



Bulldog Barks

A publication of the T/E Middle School PTO

March 2010 [TEMS PTO Website](#)

Visit [TEMS School Website](#) for more school information!



April is PSSA month!



Hello TEMS Families!

What a difference a month makes! Last month I wrote my letter to you all during a blizzard, and now I am sitting on my front porch soaking up the sun and warm afternoon! Spring has sprung at last. Springing into action in the upcoming month are some activities related to our new “What a Life!” program. Read on to find out what our “What a Life!” committee is doing to raise awareness of social responsibility among our students, and what you can do to help! Looking back, we would like to thank the Parent Social committee for a lovely evening at the Farmhouse at People’s Light. A good time was had by all, and we appreciate your tremendous support.

If you are reading this electronically, thank you for subscribing to our email blast system, it is a great way to get connected to what we are doing at TEMS.

As always, thank you for being an important part of our middle school community.

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

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**For the PSSA,
please be sure your child/children
gets plenty of sleep and
eat a healthy breakfast each morning.**

Turn to page 5 for April calendar with all PSSA Testing Dates.

Competitive Pressure and Burnout:

Helping Our Kids Navigate Stress & Define How They Measure Success

- April 7, 2010 @ 7pm at CHS
- Sponsored by ARCH – intended for parents/caregivers
- FREE. Turn to page 5 for details.



Take notice...

Attention Acme Shoppers!

TEMS PTO is looking for **ACME receipts dated April 30** or earlier!

- The PTO has raised over \$1,000 for TEMS students just by submitting YOUR Acme receipts. Sadly, Acme is discontinuing this program at the end of April.
- Let's make one last PUSH to get in our receipts and reap the last of these rewards. All ACME receipts dated April 30 or earlier, should be submitted to the Acme collection box in the TEMS Main Office! **Thank you** for your help and keep shopping!

Mark your calendar...
Wednesday, May 19, 2010,
 3-8pm is TEMS' Handel's Ice Cream Day

Students report to School on March 26
 Make up of Instructional Time for Emergency Closings



The school calendar has been revised to reflect the make up of 4 student instructional days lost due to weather-related emergency school closings on Feb 10, 11, 12 & 26.

The 2009-2010 calendar approved by the School Board lists rescheduled days for use in the event of emergency school closings.

With the support of the Board and the professional staff, **March 26 will be changed from a staff inservice day to a day of instruction for students.** As identified by the school calendar, in the event of a fifth emergency closing, March 29 will be a day of instruction for students.

The inservice day for the professional staff originally scheduled for March 26 is rescheduled to March 29. With these accommodations, the last student day will remain June 18, 2010, a half day for students. Please visit the T/E School District web site at www.tesd.net to view a single page summary of the revised 2009-2010 school calendar.

Dates for the Calendar!

View current [TEMS Weekly Bulletin](#)

March:

Mar 17	Cultural Arts Assemblies – All Grades “Push Theatre”
Mar 19	DELTA Program, 7-9pm at TEMS (Push Theatre) tickets available at the door. \$10/person.. <i>Details on pg 10</i>
Mar 22	School Board Mtg @ CHS 7:30pm
Mar 24	Spring Sports Parent Mtg. 4:30 pm
Mar 25	Spring Sports Picture Day
Mar 26	Students Report to School <i>See article to left</i>
Mar 29 – Apr 2	NO School – Spring Break

April is PSSA month!

April is PSSA month at TEMS!
Turn to page 5 for the testing calendar

April 7	PTO Meeting, 9am
April 14	Grade 6 Parent/Teacher Coffee
April 16	Grade 7/8 Spring Fling, 7-9:30 pm

Revised 2009-10 School Calendar...
 Due to weather-related emergency closing days, the **NEW last day of school** for students is **Friday, June 18, 2010.** **Click to view a one-page summary of the calendar.**

Visit the Master [TESD Activity Calendar](#)

TEMS supports CAPCO fundraising efforts!

CAPCO is the Conestoga After Prom Celebration Organization and There are a variety of ways for YOU to support this great effort. Before you know it, your middle school student will be going to the Junior Prom and CAPCO party!

Bagel Factory!
 If you buy bagels, please consider this. CAPCO is selling "Bagel Certificates" \$8/dozen bagels (same as the store price). CAPCO receives \$4/certificate. Same price to you... \$4 to CAPCO. Bagels make a great snack at sporting events. To purchase bagel certificates email traceyprest@comcast.net.

