

The Conant Crier



Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2008



October Calendar

10/8 **Muffins/**

8:30 **Donuts**

Breakfast

Cafeteria

10/9 **Yom Kipur**

No School

10/13 **Columbus Day**

No School

10/14 **School Pictures**

10/21 **Early Release Day**

Teacher Conferences

10/26 **Craft Fair**

10-4

10/29 **Early Release Day**

Teacher Conferences

10/31 **Halloween Parade**

11AM

Principal's Corner



When is a sticky note not a sticky note? When it's a Slinky, a fan, or even a waterfall in the hands of the creative minds at Eepybird Labs, the team of Fritz Grobe and Steven Voltz, whose experiments with everyday objects unite science, art, and entertainment all at once. Their ability to see a myriad of possibilities in the commonplace is a wonderful example of how curiosity and playfulness can spark truly innovative thinking. As a team, they apply their knowledge of math, physics, engineering, and even juggling, as they create ways to make sticky notes roll, flow, bounce, and spin. (If you would like to see video footage of their sticky note experiments, you can go on-line to www.eepybird.com.)

I call your attention to this creative work because I think it underlines a very important aspect of our children's learning that often goes unnoticed and is underappreciated. In elementary schools, we are responsible for directly teaching so much information, so many skills to provide children with a solid foundation for their academic careers. We strive to ensure that children learn to be organized, be responsible, and have high expectations for themselves. Yet, it is ultimately an individual task to make sense of the material, to truly understand, own, and apply what's been learned. Sometimes the "Ah-Ha!" moment comes in an instant, sometimes it takes longer. Sometimes it's the result of visiting and revisiting ideas and experiences multiple times--- every child has his or her own path to get there--- but very often, it comes through play: playing with language, playing with ideas, playing with materials, playing with friends. Just like the Eepybird team, when children have the opportunity to tinker with ideas or materials, alone or with others, they make connections, they have inspirations, they become innovators. Play opens doors in the mind and when that happens, an infinite range of possibilities can come through!

Wishing you a month of innovation, inspiration, and play.

With all best wishes,
Dr. Christine Price, Principal



Muffins with Mom/Donuts with Dad
Open House/PTO meeting
Wednesday, October 08th at 8:30am



Parents come enjoy breakfast at school with your children in our cafeteria. Have some juice, coffee, fruit, or donuts, then join your children in their classrooms to enjoy and admire all of their hard work so far this year. Children will then start class and you can join us for the PTO meeting. Find out what is coming up this fall. Join a discussion on how to increase PTO participation. We need your thoughts as we plan for the coming school year. Even if you can only stay for breakfast and Open House, we do hope you will attend this fun event.

Please call or email with any questions: Pam Alcaide, pam.alcaide@comcast.net or Mary Ashley, mama789@hotmail.com

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to October! By now, we hope you are settling in with your teachers and classes. Now that school pictures and Parents Information Night are behind us, we can look ahead to fall and upcoming events.

Our first **"Muffins with Mom/Donuts with Dad"** is **Wednesday, October 8th at 8:30 AM** followed by **Open House**. It is a chance for your child to show you their classroom and the work they have been doing. The **October PTO meeting will follow at 9:30.**

The PTO has one wish for this year: that each parent will donate 2 hours of their time during the year. This **"2 Hour Power"** will help us cover our volunteer needs. If each parent (Dads included) gives 2 hours, that's about 2,000 hours to Conant. So check the News Flash and the Crier for opportunities and put in your 2 hours whenever you can. Speaking of volunteer hours....

October brings the **Craft Fair on Sunday, October 26th**. This is an important fundraiser for Conant, as it brings in many people from the community. The arts and crafts for sale are very high quality. **We will need volunteers** to make this a success and baked goods for our bake sale, so mark your calendars to help. See the Craft Fair article in the Crier and the News Flash for more details and how to help.

Conant students will put on their costumes and march in the **Halloween Parade on Friday, October 31st at 11:00 AM**. Parents and younger siblings are invited to come and watch. The parade steps out of the front doors and goes around the parking lot, where thousands of photos and videos have been shot over the years. This event is often followed by parties in the classrooms.

