



# Bulldog Barks

*A Publication of the Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School PTO*

*February 2009*

*www.temspto.org*

*Volume 14, Issue 6*

## PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Students are well into the third quarter and the Semester report cards have been distributed. Spring is rapidly approaching along with warmer weather; spring sports begin on March 16<sup>th</sup> and all paperwork is due at that time. The year is more than half over but, we still have opportunities to get involved, please join us in supporting our school.

February brought us another terrific Parent Social at the Waynesborough Country Club, our third. Congratulations to Karen Consalo, Johanne LeMarche and their terrific team for putting together a wonderful event, InTEpendence Day! It was quite a lively event with a great selection of auction items donated by parents, local merchants and teachers. These donations helped to bring about a successful evening; we appreciate every donation. The rooms were beautifully decorated in a red, white and blue theme, including replicas of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, by Barb Weigand and her husband. Everyone enjoyed good food, great music and lots of bidding. All of the funds raised will be used to purchase and install smart boards.

The PTO held our fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Casserole Drive, for those in need, this past month. We owe a big thank you to Mary Schwartz, Gwenn Mascioli, the parents that prepped and disbursed the pans and recipes, the casserole collectors and all of the families that prepared the 201 casseroles. It is wonderful to see our families, especially the students, step up to help those in need.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

<b>February 27</b>	<b><i>Student/Faculty Basketball Game</i></b>	TEMS	
<b>March 4</b>	<b><i>PTO Meeting</i></b>	9:00 AM	Faculty Lounge
<b>March 5</b>	<b><i>Parent Conferences</i></b>	TEMS	
<b>March 6</b>	<b><i>Bowling Event</i></b>	12-2 PM	Devon Bowling
<b>April 1</b>	<b><i>PTO Meeting</i></b>	9:00 AM	Faculty Lounge
<b>April 24</b>	<b><i>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Fling Dance</i></b>	7:00-9:30 PM	TEMS

Finally, we encourage you to join us at the next meeting on March 4, 2009 at 9:00 am in the Faculty Lounge; we look forward to new faces and new ideas. Karen Consalo has begun putting together a list of volunteers interested in positions either on the board or as chairpersons of various committees for the upcoming school year, 2009-2010. If you or someone you know is interested in taking a more active role, please contact Karen at [consalo1@aol.com](mailto:consalo1@aol.com).

PTO Executive Committee:

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

## *TEMS PTO Meeting Minutes*



Attendance: Mark Cataldi, Karen Consalo, Gretchen Guttman, Johanne LaMarche, Mary Beth Panaro, Gail McCarthy, Gigi Miller, Nicole Roy, Ayuko Siegel

Gretchen Guttman opened the meeting and the following was covered:  
Speaker – Nicole Roy, Special Education Supervisor – gave a presentation on some basic facts and figures related to the field of Special Education (Chapter 14 of PA Code). This included some historical information on the development of special education, types of support, as well as, some statistics on the growth in number of students requiring services in the TE District.

Mark Cataldi, Principal TEMS, reported on several items.

The adjusted school calendar reflecting the snow day is posted on the district website. The last day will now be June 22<sup>nd</sup>, this includes 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. The student/faculty basketball game fund raiser will be held February 27<sup>th</sup>. As this is a popular event, ticket preference first goes to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, then to 7<sup>th</sup> and then the rest of the students.

The world language program K -12 is being reviewed by consultants. A query was raised on whether the mid-year assessment should be graded and reported to students and parents.

As part of the district goals, the Middle School program is being reviewed this year and likely into next.

Spring Sports practice begins on March 16<sup>th</sup>, paperwork due same day.

5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade PSSAs writing portion will occur the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress has selected TEMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders to be evaluated on progress in Math, Reading and Science. 90 students were randomly selected to participate and parents have been notified.