Barnes and Noble Day:
 is Friday, May 7. Mention CAPCO and they receive 15% of total May 7th purchases. Perfect for Mother's Day and Graduation gifts.

Peace of Pizza!
 Present a CAPCO certificate when you dine at Peace of Pizza in Wayne on the 4th Sunday of March, April, May & June and CAPCO will receive 20% of your total purchase. [Print Mar 28 certificate.](#)



TEMS is developing a NEW program:
What a Life! ... make it count



Slogan Contest Winners

Grade 5

Winner – **Just think of what we can do together** – Dovile D.
 Honorable Mention – **Don't walk away, help today!** – Amy L.

Grade 6 No entries

Grade 7

Winner – **Social Responsibility – that's the stuff!** – Miranda M.
 and Courtney K.

Grade 8

Winner – **You have the power to make a difference** – Jack F.
 Honorable Mention – **Be the pebble and make ripples** – Chloe H.

Recap of Meals on Wheels Action Day

On Friday, March 5, a group of 14 TEMS parents and 24 students participated in the What a Life! Action Day with Main Line Meals on Wheels of Devon. Together, the volunteers packaged the cold lunches and hot meals and delivered the food to homebound elderly in our community. Main Line Meals on Wheels of Devon serves about 60 households and relies on volunteers Monday through Friday to make deliveries between Bryn Mawr and Malvern.

It was an enriching experience for everyone - especially the kids who enjoyed meeting the seniors and felt really good being able to help out.

Green Piece

Art teachers are practicing green art!

Ever wonder what to do with all those McDonald Happy Meals toys, an empty paper towel tube or yogurt container? Here is an eco-friendly win-win plan for all that stuff. The TEMS art teachers are practicing "green art" by asking that families bring in some items that you were probably going to throw away. Just think, you'll be saving room in landfills, saving money for the art department and your students will have great fun making art with these items. Mrs. Ford collects plastic containers (salad bowls, yogurt cups, etc) and plastic grocery bags. Mrs. Schelling collects small toys, LEGOs, blocks, puzzle pieces, old games, beads, fake flowers, all sorts of stuff. Use your imagination! Ms. Turner collects match box cars, empty egg cartons, paper towel and toilet paper tubes. If you'd like to donate these items, please have your student deliver them directly to the art teachers. If you have a huge amount of these items, please contact the art teacher first to see if they actually need that much.

- If you have any questions, or ideas or books you'd like to share, please contact Julia Fisher at jjfish3@verizon.net.

Important Information Regarding TE All-Call



The T/E School District uses TE All-Call, an automated emergency phone notification system, to communicate emergency closings, late openings, early dismissals and any unscheduled closing or emergency situation that may happen during the school day.

While TE All-Call is reliable, there may be times when some calls do not go through for reasons beyond the District's control. **Parents are encouraged to call the T/E Information Hotline at (610) 240-1970 if they have not received a call from TE All-Call on days when weather may impact the status of school.** In addition to the TE Information Hotline, the District will continue to broadcast school closing on TETV, Comcast Cable Channel 14 and Verizon Channel 20; local TV stations; and designated radio stations.

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

YOU can subscribe online... Visit www.temsppto.org

If you received a paper version of this newsletter, but are able to read it online (or print it yourself), please consider subscribing to the online service via our website: www.temsppto.org. Then send a quick email to temsppto@gmail.com so we know to stop mailing you the Bulldog Barks each month.

You still may want to subscribe to the PTO Blast Email service even if you want to continue receiving the Bulldog Barks in paper version. There are important messages distributed through e-mail that are not distributed in paper version. Visit www.temsppto.org



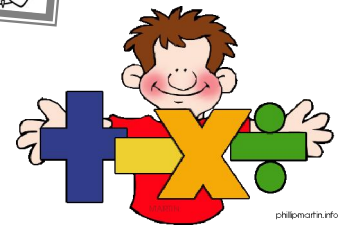
TEMS and VFMS students successful in Chester County Math Counts competition

On February 20th, students from both Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School and Valley Forge Middle School competed in the annual **Chester County Math Counts competition**. Over 200 students from 29 schools competed in the written competition. Students at both TEMS, coached by Kristen Quirk, and VFMS, coached by Allison Long, did a great job! After completing the written competition, the top ten students moved onto the oral competition. Six of the top 10 students in the competition were from Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.

