

The PTA Cougar Chronicles

www.abington.k12.pa.us/cbpta

Happy Holidays!

December 2011

A Message from Our NEW PTA President to You...

Hello, Copper Beech Families! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday! It was a very busy end of the year for some of our amazing PTA volunteers. A huge **Thank You** to everyone who worked so hard to make our recent fundraisers so successful, especially I want to thank the coordinators: **Jen Riccardi**, who led our **Cherrydale** fundraiser; **Tootsie Spurrier**, for her work with our **Display My Art** fundraiser; **Steve Specht** and **Theresa Keenan-Flite**, who co-coordinated **Hoagie Night**; and **Wendy Kaye** and **Lisa Michael**, who helped write another chapter on another **Book Fair**. Your hard work is really appreciated!!



Mark your
calendars!

Friday,

Jan. 20th is

Game Night!!!

On Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades had an opportunity to enjoy a visit from the author, **Dan Gutman**. He discussed with the students what a typical day in the life of an author is like, and the students were truly interested in what he had to say. They had plenty of questions for him. It was a fun experience for the older students here at Copper Beech. The PTA also held their annual **Movie Night** for CB families. This year's movie was **Cars 2**. There was a great turnout, and everyone had a truly enjoyable time with their families!

Remember to mark your calendars! Friday, Jan. 20th is Game Night!!! I hope you all have a wonderful new year!

— **Judy Whisman**

Copper Beech PTA President

jwhiz17@comcast.net
copperpta@yahoo.com



Every Child ... One Voice ...



The CB PTA is Leading by Following!

Copper Beech Classes at a Glance ...



The holidays easily remind us of the special tastes and flavors that come this time of year with our most recent Reading theme, *Food*. Stories about the origin of various foods and the observation of many family food traditions were easy to digest.

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In Math, we are counting forward to 50, counting backward from 15, and reading numbers in the teens. The students are gaining a stronger understanding of the concept of greater and less. And, we are generating, continuing, and copying patterns.

Kindergarteners in **Mrs. Bowlin's** and **Mrs. Massell's** classes prepared for the holidays by decorating gingerbread houses. In addition to these traditional tasty abodes, kindergarteners in other classes decorated gingerbread people. Children in Mrs. Massell's class enjoyed some **Winter Fun Day** activities with their third-grade buddies in **Mrs. Gabrys's** class. In November, buddies in Mrs. Bowlin's kindergarten class and

Mr. West's fifth-grade class performed a Thanksgiving play together.

The kindergarten teachers and students were thrilled with a great turnout for **American Education Week**. And, thanks to everyone for coming in for parent-teacher conferences.

It is hard to believe that the New Year is upon us! We appreciated meeting with parents in

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December at our report card conferences. It was a great pleasure to share your child's progress with you. December brought us to our third unit in Communication Arts. What a great time of year to celebrate this unit's themes: *Being Friends, Kids Around the World, Our Families* and *Family Time*. Skills for this unit center on: making predictions; comparing and contrasting; and identifying the main idea, along with supporting details. The students in first grade enjoyed sharing holiday stories from around the world, as well as family traditions. Our Math lessons are all about **measurement**. We

practiced measuring last month, and what fun it was to measure using different body parts. We then began our annual number scrolls. First graders will get the chance to write their numbers up to 1000! We hope you all enjoyed the secret projects our children worked on last month. They were so excited about the holidays. With that said, the first-grade teachers hope every family enjoyed a safe, happy and healthy holiday season! We look forward to continued fun and success in 2012!

Second graders were super busy during the December!

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The students enjoyed our new theme in Reading, *Better Together*. All of the stories were about how things work better when we pull together. In Math, we've been exploring the many different ways we can add two-digit numbers. In addition, we are busy reviewing our basic facts.

During December, the students were busily involved with secret projects! They were so excited about the holidays. The second-grade teachers hope that everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday!