TEMS has a new school sign, a gift from last year's graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Parent Conferences this spring will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ayuko Siegel provided the Treasurer's Report and Audit Results. There is a negative cash flow for January, year to date we are above budget with a profit of over \$4,000. An audit was conducted resulting in a few recommendations which will be followed. If you would like the full results, contact Ayuko.

**School/Community Related Topics.** Gail McCarthy reported on Cultural Arts: Ropeworks will be coming for a 1 ½ day in house program including, two assemblies and smaller workshops on May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a possibility to partner with the American Heart Association on their program "Jump for Heart".

Tony Vacca will return for a 1 day program on 11/6/2009 with assemblies and working with the Jazz Bands.

The Valentine's Day Dance is Friday 2/20 7 – 9:30. All chaperones have been obtained.

Main Line Camp Fair snow date was 2/4 at Conestoga.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Casserole Project was a success with 201 casseroles provided (vs. 190 last year).

Fundraising activities.

Johanne Lamarche and Karen Consalo reported on the Parent Social to be held Saturday, 2/7 @ Waynesborough Country Club. There are 94 attendees so far and over \$1,200 in donations. A new and once in a Lifetime item was donated:

A 4 person tour of Washington DC including dining in the Senators only dining room.

Spirit Wear: One more order this Spring

Bowling Party: March 6<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Rep Reports:

BUILD: Currently being revamped.

TE Board of School Directors: Full details are available on the TE District Website. Some key information for TEMS include: The changes in the economy has caused some changes in the revenue streams for the district. As a result some projects were evaluated, including the TEMS parking lot addition. At this point some or part of that project is on hold. Delvin Dinkins provided a proposal for electronic learning which involved partnering with Virtual High School and Apex Learning.

ARCH – next meeting 2/25 with Speaker Julie Faude on “The Price of Privilege”  
ISC-Meeting tonight 2/4 at Conestoga High School-World Language Focus group.

General PTO Business:

There is an effort to go more Green with the Bulldog Barks, with a goal of getting everyone with a computer to get the newsletter online only.

There are open positions on the PTO for the 2009/2010 school year.

If interested in positions, contact Karen Consalo.

Submitted by Gigi Miller

Next meeting: March 4, 2009 at 9am in the Faculty Lounge TEMS

# FIFTH GRADE NEWS

It's hard to believe but we've turned the corner on the 2008-09 school year. One half of our year has past. 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, work habits, and study skills. By now, students should be in the habit of using their assignment books regularly to record homework, tests, projects, and many other important items. The following are updates 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 before studying light energy. It should all be an enlightening experience!!  
**MATH:** In math, students are applying concepts of measurement to computing area, perimeter, and

volume. They have studied metric and customary units of measurement, and are poised to move forward into an exciting study of Euclidean geometry.

**ENGLISH:** Narrative, informative, and persuasive writing prompts are being used to promote student writing. This, in addition to continued emphasis on mastery of spelling strategies and patterns, as well as, grammar instruction, has served to round out the English program. Our grammar study so far has included nouns, pronouns, and verbs.

**READING:** Engaged in various novel studies, fifth graders are experiencing the joy of reading different genres of literature, while at the same time expanding their vocabulary. The anthology helps to complete the reading program.

**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, such as Egypt, 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

**Science:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science continues the study of cells and heredity with a focus on genetics. We were fascinated by Gregor Mendel's work with tall and short pea plants. After studying phenotypes and genotypes, we will explore how traits travel down through generations. In the skills lab we will use punnet squares to predict the results of genetic crosses. Students will also apply their knowledge of genetics as we create "Paper Pets" to demonstrate how genes control traits.

**Reading:** During the month of February, the students are completing a unit focusing on nonfiction. During our next unit of study, all students will be working with the skills used to respond to a piece of literature. After reading a short story, each student will do a written response to what has been read. The responses will be shared with a partner (or, at times, the teacher) and a short discussion will follow. Authors of the short stories include Mark Twain, Lois Lowry, Avi, Ray Bradbury, and O. Henry. A variety of prompts will be available. Work in the vocabulary books will continue. This month students will also be preparing for the upcoming PSSA reading test in March. They will use homeroom.com on their home PC to practice taking reading tests. We will be going over test-taking tips in class, too.