Happy fall! If you have comments, suggestions, or good ideas (we don't want the bad ones!) for the PTO, we'd love to hear them. Please contact Co-Presidents and Vice President:

Pam Alcaide, pam.alcaide@comcast.net
 Mary Ashley, mma789@hotmail.com
 Kim McOsker, kmcosker66@yahoo.com

The School Coat Drive is Coming Soon



Dear Conant Friends,

It is the time again for us to think about the community service projects. This year, with such high fuel prices, we are planning to do a school-wide coat drive from October 14 to November 10. We ask you to donate your new or gently used clean coats (all sizes) to help needy families through a local charity. A box will be set up in school lobby. Your generosity will be very much appreciated. We thank you all in advance.

Community Service Learning Committee

Food Service News.....



Did you know that with the daily alternate lunch choices we offer an 8 ounce carton of milk, choice of fruit and vegetables?

For example: The sandwich of the week also includes milk, fruit and vegetables.

Please see the back of the menu for this Month's healthy recipe!!

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact the Food Service Department. We can be reached by phone @ 978-264-4700 x 3221 or by e-mail

knelson@mail.ab.mec.edu.

It is our pleasure to serve you!!

The Gardening Committee is requesting donations of spring bulbs and pumpkins to brighten up the front entrance and gardens. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off in the marked bin outside the school office. Thanks so much for helping to make our school grounds a more beautiful place! Please bring all bulbs to the school by Friday, October 17th. We will be planting **them the following week** and would welcome any volunteers who might like to assist us. Please email **Karen Bodager** at karen.bodager@verizon.net, **Christina Haufler** at Thehauflers@aol.com, or **Karen Kearney** at kearneykt@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping us plant the bulbs or in joining us for future gardening projects. Thanks again!

The Gardening Committee would also like to say **"THANK YOU"** to **Rebecca Oddsund** for donating a wheelbarrow for use in beautifying the school grounds. It will make our job much easier! Thanks again, Rebecca!



Craft Fair

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, **October 26TH from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, the Conant PTO will host the 27th Annual Arts and Craft Fair. Our fair is so popular, not only do locals look forward to this event, but people come from all over New England to join the fun. Come and do some early holiday shopping.

We hope to make this year as successful as the last. Some of the popular vendors will be returning this year, joined by many, many talented new ones. We plan to have a fully stocked baked sale table. Bake sale proceeds are 100% profit **so the more goodies and treats that are donated, the more profit we earn.**



The craft fair is a huge fundraiser for our school and lots of volunteers are needed for Friday set up (October 24) and on the day of the event (Sunday, October 26). We also need a few people who are willing to help hang posters in stores in surrounding towns. Volunteers may apply on our PTO website.

Charlene Anestis

Dear Parents,

We are excited to inform you that we are once again participating in the **REGISTER TAPES FOR EDUCATION** program that allows us to earn **FREE** school equipment. From September 1st, 2008 – March 31st, 2009 we will be able to turn cash register receipts from **DONELAN'S** into valuable and important educational equipment free of charge that we would otherwise only dream of getting.

Please shop at **DONELAN'S**, save your receipts dated September 1st, 2008 – March 31st, 2009 and send them into school with your child. There will be a large brown box outside the school office for receipt collection.

Last year's receipt total was over \$70,000.00 and allowed Conant to receive valuable sports and educational equipment. Let's see if we can hit \$75,000 or more this year!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS VALUABLE PROGRAM!!!!!!



Email Address Updates

Are you receiving the **Conant NewsFlash** via email? The **NewsFlash** is delivered weekly right to your inbox and contains articles about upcoming events and activities.

Don't take a chance and miss any important news this year. Be right on top of what's happening at Conant all year long.

You can add email address(es) or make changes to existing email address(es) on the [Conant School PTO website](#).

Recycle your paper at Conant School!!

Did you know that you can recycle paper at Luther Conant School seven days a week? Our school earns money for each ton of paper collected in the green and yellow Abitibi Paper Retriever® bin, located in the first parking lot across from the side delivery door. This is an easy way for you to recycle your paper every week and help us raise money for projects like playgrounds, landscaping, books, and other worthwhile activities. You can bring: **news-papers, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school papers, and mail.** Please do not place plastic, metal, or glass in the Abitibi bin.

Best of all, each week our children participate in Conant's efforts to recycle paper. Students from one of the classrooms in grades 4-6 help to collect used paper from various locations throughout the school including the classroom pods, library, copy rooms, and the main office and then place the paper in the Abitibi Paper Retriever®. This task is a great lesson in the concept of recycling and environmental responsibility. Please make recycling your household paper at Conant part of your weekly errands. This will help our environment and Conant School!

