

# Bulldog Barks

A publication of the T/E Middle School PTO

September 2009 [www.temsppto.org](http://www.temsppto.org)

Visit TEMS School Website for more school information!  
<http://www.tesd.org/tems/index.htm>



## Welcome Back!

Hello TEMS Families!

The PTO welcomes you back for another terrific school year; with many exciting activities to participate in. A preview of some upcoming events:

<b>7/8 Grade Welcome Back Dance</b> <i>(chaperones needed!)</i>	Sept 25 @ 7:30pm
<b>PTO Meeting</b>	Oct 7 @ 7pm ( <i>New time</i> )
<b>Super Saturday Sports Spectacular</b>	Oct 17- all day @ CHS
<b>5/6 Grade Halloween Mixer</b> <i>(helpers needed!)</i>	Oct 30 @ 2:30pm
<b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	Nov 2-6

We would also like to take this opportunity to send out a special thanks to: the New Family Welcome Committee for the delicious refreshments and warm reception for our new families; the Ice Cream Social committee for serving sweet treats and smiles; the Back to School & Gym Uniform Sale Committee for having all the student essentials; our Volunteer Coordinator for organizing our enthusiastic volunteers; the health screening coordinator & volunteers for assisting the nurse; our Opening Day packet helpers for collating lots and lots of packets; Gwenn Mascioli for getting our awesome e-newsletter up and running (keep spreading the word!); and for all members of our community that have participated in any of these so far!

This is what helps to make our community special. Another year is underway and we are excited for what is in store!

Warmest Wishes,  
*Margaret MacKenzie*  
PTO President; on behalf of the PTO Board

The *Next Bulldog Barks* will be distributed (via email) on October 15. Articles are due by Oct. 8. Please send to Gwenn Mascioli at [gwennmascioli@verizon.net](mailto:gwennmascioli@verizon.net). You will receive acknowledgement of your submission. If you do not, please resend or call – 610-725-1988.

### Quick Reference to What's Inside ...



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## From the Principal

September 2009

Welcome back! I hope that the summer break has provided many opportunities to relax, have fun, and recharge. We are excited to start the 2009-2010 school year with your children.

We welcomed forty-six new students to the school, and our enrollment is 1008. While the enrollment number may sound high, we continue to maintain a strong sense of community by working together to meet individual student needs. A positive partnership with parents will help us achieve the goal of providing the best educational and developmental experience for our students. Success is earned through our collaborative efforts.

As always, the main office, custodial, and maintenance staffs have done an exceptional job getting us ready to meet the students in September. Please join me in thanking them for all of their hard work.

We were able to hire excellent new staff members, many of which have experience working in the district. I'm happy to introduce the following new staff members to TEMS:

- **Joanne Barba** comes to us from the elementary schools in the district and will teach Spanish and Latin.
- **Gordon Davis** worked with many of our students last school year and will perform his responsibilities as a 7th grade English and Science teacher.
- **Erika Himes** brings her positive energy to the teaching of Health and Physical Education.
- **Tim Hoffman** brings his leadership as an Assistant Principal to TEMS. Tim was an Assistant Principal at Valley Forge Middle School last school year and has previous teaching and administrative experience in Maryland.
- **Auste Joost** worked at Conestoga and will serve as a Math teacher.
- **Kindra Kearney** rejoins us and will teach French.
- After several years of teaching at the elementary level, **Ken Prothero** brings his knowledge of our students as a 5th grade teacher.
- **Kristal Moscharis'** language talents will be utilized in teaching French and Spanish.
- After previous experience at Valley Forge Middle School and Conestoga High School **Martha Miller** brings her expertise as a Spanish teacher to TEMS.
- **Tracy Scully** will compliment our Gifted Support program and work with students at the middle and high school levels.
- **Alexandra Solove** will provide 8<sup>th</sup> grade English instruction while Jean Baker is out on leave.
- **Betsy Toscano** joins us as a Social Studies teacher having taught at Conestoga previously.

I look forward to another great year of working together.

Sincerely,  
*Mark Cataldi*  
Principal

Assistant Principal, Tim Hoffman,  
Principal, Mark Cataldi and  
Assistant Principal, Jacquelyn Hickey,  
in the cafeteria during lunch.





