

The Freshman Dance is held at HMHS and scheduled for the spring, usually as the first of the "Big Four" dances, which also include the Sophomore Party, Junior Prom and Senior Prom. The Freshman Dance is also deliberately scheduled during the Senior Trip, so that most seniors are unavailable. The tradition is that the vast majority of freshmen attend the dance and the majority of those ask upperclassmen as dates. While juniors, especially juniors who drive, are popular, many freshmen ask sophomores or even students from other schools. The rare freshman asks another freshman; however, there is no rule against it, so if your son or daughter is more comfortable asking a classmate, he or she can do that.

The tradition is also that most upperclassmen who are asked say "yes". Occasionally someone really doesn't like dances and may decline, but that is unusual. Sometimes, however, an upperclassman will already be invited and may decline an invitation, but that should not be a cause for panic. Upperclassmen generally will say "yes" to the first invitation, so it doesn't reflect on how they feel about your son or daughter. In fact "feelings" have little to do with how successful a date to the Freshman Dance is. This is rarely the start of a romance. Upperclassmen who have steady boy/ girlfriends still accept Freshman Dance invitations. Conversely, a freshman who asks an upperclassman does not have to view him or her as anything other than a date for the evening – most of which will be spent socializing with other freshmen anyway.

A good date is someone who will be happy to be asked, will be polite and attentive and dance, at least a little. A good date also will be someone who will not "ditch" the freshman to spend the evening dancing with another sophomore or junior.

Generally, there are groups of "pre-parties" for photographs. Freshmen, who are uncomfortable having their dates pick them up at home, can arrange to meet them at these parties. Boys do bring their dates flowers, usually wristlets, and girls bring boutonnieres. The party

is spent mostly with the girls in groups examining each other's regalia, while the boys stand in clumps looking itchy in their dress shirts and blue blazers. They can be wrestled together for some group and couple photos...but not too many...and the girls are much happier about this than the boys.

Not all kids drive to the dance with other kids. If a parent is uncomfortable letting his or her child drive with another teen, it is perfectly fine to say "no", no matter what your child says. Many parents drive groups to the dance, a diner afterwards or pick up from these places.

One of the wonderful things about HMHS is the Freshman Dance and the mixing of ages and classes it accomplishes. Even though it causes hand-wringing over who to ask and how, most freshmen do want to participate and most upperclassmen really want to be asked and are more than willing to put forth the effort to be "good dates". It is perfectly ok to ask older brothers or sisters of friends or neighborhood pals. It is also common for parents to get involved, at least to the extent of asking the parent of a potential invitee if he or she has already been asked. Older friends and Peer Leaders have been known to arrange dates for shy freshman...even at the last moment.

Finally, though, if your son or daughter really doesn't want to attend, that's fine too. Some, boys in particular, just aren't interested or aren't ready. It's one night and by the next week no one will even remember someone's absence from the dance. For those who attend, however, it is a rite of passage.

Staying Connected to Our Teens

By Judith E. Rader, MA, LMFT

"An important key to a strong connection with our children derives from the strength of our relationship with them – and not from our sharing the identical point-of-view on issues." Ms. Rader explored the role that parents validating their teen's opinions play in staying connected to sons and daughters.

For more information on parent/child relationship advice, you may sign up to receive weekly tips, including articles written by Judith Rader, at www.councilforrelationships.org.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

School directories are still available for \$5.00 and may be purchased from the main office at the high school.

CCSLN
Committee for Children with
Special Learning Needs

December Meeting - CCSLN will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary at its next meeting on December 6, 2006 at 7:30 PM. Please take a break and come out for some terrific food, and an opportunity to socialize as we celebrate 25 years of "Advocacy, Education and Support" for the parents of children with disabilities in the Haddonfield District. Current staff members and families of Haddonfield graduates who were involved with CCSLN in the past are also invited. Please check our eboard, www.ccsln.haddonfield.site.eboard.com and backpack flyers for the meeting location (which has not been finalized as of press time). If you have any questions, please contact Karen Ressler at 428-2363.

