

# The Valley Wire

## PV PTA Newsletter



EMAIL: [PVPTA@PVCSD.ORG](mailto:PVPTA@PVCSD.ORG)

Volume 11, Issue 2

November 2011

### President's Corner...

#### Social Media + Unsupervised Children = Risks of Bullying, Denied College Admissions and Declined Job Opportunities



I am amazed by all of our technological advances that allow us to keep in touch, especially social media websites. I can use my PC or Android/iPhone to post to my Facebook page happy family reunion photos or a news article I find interesting. We all know that there are now so many advantageous uses for social media websites that have emerged-so many that it's hard to keep track of it all! For all of these benefits, there are also potential risks. Some of the most worrisome risks that our children face include bullying, denial to a college and loss of job opportunities. Can we trust that our children and their friends can safely navigate such sites without worry? For the reasons addressed below, I think that it is time for Putnam Valley parents to begin discussing this important issue in order to protect our children both now and in the future.

Recent news coverage has made us aware of the potentially life changing effects that bullying through social media sites can have on our children. A May 2011 Consumer Reports survey revealed that 5 million online US households experienced abuse on Facebook in 2010, to include virus infections and identity theft. The survey also revealed that up to 7.5 million kids under the age of 13, and 5 million under the age of 10, used Facebook last year. Of those, 1 million children were bullied on Facebook. Bullying via social media sites is a real and growing problem that we can address by educating ourselves. For example, did you know that if you are not linked to your child's Facebook account (their "friend"), then you cannot view postings or report bullying behavior of others?

According to a recent Kaplan survey more than 80% of college admissions officers consider social media presence when recruiting students. A recent Microsoft survey found that approximately 70% of job recruiters and hiring managers have rejected job applicants based on inappropriate messages or comments and pictures posted to Facebook. Gaining college admission or obtaining a job offer will already be difficult enough for our children. They will have to worry about whether their grades, test scores and extracurricular activities are enough – they should not have to worry about being qualified only to have an opportunity lost due to an inappropriate posting to their Facebook account.

Remember that postings to social media are permanent and can haunt our children for years. Also, Facebook and other social media sites continually make changes to account terms and conditions, which can lead to a misunderstanding when it comes to account security and how it really functions. In fact, I can recall several instances where a friend posted a questionable comment or picture to my account-I felt helpless when I could not erase it! To make this matter more serious Facebook postings have been ruled admissible in several courts of law, including The New York State Supreme Court.

In an effort to bring this conversation to the forefront I want to hear from parents. It is the PTA's hope to bring a social media site expert to Putnam Valley to educate children and families on Facebook. As always I welcome your comments. Please feel free to contact me at [andrea@raetzer.com](mailto:andrea@raetzer.com) or through the Putnam Valley PTA.

Andrea Raetzer  
PTA President



## PTA Open Chair Positions

MS Book Fair

PARP

(Parents as Reading Partners)

PV Reads

If you are interested in chairing any of these committees, please contact Jeannie Denike at:

[JbDenike@aol.com](mailto:JbDenike@aol.com).



# PTA Calendar

## November 2011

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Daylight Saving Time Ends                    | 11/6       |
| Election Day<br>School Open                  | 11/8       |
| Board of Education Meeting<br>HS Caf  7:00pm | 11/10      |
| Veteran's Day, School Closed                 | 11/11      |
| PTA ES Book Fair<br>9:00am-2:30pm            | 11/14-18   |
| School Picture Retakes                       | 11/15      |
| Board of Education Meeting<br>HS Caf  7:00pm | 11/17      |
| PTA 1st Grade Event<br>ES Caf  7:00-8:00 pm  | 11/18      |
| PTA Meeting<br>ES 7:30pm                     | 11/22      |
| Thanksgiving Recess                          | 11/23-25   |
| PTA MS Book Fair<br>7:30am-2:30pm            | 11/28-12/2 |

