



Reach
for the
Stars!

COBBLES COMMENT

Published bi-weekly



June 19, 2009

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

Monday, June 22
2-3pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Huge Thank You	2
Parent Resources	3
Ice Cream Social Thank You	4
Ice Cream Social Pictures	5
Around Town	6
Room Parent Sign Up Time	7
Staff Spotlight	8-9

Attention 4th Grade Parents – Volunteers Needed

We are looking for several parent volunteers to help out with the 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony to be held on Monday, June 22 from 2-3PM. Your help would include serving food, handing out programs, etc. This gives our 5th grade parents a chance to enjoy the event with their children and let's you get a glimpse of what's in store for you next year! If you are interested, please contact Barb Krenzer (Barbkrenzer64@aol.com) or Louise Kurz (louise.kurz@gmail.com).



Last Day of School
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

2009-2010
Cobbles PTA
Executive Board

Jen Novy
President

Deb Sobko
Vice President

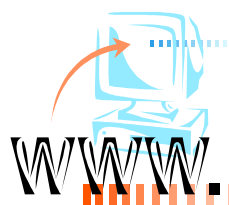
Mary O'Brian
Treasurer

Kate Blumenstock
Assistant Treasurer

Carol Moon
Secretary

Coming Soon...

New Cobbles PTA website



The Cobbles PTA is working on developing a new website that will improve the communications between the PTA and the Cobbles community. We

are distributing this last issue of this year in paper format so that families are aware that we will continue our "green" efforts of electronic distribution next year. The website will allow the user to "opt in" to receive notices via e-mail and much more.

We will notify the Cobbles community as soon as the new website is ready.

Thank you for your continued support!

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Monday, June 22, 2-3 p.m.
5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- Tuesday, June 23
Last Day of School
- Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m.
End of Year Staff Luncheon

**Have a safe
summer.**

**See you in
the fall.**



A HUGE THANK YOU!

As the end of the school year approaches, the Executive Board would like to thank each and every parent for all of your support, understanding, assistance and hard work that you have given throughout the year. Because of you, we have been able to give our children a wonderful fun filled year. As the planning continues to wrap up, our PTA is working hard on getting ready for next year. Thank you to all of the parents that have stepped up to help. We could not accomplish what we do without each and every one of you.

We do still have available opportunities for Mom's and Dad's to volunteer for next year. We have updated our Website with detailed descriptions of all the various opportunities. Check them out. Maybe one might peak your interest.

Upcoming Events:

Our 5th Grade moving up committee is still in need of 4th Grade parent volunteers. Please consider offering some time so that the 5th grade parents can enjoy this event with their children. Remember, yours will be in 5th grade next year...

Teacher/Staff end of the year luncheon, Thursday June 25th at 11:00 am. What a great time to volunteer and not only give back but to thank all the staff and teachers that do so much for our children during the year. We would love some 5th grade student servers, please encourage them to grab friends and come help. Consider coming to set up or clean up. Please contact Jen Novy at Poodlehd@frontiernet.net or call 388-0722.

Thank you to [Laura Griffith](#) for all your work as Co-President this past year, we are thrilled you will be leading our Community Builders team next year and are looking forward to all the new exciting events your planning. Thank you for implementing our new Cobbles PTA school spirit logo "CBL".

Thank you [Donna Jo Clarke](#) for all your dedication as our Treasurer, this year was seamless with your amazing support and knack for number crunching!

Thank you for managing all our PTA recognition and Thank you's" [Julie Marshall](#), your time as Corresponding Secretary was much appreciated – were are so pleased you will be co-leading our new Membership team!

Thank you [Kelly Masters and Lucy Allchin](#), what tremendous support and recognition you have brought to Cobbles with years of work on our Membership Committee, Cobbles Comment, past PTA Presidents & planning our Ice Cream Social's. Nothing but huge success every single year, you guys are the best!

Thank you [Diane Wilson](#) for your years of work on our Cobbles Comment, PTA Website as well as past PTA President. The hours you have dedicated to Cobbles ensuring we always had top notch communication is just above and beyond what we could have wished for, we look forward to your support on our new Website adventure!

Thank you [Diana Barlow](#), you have managed Community Builders for years now and are one terrific event planner, thank you for all the fun and opportunity you have provided all our families.

Thank you to each of you parents who have filled the Executive Board positions for 2009-2010. Extra thanks to [Kate Blumenstock](#) for offering to fill our Assistant Treasurer position and [Maryanne Christman](#) for taking on managing our new Website in the fall!

