



# EAGLE EYE

## February 2009 Newsletter

### PTA Executive Board

***Nancy Vickers***

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president@steckpta.org  
630-660-5443

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1stvicepresident@steckpta.org  
630-978-1209

***Michelle Morano***

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
(Grade/Room Parents)  
2ndvicepresident@steckpta.org  
630-898-0035

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1<sup>st</sup> Secretary (Committees)  
1stsecretary@steckpta.org  
630-820-8699

***Leigh Ann Marrs***

2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary (Volunteers)  
2ndsecretary@steckpta.org  
630-820-3337

***Jill Sims***

Treasurer (Finances)  
treasurer@steckpta.org  
630-820-9957

**Reba O. Steck**

*Kerry Merrill*, Principal

**Attendance Line**

630-375-3535

**School Office**

630-375-3500

**Steck Web Site**

<http://steck.ipds.org/>

**PTA Web Site**

<http://www.steckpta.org>


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## Steck Calendar

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade to Norris Theater, 9:05-12:00	3 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade to Paramount Theater 10:45-1:30	4 Chess Club, 3:40-4:30  Newspaper Club, 3:40-4:30	5 Open House, 6:30-8:00 PM	6 Student Council 8:15	7 Market Day Pick-Up 10:30-11:30 AM 
8	9	10	11 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade to WVHS Planetarium, 9:15-10:50 & 10:30-12:00  Chess Club, 3:40-4:30	12 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30-10:30, MPR	13 Earth Club, 8:00 AM	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL President's Day	17	18 Chess Club, 3:40-4:30  Newspaper Club in Lab, 3:40- 4:30	19	20 Earth Club, 8:00 AM	21 PTA Carnival, 1:00-5:00 PM
22	23	24 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:00-8:00 PM  Orchestra & Band Rehearsal & Pizza Parties <sup>1</sup>	25 Chess Club, 3:40-4:30	26	27 NO SCHOOL Institute Day	28

<sup>1</sup> Tuesday February 24:

Orchestra Rehearsal and Orchestra Pizza Party at Georgetown School, 4:30-6:00

Band Rehearsal and Band Pizza Party at Steck, 4:30-6:00



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

WOW! 2009! Remember when Y2K was looming in the near future and a lot of people were wondering what the new millennium would bring? Here we are, almost through the first decade which makes me stop to think of all of the historic events that are going on in the world and our state and right here in our little corner of the world..."Steckville".

### ***Kudos to...***

...*Cathy Marzano, Lori Hennessy and Allison Schlein* for organizing and arranging the Seasoning of Sharing with Humanitarian Service Project. Of course, there could not be such support of this project without the generosity of all of the people that donated their time, talent and resources. Thank You!

...*Mary and Gerry Scalgione* for orchestrating such a successful Pancake Breakfast and all of the parents that helped flip, serve, clean and shop for the event. Thank You!

...*Amy Excell and Kathy Luczynski* and all of the volunteers that help ensure that Winter Wonderland was a lot fun for everyone. Thank You!

Just a quick update for all of you:

### ***"Rockin' Luau" Carnival***

The "Rockin' Luau" Carnival is quickly approaching. Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 PM – 5 PM. Thanks to *Tina Thomas* for heading up this HUGE and FUN FILLED event. Thank you in advance to all of the room parents and everyone volunteering in each area! Without parents and volunteers, this annual carnival would not be possible!

### ***Fall Kindergarten***

Yes, it's true; it is time to think about the fall and Kindergarten. If you have a child entering Kindergarten, please register them in the office as soon as possible. Also, if you have a neighbor that has an incoming Kindergarten, please encourage them to register!

