

THE BUZZ

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 4	Report Cards Issued
Dec. 4	4th Grade Chorus Christmas Concert 7:00 pm—Gym
Dec. 5	Kindergarten Field Trip Martin & Stanley
Dec. 6	Kindergarten Field Trip Miller & Cox
Dec. 7	Kindergarten Field Trip Land & Hensley
Dec. 7	5th Grade Chorus Christmas Concert 7:00 pm—Gym
Dec. 18	Christmas Program Mrs. Warrender's Class 1:30 pm
Dec. 18	Christmas Program Key & Kiger's Classes 7:00 pm—Gym
Dec. 19	Breakfast with Santa Pre-K, K & T-1
Dec. 19	4th Grade Poetry Recital at 1:15 in Library
Dec. 20- Jan 1	School Closed * Holiday Break
Jan. 2	School Reopens
Jan. 7	Pre-K Parent Workshop 6:30—7:30 pm
Jan 12.	School Closed Lee/Jackson Day
Jan. 15	School Closed Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 22	End of 1st Semester
Jan. 29	Report Cards Issued
Jan. 30	Call 237-4090 from 9-2 to schedule Parent-Teacher Conference
Feb. 1	Parent Teacher Confer- ences 3:30—6:30 pm

The Tomahawk
PTO would like
to wish
everyone a
Merry Christmas
and joyous
Holiday season.



Campbell Co. Teams Up With Schools Out

Campbell County Schools has teamed up with School's Out, an internet service that provides you with up-to-the-minute information on the operating status of your child's school or school division. The School's Out system is tied directly to Campbell County Schools administrative office and is updated by authorized personnel only, when and where schedule changes occur within the division. You can be the first to know this information, from an emergency at a particular school, to weather closings and cancellations for the school division. You will know even before television and radio stations can broadcast this news.

School's Out offers two plans. With School's Out Basic, you can check the status of the school division by searching for the division on the School's Out web site. Even better, you can enter in your email address and receive an email whenever the status of your school or the school division changes. This is a totally free service.

The other option is School's Out Plus. For \$14.95/year you will receive a text message on your mobile phone whenever the status of your school or school division changes. You do not have to be around a computer, TV or radio to receive an emergency notification. The text message will be delivered directly to your mobile phone wherever you are.

If you are interested in either of these services go to www.SchoolsOut.com to check it out!

** Dec. 20 is a scheduled Teacher Workday...school will be closed. If we need to use this date as a snow-make up day, there will be school but we will dismiss 2 hours early.*

A Note From The PTO President

Tammy Slade, President

Happy Holidays to all!

During the months to come the PTO will be seeking parents who want to make Tomahawk Elementary a better school for their children to attend. We need parents who will volunteer their time to be an active part of Tomahawk's Parent-Teacher-Organization Board.

Positions available for the 2007/2008 school year are as follows:

- Newsletter
- Performing Arts.

Co-chairs needed for:

- Fundraiser
- Membership
- Spirit
- Donations
- Carnival Planning Committee

Positions are open to any Tomahawk parent. If you are interested in becoming a chairperson on the PTO Board or want additional information, please contact me at 239-5024 or 851-3049 or tes86@aol.com or visit our website at www.tespto.org.

Thank you.

Kroger Plus Card

Leslie Sowers

Have you scanned your Kroger Plus card yet? It isn't too late yet. As of 11/20/06, we only had 67 cards scanned for our school. Last year we had 104 cards scanned and earned 181,000 points for the school. We earned enough points for 12 new die cut shapes, a die cut shape holder, a cassette recorder, a heavy duty electric stapler and staples, several books and a few other miscellaneous items. So if you haven't scanned your card, take the bar code to Kroger and have the cashier scan it. You need to only scan it once per school year. Ask your friends and family to support Tomahawk too, by scanning their cards.



I would like to thank Carol Bertrand for helping me count Box Tops for Education this year. I submitted them in October and we will receive \$599.00. I would love to see this doubled for the March submission. So as you do your holiday shopping look for box tops and send them into school.

