



Feb. 2012

EAGLE



EYE

PTA Executive Board

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***JOANNE BASIC,
HEALTH AIDE***

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630-375-3500 PRESS 3***

***SCHOOL OFFICE
630-375-3500 PRESS 0***

STECK/PTA WEB SITE

***HTTP://STECK.IPSD.ORG
NEW PTA LINK!!***

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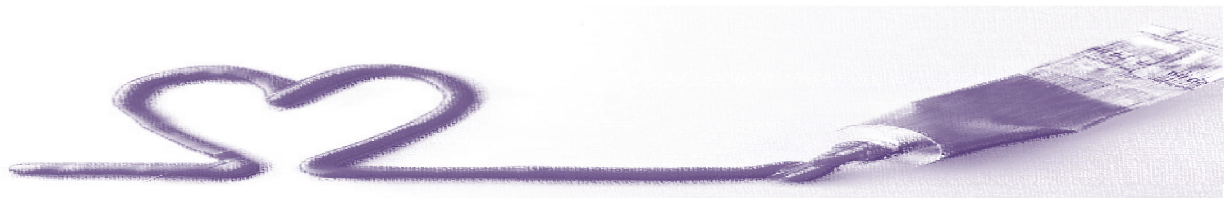
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Jan/February

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Jan. 30</i>	<i>High Touch visits Gr. 1</i>	<i>1:45-3:15PM</i>
<i>Tues</i>	<i>Jan. 31</i>	<i>High Touch visits Gr. 1</i>	<i>1:45-3:15PM</i>
		<i>Earth Club</i>	<i>3:35-4:30PM</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>Feb. 1</i>	<i>High Touch visits Gr. 1</i>	<i>1:45-3:15PM</i>
		<i>Chess Club</i>	<i>3:35-4:35PM</i>
<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Feb. 2</i>	<i>High Touch visits Gr. 1</i>	<i>1:45-3:15PM</i>
<i>Fri</i>	<i>Feb. 3</i>	<i>Gr. 3 Multi-Cultural Book Club</i>	<i>8:20-8:50AM</i>
<i>Tues</i>	<i>Feb. 7</i>	<i>Earth Club</i>	<i>3:35-4:35PM</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>Chess Club, session 3</i>	<i>3:35-4:35PM</i>
<i>Fri</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>PTA Carnival Set-up</i>	<i>6:00-10:00PM</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>	<i>PTA Carnival</i>	<i>1:00-5:00PM</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Chess Club</i>	<i>3:35-4:35PM</i>
<i>Fri</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Progress Reports Go Home</i>	
		<i>Student Council Meeting</i>	<i>8:20-8:45AM</i>
<i>Mon</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>No School-President's Day</i>	
<i>Tues</i>	<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>No School</i>	
		<i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	<i>1:00-8:00PM</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	
		<i>Chess Club</i>	<i>3:35-4:35PM</i>
<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	
		<i>Market Day-Pick-up/Gym</i>	<i>4:45-5:30PM</i>
<i>Fri</i>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	
<i>Mon</i>	<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	
<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	
<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Feb. 29</i>	<i>Spring Book Fair</i>	





Hello Steck Families and Welcome Back!

As we begin the New Year, I wanted to take a look back at how our year as gone so far and what we are looking forward to.

I would like to thank the committee chair people and volunteers that made our Pancake Breakfast, Season of Sharing, Winter Wonderland and Penguin Patch Holiday Shop such a success this December. We had a record turnout, and I think the addition of the Holiday Shop was a fun way for the children to do some holiday shopping for their families.

The Winter Assembly took place on the last day of school, and Rush Copley came and ran a fantastic Fitness program for all the grades. The children were able to rotate through 5 stations in the gym and on the stage, all related to health and fitness. There was a health talk and worksheets at one station, and the other stations were all hands on activities. These included basketball, soccer, obstacle course and Zumba. The folks from Rush Copley were great with the kids, and I hope you all heard positive things from the children too. Thank you also to all the staff and volunteers that helped to make the assembly such a success.

As we take a look at what events and programming we have upcoming, the Carnival is coming on February 11th. This year's Sports-Themed Carnival will bring all the fun, games, food, and activities that will make for a fabulous family event. We are currently recruiting both parent and student volunteers for this event. Please consider donating some of your time to our event. Check your listserv emails for more information.

Coming in April, for the first time ever, Steck will be hosting a Resale. We will be looking for families to sell their outgrown clothes, toys and equipment. Seller will earn a percentage of their profits and the remainder will go to support the PTA and all our programs. More information will be forthcoming!