### ***PTA Nominations***

The PTA needs YOU! The Steck PTA Nominations Committee is looking to recruit new PTA Board Members for the 2009-10 school years. More information is contained in this issue of the Eagle Eye and posted at our web site at [www.steckpta.org](http://www.steckpta.org). Please contact *Robin Church* ([rhmchurch@comcast.net](mailto:rhmchurch@comcast.net)), *Michelle Morano* ([mdm1416@yahoo.com](mailto:mdm1416@yahoo.com)) or *Janel Zuranski* ([jzuranski@blastcomm.com](mailto:jzuranski@blastcomm.com)) with your nominations for office by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Blood Drive***

What a great way to save a life! GIVE BLOOD! Monday, March 2, 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM Heartland Blood Center will be leading a blood drive at Steck. If you can, please remember to mark the date, give a bit of time, a pint of blood and maybe save a life. Cool, isn't it?

### ***Drop Off And Pick Up***

Just in case you think this is a redundant notice, unfortunately, IT IS! PLEASE follow the rules of the road for drop off and pick up of your student. We continue to have unsafe situations that endanger the lives of our students and staff! Seriously! Try to carpool with your neighbors, have your kids walk, be patient when you are driving, please, please, please, SAFETY FIRST!!

Ok, so that's the news for now from the PTA Board. We can't thank all of you enough for all of the volunteer hours of time and those of you that give so much effort to make our school community fantastic!

Happy 2009!

*Nancy Vickers*

PTA President

For the Steck PTA Board



## Steck PTA Nominations for 2009 – 2010 Executive Board

*Please submit your nominations for:*

<b>President</b>	Directs Affairs Of The PTA	Communications
<b>First Vice-President</b>	Assists The President	Responsible For PTA Membership
<b>Second Vice-President</b>	Assists The President	Oversees Grade Level Chairs & Room Parents
<b>First Secretary</b>	Keeps Records Of PTA Meetings	Oversees All Committee Chairs
<b>Second Secretary</b>	Responsible for Volunteer Forms	Other Duties As Determined By The Board
<b>Treasurer</b>	Reports PTA Financial Activity	Receives And Distributes PTA Funds

Please return nominations by e-mail to the PTA Nominating Committee  
or submit this slip to a PTA bucket in an envelope marked  
“PTA Nominating Committee” **by Friday, February 20.**

If you have any questions call any Nominating Committee member:

<b>Robin Church</b>	630-499-9899	<a href="mailto:rhmchurch@comcast.net">rhmchurch@comcast.net</a>
<b>Janel Zuranski</b>	630-618-1201	<a href="mailto:jzuranski@blastcomm.com">jzuranski@blastcomm.com</a>
<b>Michelle Morano</b>	630-898-0035	<a href="mailto:mdm1416@yahoo.com">mdm1416@yahoo.com</a>

The nominating committee will present the slate of candidates at the Steck PTA meeting  
**Thursday, March 12, 9:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room.

Elections will be held during the Steck PTA meeting  
**Thursday, May 14, 9:30 AM** in the Teacher’s Lounge.

**Please return this form in a PTA bucket, or e-mail your nominations  
by Friday, February 20.**

You may nominate for one or more positions. ~ You may nominate yourself.

I would like to nominate the following person(s) for the respective position(s):

Office	Name	Phone	E-Mail
<b>President</b>			
<b>First Vice-President</b>			
<b>Second Vice-President</b>			
<b>First Secretary</b>			
<b>Second Secretary</b>			
<b>Treasurer</b>			
<b>Submitted by:</b>			



# Illinois PTA Duties Of Officers

## President

- ◇ preside at all meetings of this organization, the executive board, and the executive committee
- ◇ be a member ex-officio of all committees except the nominating committee and, if authorized to sign checks, the audit committee
- ◇ sign all legal documents, including contracts
- ◇ appoint members to special committees
- ◇ be responsible for other duties as may be assigned to him by the organization, the executive board, or the executive committee
- ◇ delegate the work of the organization to other officers or chairmen as may be appropriate
- ◇ coordinate the work of the officers and committees in order that the objects may be promoted
- ◇ have completed the Illinois PTA President's Course before election or within six (6) months of election

## Vice President

- ◇ act as aide to the president
- ◇ perform the duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to serve

