



EAGLE EYE

April 2009 Newsletter

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Steck Calendar

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
March 30 - April 3 No School Spring Break School Resumes April 6						
5	6 School Resumes Be Smart/Be Safe program Gr. 4 9:45-1:40	7 NO SCHOOL School Improvement Planning Election Day	8 Chess Club 3:40-4:30 Newspaper Club 3:40-4:30	9 PTA Executive Board Meeting 9:30-10:30 AM MPR	10 NO SCHOOL Local Holiday	11 Market Day Pick-Up 10:30-11:30 AM
12	13 Be Smart/Be Safe program Gr. 4 9:45-1:40	14	15 Chess Club 3:40-4:30	16	17 Earth Club 8:00 AM	18
19	20 Student Council 8:15 AM ISPN PTA Meeting 7:00 PM Crouse Ed Center	21	22 Chess Club 3:40-4:30 Volunteer Lunch PTA Earth Day Newspaper Club 3:40-4:15	23	24 Newspaper Club 3:40-4:15	25
April 20-24 Family Fun Night AJ's Pizza Corner						
26	27 Be Smart/Be Safe program for Gr. 4 9:45-1:40	28 2K & 2C to Red Oak Nature Center 9:05-12:45	29 Chess Club 3:40-4:30 2VK & 2G to Red Oak Nature Center, 9:05-12:45	30 2A to Red Oak Nature Center 9:05-12:45		

Food for Thought From *Campbell's Kitchen*

An airline is a great place to diet.

~ Wolfgang Puck

I feel a recipe is only a theme, which an intelligent cook can play each time with a variation.

~ Madame Jehane Benoit

Of soup and love, the first is best.

~ Thomas Fuller

They take great pride in making their dinner cost much;

I take my pride in making my dinner cost little.

~ Henry David Thoreau

Only a stomach that rarely feels hungry scorns common food.

~ Horace



PRESIDENT'S LETTER PRESIDENT'S LETTER PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Letter From Our PTA President

Spring really is here! Even the bulbs are peeping up from the ground! My guess is that you're enjoying the longer days and the ability to get out and play!

As I look at the events that have made our school even better this month, **I have to thank Tina and Dave Thomas for the awesome job on the Steck Luau Carnival!** Thanks to the Thomas' and ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS from bakers, game monitors, set up, clean up, food and beverage to the prize redemption room that made the carnival a HUGE success! Without all of us working together, we could not make this event happen! THANK YOU!

Kudos also goes to Tasha Heindrich for organizing and hosting the School Board Candidate Forum. I would encourage all district voters to get informed on the School Board Candidates that will make very important decisions for our students and schools. This Election Day, Tuesday, April 7th, we will be electing 4 new Board members to a Board of Education totaling 7 members, a majority, which will be a huge impact!

To pay tribute to our teachers, here is information from the Indian Prairie Parents Council (IPPC): Editors of the Naperville Sun are hoping to feature more school news, including a regular feature about outstanding teachers. They are asking people to nominate teachers by e-mailing Editor Heather Pfundstein at hpfundstein@scn1.com. Contributors are asked to include the teacher's name, school, contact information, and why they think the nominee should be featured as an outstanding teacher. We encourage your participation to recognize the incredible teaching talent within our children's schools! Let's see if we can nominate some of our dedicated teachers!

If you have not heard, the **Earth Club conducted a waste audit of the lunchroom waste** from one day at Steck. With the watchful eye of Julie Hatcher and SCARCE, the 4th and 5th graders sorted the 260 pounds of lunchroom waste into several categories, including paper, plastic, not eaten and partially eaten food, The results were really eye opening. An all school assembly followed the audit to inform the kids and staff on how we can be "GREEN" at Steck.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, March 27

Spring Room Parties

Tuesday, April 7

Election Day

Monday, April 20-24

Family Fun Night, AJ's Pizza Corner

Wednesday, April 22

Earth Day

Monday-Friday, May 4-7

Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, June 2

Field Day

Thanks again to all of our volunteers, teachers and staff! We are looking forward to an awesome 4th quarter!

