

# Bulldog Barks

A Publication of the Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School PTO

November 2008

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

Volume 14, Issue 3

### PTO Highlights

The first marking period is over and report cards will be coming home on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Fall sports have ended and Winter sports begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The PTO has had a terrific fall and accomplished quite a bit; but, there is much more to do. We encourage you to join us by volunteering, attending a meeting or coming to an event.

We would like to thank several groups of volunteers for their hard work this past month. First, TEMS hosted Super Saturday this year and Kate McCanney and Anita McLean along with their volunteers pulled off a successful event. Thank you to Kate Ferris and the parents who chaperoned the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade mixer; it was well attended and the kids had a great time. Thank you to all of the volunteers who sold books at the weeklong book fair, as well as, those who bought books; also to Tracey Prestipino and Margie Winters for organizing the event. Also, thanks to Debbie Weger for organizing and to the parents for working the phones scheduling the parent conferences.

Spirit Wear is now being sold through order forms. Thank you to Gail McCarthy for finding a terrific vendor and organizing all of the order, both sending and receiving. Look for the next order dates in the spring; check your Bulldog Barks and the website. We are now selling TEMS Team wear through the same vendor. Order forms will be distributed once the winter teams have been selected.

Mark your calendars, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, for our third annual Parent Social. Our theme this year is **InTEpendence Day**. Come help us enjoy another great evening of music, fine food, beverages, raffles, silent auction and best of all good company. All monies raised go toward the purchase and installation of Smart Boards of TEMS; Mark Cataldi already has a list of teachers anxious to get a Smart Board in their classroom. If you are interested in working on this wonderful event please contact Karen Consalo at [consalo1@aol.com](mailto:consalo1@aol.com).

Be sure to visit the PTO website ([www.temsppto.org](http://www.temsppto.org)). It is a great place to find all the important information concerning events, minutes, activities and general information about the PTO and school. **“GO GREEN”** and sign up to receive an email link to the Bulldog Barks posted online each month. So far we have had approximately 88 families sign 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>Nov. 24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Conference</b>		TEMS
<b>Nov. 26-27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess-No School</b>		
<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert</b>	7:30pm	TEMS
<b>Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Dance</b>	7:00 pm-9:30 pm	TEMS
<b>Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert</b>	7:30 pm	TEMS



Unfortunately, Lives Well Lived has been canceled for this year; we were unable to find a chairperson to head up the program. We still 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.

Karen Consalo is putting together a nominating committee to work on Board and Chair positions for the 2009/2010 school year. If you are interested in working on this committee please contact Karen at [consalo1@aol.com](mailto:consalo1@aol.com).

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many activities coming soon and hopefully at the next PTO meeting on Wed., February 4th 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 November PTO meeting of the 2008/2009 school year was called to order at 9:00 am on November 5, 2008 by President Gretchen Guttman.

Present at the meeting were: Marybeth Panaro, Karen Consalo, Ayuko Siegel, Jean Purinton, Sue Snyder, Marci Tierney, Patty Littlewood, Gail McCarthy, Kristin Schappell, Joan Gaidimas, Sherri Gartner

### **Speaker – Chris Major – The Second Mile/Friend Fitness Program**

Youth Mentoring Program; fitness based mentoring program; volunteer mentors from the community that are matched with youth; no negative group networking, association or labeling; create a moment of choice; working out with a structured program at Stoga or UMLY on Thursday from 5:30-6:30 and Sundays from 10:30 -11:30; some peer mentors that are juniors and seniors in high school but, primarily are adults; youth served are grades 6-12; do not need special skills or abilities to be a mentor or youth in the program; ask only that the youth do the best they can; “can you do one more, can you keep going?”; positive encouragement both from a one to one basis and also through the group; many ways to get involved; contact Chris at 610-249-9630 for further information.