## Attention Acme Shoppers

Please save register receipts from all Acme stores in the area. T/E Middle School is earning 1% on your total purchases. What a great fundraiser, and does not cost us a thing!

- **Please send all receipts to the main office.** There is a box that is marked for Acme receipts.
- I will let you know our progress in future newsletters. Our goal is to raise \$5000 this year.

*Thank you, Anne Marcelli*



## TEMS Book Fair

November 2-6, 2009

In the adaptive gym at TEMS

If you are interested in volunteering please email Tracey Prestipino at [traceyprest@comcast.net](mailto:traceyprest@comcast.net)

## TE All-Call Needs Your Updated Numbers!



Again this year, the T/E School District will use TE All-Call, the emergency phone notification system, to communicate emergency closings and early dismissals. **Please notify the TEMS Main Office** as soon as possible if your contact numbers change at any point during the school year.

## Please join us for our PTO Meetings this 2009-10 School Year...

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| October 7 @ 7pm ( <i>new time</i> ) | March 3 @ 9:00am |
| November 4 @ 9:00am                 | April 7 @ 9:00am |
| February 3 @ 9:00am                 | May 5 @ 7:00pm   |
|                                     | June 2 @ 9:00am  |

*9am meetings are in the faculty lounge; 7pm meetings are in the library*

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

## Interested in receiving email updates from the T/E School District?

Join the TESD email notification program today to receive special announcements, press releases, T/e-Bulletin Board fliers, meeting information and more. Visit the T/E School District web site at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) to sign-up or send your email address to [notification1@tesd.net](mailto:notification1@tesd.net).

## Dates for the Calendar!

View current TEMS Weekly Bulletin!

<http://www.tesd.net/tems/bulletin.pdf>

### September:

- Sept 22 Fall Sports Parent Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Sept 22 Gr 7/8 Curriculum Night, 7pm
- Sept 24 TEMS Picture Day and Fall Sports Picture Day
- Sept 25 Gr 7/8 Welcome Back Dance 7:30-9:30 pm
- Sept 28 NO School – Yom Kippur
- Sept 29 Gr 5/6 Curriculum Night, 7pm
- Sept 30 Gr 8 Parent Teacher Coffee, 9am

### October:

- Oct 7 PTO Mtg, 7pm – All Welcome!
- Oct 8 Gr 5 Parent Teacher Coffee, 9am
- Oct 13 Gr 7 Parent Teacher Coffee, 9am
- Oct 17 Super Saturday at CHS, 9am – 5pm, *Schedule on page 10!*
- Oct 20 Gr 6 Parent Teacher Coffee, 9am
- Oct 30 Gr 5/6 Mixer, 2:35-4:30 pm

### Correction to the Master Calendar...

The 2009-2010 School District Calendar lists the incorrect date for Passover 2010. The calendar lists Passover beginning on April 8, 2010. The correct date for the beginning of Passover is March 30, 2010, which falls during spring break.

### Visit the Master TESD Activity Calendar

<http://www.tesd.k12.pa.us/calendar/0910DistrictCalendar.pdf>



# From the Classroom...

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

*The year is off to a great start! The fifth graders seem to be adjusting well to new people and places.*

Students are engaging in orientation activities related to our "Becoming a BULLDOG" theme. Fifth grade English teachers will be emphasizing preparation for class and organizational skills as part of an introductory study skills unit. Summer reading assignments have been collected, and students should be continuing their independent reading. Students are studying Maps & Globes in Social Studies to prepare for their study of Ancient Civilizations. In Science, students are exploring the scientific method and beginning their study of plants. They will work in groups to plan and set up plant experiments involving experimental variables such as fertilizer, light, spacing, water, temperature, and pollination.

Here are some tips to start your child off on a positive note in middle school:

- Students should check their assignment books before leaving school each day to see what they'll need for homework that night.
- Putting a star next to assignments in assignment books that require their books often helps students pack their book bags appropriately. (Book bags are lighter when they do not contain books that are not needed!)
- Students with early buses might want to pack their core assignments in their bags before they go to lunch.
- Encourage your child to check his or her assignment book, complete homework, always have an SSR book, and read each night.

