FROM THE PRESIDENT

Communication

As I said last month, Connections are what the PTA is really all about. But the WAY we do that is through the extremely important foundation of Communication. Which, of course, means—well, simply put—“Communicating.”

But from my experience, Communication is 10% of what you say, AND 90% of what they hear.

So how do we make sure what is SAID is what is HEARD?

This question becomes important with ALL of our connecting, whether with parents, with administrators, with teachers, with our students, and even with our community and its representatives.

As life gets busy and our hours and minutes fill up, it’s tempting to rush or even cut short this process. Often we have the best intentions. But time goes by or we can’t find the time or we even forget.

And then those connections are cut. Something doesn’t get done. Feelings get hurt. Someone gets confused or frustrated.

As we walk into the month of December and a Season that wishes peace, joy, caring, and giving, may I suggest we enjoy an extra measure of that within our school family?

*Is something happening at the school that you just love? (Your child loves PBL, a teacher took special time to help with something, your family really enjoyed a recent PTA activity like the Fall Festival, you just loved Mr. Pitts’ recent email?) Take a second to drop a note of thanks. It doesn’t have to be long. An email works great! Or just send a note in your child’s backpack, addressed to whomever you’d like to connect to. The office or the PTA can get it to the right person.

*Do you have an idea of something that will help the school? The PTA? The students? The community? Send a note, type an email, make a phone call.

*Confused on why something is done a certain way? Frustrated? Set up an appointment to talk about it. I am always willing to meet, as I know our principal, Mr. Pitts, is as well. Our goal is to help your child be safe and excel. But perhaps somehow we are not communicating that well about some issue.

Again, in the spirit of the season, let’s talk! So set up a meeting, call, email... (Notice a trend here?)

A perfect example of all of this might be the drop-off time each morning. Love it? Hate it? Confused by it? Each morning as we stand out there, our goal is to make sure kids and cars get in and out safely. The friendly waves help A LOT!! Frustration, not so much. It requires being patient, understanding the system, and working together. So if it’s not working for you, stop in and give us a chance to talk it through.

In the end, with great, effective communication, we all win!

Have a great Holiday season,
Elizabeth Daghfal, Nash PTA President
edaghfal@sbcglobal.net 942-6260

DECEMBER 2009

Nash Elementary
6801 99th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53142

Phone: (262) 359-3500

Fax: (262) 359-3550

E-Mail: mpitts@kusd.edu

Website: http://nash.kusd.edu

CLASSROOM HOURS
Beginning Bell: 8:20am
Dismissal Bell: 3:10pm
Wednesdays:
Early Release: 1:55pm
1/2 Day Release: 11:45am

PTA Meetings
- First Tuesday every month (unless otherwise noted)
- In the Nash library
- 6:30pm-8:00pm

2009/2010 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:
Elizabeth Daghfal - President - edaghfal@sbcglobal.net
Regina Scheppa - Treasurer - rscheppa@yahoo.com
Gillian Santoro - Vice-President - dsantoro1@wi.rr.com
Holly Richards - Secretary - hollann31@aol.com
CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Over the past two decades, the number of overweight children and teens in the United States has nearly doubled (National Center for Health Statistics). This can lead to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other serious health conditions. By calculating a person's Body Mass Index (BMI), you can determine if a child/teen/adult is overweight. It is a calculation between height, weight, and age (for children). Go to www.cdc.gov and search for BMI calculator to determine your family members' risk.

There are several factors that contribute to the growing problem of obesity in our nation. Over the past two decades, children's daily consumption of calories has increased. Some of the reasons for this are:

- An increase in food choices
- Prepackaged foods
- Increased consumption of soft drinks
- Fast food restaurants
- Increase in portion size
- Recent research suggests that friends or family who are overweight may be a risk factor for their family or friends to be overweight.

In addition to children's increased consumption of calories, the calories they use on a daily basis have decreased. This is seen because of a decrease in daily physical activity. As parents and educators, we can help decrease the number of overweight children and teens in the United States by:

- Increasing your family's daily physical activity
- Encourage family meal times
- Decrease time watching TV and playing computer games
- Encourage children to eat 5 fruits/vegetables a day
- Decrease the amount of soft drinks children drink
- Increase the amount of water/milk children drink
- Read labels for nutritional information

Reflections...

Beauty is ...

seeing all the incredible talent and thoughts of our students.

