

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

It's hard to believe but the year 2008 is rapidly drawing to a close. Overall, the fifth graders have adjusted well to the new routines, added responsibility, and hectic pace of middle school. Along with their curricular areas, fifth grade classroom teachers continue to emphasize preparation for class, organization, and study skills. Following are updates from each of the curricular areas.

Science: Fifth graders are completing the life science portion of their studies. The next unit includes Matter, Sound and Light. In this physical science unit, students will be studying atoms, molecules, states of matter and the periodic table. Then, in their study of sound, classes will create and manipulate sound with rubber bands, soda bottles, and musical instruments.

Math: In math, students are wrapping up their decimal studies, and will multiply their efforts. We have no doubt that they will measure up, as they move into studies of multiplication and measurement. As we do so, students will be exposed to metric, as well as, customary units of measurement.

English: Narrative, informative, and persuasive writing prompts are all being used to promote student writing. In addition, continued emphasis on mastery of spelling strategies and patterns, as well as grammar instruction, round out the English program. With a grammar study that has moved us through the elements of a sentence, types of sentences, and into nouns, can verbs be far behind?

Ask your fifth grader and find out!

Reading: The culminating activities, which accompanied the reading of the local classic, Maniac Magee, were a big hit with the fifth grade. Our viewing of the movie, which we enjoyed, allowed students to compare and contrast the movie with the novel. (An informal survey of students indicated that most preferred the joy of reading the book to the movie.) As we move through the second marking period, students will continue to learn strategies to improve comprehension, make inferences, compare and contrast, and draw conclusions from their reading.

Social Studies: Who knew the study of ancient civilizations could be so action-packed and fun-filled? In Social Studies, that's what students are finding out. Some are engaged in research reports on various topics, while others are working cooperatively on projects. Learning about the past is providing keys into our understanding of the present for our fifth grade scholars.



SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Thanks to everyone who came to the Science demonstration for American Education Week. It was wonderful to see so many parents there.

Science: We are continuing our study of Cells & Heredity. We have completed the introductory microscope lab, and our study of animal and plant cells. Activities included making cell models, performing organelle theater, and diagramming cell parts. Students will also compare animal and plant cells by observing their own cheek cells and elodea plant cells. During our "Eggsperiment", we will use eggs to demonstrate selective permeability and osmosis. After Break, we will begin our study of Heredity.

Social Studies: During the month of December, sixth grade students have been working on a project focusing on United States and Canada. Students will finish the research process in school and later will be doing an oral presentation. Previously, they completed a chapter in their social studies book on the United States and Canada through an independent study. Later in the month, students will be working on a unit focusing on the continent of Africa.

Reading: In the month of December, students study the lives of Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria in preparation for reading The Christmas Carol. Students will be reading this classic in play form. The highlight of this unit is our field trip to experience a live performance of the story at the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center. This should be an enjoyable culmination of our Charles Dickens Unit.

English: In December, students will write a descriptive essay and then make an oral presentation to the class about a family tradition. This project allows students to consider the uniqueness of family and the importance of traditions in

their lives. In January, students will study cultural diversity as they read, The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, by Christopher Paul Curtis. There will be more about that unit in our January newsletter

Math: The on-level class has completed the pre-algebra unit. In this unit, the students were learning about variables, expressions and equations. The students translated numerical expressions and equations into word phrases and sentences. Finally, the students solved equations algebraically. Students and parents are reminded that mastery of basic math facts is *essential* for sixth grade mathematics and parents are encouraged to practice math facts with their children using flash cards, practice sheets, or any other means. Before the winter recess, the pupils will begin their unit on decimal number concepts, where mastery of facts will again be essential for success. Above-grade students have finished a unit on number theory and fractions. The pupils reviewed equivalent fractions, lowest term fractions, and the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Now the students will review adding, subtracting, dividing, and multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. We will also focus on word problems and algebraic equations that involve fractions. The Pre-Algebra classes are in the midst of the number theory unit, working with fraction concepts, including factors, GCF, and LCM, and applying the concepts to variable expressions and equations with and without exponents. After mastery of these concepts, students will begin applying these concepts in the next unit on rational numbers and complex fraction equations.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

This month and the new year will be a busy and exciting time for all seventh graders. Parents are encouraged to help their child plan for all school activities and assignments by making sure students continue to write down all assignments in their assignment book. The assignment book is one key to being organized!

English: During the month of December, students will be completing the tolerance unit and reflecting on their perceptions of US society. Additionally, students will be reading and writing poetry and employing a variety of poetic devices as rhetorical tools. They will also be reading a 2nd book independently and preparing a report.