Have a safe, healthy, fun filled summer with your families!!

Jen Novy
Cobbles Co-President



Communicating With Your Child's Teacher

By Suzanna D. Smith
Associate Professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, University of Florida

Parental involvement enhances student success. A first step toward involvement is **communicating with your child's teacher**. Effective communication consists of meeting with the teacher, being a positive partner in the learning experience, and keeping lines of communication open, according to Suzanna Smith, an associate professor at the University of Florida. As part of the university's Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, she offers these tips for communicating effectively with teachers:

- Offer to help by signing up to donate items or volunteer your time.
- Provide information that will help the teacher get to know your child as an individual. Include relevant information such as allergies, behavior issues (tendency to be distracted, for instance), learning issues, or changes in family life.
- Ask the teacher about expectations regarding homework and what to do if there are problems with homework.
- Find out the best way to contact the teacher. Ask for times when it is convenient to talk. Don't expect them to be able to talk if you happen to be at the school and run into them.
- Write short notes (written or as an e-mail, if allowed) and follow up with a phone message to the school if you don't get a response in a few days. Be sure to include your phone number and/or e-mail address.
- Be diplomatic, especially in e-mail. Choose words carefully and avoid criticizing the teacher.
- In e-mail communication, be brief, stick to the point, and don't use animation, pictures or graphics. Stick to school-related information in e-mail.
- Be positive and curious. Open with phrases such as "Can we talk about...?" Use "I" statements such as "I'm confused about..." so you don't put the teacher on the defensive.
- Don't be afraid to talk to other school personnel if needed. A school counselor might be able to intervene if you are unable to communicate with a teacher.
- Be a partner in your child's learning. Assist with homework, help your child learn time management skills, talk about school matters at home.
- Send a note of appreciation to the teacher when things go well in class (and mention this to the principal).

It may be difficult to hear what teachers have to say if they deliver bad news about your child. Try to focus on solutions and work with the teacher to come up with a healthy plan to help your child learn. To view the expanded version of this article, go to:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FY853>

10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers

By Mimi Doe from www.pta.org/2543.htm

Many teachers have written to me over the years, frustrated with how unprepared their students are—and they don't mean academically. Chris, a kindergarten teacher, wrote what many teachers have expressed, "I would love it if you could write a 10 tips for parents to help us teachers do our increasingly demanding job. Many parents of children I teach have left the job of spiritual, character, and social/emotional education to me. I can't do it all in addition to teaching academic skills. I'm getting burned out and pretty soon won't have the energy left to nourish one child let alone 25." So here goes—my 10 tips:

1. Create a smooth takeoff each day. Give your child a hug before she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look her in the eye, and tell her how proud you are of her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help her do well both in school and in life.
2. Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene. Create a predictable ritual such as 10–20 minutes listening to your child talk about his day—before you check phone messages, read the mail, or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen, and your child has a touchstone he can count on between school and home.
3. Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches. Have dinner at a reasonable hour and a healthy breakfast. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.
4. Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings. Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
5. Remember it's your children's homework, not yours. Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
6. Fill your child's life with a love for learning by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his questions, and encouraging his efforts.
7. Fill your home with books to read, books simply to look at, and books that provide answers to life's many questions. The public or school library is an excellent resource.
8. Be a partner with your child's teacher. When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
9. Set up a system where routine items are easily located—such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
10. Tuck a "love note" in your child's lunch bag to let her know how special she is. Knowing they are loved makes it easier for children to be kind to others.



Boy, did we get lucky with the weather.... The Cobbles Annual Ice Cream Social Another Huge Success!!!

We hope you and your family were able to join us on June 11 for the Cobbles Annual Ice Cream Social. It was a great evening with lots of games, prizes, food, magic, karate, music, and fun! There are so many people to thank; over 130 volunteers in total! It is so great to see the Cobbles community (teachers, staff, parents, and alumni!) really come together.

We will start by properly thanking the talent...**HUGE thanks to CRB, 441, and Nex Generation** for playing at our Social this year. All three bands were so much fun and it was great to have the music outside!!!! We hope this tradition continues for many years to come.

