

THE BUZZ

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, October 9
End of First Six Weeks

Wednesday, October 11
School Pictures
K—2nd Grade

Thursday, October 12
School Pictures
3rd—5th Grades

Friday, October 13
2 Hour Early Dismissal

Monday, October 16
Report Cards Go Home

October 17 & 18
Parents—call to make
appointments for
Parent Teacher Conf.

Thursday, October 19
Parent Teacher
Conferences

October 23—27
Stanford 10 Testing
For 4th Grade Students

Friday, October 27
Spirit Day
Students—Wear orange
or wear your hair in a
crazy fashion

Friday, October 27
PTO Pumpkin Party
7:00—9:00 pm

From The Principals Hive...

Mrs. Donna Brown



The American family is the rock on which a solid education can be built. I have seen examples all over this nation where two-parent families, single parents, step-parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are providing strong family support for their children to learn. If families teach the love of learning, it can make all the difference in the world to their children.

Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education

The beginning of school affords us many opportunities to focus on the importance of each individual's role in the education of our children. The teacher, parents, our families, and the community all have a vested interest in this recipe for student success. There are steps that we can take to improve the quality of our children's education.

Read together - Children who read at home with their parents perform better in school. It is important to show children that you value reading by visiting the libraries, reading books, newspapers and magazines.

Getting Involved- Helping out at your child's school may seem too big of a time commitment, but just helping for a little time can provide great rewards! If you are available during the day, help is often needed in the library, cafeteria, assisting on field trips, working with the P.T.O. fundraising, art projects, or assisting with the hospitality committee. If you are available at night, teachers can provide you

with items that may need to be cut, glued or assembled to assist them in the classroom. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Use television and computers wisely and appropriately-According to the U.S. Department of Education, "academic achievement drops sharply for children who watch more than 10 hours of television in one week, or an average of more than two hours a day." Be observant and know what your child is doing on the television and computer!

Create a family routine- Establish a regular time for meals, bedtime, and homework. Each afternoon or evening make sure backpacks, books, homework, notes, and materials are organized and ready for the next school day. Make sure each child has responsibilities or tasks to complete each evening to assist the family...everyone has a job and contributes to the success of the family unit!

Keep in touch- Talk with your child's teacher, set up a time so that you can discuss your child's progress, attend P.T.O. monthly activities that allow the opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to share some fun and get to know each other better. If your child is unable to come to school due to illness, please call the school and send a note when your child returns to school stating the reason for time missed from school. Call the school and we will let the teacher know to collect work. Assignments can be picked up after 3:10...this will give the teacher time to collect the work. According to the National School Public Relations Association, "improved parental involvement leads to higher academic achievement, better attendance, and improved behavior at home and school."

From the PTO President...

Tammy Slade

I hope the first month of school has been a success. We had a great turn out at the open house event. We are still collecting PTO memberships for the 06/07 school year. Remember to help your child out because the class in each grade who has the most participants will win an ice cream party.

Please check out our new website at www.tespto.org. It has a lot of information, and if you would like to volunteer for some of our events, or if you missed the newsletter one month or can't find it after you read it, it's on the website.

Fall Carnival A Huge Success!

Lisa Baumgartner
PTO VP/Carnival Chairperson

The Tomahawk Fall Carnival was held on September 23rd. The carnival featured Teddy Spaghetti and his amazing balloon & juggling talents, Boy Scout Troop 48 hoisting children up their rock climbing wall, a dunking booth with a lot of eager children waiting to dunk Mrs. Slade and Mrs. Burton, a hot rod show featuring Milwaukee Iron and their awesome bikes, the smell of cotton candy looming in the lobby, Southpaw roaming around posing with children, and lots of parents, children and teachers with smiles on their faces.

Although the carnival was a huge success and we earned almost \$4000, it did have its challenges. There were lots of times throughout the day that we thought games were going to have to shut down

PTO Pumpkin Party Planned

Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us for the October fun!

Friday, October 27th
7:00—9:00 pm

All TES students, faculty and staff are encouraged to dress as a "Pumpkin Patch Scare Crow." Wear your hair in a crazy fashion, wear orange or go all the way and dress as a scare crow.



Join us for an evening full of pumpkin themed events and games. Membership door prizes and a quick general PTO board session will start the evening off and then the "Pumpkin Party" begins! Bring your best pre-carved pumpkin for the carving contest. There will be pumpkin hunting with opportunities for the kids to decorate them afterwards as well as Bingo and crafts for everyone to participate in! Everyone is encouraged to come in costume for the evening and will have the opportunity to participate in Trick-or-Treating at the close of the evening! *Admission is \$1 per person, maximum of \$5 per family and includes 3 bingo cards, all activities, crafts and refreshments. Additional bingo cards will be available in sets of three for \$1 per set.*

Volunteers are needed to help with the evening and donations of cookies and bagged candy would be appreciated! To sign up for either, visit the PTO website at www.tespto.org and follow the "Volunteer" or "Spirit" links or contact Barbara Rypkema at Rypkema@verizon.net or by phone at 434-525-7124. Cookie and candy donations may be sent in through your child's teacher!

due to lack of parental volunteers. I encourage each Tomahawk family to become more involved with the PTO activities. We want to continue to provide events but will need lots of help to make it happen. We need you to help make your child's school a better place.