Our classes had a very busy month of December. We

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started off with report-card conferences. It was our pleasure to meet and discuss your children and how they are progressing in third grade. There is so much to look forward to as the school year progresses. Encourage your children to read and inspire their appreciation of literature by reading along with them. Promote dialogue about what they are reading; character, setting, and plot discussions are key to reading comprehension. If you take an interest, they will do the same! A solid fact base is necessary to success with Everyday Math. We do review in class, but please continue to this at home. Play games, do drills, or use websites. The more they practice basic math facts, the stronger they build their general understanding of math.

Mrs. Gabrys' class created holiday greetings for soldiers in Afghanistan. For Valentine's Day, we are sending packages with magazines. Feel free to send in your recycled magazine issues for the soldiers. Many of our classes are involved in service-learning initiatives and special projects.

We so enjoyed the book fair at Barnes and Noble. Thank you all for coming and supporting our school. It was a wonderful way to culminate the **Reading with the Stars** reading incentive. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous new year.



Fourth grade is moving quickly into the second marking

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period. We have been working on Theme 3, *Making a Difference*, in Language Arts. This theme challenges the students to identify and evaluate the author's purpose through great American stories, such as My Brother Martin. Students will also learn to compare and contrast, as well as summarize and use sequencing skills. Please send more pencils into school. It seems as though students have found their niche with writing fantastic collaborative fictional narratives. Look for our short story narrative that we will be working on this month.

Everyone has received the handout for the Social Studies project. We're looking forward to sharing them with our Copper Beech family in January. Be sure to visit the lobby on the top floor to see the wonderful display of early Pennsylvania history.

Currently we are working on *Healthy Living* by focusing on anti-tobacco messages and safety issues. When we finish with Health, we will be moving on to our next Science unit, *Electricity*. Students will continue to see the importance of documenting and making observations as well as investigating inquiries. Ask your child to bring their Science notebook home to keep you apprised of what we're doing in class.

Finally, we hope that everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season. May the New Year bring all of you peace and happiness.

The fifth grade has been very busy working in all aca-

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demic areas. No need to fret, though. An exciting **Peace Day** assembly had something for everyone, including songs, movies, and special guests and announcements.

In Math, Unit 4 moves us out of the world of *Geometry* into the realm of division, specifically investigations into long-division algorithms. We'll also be taking a focused look at the use of the remainder, a fun and useful exploration with several ramifications, especially for those who love to shop, but don't want to overspend.

Classes are busy learning and mastering some very important Communication Arts skills, such as: learning how to read independently; learning to understand content area text; and analyzing and interpreting literature. As for writing, a personal narrative along with a persuasive composition provided much to discuss, especially in the areas of revising and editing.

The fifth grade has been immersed in scientific experimentation. During December, classes were studying one of three areas: **Microworlds**; **Floating and Sinking**; and **Food Chemistry**. By the end of the year, each class will have delved into each of these domains. The scientific method is stressed, and the students love to work through interesting problems in order to see if their hypotheses are correct.

The Social Studies curriculum has given fifth graders the opportunity to study issues pertaining to **Exploration and Colonization**. We start with an encounter between two worlds — Europe and the Americas (students learn about the Columbian Exchange - the transmission of plants, animals, and diseases between the continents, and how it changed the world. We then move onto the story behind how Spanish Conquistadors conquered and claimed land, thereby building a Spanish empire. Finally, we learn how Spain, France, and England established colonies in North America.

When all is said and done, we're also hard at work on CB CARES behaviors, working cooperatively with everyone at Copper Beech, and making our school **'simply the best.'** Hope everyone had a great holiday season. Now, it's back to work in the new year!

The cold November rain gave way to a bitter December



blast. The chill led us mere mortals to snuggle up by the fire with a cup of cocoa to warm our souls; I suppose it could have been worse.

It does seem that with the end of 2011, my usual wit has taken a serious downturn. I cannot seem to find that usual charm or sarcasm present in past newsletter entries. But, alas, I must try.

Mathematically speaking, we've mastered fractions, decimals, and percentages (Math, Unit 4), which will serve us and our wait staff well during our next restaurant venture. And Jerry Seinfeld thought he needed to buy his dad a tip calculator ("It has other functions!").