Special thanks to our committee members that put in so much time and effort to plan and organize such a grand event. The work each and everyone of you put in speaks volumes of your generosity and commitment to our children. Not to mention, it made our job as committee co-chairs so much easier! You guys are fantastic:

- ★ Sharon Golding
- ★ Anne Gullede
- ★ Katy Hand
- ★ Amy Mayfield
- ★ Sarah McCafferty
- ★ Kristen Monfalcone
- ★ Jennifer Novy
- ★ Nicole Schlifke
- ★ Kim Salley-Colley
- ★ Leslie Vaillancourt

We would not be able to hold this event without the support of the Cobbles office staff, kitchen staff and custodians that assisted behind the scenes helping to prepare and/or making sure everything ran smoothly during the event:

- ★ Carol Miller
- ★ Mary Woolaver

- ★ Bob DeMersman
- ★ Laurie Bohm
- ★ Perparim Kalemi
- ★ Julie Carter
- ★ Mary Fiano
- ★ Maureen Warren
- ★ Nina Secor

Forty teachers and staff members volunteered to work a shift. The kids really enjoy seeing the teachers and staff members outside of school. Thanks to our wonderful teacher/staff volunteers:

- ★ Patty Bassett
- ★ Don Bavis
- ★ Sara Bippes
- ★ Peggy Bolander
- ★ Tiffany Brasacchio
- ★ Diane Bratteli
- ★ Jean Brown
- ★ Liz Brown
- ★ Patti Buechner
- ★ Eliza Coyle
- ★ LouAnne DaRin
- ★ Betty Decker
- ★ Alan Drechsler
- ★ Cathy Drew
- ★ Terri Ercole
- ★ Jessica Flood
- ★ Sue Hodge
- ★ Laurie Kennedy
- ★ Julie Knapp
- ★ Anne Krauss
- ★ Lyn LaFountain
- ★ Kelly Limbeck
- ★ Beth Maiorani
- ★ Ann McCarthy
- ★ Tracey Merriman
- ★ Kim Osgood
- ★ Jamie Palmer
- ★ Tracy Perkins
- ★ Gerry Popp
- ★ Kimberly Rice
- ★ Jane Saresky
- ★ Alison Sharpe
- ★ Chris Sheehan
- ★ Sharon Stockman
- ★ Kathy Stoll
- ★ Karen Stote
- ★ Sue Vadakin
- ★ Kerry West
- ★ Sarah Williams
- ★ Brendan Young

And, thanks to our incredible parents...thank you so much for volunteering your time. We hope it was worthwhile and that your kids had a fabulous evening:

- ★ Jim Allchin
- ★ *Gisela Armbruster
- ★ *Colleen Blieden
- ★ Katie Blumenstock
- ★ Dot Brenneis
- ★ Mary Jo Catalfo
- ★ *MaryAnn Christman
- ★ Julia Ciaramitaro
- ★ *Donna Jo Clarke
- ★ *Walter Colley
- ★ Carol Colombo
- ★ Cathy Costanza
- ★ Matt DiFranco
- ★ Carol Enfonde
- ★ *Lisa Fahrenholz
- ★ *Laura Griffith
- ★ Sheryl Hamilton
- ★ Lynn Hettel
- ★ Kathy Howes
- ★ *Julia Ispentchian
- ★ Ellen Jeffery
- ★ Terri Kelleher
- ★ Lynn Kinsman
- ★ *Kaye Licherdell
- ★ Lorie LoBiondo
- ★ Jennifer Lyons
- ★ *Bonnie MacKecknie
- ★ Chris Magee
- ★ Steve Masters
- ★ Deb Matrachisia
- ★ Lori McCandless
- ★ Lori McClellan
- ★ Don McClellan
- ★ Gina Montanarella
- ★ *Jacquie Morrison
- ★ Loretta Mueller
- ★ Jayne Mula
- ★ Maria Nalecz
- ★ Mary O'Brian
- ★ Mary Ellen Paley
- ★ Julie Paul
- ★ Kellene Paul
- ★ Kimberly Pearlman
- ★ Megan Podanoffsky
- ★ Mary Grace Ramsdel
- ★ *Lisa Rojas
- ★ Shryl Scalice
- ★ Kira Soule

- ★ Laura Starr
- ★ Judy Stowell
- ★ Jeff Teglash
- ★ Linda Teglash
- ★ Eric Vogt
- ★ Jennifer Whitley
- ★ Joe Wilder
- ★ *Diane Wilson
- ★ Seneca Yates

And last but certainly not least, huge thanks to all of the teen volunteers!!!

- ★ *Matthew Allchin
- ★ Erin Burdick
- ★ Katie Catalfo
- ★ Rebekah Cornell
- ★ Frank Howard
- ★ Cynthia Kinsman
- ★ Ian Masters
- ★ Molly Mayfield
- ★ *Cole Monfalcone
- ★ *Brooke Monfalcone
- ★ Rachel Nalecz
- ★ Alexandra Rock
- ★ *Kelsey Teglash
- ★ *Matthew Teglash
- ★ Joanna Vella

We really appreciate those of you that even worked a double shift—identified by the extra star*!

