

## Middlebrook PTA Weekly Messenger – October 2, 2016

### MIDDLEBROOK QUICK CALENDAR

Monday	October	3	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL
Monday	October	10	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL - DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	October	11	Professional Learning – NO SCHOOL for Students
Wednesday	October	12	Yom Kippur - NO SCHOOL
Thursday	October	13	BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Middlebrook PTA Meeting, 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center</b>
Friday	October	21	Dr. Suniya Luthar Parent Presentation WHS Little Theater, 10:00 a.m.
Friday	October	21	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	October	27	BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Friday	October	28	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

### MIDDLEBROOK 6 DAY CYCLE

Mon	October	3	No school
Tues	October	4	Day 2
Wed	October	5	Day 3
Thurs	October	6	Day 4
Fri	October	7	Day 5

## PTA NEWS

### Note from PTA President Laura Rowley

Well, we've made it through September – that's a lot of open houses, lunches, and new schedules under the belt! We're so excited to have kicked off our Annual Appeal, and are thrilled to be offering an additional way to donate to our PTA, the CloseBuy Catalog sale, for those who like to shop. There is more information on both ways to help below, and we appreciate your support in continuing to fund the amazing programs our students benefit from each year. Thank you for all you do!

### Middlebrook PTA's Annual Appeal Kick-Off – PayPal Link!!!

This year's Middlebrook PTA Annual Appeal has officially commenced. Our PTA has a budget of \$35,000 to run programs for students and fulfill teacher grant requests. The appeal letter was mailed home to every Middlebrook family last week detailing the many activities and events our PTA supports throughout the school year--programs that directly benefit your child. Please consider making a donation today – we appreciate all of your support! To make it easier than ever, you can use our PayPal link!

### [Make a PayPal Donation Here!](#)

### [Close Buy Catalog Fundraiser for Middlebrook PTA!!!](#)

Last year, our Annual Appeal was the primary fundraiser, but we heard some of you missed the wrapping paper sale of years past. So, we're bringing it back...sort of! This year, our PTA is working with Close Buy, a catalog company based in Maine that sells locally made products from New England and New York. Catalogs will be distributed in school this week, and orders can be placed through October 21<sup>st</sup> at:

[www.closebuycatalog.com](http://www.closebuycatalog.com) (just use our School Account Number – 4257, no need to enter student names)

Family and friends can shop online at their leisure, and items are shipped to school at no additional cost or to your home for a fee (FREE shipping if you spend over \$70). The best part? Not only are items high quality, and perfect as holiday gifts, but our **Middlebrook PTA receives 30% of all sales**. And, if you happen to browse Close Buy's host website, you might find wrapping paper too!

## **NEW!!! Join the PTA Online & Get Immediate Directory Access!!!**

Your membership and donation dollars support a variety of programs at Middlebrook that enrich the student experience. Student Assemblies, Outdoor Classroom, Media Center Supplies, Activity Nights, Science & Engineering Fair, Social Opportunities, Weekly Messenger, Photo Day, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Events, and Soaring Ahead are just a few of the programs our PTA supports.

When you join the PTA, you gain instant access to our **new online directory**. Visit <https://wilton.mobilearg.com>, choose parent or teacher registration, enter your email, name and the code "wilton" to join, pay your membership dues and make a supporting donation! Please add [support@mobilearg.com](mailto:support@mobilearg.com) to your address book to ensure delivery of the confirmation email with temporary auto-login link.

## **Reflections Arts & Literature Competition Needs a Co-Chair**

Reflections is a wonderful opportunity that allows students to express their creative side, incorporating diverse disciplines such as visual arts, film production, literature, music composition, photography and dance choreography. One wonderful volunteer has committed. Now we need a second to make this program the best it can be! Please contact Kim Yang at [yi\\_yang\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:yi_yang_us@yahoo.com) to learn how you can help. Thank you!

## **6th Grade Fun Night is On!**

What: 6th Grade Fun Night - DJ, dancing, sports, games, snacks and FUN

When: Friday, October 21st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Middlebrook School, enter via the back canopy

Student Cost: \$5 entrance fee

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE EVENT!!*** Please volunteer for the event by signing up at the following link: <http://signup.com/go/pL5TZ6>. We are also looking for someone to help organize the games to be held that night. If you would like to help organize the games, please

email Clarissa at [clarissacannavino@yahoo.com](mailto:clarissacannavino@yahoo.com). Clarissa Cannavino, Janel Downs, and Lisa McCarthy, 6th Grade Activity Night Co-Chairs

### **Are you on Facebook? Join our Middlebrook Community Page!**

It's a great way to stay up to date and share information across our school community. Just search for the group "Middlebrook School Parent Community" and ask to join. This page is for parents of current students at Middlebrook.