## First Vice President

- ◇ Membership

## Second Vice President

- ◇ Room Parent and Grade Level Chairs

## Secretary

- ◇ record the minutes of all meetings of this organization, the executive board, and the executive committee
- ◇ have a current copy of the bylaws
- ◇ have a current membership list
- ◇ conduct correspondence of the organization as directed
- ◇ perform such other duties as may be delegated

## First Secretary

- ◇ Committee Chairs

## Second Secretary

- ◇ Volunteer training and orientation

## Treasurer

- ◇ receive all monies of this organization and keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures
- ◇ place all monies in a depository approved by the executive board
- ◇ pay out funds in accordance with the budget as approved by the membership and authorized by properly signed vouchers. Vouchers shall be signed by two persons. Checks shall be signed by the treasurer and one other duly elected and authorized officer.
- ◇ present a written financial statement at every meeting of the organization and at other times as requested by the executive board making a full report at the annual general membership meeting
- ◇ be responsible for the remittance of the state and national portion of the dues paid by each member
- ◇ provide the checkbook, all bank statements, canceled and voided checks, deposit slips, treasurer's record book and receipt book, vouchers and invoices for all disbursements to the audit committee
- ◇ be responsible for completion and filing of appropriate forms as may be required by Internal Revenue Service Regulations no later than the date established by the regulations
- ◇ not be a member of the audit committee, and
- ◇ complete the Illinois PTA ABCs of PTA Finance

## All officers shall:

- ◇ have completed the Illinois PTA Information/Advanced Information Course before election or within six (6) months of their election
- ◇ perform the duties prescribed in the parliamentary authority of this organization in addition to those outlined in the bylaws and those assigned from time to time
- ◇ deliver to their successors all official material within ten (10) days following the meeting at which their successors take office



## Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child who will be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2009, he or she is eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the 2009-10 school year. We are pleased to offer ALL-DAY kindergarten for your child. You may enroll your child in either an ALL DAY kindergarten class or a HALF DAY kindergarten class. The hours for both of the options as follows:

~ Half Day: 9:05 – 11:50 AM or 12:50 – 3:35 PM  
(your child will be assigned to either AM or PM)

~ All Day: 9:05 AM – 3:35 PM

You are being asked to indicate your preliminary choice of all day or half day kindergarten on the form on the next page. You are invited and encouraged to attend a Kindergarten Parent Preview Night on Thursday, March 12 from 7:00-8:00 PM here at Steck. At this meeting, we will provide a detailed look at what the kindergarten experience will offer. You will also be provided with more details related to registration requirements and deadlines. This night is designed for parents and guardians only.

At the end of the March Parent Preview Night meeting, you will be able to fill out a form to inform us if you wish to change your placement choice indicated on this pre-registration form. Parents are encouraged to return registration materials as soon as possible for planning purposes. The final deadline is June 1, 2009 after which changes in placement cannot be accommodated.

Please note that if you select the half day option, your child may not necessarily attend his or her home school. Buses will be provided if your child attends a half day program at another school. Pre-registration and registration materials will be used to anticipate the need for half day kindergarten classes, but final decisions, including location, will not be made until after the registration deadline of June 1, 2009.

We need the Pre-Registration information on the attached sheet as soon as possible, but no later than January 30, 2009 so that we can begin planning kindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year. This Pre-Registration information will be used to form a kindergarten mailing list. Once on the mailing list, additional information will be mailed to eligible kindergarten parents.

If you have any neighbors who do not presently have school-aged children, but will have an incoming kindergartner, please give them a copy of this form or ask them to call our office at 630/375-3502 so that we can send them this information. I look forward to meeting you at the Kindergarten Parent Preview Night.

Please mark your calendars!

## Kindergarten Parent Preview Night Thursday, March 12, at 7 P.M.

Sincerely,  
Kerry Merrill, Principal



## A special thanks

*to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus Parents who chaperoned, baked and/or assisted at the Chorus Caroling Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>. It was awesome! Over 130 students and chaperones ventured out into the community to carol! Your support for the chorus members is greatly appreciated.*

**THANKS!!!! Mrs. Muno Chorus/Music Instructor**



INDIAN PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT #204  
2009-10 KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION

Choose One Option: ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN

HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN

Legal Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (last)

Gender: Male or Female

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last)

Did your child attend District 204's Prairie Preschool? YES NO

Do you currently have other children who attend Steck? NO YES List Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

List Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary language spoken in the home \_\_\_\_\_

Health concerns, other services needed, or any additional information you wish to share:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STECK OFFICE  
*AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*  
BUT NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2009

Thank You!



