

# Bulldog Barks

A Publication of the Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School PTO

October 2008

[www.temspto.org](http://www.temspto.org)

Volume 14, Issue 2

## PTO Highlights

As it becomes cooler outside and we settle into our routines of school life, homework, sports and other activities remember to take the time to enjoy the changes of this beautiful fall weather. Progress reports have been distributed and we move on to finish the first marking period. The PTO appreciates all of the volunteer sheets filled out and returned by so many parents, especially when time is a rare commodity.

A big thank you is extended to Jenny Au and her helpers for refreshing snacks and a beautiful arrangement on curriculum night. We would also like to thank Beth Coppola and Tish Lanahan for putting together the directory; Cathy Misialek and the women who organize and mail the newsletter each month. A job made more difficult by the post office ban on staples. And thank you, Suzanne Fanelle, for agreeing to be the newsletter editor again this year. Our annual **Book Fair** is coming up in November, just in time for the holidays. Join us in shopping for a special holiday gift, teacher gifts or that next great read for the cool weather ahead. We will have extended hours on Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> to coincide with our New Funraiser the **Student/Faculty Feud**. This is a contest between grade level students and teachers following the format of the game show Family Feud. For more information and hours of both events check out our website.

Be sure to visit the PTO website ([www.temspto.org](http://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 the Bulldog Barks is posted online for that month. So far we have had approximately 65 family's sign up, saving over 580 pieces of paper (over 1 ream). Imagine how much we could save if everyone signed up. 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](mailto: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.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Super Saturday</b> (Friendly competition of the 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade teams between TEMS and VFMS)	All Day	CHS Fields
<b>Oct. 21</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</b>	10:30 am	Cafeteria
<b>Oct. 23</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee</b>	9:00 am	Cafeteria
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Mixer</b>	3:00 pm	TEMS
<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>"A Potpourri of Opera" 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> (Cultural Arts Assembly)		TEMS
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>PTO Meeting</b>	9:00 am	Faculty Lounge
<b>Nov 10</b>	<b>The Resilient Family by Karen Reivich, Ph.D</b> (Brought to you by ARCH)	7:00 pm	VFMS
<b>Nov. 10-14</b>	<b>Book Fair</b> (See the PTO Website for hours)		Adaptive Gym
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>Student/Faculty Feud</b>	3:15 pm	Auditorium

We are still looking for someone to chair **Lives Well Lived**. **Without a Chair Person this event 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. If you are interested please contact Gretchen Guttman at [tguttman@comcast.net](mailto:tguttman@comcast.net). We also need a **School Board representative** and a **New Families Chair**, someone to touch base with the new families moving into the district during the year. If you are interested in these positions or helping out in other ways 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 October PTO meeting of the 2008/2009 school year was called to order at 9:00 am on October 1, 2008 by President Gretchen Guttman.

Present at the meeting were: Marybeth Panaro, Karen Consalo, Ayuko Siegel, Jean Purinton, Joan Gaidimas, Margaret Mackenzie, Sue Snyder, Mary Markert, Patti Kennedy, Sherri Gartner, Marci Tierney

### **TEMS Administration Reports: Principal Mark Cataldi**

Construction update – 3 new rooms in large courtyard are almost complete; may be some schedule changes for the rooms, but there will be time for the transition; very nice job on the construction.

Still have a small courtyard – will get plantings in the courtyard.

Curriculum night for all grades – schedule should have been brought home by your child; extra copies will be with the guidance counselors in the library; please follow the schedule as there are some changes to your child's normal schedule; parking could be a problem; options other than TEMS parking will be available (Stoga parking lot, Howellville Rd. etc); Spirit Wear will be sold that evening.

Library – Hero Week picture frame was taken down as a door was added to the library; will look to try and find another location.

Progress reports – coming out next week ; also check grades on Pinnacle.

Smart Boards – meeting with Haverford Systems today and going over all installation issues before installation date of October 9.

ERBs testing for grades 6 & 8 – will be this week and next; scaled down the number of tests administered; no longer do the writing subtest; tests are taken during core time; parents will receive results by sometime in January.

Bus schedules have been going well- both in the am and the pm; looking to have last pm buses arrive earlier, currently arriving at 3:01 pm.

Chairing Middle School Advisory Committee and will be bringing middle school issues to the committee.

