

Bulldog Barks

A Publication of the Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School PTO

January 2009

www.temspto.org

Volume 14, Issue 5

Join us for InT/Edependence Day!

You are cordially invited to the T/E Middle School Parent Social

When: Saturday, February 7, 2009, 7:00 pm

Where: Waynesborough Country Club
Paoli, Pennsylvania

- Dinner-dancing-silent auction
- \$50.00 per person and cash bar
- Please make check payable to TEMS/PTO
- Proceeds to purchase and install SMART Boards in the classrooms.
- Questions? Please contact Johanne Lamarche
frenchgardener@comcast.net



WE NEED YOUR HELP! PARENT SOCIAL AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!

Attention all TEMS families! The PTO needs your donation for the silent auction portion of this major fundraiser. NO donation is too small. Creative ideas and services are all greatly appreciated. Lessons of any kind (cooking, music, tutoring, dancing), personal training, event tickets, vacation homes, timeshares, artwork, painting, decorating, home or garden design, and babysitting are just a few ideas. Any items that can be incorporated in a basket would also be much appreciated.

Fifteen teachers are currently on a waiting list for a SMART Board for their classrooms. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the purchase and installation of SMART Boards. Last year we raised a record \$25,000.00! Please help us achieve this year's goal.

Also, consider asking for donations from the businesses you frequent. The community has been generous and very receptive to the school in spite of the tough economic times we find ourselves in. Ask and you will be pleasantly rewarded with a wonderful donation for the auction!

Donations can be dropped off at:

- TEMS front office
- Karen Consalo's 2067 St. Andrew Drive, Berwyn, 610-644-6119
- Johanne Lamarche's 630 Spruce Lane, Berwyn, 610-407-9733
 - Call us and we will be happy to pick up your donation!
 - Thank you for your support!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The TEMS 5th grade teachers hope that all students had a wonderful winter break and are refreshed and ready for 2009!

In reading, students will soon begin studying a variety of nonfiction texts. They will also continue to develop their vocabularies through the Wordly Wise program.

In social studies, students are continuing their studies of the ancient world. Students have enjoyed learning about maps and globes, Mesopotamia, China, and Egypt and have participated in a variety of exciting activities and projects.

Math students are finishing a detailed study of multiplication and have enjoyed finding the perimeter, area,

and volume of geometric figures. On-level students will soon begin a study of measurement. As above-level students finish their measurement unit, they will begin investigating plane geometry.

Students in English classes have been studying nouns and pronouns and are using their grammatical knowledge in informative writing. They are actively preparing for February's PSSA writing test, as well as, our school spelling bee!

In science, students are completing their study of animals and are moving on to investigations of matter, sound, and light.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

This month we will be discussing the importance of writing in the 6th grade program and how writing is taught across the curriculum. The following is a short summary of some of the ways writing is taught in each Core subject:

English: This month in English we will be reading The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963, by Christopher Paul Curtis. This novel has won many awards including the Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Award. As writing is the primary emphasis in English class, we use this novel to teach the power of story telling and voice in writing.

Using the Pennsylvania State Standards as our guide, students learn about the writing process through the use of prompts. Grammar, that relates to writing assignments, spelling, and the correct use of mechanics are also taught. Through constant practice, both in the classroom and in the Word Processing Lab, gradual improvement is achieved. We will continue to do the bi-weekly Sparks as these assignments allow students to practice their writing skills at home with some help from a parent or guardian.

Reading: Writing is also an important part of many reading lessons. Students often write about what they read in journals and on tests and quizzes. For example, students will soon be using response journals to reinforce the concept of responding to a piece of literature, rather than summarizing it.



Science: We are starting our Cells & Heredity unit after the winter break. After an introductory microscope lab, we will study animal and plant cells. Making jello cells, performing organelle theater, and diagramming cell parts will make the students cell experts. 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. In Science students continue to write conclusions to the labs and activities that are completed in class.

Incorporating our science vocabulary into explanations is stressed throughout every unit. Expressing one's complete understanding of a concept in precise and concise sentences is also an important piece of our curriculum.