We appreciate your support and look forward to a great year together!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

*Welcome to the Sixth Grade! We all look forward to a happy, healthy, successful school year and hope to see you at the Curriculum Night in September.*

**Reading...** We are going to begin the year with a review of the important reading strategy of making an inference. As students progress in school, this skill becomes increasingly important in all subjects. This will be one of our focal points for the year. Following this unit, we will be reading material emphasizing the theme of survival.

**English...** Writing is the main focus in the sixth grade English curriculum throughout the year. Students will begin with a brief review of the writing process, mechanics of

writing, and sentence structure. These skills will be applied in the writing of our first composition, a personal memoir.

**Social Studies...** The focus for sixth grade Social Studies will be world geography. Students will begin the year actively using maps and atlases. Pupils will learn map skills such as scale, types of maps, and map projections. Students will become familiar with using an index and a coordinate system to locate specific places on a map. In class, we will also learn to interpret graphs and tables used in atlases. The five themes of geography, movement, place, human and environment interact, location, and region, will be introduced to the students and will be integrated throughout the year.

**Science...** Science will begin with a mini-unit review of the scientific method. We will review the six steps of the process and practice proper lab techniques. Be sure to ask your student what Pretty Red Heads Eat Animal Crackers refers to. October will see us begin our first major unit: Earth's Water.

**Math...** On grade level students will begin the school year with mathematical problem solving. Students will develop and discuss the steps necessary to solve a problem. Various problem solving strategies, such as looking for a pattern, working backwards, solving a simpler problem, and making a list, will be discussed and implemented. Students will work on solving problems in small groups and individually. Students will also learn to explain their answers and their strategies using complete sentences.

Please remember that students will be held accountable for material covered in previous math classes. Pupils are expected to know basic math facts, addition and subtraction of three and four digit numbers, as well as long division and multiplication. Students will have a quick review of these topics in the beginning of the year, yet they will be expected to successfully perform these operations throughout the year.

Above level students will also begin the school year with mathematical problem solving. Students will develop and discuss the steps necessary to solve a problem. Various problem solving strategies, such as looking for a pattern, working backwards, solving a simpler problem, and making a list will be discussed and implemented. Students will work on solving problems in small groups and individually. Pupils will also learn to explain their answers and their strategies using complete sentences.

After problem solving, above level classes will begin the Pre-algebra unit. In this unit topics such as formulas, variables and solving equations will be covered.

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade News continues on page 5*



6<sup>th</sup> Grade News continued...

Please remember that students will be held accountable for material covered in previous math classes. Pupils are expected to know basic math facts, addition and subtraction of three and four digit numbers, as well as long division and multiplication. Students will have quick review these topics in the beginning of the year, yet they will be expected to successfully perform these operations throughout the year.

Students in Pre-Algebra will begin the year with a unit on integers. This will include study of absolute value, substitutions, order of operations, and operations with integers. In this course it is essential that students stay on top of their work since everything during the year builds upon itself. Students should develop strategies for studying for quizzes and tests and visit their teachers when concepts are unclear or proving difficult.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade News

The seventh grade core team of teachers welcomes the students and parents to the seventh grade school year. We look forward to seeing parents at Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 22nd.

This will be an exciting and challenging year. To get off to a good start the core teachers strongly urge daily recording of all assignments in the assignment book. The daily record keeping will help students stay current. This will also help you check to see what your student is doing in school. The core teachers will be checking assignment books from time to time to see that the assignment book is being used. Another study suggestion would be to keep a calendar in the student study area at home so dates for long-term assignments can be marked and noted.

If during the course of the school year a student needs additional help with class assignments, the core teachers offer help, by appointment before school or during activity period: 11:20-11:40 am, Monday through Thursday.

### Classroom News...

**English** classes will begin the year focusing on short stories. Students will explore various literary elements such as plot structure, character development and setting. The unit will culminate in a short story written by each student incorporating these literary elements. In addition, students will be assigned the first independent reading assignment of the year. Students must complete this book before the end of the marking period.

**First-- Book Report** – free choice of book –book choice to be approved by the classroom teacher- due before the end of the marking period.

