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Charter School of Hoboken

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Harry Laub, Ph.D., Director

Elysian Charter School
Weekly Newsletter
April 23, 2012 Vol. 7 Issue 30

Please note that the school newsletter is sent out on Mondays. When Monday is a holiday, the newsletter is sent the following day. If you have news, please send it to lynneshapiro@rocketmail.com by 3:00 PM on Mondays.

Harry's Corner

One of my pleasures, as the principal, is to walk into the classrooms and watch the way the children of different ages are learning. For the younger children the activities tend to lead to very concrete understandings. In one Kindergarten class I visited recently the children had just built a scarecrow for their garden. They were describing the details of this activity. This was a very concrete activity in which the children were being asked to observe, remember, describe, and record what they had just completed. A few days later I was in a 7th grade humanities classroom where the children were studying ancient Mesopotamia in social studies and reading the *Hunger Games* as a literature study. The students in this class were comparing the social class distinctions from Mesopotamian society to those in the novel to see if they could draw any understandings about the role of class in society. This, of course, is far more abstract thinking.

One of the originators of child development theory was a Swiss psychologist by the name of Jean Piaget. While others have gone beyond his thinking by now, some of his basic tenets still hold. For school age children he described these three stages:

Pre-operational (ages 2-7 years)

- Learns to use language and to represent objects by images and words
- Thinking is still egocentric: has difficulty taking the viewpoint of others
- Classifies objects by a single feature: e.g. groups together all the red blocks regardless of shape or all the square blocks regardless of color

Concrete operational (ages 7-11 years)

- Can think logically about objects and events
- Achieves conservation of number (age 6), mass (age 7), and weight (age 9)
- Classifies objects according to several features and can order them in series along a single dimension such as size.

Formal operational (11 years and up)

- Can think logically about abstract propositions and test hypotheses systematically.
- Becomes concerned with the hypothetical, the future, and ideological problems.

(For more information see <http://www.learningandteaching.info/learning/piaget.htm>).

A related idea comes from a Russian psycholinguist by the name of Lev Vygotsky. He suggested the “Zone of Proximal Development.” This zone refers to the difference in a child's performance comparing her attempts in practicing a new skill, such as writing letters on her own versus using expert help—such as a model of the letters or tracing. The performance with the help is generally significantly better. This support is called scaffolding. (For more information on this see <http://social.jrank.org/pages/142/Cognitive-Development-Vygotsky-s-Sociocultural-Theory.html>)

As I go through the classrooms and up the grades I see the teachers moving the students from observations and facts more and more into ideas, concepts and the understanding of themes.

Play Rehearsal - New Schedule

To the Parents of School Play Cast Members,

A new rehearsal schedule will be distributed next week. By now everyone should have gotten information about his/her costume. If this information didn't make it home, or if you are having trouble finding what you need, please e-mail Diane ecsdiane@hotmail ASAP. Thanks.

Tickets Available to 8cho Ariel Tango, New Victory, Thursday, May 3

In 8CHO (ocho), tango rises to exhilarating new levels: 20 feet high to be exact! Never before has the South American art form been re-energized with so much breath taking originality. Set in a sultry Argentine nightspot, seven dancers perform solo, in pairs and as an ensemble, experimenting with speed and space to create surreal thrills. They leap, lunge, swirl and swivel in midair, on th walls-even upside down- infusing the familiar with the fantastical. With a six-piece orchestra and vocalist elevating the experience, 8CHO is a high-flying show that will make your

spine tingle and your spirit soar. Best for ages 8 to Adult. 60 minutes with no intermission.

To reserve tickets, contact Lynne Shapiro, lynneshapiro@rocketmail.com

Track Practice

Practice for ALL GRADES will be held on Wednesdays at Pier A, 4pm – 5pm....please bring a water bottle! Practice ends promptly at 5pm, please be on time for pick-up! Track meets will be held on Saturdays through Memorial Day weekend, more information will follow! Any questions? Contact John in the Rue office.

Are You Returning - forms due!

If you have returned forms, thank you. If you thought you returned forms but received a second request, please fill it out and return anyway (for whatever reason, it didn't make to to the Rue office)!

A hard copy of the form was sent home today to all families from whom I have not yet received completed forms.

If you need a copy of the form, see previous newsletters or contact Lynne Shapiro

REVISED PTSO Events at a Glance

Upcoming Date Chairpersons and Speakers-Topics

PTSO Meeting 5/2 PTSO Elections! Have a say in who runs events and works with next year's chair.