Sincerely,

Nancy Vickers, PTA President

For the Steck PTA Board.

2009-2010 PTA Board Candidates

Here are the candidates slated as officers for the PTA board for the 2009-2010 school year.

Elections will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the 9:30 AM General PTA meeting.

President:	<i>Nancy Vickers</i>
1st Vice President:	<i>Mishelle Williams</i>
2nd Vice President:	<i>Kathy Luczynski</i>
1st Secretary:	<i>Dina Vance</i>
2nd Secretary:	<i>Poonam Harpalani</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Jennifer Martin</i>



BOOK BUCKS CONTEST CONCLUSION



This year's *Book Bucks* contest proved to be a favorite among the teachers as well as the students. With only a week left before the contest ended, a few teachers were doubling up as coach and cheerleader for their classroom. They had gotten into the spirit of putting "fun" into fund raising.

After all Box Tops/Campbell's/Nestle/Tyson product redemption labels were counted, the students in Mrs. Erwin's 1st



grade and Mrs. Marshall's 4th grade classes were each awarded \$3 in Book Bucks to purchase something on their "wish list" at the school's Spring Book Fair. The teachers each received \$15



in Book Bucks to purchase their favorites for their classrooms.

For those inquiring student- and teacher-minds alike, below are the results of each classroom:

Class	Total	Class	Total
KB	90	3F	178
KP	167	3G	604
KJS	216	3P	550
KL	474	3T	321
KS	269	4C	471
1E	1,707	4D	603
1H	275	4KM	568
1K	395	4M	1,787
1W	342	4S	704
2A	1,660	5B	774
2VK	424	5D	867
2G	984	5G	188
2K	325	5H	303
2C	281	5O	323
Anon	79		

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's contest. This was one "Book" with a happy ending!



This month Market Day wants to save you money. You'll save 10% on your order when you spend over \$80. Simply enter promo code "Save10" when you place your order online for the April 11th pickup date. Be sure to check out the "Deals of the Week" which are weekly specials on the Market Day web site. You'll get a FREE insulated bag when you purchase 3 qualifying desserts this month. Be sure to place your order this month to support our PTA and take advantage of these great deals!

Thanks to all of you who have supported Market Day this year. We've raised a total of \$2,382 so far for Steck PTA! A special thank you to our loyal volunteers: Cindy Becker, Janice and Frank Jasiak, Jennifer Leazzo, Kim Lewis, Karyn and Andy Mansen, and Mary Portanova.

Supporting our school is easy!

- Order online 24/7 at www.marketday.com, Orders due by 11 PM Wed. 4/8 – Market Day has extended the order time to 11 PM!
- Fill out the order sheet and return to school by Monday 4/6
- Pick up your order at Steck on Sat. 4/11 10:30–11:30 AM

We look forward to seeing you at our Market Day pick up this month!

For more information contact:

Kelly Breuer 898-9489

Shirley Hurdle 692-0791

Dawn Krueger 364-1657



LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAP

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

by Tasha Heidenrich

Local and Municipal Legislation

School Board Candidate Forum

A Candidate Forum was hosted on March 3 by the Indian Prairie Parents' Council, in partnership with the League of Women Voters. You may view the Forum and read the Voters' Guide at: <http://ipsdweb.ipsd.org/IPPC/Default.aspx>

Naperville Community Television recently conducted individual interviews of the candidates running for the District 204 school board. You can watch "Candidate's Voice" online at: http://www.nctv17.com/candidates-voice2009_district204.html

*The Forum will air on
ACTV Channel 10
Aurora Community Television
Tuesday, March 24 at 11:30am.*

Early voting begins March 16 and continues through April 2. You may find voter information from the election commission at: <http://www.dupageelections.com/main.asp>

Update on Canadian National acquisition of EJ&E

Canadian National Railway Company filed an appeal in federal court on February 23, challenging a mandate that it pay the majority of costs for two rail crossing upgrades, one of them in Aurora. When the federal Surface Transportation Board approved CN's \$300 million deal to buy the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern rail line two months ago, it also imposed a few conditions — including that the company would pay 67 percent of improvement costs at Ogden Avenue in Aurora, and 78.5 percent of similar costs at a crossing in Lynwood (south of Calumet City near the Indiana border). However, the company, citing years of precedent, believes it should only pay for about 5 to 10 percent of the cost of these crossings.