And with 150 Reflections projects from 105 students, we have the chance to see A LOT of it!

So stop in the school and see the amazing creativity of Nash kids in the Reflections Art Fair, which will be up for the month of December in the front halls of the school.

If your child entered, be sure the night of January 20th is on your calendar for the “Evening of Reflections” Awards Program. You won’t want to miss it!!!
Take Note...

STOP
As you exit the circle drive, especially at the end of the day, PLEASE come to a COMPLETE STOP before reaching the sidewalk. This will ensure the safety of our students trying to cross the driveway on their way home.

Committee Chairs:
At the end of your event, (or while it’s going on if it’s a long-term group), please email Elizabeth Daghfal (edaghfal@sbcglobal.net) with names of those who have helped you. Please also make a separate list of any who donated items, whether parents, teachers or local businesses.

We are in the process of creating a thank you bulletin board for any and all who get involved in volunteering at Nash.

My Coke Rewards:
For those of us that drink Coke products, you can now donate your rewards points to Nash, which can be used for anything from art supplies and science experiments to musical or athletic equipment.

Points can be obtained on the caps from 2-liters and 20-ounce bottles, as well as on the inside of 12- and 24-packs of Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fresca, Mr. Pibb, Dasani water and other Coke Products.

There are two ways to donate: 1) donate points from your own mycokerewards account (www.mycokerewards.com), or 2) drop the code numbers off in the appropriate box located above the teacher mailboxes in the work room at Nash.

Pack 567
Giving back to others
Recycle the Warmth!

Cub Scout Pack 567
(Chartered by the Nash Elementary School PTA) is collecting new or gently used blankets to warm the hearts and bodies of those less fortunate in our community.

Please bring your clean gently used or new blankets to school and put them in the barrel outside the school office during the months of December and January. Together, we can Recycle the Warmth.

If you have any questions about this blanket collection, please contact janice@nashpack567.org

“Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.” - John D. Rockefeller Jr.
Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books, or BOB, is a contest that has as its purpose the encouragement of quality reading. Only 4th and 5th graders are able to become team members. Team members read from a list of 30 books chosen by librarians and teachers. Scores are kept and winners are recognized; however, emphasis is placed on working together as a team and the fun of participating in friendly competition.

This year’s tournament will take place on two Friday afternoons, April 23rd and April 30th, beginning at 4:15 P.M. and ending around 6:30 P.M. at Mahone Middle School. (Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from the battles.)

The team will consist of 10 members, with 3 alternates.

Between now and January, 4th and 5th graders who are interested are encouraged to read the 30 books. There will be a test after Winter Break to determine who qualifies to become part of our 2009-2010 BOB team. Those who qualify will meet before and/or after school to prepare for the tournament at the end of April. The meeting times will be determined based on the availability of those who qualified.

If you are in 4th or 5th grade, and would like to become part of the Nash BOB team, then see Mrs. Gorr in Room 408 or Mrs. Klappa in the Library for a list of the 30 books as soon as possible so you can get ready! (The books are set aside in the library, so see Mrs. Klappa during your library time to check out the books.)

Happy Reading!
FROM THE ART ROOM

All fourth graders were invited to participate in an after school art class on the 20th of November. Each child created a hand-sewn “Wisconsin” snowman ornament complete with red and white garb, and a “W” emblem. The snowmen will be sent to the State Capitol for display on this season’s Holiday tree. “Nash Knight” snowmen were also created for display on our very own Nash Holiday tree, which resides in the main office. Thank you so much to the students who participated, and the parents who rearranged their schedules to make it possible. Watch for additional after school art classes being offered for each grade level throughout the year!

The Nash children have been so very busy during the past few months. Almost every grade level has completed at least one of their projects that will be sent home in March as part of their Original Artworks package. Each grade level will complete 2 projects that can be printed on a variety of products. Products are always received just in time for Mother’s Day, and make great gifts! This year we will be trying something new. Students can choose one of the two projects done in art class, or create one at home depicting their favorite theme. Projects done at home must be created on paper measuring 8 1/2” x 11”, and can only be done with marker, crayon, colored pencil, or paint. The company cannot photograph any work that is not original, or contains any glitter/shiny materials, fluorescent color, or raised surfaces. More information will be coming home about this at a later date.