**English:** Students are finishing the reading of The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963. We've had great reactions to this heart-warming novel, and there have been interesting discussions about the Civil Rights Movement. Next, students will work on a persuasive essay. Everyone will be writing from a variety of prompts following the guidelines set up by the state standards. Spelling, Sparks, and the study of grammar will continue.

**Social Studies:** During the month of February, students will be learning about Latin America. We will be examining Latin America's geography, both political and physical, and the similarities and differences between the region's cultures. Toward the end of the month, we will be investigating six Latin American countries in depth. They include Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Chile, and Puerto Rico.

**Math:** The Above-level students are actively involved in learning about percentages. In this unit, the students will learn to find common percents using mental math, solve proportions, and use ratios to find percents. The students will also learn practical applications for percents, such as sale discounts/markup and sales tax.

On-level math students are finishing the number theory unit. In this unit, the students explored divisibility, factors, multiples, and prime/composite numbers. This unit has been preparing students with the concepts necessary to understand fractions. After studying about equivalent fractions, lowest term/simplest forms of fractions, and then connecting fractions to their previous decimal unit, the children will deduce the rules to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions.

In Pre-Algebra, students are finishing their chapter connecting ratios, proportions, and percents and various methods to solve these types of problems. They continue to rely on knowledge gained from previous chapters of study in integers and algebra and fractions and decimals. Later, the students will begin the first of three units in applications of geometry.

Math students at all levels have been introduced to the Math "24" game and all students will compete in the annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 24 Tournament to be held in the spring. Last year we held an all-district tournament between the finalists from TEMS and VFMS. Finalists from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade tournament have gone on to participate at the county and state levels of competition. *Look for information about the tournament coming home this spring, along with a volunteer form to be an "official" the day of the tournament! It will give you a chance to see 6<sup>th</sup> grade learning and math skills in action!*

Just a reminder, the March PSSA test includes a Math section. Students should be well rested, well nourished, and refreshing their math vocabulary and basics leading up to the test. There are many quality online resources available from your math teacher.

# SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Parents should have received the first informational Williamsburg mailing in January. Copies of the necessary forms and a list of due dates are available online on Ms. Wilson's website – [www.misswilson.com](http://www.misswilson.com).

## REMINDERS:

**FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>ST</sup> INSTALLMENT(\$90.00),  
PERMISSION SLIP, and ACADEMIC  
REQUIREMENTS**

**MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> -2<sup>ND</sup> INSTALLMENT (\$90.00) and  
INDEMNITY FORM**

**APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> INSTALLMENT (\$90.00) MEDICAL  
FORM, and ROOMMATE FORM DUE**

**MAY 7<sup>th</sup> – WILLIAMSBURG PARENT MEETING  
6:30 TEMS AUDITORIUM**

## Classroom News

**Science** – While some students are continuing their study of environmental investigations, other classes are moving into a new unit on chemistry. Chemistry concepts will include density, physical/chemical properties, changes and phases of matter, atomic structure and elements of the periodic table. We will also be continuing to stress science process through critical thinking and scientific method. Students will apply skills learned in their last unit in several labs within this unit as well.

**English** – During February and March English classes will finish reading *Stargirl* or *Schooled* and will engage in a variety of writing activities. Students will also be responsible for reading an independent book and completing a related assignment. All of these activities will continue to incorporate discussion of reading strategies and skills. In addition, the writing process will continue to be stressed. Finally, students will continue to analyze aspects of grammar and proper usage. In fact, we are now in the process

of selecting our top speller for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and TE overall to advance to the Chester County Spelling Bee.