Mathematics: Math seven students are currently involved with the decimal unit. Students are reviewing concepts such as place value, rounding, and comparing decimals. The class will then practice addition, subtraction, division and multiplication of decimals. Finally, students will use decimal operations to solve "real world" word problems. The next unit will focus on fractions.

Pre-Algebra: Students are involved with the decimal equation unit. The students will solve decimal equations and simplify decimal expressions. Next, the class will begin the number theory unit. In this unit, the class will review concepts such as divisibility rules, factors and multiples, prime and composite numbers. Students will also be introduced to many new concepts including evaluating expressions with exponents, simplifying exponential expressions (positive and negative), finding prime factorization and greatest common factor of integers and

variable expressions.

Algebra: Students will begin the unit on simultaneous equations. Students will learn methods such as substitution, linear combinations, and graphing.

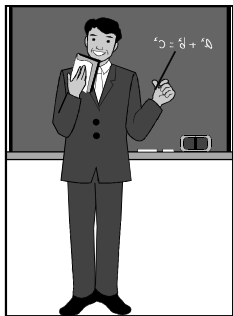
Science: Science students will finish a unit on animals and continue learning about various environmental topics. They will be researching the effects of landfills, factories, pesticides, and air pollution on our community. Project topics include the Junk Mail lab, the Living History Interviews and Environmental Debates.

Social Studies: Students will be completing their study of the development of the Thirteen English colonies in America. Concepts examined include: cultural diversity, religious tolerance, and ideas regarding self government. The study of these concepts will lead us to examine America's growing difficulties with England and plant the seeds for the colonist's desire for independence during that time period.



The team would like to wish parents and students "Happy Holidays!" and a Happy New 2009!

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS



Algebra 2 is beginning a unit on polynomials. Students will be able to graph and find roots of polynomial equations. Graphing calculator applications will be utilized

Geometry is finishing a unit on Congruent Triangles. We will also complete a brief unit on Relationships in Triangles before the Winter Break.

Pre-Algebra is currently working on various topics within the Spatial Thinking Unit. We will finish that soon and move on to Area and Volume.

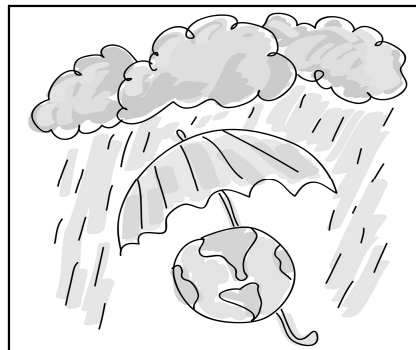
The Pre-Algebra/Algebra IA classes will conclude the Pre-Algebra portion of the course right before Winter Break. We will be collecting the Pre-Algebra books and handing out Algebra 1A books before break. We will be Algebra 1A on January 5th with an Introduction to Algebra Unit.

American History students will finish their study of the Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and begin their study of

the "Age of Jackson."

English: During the month of December, all students will participate in a study of Greek mythology. The unit begins with an overview of Greek gods and goddesses, followed by the reading of *The Odyssey*. Along the way, students will be creating mythology projects to share with the class and engaging in discussions of life in ancient Greece. As a culmination to the unit, each student will compose a persuasive essay focused on one of several themes explored during the course of study.

Science: Science classes are completing their study of weather and climate. Topics include short-term and long-term changes in climate. Students will investigate the causes of climate, analyze climate graphs and look at patterns of the world's climate zones. Upon completion of our weather unit, students will begin their study of geology.



Student Council Update

Student Council has been very busy this year! We have organized and directed many events already. These events include the Welcome Back Dance, our annual Magazine Drive, the 5/6 Mixer, our 5th Annual PINK DAY, and our monthly spirit days.

The Welcome Back Dance was held on Friday, September 19th for 7th and 8th grade students. Student Council made and sold the tickets and decorated the gym with a fall theme. It was a great way to get back into the school spirit. Next, was our annual Magazine Drive. We know school is beginning when the “Magazine Drive Guy” comes to T/E and has the kick-off assembly to tell us about the cool prizes that we will win if we sell magazines to our family and friends. This is a fundraiser for our school and the money goes to various student activities for our school. On October 14th, we had our 5th annual PINK DAY. PINK DAY is a student council fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. On this day, we encourage the school to wear pink in honor/support of cancer patients. We also sell t-shirts, ribbons, stickers, soft pretzels and pink lemonade. This year we raised almost \$2400, which is the most we have ever raised! Our most recent event was the 5/6 Mixer. This is a Halloween themed party for the 5th and 6th graders that is run by the 7th and 8th grade student council members. In order to get a ticket, students must pay \$3 and donate a toiletry item. All the toiletry items were donated to the INN DWELLING shelter in Philadelphia, PA. The students participated in fun activities like Guess the Pumpkin Weight, Guess the Amount of Candy, a Dance contest and of course a Costume Contest. All the activities, decorations and tickets were done by Student Council. Over 300 fifth and sixth graders attended!