## December 2011

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Board of Education Meeting<br>HS Caf  7:00pm                       | 12/8     |
| PV Reads Holiday Community Read<br>ES Caf  11am-2pm                | 12/10    |
| Report Cards Mailed  | 12/12    |
| MS Band Concert<br>Grades 5&6, HS PAC, 7:00pm                      | 12/13    |
| MS Band Concert<br>Grades 7&8, HS PAC, 7:00pm                      | 12/14    |
| ES Parent/Teacher Evening Conferences<br>12:15 pm Dismissal for ES | 12/15    |
| ES parent/Teacher Conferences<br>ES Closed for Students            | 12/16    |
| MS Chorus Concert<br>HS PAC, 7:00pm                                | 12/20    |
| Holiday Recess<br>School Closed                                    | 12/26-30 |

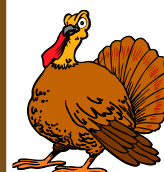


## Staff Spotlight



### Scott and Deb Sperling

We are Scott and Deb Sperling, and we have been teaching at PVES for 25 years. Deb is originally from the Peekskill area (Continental Village) and she is one of 11 children. Scott grew up in Mahopac. Deb attended Russell Sage College in Troy, and Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. Scott attended Western Connecticut State University. We met in college when we were both working as teacher aides in a residential school for children with special needs in Pleasantville. We were married in 1988. We both received our Masters Degree in Curriculum from Western Connecticut State University. We have 3 children who attend the Putnam Valley schools. Shelley is a senior, Sarah is a junior, and Steven is in 8th grade at the Middle School. In the summer months, we love to travel in our family camper, and we have spent time in every state except Hawaii. Our favorite adventure was exploring Alaska in the summer of 2009, where we hiked on glaciers, toured Denali National Park, and observed Grizzly Bears in the wild. We are big fans of garage sales and flea markets, and you can find us at the Stormville Flea Market selling antiques and collectibles.



**Happy Thanksgiving  
to all!**

# PTA Annual Fundraiser

There will be no catalog fundraiser this year. Instead the PTA is requesting monetary donations from the families we serve. Directly donating to the PTA yields 100% funding towards PTA programs. Catalog fundraisers only yield 50% funding to PTA programs. Also, it's 100% tax deductible to you!

- ★ All money raised goes to programs provided by the PTA like Family Math Night, Parents as Reading Partners and Book Clubs.
- ★ Checks should be made payable to: PVPTA. All donations are tax deductible. Donations exceeding \$75 will receive a receipt from the PTA for your tax purposes. The PVPTA is an IRS 501c organization.
- ★ Envelopes can be addressed to "PVPTA-Fundraising" and returned to the main office at the Elementary or Middle School.
- ★ You can also mail your donation to the PTA at: PVPTA, 171 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.

Email us at [PVPTA@pvcasd.org](mailto:PVPTA@pvcasd.org) if you have any questions.

On Saturday, September 10th, several members of the PVFT (Putnam Valley Federation of Teachers) participated in the annual Vassar Brothers Medical Center Tri-Dualathlon in Dutchess County, NY. The event raised money for Neonatal intensive care unit at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Left to right in photo...supporting at the race were Brian Kuczma, (HS Science Teacher and race volunteer) and Ryan Odell (HS Music Teacher & PVFT Vice President). Racers included Tad Ignatz (MS/HS Science Teacher), Kurt Worell (MS/HS Health Teacher), and Gerry Carlin (MS Teacher & PVFT President). The teacher athletes all did a fantastic job, had a great time, and supported a fine cause!



## Childside Stuffed Animal Sleepover



As part of our Science Units, Organizing our World and Properties of Objects, the Childside children were invited to bring in their favorite stuffed animal from home. During the week, the animals were part of our Language Arts, Science and Math lessons. We studied their properties and compared and contrasted them. We wrote letters and read to them and even brought them to the cafeteria on the last day for a celebration lunch. On Thursday morning, we were all surprised to see that our animals had "partied" without us! Our very organized rooms were in total disarray! The students quickly realized that an organized world makes it much easier to live, learn and work in a safe way. We all pitched in to reorganize our classrooms! It was a wonderful, fun way to learn about these important science concepts!