Historically speaking, we've seen the best that Greece has to offer (Social Studies, Unit 2): gyro sandwiches, souvlaki, and spanakopita. Oh yes, I should mention the Parthenon, democracy, poetry, literature, architecture, and who could forget, the instant cinematic classic, "300."

Nutritionally speaking, we now know how to read nutrition labels. We also know the differences between trans fat and non-saturated fat, as well as complex and simple carbs. As for the Atkins craze, I think we're a little past that. How else are we supposed to get all the stored



energy we need — candy? (hmmm)

Literally speaking, we've mastered inferences, generalizations, and sequencing, so let's bring on the conclusions, authors' purposes, and summaries. And while you're at it, throw in a little Shakespeare, and perhaps even some Robert Frost or Homer. Yeah -- this reading stuff isn't so hard after all. Until next time, take care of yourselves and each other.

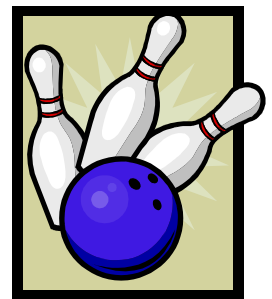


6th Grade Activities ... Spread the Word!

Your Attention Please! — The sixth-grade **\$50 activity fee** is now due. Please send it in ASAP! You can make checks payable to CB-PTA and note **Sixth-Grade Activity Fee** on the memo line.

Krista's Was KING! Our first BIG fundraiser, **Krista's Gourmet Favorite's**, was a BIG hit! Thank you to all who placed orders from the Krista's Gourmet Favorites Catalog. You helped us raise **\$2300.00** for CB's Class of 2012.

No Fun Was Spared at Bowling Social — The Sixth-Grade Bowling Social was held on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, and by all accounts, it was a HUGE success with an amazing turnout. Needless to say, fun was had by all!



A BIG thank you to **Cindy Kaminski, Karen Holden** and **Beth Whitney** for organizing this event. Thank you to all our chaperones and those who contributed treats for the kids to enjoy.

We want to extend a special thank you to **O'Neill's Food Market** for donating water bottles and to **Genuardi's** for donating a gift card to purchase the snack bags. The pretzels were paid for of our class funds/activity fee monies.



Kudos to You! Congratulations to **Georgia Wasekanes**, whose winning slogan, **"This is Our Moment, This is Our Year!"** will represent the class of 2012 for the remainder of this school year. Beautifully worded, Georgia!

Ralph's — **A Cut Above the Rest!** Thanks to **Ralph and Kristin Siani** for hosting this hair-cutting event during the month of November to benefit the sixth-grade class. Ralph's Barber Shop donated \$100

from this event. Thanks to those who got a new do, too!
Riviera Pizza Coupons — Look for flyers to come home the first Monday of each month to purchase your **Riviera**



Pizza Coupons. Coupons are \$12 each and good towards ANY order at Riviera Pizza in Roslyn. **\$4 from each coupon goes directly to the sixth grade.** This is an easy way to show your support for the sixth grade, while showing appreciation to a very generous local business! Any

questions about the Riviera Pizza Coupons, please contact **Susan Wasekanes** at 215-280-5096.

A Sure Seller! ... T-Slides are on sale at the Beech Shack! These colorful little plastic items are \$2 each and are available at the Beech Shack every week and/or by contacting **Susan Wasekanes** at 215-280-5096. They make great thank you and birthday gifts for our young ladies!

Looking Forward — Mark Your Calendars!

- ✓ **Sixth-Grade Snowball Dance** — Friday, Jan. 13th from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Edge Hill Fire Hall in North Hills
- ✓ **Sixth-Grade Talent Show** — Thursday, Jan. 26th at 7 p.m. at the CB Gymnasium
- ✓ **Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser** — Sunday, Feb. 26th from 8 to 11 a.m. at Applebee's in Jenkintown



Remember ... Your support this year will help to *strengthen* our efforts to have a successful and memorable final year for our children here at Copper Beech! We welcome and appreciate your involvement and your ideas — we welcome you!



