

The BUZZ

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

WANT ADS:

The PTO has 2 positions currently available.

1) Editor of *The Buzz*. Duties include gathering the information, preparing and distributing *The Buzz*, which is published monthly except for January, June (optional), July and August.

2) Grant Writer. Responsibilities include researching grant sources, working with committee for research of items, writing/submitting grants and tracking/maintaining follow up paperwork.

Both positions are board positions. No experience necessary, just a desire to learn! Please contact Barbara Rypkema for information!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Breakfast with Santa, Bookfair Dinner and the Father/Daughter Dance are all in need of volunteers! If you are interested in helping with any of these please contact Christina Haskins at btfuljade@yahoo.com as soon as possible!

of the feedback was positive in most areas. The largest issue was "lack of volunteers" and/or "unmanned games." As a committee we realize this is a problem. It is an on going problem not only with the carnival but other PTO events as well. This year approximately 45 parents volunteered in some fashion to help with the carnival. Eight of those volunteering could only help prior to the date due to other commitments. That count does not include the carnival committee. With over 600 students enrolled at TES that means that less than 13% of the parents

volunteered to help! So, the carnival has wonderful support in attendance but not in volunteerism. That can make it challenging to say the least.

We greatly appreciate the support and parents who did volunteer this past year! We certainly couldn't have done it without you! Based on the above information, and looking forward to next year's carnival though we would love suggestions, from everyone, on how to encourage more volunteer participation. What do YOU suggest as a solution to this problem? Please contact Barbara Rypkema at rypkema@verizon.net or Kelly Gliniski with your suggestions. Comments and ideas may also be posted on the *President's Buzz Blog* comment section at www.tespto.org.

From the School Nurse...

Susan Anderson, R.N.

Type A flu and bronchitis are still ongoing. Our teachers, staff and custodians continue to make every effort to keep our school clean. Teachers oversee their students and remind them to wash their hands, cover their coughs and sneezes, and to not share their food or drinks. **Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of germs.** Antiseptic hand gel is a good substitute. Review the information below for common cold and flu symptoms. If your child has a fever, follow your doctor's advice regarding when your child may return to school. Fevers tend to rise and fall throughout the day. Remember too, to bring an excuse for your child's absence. Feel free to visit The Virginia Department of Health website at www.vahealth.org/

childadolescenthealth for insight and information.

Common Cold:

- Usually no fever,
- Usually no headache
- Mild fatigue and weakness
- Sneezing/congestion
- Mild to moderate cough
- Sore, irritated throat
- Cold medicines help relieve symptoms

Flu:

- Sudden fever, usually lasts 3+ days
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue, weakness
- Red, burning, glassy eyes
- Cough, sometimes severe
- Sore throat
- Vaccine can help prevent

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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.

From The Principal's Hive...



Mrs. Debbie Elliott, Principal
Mrs. Marti Brandt, Assistant Principal

We are excited to share that we have received numerous compliments on how well mannered and respectful our students were on recent field trips. We have great teachers and students at Tomahawk. We are pleased to observe, on a daily basis, kindness, respect and manners that are shown by our students here at TES. As the holidays are approaching, our school will be collecting mittens and gloves that will be used to decorate our tree in the main lobby. Students can bring in new mittens and gloves between November 30th and December 11th, and can hang them on the tree as they enter the building at the beginning of the school day. On Friday, December 18th, our school will join together in a Holiday Sing-A-Long at 1:30. Some of our TES Staff will be performing and all of us will take part in singing winter songs. You are welcome to join us for the Holiday Festivity. The winter season is rapidly approaching and will bring

DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY DATES

Sat. 12/5 ~ 8:30am to 11:30am	Breakfast with Santa
Mon. 12/7 ~ 7pm	Fourth Grade Chorus Concert
Mon. 12/7 ~ 7pm	Campbell Co. School Board Meeting <i>*at Campbell Co. Technical Center</i>
Mon. 12/21 to Fri. 1/1	Winter Break ~ School CLOSED
Mon. 1/4	School Re-OPENS
Mon. 1/4 ~ 7pm	Campbell Co. School Board Meeting <i>*at Campbell Co. Technical Center</i>
Thurs. 1/14 ~ 7pm	Fifth Grade Chorus Concert
Thurs. 1/14	End of 3rd 6-weeks
Fri. 1/15	Lee/Jackson Day ~ School CLOSED
Mon. 1/18	MLK Jr. Day ~ School CLOSED
Mon. 1/18	Campbell Co. School Board Meeting <i>*at Campbell Co. Technical Center</i>
Tues. 1/19	First Day of 2nd Semester
Mon. 2/1 to Fri. 2/5	Bedford Falls Bookfair
Tues. 2/2	Bookfair Spaghetti Dinner
Fri. 2/5 ~ 7 to 9pm	Father/Daughter Dance <i>*3rd to 5th Grade Girls only</i>
Mon. 2/15	Snow Make-Up Day/Teacher Workday <i>*Schools closed OR 2 hour early dismissal</i>

questionable weather. Please forward to a wonderful new year check your local news and radio in 2010. forecasts for school delays and closings. Have a safe and joyous winter break. We look





3rd Annual Book Fair Dinner!

