



COUGAR CONNECTION

THE HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

May is one of our favorite months because of Teacher appreciation week (TAW) The PTA is proud to sponsor Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. We cannot say enough kind words about our amazing staff and teachers at HKMS! This years's theme was:

“We Shore are lucky to have you as our Teachers and Staff”

Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom. A huge shoutout to our TAW Committee led by the amazing **Colleen Gillon** and **Amy Hauptman** for pulling everything together!

Be **Shore** to thank all the teachers and staff for all that they do for you and your children!!!

Yours Truly - Heidi and Christian HKMS President and Vice President

Upcoming Events

MAY 23rd

Chorus Concert
7:00PM @ SSES

May 28th

No School
Memorial Day

May 29th

Instrumental Concert
6:30pm @ HKMS

June 13th

Tri District Concert
Joel Barlow

June 19th

Easton BOE
7:30PM HKMS

June 21st

Grade 8
Closing Ceremony
5:30pm @ JBHS

June 22nd

8th Grade Dance

June 26th

Last Day of School

A LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL SUSAN KAPLAN

Dear HKMS Community,

I know our school community was relieved to pass the town budget last week. There were many reductions made over the past four months to get our budget to a level where this could happen with limited controversy on a first vote. One of the casualties of these reductions was the allocation necessary to fully fund all our extra-curricular programs for our students.

In 2017-2018 we offered seventeen unique activities for students, and **74% of students participated in one or more** of these activities over the course of the year. Participating in an extracurricular activity is a valuable part of being engaged in the middle school experience. Students with similar interests get to make new social connections, passions are ignited, and students feel more connected to the school and community. These are all ingredients for a successful middle school experience. Middle school students need these opportunities to thrive.

The Easton Board of Education approved a collaborative effort with the PTA to raise the shortfall of \$21,825, the remaining amount needed to fully fund the same seventeen activities for the 2018-2019 school year. Please consider a donation via <https://www.gofundme.com/save-the-clubs> to help us achieve our goal so that each and every extra-curricular activity may begin with the new school year. The donations go to the PTA, please do not send them to HKMS or the Board of Education. The PTA will work with us, and we appreciate their help and will cooperate with them, but this is a PTA fund raising effort that I am alerting you to. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Kaplan
Principal

Youth Mental Health First Aid

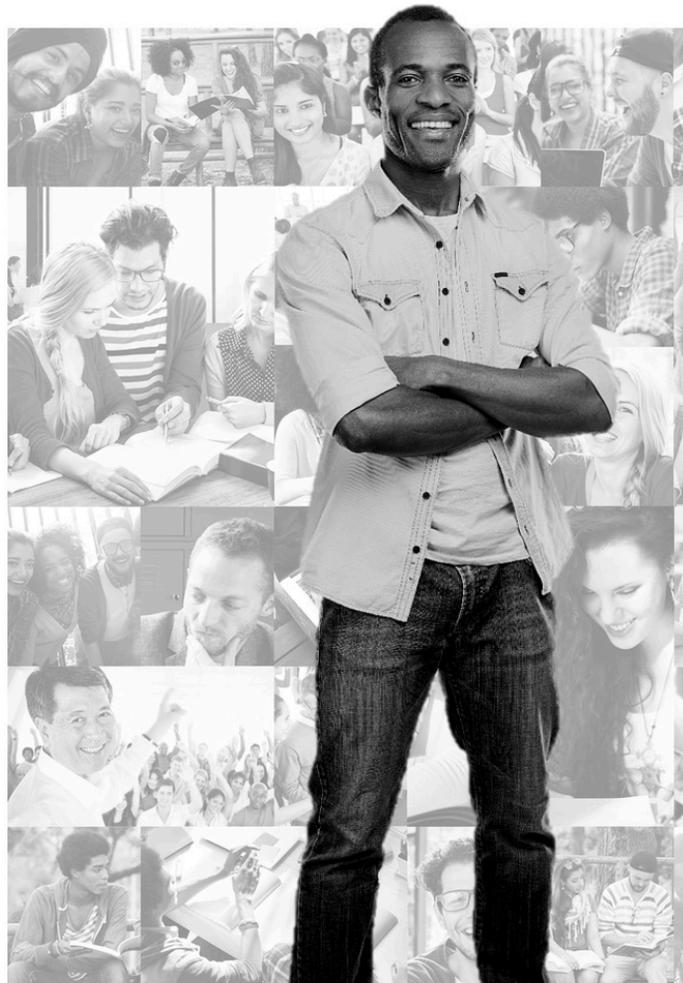
Join the movement.

Sometimes first aid isn't
a bandage or CPR.
Sometimes, first aid
is **YOU**.

This 8 hour course will given over 2
4hour days @ JBHS Crowley Room.
9:30-1:30pm on Monday, June 4, 2018
AND 9:30-1:30pm on Wednesday,
June 6, 2018
To register please send your name,
and phone number via email to
mpieratti@er9.org
Cost: \$18.95 for the cost of the text
book.

A young person you know
could be experiencing a
mental health or substance
use problem. **Learn an action
plan to help.**

Anyone 18 or older can take Youth
Mental Health First Aid, but it is
recommended for those who
regularly have contact with young
people ages 12-18 -- teachers,
coaches, social workers, faith
leaders and other caring citizens.