2nd Annual Swing

Fore the Schools 6/1 Fundraiser at Crystal Springs Golf Resort

Celebration Breakfast June date TBA A Thank-you breakfast for all the wonderful volunteers who have run events for our community this year!

End of Year Picnic 6/14 Melissa Kleckner (2012-13 PTSO chair)

Autopay

The school now has the ability to automatically debit your credit card or bank account for regular monthly payments such as afterschool. Please let me know if you would like to go on autopay. We will be able to refund you if you decide not to use a month, or discontinue billing if you drop our services. Please let the Business Administrator (Kathy Mone, 201-876-0102 or office@ecsnj.org) know if you would like to go on autopay. We will be able to refund you if you decide not to use a month, or discontinue billing if you drop our services.

Lunch on Tuesdays

Send in a bag lunch for the Hoboken Shelter. We collect lunches every Tuesday. Contact: Jennifer Giattino, 201.780.6779

Donate By.... Shopping ...or Matching Gift Program!

- A fabulous Target REDcard receives a 5% discount at www.target.com and in stores. [Register and](#) 1% of Target purchases are donated to Elysian.
- Campbell's Labels for Education: A&P doesn't participate, but Shoprite does, [register](#) your participating store card. Each product you purchase earns 1 point for Elysian.
- Amazon: Yes, Virginia, there is a new Amazon widget on our [Donate](#) page and if you use it, up to 10% of each purchase is donated to us.
- [Innisbrook](#) donates an incredible 50%! Use code #120231.
- General Mills Box Tops from your home purchases are gladly received at the office at Rue. www.boxtops4education.com
- iGive.com Shop at 900+ stores on the web or add the new iGive App to donate up to 26% of each purchase to Elysian.
- Matching Gift Programs: Some companies will double, or even triple, individual tax-deductible contributions made by their employees to non-profit organizations. Friends of Elysian Charter School is a 501/C non-profit association whose sole purpose is the support of the Elysian Charter School. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible.

Check with your company's human resources department to find out about your company's program. They can give you a form to fill out and send to the Friends with your contribution.

Thank you for your continued support year round.

April/May Calendar

Monday, April 23

- 7/8th grade ASK Test

Tuesday, April 24

- 7/8th grade ASK Test

Wednesday, April 25

- 7/8th grade ASK Test

Thursday, April 26

- 7/8th grade ASK Test

Friday, April 27

- 7th and 8th grades go to see *Book of Everything* at the New Victory theater in New York.

Monday, April 30

- 5/6th grade ASK test

Tuesday, May 1

- 5/6th grade ASK test

Wednesday, May 2

- 5/6th grade ASK test
- 6:30 PM PTSO Meeting/Election, Rue Building, Pizza & childcare available.

Thursday, May 3

- 5/6th grade ASK test

- New Victory Theater, 4:30 performance *8CHO*, contact Lynne Shapiro for tickets

Friday, May 4

- New Victory Theater visits the 7th and 8th grades to discuss *Book of Everything*, which they saw last week.

Monday, May 7

- 3/4th grade ASK test

Tuesday, May 8

- 3/4th grade ASK test
- 7th/8th grade Glee seminar students go to Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, May 9

- 3/4th grade ASK test
- Glee seminar students return from Washington.

Thursday, May 10

- 3/4th grade ASK test

Friday, May 11

- 4th grade ASK test

Tuesday, May 15

- Orientation for In-coming Kindergarten, 9:30 AM
- Diane's 6th grade visits African Burial Grounds

Wednesday, May 16

- Half Day of School for staff development, 12:30 dismissal. After School Program available.

Friday, May 18

- Spring concert, 9:00 - 10:15 AM, Rue Gym, 6th grade Orff and Recorder players and the ECS Audition Chorus will perform.
- Session II After School Enrichment Clubs end today.

Monday, May 21

- 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting, Rue Building

Wednesday, May 23

- School Play, "Dancing With the Olympians", performance at 6:30 PM, Demarest

Thursday, May 24

- School Play, "Dancing With the Olympians", performance, 9:30 AM, Demarest
- School Play "Dancing With the Olympians", performance, 6:30 PM, Demarest

Friday, May 25

- Half Day of School, 12:30 dismissal for Memorial Day Weekend. After School Program available as usual.

Monday, May 28

- School closed for Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 30

- Spring concert, 9:00 - 10:15 AM, Rue Gym, 3rd, 4th & 5th grades perform.

Thursday, May 31

- 4th grade goes to PEEC

301 Garden Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

Harry Laub, Ph.D., Director | harry.laub@ecsnj.org | Phone:201.876.0102 | Fax:201.876.9576

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