

Autumn 2006



The Carmel Teacher

Carmel/Kent
Chamber of Commerce



A F L C I O



Class of 2006

Carmel High School

Carmel Teachers' Association Scholarship Recipients



CTA awards \$20,000 in Scholarships to CHS Seniors!

On Thursday, June 2nd, the Carmel Teachers' Association awarded a total of \$20,000 in scholarship money to graduating seniors. The scholarships were presented at the annual CHS Senior Awards Ceremony.

Each of these students received a \$1,000 scholarship. Two other awards were also given. Danielle D'Ambrosio, received the CTA Valedictorian Award for \$500, and Patrick Boyle received the CTA Salutatorian Award, also for

\$500. The CTA scholarships are funded by numerous activities throughout the year, including the Annual Golf Tournament, and donations made by teachers.

Congratulations!

The CTA Scholarship Winners were:

Daniel Abbey, Lauren Berberich, Patrick Boyle. Craig Broccoli, Danielle Burke, Danielle D'Ambrosio, Alicia Genitle, Michelle Gentile, Matthew Geswell, Katie Goepfrich, Sarah Matrician, Elizabeth Matrician, Brittany Mitchell, Kerri Nagel, Morissa Pellino, Christine Ruszkowski, Lindsay Southard, Jillian Spallina, and Caitlin Tomkins.

Carmel Teachers' Association



Tomorrow's Dreams in Progress

From the President...



On behalf of the Carmel Teachers' Association, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Carmel community for coming to the polls last May and voting yes to our school district's budget. In a year where nearly every district in the area is feeling the pinch from defeated budgets, Carmel finds itself enjoying a prosperous time. The construction that began last year is moving along on schedule; hopefully, we will find the students from George Fischer Middle School and Carmel High School in their new state of the art facilities before the school year is out. The district's extracurricular activities continue to round out the students' education, offering a variety of teams, clubs and activities, giving every student an opportunity to find his or her niche. Our academic programs remain strong, providing

the necessary levels of instruction to meet the needs of all of our students. Carmel's support for the arts is clearly evident by the numerous productions and exhibits showcasing Carmel students and their talents in our schools. The breadth and depth of the talents of our students in so many areas is remarkable. These talents and skills could not be nurtured without the unwavering support of this community.

Last spring was a very difficult budget season, and our Board of Education had to make some tough choices in an effort to maintain a sound educational program while being sensitive to the burden that this can be to the taxpayers. We can all second guess some of the choices that were made; however, overall the board did a good job with this delicate balancing act, as was

evident by this community's support. It only takes a drive down Fair Street, or a visit to the ball fields, or a walk down any one our schools' corridors to see the fruits of your vote. We are off to the start of a very exciting school year, and with everyone's continued support the future of Carmel schools has never looked brighter.

Again, thank you everyone for your past and future involvement. As an African proverb says, "it takes a village to raise a child" and this community has certainly done its job well. On behalf of our Association, I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

Larry Carr

Breast Cancer Awareness

This October marked our ninth year of fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness. We collected \$1409.00 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation and the American Cancer Society. Over the past nine years the faculty and staff have generously donated a total of \$16,527.00 to this worthy cause. One hundred percent of our dona-

tions were sent to these two charities and put to work building awareness and researching a cure.

Special thanks to our organizers Jodi Brodsky (KES) and Jennifer Nervegna (GFMS) and to our collectors Denise Trach (CHS), Michelle Lynch,

Keri Malherio, Meghan McNamara, Jennifer Nervegna and Sandra Swarm (GFMS), Barbara Demetriow and Leslie Palmieri (MPES), Jodi Brodsky (KES), and Kay Tracy (KPS). Of course, thanks to all who give generously each year to this important effort.

Patterson Community Day

Jeff Diamonde and Liz Power, who are teachers at George Fischer Middle School and active members of the Patterson 22 Lions Club, showed Lion and CTA pride by participating in the Patterson Community Day. All of the money that was raised was donated to "Jack's Angels", a fundraising effort de-

signed to raise money for the family of a young Patterson resident, Jack Logan. Jack is fighting a costly illness and the money is being used to help the family with the endless medical costs. If you would like to contribute to this very worthwhile cause, please contact Jeff Diamond at GFMS.