For more information, log on to PaperRetriever.com or contact Sytske Campbell at sytske.campbell@gmail.com or Jill Tsakiris at tsakiris@verizon.net



CONANT COOKS with *additional recipes for 2008* is available for \$20. The culinary treasures of Conant staff put together in an easel binder. If you would like a copy or two, please complete this form and send it into school with your child. Thanks again. Happy Cooking!

Conant Cooks Order Form

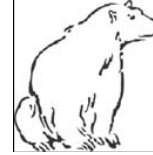
Please reserve _____ copies of *Conant Cooks* at \$20.00 per copy.

Purchaser: _____

Email or phone: _____

Child's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____



Please return this form to school along with a check made payable to:

PTO Fund-Conant School

Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks go to benefit students at Conant Elementary School, Acton, MA

Thank you for supporting our school.

Contact Kathy Peebles at kathyLP_0223@yahoo.com or Ann Burbank at ABurbank@mail.ab.mec.edu with questions or comments.



Here Comes the Halloween Parade!



On Friday, October 31st at 11:00 AM we will celebrate Halloween with our annual Halloween Parade, weather permitting. We invite all students K-6 to bring a costume to school and join the fun! As has been the tradition, classes will process out the front door and parade around the front of the school in costume. Parents are welcome to join us outside and watch the festivities! (If it rains, however, the parade will be cancelled.)

As I did at this time last year, I call your attention to a few safety tips and reminders to make the event enjoyable for everyone:

- Costumes need to be brought to school in a bag, and should be able to be put on over school clothes in the classrooms. Please take a moment to be sure your child can manage this on his or her own, as there is not enough room for the bathrooms to be used as changing areas or enough teachers to help each child dress.
- Any make up must be put on just before the parade; please don't wear it to school. A reminder that aerosol sprays, such as hairspray, are not allowed in school as they can trigger respiratory problems such as asthma.
- Creativity is encouraged! Children might consider dressing up as their favorite character from a book,

or maybe as an important historical figure from their Social Studies work. How about coming as an everyday object or scientific invention? Older grades are particularly encouraged to explore these possibilities!

- Costume choices need to be appropriate and respectful. Violent themes or characters are not allowed nor are weapons of any kind. Parents and children should avoid negative or stereotypical characterizations that can be hurtful toward specific cultural, racial, or ethnic groups. Dressing up as a "homeless person" or a "Klu Klux Klansman," would be examples of making inappropriate costume choices.

Above all, we want everyone to have fun and enjoy this special Conant tradition. I am already planning my Halloween costume!

See you at the Parade!

Dr. Christine Price, Principal



Dear Parents,

You will be hearing about fundraising from the PTO during the course of the year. I would like to explain briefly why we do fundraising, how we do fundraising at Conant, and where the money goes.

Every dollar the PTO receives goes directly to Conant school. We are, of course, funded by the Acton-Boxborough public schools. But there are some things that Dr. Price feels are of utmost importance and the PTO chooses to provide these requested funds for the benefit of our students.

The Conant School PTO budget for 2008-2009 is

\$ 75,805.00. 72.1 % of that total, or **\$54,690.00**, is spent for teaching assistants. The PTO funds Reading Assistants, Math Assistants, a Recess Monitor and a Media Assistant (Library.)

The rest of the PTO budget, **\$21,115 (27.9 %)**, covers assemblies, the author's program, scholarships for field trips, nature walk supplies, paper/copying (we are now spending less with e-delivery), receptions, back to school picnic and other PTO events.

Conant has 3 major Fundraisers: the Craft Fair in October, a direct appeal letter in November/December and the Auction in March. We also have several ongoing fundraisers: Box Tops for Education, SchoolPop.com, Donelan's register tapes, and the Target Credit card, each of which will be featured in upcoming editions of the News Flash. Several times during the year we have business partnerships, such as CambridgeWear Day, the Amy Sweeney Skate and others. We choose not to ask our students and parents to sell things (wrapping paper, candy bars, etc.) to benefit the PTO and have cut back on many of these small fundraisers. We ask you to participate in the major fundraisers you choose and to do so as generously as you can.