Dress Up Day – Friday October 24 is the mixer for 5/6 grades; students bring costumes and get changed; dress up day will be on October 31 for the entire school.

### **Assistant Principal – Jacqui Hickey**

Clubs & Activities list updated on the website yesterday; next week, all clubs will be active (except Dance Club & Ping Pong, which will be up within the next month); can contact teacher directly or the front office for information.

Buddy Game Club – opportunities to interact on a social level and for students with special needs; team building skills; game skills – on Wednesday afternoons.

7/8 grade musical – getting the rights; Dear Edwina Junior; tryouts at end of month; many leads and large chorus; tentative dates are February 20 & 21; Tracy Decker is the director and Jean Baker is also working with the play (has directed other plays: Christine Guiser is also assisting; probably will not have a pit orchestra; both acting and singing parts; most of the leads are acting and singing. High participation for school sports this year; largest group is 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball; over 50% of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating.

Super Saturday – October 18 – 8:30 am – all TEMS Fall athletic teams play all VFMS Fall

*PTO minutes cont'd*

athletic teams; unlimited football will play Malvern Prep; Weighted Football is the last game of the day and will begin at 3:45 pm and end around 5 pm; athletic trainers will be present all day along with administration.

### **Super Saturday Schedule**

**TEMS vs. VFMS**

**October 18, 2008**

8:30 AM	7th Boys Soccer	Teamer Field
9:45 AM	8th Boys Soccer	Teamer Field
10:00 AM	7th Girls Field Hockey	CHS Field Hockey Field
11:00 AM	7th Girls Soccer	Teamer Field
11:15 AM	8th Girls Field Hockey	CHS Field Hockey Field
12:15 PM	8th Girls Soccer	Teamer Field
12:30 PM	Volleyball	CHS Large Gym
2:00 PM	Unlim. Football vs. Malvern	Teamer Field
3:45 PM	Weight Football	Teamer Field

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Cash balance as of September 30, 2008 is as follows:

Savings account	\$5,402.21
LWL Account	\$4,993.14
Checking Account	\$11,380.85
Checking New	\$2,455.79

Accountant has information for the 2007-2008 school year to prepare Tax Return – From 990

An audit of last year's books will be performed by Marci Tierney.

#### **School/Community Related Topics:**

Cultural Arts – Budget – made changes from last meeting – program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be for all students; each grade will have their own assemblies; dates are not on calendar; will be placed on the website; on calendar page and cultural arts page.

LWL – NEED A CHAIRPERSON!!!

New Family Welcome - we are still looking for someone to chair this program for the remainder of the year.

Newsletter editor is Suzanne Fanelle ([ssfanelle@verizon.net](mailto:ssfanelle@verizon.net)); Deadline is the first Wednesday of the month.

We are looking to “Go Green” with the newsletter; having it sent to you via a link. If you are interested, please contact Gretchen Guttman at [tguttman@comcast.net](mailto:tguttman@comcast.net); the newsletter will no longer include the Student of the Month section.

Directory – ready to go to print; online for same dates as last year.

Family Feud – “fun-raiser” on November 12; 3:15 – 4:45; a healthy snack will be provided; looking for 10-12 parent volunteers; want to take small groups of students up to the book fair; held a meeting with TEMS administration and staff; we will incorporate the information/names we acquired last year and are inviting last year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to participate.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition – Karen Consalo is the chair; please contact if you are interested.

#### **Fundraising Events:**

The Ice-Cream Social/Break Walk – was successful; doubled the price of ice cream; was rainy; parking was difficult; Mark had a video for students to view; if it is on a football game night suggest an earlier start time.

*PTO minutes cont'd*

Spirit Wear – Order form deadline October 13 for delivery on October 30<sup>th</sup> – forms will be available on curriculum night.

Book Fair – November 10-14; with Scholastic Books; sent email to all teachers and asked for list of books; teachers responded and list was sent to Scholastic; need many volunteers.

Parent Social – February 7, 2009; Karen Consalo/Johanne LaMarche co-chairs; InTEpendence Day; need volunteers.

Super Saturday – October 18; Kate McCanney is chair; need many volunteers!!

ESCRIP – please sign up; a very easy way to raise money for the PTO; need to reregister for those with Genardi's cards.

### **Rep Reports:**

BUILD – picnic held with good attendance; do not have speaker schedule for October; once received, will be placed on the website.

