

THE B U Z Z

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

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ending culminating activity – **The A.R. Sleepover!** The last day to earn the sleepover by taking A.R. quizzes will be Friday, May 23. The sleepover will be Friday May 30 – Sat. May 31. You'll be getting more information as the date draws nearer. Please consider volunteering! It's always a ton of fun!

funding opportunities. Yet, the PTO while still be able to provide the same type of support and encouragement to TES that it always has!

If anyone has any questions or input concerning the bylaws or the incorporation process please feel free to contact Barbara Rypkema by email at Rypkema@verizon.net or by phone at 525-7124.

Join the Circle of Knowledge @ Your Library...Keep Reading!

CLASSIFIEDS

Incorporation & Bylaws

Barbara Rypkema

The PTO Board is in the process of revising the current PTO organizational bylaws. During this time the decision was made to file for "Non-Profit Incorporation" status with the State Corporation Commission (SCC).

By filing with the SCC the PTO will better establish itself as a solid, state recognized organization which will open up more possible grant and

ART TEACHER
The TES PTO is now accepting applications for an Art Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. This is a paid position. For more information about this position please contact Tammy Slade at TES86@aol.com or at 239-5024.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS ~ Some positions are coming available for the 2008-2009 school year! If you are interested in serving on the PTO Board or would like more information please contact Tammy Slade at 239-5024 TES86@aol.com.



Lynchburg Hillcats Raffle

Package Includes:

10 Tickets* to a Hillcats game for you and your friends!
Free Hot Dog, bag of chips and soda with each ticket!

~and~

The lucky winner will get to throw out the first pitch of the game!

Game is May 11, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m. *10 Tickets are all to one game and may not be used separately. Raffle tickets will go on sale starting April 21st! Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each maximum of 5 chances per student. Questions? Please call Tammy Slade 239-5024 or Susan Litchford 832-8166

MAY SOL TESTING DATES

3rd Grade

Mon., 5/12	Reading
Thurs., 5/15	History
Tues., 5/20	Math
Tues., 5/27	Science

4th Grade

Tues., 5/13	Reading
Fri., 5/16	History
Wed., 5/21	Math

5th Grade

Wed., 5/14	Reading
Mon., 5/19	Science
Thurs., 5/22	Math
Wed., 5/28	History

Make Up Dates

Thurs., 5/29	Make Up
Fri., 5/30	Make Up

*Make-up tests may be given to students any day after the regularly scheduled test.

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Parents:
Please feel free to email your ideas or suggestions for future issues of our newsletter to the email address above.

APRIL IMPORTANT DATES

Tues., 4/1 7pm ~ 8:30pm	TES PTO Art Show
Mon., 4/7 to Fri., 4/11	SPIRIT WEEK! <i>*See page 3 for details!</i>
Thurs., 4/10 6:30pm	Pre-Kindergarten Workshop at Timbrook Library <i>*This is for Pre-Kindergarten Students and Parents currently enrolled at TES.</i>
Thurs., 4/17 9am ~ 2pm	Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration
Thurs., 4/17 6:30pm ~ 7:30pm	Open House for upcoming Kindergarten students that registered earlier in the day!
Thurs., 4/24 6:30pm	PTO Budget Board Meeting. ALL PTO members are invited to attend!
Thurs., 4/24	Ending of 5th Six Weeks
Fri., 4/25	School In Session 2 hour early dismissal at 1:10pm
Tues., 4/29 7pm	First Grade Music Program

From The Assistant Principal's Hive...

Mr. Jon Hardie



In May we will be conducting the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Listed below is some helpful information and tips on how you can help your child be successful during testing.

- **Be on time.** If a student is tardy, they might feel anxiety and not perform their best.
- **Get a good night's sleep.** Research shows that students that are well rested test better.

- **Change any appointments for your child.** Once testing has begun we cannot interrupt students during their testing session.
- **Eat Breakfast.** Students perform better when they have had a balanced breakfast.

- **Encourage your child to do their best.**

As a parent, you are the single most influential person in your child's life. So please encourage your child to do their very best when it comes to testing. It is so very important to have your child at school on time so that he/she can do their best without any interruptions.

May SOL testing dates are listed on page 4!

TES PTO ART SHOW!

TOMORROW!
Tuesday, April 1st, 7 ~ 8:30pm



TARGET

This is your chance to view your children's art projects from throughout the year! We look forward to seeing you then!

The PTO would also like to, once again, say "Thank You" to the Target Corporation for helping to fund the 2007/2008 TES PTO Artist In Education Program! We appreciate it!

TES Faculty, Staff, Parents, and the Community working together for OUR children!

PTO President's Buzz... PTO vs. PTA? What is the Difference?

Tammy Slade, PTO President

I know several of you may be wondering what is the difference between a PTO and a PTA? I know I sure was until I went on the PTO Today's website and printed off some material. I would like to share some of the information I found with you. If what I share does not answer all of your questions please go to www.ptotoday.com and you should be able to find all your answers.

First what does PTO mean: it typically stands for "Parent-Teacher Organization" and is the general acronym for 75% of the groups that choose to remain independent of the National PTA (Parent-Teacher Association).