Student Council has much more to plan for. This year we will be helping out at the fall parent conferences on Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th. We direct the parents to the rooms their conferences will be held in and help keep things moving on time! In the beginning of December, we have our annual Canned Food Drive. All food donated goes to the Paoli Food Closet. Last year we collected over 7000 items. The homeroom that brings in the most food each year gets a pizza party from Student Council! On the day that the food is getting picked up, we also help load the truck. The winter “Snow Ball”, our dress-up dance for 7th and 8th graders, will be on December 12th this year, from 7-9:30 in the cafeteria. Tickets will be on sale the week of the dance!

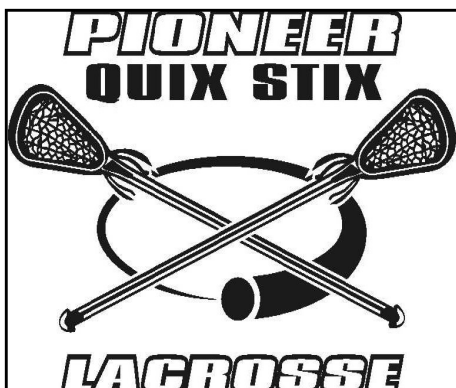
It has been a busy year so far. Student Council appreciates the support and the participation of T/E’s students and faculty!

Joseph Scuteri
Student Council President



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!

Save the Date:

InTEpendence Day



Saturday, February 7, 2009

TEMS Third Annual Parent Social
Questions or to volunteer, please call
Karen Consalo 610-644-6119



PLEASE HELP!!!!

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!!!

Auction items are needed for our Parent Social Silent Auction. Please consider donating tickets, golf outings, vacation homes, services or any items you may have! No item is too large or small! All proceeds

PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LOGIC

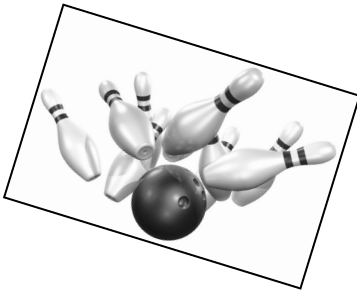
Presented by Barb Bogle, Devon Elementary Counselor

Six week session starting on January 21, 2009
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Contact Barb at 610-240-1458
Or bogleb@tesd.net

Would you like to raise more responsible children? Would you like to reduce the fighting, bickering and yelling in your house? Would you like your children to be more respectful and agreeable? Then come and learn about a parenting program called "Parenting with Love and Logic". The primary goal of this program is to give parents practical strategies for reducing behavior problems, increasing motivation, and building assets which contribute to life-long responsibility and resiliency.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



THE TEMS BOWLING PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 12-2PM

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

BOWLING...PIZZA...SNACKS

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT ROSI MCPHERSON remcp7@comcast.net

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.**

Winter Coat Drive

Lend a Hand will be participating in the Philly Cares 12th annual winter coat drive. Please bring in your new or “gently used” winter coats to be donated to needy families in the Philadelphia area.



Where: Room 121

When: December 1 to December 19

Contact: Miss LeBrocq (610)240-2230



2009 Main Line Camp Fair

Meet representatives from day, overnight and travel/adventure camps!
Families with Elementary, Middle and High school students are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday January 28, 2009

5:30-8:30 pm

Conestoga High School

200 Irish Road

Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312

Admission is Free

(Snow Date: February 4, 2009)

Sponsored by Devon Elementary School PTO

For more information, visit www.mainlinecampfair.org

or call 610-254-0358

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 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, 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.

Update on TE All-Call



On Thursday, November 13th, 2008, the District conducted a test of the TE All-Call phone notification system. During the test, the District learned that there is a "pause" before the automated message begins, which is typical of a computer-generated call such as a telemarketing call. The District's main phone number, 610-240-1900, will display on phones equipped with Caller ID when a call is received from the TE All-Call system. It is important that parents wait on the line for the automated message to begin. If for any reason parents do not hear the automated message in its entirety, they may also call the TE Information Hotline at 610-240-1970 to hear the same recorded announcement.

TE All-Call will be used to send automated messages to parents in the event of weather-related closings, late openings, early dismissals and any other unscheduled closings, cancellations or emergency situations. The District will continue to broadcast school closing information on the TE Information Hotline, 610-240-1970, TETV, local TV stations and designated radio stations. During the winter weather season, the TESD web site has a 'School Closings' section that links to the Action News school closing alert center, which lists school closings.

