

Bulldog Barks

A Publication of the Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School PTO

September 2008

www.temspto.org

Volume 14, Issue 1

PTO Highlights

WOW! The new school year brings with it a record number of students and many new faces on the Middle School Team. The PTO would like to welcome all of the new and returning students, teachers and parents! We look forward to another year filled with exciting opportunities for all.

As always the start of a new school year is a very busy time and we would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make each event a success. Thanks to Gail McCarthy, Joan Colbert, and all of the people involved in making the back-to-school sale a great success. We appreciate the volunteers' hard work and the support of the families who made purchases; all of the proceeds support the PTO and the school. Thanks to the parents and students who helped stuff the first day packets (we put together over 970). Karen Consalo and all of her volunteers pulled off another wonderful and successful Ice Cream Social; the first big event of the year! A supply of healthy breakfast food was donated due to the enthusiastic support of many families. Thanks to everyone for their donations. Thanks also to Debbie Weger for pulling together all the volunteers who assisted in the Health Screenings and Picture Day. And, thanks to Kate Ferris and the dance chaperones for a fun and safe first dance.

Be sure to visit the PTO website (www.temspto.org). It is a great place to find all the important information concerning events, minutes, activities and general information about the PTO and school. Also included on the website is an electronic version of the "Bulldog Barks". We are encouraging everyone to "GO GREEN" and sign up to receive an email when Bulldog Barks is posted online for that month. If you are interested in receiving the email and no longer getting a paper copy of the newsletter contact Gretchen Guttman at tguttman@comcast.net. Due to privacy rules and electronic posting of the newsletter we will no longer be including the Student of the Month in the newsletter.

Spirit Wear is now available by order form (see form enclosed). Place your order by October 13th and they will be ready to be picked up by October 30th. Checks made payable to TEMS PTO.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Sept. 19	7th/8th Grade Welcome Back Dance	7:00 pm	
Sept. 25	Picture Day		
Oct. 1	PTO Meeting	9:00 am	Faculty Lounge
Oct. 2	5th and 6th Grade Curriculum Night	7:00 pm	
Oct. 6	6th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee	1:45 pm	
Oct. 7	7th and 8th Grade Curriculum Night	7:00 pm	
Oct. 10	5th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee	1:45 pm	
Oct. 18	Super Saturday	All Day	CHS Fields
(Friendly competition of the 7 th and 8 th grade teams between TEMS and VFMS)			
Oct. 21	7th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee	10:30 am	
Oct. 23	8th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee	9:00 am	
Oct. 24	5th/6th Grade Fall Mixer	3:00 pm	

We had a very successful first PTO meeting on Wed., Sept. 3rd; thank you to all who attended. It was great to see so many new faces. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved; we have several Chair positions open and we can always use helpers. Two vital chair positions remain open: **Lives Well Lived and the Parent Social. Without Chair People these events will have to be canceled.** If anyone is interested in filling the Lives Well Lived position one of our past Chairs, Rita Borzillo, is willing to offer her knowledge, advice and support throughout the project. Please fill out the volunteer form in your first day packet or download it off the website and return it to the main office once completed. We welcome new faces and new ideas to join our strong and enthusiastic group of involved parents.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many activities coming soon and hopefully at the next PTO meeting on Wed., Oct. 1st at 9:00 am in the Faculty Lounge.

PTO Executive Committee:

Gretchen Guttman, Karen Consalo, Ayuko Siegel, Jean Purinton and Rita Borzillo

TEMS PTO Meeting Minutes



The first PTO meeting of the 2008/2009 school year was called to order at 7:00 pm on September 3, 2008 by President Gretchen Guttman.

Present at the meeting were: Anne Marcelli, Sherri Gardner, Palerante & Satish, Cheri Paolisso; Gail McCarthy; Jesink Wang, Marybeth Panaro, Tom Concannon, Karen Consalo, Ayuko Siegel, Jean Purinton.

The meeting began with a Welcome to all attendees with introductions.

TEMS Administration Reports:

Principal Mark Cataldi welcomed everyone back for a new and exciting school year.

TEMS welcomed 982 students yesterday. There were 50 new students this year.