Three students each from VFMS and TEMS had the opportunity to compete in the fast paced oral competition. On top of that, all four girls represented in the top ten were from TEMS and VFMS.

After the exciting oral competition, TESD students placed in the following order:

- Sreejata from TEMS placed 8th
- Helen from VFMS placed 7th
- Caroline from TEMS placed 6th
- Suproteem from VFMS placed 5th
- Kanishka from TEMS placed 4th
- Cristal from VFMS placed 1st
- In addition to those individual results TEMS placed 3rd in the team component and VFMS laced 1st.
- VFMS has retained this team title for the past 5 years.
- Crystal, Helen, Suproteem, and Chase will represent VFMS, and Kanishka will represent TEMS at the state competition.



TEMS students successful in Pennsylvania Math League contest

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at **Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School took part in the grade level Math League Competition** during the week of February 22. The following students were the top scoring students in their grades. Their names have been submitted to the Pennsylvania Math League.

Grade 5:	Jonathan X	Patrick L
Grade 6:	Alex W Arun B Ju-Y	Evan S Michael Z
Grade 7:	James W Ryan D Courtney K	Yuge X Cameron C Noah B
Grade 8:	Lee B Patrick N Richard W	Kanishka R Caroline M

Math teachers Lisa Stehouwer, Jen Tyrell, Jackie Patek, Jordan Krinsky, Susan Crocker and Kelley Peck administered and graded the tests.

C.A.S.E. provides TE students with \$5,500 grant & prepares for 2010 Golf outing

C.A.S.E. is the acronym for Conestoga Alumni Supporting Excellence, a small group of dedicated former area residents from the Conestoga High School Class of 1965. The group formed a little over two years ago with the objective of giving back to the T-E /Conestoga community. Recently, C.A.S.E. presented F.L.I.T.E. with a check for \$5,500, the proceeds from its 2009 fundraising efforts. That donation helped support a FREE online SAT preparation course available to all sophomores and juniors at Conestoga High School.

"We want the money to be used to provide TE students with the same outstanding education and community support that we experienced," said CASE member April Anderson - Jester.

The group will again hold its annual golf outing at Downingtown Country Club on Sunday, September 12th. This year, on Saturday night before the outing, there will be a cocktail party with music, silent auction and reuniting with old friends. All alumni are invited! CASE is looking for new members from all CHS classes to join the group. You can make a difference to students and reconnect with old friends. Please contact Pete Townsend for more information about CASE at tortie@comcast.net or go to the website at www.ccil.org~chs65. For more information about FLITE, visit www.flite-pa.org.



ARCH Presents: Guest Speaker: BOB RIGBY

**Competitive Pressure and Burnout:
Helping Our Kids Navigate Stress & Define How They Measure Success**

April 7, 2010, @ 7:00pm at Conestoga High School

Across the playing fields of academics and activities such as sports, music and dance, our kids have more opportunities than ever before to “take it to the next level” of achievement. How much is too much?

Bob Rigby, a private therapist, Student Assistance Program (SAP) Administrator for the Ridley School District and former All American soccer goalie who played on U.S. Olympic and National teams as well as professionally for over a decade, will offer his unique perspective on how parents can help their kids navigate stress, achieve balance and avoid burnout. [View flyer...](#)

RSVP Requested by Fri, Mar 26 to tropes@tesd.net or (610) 240-1019

ARCH (Area Residents Caring and Helping) is a 501 (c)(3) non profit community coalition of volunteer parents, educators and community members committed to promoting the well being of TE youth by helping them form a positive self-image, make healthy choices and reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. www.archcares.org

For the PSSA, please be sure your child/children gets plenty of sleep and eats a healthy breakfast each morning, all week long.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>TEMS PSSA Schedule for April 2010 (Make-ups May 3rd through May 7th)</p>				
April 5	6	7 PSSA Math Gr. 5-8	8 PSSA Reading Gr. 5-8	9 PSSA Reading & Math Gr. 5-8
12 PSSA Math Gr. 5-8	13 PSSA Reading Gr. 5-8	14 Make – Up Test Day	15 Make – Up Test Day	16 Make – Up Test Day
19 Writing PSSA Gr. 5 & 8	20 Writing PSSA Gr. 5 & 8	21 Writing PSSA Gr. 5 & 8	22 Writing PSSA Gr. 5 & 8	23 Make – Up Test Day
26 Make – Up Test Day	27 Science PSSA 8 th Grade	28 Science PSSA 8 th Grade	29 Make – Up Test Day	30 Make – Up Test Day



From the Classroom...