A Lions Club drop-box has been placed in the front lobby at *George Fischer Middle School* to collect any eyeglasses that you no longer use. Help the Lions Club today!

Carmel Community Golf Outing—2006

Thanks to the generosity of so many participants and volunteers, we will be able to award approximately \$19,000 in scholarships to the 2007 senior class. The bulk of the money is raised through our annual Carmel Community Golf Outing. Last June 28th, thanks to the dedication of countless volunteers and participants, the CTA was able to raise more than \$9,000.

A special thanks to our Golf Outing organizers: Matt Murphy, Michael Murphy, Richard Nordt and Eric Stark. Without their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment the golf outing would never occur.

The following is a list of sponsors who also contributed to the success of our golf outing. Many thanks to...

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KES

GFMS 7th/ 8th Grade Teachers
GFMS Special Education Teachers
CHS English Department
GFMS 5th Grade

DONATIONS:

Centennial Golf club
Branton Woods Golf Club
Club Max



A great day of fun for a great cause—our students!
Hope to see you next year!

Adopt A Highway



The CTA Adopt-A-Highway Program took place on Saturday, October 14th. Bill Twardy organized the clean up for the 3rd year. Bill would like to thank all of the teachers who volunteered their time. It is a great way to thank the community who endorse our school budgets

year in and year out. Teachers participating in the clean up were: Steve Zoeller, Beth Goudie, Gerry Browne, Phyllis Curry, Larry Carr, Rosemary Gehardt, Roger Hofmann, Dave Robin, Pat Corrigan, Trish Clancy, and Bill Twardy.

Holiday Parade

The CTA and their Santa Sleigh Float participated in the Annual Carmel Christmas tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2 this year. A great time was had by all!



The Carmel High School Chapter of The Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA), has been very active in the community since July of 2006. The FBLA volunteered at the 4H Fair in late July. Charles Arbore, a senior and our State FBLA Vice President ran the event and had members stationed at various tents throughout the three day fair. At the end of the weekend, three FBLA members were honored with medals for their hard work. Congratulations to Charles Arbore, Charles Prince, and Sabrina Lewis on a job well done!

The 17th annual PARC Cablethon was held on Saturday, September 16th, and this was the 11th year FBLA hosted the coin drop, which was extremely successful, raising over \$1,000. Samantha Erickson, our Secretary was the leader in this event and without

the members enthusiasm and help this would not have been a success.

On Saturday, September 30th, many of our members attended the Light the Night walk at Bear Mountain State Park to benefit the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. The night was extremely successful thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work from all the members that attended.

Amanda Kessman, our Historian, was the leader in this event.

On October 13th, we held our first Vink Drive Cleanup session. It was a big success! All members who attended were very hardworking, and we cleaned up three huge bags of garbage. Samantha Erickson, our Secretary was the leader in this event. On Sunday, October 15th, FBLA members worked hard to aid the March of Dimes in Walk America, starting and ending at Putnam Hospital. The members were stationed throughout the course and

assisted with registration. Matteo Longhi, our Public Relations Officer, was the leader in this event.

On Saturday, October 21st, we also participated in the Kent Elementary School Harvest Fest. FBLA set up an area of games for children such as an obstacle course and relay races. We had valuable information about eating healthy and staying healthy. Nicole Monaco, our Chairperson of Community Service Project was the leader in this event.

FBLA was also active in our own Carmel High School. We participated with Freshman Orientation (Sept. 5th), Curriculum Night (Sept. 14th), and Parent/Teacher Conferences (Oct. 26th and 27th). It was a great success.