Math : As an on-going goal, math students of all levels are encouraged to include writing in their mathematics. Either daily or weekly, students are assigned a word problem in which they must solve using a strategy of their choice. After solving the word problem, the students must write a brief paragraph to explain *how* they arrived at the answer and *why* they made the solving choices they did. The paragraph gives the students an opportunity to practice expository writing while giving them a chance to develop a better understanding of the mathematics and math vocabulary involved in the word problem. The on-level students are actively involved with a unit on decimals. Place value, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals as well as, whole numbers are studied in depth. The classes will be relating decimals to fraction forms, which will carry them into their next unit of study. Above-grade classes are starting the unit on ratios, rates, percent and proportions. Students will apply these concepts into real life situations as they figure out such things as tips, percent markdowns, sales tax, and scale. Students will also be using these concepts as they create their own scale drawings. Pre-Algebra classes are busy working with rational number concepts, fractions, and solving equations involving both rational numbers and fractions. Previously learned fraction, integer, and algebraic concepts will be expanded upon as students perform all four operations with combinations of positive and negative fractions, mixed numbers and variable terms.

Social Studies: During the first half of January students will be completing a mini unit on Black History. This is done to give students background information about the events of the late 50's and early 60's, the time setting for the novel The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963 that will be read in English class. We will be ending the month with a unit of study about Latin America. Writing is also a key component in the Social Studies curriculum and is incorporated into each of our units. Students are required to answer questions in both short form and in essay form. For example, the test for the final section of the Latin American unit will be in essay form.



SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Plans are progressing for the Williamsburg trip on May 27, May 28, and May 29th, 2009. The Williamsburg informational packet will be sent home in January with all of the necessary forms and due dates.

English: English classes will be focused on non-fiction writing during the month of January. Students will read a variety of high interest non-fiction essays to gain critical reading strategies for evaluating argument and perspective. They will employ these strategies by creating an editorial on an issue they find important. Next, students will read either *Stargirl* or *Schooled*; novels which deal with issues surrounding conformity and individuality. A persuasive essay will provide opportunities for higher level thinking, analysis and expression of opinion. As always, grammar and vocabulary instruction will supplement our work with the texts.

Math: Pre-algebra students will continue their work with the factors, fractions and exponents unit. Students will learn algebraic rules for multiplying and dividing powers with the same base. To conclude the unit, the class will study scientific notation with positive and negative exponents. The next unit will be operations with positive and negative fractions.

Algebra students are working on the simultaneous equations unit. Students will learn to solve word problems that involve solving systems of two equations with two unknowns. The class will learn to complete motion problems, age problems, digit problems and fraction problems. The next unit is polynomials. Math 7 students are currently working with fraction operations and will conclude the unit with word problems. The next unit is the ratio unit. Pupils will learn about rates, unit rates, equal ratios and proportions. Students will then use these concepts to solve real world word problems.

Science: During January some classes will be finishing ecology, environmental issues, and lifestyle impacts. In February some classes will transition into diversity of living things while others will begin concepts of chemistry.

Social Studies: In January social studies classes will be studying the Great Awakening, the development of representative government, as well as, the French & Indian War. In addition, for ten weeks, beginning in mid-February, students will participate in an on-line stock market simulation called the Stock Market Game. (SMG).

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

English: Reflecting on the writing process is a prime focus this month. Students are revising five paragraph essays and original short stories to put in their writing portfolios. Reviewing grammar mechanics, analyzing sentence structure, increasing vocabulary, and writing in classroom journals will continue. Students are also reading a novel of their own choice for a report later this month.

Math: **Pre-Algebra** is currently involved in a unit on decimals and equations.

Pre Alg/Alg 1A just finished the Pre-Algebra portion of the course. They will be starting their first unit on Algebra. Soon after that, they will be working with linear equations.

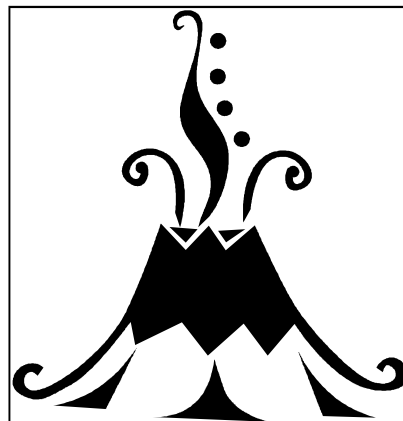
Algebra- After the study of linear systems, study will begin on variation and then polynomials.

Algebra 2 – Students will begin the study of rational functions and rational exponents.