Also, I collect the Tyson's A+ for education. Just save the entire strip off the top of the bags or the entire box end. Each are worth 24 cents, so they can add up quickly. And don't forget to save Campbell soup labels as you do your holiday cooking.

If you ever have any questions, feel free to call me at 832-0111.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Spirit Activities Changed




Barbara Rypkema, Spirit Committee

Happy Holidays! T-shirt sales are over for this school year. Over 200 T-

shirts and sweatshirts were purchased by TES students, families and friends! Thank you so much for supporting YOUR school in such a grand "fashion!" **Shirts ordered in November are expected to be delivered by December 11th!** They will be sent home through your child's teacher unless it has been otherwise noted! **If the shirt is a Christmas surprise, please contact Barbara Rypkema at 525-7124 or rypkema@verizon.net and let her know so other delivery arrangements can be made!**

With all of the hustle and bustle of this busy time of year, the Spirit Committee has decided to revise the activities schedule that was listed previously in the TES PTO Handbook. Activities for December & January have been cancelled. Watch for the February newsletter for exciting activities planned for 2007.

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who have helped out this year with the spirit events! More volunteers will be needed in 2007! Without great volunteers, TES spirit events couldn't happen!

**4th Grade Chorus
Christmas Concert
Monday, Dec. 4th
7:00 pm (in Gym)**

**5th Grade Chorus
Christmas Concert
"Broadway Santa"
Thursday, Dec. 7th
7:00 pm (in Gym)**

Students will need to be in their music teachers rooms by 6:30 pm on the night of their concert. Information will be sent home about what to wear for the concert. The school performances will be on Friday, Dec. 8th.

Please come out and support your children and friends and see them perform many wonderful Christmas songs in these two concerts.

Other Music Notes:
The third graders have recently started recorders in class and are having a wonderful time learning how to play and playing new songs on their recorders.

What Does PTO Do With Funds Raised?

Annalee Bondurant, Treasurer

Have you ever wondered what the PTO does with funds raised through membership dues, fundraisers, and monies made at miscellaneous events? Would you believe we maintain a \$29,000+ budget for the current school year? Here is just a quick reminder and explanation of where some of the funds are used for the benefit of our children:

- \$2,000.00 – Performing Arts. Funds are used to contract assemblies for the students to enrich learning (and fun).
- \$7,000.00 – Artist in Education. Do you realize that the county does not pay for our art program? You do. Funds are used to purchase art supplies, pay the art teacher's salary and have an Art Show in the Spring to showcase our students art.
- \$4,300.00 – Classroom Allotment. Funds are used to reimburse teachers' expenses for the purchase of materials used in the classroom for our students.
- \$1,000.00 – Agendas. Funds are used to purchase agendas for our 4th & 5th graders to help keep their schoolwork organized & prepare them for middle school.
- \$1,000.00 – Library. Funds are used to enhance the supplies for the library.
- \$500.00 – Music. Funds are used to purchase supplies for the music program for our students.
- \$500.00 – P.E. Funds are used to purchase supplies for the PE program for our students.
- \$6,000.00 – Playground. Funds are used to maintain the playground and purchase new equipment/supplies for the students.
- \$500.00 – Hospitality. Funds are used to supply our teachers & staff at TES with meals at parent/teacher conferences and other school events.
- \$1,500.00 – Newsletter Printing. Funds are used to pay for the printing of our monthly newsletter.

In addition to our yearly expenses, the PTO has used excess funds to enhance our school. Here is a quick summary of some of the EXTRA items YOUR money has provided to our students at Tomahawk Elementary School throughout the last several years.