**Math 7** classes will begin the year with probability and statistics. The students will learn how to calculate experimental and theoretical, as well as odds. The class will use the counting principal and tree diagrams to count possible outcomes. Pre-Algebra classes will start with operations with integers and solving one step equations. The students will learn about absolute value, opposites and evaluating variable expressions. Algebra 1 classes will discuss the complex number system, solving linear equations, and inequalities. Geometry will be researching the history of mathematics followed by a study of the tools of geometry.

**Seventh grade Integrated Science** will be a laboratory oriented experience. We will begin the year with “Basic Skills” studying observational techniques and the scientific method through hands-on activities. The team will then move into the main theme of the “Diversity of Life” for the duration of the first marking period. Major emphasis will be placed on macro-invertebrate classification and environmental studies.

The key to success in science is twofold: budgeting 20-30 minutes daily (outside of school) to review/study concepts to that day as well as homework completion. We strongly encourage parents/guardians to look at your child’s science notebook to gain insight about their classroom learning. We are anticipating a challenging and fun year in science.

**Social Studies** classes will begin with a review of the subject entitled, “What is History?” and discuss several areas which contribute to our understanding of early exploration and settlement. Included in our study will be the quest by early settlers for religious tolerance and the economic factors which were also a driving force behind these efforts. After a brief review of the discovery of the Americas, students will learn about the early American settlements of Plymouth and Jamestown.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Welcome to the eighth grade! We look forward to a challenging and rewarding year!

Eighth grade **science** classes will start the year with a review of the scientific method, common lab equipment, and the metric system. Emphasis will be on science skills of observation, inference, experimentation, and creating data tables and graphs with clearly identified independent and dependent variables. Students will begin their first unit of study on Weather and Climate. Weather and Climate topics include the atmosphere, air quality, weather factors, weather patterns involving air masses and fronts, climate regions, short term and long term changes in climate, and global changes in the atmosphere. The weather unit will incorporate a variety of activities like making weather observations, using interactive weather programs, and performing lab investigations.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade News continues on page 6



8<sup>th</sup> Grade News continued...

The study of **American history** this year begins with an examination of the Constitution and the ideas, philosophers, and documents which contributed to its creation: Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, John Locke, Montesquieu, and James Madison. In October the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will visit Independence Hall where this document was debated and adopted. Information on this field trip will be sent home soon.



**English-** Students are analyzing short stories and determining how they utilize plot structure, characterization, dialogue, irony, and conflict. By the end of this unit all students will create a short story (in a storyboard format) incorporating these techniques. Journal writing, outside reading, and vocabulary/spelling are on-going activities for the entire year.

#### Math:

##### Pre-Algebra and. Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1A

The year commences in all pre-algebra classes with the study of statistics and probability. Students will learn to create and interpret various data displays and explore simple probability, Pascal's triangle, permutations and more. Team B Pre-algebra students will also work on a mini-unit involving Mental Mathematics.

**Algebra-** Students are reinforcing algebraic concepts and preparing to learn equations and how to apply them to word problems.

**Algebra 2 –** Students are studying equations and inequalities in one variable. More complex expressions are covered including absolute value and double absolute value.

**Geometry-** Students are beginning with a study of basic concepts (point, line, plane) as well as some important theorems to be applied throughout the course. Deductive reasoning is the next unit of study.

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dances

- Dances are held in the TEMS cafeteria, and run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm prompt.
- Admission is \$5, and students purchase tickets the week prior from the Student Council tables
- Music is provided by a D.J. and sodas can be purchased for 25 cents
- Dances are chaperoned by TEMS faculty and 5-6 parent volunteers
- Please call or email Gretchen Guttman (610) 725-9391 or [tguttman@comcast.net](mailto:tguttman@comcast.net) to volunteer (job is easy and fun!)
- Please note that once students enter the dance, they are not permitted to leave until parents pick up.
- *About 350-400 kids attend each dance last year, and everyone had a terrific time!*

## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades have one FALL MIXER:

- **Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**
- 2:35 to 4:30 p.m. (right after school)
- TEMS Cafeteria
- Snacks / Games / Costume Parade hosted by Student Council
- Six – eight (6-8) Chaperones are needed
- Interested in helping out? Please call or email Gretchen Guttman (610) 725-9391 or [tguttman@comcast.net](mailto:tguttman@comcast.net)