—Your Sixth-Grade Coordinating Committee,
Natalie Corapi, ncorapi1223@gmail.com
Merri Rullo, merrirullo@gmail.com
Susan Wasekanes, s.wasekanes@gmail.com

A Note from the Desk of
 Our **New Assistant Principal** ...



We have enjoyed several exciting events in the past month. CB-TV is up and running, and our newscasters are doing a wonderful job bringing daily news to our school. **Literature Night at Barnes and Noble** was a huge success;



students, families, and teachers enjoyed “**Reading with the Stars.**” The Winter Concert showcased our students’ talents and filled Copper Beech with joyful music.

Now that the first marking period and our winter break are both in the past, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

— **Marie Salle Kim**
 Assistant Principal
 Copper Beech Elementary School

What the PTA Does for You...for Us!

For the month of November, final numbers show the profits from the Cherrydale Fundraiser, Fall Fest, Hoagie Night and the Book Fair came in higher than projected - Thanks to everyone that made that possible. Way to go! Our membership totals so far are a bit lower than expected, please consider joining. There is still time to send in your dues. Look for the membership form at the back of this issue.



—**Sally Sweeney**
 CB PTA Treasurer

The Library Report



Thank you to you all for joining us at our Reading With the Stars themed Barnes and Noble Book Fair. The event was a huge success, and we thank you for your support. Children, families and books – that’s our kind of fun!

We would like to thank the PTA for sponsoring the Nov. 23rd visit from author, **Dan Gutman**. He entertained the children with stories about his life as a writer, including some meaningful messages about never giving up and doing what you love.

We send special thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers and hope you all had the happiest of holidays. Hope you received and gave books as gifts – they are truly the gift that keeps on giving!

— **Happy Reading!**
Janet Boff and the Library Staff

Copper Beech Parent-Teacher Association
 “Making Every Child’s Potential a Reality!”

Cheers for Cherrydale Farms Fall Fundraiser ... How Sweet It Is!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Cherrydale Farms Fall Fundraiser. We raised over \$7,000.00, which will help to fund many important student programs and activities. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped sort and distribute merchandise on delivery day. The top seller was super salesman, **Nicholas Pointer**, in **Mrs. Seltzer's** first-grade class. Nicholas sold over \$500 worth of merchandise and received a Toys "R" Us gift card as a thank you from the PTA. Another shout-out goes to **Mr. West's fifth graders**, who were the top-selling class with more than \$900 in sales. Great job, everyone!



Saw something you liked in the Cherrydale Farms catalog, but didn't get your order in? You can still go online to order Cherrydale Farms' products at www.Cherrydale.com. Copper Beech earns 50% profit on all online orders through June 2011. Just be sure to enter our group code: **159571**. Orders over \$75 will be shipped directly to your home at no extra charge.

—Jen Ricciardi
Cherrydale Farms Coordinator

A Look Ahead at the Beech

January 16th — School is Closed
Remember...Service is KING!
January 19th — PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
January 20th — PTA Game Night, 7 p.m.
January 26th — Sixth-Grade Talent Show, 7 p.m.



Student Council Takes Action ...

STUDENT COUNCIL
Student Council is in full swing! A successful food drive was held in November, and we had many donations for our **Toys for Tots** campaign. Thank you for your support. We wish you all a great new year!



— Mrs. Seltzer & Mr. Slemmer
Faculty Coordinators



From Our Reading Specialists ...

The Family Storybook Treasury: Tales of Laughter, Curiosity, and Fun is an excellent book to share.

The book contains eight picture books and eight poems from children's literature. All are ideal for bedtime or read aloud sessions. The stories included are:

Curious George and the Firefighters
Lyle Walks the Dog
Martha Speaks
Sheep in a Jeep
Tacky the Penguin
The Great Doughnut Parade
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel



All the stories are read aloud on a CD. Also, there is the "meet the authors and illustrators" section.

(Source: www.bookpage.com)

The following recommendations are detailed in **Parenting** magazine for ways to enjoy books.