As of March 12, 2009, CN reached voluntary mitigation agreements with 12 communities affected by the EJ&E acquisition. This is the same day the first trains were re-routed. Specifically, two additional trains were added between Mundelein and Matteson each day, one in each direction. That route will send the trains through Aurora's far East side, as well as other area communities. Four more trains are set to be re-routed onto the EJ&E tracks in the coming weeks, traveling the same route, two in each direction. These are the first steps in a planned three-year re-routing that will eventually bring the number of freight trains rolling through some suburban areas to four times the current level.

State Legislation

HB 1310

State Representative Darlene Senger (R-Naperville) successfully advanced legislation to keep Illinois' school children safe. The legislation, which passed as Senate Bill 1885 in the Senate Education Committee and House Bill 640 in the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, allows school districts the option of transferring students charged with a felony to an alternative school.

Rep. Senger introduced the legislation in response to an incident which occurred in Naperville where two Gregory Middle School students were accused of sexually assaulting their classmate. The incident occurred off school grounds, therefore leaving Indian Prairie School District 204 officials with limited legal options.

After this legislation met some resistance last week, Rep. Senger began an online petition and received more than 600 signatures of people from across the state who support this initiative. She partnered with State Senator Randy Hultgren to sponsor Senate Bill 1885. Rep. Senger will continue to fight for this initiative to ensure that either House Bill 640 or Senate Bill 1885 are signed into law.

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont. on next page.



LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAP

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont.**HB4044**

IPPA PTA, on behalf of the Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC), issued a call to action on March 9 for its members to urge their representatives to support this bill, which requests that 10 million dollars be appropriated from general revenue to the State Board of Education for gifted education. This money will help rebuild gifted programs by providing funds for necessary professional development in gifted education for teachers and administrators and creating a gifted endorsement.

Federal Legislation***Education Funding Finalized for FY 2009***

Last week, President Obama signed into law a \$410 billion spending bill for fiscal year 2009, which actually began last October and runs through the end of Sept. 2009. Congress had elected not to negotiate a budget with the last administration, opting instead to operate under temporary funding until the new administration took office. However, when the new Congress began its session in January, it pushed off consideration of the 2009 spending bills to begin work on an economic stimulus bill—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—that will now provide \$96.8 billion in emergency supplemental funds for several existing education programs and establish a new temporary fund for states. (The funds for education in the stimulus bill are in addition to the normal spending, or “appropriations,” bill.) Congress eventually turned to the 11 unfinished appropriations 2009 bills in late February, wrapping them into one bill (called an omnibus appropriations bill), and passing the measure in early March. The bill was signed into law by the president on March 10th.

The final bill funds education programs at \$62.6 billion, up \$3.4 billion from the prior year. The two largest K-12 programs, No Child Left Behind Title I grants and IDEA Special Education state grants, received increases from 2008 levels in the 2009 omnibus bill for regular appro-

priations. The bill provides a \$594 million increase (4 percent) over the 2008 level for Title I, and a \$558 million increase (5 percent) for IDEA state grants. Title I provides grants based on the number of students from low-income families. IDEA state grants provide aid based on the population of disabled students. The Economic Recovery Bill (ARRA) provides significant additional 2009 funding for both programs. An additional \$10 billion is made available for Title I, and IDEA state grants will receive an \$11.3 billion boost, effectively doubling the regular 2009 appropriation. Title I School Improvement Grants, which support reforms that will improve student achievement at low performing schools, will receive an additional \$3 billion from the stimulus bill.