We hope that everyone that helped make this year's Ice Cream Social so successful has been properly thanked. If we forgot anyone, we apologize profusely. We would not be able to hold this event without the help of the entire Cobbles Community.

Have a safe and active summer!

*Lucy Allchin
Kelly Masters
2009 ICS Co-Chairs*

ICS 2009

What a wonderful event the Ice Cream Social is/was. I am so impressed with the Cobbles families and PTA. Great Job! I had fun handing out pop-corn.

- Laurie Kennedy



If your child is pictured here and you would like the image e-mailed to you, send a request to cobblescomment@aol.com. Images are provided in JPEG format.



News from PACE Parents Advocating for Challenge in Education

NEWS FROM PACE - UPDATE ON REVIEW OF DISTRICT POLICY 7223

The Board of Education is reviewing a possible change to Policy 7223 (how students' academic transcripts are recorded at Penfield High School.) **There is more time for your input to the Board.** The previously announced date for the Board vote was June 16, 2009. However, the Board will NOT vote on any policy revision sooner than September.

Revision of the policy would impact how the District handles high school transcripts, including GPA and Rank in Class (RIC.) Transcripts impact the college admissions process as well as application for merit aid and scholarships. PACE continues to gather research in preparation for a position statement.

There are many places to get information on the topic:

Email questions to PenfieldPACE@rochester.rr.com

Policies under review:

www.penfield.edu/board_education.cfm?subpage=102210

Superintendent's Report

www.penfield.edu/files/52555/Superintendents%20report%206-2-09.pdf

View video of May 12 and June 2 meetings at:

www.penfield.edu/videos.cfm

www.penfield.org/index.php?pr=Penfield_School_Video

PACE encourages you to contact the Board and/or District Administration directly with your comments and viewpoints. Sending a copy to PACE will help PACE compile comments and viewpoints.

Contact information for the School Board:

www.penfield.edu/board_members.cfm?master=6342&cfm=end

Contact information for staff:

www.penfield.edu/staff_directory.cfm September will be here quickly! Make your opinions known soon.

Feel free to contact PACE about this or other issues at PenfieldPACE@rochester.rr.com, even over Summer.

Thank you!

Submissions to Cobbles Comment

Contact: Kelly Masters/Mary Ann Christman
Phone: 388-9596/387-9711
Fax: 377-3849
Email: Cobblescomment@aol.com

Next issue will be published in September 2009
Email is the preferred method of submission.

Electronic files are in PDF format.

Cobbles PTA Contacts

Co-Presidents:

Jennifer Novy (poodlehd@frontiernet.net - 388-0722)
Laura Griffith (lgriffith@rochester.rr.com - 385-1012)

Vice President:

Deb Sobko (sobko@frontiernet.net - 388-9144)

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer:

Donna Jo Clarke (donnajo_clarke@yahoo.com)
Mary O'Brian (mobrian@rochester.rr.com)

Recording Secretary and Correspondence Secretary

Carol Moon (carol@coolmoons.com)
Julie Marshall (jmarshall008rochester.rr.com)

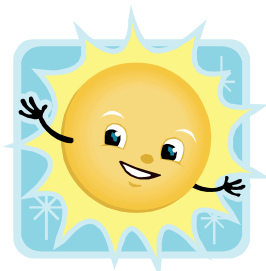
Membership Co-Chairs:

Kelly Masters (kafm@aol.com)
Lucy Allchin (lallchin@frontiernet.net)



Room Parent Sign-Up Time!

2009-2010



Being a room parent is a fun way to get involved with your child's education. It is a job that assists your child's teacher in planning class events like parties and coordinating other parent volunteers. It doesn't mean that you need to be in the classroom to devote your time, but does require behind the scenes planning, email and phone calls. If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a room parent for the 2009-2010 school year, please fill out the form below and clip to return to Cobbles office. **Return the form in an enveloped marked, "Room Parent Sign-Up" no later than June 17th.**

Names are drawn randomly with priority given in order below. The committee's goal is to ensure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to serve as a room parent. Selected volunteers will be notified after teacher placement letters are sent out in July. Please contact **Amy Mayfield 249-9517 amayfield@rochester.rr.com** or **Kelly Masters 388-9596 kafm@aol.com** with any questions. Thank you for your interest!

Cobbles 2009-2010 Room Parent Sign-Up Form!