### Save the Dates!

TEMS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades  
have four dances  
during the school year:

- **Welcome Back Dance**  
September 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Winter Dance**  
December 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Valentine's Day**  
February 12<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Social**  
April 16<sup>th</sup>



☺ **And, then one  
more dance for the  
8<sup>th</sup> Graders...**

**Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

7:30–10 pm @ CHS Cafeteria

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have an additional "End of Year" Dance with the Valley Forge Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

*Chaperones are not needed.*



## H1N1 Flu News from Your School Nurse

When the school year ended last June, our district had begun to see a few isolated cases of the H1N1 Flu. The public health agencies have advised us that we may have an increased number of influenza cases in schools this fall and winter, but there are a number of good health practices that will help to prevent the spread of this illness in our community.

- Wash hands often with soap and water or an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or if a tissue is unavailable, cough into an arm or sleeve.
- Tell your children not to share food or drinks.
- Be alert for symptoms of the flu, and do not send children to school if they appear sick.
- Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever and are not taking fever-reducing medications.

The symptoms of the H1N1 Flu are usually mild in otherwise healthy individuals, but may include: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and occasionally diarrhea and vomiting. The virus is not spread by animals, by eating any food, by community drinking water, or by recreational water such as swimming pools or spas. Any contaminated environmental surface can be cleaned by heat (167-212 degrees F), chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, or common detergents.

The school staff will be encouraging students to practice good health hygiene habits at school and at home. Working together, we hope to make the school year as "flu free" as possible. If you have any questions please call the School Nurse in your child's school.

## HEALTH ROOM NEWS

### Emergency Cards:

If you have not already done so, **please return completed Green Emergency Cards to school as soon as possible.** Remember to fill out both sides of the card. If there are any changes in emergency information during the school year, please call the nurse with an update.

### Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

Pennsylvania law requires that all students in sixth grade receive a physical examination. If you have not already done so, **please have your child's doctor complete the physical exam report** mailed to you in May and return it to the nurse as soon as possible. Blank forms can be printed from the student health services web page. It can be reached from the T/E district or TEMS home page under curriculum/services.

### MEDICATIONS in School:

With cold and flu season fast approaching, we would like to take this time to remind you of the school district's medication policy. A doctor's order is needed for the nurse to dispense prescription and over the counter medications. Students are not permitted to carry over the counter or prescription medications to school. If any medication is to be given at school, a parent or guardian must deliver the medication to the nurse's office. We are not able to dispense medications brought to school by students. As always, medication must be in its original labeled container. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us provide safe care to your children.

*Rose Mary Murphy RN  
Mary McCann RN*

## ALLERGY ALERT

Students with life threatening allergies are a growing health concern in schools across the country. The T/E School District has a policy (#5403) to address this issue.

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

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

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

*Submitted by The T/E School District Nursing Staff*

**Please Note:** As a result of this policy, T/E Middle School has added the following measures:

- ♦ All foods sent in for classroom celebrations or school sponsored activities should be commercially prepared with a full preprinted label listing ingredients.
- ♦ Only Mylar balloons may be used for locker decorating and school events.
- ♦ Remember that eating is not allowed on the bus to & from school

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES need all of us to keep them safe**



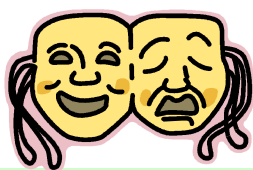
## TEMS Sports

Grade 7 & 8 Fall Sports begin after school starts. Sign-up sheets are located in the cafeteria for the following: 7/8 Girls Volleyball; 7/8 Girls Soccer; 7/8 Boys Soccer; 115# Weight Football; Unlimited Football; 7/8 Girls Field Hockey

### Quick facts about TEMS Sports

- Games begin at 3:15 pm
- Athletic Hotline: 610-240-1250
- Check out the website for schedules, directions, forms and more  
[www.tesd.net/tems/sports/sports.htm](http://www.tesd.net/tems/sports/sports.htm)

**Athletic forms** need to be on file in the athletic office before you may participate. Forms are available on the TEMS website at <http://www.tesd.net/tems/sports/sports.htm> or in the main office.