**Math** -The Math 7 classes will study ratios and proportions and applications with proportions. Towards the end of February they will begin working with percents. The percent unit begins with converting percents to fractions and decimals. Next, the class will learn mental math strategies for finding the percent of a number. Students will then take the PSSA exam and will finish the percent unit by calculating discount/markup and tip. The Pre-Algebra classes will finish rational numbers and begin work on ratios, proportions and percents. We will begin the unit with an introduction to ratios and unit rate. Next, the students will learn the concept of proportions and apply this concept to similar figures and scale drawings. The class will then analyze the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents, take the PSSA exam, and finish the unit with some real world applications of percents such as percent change, markup, discounts, and interest. The Algebra classes will finish the polynomial unit discussing topics such as Pascal's triangle and binomial expansion, negative exponents and algebraic long division. The next unit is factoring. Students will focus on factoring as they learn how to factor trinomials and solve quadratic equations and word problems. The next units are rational expressions and equations, and solving radical equations.

**Social Studies** - In February social studies classes will be studying the causes of the American Revolution. By the end of the month the early events of the Revolution will be examined. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of the Declaration of Independence in establishing the American nation. 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

It is course selection time for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers and guidance counselors from Conestoga will be at TE on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> to work with the kids on course selection. Core teachers will also be meeting with the students individually to discuss recommendations and help answer questions. Signed course selection cards are due to Mrs. Heckman NO LATER than February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**English:** Students will compose original poetry based on their reactions to *Warriors Don't Cry*, an autobiographical account of the integration of Little Rock Central High School. Revisions of short stories and personal reflections are also on the agenda. Weekly vocabulary/spelling lists, journal entries, and periodic review of grammatical construction continue.

**American History** : Students will be visiting the Era of Jackson. We will learn about the controversial election of 1824 and the heated election of 1828. We will meet President Andrew Jackson. "Old Hickory" was a man of the people – the first man to be elected president who was not from VA or MA. As his nickname suggests, he was rigid and rarely diverted from his beliefs. This trait was one of his greatest strengths and weaknesses. We will also discuss the plight of Native Americans as America expanded West. We will end the month on the doorstep of the Civil War.

**Pre-Algebra:** Students are currently working on a unit involving solving linear equations and inequalities. This is a

very important unit in preparing for Algebra next year.

**Algebra:** To begin Algebra 1B, students are studying polynomials. After completing that unit, we will begin our study of quadratics.

**Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1A:** Students are moving along with their study of Algebra. We are currently finishing a unit on applications of linear equations. An exploration of graphing linear equations, with and without the use of a graphing calculator, is next.

**Geometry:** The focus in geometry is starting to change. Although the two-column proof will still be used, the emphasis of the course shifts to applications. Algebra skills will be used more frequently. The current unit covers similar triangles to be followed by a study of right triangles including an introduction to trigonometry.

**Algebra 2:** Students are beginning the unit on exponential functions and logarithms. Applications in science and finance will be explored.

**Science:** Students will continue their study of geology by investigating volcanoes, rocks, minerals and geologic time. They will investigate types of volcanoes and how their structure affects the explosiveness of their eruptions, consider popular myths associated with volcanoes, grow crystals in order to better understand minerals, and look at types of rocks and how the rock cycle affects their formation. Students will relate all subtopics to the general theory of plate tectonics.

## **FLITE Bookmark Winner Announced! Congratulations Jiyeon Lee!**

Seventh grader Jiyeon Lee designed the winning FLITE bookmark for TEMS. The contest was held in order to increase awareness of FLITE, the Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown. FLITE is a non-profit organization that funds programs to support excellence in our schools for all of our students. FLITE funds many school programs, including the after school homework clubs at all five elementary schools and both middle schools, the instrument rental program, and the preschool program for children needing financial assistance. For a full program listing and more information, or if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to FLITE, please visit [www.flite-pa.org](http://www.flite-pa.org) on the web. Look for Jiyeon's fabulous bookmark to be distributed at future school book fairs and school board meetings.