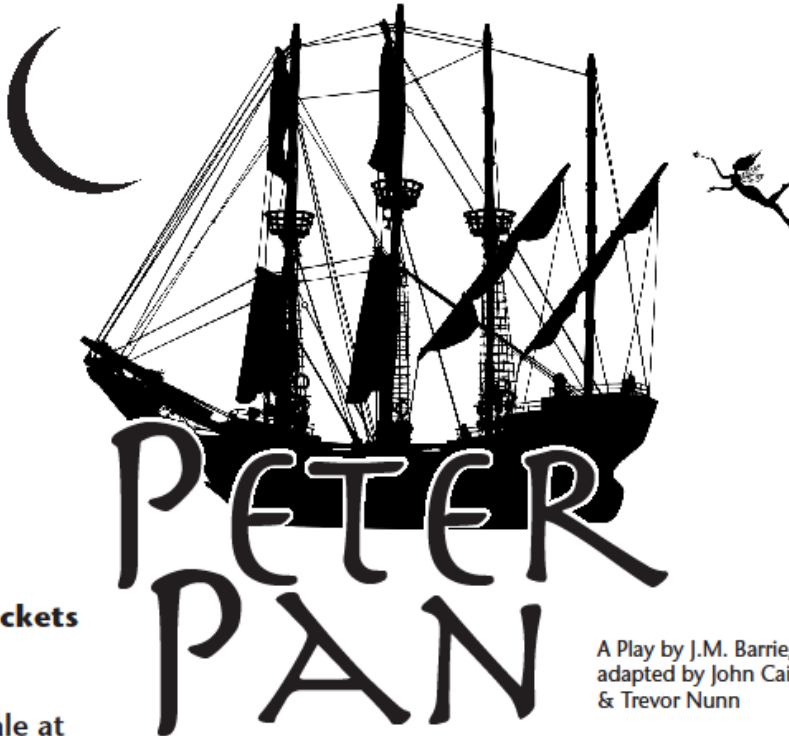
Our success at the Craft Fair and the Auction depends on volunteer help. In addition to raising funds for the PTO, volunteering at school builds friendships with other parents and helps us to develop a sense of community. Conant has many wonderful people associated with it and I hope you will get a chance to know many of them. All of our children benefit when parents participate in the life of our school.

For more information about the Conant community and fundraising opportunities, visit our website. If you have questions, please contact me at mma789@hotmail.com

--Mary Ashley, Co-President, PTO



Presented by Acton-Boxborough Regional High School's
PROSCENIUM CIRCUS



All Tickets
\$12

On Sale at
Roche Bros.
& MKTix.com

or *The Boy Who
Wouldn't Grow Up*

A Play by J.M. Barrie,
adapted by John Caird
& Trevor Nunn

Directed by
Linda Potter

OCT 24, 25, 26 & NOV 1

Friday, Oct 24 – 7:30 pm Sunday, Oct 26 – 3:00 pm
Saturday, 25 – 3:00 & 7:30 pm Saturday, Nov 1 – 3:00 & 7:30 pm

A Classic Play – with Flying!!

For more information: www.ABDrama.org

Please Read the Conant Crier!

The *Conant Crier* is the newsletter of the Conant School and is published every month during the academic year. Many notices concerning school events will be published in it — there may not be separate fliers sent home regarding these events, so please read the *Crier* carefully!

The best way to submit an item for the *Crier* is to send it via email either as an attachment, or as part of the email message text to the editor in charge of the next publication.

We will be happy to confirm receipt of the item. Submissions are always welcome from anyone in the Conant community. The *Crier* staff also has a mailbox in the main office. Please feel free to leave articles/information that may be of interest to the school community and we will consider it for publication.



In order to publish the *Crier* on time, please follow these guidelines for submitting articles:

Issue: November **Date:** Nov 7th

Article Deadline: Wednesday, Oct 29th

Editor: Seema Shenoy
seema_shenoy@hotmail.com

Courier: Keerthi Kamath

Conant Crier Staff

Editor-in-chief:

Dr. Christine G. Price, Principal

Co-Editors:

Anu Krishnan, 978-274-2255
Seema Shenoy, 978-897-0035

Couriers:

Divyasri Krishnan, Grade K
Keerthi Kamath, Grade 2

Didn't see it in the *Crier*? Log on to ab.mec.edu for additional information on Acton schools..