School Board – Still need a rep; Dr. Waters presented the District Goals; presentation from the architects on a plan that will increase the parking lot at TEMS – want to coincide with township plan for sidewalks extended drop off and parking lot in back of school; would begin at the end of the school year.

ISC – Electronic Education field trip will be in January; go online to review list of topics; Downingtown looking at distance learning; socialization concerns with distance learning; will be a new math and reading curriculum and will be presented shortly to the School Board; Pool issue for swim team - will not put a pool at the high school or any other area until Nursery approaches district regarding land purchase.

ARCH – Webinar Series – a series of online seminars on 8 critical parenting issues. Live sessions on Monday evenings. See website <http://conestoga.campusoutreachservices.com> for calendar and more information.

### **General PTO Business**

Please visit our website ([temspto.org](http://temspto.org)-Go Green) for up to date information.

Bulldog Barks - have 58 families getting the Bulldog Barks online; have saved 1 ream of paper.

### **Open Issue Discussion**

Other Fundraisers – been getting calls for fundraising.

TE Cares – family needs; TE Scares event on October 25.

Dental Clinic – TEMS had 10 students treated; 2 with a local orthodontist.

The next meeting is on November 5, 2008 at 9:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted by Rita K. Borzillo, PTO Secretary



## **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](mailto:tguttman@comcast.net)  
or 610-725-9391.**

# FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The first marking period of the 2008-09 school year is passing quickly. Overall, the fifth graders seem to have adjusted well to the new routines, added responsibility, and sometimes hectic pace of middle school. Along with their curricular areas, fifth grade classroom teachers continue to emphasize preparation for class, organization, and study skills. By now, students should be in the habit of using their assignment books regularly to record homework, tests, projects, and many other important items. The following are updates on the exciting happenings in the various curricular areas:

**Science** Fifth graders are continuing to observe, measure and record data on their Wisconsin Fast Plants. Other seeds and plants such as radishes and lima beans are being used to observe roots and learn about the inside of a seed as part of the unit on plants. Students should study their vocabulary and review their Harcourt science text on an ongoing basis. This is a great time of year for a bulb planting project at home. Perhaps your fifth grader could plant some daffodil bulbs under a deciduous tree or in a corner of your garden.

**Reading** An appreciation for various genres of literature, insights into the nuances of a writer's style, and instruction in the basics comprise the reading class. Currently, students may enjoy excerpts from award-winning authors, or the progression of a novel in class. Whichever the case, students are learning strategies to help them find the main idea,

make inferences, draw conclusions, and determine cause and effect in what they read. All that, combined with vocabulary development on a weekly basis, makes for a class you should hear a lot about when you ask that age-old question, "So, what did you do in school today?"

**Math** Students are finishing their study of graphing and data analysis, and are moving on to place value, addition, subtracting, and basic algebraic concepts. Team A's end-of-quarter projects - which might include PowerPoint presentations, videos, posters, survey data, games, charts, and more! - are an exciting addition to the regular class work.

**Social Studies** Students are continuing their study of ancient civilizations with projects and activities related to ancient China, ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and Maps and Globes.

**English** Grammar, spelling, and writing come together in the English classroom. In the near future, students will begin working on a personal narrative, as well as several responses to writing prompts. Such prompts are especially instructive, as they provide not only the opportunity to reflect and write on a topic, but also preparation for the PSSA Writing test scheduled for February 2009. On a regular basis, students will continue to complete spelling.

# SIXTH GRADE NEWS

**Reading** This month the on-level students will be reading the award-winning novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. This well written survival story is the tale of a young boy stranded in the Canadian woods with only a hatchet to help him survive.

The above-level students will be reading [Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World](#), the amazing story of the Shackleton Expedition to Antarctica. Students enjoy reading about this true tale of survival and adventure.

**English** Students continue to work on narrative writing. Students are now working on a memoir using the five steps of the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. They are also working on grammar, mechanics, and spelling. Every other week, students will bring home a Spark writing assignment. As part of the assignment, the pieces should be revised with help from an adult. Later in the month, the students will begin learning about plagiarism and the importance of citing the works of others.

**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 to the students and integrated throughout the year.

**Science** Students have begun our first major unit: Earth's

Water. We are learning about the properties of water and will be conducting labs to observe surface tension, capillary action, solutions, and the water cycle. All labs continue to follow the six steps in The Scientific Method. We are also studying the important effects of these concepts and how living things rely on them. In addition, students will measure how slope and volume affect a river's speed. Did you know that the average person in the United States uses anywhere from 80-100 gallons of water per day?