Take a course. Save a life.
Strengthen your community.

For more information, visit
www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org

Easton Friends and Partners
NOT AFFILIATED WITH HKMS



ECC
Saturday, May 19th – Extreme Paintball Trip
Easton Community Center
(203) 459-9700
Billy@eastoncc.com

Easton Friends and Partners
NOT AFFILIATED WITH HKMS

May @ EPL

Free Comic Book Day (All Ages) Saturday, May 5th from 10 AM - 3 PM

Stop by and grab a free comic book, courtesy of Cave Comics in Newtown! First come, first served (while supplies last). Then check out our graphic novel collections, which are free every day!

Easton Yarnsmiths (All Ages) Thursdays, May 10th & 24th @ 5:00 PM

Join us for an hour of knitting and crocheting! Beginners and advanced knitters and crocheters of all ages are welcome. Each meeting will be an opportunity to work on personal and/or group projects, share techniques, and ask questions. Yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks are available to borrow, but feel free to bring your own! *This is a drop-in program.*

Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop (Gr. 6-12) Friday, May 11th @ 3:30 PM

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, join us for an afternoon of culture and creativity, and Korean snacks. Learn the history of the lotus flower and create your own lotus flower lantern through the instruction of the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project. **Registration is required.**

Teen Advisory Group (Gr. 6-12) Friday, May 25th @ 3:30 PM

The group meets monthly and advises the Teen Librarian on what books to buy for the collection, programs to plan, and other special projects. *This is a group for middle and high school students.* **Registration is suggested.**

Innovation Squad (Gr. 4-8) Thursday, May 31st @ 4:15 PM

Join us each month for some hands-on tinkering, creating and innovating. We've got Osmo and Ozobots, Makey Makeys, Perler Beads, crafts and puzzles and so much more! Each month we'll have a different project, so register now! **Registration is required.**

Register for programs here: <https://www.eastonlibrary.org/calendar-list>

Teen Summer Volunteering

Who: Teens entering 7th-12th Grade in Fall 2018

What: Summer Volunteers will mainly be asked to help with the children's summer reading program & aid patrons using the Innovation Space.

When: Our online application is open from 4/30-5/28.

How Long: Volunteers will be needed for shifts in the Library throughout the summer (6/26-8/24). It is not necessary to work the whole summer.

Check our website, grab a flyer, or contact Elizabeth Portillo at eportillo@eastonlibrary.org for more detailed information.

Easton Public Library // 691 Morehouse Road 00612 // (203) 261-0134

364 Sport Hill Rd • Easton, CT • 06612 • www.eastoncc.com

summer **CAMP** 2018

SIBLING DISCOUNT

\$10 off the second and third child that are registering for the same weeks as the first child.

FREQUENT FLYER DISCOUNT

\$25 off each week of full day camps, \$10 off each week of half day camp, when you register a child for 7 or more weeks of camp.



FULL DAY CAMPS

Little Leaders (Ages 3-4) • Wanderers (Ages 4-6.5)
Explorer Camp (Ages 6.5-12) • Community Leadership Club (Ages 11-15)

HALF DAY CAMPS

Little Leaders: Tuesday-Thursday (Ages 3-4) • Improv Acting Camp (Ages 6.5-12)* • Tennis Camp (Ages 6-12)*
Multi-Sports Camp (Ages 5-8)* • Skill Development Basketball Camp (Ages 7-13)*
Basketball for Beginners (Ages 5-7)* • The Well Rounded Basketball Player Clinic (Ages 8-13)*

* These camps can be combined with a transfer to receive the full day camp discount. You can call or visit our website for descriptions, more information and to register. Our camps fill quickly, do not wait!

If you withdraw your child from camp and the number of weeks falls below 7 this discount will be void and the pre discounted fees will be reapplied.

ECC **15TH**
Easton Community Center
ANNIVERSARY
501 c(3) Non-Profit Organization

Register online: www.webtrac.eastoncc.com

Easton Friends and Partners
NOT AFFILIATED WITH HKMS



Joel Barlow High School presents its annual Barlow Palooza. This event, held every year in late May at the high school, highlights many of the achievements of the high school students, who showcase their artwork, musical ability, dramatics, Senior Passages projects, and Advanced Placement course projects. Many of these are year-long projects that students have devoted their time to study and create. The event isn't just for Barlow - it's a community wide event for Redding and Easton. Each year, Barlow extends a special invitation to middle school students and their families to join in the presentations and celebrations.

Mr. Tim Huminski is the lead coordinator of Barlow Palooza. He is an English teacher at JBHS and Director of the Writing Center. Mr. Huminski is very passionate about the event and works hard all year to make each year's event even bigger and better than past years'. He encourages all students in Redding and Easton middle schools to attend and if interested, present a poster or other creative work. Please contact Mr. Huminski (203.938.2508 x 1170) with any questions.

This year's Barlow Palooza will be held on Thursday, May 24 from 5pm-8pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Barlow PTSA. Barlow's doors are open - please come see what's inside!