Geometry— After working on quadrilaterals, the class will begin a unit on similarity.

American History: The concepts of westward expansion and the differences between the northern and southern regions of the United States in the 19th Century will be covered. Critical thinking skills (implications and consequences) will also be emphasized and developed.

Science: Students begin their study of Geology with the *Inside Earth* textbook providing the outline of topics of study. The Theory of Plate Tectonics is a central focus of this unit. This unit includes an investigation into the geologic history of Pennsylvania through a geologic timeline project. Students will review hypotheses and evidence that lead to our current geological understanding and Earth's surface features and the forces that work to create or destroy them. Further topics of study include Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Rocks and Minerals.



Conestoga High School Course Selection

Eighth graders will soon be involved in the Conestoga Course Selection process for ninth grade. Please be aware that there will be several activities planned for students and parents to introduce, explain and carry-out the actual selection of courses. A letter with the timeline will be mailed to all 8th grade parents.

On Wednesday, **January 28**, the music department will be taking our 8th grade musicians to the high school to introduce them to Conestoga's various music opportunities.

On Monday, **February 2**, all 8th graders will receive Conestoga's Program of Studies booklet, a timeline of the various activities they will be involved in and an overview of the procedures involved. Students will be encouraged to go over the Program of Studies booklet with their parents.

On Tuesday, **February 3**, Conestoga Special Area departments and Core Class Department Chairs visit and make presentation to our students.

On Thursday, **February 5**, at 7:00 PM, there will be a Course Selection Night presentation for parents in Conestoga's auditorium. Parents are encouraged to attend. Counselors and department chairpersons will be giving presentations.

On Monday, **February 9**, Conestoga counselors will be visiting 8th grade math classes to go over, in detail, the different steps students must take to ensure accurate and appropriate course selections. Students will receive their course selection cards at that time.

From Tuesday, **February 10** to Tuesday, **February 17**, 8th grade teachers will make recommendations on students' course selection cards. These recommendations will include actual courses, as well as, course levels.

On Friday, **February 13**, there will be a parent coffee at TEMS with Conestoga High School counselors doing an informal presentation and answering any questions parents might have. I will also be available throughout this time for individual student and/or parent conferences.

Completed course selection cards are due to Mrs. Heckman on Friday, **February 20**.
Please call Mrs. Heckman at 610-240-1214 if you have any questions.

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.

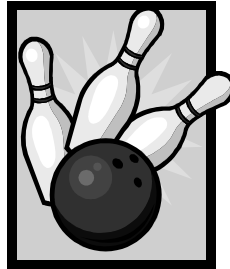
At Valley Forge and T/E Middle Schools for students grades 6 -12 there will be a monitored open gym for basketball for pick up games only.

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.



**TE Middle School PTO
Bowling Party/Fundraiser
All Grades Welcome!!**



Friday, March 6, 2009
12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm

Playdrome Devon Lanes
300 Lancaster Avenue
Devon, PA 19333
610-688-1920

2 Hours of Bowling
Complimentary Shoes
Pizzas/Drinks/Snacks included

\$20.00 per child
\$15 each add'l child
6 on a lane
Teams assigned
First come first serve

Reservations and Payment
Due February 16th
Checks Payable to TEMS PTO
Questions contact Rosi McPherson 610-647-4917
Parents responsible for transportation to and from Devon Lanes

Return payment and form to main office by February 16th

Child's Name _____

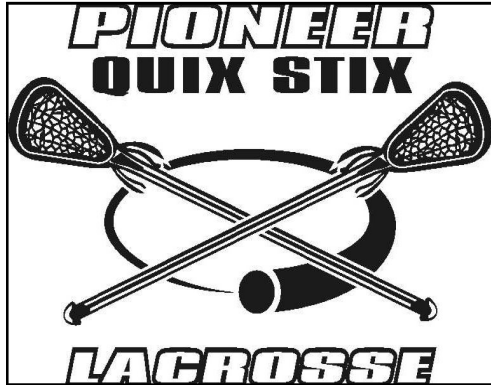
Parent's Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____

Requested friend to bowl with (first and last name)

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!