**Math** The on grade level students have been actively involved in the Graphing unit. The students have reviewed graphs such as bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts and pictographs. Next, students will explore statistics through the study of mean, median and mode. Students will also create their own line plots and stem-and-leaf charts. The above level students have been working diligently with the concepts of formulas, order of operations and properties. These skills lead us in to the Pre-Algebra unit in which they will begin to solve and create one and two-step algebraic equations. In Pre-Algebra, students have just completed the first unit on Integers. They will now begin a chapter on solving equations, applying their new knowledge of integers to one, two, and multi-step algebraic equations. 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 had a quick review of these topics in the beginning of the year, and they will be expected to successfully perform these operations throughout the year.

# SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

The seventh grade team is presently planning the first field trip of the new school year. A trip to the Amish country is scheduled for November. More details will follow in the next couple of weeks. As part of our study of colonial America students will discuss the development of Pennsylvania as a colony. English and social studies classes will be coordinating information about this topic. Students will read biographical selections about William Penn and learn about his desire for religious tolerance in the colony. In addition, students will engage with the idea of tolerance through a variety of literary sources.

**English** While the beginning of the short story unit focused on literature analysis and exploration of the themes of plot structure, setting and character development, the culmination of the unit will feature engagement in the writing process as students craft their own short stories. In addition, students will analyze the idea of tolerance in America by considering a variety of short stories and a novel dealing with this issue. Finally, the independent reading assignment will stress character development. It is due before the end of the first marking period.

**Math 7** Students will be working on the number theory unit. In this unit, the students will review order of operations, square roots, square numbers, divisibility rules, find prime factorization using factor trees, and find the LCM and the GCF of pairs of numbers. To conclude the unit the pupils will evaluate basic algebraic expressions.

**Pre-Algebra** Students are finishing the integer unit and will commence with the solving equation unit. Students are

learning to solve one-step and two-step equations. From there, the class will solve more challenging equations in which they must simplify first. Finally, the class will review decimals through solving equations involving decimals. Be sure to review basic computations with decimals.

**Algebra** Students will finish solving linear equations and inequalities and then move on to algebraic word problems (tough unit)..

**Science** During the month of October students will be studying how energy flows in a self-sustaining ecosystem and the organisms within an ecosystem. Students will perform and use lab work for the classification of invertebrate animals, as well as, for those building biospheres.

**Social Studies** During October and early November seventh graders will be studying the early settlement of Jamestown and Plymouth. They will move on to the settlement of New England and the Middle Colonies. The early settlement of Pennsylvania will be highlighted by a field trip to study the Amish culture in Lancaster.



# EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

**English** Students are writing creative narratives incorporating some of the techniques learned in the short story unit of September. Recognizing fragments and run-ons and eliminating those errors from their stories is the focus this month. *Of Mice and Men* is the first novel students will read and analyze in class. Note taking skills and small group work will be emphasized as the students prepare a mock trial based on their understanding of the novel. Journal writing, vocabulary, and editing skills continue.

**American History** Students are studying the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government. The focus of classes as they analyze the Constitution and current-day applications of the Amendments to the document will be connected to the study of our government. The students will also debate several issues of the meetings at the Philadelphia Convention. A trip to Independence National Park later in the month will enhance the study of this document and its importance in American society.

**Science** Students are currently studying Chapter 1 of their weather and climate textbooks. Students are continuing their weather data collections and daily observations. The weather project will conclude in 2-3 weeks. Chapter 2 will start the second week in October. Topics such as Energy in the Earth's Atmosphere, Heat Transfer, Global and Local Winds, Water in the Atmosphere and Precipitation will be enhanced through lab activities, class demonstrations, and exercises using the

interactive Riverside Scientific weather program.

**Algebra II** Students are beginning an in-depth analysis of linear systems of equations and inequalities with three variables. Linear programming applications will be explored as real world examples of systems of equations. Three dimensional graphing will be introduced to further enhance the students' visualization of mathematical models. Students will incorporate the use of the graphing calculator throughout this study.