Many students have been volunteering in the art room to help prepare materials and examples for the wide variety of multicultural lessons that will begin soon. Each classroom will be studying a different culture. Students will begin by viewing a slideshow depicting cultural and artistic traditions of the country they are studying. They are very excited to begin working on these projects, which will be on display in March during our school’s Multicultural fair. Ask your child which country they will be studying!

Karen VanBlarcom

Artist of the Month

The Kenosha Unified School District “artist of the Month” representing Nash during the month of December is 5th grader, Mallory S! Mallory and her artwork can be seen several times a day throughout the month of December on Cable Channel 20. Mallory says this about the bird she created in the style of nature artist John James Audubon, “Birds are awesomely awesome with a touch of awesomeness!”

Awesome job, Mallory!

Nash News Online

Want a check out some of the daily activity at Nash?

Log on to the Nash website at http://nash.kusd.edu and select “Nash News Online.”

This fun and informative site is brought to you by the Nash “Web Geeks” PBL group.

Christmas Tree Disposal

In the years before Nash was built, the city had a drop-off site for the disposal of Christmas Trees after the holidays, located on the east side of the property. Once the school was built, the property became KUSD property and the drop-off site was eliminated. Working in cooperation with KUSD and Principal Pitts, I am happy to say that there will be an official city drop-off site for the disposal of Christmas trees, wreaths, etc., at the previous location. Trees can be dropped off within the fenced area beginning December 10 through January 31. During that time, the city will collect those trees and dispose of them at our Bulk Yard Waste Collection Site. Please remind your children not to play in or around the fenced area.

Thank you and I wish everyone a happy holiday season!
Alderman David Bogdala
MARKET DAY

We'd like to thank everyone who supported our November Market Day sale. We had 30 Market Day orders with a profit of $170.00. Thank you to all who placed orders, and/or volunteered with our pick-up.

Our next Market Day pick-up is December 17th from 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the cafeteria. If you cannot pick-up by 4:00 on that day, please pre-pay and we will be happy to put your order in the freezer located in the teachers lounge. Any unpaid orders not picked up by 4:00 on our sale date will be returned to Market Day. Order forms will be due by Monday December 14th at noon (online orders due by 11:00 PM).

Anyone who places a minimum order of $40 in two or more months from September – November and places an additional order of $40 in December receives a FREE lunch tote at the December sale pick-up. November is pie sale month at Market Day!!! In addition, any customer who places a $40 order in December will receive a FREE Uno’s Margherita Pizza!

If you have not already done so, please check out www.marketday.com, and be sure to click on web clearance for some great web only deals. Market Day also offers online weekly deals, so check back often for even more savings. Remember, you do not have to pay online – you can place your order online and still pay at pick-up.

If you have any questions/concerns about Market Day, please contact Kristina Dean at 697-1483 or kbdean@sbcglobal.net.

Gift Card Sales

The holidays are coming! From December 2-11, 2009, the NASH PTA is selling gift cards to Texas Roadhouse and Buffalo Wild Wings. You can purchase a gift card to either establishment and the Nash PTA will earn 10% back on all sales.

Checks should be made out to the appropriate restaurant. As an added bonus, Texas Roadhouse is giving a $5 gift certificate with every $30 in gift cards purchased.

Check if out-of-state friends/relatives have either of these restaurants nearby as the gift cards can be used at any location.

To place an order, simply complete the order form that was sent home (extra copies are available in the front office) or contact Syndi Vazquez at 948-1498 or synvaz@aol.com

Friends Out To Eat Event

Thanks to everyone who turned out and supported our out to eat day at Friends Restaurant & Deli. The PTA earned $150 back on this event.

Watch for our next event in January.

Box Tops Contest

Watch for an upcoming contest for Box Tops.

The room that submits the most Box Tops will earn a special reward.

Details will be coming home soon!

Old cell phones and printer cartridges should not go in your trash.
Bring them to Nash!
And turn them into Cash.

Help support our wonderful programs by donating your old phones and cartridges. Send them with your students or put them in the drop box in the entryway. The environment thanks you (and so does the PTA)!

Questions? Contact Kathy Boone, sboone001@wi.rr.com.

Beginning November 30th

The Nash Pit Stop will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during lunch hours. Visit the Nash website (http://nash.kusd.edu) and click on "school store" to view items and prices.

Featured Teachers...