And on the topic of PTA programming, the executive board has taken the time to begin a review of our current programming and budget as we begin the second half of the school year. With our main focus being on programs that benefit the most students at school, we are looking at the cost of all programs and how many students they impact. With our current fundraising shortfalls, this is something we need to do to ensure we can continue to impact the most children with our efforts. This does mean that some programming may be affected, but we will do our best to look at only those that may be targeted to a smaller percentage of the student body.

This year we have tried some new fundraising methods, and while we appreciate all the support we have gotten so far, our goals for supporting our programming this year have fallen short. We are not even half way to our budgeted goal of \$10,000 yet we are at the half way point in the school year. While we continue to look at new and creative ways to raise money, we also need to look at ways to balance our budget and to plan financially for next year as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you all at our next General Meeting on February 15th at 9:30 am in the MPR.

Kimberly Mitchell
PTA President



Indian Prairie Parents' Council (IPPC) /Legislative Corner

By Lisa Newman

Dr. Kathy Birkett, Superintendent of Dist. 204, was the guest speaker. She began the meeting by talking about the budget issues within the district. The State of Illinois still owes the district approximately 9 million dollars. The district is once again expected to make cut backs this spring. Paired with the deficit of around 3.5 million dollars that the district begins with every school year and the money that is owed by the state the cuts are necessary. She said not to panic, that this occurs often, and they are usually able to recover and re-hire any lost teachers by the start of the next school year. The cuts are expected to be smaller than those made two years ago. She mentioned that the first cuts are usually made at the administrative level and that our district functions with about half the leaders as other districts.

Young Elementary will not experience any boundary changes for the 2012-2013 school year. The district has renewed the contracts on the modular classrooms.

March 5th will be "Respect Week". The idea behind the week is to educate our children on the different needs of children within our schools. It will touch on subjects of special needs, diversity, bullying and acceptance. The week will end with a family celebration at Parkside Lanes on March 10th with celebrity waiters (204 staff).

Planning for the Students Summer Activities Fair is under way. It is expected to take place on March 7th at Still Middle School from 6:00-8:00 pm. Stop by to gather information and meet various vendors who host different summer programs in our area. There are up to forty vendors expected.

The IPPC Reflections ceremony will take place at Fry Elementary on Tuesday, January 31st. Participants will be notified of their scheduled time.

At the February IPPC meeting the Board will be accepting nominations for the nominating committee.

Lisa Newman

IPPC representative for Steck Elementary



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**Reba O. Steck Elementary**460 Inverness Dr.
Aurora, IL 60504

Dear Parents:

If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012, you may enroll him/her for kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year. We are pleased to offer **ALL DAY** kindergarten for your child at Steck. **HALF DAY** kindergarten classes will be held at a District 204 school, other than Steck. The hours are:

- **All Day** 9:05 AM-3:35 PM
- **Half day** 9:05-11:50 AM or 12:50-3:35 PM (your child will be assigned to either AM or PM)

You are invited and encouraged to attend a **Kindergarten Parent Preview Night on Monday, March 12, from 6:00-7:30 PM at Steck. This night is designed for parents only.** At this meeting, we will provide a detailed look at what the kindergarten experience will offer. You will also be provided with registration paperwork, requirements and deadlines.

We are asking you to indicate your preliminary choice of **all day** or **half day** kindergarten on the attached pre-registration. At the end of the March Parent Preview Night meeting, you may complete a form if you wish to **change** your placement choice.

Please note that if you select the half day option, your child will not attend classes at Steck, but rather another District 204 school. Busing will be provided to transport your child to that school. Pre-registration will be used to anticipate the need for half day kindergarten classes, but final decisions, including the half day location, will not be made until after May 25, 2012.

To assist us in planning, please return the Pre-Registration form **as soon as possible, but no later than January 27, 2012.** This Pre-Registration information will be used to form a kindergarten mailing list. Once on the mailing list, additional information will be mailed to eligible kindergarten parents.

If you have any neighbors who do not presently have students attending Steck, but will have an incoming kindergartner, please give them a copy of this form or ask them to call our office at 630/375-3502. I look forward to meeting you at the Kindergarten Parent Preview Night.

Please mark your calendars!

**Kindergarten Parent Preview Night
Monday, March 12, from 6:00-7:30 PM**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pohlmann
Principal



Feb. 2012

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PDAC: What is it?