5th Grade News - March 2010

PSSAs

All fifth grade students will take the PSSA's next month!

- Reading and math tests will be given from April 7-13.
- The writing test will be administered from April 19-22.
- Please make sure your child is well rested and has eaten a healthy breakfast.
- Children should bring a calculator, 3 to 4 sharpened pencils, and an SSR book during the testing week.

Social Studies - The culture of India was influenced greatly by the development of the various river valley civilizations with their many accomplishments and achievements. Meanwhile in Greece, the concepts of democracy, philosophy, and competitive athleticism are being explored. This study of Ancient Greece is enabling the students the insight into seeing how our system of government is modeled after the Athenians of so very long ago.

Math - As students continue to focus on fractions, they apply their knowledge of Least Common Multiples and Greatest Common Factors. Correct calculations are necessary when solving math problems, so please remind your child to study his/her basic facts—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division!

Language Arts - Students continue their work on the three types of writing. These include narrative, informative, and persuasive. Along with this, the students have been working on infusing the parts of speech into their writing pieces to make them stronger. Soon, they will be working on techniques to prepare them for the PSSA writing test.

Science - Students are starting their exploration of The Solid Earth. They will examine, test, and identify specimen of minerals and rocks. Students will be using rock keys to identify and classify rock specimens. Characteristics such as crystals, grain, layers, and color help students determine the identity of a rock. They decide whether it is sponge-like, test to see if it can scratch glass, and see if sand can be scraped off the rock. They will be looking at the rock cycle after their study of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. They will be learning about plate tectonics and the internal structure of the Earth. Students are continuing to develop their investigative skills as they becoming Science Seekers and work together to determine the best site for finding fossils. Next, students will be investigating plate tectonics and their effects as earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain formations. It should give them a better understanding of the causes of the recent earthquakes in Chile.

The **5th/6th grade student social** was a huge success...a sell out crowd of 125 students took over the Wayne movie theater on Thursday March 4th. The students enjoyed a private screening of **Percy Jackson and The Olympians - The Lightning Thief** along with pizza, popcorn and soda. **A big thank you to the parent volunteers:** Kathy Antaki, Cathy Rahab, June DiDario, Larisa Leon, Juliette Hyson, Kim Wetzel, Paul Czubryt, Beth Mulholland, Sean Moir and Cheryl Ferraioli, who chaperoned the event!

Music - 5th grade music students are completing their study of Opera. The next unit will focus on multi cultural music and dance.

Art - 5th grade art students continue to work with various art forms from ancient civilizations. Egyptian tomb discoveries, Greek portraiture, and Olympic figure drawings are highlighted this marking period.

Health - In both 5th and 6th grade, students are participating in the Family Life unit. There are numerous topics covered in this unit, some of which include puberty, anatomy and menstruation. While the sixth grade curriculum does have similar topics as fifth grade, it builds upon the knowledge learned in the previous year and adds a few different topics as well. Regardless of grade level, both units include activities that need to be completed with a parent or guardian.

PE - In 5th and 6th grade physical education, students are involved in basketball, floor hockey or aerobics. In both basketball and floor hockey, students are learning the basic rules of the game while participating in small group activities working on the skills of dribbling, shooting, and passing. In addition, as part of our department's continued effort to expose students to different life-time fitness activities, students are participating in Pilates. Students are lead through many different stretching and strengthening activities with a DVD and their teacher as their guide!

If you're visiting the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, check out the crystals and gems as well as the dinosaurs - there are even Egyptian mummies. If you visit the National Museum of Natural History Museum at the Smithsonian Institute, you can see their fabulous Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals and other displays related to our study of the solid earth such as dinosaurs and a thirteen foot tree fossil. Collections from ancient civilizations are also on display.



From the Classroom...

6th Grade News



Social Studies During the month of March, sixth grade students will begin a unit on Asia and the Pacific. To kick off this unit, students will have the opportunity to meet in small groups with a young adult from a different country. Students will formulate questions in class and then will be able to have a conversation with the young adult. Students will also be taking an in-depth look at China.