Obama Outlines Education Reform Plans

President Obama last week outlined his plans for education reform in a speech to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The address is receiving largely positive media coverage, crediting the President with taking on the teachers' unions, considered a key Democratic constituency. Obama called for “sweeping changes” in his speech. He said education at all levels was under financed in the Bush years and that true reform should encompass more than just demands for improved test scores. However, Obama also seemed willing to challenge teachers' unions and public school systems, and to continue to demand more accountability. Obama proposed spending additional money on effective teachers in up to 150 school districts, fulfilling a campaign promise that once earned him “boos” from members of the National Education Association. Past “boos” notwithstanding, union leaders publicly welcomed Obama's words, saying it seems clear he wants to include them in his decisions. Bloomberg News reports, “Without spelling out details, Obama has said he would retool the No Child Left Behind Act...to set more uniform and rigorous standards for tests on reading and mathematics in elementary schools.”



Where do you think the Easter Bunny gets all those eggs? Why not "hop" on over to Jewel Shop & Share Days! April 6, 7, 8—Monday through Wednesday

Take advantage of these savings for yourself and for Steck School. That's right! Simply shop at any Jewel-Osco during our designated **Jewel Shop & Share Days**, and Jewel will donate 5% of your total purchase (excluding tax) to Steck.



Use the official **Jewel Shop & Share** Identification Slip (below) and give it to the cashier for completion when you check out. If you have shopped and forgotten your slip, just bring back your dated receipt with the slip to the Customer Service counter for Steck receive credit.

We encourage you to copy the slip and hand it out to friends and family. Either print additional slips out or pick some up from inside the main office or on top of the counter where the drop-off bins are located. (Note: It is a program violation to distribute slips at or near any Jewel-Osco store on our designated Shop & Share Days.) As always, your enthusiasm and support are appreciated! Contact Nicole Danno at 692-1191 or Nancy Maloney at 820-0031 for further information.

Wait!...Don't Toss Those Old Shoes!

As you replace your children's old athletic shoes this spring, please keep the Earth in mind. Old shoes, when recycled and reprocessed, can become safe playground surfaces, among other things.

In celebration of Earth Day, Steck's Green Team will be collecting old athletic shoes during the entire month of April. Please send old gym shoes and athletic shoes (no sandals, dress shoes, etc) to school with your children beginning after spring break.

In addition, we would also like to collect as many old cell phones as possible to donate to SCARCE, our local environmental education center in Glen Ellyn.

Thanks for everyone's help!

3rd through 5th grade Green Team Members
Ms. Hartman and Mrs. Hatcher

Naperville Sun Teacher Features

The Naperville Sun launched a new redesign this week. Editors are hoping to feature more school news, including a regular feature about outstanding teachers. They are asking people to nominate teachers by e-mailing Editor Heather Pfundstein at hpfundstein@scn1.com.

Contributors are asked to include the teacher's name, school, contact information, and why they think the nominee should be featured as an outstanding teacher. We encourage your participation to recognize the incredible teaching talent within our children's schools!



SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

13108915 _____

GROUP NUMBER STORE NUMBER

AMOUNT OF PURCHASE _____

DOLLARS CENTS

GROUP: **Reba O. Steck Elementary School P.T.A.**
YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: **April 6, 7, 8, 2009**

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP. PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL-OSCO ON THE DATE ABOVE.

IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL-OSCO. **Jewel-Osco**



'Twas almost the start of spring vacation
And inside of Reba Steck's walls
You could hear happy voices all through the halls.
When, what to my wondering ears should I hear,
But a voice on the morning news
coming through loud and quite clear.
"Attention, attention, please listen to me.
I've got an announcement that fills me with glee.
You have spring homework, but please don't you groan.
It's simple and easy, and it's done at your home.
I'm talking about Box Tops, a dime that is square.
Tell everyone we collect 'em so they'll be aware.
Look high and look low, and soon your pile will grow.
Grab your scissors and clip, but please be careful not to slip!
And kindly take care to leave the expiration date there.
Ask your family and friends to save them too.
They can gather quite a lot rather than just a mere two.
So clip Box Tops all week long and shortly
you'll have a big stash,
Then bring them into school,
and we'll turn your Box Tops into cash.
Just remember the golden Box Top rule:
In order to earn money for school,
Look for Box Tops that might be headed for the trash.
Quick, cut it out, because it's worth 10 cents in real cash!
Have a great spring vacation
because it will be over in a flash!

Nancy Maloney