- ✓ **Resurrect the Read-Aloud.** Reading aloud is important. Reading aloud helps to build attention skills, vocabulary, and comprehension. Try to alternate pages or chapters with your child.
- ✓ **Take It on the Road.** Always carry a chapter book in your bag.
- ✓ **Be a Reading Buddy.** Try DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions, in which the whole family reads at the same time.

(Source: *Parenting magazine*)

— Your Reading Team

Nancy Goldstein, Maryellen Holst & Robin Watts



From the Nurse's Desk ...

Physical and Dental exams . . . It's that time of year to get physical and dental exams into the health room. The state requires physical exams for students in kindergarten, sixth, and eleventh grades. Dental exams are required in kindergarten, third, and seventh grades. Thank you to all who have turned them in already. Also the health room is in need of sweat pants in sizes 6 and 8. Please think of us as you clean out your closets at the start of a new year. Thank you!

—Holly Horner

Certified School Nurse
Copper Beech Elementary School

Copper Beech Parent-Teacher Association
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KIND Club – Caring for All Living Creatures

*KIND Club members love to speak up for animals in need. The turnout for Junior and Senior KIND Clubs has been fantastic. At our meetings, we learn about various issues that affect animals and how we can help. Members share ideas and form discussion groups. For our joint November meeting, we learned about wild turkeys and compared their lives and social behavior to that of their domestic counterparts who are raised on factory farms. We are sending letters to **Butterball** and **Shadybrook Farms** to request better treatment and living conditions for turkeys raised for food.*



A popular guest at both KIND Clubs' meetings was



Copper Beech's own famous rags-to-riches pooch-- **Charm**. Charm was adopted by speech teacher, **Sue Kelly Smith**, after having been found

half-starved roaming the streets of Camden. Ms. Smith has spent two years rehabilitating Charm and training him in several levels of obedience and agility work. Charm is the recipient of the **Canine Good Citizen Award**. Charm wowed the kids with his lovable personality, affection, intelligence, and well...charm!

In the next months, we will be forming committees to work on problems such as puppy mills, homeless animals, circuses, and marine life. A food collection for the Montgomery County SPCA will begin in January.

“Our task must be to free ourselves ... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.” — Albert Einstein

Mary Ryan
KIND Club Faculty Advisor



The Publishing Center Wants You!

Volunteers Needed ... Each year, every student in grades K-2 is given the opportunity to publish his/her own book. The



The Publishing Center Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of this project. Volunteers are needed to interview students, type stories, proofread, and bind books (among other things). Give as little or as much time as you like. You can work in the Publishing Center or do projects from home, whatever suits your schedule. We will have an organizational meeting in January.

Interested or have questions?

Contact **Andrea Judge** @ andreabjudge@gmail.com or **Melissa Keller** @ mellisakeller@verizon.net.

Thank you!



WANTED!!

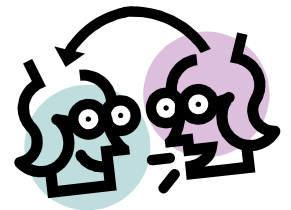
Used Printer Cartridges

Please donate your used printer cartridges to the Publishing Center. We get credit for them which we can use towards supplies to keep the Publishing Center running smoothly.

Please drop them off in the PTA office marked “Publishing Center.” It would be greatly appreciated!



Let's Hear It for Speech!



Topic — The Age Rule ... Here's a tip that kids and teachers like. How old is your child? Five years old? 7 or 8? Well, whatever the numerical number, that is the number of words (at least) that your child should use when answering questions and putting words in sentences. This rule encourages children to use complete sentences and helps them to use more adjectives and conjunctions in order to expand on their sentences. You can also listen to their grammar and speech sounds as they use their longer sentences.

— Mrs. Smith and Ms. Booth

Copper Beech Parent-Teacher Association
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✓ **Community Board** ✓

Check out these activities for you and your family.



TRY A NEW GAME, PERHAPS EVEN A BOARD GAME!