Math

The Above-level students have finished learning about percentages. In this unit, the students found common percents using mental math, solved proportions and used ratios to find percents. The students will applied this knowledge to practical applications such as sale, rate of discount, percent markup, and sales tax. The students are now moving on to a unit on probability.

On level math students are finished the number theory unit. In this unit, the students explored divisibility, factors, multiples, and prime and composite numbers. This unit prepared students with the concepts necessary to understand fractions and relate them to the previous unit on decimals. Now the students are using this knowledge to work through two chapters on operations with fractions.

Students in Pre-Algebra classes just wrapped up a unit on proportions and percentages. They have just recently begun studying basic units of geometry and spatial thinking. The students will get many hands-on learning opportunities throughout this new unit. They will be learning and recalling a vast amount of vocabulary and applying their former algebra and equation skills to geometric concepts.

ALL math students are taking some time to prepare for two annual events: the PSSA and the sixth grade 24 tournament. The PSSA testing will begin the week we return from spring break. For the PSSA, please be sure your child/children gets *plenty of sleep* and *eats a healthy breakfast each morning, all week long*. In lieu of homework, students should be practicing math facts, looking over math notes, and reviewing math vocabulary. The annual 24 tournament will begin in math classes the same week. Class finalists will later compete in a school championship where those finalists will have the chance to complete in a district championship in May against similar finalists from VFMS.

Reading Students are working with short stories this month in reading class. In pairs, they will be reading, writing about the stories using a prompt, and finally discussing the stories with their partner. Later in the month, we will be starting Literature Circles. This engaging reading activity groups students according to the novel they have chosen to read with each "circle" reading a different book.

English This month we are working on writing persuasive essays. The goal is to write well-organized, multi-paragraph essays that promote a cause that show the students' abilities to use persuasive language effectively. Next, we will begin a new writing unit that emphasizes the use of descriptive language. Students will be encouraged to use all of their senses to create paragraphs that *come alive* with good description. In addition, we will continue working with grammar and spelling.

Science We have begun our third unit, From Bacteria to Plants. Students are currently learning about stimulus/response and how living things are organized by taxonomy. Students continue to grow their bread mold and raise their mealworms and take measurements and observations. We are realizing that mold demonstrates the six characteristics of living things and that we are providing the four basic needs of all living things. After studying the six kingdoms, we will look at living amoebae, paramecium, and euglena cells using our microscope skills covered earlier in the year.

The unit will culminate with growing bacteria cultures. Using the scientific method, we will collect samples of bacteria throughout the school and grow them in a sterile environment.

Music: 6th Grade Students have completed their study of Ballet. The next unit will focus on creating podcasts based on orchestral instruments and families.

Art: 6th grade art students continue to work with a range of media, skills, and techniques. Some highlights include: Three-dimensional paper mache, and two-dimensional graphic and radial design.

Health – In both 5/6 grade, students are participating in the Family Life unit. There are numerous topics covered in this unit, some of which include puberty, anatomy and menstruation. While the sixth grade curriculum does have similar topics as fifth grade, it builds upon the knowledge learned in the previous year and adds a few different topics as well. Regardless of grade level, both units include activities that need to be completed with a parent or guardian.

PE – In 5/6 grade physical education, students are involved in basketball, floor hockey or aerobics. In both basketball and floor hockey, students are learning the basic rules of the game while participating in small group activities working on the skills of dribbling, shooting, and passing. In addition, as part of our department's continued effort to expose students to different life-time fitness activities, students are participating in Pilates. Students are lead through many different stretching and strengthening activities with a DVD and their teacher as their guide!

The 5th/6th grade student social was a huge success...more on page 6!



From the Classroom...

7th Grade News



During the next few weeks of March parents should receive another important mailing about Williamsburg. This mailing will contain the next set of forms that are due and other information pertaining to the trip. The cost of the trip is \$315, which may be paid in installments. The first installment of \$105 was due by February 18th and the second installment of \$105 is due March 18th. The green indemnity form is due March 18th. The last installment of \$105, the health form, and the roommate form are due April 29th. All necessary information and forms can be found on [Miss Wilson's website](#).

English Students have been reading one of two novels that relate to middle school life: Stargirl and Schooled. Upon completing this novel students will write a persuasive essay using evidence from the book. At the conclusion of this unit students will examine excerpts from various memoirs and then will be given an opportunity to write a memoir of their own.