Middle School Advisory Committee

The Middle School Advisory Committee consists of parents, teachers, school board members, and administrators. During the first meeting of the 2008-09 school year documents related to the development of the middle school program were reviewed and discussed. It is the practice of the District to review programs and initiatives at regular intervals. As part of the District goal to review the middle school program, the committee developed the following overarching goal:

To determine if the current middle school program meets the needs of students in the 21st century.

To achieve this goal, the committee will review the action plans of the original program to determine the degree to which they promote the development of strategic initiatives and reflect best practices.

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District provides screening and evaluation services to identify resident students who may need special education supports and services. Parent/guardians of students enrolled in District schools may contact their classroom teacher, school counselor or principal to request these services.



For students enrolled in non-public schools, please contact the Office of Individualized Student Services at 610-240-1921 to request these services.

The Martin Luther King - Feed the Homeless Service Project.

For the past three years, organizations that feed the homeless and hungry members of our community have relied on the TEMS community to help fill the need for food. This year, more than ever, the need to contribute casseroles to this growing population is very important. You can help by having your student pick up a casserole tin with an attached recipe for a casserole on Friday, January 16th on the way out of school. Return the frozen casserole filled tin on Tuesday, January 20th between 7:00am and 8:00am. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help on Tuesday morning – please contact Mary Schwartz at 610 644 2105

2009-2010 School Year Calendar

The school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year was approved by the School Board on November 17, 2008 and is available on the T/E School District web site at www.tesd.net under “Calendar” on the right side of the home page. Labor Day occurs later than usual in 2009.

Notable about the new calendar are the following details:

- School will start on September 3, 2009, the Thursday before Labor Day, for students in grades 1-12.
- The first day of school for kindergarten students is September 10, 2009.
- Conferences will take place during the week before Thanksgiving. School will be in session on Wednesday, November 25, 2009, the day before Thanksgiving.
- School will be in session on Monday, February 15, 2010, President’s Day.
- Spring break will begin the last week in March.
- The tentative last day of school for students is a half day on June 15, 2010.



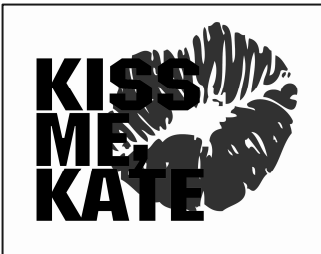
HELP THE TEMS PTO GO GREEN

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.**



'Stoga Music Theatre Presents...

KISS ME, KATE Music & Lyrics by Cole Porter

Directed by Jennie Eisenhower

Producer & Musical Director Suzanne Dickinger

Choreography by Jen Rose

February 25 – 7:30 pm

February 27 – 7:30 pm

February 26 – 10:00 am & 7:30 pm February 28 – 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Everyone is sure to enjoy Cole Porter's musical comedy *KISS ME, KATE*. In this classic American musical, an egotistical producer and his Hollywood diva ex-wife attempt to put on a musical version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Twists and turns in this play-within-a-play find cast members' on-stage lives get rather complicated by events offstage. There's fabulous music, romance, slapstick comedy, drama and gangsters! Cole Porter's Tony Award-winning musical numbers include *Why Can't You Behave, Too Darn Hot, and Brush Up Your Shakespeare*.

Mark your calendars for *KISS ME, KATE* and enjoy the talents of 'Stoga Music's cast, crew and student pit orchestra.

All Seats Reserved - **\$12** Premium Seats, **\$10** Standard Seats. Special Discount Tickets – **\$9** Standard Seats **only** for Students (Age 19 & under), Seniors (62+) & TESD Staff

Go to www.stogamusic.com/kissmekate for 24 hour internet ticketing. Tickets also available at Conestoga High School February 20, 23, 24 & 25 from 11 am to 12:45 pm and at the door 60 minutes prior to each performance.

TEMS Celebrates the Arts!

TE Middle School has had great opportunities to celebrate performing and visual arts this year. Our Cultural Arts Committee and PTO brought us two fine performers in the first semester. Cultural Arts Committee Chairs, Gail McCarthy and Kristin Schappell collaborated with DELTA and TEMS teachers to provide meaningful and memorable performers for all grades. In a great connection to the music curriculum, the fifth and sixth grade students sang with a professional opera singer named Yvette Lewis in October. Mrs. Lewis came to us from Baltimore and shared the stories of *Hansel and Gretel* and *La Boheme* through an interactive presentation. Students came to not only know the stories, but also to understand vocal range and various musical patterns apparent in opera.