In Grade 5 there were 13 new students total 245 students

In Grade 6 there were 12 new students total 264 students

In Grade 7 there were 17 new students total 239 students

In Grade 8 there were 8 new students total 234 students

The first day of school was more of an orientation for 5th graders; buses are being tracked for arrival times in morning and departure times in the afternoon; school gives feedback to the administration on a daily basis as to transportation issues– Today the bus transportation was improved.

Renovations – Mark offered to give a tour of the renovations to all parents at the meeting; all music rooms renovations have been completed; 2 laptop carts are in place; the old computer lab is a new classroom; a smaller room was renovated and enlarged for additional class space. Additional renovations are in progress and we are looking at a December 9 deadline.

There was a water issue discovered early this am – we were in touch with water company and we were limited in the water we were allowed to use – all is fine now.

Jacqui Hickey is the representative for Olwewus Bullying Program; program began last year; class meetings will begin in October and will be run every other week; there is a Parent Info meeting on 10/30 at 7 pm; additional information will be sent out on the program.

Clubs & Activities – the list will be on the web site and on the weekly bulletin (bulletin can be accessed on the web site).

Sports program for 7 & 8th grades – all paperwork must be completed before students can participate; can get forms off website; there will be additional announcements about meetings; please check the hotline daily for any weather changes; By next week, there will be some after school activity.

Music – if signed up for any of the music programs; we will confirm initial participation and also give time for additional students to sign up.

Pinnacle Internet Viewer – will be accessible for all parents to view from grade 5-12; parents will be receiving a letter on how to access; can look at grades on a daily basis.

Smart Board installations – we have been able to schedule a date for October 9 for installation.

Assistant Principal Michele Capuano discussed the standardized testing schedule for the school year. Please refer to the PTO web page for the testing schedule. ERBs will be administered in October; PSSAs will be administered in February, March & April; we have exceeded AYP for PSSAs this year.

PTO Minutes cont'd

Treasurer's Report:

Cash balance as of August 31, 2008 is as follows:

Savings account	\$8,902.21
LWL Account	\$4,993.14
Checking Account	\$1,114.76
Checking New	\$1,754.32

2007-2008 Final Numbers

Income	\$41,719.92
Expenses	\$42,484.59

We had a very good year with our fundraisers and were able to give \$23,847.46 to the school for Smart Boards, this caused us to go slightly over budget.

New Forms/Chairperson to sign off expense

Forms will be in the PTO mailbox in the school office; chairperson has to sign off on the expense request.

New Forms are: Event Reconciliation Form; Cash Box/Funds Received

Back to School Sale and Spirit Wear Profit

Very busy; business was good; total sales for the store \$6,840.59; Spirit Wear sales were \$1,896.90; we are selling additional spirit wear this year through an order program – there is an order form (to be included in the Bulldog Barks) – parents can order up to 10/13/08 and can pick up orders in the School store on October 30; looking to do this 3 times a year.

School/Community Related Topics:

Cultural Arts – has been in transition; December 5 – all school assembly -*Apollo to the Moon* – artist Kevin Reese; we are discussing specific grade level programs.

LWL – Still need a **Chairperson!!!** If we do not get one – we will not have it this year!!! It would be a shame to lose this excellent program.

New Family Welcome – was very successful; we are looking for someone to chair this program for the remainder of the year.

Newsletter – editor is Suzanne Fanelle (ssfanelle@verizon.net); Deadline is the first Wednesday of the month; it goes to print the following Monday and pickup is Thursday. As was in the first Day packets, we are looking to “Go Green” with the newsletter and having it sent to you via a link; if you are interested, please contact Gretchen Guttman at tguttman@comcast.net; the newsletter will no longer include the Student of the Month section.

Directory – orders are being taken; please get orders in asap.

Dance Chaperones – September 19 is the first dance for 7 & 8th graders. Kate Ferris will coordinate the chaperones. Please let her know if you wish to chaperone.

Fundraising Events:

The Ice-Cream Social/Break Walk is scheduled for September 12; Karen Consalo- is chairing and looking for volunteers. It is a fun evening and includes a Break Walk (cake walk with healthy breakfast foods). Looking for donations for the “walk.”

School Store – open every day from 11- 1; gym uniforms sold in the school store.

Book Fair – we are using Scholastic Books this year; Book Fair is scheduled for the second week of November in the auxiliary gym; November 7 is the set-up.