**Geometry** Students have completed the first unit which provided them with a basic understanding of concepts of Geometry. In addition, students learned some fundamental constructions and worked their way through some challenging logic problems in preparation for designing proofs. Students are currently discovering methods for writing proofs, with both form and content being stressed. Students will be able to utilize postulates, definitions and previously proven theorems in their proofs.

**Algebra 1** Students are continuing their study of linear equations and inequalities. An exploration of their applications will follow.

**Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1A** Students are finishing up their unit on Probability. Next, we will be moving into a unit on number theory.

**Pre-Algebra** Students are studying probability. An exploration of integers and number theory will follow.

# ARCH<sub>notes</sub>

## **Substance Prevention** **10 Prevention Steps for Parents:**

**START EARLY...** by instilling values and giving information to children about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs before they reach the age when they are likely to be asked to try them.

**DON'T BE AN ENABLER...** by being passive when you see anything or anyone encouraging your kids to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Speak up and take a firm stand against their use. Also, be sure to safely secure any alcohol you may have in your own home.

**REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILD...** actions speak louder than words. If you use or abuse alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, your child is at greater risk to use them, too.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY TEACHABLE MOMENT...** use news stories and events in your community, such as television shows and movies, as opportunities to discuss alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

**REINFORCE BOTH THE INFORMATION AND THE RULES YOU TEACH YOUR CHILD...** remember how many times you have to tell them to turn off the lights, eat their vegetables or do their homework?

**KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE AT HOME, IN SCHOOL, AND WITH FRIENDS...** listen to your child and to your child's friends – Stay Aware!

**KNOW THE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUGS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY BE LEARNING...** from babysitters, day care providers, camp counselors, family friends and relatives.

**IF YOU HAVE A FEELING YOUR CHILD IS TRYING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR OTHER DRUGS, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...** don't wait for the problem to go away by itself. Take Action. Parents have good instincts – trust them.

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE PARENTS OF YOUR CHILD'S FRIENDS...** work together with other parents to establish curfews and other rules for all your children, whatever their ages.

**REMEMBER, PARENT POWER IS STRONGER THAN PEER PRESSURE...** parents are the first line of defense for safe, healthy, drug-free youth! Stand together!

*Adapted with permission from PRIDE-Omaha Inc*

ARCH is a local community group established to assist, educate and support one another in dealing with substance abuse in our community. [www.ARCHcares.org](http://www.ARCHcares.org)



Pioneer Quix Stix is the ultimate lacrosse program for girls in grades 3 through 8 in Tredyffrin/Easttown.

Registration for the 2009 Spring Season is **ONLINE ONLY** and is **OPEN NOW!**

Please visit our website at

<http://www.PioneerQuixStix.com>  
to register and receive additional information!

**YOU**  
are invited to hear  
Karen Reivich, Ph.D.  
speak about  
**The Resilient Family**



**Monday, November 10, 2008**  
**7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
Valley Forge Middle School

The evening will begin with a presentation of key results of the 2007 PA Youth Survey\*. The data shared underscores the importance of maintaining positive and supportive relationships within the family, especially in response to social and economic pressures.

\* Report on alcohol & other drug use by OUR local youth in grades 6, 8, 9, 10 & 12

*We are a partnership of parents, school administrators, police officers, teachers, students, and community members committed to supporting families and helping youth form a strong positive self-image to enable them to make healthy choices and stay drug free.*

If you are interested in attending an ARCH meeting – the November 19 Meeting would be a great one to consider. During the meeting there will be a 20 minute presentation from T/ESD DARE Officer Jim Mutter. An informative conversation is sure to ensue.

**You are invited to hear Officer Mutter**  
**speak on Keeping Your Child Safe**  
**8:45-10 am**

At the New T/E School District Admin Office located in the West Valley  
Business Center  
(940 West Valley Rd, Suite 1700, Wayne) phone: 610-240-1900

Visit [www.archcares.org](http://www.archcares.org) for a full list of 2008/09 monthly meeting dates

Brought to you by ARCH – Area Residents Caring and Helping

## ALLERGY ALERT

Students with life threatening allergies are a growing health concern in schools across the country. The T/E School District has a new policy (#5403) to address this issue. Emergency Allergy Plans were mailed to all families prior to the start of school to identify students with life threatening allergies.