### **Project Adventure**

Become involved in one of the few opportunities to work directly with your Middlebrook child – become a volunteer for Project Adventure! What is Project Adventure? The Middlebrook PE Department offers the chance for our middle schoolers to climb, swing and belay on an outside ropes course in Fall and Spring and inside the gyms during Winter. Adult volunteers are needed to assist with belaying. As a volunteer, you sign up for as much or as little time as you would like to give to the classes. To become involved, volunteers must take a belay training course. For further information, contact Salys Magnusson [salysmagnusson@yahoo.com](mailto:salysmagnusson@yahoo.com)

### **Box Tops for Education – Please Support This Effort!**

Please donate your Box Tops (**trimmed, please!**) to Middlebrook School. Box Tops are found on hundreds of products from companies like Food Should Taste Good, Yoplait, Kleenex, Scott, Ziploc, Hefty, Old El Paso, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, and Hanes.

Collection boxes are located in the front reception booth, media center and teachers' lounge. Proceeds go directly to the school to help buy new equipment and supplies. We raised \$583 last year and hope to raise over \$1000 this year – **that works out to only 10 box tops per student!** For more information, please visit the website at [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) or contact Kim Rogg at [bonrogi1@yahoo.com](mailto:bonrogi1@yahoo.com).

### **Media Center Volunteering**

The media staff would greatly appreciate your help in the school Media Center to assist them with a variety of responsibilities and projects. Shifts are extremely flexible- you can pick the time and day that works best for you! Can be weekly/ biweekly/monthly, or just periodically throughout the year! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Claire Carbonier at [carbos@optonline.net](mailto:carbos@optonline.net)

### **Volunteer!**

Volunteering is a great way to know your child's school and be a part of the Middlebrook community. There are many opportunities to help. We are still seeking two Nominating Chairs for the school year! [Please visit our website](#) to access additional opportunities!

### **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

Wilton Youth Council ([wiltonyouth.org](http://wiltonyouth.org))

### WYC's Parent Connection programs:

***How to Talk So Kids Will Listen*** - a six-part workshop with Susan Bauerfeld, PhD at the Wilton Library. In this workshop based on the book *How to Talk So Kids will Listen*, you will learn skills and strategies you can apply right away for positive changes within your family. This class uses exercises to understand the adverse impact of many of our default parenting/communication styles. Participants will learn alternative and effective methods of interacting with children through lessons, role play and practice. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM on Mondays 10/17, 10/24, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5 at the Wilton Library. Registration available at [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org).

**Save the Date: Dr. Suniya Luthar to speak to parents -Oct. 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM.** Dr. Luthar, Ph.D., Foundation Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University and Professor Emerita of Columbia University's Teachers College, will speak at Wilton High School Little Theater on Oct. 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM. While on faculty at Yale University, she conducted a groundbreaking study of students in Westport, CT finding that affluent teenagers have the elevated levels of anxiety and depression most people associate with children in poverty. Dr. Luthar will explain this phenomenon to parents and school staff, and educate us on strategies to foster strength and resilience in our youth. She will also touch on her more recent research on motherhood and the challenges facing mothers of adolescents today.

### **NAMI Support Group for Parents**

School is back in session and for many children, so is the academic and social stress that can cause behavioral changes. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) is a support group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional and mental health issues. The meeting is free, confidential, safe and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton and towns in the surrounding area. Our next meetings are Mondays September 26 and October 24, from 10-11:30am, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) or Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com)

### **Trackside**

Trackside is ready to help your Middlebrook student make the most of the new school year with a variety of activities and events at the Teen Center, including free clubs such as Crafts for Shelter Pets, Gamer Club, and Broadway Club. As always, Trackside is open weekdays during the school year from 3 to 6pm and 3 to 7pm on Fridays for drop-in hours. Special events on Friday nights for include dances, parties, video game tournaments, and movie nights. For more information, visit [www.trackside.org](http://www.trackside.org) or follow us on facebook.com/trackside.

### **Trackside Donation Drive!**

The Crafts for Shelter Pets Club at Trackside is holding a donation drive for materials to make no-sew pet beds for local animal shelters. Please drop off any unused fleece fabric/material, gently used fleece blankets and/or cotton pillow stuffing to Trackside at 15 Station Rd.

### **Board of Education**

Visit the [BOE website](#) for lots of information. Meetings are available for viewing online by [clicking here](#) and on cable channel 78.

**Middlebrook Weekly Messenger Newsletter Submissions**

This weekly newsletter is reserved for news about information and events related to Middlebrook students. If you would like to submit a school-related announcement for this newsletter, please contact Middlebrook Messenger at [middlebrookmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:middlebrookmessenger@gmail.com) by Wednesdays at noon to be included in the next Sunday edition.