Parent Social – February 7, 2009; last year was very successful; we are still looking for

A CHAIRPERSON!!!

PTO Minutes cont'd

Super Saturday – October 18; Kate McCanney is the chair; we still need volunteers. The day is TEMS versus VFMS for all 7th & 8th grade sports except for unlimited weight class football who play Great Valley. It is a fun event for all our students and a great easy fundraiser for us.

ESCRIP – please sign up; a very easy way to raise money for the PTO.

Acme receipts – made more money this past year; please drop receipts off at the TEMS office. Another very easy way to make money for the PTO.

Playdrome – No outcome from Playdrome flyers sent out last year.

Handels – Possible future fundraiser.

Rep Reports:

BUILD – Picnic on September 20 from 12-4 at Wilson Park.

School Board – we need a representative to attend meetings and report to the PTO.

ISC –there has not be a meeting yet; will get a report at our next PTO meeting

ARCH – information went home on the New Family packets; can also go to ARCH website.

General PTO Business

Our website is up and running (temspto.org); please visit for information.

Open Issue Discussion

Dental Clinic – annual fundraiser is the Yankee Candle sale; will be sent home via your child; please look for forms and help support this program.

Devon Dental has requested to contribute an ad for our directory; we will take this under advisement and look to having contributors for the directory to help defray costs for next year.

Family Feud – looking to have “fun-raiser” in November; we will incorporate the information/names we acquired last year; will invite last year’s 8th grade class to participate. Need to send questions to the current 5th grade class.

The next meeting is on October 1, 2008 at 9:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



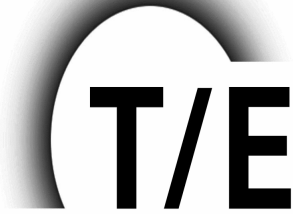
HELP THE TEMS PTO GO GREEN
GET YOUR BULLDOG BARKS ONLINE



Each month we will send you a direct link to the current month’s Bulldog Barks located on the TEMS PTO Website.

<http://temspto.org>

**If you are interested please contact
Gretchen Guttman at tguttman@comcast.net
or 610-725-9391.**



Inspiring the Future

September 2008

Welcome back! I hope that the summer break has provided many opportunities to relax, have fun, and recharge. We are excited to start the 2008-09 school year with your children.

The summer was very busy at TEMS. The renovation and construction projects have progressed very nicely and have received many compliments. Renovations to the music rooms and rooms 10, 113, and 233 are complete. The construction of three new seminar rooms in the large courtyard area is scheduled to be ready in mid-December.

We welcomed fifty new students to the school, and our enrollment has grown to 982. While the enrollment number may sound high, we continue to maintain a strong sense of community by working together to meet individual student needs. A positive partnership with parents will help us achieve the goal of providing the best educational and developmental experience for our students. Success is earned through our collaborative efforts.

As always, the main office, custodial, and maintenance staffs have done an exceptional job getting us ready to meet the students in September. Please join me in thanking them for all of their hard work.

We were able to hire first-rate new staff members, who come to TEMS from other buildings in the district, some from neighboring communities, and some from different states. I'm happy to introduce the following new staff members to TEMS:

- ✦ **Erica Tucker** rejoins us and will teach English and Social Studies on Team 6B.
- ✦ After experience in a charter school, **Heather Malseed** becomes a member Team 6C and will teach English and Social Studies.
- ✦ **Charlie Erwin** comes to us from Conestoga High School, with previous middle school experience and will teach 7th grade English and Social Studies.
- ✦ **Mary Nagle** worked at St. Katharine of Siena School and will serve in the role of Reading Specialist.
- ✦ **Anne McCarthy** and **Michelle Efthimiadou** join us as Special Education teachers. Both taught at Conestoga previously.
- ✦ **Esther Chi** has worked with many of our students in the past and will perform her responsibilities as a Special Education teacher.
- ✦ **Billy Hill** comes to us from the elementary schools in the district and will teach 6th grade Health and 5th grade Physical Education.
- ✦ **Robin Keevan** brings her positive energy to the teaching of Health and Physical Education.
- ✦ After several years of experience in a private school, **Patrick Gately** will be splitting his time between TEMS and VFMS as a Gifted Support teacher.
- ✦ **Kindra Kearney's** many talents will be utilized in teaching two sections of 7th grade English and serving as a Gifted Support teacher.