Food allergies, insect stings, latex and medications can cause an anaphylactic reaction in people who are highly allergic to them. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction that involves various areas of the body simultaneously. Symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction can be any or all of the following:

- Hives
- Tingling, itching, redness on skin, lips, eyelids or any part of the body
- Swelling/itching of mouth and throat
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Paleness, dizziness
- Loss of consciousness

Even if your child does not have a life threatening allergy,  
another schoolmate may have one.

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES  
NEED ALL OF US TO KEEP THEM SAFE!**

The T/E School District Nursing Staff

## TRY A NEW GAME



**Play Rugby a spring sport!  
It's fast, fun and easy to learn!  
Meeting for new and returning players  
Conestoga High School Room 142  
Tuesday the 2nd of December at 7pm  
Come to learn about rugby & get sign-up forms  
Email [stogarugby08@yahoo.com](mailto:stogarugby08@yahoo.com) for more details  
Or visit our website at @ [www.conestogarugby.com](http://www.conestogarugby.com)**



# T/E's After School Activity Program

Offered through A Child's Place  
New for 2008-2009

Program now available to all grades, 5-8  
at T/E Middle School and Valley Forge Middle School

**Program highlights:**

- Certified teachers promote a positive atmosphere.
- Students may play outdoors daily (weather permitting).
- Activities include arts & crafts, puzzles, educational games, homework help and more.
- Hours of operation are 2:30-6:00 p.m. Parents may schedule time in 1/2 hour increments.
- Great for students participating in school-sponsored afterschool activities or athletics to bridge time until parent pick-up.

For more information or to register, contact Kristin Houshower, Assistant Program Director at (610) 687-1263

## **T&E Care offers school meal assistance program**

T&E Care is a local non-profit that helps families in our community. Because effective learning is best done on a full stomach, T&E Care is supporting families in the T/E School District with a school meal assistance program. This assistance is available to families meeting certain income criteria. (For example, the monthly income for a family of 4 cannot exceed \$3710.) Families who were approved for free or reduced lunch assistance are not eligible to apply. More details on the acceptance criteria can be found on the 2-page application.

If your family could use a little extra help with breakfast and/or lunch assistance and you feel you might fit the criteria explained in the application, please contact your child's counselor for a copy of the application. You can also go to T&E Care's website to download the application. (<http://www.tecare.org/schoolmealassistance.html>). There is no deadline to apply.

Any community members interested in helping to fund this important initiative, please go to T&E Care's website (address above) for more details on how to get involved.

## **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.

## **Visit the T/e-Bulletin Board at [www.tesd.net](http://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](http://www.tecare.org)**

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



### JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM

The Junior Model United Nations program at TEMS is in its 3rd year as an extra-curricular club. It is open to any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who is interested in a closer look at other countries, their geography, politics and culture. Groups of four students will explore one country in depth and represent that country as a real United Nations delegate would, at a regional conference in May. The event to begin this year's program is on October 22 at 7-8 pm in the TEMS school cafeteria. All interested students and a parent are invited to hear more details. Each family is requested to bring an ethnic snack to share, homemade or purchased. Plates and napkins will be provided. Any questions can be posed to Mrs. Jean Cook at ext. 2215 or Mrs. Kindra Kearney at [Kearneyk@tesd.net](mailto:Kearneyk@tesd.net). They are the sponsors of the club this year.

**'stoga Music Theatre presents**

## **Our Town**

Written by Thornton Wilder

Directed and produced by Jennie Eisenhower

Conestoga High School

November 19 - 7:30 pm      November 21 - 7:30 pm      November 22 - 2 pm & 7:30 pm

*Our Town* is a three-act play about the small, fictional town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. Two families, the Gibbs and the Webbs, are central to the play's themes of life, love and the heartbreaking finality of death. Thornton Wilder's time capsule of life in New England at the turn of the twentieth century is one of America's most popular plays because it contains life lessons relevant to any generation.

All Seats Reserved - **\$10**

Special Discount Tickets - **\$8** for Students (Age 19 & under), Seniors (62+) & TESD Staff

Go to [www.stogamusic.com](http://www.stogamusic.com) for 24 hour internet ticketing. Tickets available at CHS November 14, 17, 18 & 19 from 11 am to 12:45 pm and at the door 60 minutes prior to each performance.

### **How Do You Spell Olde Tyme Fun?**

#### **S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g B-e-e**

Come join your neighbors and friends for the Old Eagle School's fourth annual "Olde School" Spelling Bee, which will take place during the School's end-of-season Open House on Sunday, October 19, from 2-4 PM.