### **Spirit Wear/Sports Teams – Gail McCarthy**

Spirit wear orders are in today; supplier can provide team wear; consistency with clothing; not big ticket items; keeping prices reasonable; \$5.00 up charge on sweat shirt to put name, number and sport on; will begin with this coming Winter season; may be able to special order items.

### **TEMS Administration Reports:**

#### **Principal Mark Cataldi**

End of first marking period is coming up; report cards come home on Wednesday, November 19; this coming Friday (11/8/08) is an in-service day;

Fall Conferences are coming up; letter has been sent home; if dates do not work, please call and conferences can be rescheduled;

3 new seminar rooms in large courtyard area are complete; we are waiting for

Certificate of Occupancy; will begin to utilize the rooms and it will be done in stages; letter will be sent home for any student that will be affected; goal is to be done by the second marking period;

Winter sports tryouts begin December 1.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

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

Savings account	\$5,404.53
LWL Account	\$4,995.22
Checking Account	\$18,672.74
Checking New	\$ 781.20

Tax return (From 990) is being worked on; Marci Tierney is auditing the books and third quarter sales tax return was filed.

*PTO minutes cont'd*

**School/Community Related Topics:**

**Cultural Arts –**

First event was this past week for grades 5/6; was successful; children were engaged; students were singing; message was explaining opera; did 45 minute workshops [www.jumpropenet.com](http://www.jumpropenet.com); workshops and residencies are offered; motivational speaker; grew up as a casual jump roper, performs with Cirque de Soleil; works with ESPN; she is a professional jump-roper; message – do your personal best; focus on yourself and not your neighbor; very interactive with the youth; can lay the residency over health/PE classes; looking at May and June; middle school age youth are her favorite to work with; does a “Kick-off Assembly;” workshops are 30-40 minutes; cost is \$1500/day Motion made, seconded, vote taken and passed that we (1) use money budgeted for LWL for this program and (2) further investigate this program ; look to having the program in one day with a specialized schedule for all TEMS to participate.

Lives Well Lived has been cancelled this 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.

Family Feud – date is changed; new date TBD.

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

**Fundraising Events:**

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; set up is this Thursday at 3pm; will open on Monday morning at 7:15 am; will not have extended hours

*One for Books* – donate spare change and PTO buys books for our library and Scholastic Books matches the amount and gives books to needy children.

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

Super Saturday Results – was successful but, in order to sell hot food, we needed a certified food handler and we did not have one; so could only sell limited foods.

ESCRIP – please sign up; a very easy way to raise money for the PTO; need to reregister for those with Genardi’s cards; there is an online mall – [www.shopping.escrip.com](http://www.shopping.escrip.com), put in your information and you can do all your shopping.

Acme receipts - \$706.91 since June.

**Rep Reports:**

BUILD – nothing local – 12/16 CCIU in Downingtown – all area parents.

*PTO minutes cont'd*

School Board – Still need a rep; last meeting - district goals for the school year were adopted.

ISC – November 12 – Staffing & Facilities Update; January 14 is a field trip to Stoga library on technology.

GCAs were discussed; bill was opposed; all high schools have to send in how local assessments are made; PDE looking at developing state-wide curriculum.

Electronic learning & the web – blogs; social book marking; RSS feed that automatically gets updated every day; parents gets information every day; WIKI – a document is online and multiple people work on it at a time.

Facebook – review/monitor your child's; view it as a diary.

Virtual environments – “avatar” go and visit; meet other avatars; similar to auditing courses; companies, colleges and medical facilities are setting these up; designed by the gaming community.

ARCH – November 10 from 7-9 – results of the 2007 PA Youth Survey and also a outstanding speaker on the Resilient Family at VFMS.

### **General PTO Business**

Please visit our website ([temspto.org](http://temspto.org)-Go Green) for up to date information; 86 families are receiving BB online.