Kathleen Bruce will compliment our language program by teaching two sections of French.

I look forward to another great year of working together.

Sincerely,

Mark Cataldi
Principal

Introducing the *T/e-Bulletin Board*

What is the *T/e-Bulletin Board*?

Beginning in September 2008, the T/E School District will begin posting approved fliers from non-profit organizations of interest to T/E parents and students on an electronic bulletin board called the *T/e-Bulletin Board*.

The *T/e-Bulletin Board* will replace paper fliers previously included school newsletters or sent home with students. To help with the transition from paper fliers to electronic fliers, the T/E School District will continue including approved fliers in school newsletters through December 31, 2008. As of January 1, 2009, all approved fliers will be posted on the *T/e-Bulletin Board* instead of being sent to schools for inclusion in newsletters.

At their discretion, school newsletter editors and/or school principals may include announcements from the *T/e-Bulletin Board* in school newsletters. Newsletter editors and school personnel are encouraged to check the *T/e-Bulletin Board* and, if a paper announcement is desired, include an abbreviated version rather than a full flier.

What about PTO or School District sponsored events or announcements?

Information from School District groups and PTOs will be forwarded as usual to the schools for inclusion in newsletters as space permits. School District groups and PTOs may request that their fliers be posted on the *T/e-Bulletin Board* in lieu of or in addition to newsletters.

How will the *T/e-Bulletin Board* work?

A link to the electronic bulletin board is available on the right side of the T/E School District home page at www.tesd.net. Approved fliers will be updated twice a month on or about the 10th and 25th.

Why are we moving to an electronic bulletin board?

There are a number of reasons why the District has decided that it is in our best interest to move to an electronic form of communication for outside groups' events. Following the practice of many public organizations, the use of an electronic bulletin board to communicate with students and parents will not only preserve natural resources and reduce costs, but it will enable us to advertise more efficiently by having all fliers in one central location.

How will the *T/e-Bulletin Board* be advertised?

The new electronic bulletin board will be advertised through existing community newsletters, school newsletters, the District TV station, the District web site, email blasts, PTO meetings, school curriculum nights in the fall and press releases. In addition, there will be a permanent reference to the *T/e-Bulletin Board* in school newsletters.

What if community groups prefer that we distribute paper fliers?

T/E wants to continue to be a positive community partner by creating and maintaining the new *T/e-Bulletin Board*. The School Board Public Information Committee has determined that distributing fliers or copying fliers in newsletters is not the best use of staff time, paper and copier resources. The District hopes that community groups will understand the need to reduce costs, advertise more efficiently and preserve resources.

What about families who may not have home internet access?

In this region, home internet access is very prevalent. For those who do not have home internet access, local public libraries offer free internet access. Plus, school newsletter editors and school principals may choose to include abbreviated announcements of fliers from the *T/e-Bulletin Board* in their school newsletters. School personnel may choose to post printed copies of fliers from the *T/e-Bulletin Board* on school bulletin boards or in a binder in the school's main office or lobby if they feel that their school community would benefit from additional options.

How can a non-profit organization submit a flier?

Non-profit organizations may visit the *T/e-Bulletin Board* at www.tesd.net to obtain a copy of the guidelines for submitting a flier. Fliers should be emailed to Chris Connolly Bakker, Public Information Specialist, at connollyc@tesd.net.

We Need Your Help

T.E.M.S. Volunteer Form For 2008-2009

(Volunteer for as many positions as you like)

Please Print

Name: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Circle all grades you have a student in: **5 6 7 8**

FUNDRAISING /EVENTS

	chair	*F - Full	helper (many needed)
Back to School Sale	_ F _		_____
Book Fair	_ F _		_____
Book Fair (Summer Reading in June)	_ F _		_____
Baker for different events	_ N/A _		_____
Bowling Fundraiser	_ F _		_____
Break Walk (Ice Cream Social)	_____		_____
Grocery Tape Collection	_ F _		_____
Gym Uniforms (Back to School Sale)	_ F _		_____
Ice Cream Social	_____		_____
Parent Social	_____		_____
School Store	_ F _		_____
Spirit Sale (at Back to School Sale and other major events)	_ F _		_____
Student Directory	_ F _		_____
Super Saturday	_ F _		_____

SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES

Artwork Displays	_____		_____
Cultural Arts Committee	_ F _		_____
Dance Chaperone	_ F _		_____
First Day Packets	_ F _		_____
General Volunteer	_ N/A _		_____
Health Screening	_ F _		_____
Hospitality	_ F _		_____
Library Volunteer	_ N/A _		_____
Lives Well Lived	_____		_____
New Family Welcoming Committee	_ F _		_____
Newsletter Editor	_ F _		_____
Newsletter Mailing	_ F _		_____
Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling	_ F _		_____
Picture Day	_ F _		_____
Spring Picnic	_ F _		_____
8 th Grade Recognition	_____		_____
Volunteer Coordinator	_ F _		_____
Website Coordinator	_ F _		_____

DISTRICT/COMMUNITY RELATED

ARCH	_ F _		_____
BUILD	_ F _		_____
(ISC) Inter School Council	_ F _		_____
School Board Rep.	_____		_____
TEMPO Representative	_ F _		_____

**Any questions contact Volunteer Coordinator – Cheryl Ferraioli at 610
-648-0223 or c.ferraioli@comcast.net
Please return this form to TEMS.**

PTO Events In Chronological Order

August

Back-to-School Sale: A three-day event held in the school store selling back-to-school supplies; needs several volunteers per day from 10 to 1.

Gym Uniform Sale: Selling gym uniforms for students at the same time as the back-to-school sale.

First Day Packet: Help with stuffing of first day packets to students.

September

Student Directory: Organize and compile information from students and help with distribution after printed.

Health Screening: A few hours' help in the nurse's office the first week of school.

Ice Cream Social/Break Walk: One-evening event held first week of school; serve ice cream sundaes and help with breakwalk. Needs several volunteers.

Picture Day: A few hours' help for one day.

Volunteer Coordinator: Organize and coordinate volunteer forms and submit lists to each committee chair.

October

Parent-Teacher Conference Scheduling: Answer phones for several hours to help schedule parent/teacher conferences.

Super Saturday: One day sporting competition with Valley Forge Middle School – needs many volunteers.

Book Fair: Weeklong book fair; help with ordering and setting-up books to sell to students, parents, faculty and friends. Many volunteers needed.

February/March

Bowling Fundraiser: Organize or help at a one afternoon kids bowling event.

Parent Social: Help organize fun evening parent social.

April/May

Lives Well Lived: A value-oriented theme week on four rotating cycle themes. Involves getting speakers and working on curriculum packets for the students. Needs many volunteers on the actual day. Regular planning meetings held throughout the year.

June

Eighth Grade Recognition: Help organize the end of the year ceremony for the 8th grade class. Planning begins in April.

Spring Picnic: Help serve TEMS students during their one-day cookout.

Summer Reading Book Day – Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Book Day

Ongoing Events

ARCH: School Liaison – Represent PTO at monthly meetings with community members working toward elimination of alcohol and drug use by T/E youth (ARCHcares.org)

Artwork Displays: Assist Art teachers in putting up displays of students work.

Beautification Committee: Improve the visual impact and atmosphere of the school.

BUILD: Represent the PTO at monthly meetings involving all the schools in the district. Report information at the PTO mtgs.

Cultural Arts Committee: Provide assistance for the Cultural Arts program performers.

Dance Chaperones: Chaperone 7th and 8th grade dances; several needed each dance.

General Volunteers: Will be called to assist with tasks as needed.

Grocery Tapes/ESCRIP: Collect, total and submit Acme receipts for cash rebate from store; advertise Genuardi ESCRIP program.

Hospitality: Provide refreshments for various events throughout the school year.

ISC Representative: Attend monthly Interschool Council meetings and report to the PTO.

Library Volunteers: Assist in Media Center cataloguing, shelving and checking out books.

New Family Greeters: Welcome and orient new families to TEMS.

Newsletter Editor: Collect and edit articles and layout newsletter for distribution once a month. Uses publisher.

Newsletter Mailing: Coordinate folding of and affixing address labels to monthly newsletter.

School Board Representative: Attend monthly School Board meetings and report to PTO.

School Store: Sell supplies at the school store. Staffed Monday through Friday from 11 to 1.