Mathematics The Math 7 classes will begin work with percents and percent word problems. First, students will convert percents to fractions and decimals. Next, the class will learn mental math strategies for finding the percent of a number. Finally, students will solve percent word problems.

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 concepts of proportions and apply these concepts to similar figures and scale drawings. The class will then discover the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will learn how to set up and solve percent equations. Finally, we will conclude our unit with some real world applications of percents such as percent change, discount/markup, and interest.

Algebra I classes will continue working with factoring polynomials and solving quadratic equations. The unit will conclude with word problems using quadratic equations.

Geometry is finishing the unit on Right Triangle Trigonometry. Students will study applications before moving on to Area of Plane Figures.

Science During the month of March, some science classes will continue to work with environmental science while other science students will be learning about chemistry. This will include different types of properties, chemical and physical changes, heating and cooling curves, and temperature. All science classes will be continuing to stress science process through critical thinking and scientific method.

Social Studies Seventh grade classes are continuing their study of the American Revolution. Topics include the Declaration of Independence, the writings of Thomas Paine, various military battles and tactics, the French Alliance, and the Treaty of Paris. Two special presentations will be performed this month, courtesy of the Arts Council, on the lives of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. The presenters are nationally known for their interpretations of these famous Americans. Students will continue to learn about the stock market through the on-line simulation game. The game will last until April 16th.

Williamsburg Reminders:

1. ~~Feb 18~~ – 1st Installment due (\$105), Permission Slip and Academic Requirements
2. **Mar 18** – 2nd Installment (\$105) & Indemnity Form
3. **April 29** – 3rd Installment due (\$105), Medical Form and Roommate Form Due
4. **May 4** – Williamsburg Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm @ TEMS Auditorium
5. **June 2-4** – Trip to Williamsburg

YMCA of the Upper Main Line 7th Grade Initiative... **Free Y membership for 7th grade students**

The YMCA of the Upper Main Line is pleased to offer free membership to all Chester County 7th grade students. The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to provide a safe environment where youth can discover their passions, develop a healthy lifestyle, and gain the assets needed to avoid risky behaviors and succeed in school and life. Join our YMCAs and enjoy the many recreational activities available – And your membership is FREE through August 31, 2010! It's easy!

- Just stop by your local branch with your parent and proof of 7th grade status (report card, class schedule, etc.).
- Complete a membership application and you can immediately enjoy all the YMCA has to offer.



From the Classroom...

8th Grade News



English – The eighth grade English classes are working on *Romeo and Juliet* during the month of March. Students will be reading the play and creating parodies based on the work. Students will continue working on journals and vocabulary and will be responsible for producing a writing piece at the conclusion of the unit. Students will also be attending the play at the Arden Theatre in March.

American History – Students will explore the events, ideas and movements that led to the United States Civil War.

Pre-Algebra – students just finished learning how to solve multi-step equations. They will now begin to apply their knowledge by working with both decimal and fraction equations.

Algebra 1a – students are finishing up with linear equation and inequality applications. They will then work with the TI graphing calculator in order to graph the linear equations they have been learning about.

Geometry – is finishing the unit on Right Triangle Trigonometry. Students will study applications before moving on to Area of Plane Figures.

Algebra 1 – students are finishing the unit on quadratic equations then will start to work with a unit on factoring. Students from Mrs. Tyrell, Mrs Joost and Ms. Quirk's classes will then compete in the annual Factoring Olympics. We look forward to the friendly competition. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Algebra 2 – students are completing their study of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions. They will be moving on to Solving Rational Equations.

Science – Students will complete their study of geologic processes like plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Students will investigate the rock cycle and the physical processes involved in the formation of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock. The geology unit includes a study of the geologic processes that lead to the formation and deposition of minerals and other natural resources. Activities include a lab that tests mineral attributes using Moh's Hardness Scale, a crystals lab, and opportunities to examine various rock and mineral samples. Weather concepts related to geology, like erosion, will be incorporated into the unit.

Do you plan to play a Fall Sport at CHS?

If you plan to try out for a varsity or JV team, be prepared to participate in pre-season which begins **Monday, August 16, 2010**. Please make summer plans with this date in mind. If cuts are necessary, they are made the first week of pre-season and you **must** be present to be considered.