The entire school had the opportunity to see Kevin Reese perform a one-man-show entitled, *Apollo to the Moon*. Mr. Reese wrote, directed, and acted in an amazing show about the power of dreaming big. He worked with NASA historians to create a historically-accurate picture of the dream of those who worked on the Apollo space missions. Eighth graders are looking forward to seeing the "Renaissance Man" perform Shakespeare's language in a unique and humorous way in April as they study *Romeo and Juliet*. Seventh graders will have the opportunity to meet several Revolutionary War re-enactors when they visit TEMS in the spring. TEMS is grateful to our Cultural Arts committee and the PTO for their support of these programs.

World Languages Program Review

The District has a practice of reviewing programs and initiatives at regular intervals. This year we are conducting a review of the world languages program in all District schools, and we invite you to participate in the process.

From February 4-6, 2009, two consultants will be visiting our District to conduct classroom observations and focus group discussions with students, teachers, parents, and administrators. We need parent volunteers to participate in these focus groups in order to gain your perspective on our program. Through observations and focus groups, the consultants will examine the curriculum currently in place in our schools, the instructional strategies used by our teachers, and how we measure student success. As part of our strategic plan, we will also review the languages offered to students at each level and explore whether or not new possibilities should be considered.

Parent input is essential to the review. If you are interested in participating, please return this sheet indicating a focus group session preference, or call Eileen Campbell at (610) 240-1908 if you have further questions. Thank you for your participation.

YES, I am interested in participating in a world languages parent focus group. The session time that would best work for me (please circle the date):

Wednesday, February 4 at 3:00 PM

Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 PM

Name _____

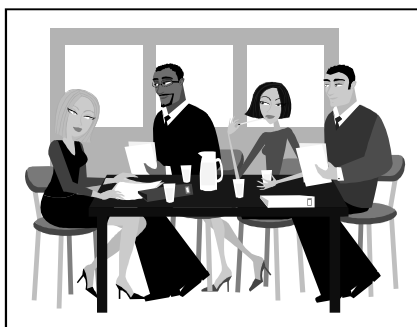
Phone number _____

Grade level (s) of children _____

Email _____

All volunteers should report to room 142 at Conestoga High School at the selected time. You will receive an email confirmation.

Please mail responses to Eileen Campbell, Tredyffrin/Easttown School District Administration Offices, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1700, Wayne, PA 19087. You may also email the above information to campbelle@tesd.net.



The Children's Dental Clinic Fundraiser

It's that time of year again for the Annual Children's Dental Clinic Fundraiser. Your support is very important to us since it is our only organized fundraiser for this school year.

For those who have not heard of the clinic, we are a non-profit community clinic housed in the T/E Middle School. We are open solely to benefit the children of the T/E and Great Valley School Districts. Our clinic is a one room, one chair office staffed by a paid professional dentist and a nominally paid supervisor. Volunteers serve as dental assistants, drivers, board members and school representatives. This is truly a rare and wonderful community service.

This year we will once again be offering products from *The Yankee Candle Company*. You will receive the catalogue in your child's backpack the week of February 17, 2009. Orders are due Tuesday, March 3, 2009

We had great success last year in raising funds for this very worthy community service and hope that you will support us once again in that endeavor. Don't forget, even if you don't wish to order any products a contribution would be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Linda Hood at 610-695-9971. If you are willing to help out in distributing products once received, that too would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

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.

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.



School Board Update



Summary of School Board Committee Meetings Provided by Committee Members

November 2008

Education Committee

submitted by DEBBIE ROLLINS

The Education Committee met on November 11th. After receiving a report on E-Reports including Student Services (Chapter 12) and Special Education (Chapter 14), the Committee recommended that autistic support at the middle school level be considered.

Following a report on the Blueprint for Instruction, the Committee recommended that the recommendations proposed by the Blueprint Committee be accepted. These include revisions/updates to Flexible Grouping, Instructional Time, Use of Instructional Core Time, Integration of New Strategic Initiatives into the Blueprint for Instruction, Program Descriptions and Team Structure.

The Committee received a summary of Draft versions of the 2009-2010 School Calendar and accepted Draft version G. The Committee recommended Draft version G be reviewed at the regular meeting of the full Board on November 17th. The 2009-2010 calendar has since been approved by the full Board and is available on the T/E School District web site.