Open Positions:

Lives Well Lived

New Family Welcome

School Board Representatives

Dental Clinic – Yankee Candle Fundraiser from 2/17 – 3/3

TESD Education Committee meeting 2009/2010 calendar year; 11/11 at 1:30; TESD Administration Office.

### **Open Issue Discussion**

Various Information received in the mail

American Red Cross – are we interested in sponsoring a Blood Drive?

Going Green & Fundraising – there are some very interesting in Green fundraising options – all are online and very easy – register your school and when people go shopping, your school gets money – will be investigating further.

The next meeting is on February 4, 2009 at 9:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

## **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

**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

**Extra Help: Teachers** are available for extra help several times during the day. Students may see teachers at the following times: activity periods, before, or after school.

**Second Marking Period Blues:** Through the years we have noticed that the second marking period is often a time when students may lose their focus on schoolwork. The newness of school has worn off and there are so many distractions. At the same time teachers are expecting more of their students. Parents are encouraged to check assignment books to make sure their child is keeping up with homework.

**Reading:** During November, on-level students will complete the reading of Hatchet. The film version of the novel will be shown in class at the conclusion of the novel with comparisons made between the book and the movie. Following the reading of Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World, above-level students will view part of a film about Shackleton and also make comparisons between the book and the film. Students will also write a reflection about their reaction to this amazing story. In December, all classes will read an adapted version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The students will also learn about living conditions in Victorian England and study child labor conditions of that time.

**English:** Students have been working on a mini-unit about plagiarism and summarizing. This will help them when they write research reports later in the year in Social Studies and science class. Later in the month, we will be reviewing the correct form for friendly letters and writing one. In December, through the Family Traditions Report, students will learn about the similarities and differences of their classmates. Students will be responsible for an oral presentation explaining how their family enjoys a special time together. The presentation will focus on one favorite activity and a written report will be part of this assignment. Spelling and grammar will continue throughout November and December.

**Social Studies:** During the Months of November and December, the sixth grade students begin the study of the United States. Students will need to know the location of all fifty states and their capitals and will be writing an in-depth report combining their knowledge of the Five Themes of Geography and the study of Canada. The TEMS Library, the Internet, and other non-text sources are introduced at this

time and are integral to the Social Studies program for the remainder of the year.

**Math On Level:** Students have completed their graphing and statistics unit. Currently they are working on an algebra and arithmetic unit. First, students will review reading and writing large numbers and ordering large numbers. Next, the pupils will explore exponents and learn vocabulary words such as base, exponent, factor, power, squared and cubed. We will finish the unit with a study of the order of operations and explore simple one-step algebra equations. Before the calendar year is over they will begin their 3<sup>rd</sup> unit of study on decimals. Please continue to review basic facts with your children at home. This is an invaluable skill.

**Math Above Level:** Students have just completed their algebra unit and have moved on to the decimal and fraction unit. Students will first review decimal computation and solve one and two-step decimal equations. Other decimal topics to be covered are estimation, scientific notation, and ordering decimals. After completing study of decimals, students will explore how decimals connect to fractions and begin the background for the fraction unit.

**Pre-Algebra:** Students have completed the unit on integer equations and will use that knowledge as they move on to Chapter Three and the study of decimal equations. Students continue to apply the rules of integers and balanced equations they learned in the previous two chapters. Next up: continuing and connecting those same skills with fractions.

**Algebra** Algebra students have completed their study of single variable word problems applications. They will be moving on to graphing linear equations in two variables. This unit includes instruction on the use of graphing calculators to reinforce concepts learned.

**Science:** Students continue to study the unit, Earth's Waters. Our next topic of study will be freshwater resources. Students will also work on various lab activities that prompt them to think about balancing water needs in modern society. The important topics of pollution and conservation will be key ideas for analysis and discussion.