A special thank you to all who participated in the bookmark competition, and to the art department, who ran the bookmark contest on behalf of FLITE.

## **Conestoga High School Course Selection**

Eighth graders are very 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.

From Tuesday, **February 10** to Tuesday, **February 17**, 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

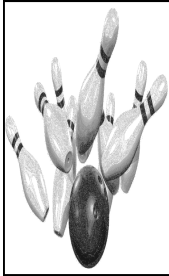
**No preregistration is required- just sign your child up when you arrive.**

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



## ***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!**



Mark your Calendars for the TEMS PTO Bowling Party!  
Friday, March 6, 12-2pm  
All Students Welcome!  
**BOWLING...PIZZA...SNACKS**  
Registration Flyer on the next page and our TEMS PTO website.  
For more information, contact Rosi McPherson  
[remcp7@comcast.net](mailto:remcp7@comcast.net)

## **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.

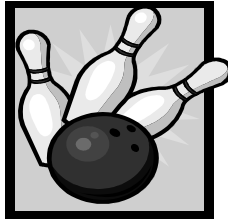
To achieve this goal, the committee will review the action plans of the original program to determine the degree to which they promote the development of strategic initiatives and reflect best practices.

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.

**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 addt'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)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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!

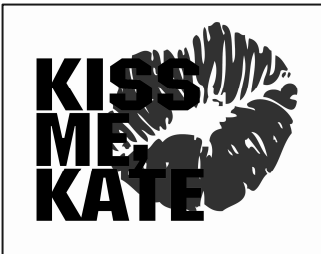


### 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

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](http://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.



**'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**

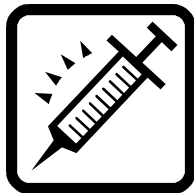
Everyone is sure to enjoy Cole Porter's musical comedy *KISS ME, KATE*. In this classic American musical, an egotistical producer and his Hollywood diva ex-wife attempt to put on a musical version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Twists and turns in this play-within-a-play find cast members' on-stage 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](http://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.

**ATTENTION: Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students...  
New immunization requirements!**



Children ENTERING 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009/2010 need the following:

1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis(Tdap)

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

**Look for a letter from your school nurse in mid March if your child needs these immunizations.**

**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.**



# School Board Update



Summary of School Board Committee Meetings Provided by Committee Members

January 2009

## Education Committee

submitted by DEBBIE ROLLINS

The Education Committee met on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee received a report on PATHS – the elementary level pro-social program. Next, the Committee heard a report on the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at the middle school level. In addition, the Committee received a report on the social norming initiative.

The Committee heard information on electronic learning. The Committee recommended a pilot program in electronic learning be implemented for the 2009-2010 school year.

Finally, in response to current economic conditions, the Committee discussed filling the existing assistant principal position vacancy through the elimination of a curriculum supervisory position. Although the Committee noted that it may be necessary to reinstate this position in the future, the Committee will recommend this plan to the full Board at the January 26<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

## Facilities Committee

submitted by PETE MOTEL

The Facilities Committee met on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The administration reported that all 2008 summer construction projects have been closed out. In addition, the T/E Middle School music suite renovation and courtyard addition project is finishing ahead of schedule and under budget.

The administration reported on possible space utilization issues at Devon Elementary School during the next few years, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The Committee asked the District architect to create a design specification that modifies the existing space at Devon to provide additional instruction space. The administration indicated that the District should be able to accommodate all middle school students for the 2009-2010 school year. There does not appear to be a need for additional construction to increase space at the middle schools to accommodate students in the near future.

The Committee discussed scheduled construction projects and agreed to move forward with four infrastructure projects. The Committee agreed to postpone all other projects scheduled for the summer of 2009. The postponed projects will be reviewed again next year. Due to current economic conditions, the Committee agreed to postpone plans for the construction of a parking lot near T/E Middle School.