Board Games at Abington Free Library, every Thursday 6:30-7:30 p.m., starting in January; Fridays from 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Geared toward grades 6-12, adults are welcome! Scrabble, Dominoes, Chess, Checkers, Othello, and other board games. Meet new friends! Exercise your brain! Board games are always available! *Contact Linda Jones, YA Librarian, Information Desk, 215-885-5180, ext. 13.*

EXTINCT NO MORE!

Giant Mysterious Dinosaurs Exhibit from now through April 15, 2012 Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

If you think you know dinosaurs, think again! The world's largest and most unusual dinosaurs invade The Franklin Institute for a limited time. Giant Mysterious Dinosaurs provides an up-close look at GIGANTIC dinosaur skeletons and fossils from around the globe—many rarely seen in this country. View exotic skeletons, touch real fossils, see robotic dinos in action, and unearth your own discoveries in a hands-on dig pit. This brand-new exhibition is fascinating for all ages, and it is not to be missed. Marvel at the dinosaurs you never knew in Giant Mysterious Dinosaurs, only at The Franklin Institute!

LET'S GO SKATING...FOR FREE???

Ice Skate in Philadelphia! Now through March 5, 2011 Philadelphia

Did you know that the City of Philadelphia operates five ice skating rinks, which do not charge admission? And if you need skates, you can rent them there. Nice! All of the rinks offer

special programs such as skating lessons, ice hockey instruction and ice hockey leagues.

Laura Sims Skatehouse 200 S. 23rd St., Philadelphia 215-685-1995

Rizzo Ice Rink 1101 S. Front St., Philadelphia 215-685-1593

Scanlon Ice Rink 1099 East Tioga Street, Philadelphia 215-685-9853

Simons Ice Rink 7200 Wooldton Ave., Philadelphia 215-685-3551

Tarken Ice Rink 6250 Frontenac St., Philadelphia 215-685-1226

For more information visit: phila.gov/recreation/Ice_Rinks.html

ANOTHER FREEBIE, BUT A GOODIE!

Free Admission on Sundays 11a.m. Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts has free admission on Sundays. Enjoy free programs, live music, films and workshops. Plus there is a cafe on the premises. Caterers *Jimmy Duffly & Sons* serve breakfast breads, lunch, and afternoon snacks.

Contact: 215.972.7600

Address: Penna Academy of Fine Arts 118 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA www.pafa.org/

FAMILY 2-BALL COMPETITION

Mom or Dad, team up with your child and compete in the *ACEC Family 2-Ball* event. Teams of two alternate shots from designated spots for one minute trying to accumulate the most points. Parents compete in child age groups listed below.

Location: Ardsley Community Center

Age groups:

8-9, 10-11, 12-13 years old

Time: 7:00 pm

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012

Cost: \$5 per team

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Think Green this New Year! Please join the Environmental Advisory Council public meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Abington Township building.

For more information, contact the EAC at eac.abington@gmail.com or see its website: www.eac-abington.org. 215-663-8798

SCHOOL'S CLOSED BUT WORK IS ON – WHAT TO DO WITH THE KIDS???

Wonder what to do with your kids when school is closed but work is not? Bring them to Briar Bush for natural fun and learning. This program features mini-lessons with crafts, games and animal encounters, as well as time for free exploration and play.

MLK Day - Monday, Jan. 16th

President's Day - Friday, Feb. 17th

Children are grouped by age.

\$60 per child 9a.m. to 3p.m

Aftercare provided from 3-5pm at \$20 per family. For more information, visit www.briarbush.org.

COMPUTER CLASSES @ THE LIBRARY

The Abington Free Library offers a one-hour class, one-on-one with a volunteer computer aide, tailored to a person's need. The class could cover basic computer skills, the Internet, email or Microsoft Word or Excel. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or email askabington@gmail.com

HOME SHOW IN PHILLY

Philadelphia Home Show PA Convention Ctr., Phila., PA January 14 – 22, 2012 www.phillyhomeshow.com

This annual favorite, produced by Marketplace Events, is returning to Philadelphia and promises home and garden discounts, tips, trends and celebrity expert advice for attendees.

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