**Did you know:** The United States uses about 346,000 million gallons of fresh water every day?

# SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

As of this writing, the seventh grade teachers and students are looking forward to our field trip to Bird in Hand, Pa. on Wednesday, Nov. 19th (Mr. Krinsky-Team B) and Thursday, Nov. 20th (Mr. Cordenner-Team A). The purpose of this trip is to give students first hand experience with the lifestyle of the Amish. This is part of the combined unit of study in Social Studies and English classes to discuss the colonization of Pennsylvania and William Penn's desire to provide religious tolerance for everyone. The Amish are an example of religious groups who came to Pennsylvania seeking religious freedom. A "family style" lunch will be served. We leave T/E at 7:45 A.M. and will return by 2 P.M. Students will be able to take their regular transportation home. We hope this will be an enjoyable day for everyone. Also, in honor of American Education Week, there will be science presentations by Mr. Marchiondo and Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson cordially invites team 7B parents to participate in a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) demonstration at TEMS on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 in room 221. This presentation will be fun, interactive, and educational. Team A parents can come in and experience a science presentation by Mr. Marchiondo on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> in room 108 from 10 to 11 am.

**English** In November, English classes will be focused on the issues of diversity, tolerance and understanding. Given that the United States is an inherently heterogeneous society, it is important for students to consider the myriad of factors that affect how people view the world in which they live. To that end, students will be analyzing an assortment of sources about the issue of tolerance including pictures, movies, short stories, interviews, and novels. Students will be considering the various ways that personal background affects the way

that individuals understand the world. The unit will also present continued opportunities to focus on reading, writing and thinking skills.

**Mathematics** In the month of November, Math 7 will be studying decimals and decimal word problems. Pre-Algebra will be finishing equations with integers and working on decimal equations. Algebra I will be graphing linear equations and inequalities.

**Science** With the new marking period some classes will transition from the "Diversity of Life" to a study of "Energy and the Environment". Students will study earth's energy resources and the environmental impacts of harnessing these resources and human lifestyles. Many students will need assistance from home with the Junk Mail lab and the Living History Interview when assigned. Students completing biosphere observations will write letters to next year's students and then move into a unit on animals, their behaviors, and adaptations. Students are encouraged to continue the study habit of incorporating twenty minutes each evening to review and reinforce science concepts to sustain maximum success.

**Social Studies** Classes are studying the establishment and development of the original 13 English colonies in the New World. Political, economic and religious reasons for settlement will be examined and differences in regional lifestyles will be studied and discussed. Highlighting our study of the Middle Colonies will be a field trip to the Amish country for a hands-on examination of their unique lifestyle and its impact on early Pennsylvania colonial history. The seventh grade team wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

# EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

In **English**, students will participate in an activity in which they can say "I object" with their teachers' approval! As a culminating exercise to the Of Mice and Men unit, each class is separated into two legal teams; the prosecution and defense teams compete against the opposition teams from other classes. Each team is responsible for preparing testimony for witnesses, presenting opening and closing arguments, conducting cross examinations of opposition witnesses, and serving as a jury to render a verdict. The novel is the only source of information for all testimony admitted into court (large group room) and all participants must adhere to legal proceedings determined by Judges Baker, McCarthy, and Ferenchick.

**Pre-Algebra** has begun a unit on number theory. We will spend most of November in this unit and then move into the study of spatial thinking.

**Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1A** students will begin a unit on Plane Geometry and then move on to study area and volume.

**Algebra** classes are beginning the exploration of graphing linear equations, both with and without the use of graphing calculators. Students will need graph paper (1/4 inch preferred) during this unit.

**Geometry** students just finished a unit on parallel lines and planes and are beginning a unit on Congruent Triangles. Students will continue to work with incorporating new theorems into proofs throughout the first semester.