## Legislative Happenings

by Tasha Heidenrich

### Local Issues

#### *School Board Candidate Forum*

Four seats on the school board will be up for election next year, and an IPPC candidate forum is being organized in cooperation with the Naperville Chapter of the League of Women Voters. It has been scheduled for March 4, at 7 PM at the Crouse Education Center. Steck will also be hosting a Candidate Forum on March 19 from 7-8 PM in the library. I hope you can attend!

#### *EJ&E Acquisition*

As you may remember, TRAC (The Regional Answer to Canadian National) was formed by suburban leaders to protect Chicago land communities that would be impacted by the proposed acquisition of EJ&E by Canadian National Railway. TRAC officials assert the proposed acquisition will cost U.S. taxpayers more than a billion dollars to mitigate the traffic, safety and environmental issues caused by CN's plan to significantly increase freight traffic. For more information, visit [www.fightrailcongestion.com](http://www.fightrailcongestion.com).

On Dec. 24, the STB (Surface Transportation Board) approved the acquisition of the EJ&E by Canadian National Railway, attaching unprecedented conditions to the purchase. CN must pay a much larger percentage of mitigation costs than expected, and it must file quarterly reports on how long crossings are blocked and the delays to motorists, the result of which could lead to additional conditions. TRAC continues to oppose the STB decision and plans to litigate.

The city of Barrington and Will County each filed a stay of petition with the Surface Transportation Board asking to put on hold its Dec. 24 approval of the EJ&E takeover until all legal appeals are exhausted. Naperville, Aurora and Plainfield are among the communities objecting to the sale, although eight other communities signed agreements with CN before the STB decision. State Senator Peter Roskam (Wheaton) is proposing a bill in Washington that will instead turn the line into a STAR Commuter train line, linking Joliet all the way to O'Hare.

### State Legislation

IL PTA continues to support S 2288 and H 750 to provide tax reform and the monies we need to adequately fund the state's needs, including education and human services. As of Dec. 29, both those bills remain in the Rules Committees.

**LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont. on next page.**



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## LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont.

**Federal Legislation*****Chicago Schools Chief Named Education Secretary***

Arne Duncan was nominated as the new Secretary of Education. Duncan has been the CPS chief since 2001 and has earned a reputation as a reformer by implementing some relatively sweeping changes, including the closing of many schools due to academic failure. He also has provided support for charter schools and other innovations and is expected to implement a similar approach in his new Cabinet position. During his tenure as CEO, the members of Illinois PTA and Chicago Region PTA found Duncan to be supportive and open to their input, and they believe that as secretary of education he won't forget how important parent involvement is. In an interview with NPR, Duncan stated that the model he hopes to bring from Chicago is bringing "educational entrepreneurs, visionaries, to the table to help shape a new vision" for education.

Duncan will be responsible for implementing Obama's ambitious agenda that called for the expansion of pre-school programs, improvement of teacher quality, and the re-authorization of NCLB. In terms of parent engagement, Obama wants to collaborate with state leaders to create a meaningful parent report card that gives parents the information they need to help improve their child's performance each year and plan for post-secondary education. His agenda calls for a school-family contract laying out expectations for student attendance, behavior, and homework. The new administration will shift away from a zero tolerance model that forces children out of school for behavioral problems to one that would address these behaviors at the school, in partnership with families. Obama's "Zero to Five" early childhood education plan would provide support to young children and their parents by investing \$10 billion per year to create Early Learning Challenge Grants (quadrupling the number of children eligible for Early Head Start), increase Head Start funding, and improve quality for both programs.