In order to tryout for any sport, your student must have a physical after **June 1, 2010** and completed paperwork submitted to the Conestoga Athletic Office by **August 2, 2010**. The necessary paperwork is available online at www.tesd.net/stoga. Click on "Athletics" and scroll down to the files under forms. Print the first four pages of the seven-page "Pre-Participation..." file and the sign-off sheet (Page 1) of the "Parent/Student guideline". When the forms are completed, please submit to the Athletic Office. **Do not take paperwork to the first day of tryouts to give to the coach.**

There are freshman teams for the following sports: football, boys soccer, and girls volleyball. These teams begin tryouts after school has resumed.

There will be an important meeting for all fall athletes and their parents on Thursday, May 20th in the Auditorium at Conestoga at 7PM. Come meet the coaches, ask your questions and find out all you need to know about athletics at Conestoga.



Visit the [T/E Bulletin Board](#) for all sports and community information!



Bulletin Board Sampler

as of March 12, 2010...

New Fliers (posted in the order they are received)

[ARCH Presents: Competitive Pressure & Burnout with Bob Rigby, 4/7](#)
[BUILD Mtg: Research Based Instruction/Critical Issues in Special Ed, 3/22](#)
[Headlock Summer Wrestling Camp](#)
[C.A.S.E Provides T/E Students with Grant and Prepares for Golf Outing](#)

Previously Posted Fliers

[Upper Main Line YMCA Offers Free Membership to 7th Graders](#)
 Valley Forge National Historic Park Summer Adventure Camp
[Upper Main Line YMCA Teen Arts - Spring 2010](#)
[Upper Main Line YMCA Youth Arts - Spring 2010](#)
[CAPCO \(Conestoga After Prom Celebration Organization\) Update](#)
[Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership Course at Penn State Great Valley](#)

Visit the [T/E Bulletin Board](#) frequently!

DELTA

Presents the 2009-2010 Family Entertainment Season...

PUSH Physical Theatre
Friday, March 19, 2010, 7:30pm
 T/E Middle School



TICKETS available at the door! \$10/person

Gravity defying **PUSH Physical Theatre** a cross between fine art sculpture and the hit movie "The Matrix." You have never seen anything like this before... it's cool, it's athletic, it's entertaining, it's impossible to resist...

www.ArtsDelta.net

B.U.I.L.D.

Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences

Invites you to a talk on:

Researched Based Instruction
(When is it required under Federal and State Law?)
 and **Critical Issues in Special Education**
under PA's Regulations

Monday March 22, 2010 at 7pm
 At Valley Forge Middle School (Audion)

Our speaker is Dennis C. McAndrews, the founding shareholder of McAndrews Law Offices, P.C. Mr. McAndrews graduated with a double major in Education and Political Science from Villanova University and received his law degree from the Villanova School of Law. He has worked for over twenty-five (25) years in the public and private sectors in several roles in the field of disability law. Mr. McAndrews regularly represents individuals with disabilities and their families in a variety of areas, including special education matters, special needs trusts, guardianship, estate planning, right-to-treatment cases, and injury cases. He frequently serves as a consultant to other public and private attorneys with regard disability and special education issues. Please RSVP by March 21st to:

Wendy Brooks: wenobrooks@aol.com ;
 Michele Lynch: rlynch610@verizon.net ;
 Susan Peterman: shpeterman@yahoo.com .



TE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO – Meeting minutes for March 3, 2010

Welcome to all by Margaret MacKenzie at 9:06am

Old Business

- Meeting minutes for 02-03-10, motion to accept by Sherri Gartner, seconded by Tracey Prestipino. All in favor: Yes.

-Thanks to all volunteers to date by Margaret MacKenzie

-What a Life! Report by Jeanne Dechiario, Chair. Major topics discussed included this year’s theme: Social Responsibility, various activities, contests and mini programs will be executed throughout the spring utilizing morning announcements, lunch periods and teacher meeting times. A Speaker Day will be featured on 5/24/10 with “Mayhem Poets”. Information will be distributed via the PTO Blast Email.

Monthly Reports

-Treasurer: Karen Consalo, not present. Reports handed out. Net /Income Loss: \$2,747.57. Main Checking: \$11,142.10. Main Savings: \$5,430.46 What a Life Program Savings: \$5,004.33

-Principal: Mark Cataldi covered the following topics...Conference day to be held 3/4/10. 3/5/10 is teacher inservice day. Events to support Special Olympics have been successful (Pie Assembly raised over \$3700 and Student/Faculty Basketball game to be held 3/3/10 after school). April is PSSA month. Please refer to TEMS website for specific testing dates by grade level. The situation regarding AM arrival time: **not before 7:15am** has improved. Please be reminded that the administration will continue to enforce this rule. A question was asked about posting TEMS Diversity Statement and whether it would be modified to align with the CHS Diversity Posting. Mark reported that after consulting with his staff the TEMS Diversity Posting will remain the same.