The PDAC is a parent advocacy organization that supports a diverse school community and is a community catalyst for the District's equity work. The Parent Diversity Advisory Council (PDAC) is an independent, Indian Prairie School District #204 (IPSD) council centered on diversity in the district. Focused on student achievement, the mission of PDAC is to positively impact the academic achievement of a diverse student population through school-specific outreach efforts and initiatives that focus on and directly address disparate academic performance.

Diversity is not just about race or religion. Rather, for PDAC, diversity describes the spectrum of human similarities and differences based on race, ethnicity, culture, gender, religion, social class, immigrant status, sexual orientation, economic status, special needs, urban/suburban, language, learning styles and individual experiences. Therefore, PDAC hopes to bring many people to the conversation about how to address disparate academic performance for all under-achieving students.

PDAC serves in an advisory role for collaborative action among district parents, parent organizations, teachers, principals and administration to support and address student achievement through monthly meetings and outreach programs, such as arranging speakers, cultural art fairs and book fairs, dialogue circles, and the World Cafe.

PDAC at Steck

The Steck PTA has a PDAC committee. The Steck PDAC committee then selects a liaison to attend the district PDAC monthly meetings and other events and report back to the Steck PTA. The Steck PTA PDAC sees its mission to not only address disparate academic performance among diverse student population at Steck, but to also celebrate the diversity of the students and families.

As the committee chairperson at Steck and the PDAC parent liaison, I am honored and thrilled to be involved. Through different meetings and conversations I have had with Steck teachers, Mrs. Pohlmann, the PTA President and others, I have discovered that Steck is quite diverse. For instance, did you know that Steck families speak 32 different languages!

There are many ways to get involved, and we would love to add more members to the committee. Please contact me at mickelle_olawoye@yahoo.com or 630.280.9106 for more information.



Monika Kelly Recognized as Equity Champion

On December 5, 2011, PDAC held its second annual World Café. The “World Café” is a forum for getting people together in one place to have conversations that matter. The PDAC World Cafés are centered on diversity and equity in the school district. Last year, the conversation focused on the diversity challenges in the district. This year, the conversation centered on how each individual can make a difference.

Each year during the World Cafe, the Indian Prairie Parent Diversity Advisory Council seeks to recognize those who champion and serve the diverse needs of District 204 students and families. This year, Monika Kelly, one of our own first grade teachers at Steck, was honored as an Equity Champion.

Mrs. Kelly was nominated as an Equity Champion by Mr. and Mrs. Kala, parents of Bhuvan S. Kala. They nominated Mrs. Kelly for the wonderful environment creates at Steck for the first graders.

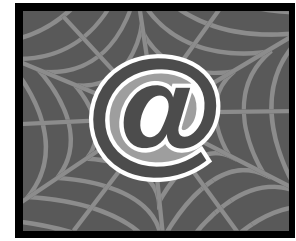
Here is what Mr. and Mrs. Kala had to say about Mrs. Kelly:

Mrs. Kelly created a wonderful environment in her class room. We think this environment stressed the concept that continuous improvement is more important than fierce competition. We believe this made our kids feel secure in her class room. They never felt that they were judged. Our kids look forward to going to school every day to be part that positive environment. Mrs. Kelly never let her personal challenges affect the quality of education at Steck. Our kids blossomed in her class room.

In a world filled with cynicism and uncertainty, our teachers are unsung heroes who in some way build and influence the fabric of our society. We should always take an opportunity to celebrate a good teaching success. We tend to forget how a good teacher and a positive environment have lasting impact on our children.

During her presentation, Mrs. Kelly explained that one of the ways she creates this safe and equitable environment in her classroom is through the use of books. She then took the audience on a journey through the literature that the children read in her classroom. Mrs. Kelly also stated that equity is championed in her classroom through spontaneous teaching moments. For instance, a student in her classroom took a trip to India. Rather than ignoring this and sticking to the syllabus, Mrs. Kelly took the time to read the emails from the student and shared the student’s pictures with the rest of the children in the class. Through those teaching moments, the children learned about India and more about their friend who traveled.

The Steck PDAC congratulates Mrs. Kelly on her award as an Equity Champion. If you would like to nominate someone at Steck to be an Equity Champion, nominations will be accepted from March 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012. Please contact me at mickelle.olawoye@yahoo.com or 630.280.9106 or visit the PDAC website at <http://ipsdweb.ipisd.org/Subpage.aspx/PDAC> for more information.