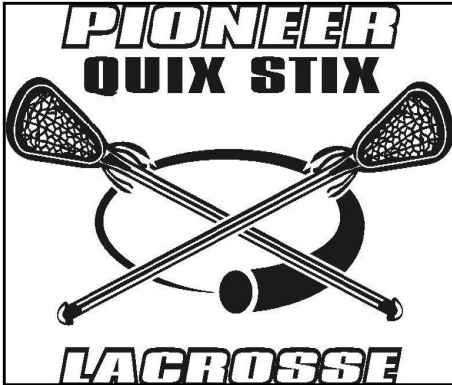
**Algebra 2** is completing the study of matrices. Extensions to pre-calculus were explored along with graphing calculator applications. The next unit explores quadratic functions, their graphs and applications.

In **Science**, students are continuing their study of weather and climate. In the first two chapters of our Weather and Climate textbook, we investigated the structure of the atmosphere, how air pressure and temperature vary in the atmosphere, and weather factors like incoming solar energy, heat transfer, winds, moisture content, and types of precipitation that interact to produce weather. Over the next few weeks students will construct their understanding of weather patterns, climate and climate change. They will use the Riverside Scientific weather modeling programs, Cyclones, Winds, Clouds and Seasons. Students will study storms, weather safety, and weather forecasting. Students will get more practice reading weather maps. Climate topics such as climate regions, long-term changes in climate, and global changes in the atmosphere will lead us into our upcoming study of Geology.

In **American history** classes, students are concluding their study of the executive and judicial branches of the government. They are also completing individual reports on the twenty seven amendments and how these rights affect lives. Analyzing the impact of Marbury v. Madison and other significant cases on judicial power are also topics for discussion.

## Nominating Committee Volunteers

**Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee! We will be filling all Committee Chair Positions and Board Positions. If you would like to be on the committee or hold a position, please call Karen Consalo 610-644-6119. Thanks!**



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!

## InTEpendence Day

Saturday, February 7, 2009  
TEMS Third Annual Parent Social



## CPR INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

CPR training is an important part of the curriculum for the Health I classes offered at Conestoga. Students receive hands-on training in infant, child and adult CPR, first aid and the use of AEDs in addition to their class work. The hands-on training is facilitated by parents and community members who have been trained as CPR Instructors by the Red Cross. To become a certified CPR Instructor, volunteers must attend training sessions offered by Red Cross Instructor Trainers. The District pays for the training and is planning a training program for new instructors in late October or early November. Parents or community members who are interested in becoming Red Cross certified Instructors should contact Pattie Littlewood at (610) 240-1913. The training is extensive, but the rewards are great in working with students in this important part of the health curriculum.

## 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)**

**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 Insight Goes Digital***

**The District's quarterly community newsletter, the *T/E Insight*, is available on the TESD web site and is also sent electronically through T/E's email notification program.**

**No longer want to receive a paper copy?**

**To be removed from the *T/E Insight* mailing list, visit the TESD web site, [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net), and click on "Remove me from the T/E Insight mailing list." To sign up for the email notification program, click on "Join T/E's Email Notification Program". You'll receive weekly email updates of school district announcements, community activities, meeting agendas, meeting minutes and more.**

# Help Kids. Achieve Goals. Change Lives.



If you...

- Are looking for a way to "give back"
- Want to really impact the life of a kid
- Enjoy health & fitness

**YOU can Change Lives. Call or Visit Friend Fitness.**

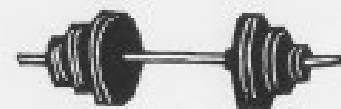
**The life you change may be your own.**

Friend Fitness is a youth mentoring program designed to help kids (grades 6 -12) develop a strong work ethic, mental toughness, determination and goal setting skills. Through intense physical workouts with mentors, both one-on-one and group, kids discover what it takes to achieve their goals not just in the gym but in their academic, personal and social lives.