## The TEMS PTO and Cultural Arts Committee 2009-2010 Schedule of Events

October 27, 2009

**Yvette Lewis presents to our 5th grade**  
"So, This is Opera!" students learn about storytelling within opera.  
<http://www.projectimpact.org/residencydescriptions.php?p=no&id=14>

Nov. 6, 2009

**Tony Vacca, master percussionist presents...**...all student assemblies and workshops. [www.TonyVacca.com](http://www.TonyVacca.com)

November 13, 2009 at 7:30 pm

**DELTA Family Series show at VFMS**  
Tony Vacca performs with the TEMS and VFMS jazz bands! DELTA 2009/10 Ticket Order form...  
<http://temspto.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/delta-flier2009-2010-to-print-version.pdf>

February 3, 2010

**Rochel Coleman presents: "Shadowball"** the story of Baseball's Negro League in the 1920's to our 6th grade.  
[www.azileesporch.com](http://www.azileesporch.com)

March 17, 2010

**PUSH Physical Theatre** presents two all student assemblies. A cross between physical theatre and the hit movie "the matrix". [www.pushtheatre.org](http://www.pushtheatre.org)

March 19, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**DELTA Family Series presents: PUSH Physical Theatre** at TEMS Auditorium. For ticket info go to:  
[www.ArtsDelta.net](http://www.ArtsDelta.net)

Spring 2010

**Historical Character Actors** portraying George Washington and Thomas Jefferson will visit our 7th grade. 2 assemblies. [www.gwashington.com](http://www.gwashington.com) ;  
[www.yourthomasjefferson.com](http://www.yourthomasjefferson.com)

Spring 2010

**The Renaissance Man presents an Interactive Historical Comedy** to help demystify Shakespeare to our 8th grade.  
[www.renaissance-man.com](http://www.renaissance-man.com)

For more information or if you would like to get involved – please contact  
Gail McCarthy [ihp2@aol.com](mailto:ihp2@aol.com) or  
Kristin Schappell [KLSchappell@yahoo.com](mailto:KLSchappell@yahoo.com)

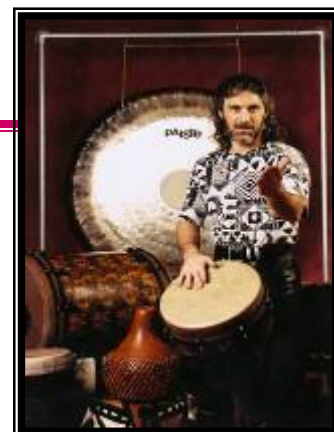
## T/E Middle School Jazz Bands

To Perform with Tony Vacca at DELTA Show

November 13, 2009, at 7:30 pm at Valley Forge Middle School.

Click here to view DELTA 2009/10 Ticket Order form:

<http://temspto.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/delta-flier2009-2010-to-print-version.pdf>





# Important Reminders from the TEMS Office...

## Dropping-off Students

- ◆ Parents who wish to drop off or pick up their children before or after school should do so using either the Old Lancaster Rd. or Conestoga Rd. entrances.
- ◆ PLEASE DO NOT BRING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL BEFORE 7:00 AM.
- ◆ No cars are permitted to drive through the bus loading area.
- ◆ "NO PARKING" in the bus loading area will be enforced by Tredyffrin Township Police 7 days a week.

## Transporting Musical Equipment and Other Large Items

Musical instruments, sports equipment, school projects and book bags must be able to fit on the students' lap or under the seat ahead of him/her without endangering the safety of other students. No item will be permitted to be in the aisle, behind the driver's seat, blocking any type of emergency exit or taking up any part of a seat designated for students.

If these items cannot be placed where described above, the student and/or this item will have to be transported to and from school by the parent/guardian when these items are needed. If these restrictions would prevent your child from taking part in music, sports or other activities, please contact your building principal to discuss possible solutions. Please contact the Transportation Department at (610) 240-1680 if you have any questions or concerns.

## Drop-Offs and Messages

If a student is expecting something to be dropped off from home, it becomes their responsibility to pick it up. Messages from home should be of an urgent nature. With over 1,000 students enrolled, it is extremely difficult to personally deliver messages.