Tomahawk PTO Board members have worked diligently to maintain and enhance the playground areas for our students. Here are some examples:

Fall 2003:

- Paved new basketball court
- Purchased equipment for basketball area (backboards, rims, nets, new balls)
- Refurbished existing playground equipment
- Purchased soccer goals/balls
- Purchased new playground balls/bases for kickball games
- Purchased volleyball net/balls
- Purchased tether ball poles/balls
- Mulched playground area
- Total costs: \$7,330.24**

Fall 2004:

- Purchased gravel & mulch for playground
- Purchased new playground balls, basketballs & tether balls
- Added striping to basketball pavement
- Purchased (2) park benches for playground area
- Total Costs: \$1,695.16**

Fall 2005:

- Purchased sand & pebbles for playground
- Total Cost: \$699.50**

In addition to using funds for playground purposes, the PTO Board realized the importance of relaying school information to the parents & caregivers of our students. It was decided during the 2004/2005 school year that a school sign was needed in front of Tomahawk Elementary to provide this service. The board worked diligently that year to see this come to fruition. So in May 2005, an order was placed for a new School Sign. During summer break the sign arrived and with the donation of brick and labor by BAT Masonry, the new school marquee was completed.

Total Cost: \$6,294.00

The Tomahawk Elementary School PTO Board wishes to thank each of you for your past, present and future support. Together, we can make TES the best place possible for our children!

Library News

Mrs. Kathy Meredith, Librarian

Happy Holidays from the library!

As you prepare for this season of joy, please remember to take time to read with your children. What a wonderful gift to both of you! The children receive the gift of your attention, and you get to see them experience the miracle of our language, the glorious illustrations in today's children's literature, and you both will make memories that could last a lifetime.

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner, coming up in the first part of February. Be on the lookout for more information after the New Year!

Mrs. Giuliano and I count our blessings every day, that we are able to work with your children, and share our love of books and reading with the children of Tomahawk.

Holiday Parties

All classes are looking forward to Christmas holiday parties in their individual classrooms. There are also numerous Christmas programs for different classes. Watch your teacher's weekly newsletter for upcoming dates and ways you can help.

Donations Appreciated

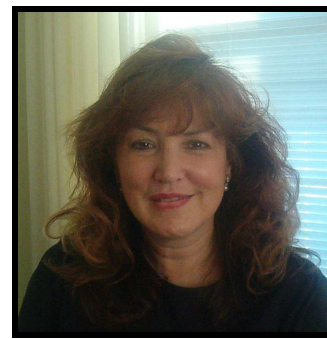
Thank you for all the generous donations for the Veterans Hospital, as well as the items we received for the local food banks. We are sure many people will be touched by your gifts. You are appreciated!!!

Tomahawk Student Honored

Congratulations to Taylor Almond on writing an award-winning essay on "Family is Special." Taylor will receive a \$50 savings bond from the Alliance for Families for his effort. We are proud of each of the entries the Fourth graders made, and have enjoyed reading them in our hallway.

Speech News

Mrs. Regina Mauzy, MS, Speech Therapist



Dear Speech Therapist:

Can you think of which types of toys make good holiday presents to children with speech delays? With Christmas coming I want to pick a special toy for my grandchild.

Loving Nanna

Dear Loving Nanna:

It depends upon the age of a child, since their interests are so diverse. For preschoolers, I prefer toys that can be manipulated and held, so that the item is tangible and the child can engage in imaginative play. At this age you can start introducing beginning computer programs, but you need to anticipate that you will need to sit with the child to make it truly interactive. There are many diverse and interactive CD's and tapes. "Blue's Clues", "Dora the Explorer" and such are good choices. Old standbys such as bubbles have survived the test of time!

For school aged children, you may want to encourage games that promote thinking skills and there are many board games that fit that description. There are also computer based learning tools such as the Jump Start series that are very good and educational besides being just plain fun! Remember, if your child also has motor delays that you are looking for toys and objects that can be easily grasped and manipulated, I still like Playdoh for imagination and good parent-child interactive skills. Scrabble and Monopoly are still good for thinking skills.

There is a great book called The New Language of Toys (Schwartz and Miller) that goes into more details and is a great resource for using games to build skills.

At any rate, happy holiday hunting, and remember your grandchild sitting with you and talking or sharing a story is the best gift of all!

4th Grade Poetry Recital Set

The Fourth Grade poetry recital will be on Monday, December 18th in the Library. We will begin at 1:15. Parents, please join us to listen to the students. They have been working hard on their presentation.



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Tomahawk Elementary School
155 Bee Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24502
(434) 237-4090

Lorraine Curry, Editor
jlcurry2@verizon.net