## Volunteer of the Month

Thank you, **Desiree Narciso**, PTA Membership Chairperson since 2005! For the past 6 years (and counting), Desiree has seamlessly managed the membership for both the ES and MS. Thank you, Desiree, for all your dedication and hard work!

## The Book Fair is coming!

The ES Book Fair will be held on 11/14 to 11/18, 9:00am-2:30pm. The Middle School Book Fair will be held on 11/28 to 12/2, 7:30am-2:30pm.

Volunteers are needed to help. Any amount of time you can volunteer is greatly appreciated. Please email Stephanie (ES Book Fair) at [Michaelsteph@msn.com](mailto:Michaelsteph@msn.com) or Denise (MS Book Fair) at [dvm1121@aol.com](mailto:dvm1121@aol.com). Visit: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/putnamvalleymiddleschool>.



## Save the Date!

The 5th annual Putnam Valley PTA Holiday Reads is scheduled for December 10th from 11-2 pm in the PVES Cafeteria. Anyone interested in helping out at this fun and festive event can contact

Shannon Millicker at:  
Shan72@optonline.net.



The PV PTA is now on Facebook! Don't forget to look for us there!



## Arts in Education Update

This year, the AIE Committees for both the ES and MS have joined forces and are working together to make a difference in the lives of students by booking lots of great new arts programming for both schools. On October 4th, storyteller Jonathan Kruk performed his "Finger Fables" for the Kindergarten classes. Next, the ES was treated to a visit on October 5th by furry, blue motivational mascot "YoJo". YoJo and his friend Phil talked about how to "Treat Your Body Right" by getting proper amounts of sleep, nutrition, and exercise. YoJo's visit was facilitated by the Character Education Committee and the Health Office to coincide with the ES Health Walk. The first assembly of the year at the MS will be Lisa Lou's "The Magic of Chemistry" on November 2nd for 5th graders. If you'd like more information about our committee and/or our programs, please email Melodie Wolford: [theatrime1cs.com](mailto:theatrime1cs.com) or Suzanne Dropkin: [Dropkin@yahoo.com](mailto:Dropkin@yahoo.com). We're always looking for fresh ideas and new members!



## Coat Drive



Tenth graders Amelia Spittal, Eva Shorto, Kelly Sepa, and Emily Azcue are organizing a coat, hat, and glove drive for Oakeside School in Peekskill. The girls organized the coat drive after getting such great feedback on their prior project: 100 backpacks in 100 days. Teachers from Oakeside and PS 236/173 in the Bronx had explained to the girls that many of their students do not have the supplies they need at home to work on their school work. So the girls, with help from their parents, decided to fill 100 backpacks with generous donations of notebooks, pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, rulers and other much needed school supplies for the two schools. If you would like to donate to their coat drive, they are looking for new or gently used children's coats sizes 6-12 as well as hats and gloves. Email the girls at: [coatsandbackpacks@gmail.com](mailto:coatsandbackpacks@gmail.com) with any questions. Great work, ladies!

## PTA Membership as of October 2011

2011/2012 Members to Date = 281. Goal= 408

2011/2012 Teachers/Staff Members to Date=67 (about 50%). Teacher/Staff Goal=100%

We also receive awards from the National PTA for high Male and Outside Membership! To date we have 72 male members (our goal is 100) and 5 outside members (our goal is 25). And remember that membership includes exclusive benefits such as discounts with Hertz, Metlife, Office Max, T-Mobile, and Sharp!

Not a member yet? Membership forms can be found at [www.pvcsd.org](http://www.pvcsd.org) by clicking on the "Parent Resources" tab, then the "PTA" tab. Any questions? Contact Desiree Narciso, PTA Membership Chair at [desnarciso@optonline.net](mailto:desnarciso@optonline.net).