-Representative Updates:

ARCH: Gwenn Mascioli announced that ARCH is hosting a parent event on April 7 (7pm) at CHS entitled: **Competitive Pressure and Burnout: Helping Our Kids Navigate Stress & Define How They Measure Success.**

BUILD: Sherri Gartner reported that due to weather related scheduling issues no meeting is currently scheduled for March.

School Board: Gigi Miller covered main topics from 2/22/10 meeting: Dual Enrollment at CHS, March Finance Committee will report on 70 budget-cut strategies, revised 2009/2010 calendar can be viewed on district website, Dan Waters, Superintendent signed a new contract through June 30, 2015. *(See full Board Meeting notes on following page of this newsletter.)*

New Business/Upcoming Events

-Parent Social Recap: Kristin Schappell reported that 150 people attended the event. This is up 50/60 attendees over LY. Committee worked through all weather challenges and project to net approx. \$13/14K.

-5/6 Grade Movie Event: Kristin Schappell reported the event is sold out with 126 planned to attend. Great tie in for parents who attend their Parent-Teacher conferences during the event.

-Barnes & Noble Day has moved to June 10th to avoid 7th grade Williamsburg trip conflict.

Wrap-Up At 10:07am

Next meeting: April 7 @ 9:00 am

Important Dates/Events:

- March 4: 5th & 6th grade movie event 11:30-2:00 @ Clearview Anthony Wayne Theater
No School; Parent Conferences
- March 5: Meals on Wheels Community Day for “What a Life!”
No School; staff in-service
- March 19: DELTA Event—“PUSH” Physical Theater—7:30pm @ TEMS
- March 22: School Board Meeting 7:30pm
- March 26: Meals on Wheels Community Day for “What a Life!” **CANCELLED!!**
- Mar 29-Apr 2: SPRING BRREAK



Report to the TEMS PTO: regarding the February 22, 2010 T/E Board of School Directors Meeting

Reported by: Gigi Miller at the TEMS PTO Meeting Date: March 3, 2010

T/E Highlights:

- TEMS Students Published in the Drexel Math Forum:
 - 6th graders: Elizabeth A & Madeleine G
 - Model problem solver
 - Teacher: Kelley Peck
- TEMS Students Collect For Haiti
 - \$7,200 raised; Student Council, Peer Mediation & Lend-a-Hand club recognized

Priority Discussion:

- Comment Period Added Prior to Any Voting
- Extended Learning Opportunity
 - Online Coursework
 - Piloted this year
 - 2010/11: 25 online courses will be offered; mostly 1 semester in length
 - Tuition paid by school
 - No impact on GPA
 - College courses during HS
 - "Dual Enrollment"
 - HS & College Credit
 - Tuition & transportation responsibility of family
 - No impact on GPA
 - Other Programs
 - Drexel Visiting Scholars Program
 - Penn State Great Valley Program

Committee Reports:

- Policy:
 - Citizen Soldiers Project: looking for names of any individuals who have resided in T/E for whatever length and served in the armed forces.

- Facilities:
 - Electrical Purchasing Broker – Provident Electric
 - RFP out for energy audit with goal to decrease energy usage
 - Safe Route To School Grant
- Finance:
 - 200 people attended last meeting
 - Next Meeting March 8th @ 7:30, CHS Auditorium
 - Over 70 strategies to be reviewed
 - Published in advanced & related items will be grouped
 - Budget deficit
 - Look at 3 – 5 year models
 - Combination of strategies to achieve budget
 - Tax increase
 - Spending Cuts
 - Use of General Fund Reserves
- Education:
 - Last day of school is: Friday, June 18th
 - Post Note: March 26th will be a school day
- Legislative:
 - Several topics discussed/reviewed:
 - Pension expenses; Health Care; Keystone Exams; Unfunded Mandates; No Child Left Behind Act

Other:

- Board approved the reappointment of Dr. Daniel E. Waters as Superintendent of Schools for the term December 29, 2010 through June 30, 2015