Written by Mrs. Mary Odell CHS FBLA Advisor

Bargain Book Mart



Gail Berger has recently started a Bargain Book Mart which is a used book/ book exchange store. Students can visit the store twice a week and purchase books for 25 cents each. If they donate books, they can choose that number for free. If they return a book, they can exchange it for a different one. In just two weeks, the store sold more than 140 books; the excitement has really been contagious. Teachers have also been purchasing books to expand their class-

room libraries. The students organize the books by genre, serve as cashiers and hone their customer service and money management skills. The store is off to a wonderful start and has motivated students to read and share ideas; it has also helped to foster an enthusiasm for reading.



Carmel Teacher Participates in Developing Test for NYS Teacher Certification

Leslie Palmieri spent two days in Malta, New York as a Content Advisory Committee Member for the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations Item Review Conference. Committee members reviewed multiple choice questions and written items to be placed in the test bank. They also reviewed items that have already been field tested.

Teachers from all over NYS were there. Leslie stated, "It was quite stimulating working on a test that will determine the future teachers of NYS."

Carmel Students Participate in Magnetic Levitation Competition

GFMS and CHS Technology students participated in the Dutchess Community College Magnetic Levitation Competition November, 16th in Poughkeepsie. Mr. Johnston(CHS), Mr. Farrell(CHS)and Mr. Diamonde(GFMS) attended the competition with 15 students. The students compete at both the high school and middle school levels.

The vehicles are designed using magnetic levitation technology to float on air and electric motors to propel them forward.

The students must compete for the fastest time down the track. The competition involves engineering design, electronics, aerodynamics and technical knowledge which are all components of the technology curriculum.

CHS Science Club Hosts Murder Mystery Dinner

The Science Club will hold its annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Event on Friday– January 12th 2007. The dinner and show will be held in the Carmel High School Cafeteria from 7:00-10:00 pm. This year the show is entitled, “**Superheroes Gone Bad.**” Admission is \$20.00 and a portion of the proceeds go to PCAP. See Mr. Baruch for details. (845)225-8441 Ext. 479



Fourth Grade Students participate in IFAW Animal Action Week



Mrs. Diana Melville's fourth grade students at KES participated in IFAW Animal Action Week. Fourth grader Gabrielle Bohrman arranged several “Make Waves for Seals” activities, since her grandmother works for the International Fund for Animal Welfare in Yarmouthport, MA.

Gabby's grandmother sent Save the Whales magnets for each child in the class. Several children are interested in entering the Design a Calendar Competition. A selection of the best drawings or paintings depicting the many animals protected by IFAW will be used on the calendar/poster for next year's event, IFAW Animal Action Week 2007.

Long Island Ballet at KPS

BJ Scarfone, a teacher at Kent Primary School, walked on October 2nd to raise money for The Support Connection. This wonderful organization offers a wide range of support for women suffering from breast and ovarian cancer. They have survivor support groups, support groups for children of cancer survivors and the widest range of wellness programs in Northern Westchester and Putnam counties. Through the generosity of the KPS family and BJ's neighbors, she was able to raise more than \$300 for this excellent organization.



Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon



Senior members of our community joined us on November 16th for another successful and delicious Thanksgiving Luncheon. Our guests were delighted to see all the friendly faces of our students and staff members. They remarked about the scrumptious turkey, stuffing, and vegetables prepared by our district's food service. The CTA is always very proud to honor our senior community members by sponsoring this event.

CTA UPCOMING EVENTS

December: Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party

February 10th: Family Fun Night



GFMS Revolutionary Reenactment Club Design a Replica Cannon



Last Spring the American Revolutionary War Club set up a Colonial Day and taught the 7th grade students about various aspects of life as a soldier. The students also re-enacted the Battle of Ft. Montgomery and submitted a video of their performance to the New York State Archives. For their efforts, Carlos Aguilar, Erik Gaarder, Sean Gavin, Bianca Nova, Jonathan Olsen, Katie Olsen, Flynn O'Shaughnessy, Joe Sadowski, Austin Smith, Frank Smith, Chris Zahakos, Ian Benett and Donald Springsteen received Certificates of Merit for their research and performance.