Facilities Committee

submitted by PETE MOTEL

The Facilities Committee met on November 21st. The Committee was updated on ongoing construction projects and they reviewed change orders for the month. All of this past summer's projects are either completed or in punch list phase. As part of the construction update, the Committee considered a proposal from ARMM Associates to provide roof design specifications, bid monitoring and analysis and roof monitoring services for the roofing projects planned for summer 2009. Anticipating a review of the cost of past services, the Committee agreed to discuss the proposal again at the December meeting.

The Committee heard a report on the latest student enrollment projections. Preliminary analysis shows that Devon Elementary school will be short two classrooms for next year. There was a discussion of changes that might be necessary in light of increased enrollments at Devon. Final space needs analysis will be presented to the Committee in December.

In a review of the IT Department renovation project bids, vendors were recommended for all aspects except the

telecommunication portion, which will be rebid. The project will begin December 19 and will involve the renovation of the Old Tredyffrin High School building at the corners of Conestoga and Cassatt Roads. The IT department will then move from the old ESC into the renovated space.

The Capital Sources and Uses Report (10-Year Plan) indicated that the District's capital projects are funded through the end of the 2012-2013 school year and partially funded for 2012-2018. The General Fund designation balance can be re-designated by the Board to cover other budgetary needs in the future if needed.

The Committee reviewed the updated plans for the T/E Middle School parking lot project planned for the lower lot on Old Lancaster Road. The project is planned for this coming summer. The parking lot will be expanded by an additional 48 spaces for use in the fall of 2009. The size of each parking space was reduced to allow for a larger buffer between the lot and Old Lancaster Road.

The administration updated the Committee on the move of the Maintenance Department to the old ESC building. The estimated cost to update the ESC for use by the Maintenance Department will be approximately \$15,000, not inclusive of the cost to move heavy equipment. Moving companies are currently being evaluated in preparation for this task. The Committee agreed the costs were necessary in order to prepare for the relocation.

In new business, the Food Service Department will replace three refrigerators at approximately \$1900 each. The administration reviewed security system enhancements scheduled for the administration building. These include better lighting and an alarmed security system. The architect was asked to test the current parking lot lighting to determine if it meets local code. The Committee approved a \$12,000 expenditure for the security system.

Finance Committee

submitted by BETSY FADEM

The Finance Committee met on November 10th. The meeting agenda was reduced in scope to specifically address key financial recommendations at hand so as to allow the Board members to attend the ARCH resiliency presentation the same night.

The Committee then received a presentation on the first look at the 2009-10 budget. The administration showed the

proposed revenue budget without a tax increase, with a tax increase equal to the state index of 4.1 % and a tax increase equal to the index plus exceptions. The presentation continued with the proposed budget expenditures. The Committee discussed the proposed budget and recommended to the full Board that the District should not seek exceptions and that taxes should not be raised above the index if a tax increase is approved.

The Committee then received the 2007-08 audit report. The auditors noted that the District had a clean opinion. The Finance Committee recommended the audit report for full Board approval at the next regular Board meeting.

The Committee then reviewed the designation of the District's fund balance. The Committee approved the specifics of the designation and indicated that this action reflects use of the fund balance for capital projects and complies with the State's requirement of undesignated fund balance amounts.

The last item of business was to receive a report from our Business staff on the status of this year's commercial tax appeals, of which there were seven. Our original revenue loss exposure was approximately \$500,000, but to date, only two appeals were reduced totaling \$120,000. The level of assessment appeals by residential property owners is consistent with prior years, and one tax exempt utility property was changed to a taxable property.

Policy Committee

submitted by LIANE DAVIS

The Policy Committee met on November 13th. The Committee recommended the following policies for a second reading and adoption by the full Board at their November 17th meeting: Policy 1123, *Public Access to School District Records*; Policy 5114, *Attendance Records*; Policy 5229 *Transfers of Students Outside the District*; Policy 9000, *Board Operating Procedures*; Policy 9010, *Adoption, Amendment and Repeal of Board Operating Procedures*, Policy 9100, *Authority to Operate the School District*.

Also recommended for second reading is repeal of Policy 9110, *Purpose and Role of the Board*. It will be replaced by Policy 9100, *Authority to Operate the School District*.