January Meeting - A parent support meeting will be held on January 3, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Middle School Library. All parents of students with IEPs and 504 plans are invited to attend and chat with other parents about concerns they may have.

CCSLN is planning to host a **Special Education Forum** with school officials early next year for all district parents. The purpose of the forum is to address a variety of issues including administration of IEP's, 504 Plans, and the challenges of acceptance and understanding of students with disabilities. If you would like to participate in, or help run the forum, you are especially encouraged to attend this meeting. Feedback from the **CCSLN Parent On-line Survey** posted on the CCSLN eboard will also be used to help plan the forum. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can plan an event that addresses your concerns.

CONSTRUCTION, ETC.

Redirecting water pipe (Sylvan Lake closure) will take place after Thanksgiving.
Track resurfacing deferred until after Graduation 07.

2007-08 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The BOE will consider a first draft of the 2007-08 school calendar. The draft(s) will be provided to parents for input following the November 16th meeting. Please check the PTA website at www.hmhspta.org and provide comments via the contact tab.

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

Urgent Reminder - 2007 Shield Yearbooks can be ordered until December 15th. Books cost \$95 and checks should be mailed to Julia Smart's attention at HMHS. Please make checks payable to HMHS Shield.

Any questions, please contact Mrs. Smart, Business Advisor (extension 644).

--Julia Smart

Technology Corner

Timeshifting: You're In Control

by Brian Wm. Niles

Do you have an iPod? A Tivo or other DVR device at home? Is your schedule so crazy you have to find time for yourself? We have entered the world of timeshifting - the ability to do things when you want, how you want and where you want.

Tivo seems to be the start of it all - the ubiquitous device that has come to replace the old VCR on top of our television sets. Launched in 1999, a Tivo device (also called a digital video recorder) allows you to search for, record and watch television programming when you want. Sounds like a VCR, right? Two things make it stand out: (1) it's recorded on a hard drive instead of on to tape and (2) you can subscribe to shows or shows with certain keywords in the title so you don't have to remember to record them or even know when they are being broadcast.

These days I can never remember what nights my favorite shows are on TV - Grey's Anatomy, The Office, Scrubs, Jon Stewart, etc. And I don't have to because Tivo takes care of it for me. While I'm writing this article, it's 5am and I'm watching Grey's Anatomy from last week that was recorded while I was out of town on a business trip. I've "timeshifted." I don't care when the television broadcast executives decided to place my favorite shows on the schedule - I watch it when I have time.

Did you know there is something similar that you can put on your iPod or other MP3 device? They are called podcasts and they are the fastest growing medium today. Currently, there are approximately 60,000 podcast shows available on the Apple iTunes network and they are all free. You choose a show you like, subscribe to it, and when a new show becomes available it automatically is downloaded to your computer in the iTunes application (which, is also free at <http://www.itunes.com> for both Mac and Windows).

There are other places to get podcasts, but simplicity wins for me and iTunes is just that.

Podcasts are simply audio files (there are also video podcasts too) that you can listen to when and where you want. I listen to the podcasts I subscribe to while driving to and from work, when taking a walk, on the plane during business trips and while waiting for the kids to get finished with their activities.

Some of my favorites are provided by NPR - in fact they now have one called Shuffle that randomly records a different NPR show each day so you can sample what they offer. There seems to be a show on just about every topic. I challenged a group I was presenting to recently to come up with a topic that can't have a podcast available. They came up with bowling. Would you believe there are three podcasts on bowling available? Go check it out by downloading the iTunes program and search in the iTunes Store for topics that interest you. Then subscribe and enjoy as new episodes become available.

Timeshifting - all the cool kids are doing it! Until next time, enjoy your newly liberated entertainment options - on your own terms!

Check out this link for tech articles for parents
<http://www.ptatechcorner.com>
It's also available thru our PTA website.