Depending on registration, we will have age-grouped youth divisions. And due to popular demand, there will also be an adult competition.

The Spelling Bee will begin at 3 PM.

So come join us to close out our 220th year at the school. Prizes, apple bobbing, and light refreshments for all!

#### **Address**

Private Way (off Old Eagle  
School Road)  
Strafford, Pennsylvania

#### **Register:**

By Tel: 610-687-5495 or  
By E-M: [jbeil@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jbeil@ix.netcom.com)



*Have you Escribed today?????*

**What is Escrip you say???**

Introduced by Electronic Scrip Inc. (ESI), the eScrip program is a fundraising program that allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school or organization of your choice. Here's how it works for our TEMS PTO:

Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)

Click "sign-up" and follow the simple registration instructions

Contributions to the PTO based on the purchases you make or by using the card you have registered. Currently, Genardi's is the grocery store in our area enrolled in the program.

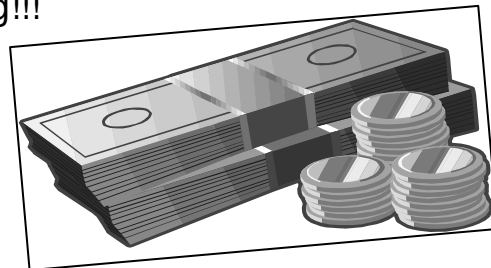
Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning for the PTO

You can even have family members across the United States register for TEMS PTO - Simply have them log onto eScrip and complete a registration form.

Now, every time you shop at Genardi's and use your club card, a contribution is made to TEMS PTO !!

Simple, easy and effective fundraising!!!

Register Today!!!





# School Board Update



Summary of School Board Committee Meetings Provided by Committee Members September 2008

## Education Committee

submitted by DEBBIE ROLLINS

The Education Committee met on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The administration introduced a DVD on the topic of special education in an inclusive classroom. The program was presented in preparation for changes in special education practices based on the state's elimination of the "part-time learning support" category of instructional delivery.

Next the Committee heard a report on Pennsylvania Economic League (PEL) enrollment trends and the latest straight-line progressions which was followed by a discussion about the possible, projected need for changes in the use of existing classroom space.

The administration then reported on the status of the proposed Pennsylvania Graduation Competency Assessments (GCA). Although there have been delays in the implementation of the GCA, all Pennsylvania school districts have been asked to submit their local graduation assessments for review by the state. Board members noted the importance of continuing to advocate against GCA's and for local control of student assessments.

The presentation of three drafts of a 2009-2010 calendar prompted discussion about start and end dates. With Labor Day falling on September 7<sup>th</sup> of that year, all three draft calendars have school ending during the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. The administration will consider other possible start dates and the calendar will be discussed again at a future meeting.

## Facilities Committee

submitted by PETE MOTEL

The Facilities Committee met on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Members heard an update on current District construction projects. All of the summer projects are completed except for work at T/E Middle School. This work was expected to be finished in December, but is ahead of schedule and will finish

up in October. Proposals for summer 2009 projects were reviewed. These include continued re-roofing, lighting and restroom updates.

Consultation services for the IT renovation project were proposed. The Committee agreed to put the proposal on the agenda for the September Board meeting. The work will renovate the old T/E High School across from T/E Middle School into space for the IT department. The Committee heard an update on the status of the District network upgrade and asked for a report outlining future technology needs.

District architects presented possible locations for the relocation of the Maintenance Department. They were asked to design a plan for a District central storage facility at one of the sites. Because the deed for that site may allow only for a school building, the administration was asked to review the deed.

The administration reviewed the Capital Source and Use Report which lists the capital funds. All of the 2008-09 projects are currently under budget and will be fully paid by December.

## Finance Committee

submitted by BETSY FADEM

The Finance Committee met on August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Committee recommended for full Board approval a contract to provide automated phone notification for our students and families. This system will allow the District to quickly contact by phone all families, for any reason, but specifically in cases of emergency or weather related situations. This service will be available this year.

Next, the administration presented the revised Food Services budget and recommendation for price increases. The increase was necessitated due to a 24 percent increase in food costs.

It was reported that the District may be over budget on our expenses for fuel if indeed prices do not decrease. The administrative staff, along with Krapf Bus service, are vigilant in their efforts to reduce our fuel use which will in turn help to offset fuel costs.