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

*New this year...*

Parents may also submit written excuses by emailing the information to [temattendance@tesd.net](mailto:temattendance@tesd.net)

## Attendance, Absences, Tardiness

Students are required to be in regular attendance at school unless detained by illness or other urgent reasons. Parents should call 610-240-1230 or email [temattendance@tesd.net](mailto:temattendance@tesd.net) by 9:00 am to report a child's absence. In addition, a written excuse must be submitted to the main office within 3 days of a child's return to school. If after 3 days no written excuse is received, the student will receive an Unlawful Absence on their permanent record

Tardiness is excused ONLY upon presentation of a note from a parent, guardian, or doctor indicating the reason for tardiness is illness or a medical appointment. Lateness to school is also excused for religious study and/or religious holiday.

- ☺ Notes should be submitted to the Main Office upon arrival to school.
- ☺ Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for additional information.
- ☺ ALL notes should be submitted to the MAIN Office, not to Homeroom teachers.

Read through the TEMS Student Parent Handbook  
<http://www.tesd.k12.pa.us/tems/StudentParentHandbook0910.pdf>  
 available online for more of this sort of information.

*The handbook is prepared to help you understand school policies and guidelines and to assist you in setting your personal and academic goals as you travel through the middle school years. This time between childhood and adulthood is one in which the basic skills of reading, writing and computing are polished until proficiency is reached. It is also a time in which you will be excited to go beyond the basics.*



## TEMS PTO Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2009 Meeting

**Attendance:** Margaret MacKenzie, Karen Consalo, Joan Gaidimas, Kristin Schappell, Michelle Parisi, Julia Fischer, Jeanne Braun, Gwenn Mascioli, Elaine Jenkins-Wacey, Evelyn Shreve, Tracey Prestipino, Michele Stevenson, Gabriella Peracchia, Sue Snyder, Juliette Hyson, Gigi Miller, Mark Cataldi, Tim Hoffman, Jacqui Hickey, Patti Kennedy, Vilma Drozdoviene

**Welcome** by Margaret MacKenzie, PTO President.

### Monthly reports:

- **Principal/Administration**, **Mark Cataldi** reviewed the Curriculum Nights' schedule and reminded parents to bring the schedule their children provide. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Enrollment Sept. 2009: 47 new students, 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 233, 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 258, 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 267, 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 251, Total: 1009. Several new staff members added including Tim Hoffman, new Asst. Principal from VFMS.

**Tim Hoffman** reported on standardized testing: PSSA Dates 4/10-4/16/2010, Reading and Math for All Grades; 4/19-4/23/2010 writing for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>=2 0grades: 4/26-4/30/2010 Science for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Grades 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> begin ERB testing on 10/6/09.

**Jacqui Hickey** reported on Clubs and Activities. A complete listing will be available by 9/18. All clubs are open entire year.

Fall sports begin practice week of 9/14. Important dates: 9/22 – Fall Sports Parents' meeting 4:30pm in Large Gym. 9/22 – Fall Sports Picture Day. 10/17 – Super Saturday 9am to 4 pm.

-**Treasurer**, Karen Consalo reported account balances as follows: Checking – \$3,839.02; Savings – \$10,420.31; Savings - \$5,000.00

-**Fundraising Update**, Kristin Schappell reported large volunteer interest so far this year. The new Homeroom Parents Program is 50% subscribed. Still looking for a few chair positions: 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social, Beautification. Any new ideas or interest in involvement please contact Kristin Schappell. Reminder to turn in Acme receipts. Reminder that Parent Social is 2/6/10.

-Jeanne Braun reported for ARCH. The goal is to keep kids drug and alcohol free. ARCH Community Forum scheduled for 11/4/09 at Tredyffrin Library. Open meeting to talk about kids' social lives and parties. Visit ARCH Website: [www.archcares.org](http://www.archcares.org)

### Old Business

-Thank you to all volunteers to date by Margaret MacKenzie.

-Gwenn Mascioli reminded parents to keep signing up for the newsletter! 492 signed up to date!

### New Business/Upcoming Events

**New!** PTO milk crate mailbox. Each committee has a file for info and future planning purposes. There is also a file for Pres., VP, Treasurer, Asst. Treas, Reimbursement forms, etc.