I hope each of you enjoyed the carnival as much as I did. This was a lot of hard work but the rewards were great. I would like to have feedback from you. Please email me at lewjb@verizon.net to let me know what you liked or didn't like, or how we can improve the carnival for next year.

A Note from the PTO President:
THANK YOU to the following people who helped make this event possible:

- Wade & Lisa Baumgartner
- Craig & Barbara Rypkema
- Mrs. Brown & Mr. Hardie
- Teachers, Parents, Brothers, Sisters, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- Pack 48/Blue Ridge Mountain Counsel
- Crimson Cardinals

If we have missed anyone, please know that you are truly appreciated and we say "THANK YOU".

Help Wanted!

Kathy May, Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee needs your help! If you are looking for an easy way to help out at Tomahawk, this is it. Our committee provides meals and other treats to the teachers throughout the year.

We need people that are willing to send in items for our events. Our up-coming events include a dinner during parent/teacher conferences on October 19th and American Education Week in November. If you would like to help us this year, please call Kathy May at 525-3619.

Box Tops For Education Program

Leslie Sowers



Help TES reach our goal of \$1,000.00 for the Box-Tops for Education program. Last year we raised \$750.00. If we all work together, we can reach our goal this year. Visit the Box-Tops for Education web site, at www.boxesforeducation.com.

boxesforeducation.com, to learn more about how you can help TES reach our goal. Here are a few examples of how you can help TES raise money through the program. Please send in Box Tops regularly, they do have an expiration date.

1. Print coupons for Box-Top items. Who doesn't like coupons?
2. Find quick recipes for meals using Box-Top products.
3. Enter contests to earn bonus Box-Tops. Just think what TES could purchase with 10,000 Box-Tops!
4. Join the Box-Tops booster club. Each new member earns 5 Box-Tops for their school.
5. Obtain information about the Box-Tops Visa. 1% of all purchases made with the Visa are credited to your supporting school.
6. Shop at the Box-Top market place. Participating online merchants will donate a percentage of purchases made through the Box-Top marketplace.
7. Continue to clip the Box-Tops and bring or send them to school.

We also participate in the Tyson A+ project. Save the entire strip or box end of participating Tyson brands. Send them in along with Box Tops. Each Tyson A+ is worth 24 cents.

Any questions? Feel free to call me at 832-0111.

Would You Like To Volunteer?

There are always opportunities for parents and other families members to volunteer at Tomahawk, and we need your help! Besides helping in your child's classroom, you can spend as much or as little time as you would like. Contact Joan Deal, our volunteer coordinator at 525-8993 if you are interested or complete the volunteer form on the back of the PTO handbook (all students received a copy in September) and return it to your child's teacher.

New PTO Message Board Forum!

Barbara Rypkema

The PTO website is complete! Join the PTO, buy T-shirts on line, check out the latest activities information and much more.

PLUS, now you can join the TES PTO Message Board Forum! Access the main TES PTO page (www.tespto.org) and follow the TES PTO Forum link. To access the page you will need to register and log in and then join in the conversations! Talk to other parents with children in the same grades, talk to PTO Board Members, share information and basically just have fun! Email Barbara Rypkema at rypkema@verizon.net if you have any questions. Hope to see everyone take advantage of the forum and join today!

P.S. ANYONE with TES may join... Teachers, Administration, Grandparents, etc. So sign up today!



Thank you, parents, for coming to the PTO Open House in September. From families sharing pizza to the kids meeting McGruff, the Crime Dog, the evening was full of fun.

Odyssey Program

Lani Patrick

One of the special programs in our school is the Odyssey program, which serves the needs of children identified as gifted and talented. The program is directed by Mrs. P. J. Hamilton, Director of Elementary Education.

In conjunction with the Odyssey program, the Campbell County Gifted Advisory Committee, a group chaired by Mrs. Hamilton and consisting of school division staff and parent representatives from each of the four attendance areas, meets at least three times a year to accomplish the following purposes:

1. To encourage a collaborative relationship between school division staff and the community.
2. To focus attention on issues relevant to improving educational services.
3. To receive new information regarding current research and best practices in gifted education and its relationship to general education; and
4. To conduct an annual review of the local plan for gifted services.

The committee representative for the Tomahawk Elementary attendance area is Mrs. Virginia Laughlin. If you have input to be shared with the committee, your representative may be contacted at 434-525-7153.

If you have concerns relative to the Odyssey program, please contact Mrs. Hamilton at 434-332-8227.

Speech News

Mrs. Regina Mauzy

Welcome back to all my students!

Dear Speech Therapist:

I recently discovered that my child has a mild hearing loss. Can my child still attend public school and what can I expect?



Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom:

Mild hearing losses are no reason to change schools and may only require slight modifications to your child's program or seating arrangements. You need to discuss with your audiologist what TYPE of hearing loss your child has (high frequency, etc) and if they will need amplification (hearing aids). Most of the time, a mild hearing loss can be compensated for, but the child must learn to be vigilant and let adults know when he/she has "missed" something, i.e. instructions, etc. The specific modifications can be worked out with the teacher and special education specialist, if necessary. It may be helpful to know that many children have this problem at one time or another, especially if they have what is known as "recurrent" ear infections, otitis media, or even recurrent allergic symptoms!

Check with your doctor if allergies become troublesome or your child experiences recurrent upper respiratory infections.

School Nurse Notes

Mrs. Susan Anderson, R.N.

Fall is here and sinus allergies are an issue for some! Be sure and give medicine in the mornings, if need be, for a good start to the school day. Asthma can be an issue for others. Check your inhaler expiration dates and get re-fills, if necessary. If you need me to give medication during the school day, a designated adult must bring it in and an authorization form must be signed. Do not send medicine in with your child. This is a Campbell County school policy.

Parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten students: I'm going through your child's medical files now. If any-

one has not turned in their blue Health Entrance form or are missing any immunizations, etc., they must be turned in by October 5, 2006. If not, your child cannot return to school after this date until you have done so. This information was due on the first day of school.

This fall, the Pre-K, Kindergarten and third graders will have their vision and hearing screened, if it was not done by their doctor within the last year. I will send the results home with the students in their folders. If your child complains that he or she has trouble seeing the board, or trouble hearing, let me know. The teachers will also request vision/hearing checks for those they feel might need it.

Physical Fitness Testing Begins

Mr. Woody Wooldridge

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are continuing their Physical Fitness Testing. Each student at the end of testing will receive a Physical Fitness Report. Please look at this report with your child and send it back signed after you receive it. If you have any concerns, recommendations, or questions pertaining to your child's test results, please feel free to call me. Pre-K, K, T1, and 1st grades students will continue working on spatial awareness with games and manipulatives incorporated into their lessons.

Thanks for your efforts in sending your child to school in proper attire for Physical Education. Just a reminder that tennis shoes are a must. Also girls are reminded to wear shorts under their dresses whenever they are worn to school.

The following statistics come from the American Heart Association under the title, "Obesity: An Epidemic of Excess".

1. About 16% of all children and teens in the United States are overweight.
2. Overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults. This increases to 80% if one or more of the parents are overweight or obese.
3. At least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on most days of the week is the recommended minimum. However, nearly 23% of children and 40% of adults get no physical activity at all.

To receive a free copy of "A Nation at Risk: Obesity in the United States," which includes obesity statistics, information and resources, please call (800)AHA-USA1 or visit the web site at **www.americanheart.org**. The section 'Children's Health' also provides great health resources for kids, their parents and their teachers.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Everyday, thousands of children are bribed with food to get them to behave, listen, or do things parents or teachers want them to do. We offer them "treats" when they do a good job or conform to our expectations. But, are these so called treats helping our kids? Absolutely not! In fact, they're killing them. Kids are learning that Happy Meals, Soft Drinks, Lunchables, Donuts, and many of our processed foods are acceptable because they are given to them on a regular basis, even as rewards for doing something good. However, regular consumption of such products sets kids up for heart disease, Type II diabetes, and even cancer. The message we send to kids by bribing them with unhealthy foods is wrong and goes against what they should be learning about staying healthy. How come fruits or vegetables have never been considered treats? After all, they treat the body a whole lot better than junk food. We should teach kids that food is what you use to nourish your body, not a reward for doing good.

If you ever have any questions or suggestions for Mrs. Olivas or myself, please contact us at wooldridge@campbell.k12.va.us.

Library News

Mrs. Meredith

What an exciting beginning to a year we're having in the library! Along with the start-up of Super Sleuth, our Accelerated Reader program, and Virginia Readers' Choice Program, we've chosen 5th grade library helpers, have started the "Library Lunch Bunch" reading program, and as I write this, are hosting a first in my 25+ years as an elementary librarian, a September Book Fair! WOW!

First, I'd like to thank all my new, and returning volunteers for this year. We couldn't run the library program without you. I'd also like to congratulate this year's 5th grade library helpers: Kelsey Manzi, Chelsee Sales, Shannon Stephenson, Julie Von Gemmingen, Katie Chen, Haley Tweedy, Charlotte Smith, Allison Walker, Lee Bertrand and Jonathan Yu.

This year's Virginia Readers' Choice titles can be found at: <http://campbell.k12.va.us/TES/vyrptitles.htm>. Another useful link is our A.R. quiz list search page: [http://www.quizlist.net/\(1jxjqk55jdvsa145brpne145\)/search.aspx?id=5274](http://www.quizlist.net/(1jxjqk55jdvsa145brpne145)/search.aspx?id=5274). Both of these sites are linked from the TES Media Center webpage: <http://www.campbell.k12.va.us/TES/mediacenter.htm>. From A is for Anatole to the food chain of Dory Story to a map of the library showing the new shelving and rearranged biography section, things in the library are off to a flying start!

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