Spirit Sale: Order and coordinate the sale of school logo T-shirts and sweatshirts at all major school functions.

TEMPO Representative: Attend meetings of the T/E Music Parents organization.

Website Coordinator: Input information into the PTO website monthly (Blog input using wordpress)

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The 5th grade teachers at TEMS would like to welcome you to another great school year! We are excited to see our new fifth graders begin their time here at TE.

In science, students are currently exploring the scientific method and are beginning their study of plants. They will work in groups to plan and set up plant experiments involving experimental variables such as fertilizer, light, spacing, water, temperature, and pollination.

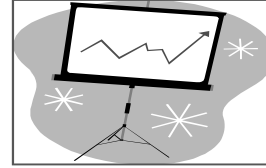
In reading, students are sharing what they read over the summer and beginning studies of vocabulary and various works of literature.

Students are studying maps and globes in social studies and preparing for their study of ancient civilizations.

Math students are working to analyze data in their unit on statistics and graph-making.

English students are beginning their study of the writing process and parts of speech.

We look forward to a great year in 5th grade!



SIXTH GRADE NEWS



Welcome to the Sixth Grade! We all look forward to a happy, healthy, successful school year and hope to see you at Curriculum Night, October 2. .

Reading

We are going to begin the year with a review of, making inferences, an important reading strategy. As students progress in school, this skill becomes increasingly important in all subjects. This will be one of our focal points for the year. Following this unit, we will be reading material emphasizing the theme of survival.

English

Writing is the main focus in the sixth grade English curriculum throughout the year. Students will begin with a brief review of the writing process, mechanics of writing, and sentence structure. These skills will be applied in the writing of our first composition, a personal memoir.

Social Studies

The focus for sixth grade Social Studies will be world geography. Students will begin the year actively using maps and atlases. Pupils will learn map skills such as scale, types of maps, and map projections. Students will become familiar with using an index and a coordinate system to locate specific places on a map. In class, we will also learn to interpret graphs and tables used in atlases. The five themes of geography, movement, place, human and environment interact, location, and region, will be introduced and then integrated throughout the year.

Science

Science will begin with a mini-unit review of the scientific method. We will review the six steps of the process and practice proper lab techniques. Be sure to ask your student what Pretty Red Heads Eat Animal Crackers refers to. October will see us begin our first major unit: Earth's Water.

Math

On grade level students will begin the school year with mathematical problem solving. Students will develop and discuss the steps necessary to solve a problem. Various problem-solving strategies, such as looking for a pattern, working backwards, solving a simpler problem, and making a list, will be discussed and implemented. Students will work on solving problems in small groups and individually. Students will also learn to explain their answers and their strategies using complete sentences.

Please remember that students will be held accountable for material covered in previous math classes. Pupils are expected to know basic math facts, addition and subtraction of three and four digit numbers, as well as long division and multiplication. Students will have a quick review of these topics in the beginning of the year, yet they will be expected to successfully perform these operations throughout the year.

Above level students will also begin the school year with mathematical problem solving. Students will develop and discuss the steps necessary to solve a problem. Various problem solving strategies, such as looking for a pattern, working backwards, solving a simpler problem, and making a list will be discussed and implemented. Students will work on solving problems in small groups and individually. Pupils will also learn to explain their answers and their strategies using complete sentences

After problem solving, above level classes will begin the Pre-algebra unit. In this unit topics such as formulas, variables and solving equations will be covered. Please remember that students will be held accountable for material covered in previous math classes. Pupils are expected to know basic math facts, addition and subtraction of three and four digit numbers, as well as long division and multiplication. Students will have a quick review of these topics in the beginning of the year, yet they will be expected to successfully perform these operations throughout the year.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

The seventh grade core team of teachers welcomes the students and parents to the seventh grade school year. We look forward to seeing parents at Curriculum Night on Tuesday, October 7th.

This will be an exciting and challenging year. To get off to a good start the core teachers strongly urge daily recording of all assignments in the assignment book. The daily record keeping will help students stay current. This will also help you check to see what your student is doing in school. The core teachers will be checking assignment books from time to time to see that the assignment book is being used. Another study suggestion would be to keep a calendar in the student study area at home so dates for long-term assignments can be marked and noted.

If during the course of the school year a student needs additional help with class assignments, the core teachers offer help:

1. by appointment – before school
2. Activity Period – 11:20-11:40 – Mon. – Thur.