I grew up in Platteville, WI. I attended the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, and earned my Master's Degree in Education from National Louis University. Besides teaching, I have worked as a student manager at McDonald's while in college, as a bookstore clerk, a deli worker, a waitress, a tutor, and a swimming teacher. If I couldn't teach, I would own a quaint boutique with great jewelry and local artist's pieces! Three material possessions I wouldn't want to be without: cell phone, knitting needles, and car. I recommend everyone read The Kissing Hand and Mrs. Spritzer's Garden. My favorite treat is licorice!!!!

Mrs. Sides
1st Grade

I was born and raised in Kenosha, WI. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in 1984. Besides teaching, I painted rooms at Kemper Hall in 1968. I have bussed tables, worked as an orderly, in a warehouse, as an AMC lineworker, delivered furniture, was head groundskeeper for the Kenosha Twins, did maintenance work at a glass factory, and worked for the parks department. Three material possessions I wouldn't want to be without: my family, an album collection (and the equipment to play the vinyl), and a cabin on a lake. Having always enjoyed adventure books, I recommend Gary Paulsen's wilderness stories; but my all-time favorite is Herman Melville's Moby Dick. I consider liver and onions a special treat. Bon appetit!!!!

Mr. Folland
5th Grade

I grew up in Kenosha, WI. I earned my degree in Psychology and Creative Writing from UW-Oshkosh, then a Masters of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University. Besides teaching, I've worked at Culver's, for the City of Kenosha Street Dept and Kenosha County Highway Dept, as a head counselor for a YMCA before and after school program, as an independent living assistant to the developmentally disabled, and taught English in Brazil. If I couldn't teach, I would like to be a travel writer or professional athlete. Three material items I wouldn't want to be without: my board games, sports equipment, and a TV (family and friends to watch the games with). I recommend reading a variety of books to discover what you enjoy (everything from Judy Blume to Harry Potter).
Favorite treat: warm homemade chocolate chip cookies and ice cold milk.

Mr. Emer
3rd Grade

I grew up in Arlington Heights, IL. I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BS in Education and earned my Master's degree from NLU in Curriculum and Instruction. I have worked as a nurse's aide, a GS camp cook and a shampoo girl. If I weren't teaching, I'd work at Starbucks or organize kid's activities on cruise ships. Three material possessions I wouldn't want to be without: a cup of strong coffee, comfortable shoes or sunshine. For a good read, I recommend Jack Prelutsky for poetry and Karma Wilson for her stories about friendship. I like to treat myself to popcorn and Diet Coke!

Mrs. Schmitt
Kindergarten
### DECEMBER 2009

**December 1**
- 6:30-8:00pm - PTA Meeting - Library
- 6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria

**December 3**
- 4:45-5:45pm - Open Gym (Grades 2-3)
- 6:00-9:00pm - Open Gym (Parents) *
- 6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria

**December 4**
- Popcorn Day

**December 7**
- 5:30-7:00pm - Daisies (1st Grade) - Art Room

**December 8**
- 6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria

**December 9**
- 6:00-8:00pm - Fundraiser Reward Party - Gymnasium

**December 10**
- **6:30pm - MUSIC PROGRAM - (Grades K-1) - Gymnasium**
- 6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria

**December 14**
- 12:00pm - Market Day Orders Due (online orders due by 11:00pm)
- 5:30-7:00pm - Daisies (1st Grade) - Art Room

**December 15**
- 6:30pm - Cub Scouts Pack Nite - Cafeteria

**December 17**
- 3:00-4:00pm - Market Day Pick-Up - Cafeteria
- 4:45-5:45pm - Open Gym (Grades 4-5)
- 6:00-9:00pm - Open Gym (Parents) *
- 6:30-8:00pm - Daisies - Cafeteria

**December 21** - **NO SCHOOL**

**January 3**
- (Winter Break)

**January 4**
- SCHOOL RESUMES

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* For parent open gym, if no parents have shown up by 6:30pm, staff members will leave for the night and the gym will be closed. If you are certain you will be coming after 6:30pm and would like them to keep the gym open for you, please contact Mrs. Lindstrom (359-3500) before the end of school that Thursday.

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Have an item for the newsletter? Contact Syndi Vazquez at 262-948-1498 or e-mail me at synvaz@aol.com
(Kindly put "newsletter" in the subject matter so I'm sure to open it!)