Finally, the Committee asked the District architect to re-bid the electrical/network wiring portion of the IT renovation project. The Committee will discuss options for the relocation of the Maintenance Department at its February meeting.

The Committee will meet next on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the Tredyffrin Easttown Administration Offices.

## Finance Committee

submitted by KEVIN MAHONEY

The Finance Committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The administration presented the monthly financial statements for October, November and December. The Committee discussed variances in revenue and expenditures from the prior year. The Committee also noted the ongoing exposure from commercial assessment appeals filed by property owners. The administration will research the application of the amusement tax within the District.

The Committee reviewed the 2009-2010 budget calendar discussed the upcoming Act 1 deadlines. Budget meeting workshops are scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Conestoga High School.

The administration presented a brief review of the budgeting process used to determine professional staffing needs. The Committee asked the administration to look for ways to reduce spending and staffing needs.

## Policy Committee

submitted by LIANE DAVIS

The Policy Committee met on December 4, 2008 and January 8, 2009.

The following policies were recommended for a first reading by the full Board at their January 26th regular meeting: Policy 4340, Restriction on Use of Electronic Devices (Tredyffrin Easttown School District Employees), Policy 9130, Officers of the Board, Policy 9140, Board Committees, Policy 9220, President - Inability to Complete Term, Policy 9318, Preparation and Distribution of Information Prior to Board Meetings; Policy 9420, Duties of Bonding Officers, and Policy 5100, Special Education.

The following policies were recommended for repeal at first reading by the full board at their January 26 regular meeting: Policy 9221, Duties of the Vice President, Policy 9400, Duties of Counsel, and Policy 9410, Duties of the Auditor.

The Committee reviewed Policy and Regulation 1124, Distribution of Promotional or Other Types of Information by Organizations, and made several suggestions for revision. This policy will be reviewed again at the February Policy Committee meeting. In addition, the Committee reviewed Policy 5112, Student Orientation Program and Policy 5119, Foreign Students and International Exchange Study Program, and found them to be acceptable as they are. A review date was added to these policies and they will be reviewed again at a later date as part of the regular policy review.

The Board's solicitor reviewed changes made to Regulation 5225, Pupil Records. An additional change was suggested and the solicitor will revise the regulation to incorporate the recommendation. The committee requested a word search of policies and regulations to determine the impact if an overall change in use of the word "pupil" to "student" is made. These results will be reported at the February Policy Committee meeting.

The Committee reaffirmed their support for the past District practice of canceling all scheduled activities, including rental agreements for use of school facilities, on the day or days that the T/E schools are closed due to emergency closings.