PTO Forms due 9-11-09 (homeroom parent, directory, volunteer sign up)

Ice cream Social: 9-11-09, 6-7:30pm...still need a few volunteers.

**Next meeting: Oct. 7 @ 9:00 am**

*(Since the meeting this has been changed to Oct 7 at 7pm).*

### Important Dates/Events:

9-10-09	Health Screenings
9-24-09	Picture Day
9-11-09	PTO Forms Due
9-25-09	7/8 grade Welcome Back Dance
9-29-09	5/6 grade Curriculum Night
9-21-09	School Board Meeting
9-30-09	Grade 8 Parents' Coffee
9-30-09	Grade 8 Parents' Coffee
9-22-09	7/8 grade Curriculum Night

### Super Saturday Schedule – October 17, 2009

#### TEMS vs. VFMS

9:00 AM	7th Girls Soccer Teamer Field
10:00 AM	8th Girls Soccer Teamer Field
10:00 AM	7th Volleyball CHS
10:00 AM	7th Field Hockey CHS
11:00 AM	8th Volleyball CHS
11:15 AM	8th Field Hockey CHS
11:15 AM	7th Boys Soccer Teamer Field
12:15 PM	8th Boys Soccer Teamer Field
2:00 PM	Weight Football Teamer Field
3:45 PM	Unlimited Football Teamer Field

*Schedule as of 9/16/09, subject to change.*



## Visit the T/E Bulletin Board for all sports and community information!

<http://www.tesd.net/tebulletin.htm>



### Bulletin Board Sampler as of 9/14/09...

- Valley Forge Basketball League for Boys in Grades 8-10
- Conestoga High School 5K Run/Walk, 10/31
- YMCA After school Club For Kids Aged 10-14
- Easttown Library College Admissions Panel, 9/24
- Tredyffrin Library Greek Mythology, Grades 1-4
- YMCA Fall Arts & Humanities Classes; YMCA Fall Dance Classes; YMCA Fall Nature Classes  
YMCA Fall Environmental Education Classes
- College Essay Program at Tredyffrin Public Library, 9/30
- Easttown Library Youth & Teen Programs
- Main Line Symphony Orchestra Concerts at Valley Forge Middle School
- Conestoga Youth Wrestling Registration Information, Grs K-8
- Wayne Art Center Fall Children's and Adult Classes
- T&E Care Fall Fest, 11/7/09
- CASE Golf Outing to Benefit FLITE, 9/27
- Perfect Prep SAT/ACT Test Preparation

### Visit the T/E Bulletin Board frequently!

<http://www.tesd.net/tebulletin.htm>

### Announcing the 2009-2010

### Valley Forge Basketball League

- ◆ Open to all boys in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades
- ◆ Roster spots are limited and assigned on a first come basis
- ◆ Season runs from early November through February
- ◆ (no games during Christmas holidays or Presidents Weekend)
- ◆ Games played Saturday afternoon at VFMS
- ◆ To obtain application go to [www.valleyforgebb.com](http://www.valleyforgebb.com) or email request to [fademb@comcast.net](mailto:fademb@comcast.net)
- ◆ Registration is open until October 15<sup>th</sup>

### Pioneer Quix Stix registration opens online October 1<sup>st</sup>

- Pioneer Quix Stix is the ultimate lacrosse program for girls in grades 3 through 8 in Tredyffrin/Easttown.
- Registration for the 2010 Spring Season is ONLINE ONLY starting Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>!

Please visit our website at <http://www.PioneerQuixStix.com> to register and receive additional information!

### Would you like to raise more responsible children?

Are you dissatisfied with your home environment... too much bickering and unpleasantness? Is your child disrespectful, irresponsible, or unmotivated? At times do you feel at a loss for handling all the challenges of parenting?

Then come and enjoy a **FREE** evening with other parents and learn some strategies that will help to put the fun back into parenting. Hundreds of parents in this Main Line area have already been using the parenting techniques of a program called Parenting with Love and Logic. And they love it.

**When:** Thursday, October 1, 2009

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Where:** Tredyffrin Library

**Who:** Barbara Bogle, trained facilitator of the program and former Counselor of Devon Elementary

To learn more about Barbara and Love and Logic visit these sites: [www.barbbogle.com](http://www.barbbogle.com) and [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com)