Dates to Remember

December

02	SAT
06	Financial Aid Meeting
08	Madrigal Theatre Matinee
09	Madrigal Theatre Matinee – Grace Church Children Song of New Jersey
14	Student Choreographed Dance Concert
15	Coffeehouse
16	Haddonfield Wrestling Invitational
19	Holiday Concert
22	½ Day – Winter Recess begins

TEN QUESTIONS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS HATE TO ANSWER (Reprint)

At a parent presentation several years ago, one of the admissions officers shared with us the following:

1. What is the rate of attrition at your institution?
2. What is the average rate of graduation, 4 years, 5 years?
3. What are the professors like?
 - How much does tenured faculty teach?
 - Do they have graduate assistants?
 - Who teaches classes?
 - Who reads papers?
4. Where does financial aid fit in for your child?
 - Are there tuition grants for out-of-state students?
5. What is the average class size for freshman?
6. How serious are drug and alcohol problems on campus?
 - What is the alcohol policy?
 - How is this policy enforced?
 - What programs do they have for students with substance abuse problems?
 - How have the administrators been involved?
 - What is the reputation of the campus? Parties, etc.
7. What about social life on campus?
 - Do most students remain on campus over the weekends?
8. Where do athletics fit into this institution?
9. What about security on and around campus?
10. What are the crime statistics? Does the campus have:
 - Shuttle Service
 - Student Escort Service
 - Emergency Phone
 - 24 Hour Security
 - Access to dorms – Are locks changed?
 - Cameras
 - Bike Patrol

The PTA MEMO

The MEMO is a publication of the HMHS PTA.
The deadline for the next issue will be:
Monday January 8, 2007
Editorial material must be submitted electronically to the editor,
Meredith Wickman, at:
hmhs-memo@comcast.net

Don't forget to Subscribe!

www.hmhspta.org

HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC INFORMATION – WINTER 2006-07

WINTER 2006-07 OPENING DATES

Sport	1 st Practice	1 st Scrimmage	Opening Date
Girls Basketball	Friday, Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 15
Boys Basketball	Friday, Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 15
Swimming	Monday, Nov. 13		Dec. 5
Winter Track	Monday, Nov. 27	TBA	TBA
Wrestling	Friday, Nov. 24	TBA	Dec. 16
Cheerleading	Monday, Nov. 27		Dec. 16
MS Basketball	Monday, Nov. 27		Dec. 16
MS Wrestling	Monday, Nov. 27		Dec. 20

Sports Physicals

Physical by Student's Own Physician
GIVE COMPLETED PACKET TO SCHOOL NURSE
PICK UP SPORTS PACKET AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OR PRINT IT FROM THE SCHOOL'S WEB SITE

1. Complete BOTH emergency information cards.
2. Review the Interim Administrative Procedure governing students' conduct in regard to drugs and alcohol at non-school related events.
3. Complete the white permission form remembering to include the student's signature, the parent/guardian signature, and the sport in which the student will be participating. Form must be dated within 60 days of the first day of practice and a new form is required for each sport season.
4. Sign the NJSIAA Drug Testing Consent Form.
5. Complete the blue medical questionnaire. Be sure to include the parent/guardian signature on the back of the blue form. Form must be dated within 60 days of the first day of practice and a new form is required for each sport season.
6. Each student is required to have a physical once a year (yellow form), which must be dated within 365 days of the first official day of practice for each season specific to each sport.

Additional Information

For additional information call the Athletic Department at 429-3960 ext. 107 or call the coach at 429-3960.

Sport	Coach	Extension
Boys Basketball	Wiedeman	657
Girls Basketball	Mancini	107
Cheerleading	Radovich	107
Swimming	Querubin	107
Boys Winter Track	Baker	605
Girls Winter Track	Busarello	132
Wrestling	Klaus	624
MS Boys Basketball	DeIDuca	429-0811
MS Girls Basketball	Usher	610
MS Wrestling	Martinovich	107
Strength & Conditioning	Bergeron	665

ACTIVITY FEE DUE **BEFORE 1ST PRACTICE**

*FORMS MUST BE SIGNED
WITHIN 60 DAYS OF FIRST
PRACTICE*