Child's Name: _____

Grade for Fall 2009 _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail: _____ Preferred method of contact e-mail _____ phone _____

Please check the box that most accurately describes you.
Priority will be given in the following order:

- I have never been a room parent.
- I have been a room parent, but not for this child (only include children at Cobbles)
- I have served as room parent for this child before.
- I was a room parent for this child during the 2008-2009 school year
- I am willing to serve as a room parent if there are no other volunteers

Are you requesting to be a room parent for another child?

- Yes - please fill out a separate form for each child. Additional forms available in front of the main office or on the Cobbles PTA website.
- No

Thank You!



Kids Corner

WOULD YOU RATHER...? Staff Spotlight "Getting To Know You"



Ms. Saresky, Special Education

- Ride a surfboard or a snowboard? **Snowboard**
- Be stuck in an episode of Seinfeld or Cheers? **Seinfeld**
- Drink a tomato/kiwi/black olive/chocolate shake or a broccoli/banana/green olive/strawberry shake? **Tomato/Kiwi/Black Olive/Chocolate Shake**



Ms. Williams, Special Education

- Be a fruit or a vegetable? **Fruit**
- Play Monopoly or Scrabble? **Scrabble**
- Watch the Brady Bunch or Full House? **Full House**



Ms. LaFountain, Teaching Assistant

- Be a hamster or a parakeet? **Parakeet...you can fly and chirp**
- Sing on American Idol or dance on Dancing with the Stars? **Dancing with the Stars**
- Eat a raw egg or a fried grasshopper? **Raw egg...I'd put it in a milkshake!**



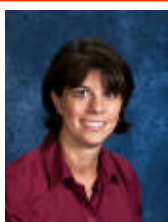
Ms. Somerville, Teaching Assistant

- Sneeze or hiccup for a whole day? **Sneeze**
- Work for a week on a sheep farm or a pig farm? **Pig Farm**
- Finger paint or play with play dough? **Finger Paint**



Ms. Steinbugler, Teaching Assistant

- Be the color green or blue? **BLUE!**
- Change the past or look into the future? **Look into the future!**
- What word is difficult for you to spell? **Aardvark**



Ms. Brown, Teaching Assistant

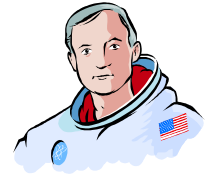
- Be stuck in an episode of Happy Days or Hee Haw? **Happy Days**
- Smell mothballs or sauerkraut all day? **Mothballs**
- Print or write in cursive? **Print**





Ms. Bassett, Teaching Assistant

- Be a singer or an instrumentalist? **Singer**
- Be a fruit or a vegetable? **Fruit**
- Meet astronaut Neil Armstrong or daredevil Evil Kneivel? **Neil Armstrong**



Ms. Sharpe, Teaching Assistant

- Be paper or clay? **Clay**
- Skydive or bungee jump? **Skydive**
- Have superhero powers to shape-shift or super-strength? **Shape Shift**



No
Photo
Available

Ms. McCrank, Teaching Assistant

- Be a singer or an instrumentalist? **While I love all types of music, and have written music for my electric keyboard, my secret passion is singing. I would definitely rather be a singer, than an instrumentalist.**
- Read or write? **Reading is an important part of learning and growing, and writing is important way to communicating and expressing yourself. I love to read novels, biography's and magazines. I also enjoy writing fiction. I have started several novels, but have yet to complete them! If I had to choose between reading or writing, I would rather read! I love to read!**
- Drink a spaghetti & meatball milkshake or a macaroni & cheese milkshake? **This is an easy question! I love spaghetti and meatballs! I'd rather drink a spaghetti and meatballs shake! Could I get some garlic bread to go with that?**



Thank You Thank You Thank You

The library has completed its inventory. What a BIG job! We have over 15,000 books, magazines, books on CD, etc. that needed to be checked and organized. We couldn't have done it without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much to Katherine Blackburn, Mary Ann Christman, Mary Doser, Lori Namisnak, Dawn Orford, Michelle Sharman, Ana Theobald, and Keiko Vann. You're the best!

Also: If you are traveling this summer and want to look up information on new places, or maybe you are getting a new pet and want to research an animal, you can use our online encyclopedias or other research tools from home! There is an easy tutorial on how to use our online research tools on the library webpage at:

<http://www.penfield.edu/webpages/bmaiorani/research.cfm>.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and look under Related Files. Usernames and passwords are available from our library - have your child stop by the library for a bookmark with our passwords!

Thank you,
Mrs. Maiorani and Mrs. Meyer