Classroom News –

English classes will begin the year focusing on short stories. Students will explore various literary elements such as plot structure, character development and setting. The unit will culminate in a short story written by each student incorporating these literary elements. In addition, students will be assigned the first independent reading assignment of the year. Students must complete this book before the end of the marking period. The first book report allows free choice of book, however, the book choice is to be approved by the classroom teacher. The report is due before the end of the marking period.

Math 7 classes will begin with probability and statistics. Pre-Algebra classes will start on operations with integers and solving one step equations. Algebra 1 classes will discuss the complex number system, solving linear equations, and inequalities. Seventh grade Integrated Science will be a laboratory oriented experience. We will begin the year with “Basic Skills” studying observational techniques and the scientific method through hands-on activities. The team will then move into the main theme of “Diversity of Life” for the duration of the first marking period. Major emphasis will be placed on macro-invertebrate classification and environmental studies.

The key to success in science is twofold: budgeting 20-30 minutes daily (outside of school) to review/study concepts pertinent to that day, as well as homework, completion. We strongly encourage parents/guardians to look at your child’s science notebook to gain insight about their classroom learning. We are anticipating a challenging and fun year in science. Social Studies classes will begin with a review of the subject entitled, “What is History?” and discuss several areas which contribute to our understanding of early exploration and settlement. Included in our study will be the quest by early settlers for religious tolerance and the economic factors which were also a driving force behind these efforts. After a brief review of the discovery of the Americas, students will learn about the early American settlements of Plymouth and Jamestown.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Welcome to the eighth grade! We look forward to a challenging and rewarding year!

Eighth grade **science** classes will start the year with a review of scientific methods, tools and lab behavior. Students will compare and contrast science with technology and identify characteristics of science as a discipline. The first unit of study focuses on weather and uses the Prentice Hall Science Explorer book, Weather and Climate. Students can enhance their homework experience via the new online Sci-links interactive resources. The weather and climate unit will include a variety of labs, hands on activities, opportunities to use the Riverside Scientific interactive weather program, individual observations and reflections, and extrapolation of key weather concepts to larger global weather patterns.

The study of **American history** this year begins with an examination of the Constitution and the ideas, philosophers, and documents which contributed to its creation: Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, John Locke, Montesquieu, and James Madison. In October, the 8th grade class will visit The Constitution Center and other famous Philadelphia landmarks. Information on this field trip will be sent home soon.

English- Students are analyzing short stories and determining

how they utilize plot structure, characterization, dialogue, irony, and conflict. By the end of this unit all students will compose an original short story incorporating these techniques. Journal writing, book reports, and vocabulary/spelling (including the study of Latin and Greek root words) are ongoing activities for the entire year.

Math:

Pre-Algebra and. Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1A

The year commences in all pre-algebra classes with the study of statistics and probability. Students will learn to create and interpret various data displays and explore simple probability, permutations and more.

Algebra- Students are reinforcing algebraic concepts and preparing to learn equations and how to apply them to word problems.

Geometry- Students are beginning with a study of basic concepts (point, line, plane) as well as some important theorems to be applied throughout the course. Deductive reasoning is the next unit of study.





Announcing the 2008-2009 VALLEY FORGE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Open to all boys in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades

Season runs from early November through February

Games played Saturday afternoon at VFMS

To obtain application go to www.valleyforgebb.com or email request to fademb@comcast.net

Registration open until October 15th

Disc Golf Instruction

On the last Saturday of each month, 9-11 AM, the "Friends of Wilson Disc Golf" will be offering classes on how to play disc golf at the Wilson Park 4-Hole disc golf course. All ages are welcome, and instruction will be geared to age and experience. We'll cover the rules and basic throws, including drives, approaches, and putts, and have plenty of time for course practice. Disc Golf is a great family sport, for kids of all ages. It teaches hand-eye coordination, the importance of patience and accuracy, "friendly competition" and can be played and enjoyed by anyone that can throw a Frisbee.

Pre-registration is necessary. Participants must bring a disc, or purchase an official disc golf disc (with a custom Tredyffrin Township logo) for \$10 at the class. To register, send an email to info@wilsondiscgolf.org, or call Dave at 484-557-5574. Space is limited, so please register soon! For more information about the course, classes, directions, and maps, visit www.wilsondiscgolf.org <<http://www.wilsondiscgolf.org/>> .