## **Public Information Committee**

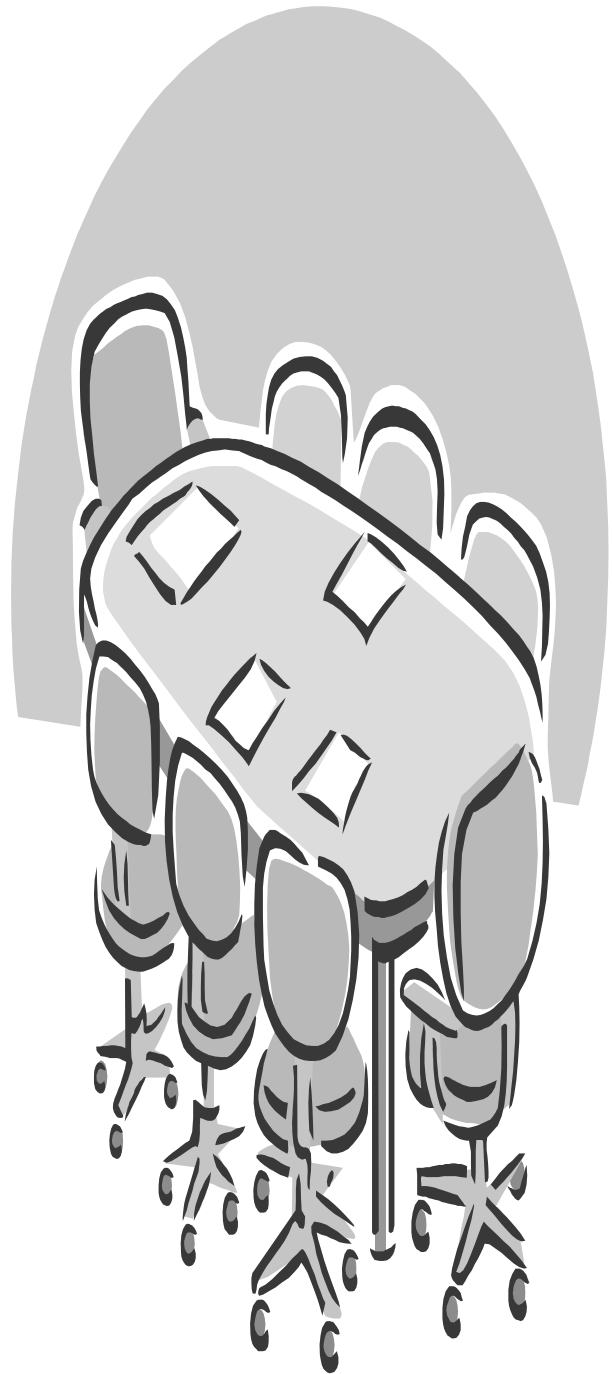
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submitted by PAT WOOD

The Public Information Committee met on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed details surrounding Pennsylvania's new open records law. The District web site has a link on the home page at <http://www.tesd.net/OpenRecords.htm> called "Open Records Information" which lists the contact information for the District's open records officer and the state's office of open records. If you are interested in District information, please access this site for details.

The administration will continue efforts to publicize the 2009-2010 school year calendar, which is available on the TESD web site. It is suggested that parents access the calendar before making family plans, since there have been several changes from previous years in the days and dates that schools are closed

There was continuing discussion of ways to improve the production of Board Talk and discussion of ways to improve seating arrangements at Conestoga High School for better viewing by the public of the monthly Board meeting.



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

**Non-Profit Organization**

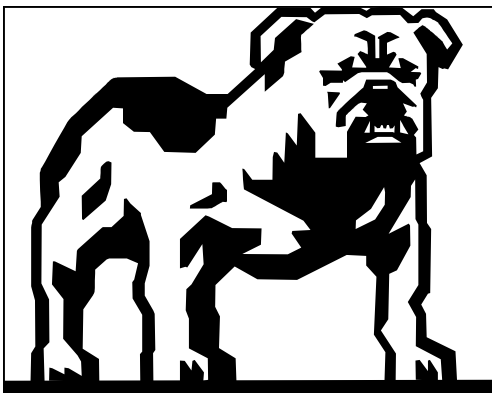
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Paoli, PA 19301  
Permit No. 24**

**DATED MATERIAL**

***Coming Events:***

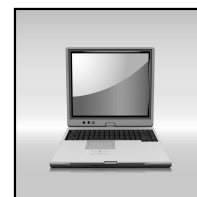
*For more details, check T/E website.*

<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>
<i>2/27</i>	<i>Faculty/Student Basketball Game</i>	<i>TEMS</i>
<i>3/4</i>	<i>PTO Meeting Faculty Lounge</i>	<i>9am</i>
<i>3/5</i>	<i>Parent/Teacher Conferences</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>3/6</i>	<i>Teacher Inservice</i>	<i>NO SCHOOL</i>
<i>3/6</i>	<i>Bowling Event Devon Lanes</i>	<i>12-2pm</i>
<i>4/1</i>	<i>PTO Meeting Faculty Lounge</i>	<i>9am</i>
<i>4/3-12</i>	<i>SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL</i>	
<i>4/24</i>	<i>7th and 8th Grade Spring Fling</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