**NO EXPERIENCE OR SPECIAL SKILLS NECESSARY.**

**What:** Volunteer Mentoring & Other Opportunities to Help Kids  
**When:** Thursday 5:30-6:30pm  
& Sundays 10:30-11:30am  
**Where:** Upper Main Line YMCA  
Conestoga High School

**FRIEND FITNESS PROGRAM**



**For Details/Visits: Chris Major 610-249-9631 [Chris@youthmp.org](mailto:Chris@youthmp.org)**

## Photographs of Students



Just a reminder that from time to time, photographs may be taken of your child, individually or in groups, for District public relations purposes or local newspaper articles. Your child's name may be identified with the photograph. If you object to the District's use of your child's photograph, with or without your child's name, in any manner, please contact your child's school principal as soon as possible.

**'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.

## TE All-Call Needs Your Updated Numbers!



The District is currently configuring TE All-Call, the new emergency phone notification system, in anticipation of the winter weather season. In order for the system to work effectively, parents are asked to notify the school's main office as soon as possible if their contact numbers change at any point during the school year. Stay tuned for a test of TE All-Call this fall.



# School Board Update



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

## Education Committee

submitted by DEBBIE ROLLINS

The Education Committee met on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting began with a report on the elementary program with information from the Resource Utilization Task Force and the Elementary Blueprint for Instruction Committee. Included in this information were reports on Use of Instructional Time, Research on Literacy Instruction, Research on Math/Science Instruction and the Six-Day Schedule. The Committee asked the administration to review public requests made in the meeting and provide a response as soon as possible.

The Committee discussed the calendar options for the 2009-2010 school year. The Committee asked the administration to develop additional calendar options to present at the November meeting.

Finally, the Committee received a preliminary report on 2009-2010 professional staffing. The report will be refined after the November Pennsylvania Economy League enrollment report is received.

## Facilities Committee

submitted by PETE MOTEL

The Facilities Committee met on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Members were updated on ongoing construction projects including the IT building renovation, Wide Area Network/ telephone system upgrades and surge protective devices at Conestoga. Bids for the IT renovation project will be advertised next week and awarded by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Construction change orders from summer projects were approved.

Action items from the September meeting were reviewed, and the Committee discussed problems with Conestoga's activity sign. That problem has been addressed and is expected to be resolved soon.

The Committee heard a report on the status of variances needed for changes to the T/E Middle School

parking lot. They discussed the size of the parking spaces and storm water management needs associated with the project.

The Committee discussed temporary quarters for the Maintenance Department and possible new sites for its permanent relocation. One of four possible sites, the Jefferson Lane site, is no longer an option because the deed does not allow for a non-school building.

The Committee also discussed the transportation building and the feasibility of splitting the functions of the bus transfer station, central receiving and maintenance to allow for more options of relocating the maintenance department. The Committee would like to have more options for location of the bus transfer station. They discussed the possibility of locating it at a church or other non-profit that would benefit from having the bus transfer station on their property.

A Board member reported that Conestoga students would like space for a student store. The administration noted that there had been a store in the past and that space could probably be found for it.

The next meeting of the Facilities Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 21 at 7:30 AM at the T/E Administrative Office.

## Finance Committee

submitted by BETSY FADEM

The Committee met on October 13 and began with a review of the District's monthly financial reports. The administration noted several items of importance:

- transfer tax revenue continues to be collected at a rate lower than expected,
- interest income is higher than anticipated, and
- the state share of the retirement revenue and expenditure was budgeted at a higher rate than the State is charging resulting in a lower retirement revenue contribution.

These trends will be monitored and reported on at upcoming Finance Meetings.

The District auditors have finished the District's audit and the audit will be presented at the November Finance Meeting. The next item of business was a presentation of the 403 (b) Plan Document and the District's agreement with a third party administrator, Kades-Margolis. The Committee recommended that the plan document, the Kades-Margolis agreement, the adoption agreement and the third party administrator agreement be approved by the full Board.

The Committee heard a report on the status of the TE All-Call Notification System. Currently, data is coming in from TE families and being entered into the system database. A test of the system will be scheduled once the data is returned and entered.