The administration is analyzing the advantages of joining the Delaware Valley Healthcare Coalition (DVHCC). An agreement has not yet been developed but preliminary estimates indicate a projected savings to the District of \$170,000 in the first year if retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>. This topic will be discussed at future Finance Committee meetings.

In September, the Committee heard a report from the Transportation Department. The Committee then listened to community members input and concerns regarding the timing of bus runs. Further analysis on some runs is continuing and the Committee will get a report at next month's meeting on the noted bus runs.

The Committee began its first look at the 2007-08 year end fund balance designation recommendations. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Board following a review of the capital projects plan by the Facilities Committee, a review of the Sources and Uses data, and the completion of our annual audit.

## **Policy Committee**

submitted by LIANE DAVIS

The Policy Committee met on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee recommended the following policies for a second reading by the full Board at their September 22<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting: Policy 3185, Fund Balances Management; and Policy 8210, Records Management.

Next the Committee discussed Policy 5401, Student Discipline. The District solicitor noted that recent legislation requires all Pennsylvania school districts to have an approved bullying policy in place by January 2009. In addition, age appropriate copies of the policy must be posted in all classrooms. The policy was recommended for a first reading by the full Board on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee discussed Policy 6152, Classroom Assignments and recommended it for a first reading by the Board in September.

Finally, the Committee discussed Regulation 5225, Pupil Records; electronic background checks and

Policy 4041, Obligation to Report Criminal Offenses. No recommendations were made on these topics at this time. Topics to be discussed at future meetings include a new Right-to-Know policy and School Board by-laws.

## **Public Information Committee**

submitted by PAT WOOD

Public Information met on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the new administration offices on West Valley Road. A community member reminded the Committee that, while the leadership of BUILD has changed, the group continues to be active.

There was discussion about the location for the monthly school board meetings. They are currently held in the cafeteria at Conestoga High School and it was decided to recommend to the Board that they continue to be held at Conestoga. All other meetings will be held at the new administration offices.

The Committee received a report on communication of changes in the PAYPAMS online cafeteria payment system. All student households received a letter containing information on the costs of the system. Parents may still send a check or cash if they do not want to use PAYPAMS to fund their child's account.

There was discussion about the possibility of distributing the T/E Insight (community newsletter) electronically. At this time, the Committee recommended to continue to send the newsletter to each recipient through the mail.

The Committee received a report on the new set in the Conestoga High School TV studio. The set will enable the TV studio to accommodate additional participants on set, utilize different set configurations and provide a more updated and professional look to TETV.

Ways to inform the community about transportation procedures were discussed. The administration will consider including a FAQ on transportation in the T/E Insight and on the web site. In addition, the middle schools were asked to repeat morning announcements during the first two weeks of school to accommodate students who may be late due to bussing issues at the beginning of the school year.

The administration will expand the advertising of the new after school activity program at the middle schools. The after school activities program is designed for families with students who would like to participate in an after school activity but do not have a ride home following the activity. Information is also available on the middle school web sites.

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

**Non-Profit Organization**

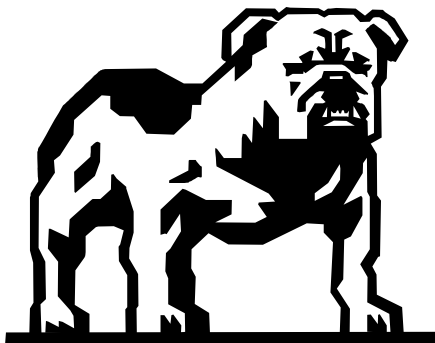
**US POSTAGE PAID  
Paoli, PA 19301  
Permit No. 24**

**DATED MATERIAL**

***Coming Events:***

*For more details, check T/E website.*

10/18	Super Saturday	CHS Fields	ALL DAY
10/21	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee		10:30 am
10/23	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Teacher Coffee		9:00 am
10/24	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Mixer	TEMS	3:00 pm
10/28	“A Potpourri of Opera”	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	TEMS
11/5	PTO Meeting	Faculty Lounge	9:00 am
11/10	The Resilient Family	Dr. Reivich	7:00 pm
11/10-14	Book Fair	Adaptive Gym	
11/12	Student/Faculty Feud		3:15 pm



Help the TEMS PTO  
Go GREEN!  
Get your “Bulldog Barks”



ONLINE!