***Report: States Slash Education Amidst Recession***

Education is continuing to face severe budget cuts, as state revenues continue to decline. Because nearly all states (including Illinois ) must balance their general fund budgets, state budget deficits often lead states to severe cuts in education, the largest component of state budgets. Cuts are expected to deepen, and more states are expected to implement cuts as the recession continues—unless the federal government, which is allowed to run deficits, provides the necessary assistance to states to support education.

The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress convened this week, with the economic crisis on the top of the agenda. Congressional leaders hope to send a comprehensive stimulus plan to President Obama by mid-February. Educational leaders, including the NEA, hope the stimulus package includes additional education funding for states through existing education funding formulas. Doing this will allow funding to get out quickly to every community across the nation in order to prevent cuts to education and stimulate economic growth. In fact, for each dollar invested, education typically creates more jobs in communities than any other industry. Apparently, Obama agrees: on December 17, 2008, Education Daily reported the President-elect as stating that in the long term, education would have the greatest impact on helping the nation's struggling economy.



## Boxtop Book Bucks

**Who:** You! Your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else you can think of to clip Box Tops, Campbell's UPC product labels, Nestle® Pure Life water bottle wrappers, and even Tyson Project A+™ redemption labels!

**What:** Announcing **Book Bucks**, the latest fund raising contest which turns your trash into CA\$H! **Book Bucks** are like cash, but they are only good at Steck's Scholastic Book Fair held March 16-20, 2009. Use one or use them all! They are not redeemable for cash, nor is change given for purchases less than the amount of the **Book Bucks** used.

Winners of the contest are determined by the number of product redemptions their classroom has collected during the contest period. As in the past, there will be two winning classrooms: one winner from kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and one winner from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Each student in the winning classroom will receive Book Bucks. Even the teacher will receive their own Book Bucks to use—maybe on something from their Wish List. It's very important that your submission have the teacher's name and classroom on it; otherwise, anything unlabeled will be considered an anonymous donation.

**Where:** Each classroom has been provided with a collection envelope for their students to place their product redemptions in. Below are eligible items and will be included in the classroom totals:

- ✂ Campbell's product UPCs, jar lids, plastic caps, Bonus Certificates
- ✂ Box Tops, Bonus Box Tops, Bonus Box Tops Certificates
- ✂ Tyson Project A+™ logo (entire label) from Tyson products
- ✂ Nestle® Pure Life® regular and flavored water bottle labels

Please note that all contest submissions should be deposited in the classroom's designated redemption envelope not the PTA bucket.

**When:** The Book Bucks contest begins January 26 and runs through March 6, 2009. To make this a little more fun for the students, there will be contest progress announcements to let the classrooms know how they're doing. The two winning classrooms will be announced March 13. **Book Bucks** will be distributed to the teachers on that date as well.

**Why:** We want to encourage good reading habits at an early age. The **Book Bucks** contest gives something useful to those students while helping the school through our "fun" draising.

Questions/comments? Contact:

**Cheryl Elenbaas** at 630-898-8821

**Nancy Maloney** at 630-820-0031

**Mishelle Williams** at 630-851-6526.



We'd like to thank everyone who supported our Janaury Market Day sale, which raised \$285 for Steck PTA. A special thank you to our great volunteers: **Cindy Becker, Jennifer Leazzo, Stephen Ludes, Karyn and Andy Mansen, Mary Portanova, and Lori Ziemniak.**

Stock your freezer while stocking our library when you order Market Day this month! Placing an order helps us achieve our sales goal to earn \$250 for our LMC in library books.

Also this month, Market Day's Frequent Buyer Program is back- so place your February order and you'll be one step closer to earning a FREE insulated bag that's great for frozen food, picnics, and game-day snacks!

Your order is important to us so please look for your February order guide to come home soon or visit [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) to see the entire selection of Market Day foods at a great value!

Supporting our school is easy!

- ✂ Order online 24/7 at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com), (orders due by noon Wed. 2/4)
- ✂ Fill out the order sheet and return to school by Fri. 1/30
- ✂ Pick up your order at Steck on Sat. 2/7 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