The next topic was a draft recommendation by the administration on the rental cost for meeting rooms at the TE Admin Offices. It was decided that the rooms will be available to rent by outside groups after regular business hours only when a custodian is scheduled to be in the building for District-related reasons.

The administration presented follow-up information on previous Finance Committee business.

- The District has not received any notice on the bio-diesel grant the District submitted.
- The District's existing policy prohibits any solicitation on school district property and signs will be posted in the buildings if signs do not already exist.

The fund balance designation recommendation will be discussed at the next Finance meeting following the receipt and acceptance of our auditors' final report.

The next Finance meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at TEAO. (Please note the earlier start time for the November meeting.) All are welcome.

## **Policy Committee**

submitted by LIANE DAVIS

The Policy Committee met on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee recommended the following policies for a second reading by the full Board at their October 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting: Policy 5401, Student Discipline and Policy 6152, Classroom Assignments.

The Committee discussed Policy and Regulation 1123, Public Access to School District Records. After making formatting and wording changes, the Committee recommended sending the revised policy to the Board for a first reading at their next meeting.

After discussion and elimination of the reference to the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, Policy 5114, Attendance Records, was revised and recommended for a first reading by the entire Board at their next meeting.

The title of Policy 5229, Student Withdrawals, was discussed. After word changes and a change of the name to *Transfer of Students Outside of the District*, Policy 5229 was recommended for first reading by the Board at their next regular meeting.

Policy 9000, Board Operations and By-Laws, was re-titled *Board Operating Procedures* and recommended for first reading at the next regular meeting of the Board. The District Solicitor was asked to develop a regulation to accompany the policy.

The title of Policy 9010, Adoption or Amendment of By-Laws was changed to *Adoption, Amendment and Repeal of Board Operating Procedures*. After discussion and revisions, it was recommended for first reading by the full Board at their next regular meeting.

The title of Policy 9100, Organization, was changed to *Authority to Operate the School District*. Revisions were made and the Committee recommended a first reading by the full Board at their next regular meeting.

Policy 5300, Organizations-Secondary Schools, was revised and re-titled, *Student Organizations and School-Sponsored Activities*. The District solicitor was asked to review the regulation and present both the revised policy and the regulation at the next meeting of the Policy Committee. Also scheduled for further discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting is Policy 9130, Officers of the Board.

The Committee recommended Policy 9110, Purpose and Role of the Board, be repealed as it is no longer needed because of amendments to Policy 9100. The policy repeal is recommended for first reading by the full Board at their next regular meeting.

The title of Policy 9120, Number of Members and Terms of Office, was changed to *Composition of the Board*. Because this is the only change, the District solicitor advised that no Board action was required.

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

**Non-Profit Organization**

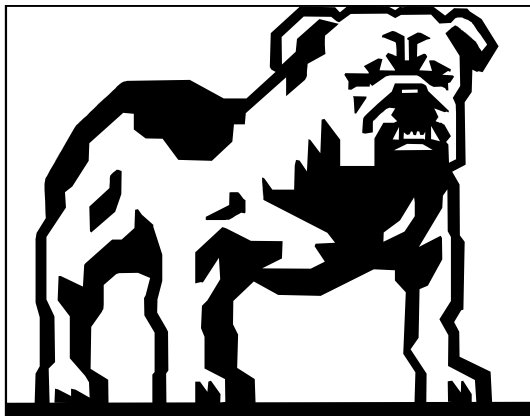
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**DATED MATERIAL**

***Coming Events:***

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

- 11/24-25** *Parent Teacher Conference*
- 11/26-27** *Thanksgiving Recess-No School*
- 12/9** *5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert* 7:30pm
- 12/12** *7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Dance* 7:00-9:30 pm
- 12/17** *7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert* 7:30 pm
- 12/24-1/4** *Winter Recess-No School*



Help the TEMS PTO  
Go GREEN!  
Get your "Bulldog Barks"



ONLINE!