From the LMC:

Check out the new look of the Library Media Center website! To find this link, go to the Reba Steck Elementary website at <http://steck.ipeds.org> and find "Library Media Center" under Navigation. You'll see a variety of new tabs, each with interesting information about our LMC. Changes and additions are added nearly every day! You'll find a valuable calendar of events, web resources, great lists of books for all our students, and much more!

Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!

Our final book fair of this school year, our Scholastic Book Fair, arrives within days! It will run from February 22nd through March 1st. Watch for notes with details coming home in backpacks very soon. Scholastic has a great selection of books for all ages and, to the students' delight, has a variety of posters available as well.



Our LMC depends on our book fairs for a significant share of our funding each year. Mrs. Hatcher's goal with this book fair is to use some of the proceeds to purchase a Smartboard for the LMC. Scholastic offers Smartboards as one of the premiums in their Book Fair profit catalog at a significant discount. Thank you in advance to all our Steck families for helping to support the LMC and Steck School at this event! You will be able to find a full calendar of book fair happenings on the Library Media Center website!



Recycling Steck

Our 3rd graders have been very diligent in helping out with our paper recycling at school this year. They have been taking turns with our "traveling recycling barrels" to visit all classrooms collecting paper for recycling twice a week. A team of 10 3rd graders divide up throughout the building and remind each teacher that it's time to empty their class recycling bin. Mrs. Ramos empties all barrels into the recycling dumpster outside at the east side of the building. We save a LOT of paper from going to a landfill!



In the past, the Earth Club has also collected batteries, but we no longer can accept them. You can imagine how heavy hundreds of batteries might be, and it has become too difficult to transport so many batteries to the recyclers. As an alternative, please consider recycling batteries at a local recycling event, at the Naperville fire station at Brookdale and 59 any Friday or Saturday, or at any Batteries+ location.



The LMC continues to accept ink cartridges and ink toner from all brands of printers except Epson. You can bring them to the building entrance and place them in the green recycling bin there, or send them in with your children.

Save Those Old Gym Shoes!

The Earth Club will once again be collecting old athletic shoes - all sizes and in any condition - in the spring. Start saving them now! Shoes in great condition will be donated to the needy, and shoes in poor condition will be sent to SCARCE to be recycled by Nike. **Remember...Earth Day is every day!**





A special thank you to all 4th and 5th grade Chorus Parents who chaperoned, baked, and/or assisted at the Chorus Caroling Party on December 20th. It was awesome! Over 100 students and chaperones ventured out into the community to carol!

Your support for the chorus members is greatly appreciated.

THANKS!!!!

Mrs. Muno

Chorus/Music Instructor



Calling All Student Artists!!!

Help us decorate the Carnival with your artwork!

Submit your sports themed drawing on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper
by **Tuesday, February 7, 2012** to the PTA Bucket.

Print your name and grade/teacher on the back of your artwork
to receive a 5 token credit in the Prize Redemption Room at the Carnival.
Just mention it when you come in to cash in your tokens for prizes.

Artwork will not be returned.

Steck PDAC to host game at Steck PTA Carnival

Come and see us at the PTA Carnival on Saturday, February 11 from 1-4 pm! The Steck PDAC will be hosting a game at the PTA Carnival called, "The Chopsticks Challenge." The children are timed to see how many small objects they can pick up with the chopsticks. We are using this opportunity to celebrate the diversity of Steck and have some great family fun! Come and play!



**Baseball, Volleyball
Which will it be?
Football or Soccer
We'll Just Have to See!**



**Join the fun at Steck Carnival
Saturday, February 11, 2012
1:00pm to 5:00pm**

**Moon Jump - Games - Prizes - Food
And MORE!!**

Activities and Games are 1-4 tickets
Ticket Cost - 4 for \$1.00

Dominos Pizza Slice (Cheese or Pepperoni) - \$2.00
Sodas (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite) - \$0.50
Dick's Mini Donuts - 3 for \$1.00
Fruit Smoothies - \$3.00 to \$4.00



**Come Play the
Electronic Basketball
Game and try to win
Top Billing!**

Questions? Email Nami Richardson at
carnivalvolunteer@comcast.net





Steck Carnival Volunteer Sign-up

We Need You!

To ensure the 2012 Steck Carnival a success
on **Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm**

This PTA run event for Steck families takes a lot of hands to operate. We are seeking 250+ parent and student (middle school/high school) volunteers to help with:

- Carnival Setup the Night Before
- Carnival Clean Up
- Run Games and Food Area
- Bakers (to provide treats for the Cake Walk)

If you can commit an hour or more of your time and/or provide a baked treat to support this event, please complete the survey below and return to the PTA bucket (envelope titled "Carnival Volunteer") OR email completed survey to Nami Richardson at CarnivalVolunteer@comcast.net.