Through the assistance of Mr. Leonard's Technology Club and funding by the P.T.A., a replica Revolutionary War

Cannon was built for use during the Colonial Day. The American Revolutionary War Club's advisor and seventh grade social studies teacher, Keith Reilly, was selected to attend a seminar through the Gilder Lhrman Institute of American History this summer at New York University. He was among 30 teachers from around the United States in attendance and participated in lectures about the American Revolution. Reilly, along with Carmel High School teachers Gary Petegine and Rob Buccheri also participated, as members of the 5th New York Re-enactment Regiment, in the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown this past October.



A replica of the cannon used by the Revolutionary Reenactment Club.

PACE Students Learn Math



The PACE students from CHS visited George's Restaurant in Carmel to learn menu math and other related skills. PACE (a life skills based program) has included the visit to George's as a part of their curriculum. Students are taught table manners, how to calculate a tip, how to calculate the cost of a meal, and proper table talk.

Thanksgiving is also a busy time for the PACE students. They learn about the first Thanksgiving and different family traditions for the holiday. Students get to vote on

the menu for their Thanksgiving Feast and then get to take a trip to the grocery store to purchase the necessary items for the meal.

The two special education teachers at CHS who facilitate the PACE Program are Ms. Phyllis Curry and Mr. Roger Hofmann.



A student practices taking an order at George's Restaurant.

Students at Matthew Patterson Experience the Art of Making Maple Syrup

The third grade children, parents and teachers at The Matthew Paterson Elementary School have experienced a time honored northeastern tradition and right of spring. The maple syrup project at the school was an outstanding success, fostering learning and creating memories that will never be forgotten.

Bri Hart, a third grade teacher at the school with over 30 years experience in the district, and a masters in Environmental Education wrote a grant outlining a hands on maple sugaring program that would incorporate the



A bottled maple leaf bottle of home-made maple syrup.

Carmel third grade curriculum as well as get the children outdoors for some much needed fun and excitement.

Mr. Hart was awarded \$7,000 in grant monies to begin a sugaring program at the school. With 45 years experience making syrup on his family's farm, Mr. Hart put together an equipment list and purchased all of items needed to run a fun, safe, academically based program. The equipment was ordered and Mr. Hart drove to Vermont, within a half mile of the Canadian border, to receive additional training during a six hour course in maple syrup production. He put in over 200 hours of his

own time before and after school and weekends developing the program.

The Patterson Town Board granted approval for the use of Memorial Park on Maple Avenue by the MPES third graders to tap sugar maples on that property. This site was specifically chosen not only for its excellent sugarbush and closeness to school, but it is also a secure, fenced area, patrolled by a resident caretaker, and locked at night.

The children tapped 40 sugar maples and collected over five hundred gallons of sap over a 3 week period from mid March to early April. As this program is interdisciplinary across the 3rd grade curriculum, the children kept logs recording maple data such as gallons and liters collected, sap to syrup ratios, daily temperatures, weight of sap, circumferences of trees etc. In class children did research, read and wrote fiction and non fiction stories as well as poetry in regard to maple syrup, its production, and its history.

The 3rd graders viewed the actual sap to syrup evaporation process as a very dedicated group of parents ran the wood fired evaporator. One hundred sixty-four bottles of pure, light and medium amber syrup was produced. With the help of the MPES Parent Organization, a pancake breakfast was held at the school on Saturday, April 22nd. 400 students, parents, teachers, school administrators, members of the Carmel School Board and Patterson Town Board were in attendance. Eighteen hundred pancakes were served to a happy, appreciative community that morning. Over \$3000 was raised between syrup sales and the breakfast. These monies went back into school related programs.

This incredible program received a great deal of recognition from local

television, radio, and newspapers. A local businessman reading about the program has offered to build a much needed sugarcabin from which the program could be run even more efficiently. The third graders received a



The evaporator and sap tank in full operation

letter of commendation, from Albany, written by Assemblyman Will Stephens praising the program for its academic achievement and community involvement. At the Matthew Patterson Curriculum Night held in September the delighted parents of the 3rd grade class of 2006-07 were given an overview of the Spring 2007 sugaring program.



Students observing the sap dripping from the tap in the tree