Please be sure to notify the school's main office if any of your contact numbers change throughout the school year.



SPRING 2009 BOYS LACROSSE REGISTRATION

Conestoga Youth Lacrosse, the boys lacrosse program for residents of Tredyffrin/Easttown in grades 1 through 8, is currently accepting registration for new and returning players.

Registration for the 2009 Spring Season is **ONLINE ONLY** and is **OPEN NOW**. Please visit our website at: WWW.CYLAX.COM to learn more about the program and register. If you would like to talk to a coach prior to registering or wish to be guided through the registration process, please send an email to cy-lax@comcast.net and we will contact you personally.

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009 OR UPON REACHING 450 PLAYERS.

WINTER REC IS HERE!

The Tredyffrin Township Park and Recreation board along with The Tredyffrin Easttown school District are once again sponsoring the Tredyffrin Township winter Recreation Program for Tredyffrin and Easttown residents in grades K-12.

December 6th through March 7th
Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

At Valley Forge Elementary School for students K-6 there will be table games, crafts, rock climbing, basketball, floor hockey, gym scooters and the return of some old favorites.
At Valley Forge and T/E Middle Schools for students grades 6 - 12 there will be a monitored open gym for basketball for pick up games only.

No preregistration is required- just sign your child up when you arrive.

Registration forms are available on our web site if you would like to complete the form before arrival.



Are you considering a holiday gift for a T/E staff member?

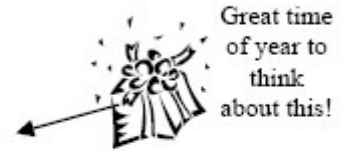


Is there someone from the School District who has made a difference in your child's education?

- ...A teacher who motivated your child to go above and beyond?
- ...A nurse who gently mended a wound on your child?
- ...A bus driver who transported your child safely to school each day?
- ...A counselor who comforted your child during a difficult time?
- ...A coach who challenged your child to be successful?

Did someone from the School District help you, as a parent, to have a successful experience?

- ...A secretary who helped you to schedule a PTO function?
- ...A custodian who cleaned up after the PTO event in which you were involved?
- ...A teacher who welcomed you into the classroom as a volunteer?



Are you an alumnus who wants to thank a staff member who inspired you?

Is someone retiring whom you would like to recognize?

Honor them by making a tax-deductible donation to FLITE in their names.

Simply fill out the form below. Your chosen recipient(s) will be notified by letter of the honor (but not the dollar amount), and your donation will go a long way toward fulfilling FLITE's mission of helping all district students reach their potential.

Please accept this gift of \$ _____ for FLITE in honor of the staff member(s) listed below.

Staff member honored	School	Student's name

*Additional names can be attached on a separate page.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

All checks should be made payable to FLITE and mailed to: PO Box 806, Southeastern, PA 19399-0806.

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.

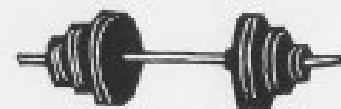
The life you change may be your own.

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

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

Non-Profit Organization

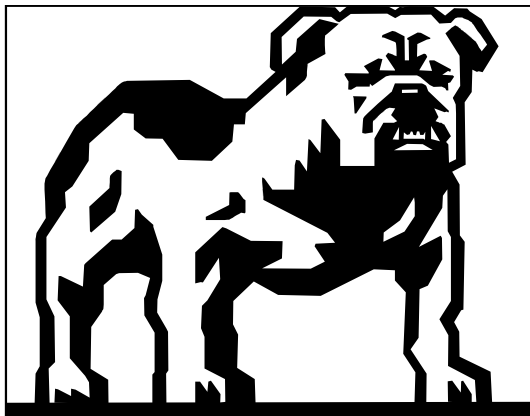
**US POSTAGE PAID
Paoli, PA 19301
Permit No. 24**

DATED MATERIAL

Coming Events:

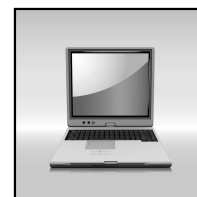
For more details, check T/E website.

12/17 7th/8th Grade Winter Concert 7:30 pm
12/24-1/4 Winter Recess-No School
1/16-20 Annual MLK Jr. Casserole Drive
1/19 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL
1/30 Staff In-Service NO SCHOOL
2/7 InTEpendence Day 7-11pm Waynesborough CC



Help the TEMS PTO
Go GREEN!

Get
Barks”



your
“Bulldog
ONLINE!

Each month you will
receive a link to the