You will receive confirmation of your scheduled volunteer date/time prior to the event.

.....
Your Contact Information

Name: _____

Home/Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name/ Grade (for students only): _____

Please select the date(s)/time(s) you are available. You will be added to the schedule as listed. Because of the number of volunteers needed to make this event successful, please find your own replacement if you are unable to keep your commitment.

Carnival Setup

____ Saturday, February 11th – entire setup period (10:00am to 1:00pm)

____ Saturday, Feb11th – 10:00am to 11:30am

____ Saturday, Feb11th – 11:30am to 1:00pm

[Type text]





SAVE THE DATE!

American Heart Association
Learn and Live



IT TAKES HEART
TO BE A HERO!

Marty V. Heart Hero!



When Marty V. was born, two valves in his heart were not formed and the center of his heart didn't finish developing. This made eating very difficult for the infant, who's now a preschooler in Darien, Ill.

By the time he was 7 months old, Marty had two surgeries to surgically repair his heart with gortex patches. In addition, his mitral valve was in need of replacement but in infants there is only a 5% chance of success so his parents wanted to put it off as long as possible.

Marty had a recent checkup, and the doctors are optimistic he won't need surgery this year. Proper nutrition has helped greatly. He had a feeding tube since he was 7 months old, but was able to stop using it last February.

Marty will need his mitral valve replaced someday, but for now he's growing, laughing and living like any other 5-year-old. His parents are grateful for research and treatment advances made possible by the American Heart Association and hope new advances will help Marty in the future.

Our school is proud to partner with the AHA to help heart disease & stroke survivors like Marty!

Mark your calendars NOW for Jump Rope for Heart on Feb. 22nd- 24th

You can support the American Heart Association by *helping your child make a fundraising web page*

It's the safest & easiest way for raising life-saving donations.

Visit www.heart.org/jump Follow the directions to register your child under their school.

Once registered, they will be directed to their personal Heart Quarters.

There, your child's personal web page can be edited by adding a photo or sending out a video.

Your child can send a personalized superhero e-card or video to family & friends,

& there is even the option to connect the webpage to your Facebook page!



Students who register online and send out 10 e-mails will receive a special prize!

If Students send out 15 emails they will be registered in a drawing for an IPOD shuffle.

(There will be 2 lucky IPOD Shuffle winners in Illinois!)

Additional Student Incentives Include:

Top 3 Fundraisers will each get 2 free tickets for the April 14th Chicago Wolves Hockey Game.
PLUS Our School Families can purchase discounted tickets for the game..



CoGo Key Water Park Resort in Rockford, Il is providing some great incentives

Students will receive 2 free admission passes when they raise \$100 or more in donations, \$50 -\$99- 1 free admission pass,

\$1 - \$49 buy one admission pass, get one free admission pass



Raise \$ for Steck and



Get Prizes for your class!!!!

Collect Box Tops, Campbell's labels and Project A+ labels from Tyson. The Classroom contest started Jan. 17th and will end Jan. 27th. Bring in your labels now so your child's class can win!!! Any questions, contact Kathy Langiewicz at: kathylangeiwicz@sbcglobal.net

Thank You for supporting Steck PTA and making the January Dinner Out event a success!



We raised \$309 on Dominos Dough Night!
****Save-the-Date****

***Next Dinner Out event at Chick-fil-a
on Tuesday, March 13th***



Manna is now ordered bi-weekly with the same great service you have been accustomed to!! Orders are still due on Fridays. Please remember Manna for all of your shopping needs. All money raised will go to the Steck PTA. *Over \$600 has been raised so far since September!!!*



February Market Day

February has some great promotions! This month get FREE Cookie Dough Cups with a \$40 purchase and FREE Chicken Gems with a \$90 purchase. Use promo code FEBBONUS. Also, earn a FREE Cooler Tote!! Make two purchases of \$40 between February and April. Then place a third order of \$40 in May to receive your Cooler Tote at the May sale pick-up!



February's HOT NEW ITEMS!

Lemon Parmesan Salmon, Cheese Mini Pizza Bagels, Hickory Smoked BBQ Chicken



February Sale Pickup: **Thursday, February 23**
Internet Order cutoff: **Monday, February 20 @ 11pm**
Order online at: www.marketday.com, code #6470

Market Day Co-Chairs:

Jennifer Martin 630.236.0402

Chrissy Baka 630.978.1031