Regular School Board Meetings to be held at Conestoga High School

Beginning with the September 22nd meeting, all regular school board meetings will be held in the Conestoga High School cafeteria unless otherwise indicated. Click here for a list of all regular school board meeting dates: <http://www.tesd.net/schoolbd/meetings.html>

Also, just a quick reminder that you no longer need to send multiple copies of your school newsletter to Candy. She just needs one copy – preferably electronic and she will send it electronically to school board members and me.



Thanks,
Chris

"The Gathering" OF T.E. Special Needs Families

Sponsored by B.U.I.L.D.

Saturday September 20, 2008

12 pm- 4 pm

Wilson Farm Park

(The All Abilities Playground)

*Please come and meet other pre-school,
elementary and middle school families
while the children play.*

Entertainment, Games & Fun!

There will be food and beverages.

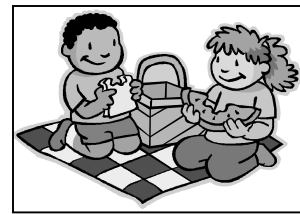
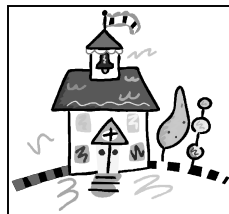
We also invite you to bring something to share.

We need a head count so

Please R.S.V.P. to:

Maureen McGirr 610.687.1096 or maureen_mcgirr@merck.com

Please let other families know about the event.



Diversity Committee Meeting Date Change

The first Diversity Committee meeting of the year will be held on October 21, 2008. This is a change from the originally scheduled meeting date of October 14, 2008. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in meeting room 200 of the T/E School District Administration Offices.

Also, the School Board Public Info Committee has asked that we include a permanent reference to the new T/e-Bulletin Board in all school newsletters. Feel free to format the information as you wish.

Visit the T/e-Bulletin Board at www.tesd.net!

The electronic bulletin board contains information on community non-profit activities and events of interest to T/E parents and students. Examples of groups advertised on the electronic bulletin board are sports organizations, townships, libraries, art centers, community recreation centers, cultural education organizations, charitable organizations and many more. Information is updated twice a month – so check back often!

T & E Care Fundraiser

**October 25, 2008 at 7:00pm
Waynesborough Country Club
Creative attire with a Halloween flair**

Join us for a fun evening of great food, silent auction items and dancing to the DRF Band to help raise money for **T&E Care's Holiday Wish List!**
For information on event and organization go to www.tecare.org

If you would like to donate items or services please contact:
Rita Seltzer at rita55@comcast.net.
Recycled new items are welcome!



**Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School
801 Conestoga Road
Berwyn, Pennsylvania**

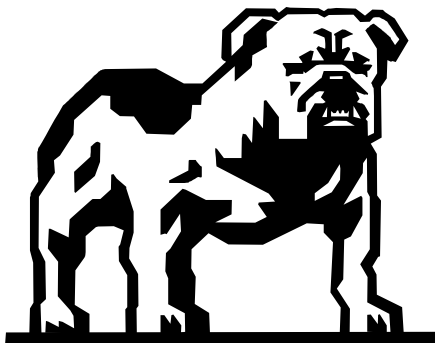
Non-Profit Organization

**US POSTAGE PAID
Paoli, PA 19301
Permit No. 24**

DATED MATERIAL

Coming Events:

9/19	<i>7th/8th Grade Welcome Back Dance</i>	7:00 pm
9/25	PICTURE DAY	
10/1	<i>PTO Meeting Faculty Lounge</i>	9:00 am
10/2	<i>5th and 6th Grade Curriculum Night</i>	7:00 pm
10/6	<i>6th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	1:45 pm
10/7	<i>7th and 8th Grade Curriculum Night</i>	7:00 pm
10/10	<i>5th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	1:45 pm
10/18	<i>Super Saturday CHS Fields</i>	All Day
10/21	<i>7th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	10:30 am
10/23	<i>8th Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	9:00 am
10/24	<i>5th/6th Grade Fall Mixer</i>	3:00 pm



**T/E MIDDLE SCHOOL
PICTURE DAY:
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**