After discussion and revision, the following Policies and Regulations were recommended for first reading at the regular meeting of the Board on November 17th: Policy and Regulation 5300, *Student Organizations and School-Sponsored Activities*; Policy 6190, *Internet and Computer Network Safety and Use*; Policy 6200, *Behavioral Support for Identified Special Education Students* and Policy 9130, *Officers of the Board*. Also, the Board's solicitor was asked to develop a regulation listing the duties of the Board officers for Policy 9130. The proposed regulation will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

Other policies to be reviewed at the next Committee meeting include: Policy 9140, *Board Committees*; Policy 9210, *Orienting New Board Members*; Policy 9220, *Duties of the President* and Policy 9221, *Duties of the Vice President*. The Committee recommended adding a review date to Policy 9260, *Student Representation to the School Board*.

The Board's solicitor was asked to develop a new Regulation 9210, *Orienting New Board Members*, also to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

In response to a question about how many Board members may serve on a committee, the Board's solicitor noted that there is no limit under the school code. However, many Boards do not appoint a majority of the Board in order to avoid the possibility of automatic acceptance of committee recommendations in a full Board vote.

Public Information Committee

submitted by PAT WOOD

The Public Information Committee met on November 6th. The Committee received a report on the TE All-Call Phone Notification System awareness campaign. All-Call is a computer generated phone system that will send messages to parents in the event of weather related school closings, early dismissals or late openings. Since the beginning of the school year, information about the All-Call has been publicized to parents along with requests for appropriate phone numbers to be added to the phone bank. The administration planned a test of the service, which has since been conducted, and the report from the test is being analyzed. The same information will continue to be available on the hot line, TV/radio stations, and, when appropriate, the web site.

The Committee also received a report on the email notification program. The administration has been publicizing the program in an effort to increase subscriptions. As a result, more than 500 new subscribers have joined the program since the beginning of the school year. The notification system is available to all members of the community who are interested in the activities in the school district. Interested community members may join the program by sending an email to notification1@tesd.net.

Topics for the November TE Board Talk program will be the TE All-Call Phone Notification System, the Pinnacle Grade Viewer for Parents, and the T/e-Bulletin Board, which contains information not included in the PTO newsletters, and other 'green' initiatives. The tentative topic for the January T/E Board Talk program is Web 2.0 technology as it relates to education, and possibly an update on the Department of Education's continuing efforts to implement the Graduation Competency Assessments.

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

Non-Profit Organization

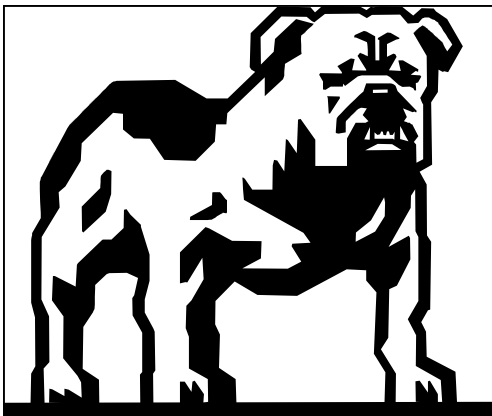
**US POSTAGE PAID
Paoli, PA 19301
Permit No. 24**

DATED MATERIAL

Coming Events:

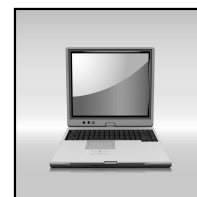
For more details, check T/E website.

<i>1/16-20</i>	<i>Annual MLK Jr. Casserole Drive</i>	
<i>1/19</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>1/30</i>	<i>Staff In-Service</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>2/3</i>	<i>Gr. 7 Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	<i>10:30am</i>
<i>2/4</i>	<i>PTO Meeting</i>	<i>9am</i>
<i>2/5</i>	<i>Gr. 5 Parent/Teacher Coffee</i>	<i>7:15am</i>
<i>2/7</i>	<i>InTEpendence Day</i>	<i>7-11pm Waynesborough CC</i>
<i>2/16</i>	<i>President's Day</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>2/20</i>	<i>Gr. 7/8 Valentine Dance</i>	<i>7-9:30pm</i>



Help the TEMS PTO
Go GREEN!

Get
Barks"



your
"Bulldog
ONLINE!"

Each month you will
receive a link to the