What is the difference: PTA's are local groups that affiliate with the National PTA. These groups pay dues to their respective state PTA's and to the National PTA, and they receive benefits from those organizations. PTO's choose to remain independent. PTO's are free to write their own by-laws, and they can either not charge dues at all or keep whatever dues they do charge at their school.

While PTA's have the National PTA organization to assist them in doing their work. Since 1999 independent groups have had the many resources provided by PTO Today to help them do their work more effectively. These services are provided free of charge to all parent-teacher groups, no matter the acronym.

So in a nutshell, if Tomahawk Parent Teacher Organization was a PTA a lot of the money we raise would have to be spent on paying dues to the State and National PTA's. For me, as a parent and the President of the PTO, I would rather see our money stay in our school and have it used for our students.

**Part of this article was copied off the PTO Today's website.*

FUNdraising Updates!

Susan Litchford

Our second box top contest has finished. We raised over \$840.00. We will still have a contest for March, April, and May where 1 class for the school will win each month.

Our school winner for November to February was Ms. Shannon's second grade class! Way to go!

Congratulations also to the grade winners of the contest ending in February! Those winners were:

- K ~ Mrs. Davenport
- 1st Grade ~ Mrs. Kiger

- 2nd Grade ~ Mrs. Armontrout
- 3rd Grade ~ Mrs. Ingram
- 4th Grade ~ Mrs. Anthony
- 4th Grade ~ Mrs. Davis

Keep up the good work! We have raised over \$2100.00 just in box tops for the year.

Spring Fundraiser:

Our spring fundraiser will be starting April 7, 2008. This year, the children's artwork is being sent to a company for them to reproduce on items ranging from magnets to t-shirts to mouse pads to tote bags (and many more). Please be watching the children's Monday folders for the order form. Orders need to be returned by April 16, 2008 and all items should

be back by May 21, 2008. These would make great Father's Day Gifts!!

Nestle Pure Life Labels:

We have also started collecting the labels from Nestle Pure Life water bottles. With these labels, we will be able to earn "gym equipment" for the classes to use at recess. Please save your labels and turn them in to the school. There is a container in the lobby for collection of the labels.



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T-Shirts:

The spring t-shirts have been ordered. They should arrive by the middle of April. If you did not get to order and would like to there is still time! Orders can be placed on-line at any time through www.spiritandpride.com!

Ink Cartridge and Cell Phone Recycling:

Don't forget to turn in those used ink cartridges (laser and inkjet) and old cell phones for recycling. We just received over \$100.00 for recycling these items.

SPiRiT Week!

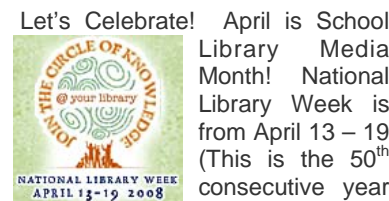
Amanda Cochenour

Mark your calendars because April 7th-11th is **SPiRiT WEEK!!!**

- Monday, April 7th: **Hat Day** ~ be sure to wear your coolest hat!
- Tuesday, April 8th: **Pajama Day** ~ you won't even have to get dressed to come to school this day!
- Wednesday, April 9th: **CRAZy HAIR DAY** ~ go all out to show your unique hairstyles!
- Thursday, April 10th: **BACKWARDS DAY** ~ come to school sporting your favorite clothes...backwards!
- Friday, April 11th: **SCHOOL PRIDE DAY** ~ be sure to show your school pride by wearing a TES t-shirt, or TES colors!!!

National Library Week!

Mrs. Kathy Meredith, Librarian



Let's Celebrate! April is School Library Media Month! National Library Week is from April 13 – 19 (This is the 50th consecutive year for this celebration). The Tuesday of NLW is designated "National Library Workers Day." as a day for library staff, users, administrators and friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Kathy Giuliano, our library aide here at Tomahawk; our two high school helpers, Desiree Gregory and Kara Wheeler; our 5th grade library helpers; and our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't run the library program as we do without their support.

Since book fair, PreK students have continued to enjoy classic fairy tales during their story times. Kindergarten stories have included two musical stories during March, Sing Sophie and Ben's Trumpet. Our T/1 and first grade students enjoyed a month of Dr. Seuss stories, including Dr. Seuss' first published book, And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street and the ooey-goey story of Bartholomew and the Oobleck. Second graders have sorted candy and books as they've learned about the different sections of the library, and the Third grade students enjoyed an Easter book hunt using the Dewey Decimal System.

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration



Will be held on April 17 from 9:00 until 2:00. Students do not have to come to registration. *Students that are registering for Kindergarten are encouraged to attend the Open House that evening from 6:30 until 7:30.* This will be a time for the parents and students to tour the building and view several kindergarten classrooms.

For Registration: Parents will need

- **Two proofs** of verification of your address: Driver's License AND a Utility Bill-Current name, date, and address must be shown.
- **Child's Birth Certificate**
- **Child's Social Security card**

At registration, you will receive a date and time for the Brigance Screening for all incoming Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.

Fourth grade library times have correlated with their classroom units on Poetry and Social Studies, with reference sources coming up next. Fifth graders did some basic note-taking in conjunction with their "Composer Idol" project, and heard a haunting story of a young Northern girl's trip to Richmond in 1859 and her reactions to seeing the horrors of slavery in Ann Turner's book, Nettie's Trip South.

More and more students have earned an invitation to our year-

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