This year all you can eat SPAGHETTI!

Tues., Feb. 2nd
6:30pm

General PTO Meeting
7pm

Tickets go on sale in January!

News from the Library...

Kathy Meredith, Librarian

Happy Holidays from the library!

Many thanks to everyone who made our Barnes & Noble night a success! We earned \$451.45 that evening!

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 Bedford Falls Book Fair is just around the corner. It's scheduled to run from Feb. 1 - 5, 2010! 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.

Chorus Cheer

Diana Parker, Music Teacher

The fourth grade chorus concert will be December 7, 2009 at 7 PM in the gym. The students will be performing a variety of songs including some very special seasonal favorites. Come and enjoy some holiday cheer and show the students how much they are supported with this musical performance!

We are having our fifth grade chorus concert on January, 14, 2010 at 7 PM for family, friends, and the community. It is entitled "The Big Chill!" and the students have been working hard to prepare for this event! Come and enjoy seeing and listening to the students perform!!

Theater IV rates No. 1!

Lisa Arrington, Performing Arts Chair

On Friday, November 6th the PTO sponsored Theater IV as they

presented their rendition of "The Jungle Book." The students LOVED it. Take a look at some of the comments!

"Dear PTO, Thank you for having the Theater IV here. We also apresheate all the hard work you put in to do stuff like that. We enjoyed Theater IV. It blew me away. Thank you so much. From: Kacey Stamey"

"Dear P.T.O. I loved the jurigle book. Thank you! Love, Brandon"

"Wonderful PTO, Thank-you so much for having Theater IV perform for us. I thoroughly enjoyed it. You certainly out did yourself! Thank-you again, Audrey W."

"Dear PTO, I thank you for the program we saw today. It was good. I think is this the best program I ever seen. Before it was good. I love it so much. I want to see it again and I hope you will come back soon. Your friend, Megan."

This is just a small portion of the positive comments from the students and the impact YOUR commitment to the PTO has made. To see more

PTO President 's Buzz

Barbara Rypkema, President

As the new PTO president I just want to say THANK YOU to everyone for their encouragement and support. Your dedication to the kids at TES is inspiring!

One of my personal goals is to improve communication channels between the PTO board, the PTO members, the faculty/staff and the community. As a PTO we do some pretty amazing things, but if a member isn't on the board do they fully understand what some of these things are? How they are done? What it takes to accomplish them? Are there suggestions on better ways to do things? Are there more places that people could be "plugged in" that isn't currently happening? These are just a few of the questions that keep me up (and emailing) at 3am. To help answer these questions and more the PTO website now features a "President's Buzz Blog." This blog will host a variety of things and will hopefully provide a more interactive way for communication to occur through the comment function. New posts will be made at least once a week with update notices posted on Facebook and through email. While not everyone's ideas can be implemented as stand alone items they can be heard and appreciated for the value and importance they hold! When the comments and suggestions are combined new ideas and concepts can be developed which can indeed help strengthen the PTO as an organizational body. So, please check out the blog. It can be found at www.tespto.org and follow the link for the "President's blog" or feel free to submit ideas directly to admin@tespto.org.

thank you's from the students check out the PTO website's Performing Arts Page at www.tespto.org.

Hospitality Highs

Keith Trent, Hospitality Co-Chair

TES celebrated America Education Week the week of November 15th through the 21st. Throughout the week the teachers were treated to a soup luncheon, continental breakfast and a pot luck/dessert lunch. The students received special treats on Friday as part of the celebration.

Thank you to EVERYONE who donated items for the week. From crocks of soup and boxes of cereal to wonderful desserts and hot dishes to cute bee pencils the week could

not have been a success without the support of the TES families!

FUNdraising Corner!

Susan Litchford, FUNdraising Chair

A total of 11,424 Box Tops were mailed in at the end of October. This equals \$1,142.40. When added to

the \$644.80 that had been received from the end of year Box Tops last year this will equal \$1,787.20 for TES! What a wonderful way to start of this year's contests! The winners for the Box Top contest were:

- Overall winners:
Mrs. Cox's class - PK/K
Ms. Key's class - T1 - 5th
- Grade level winners:
Mrs. Warrender's class - 1st
Mrs. Armontrout's class - 2nd
Mrs. Ingram's class - 3rd
Mrs. Avery's class - 4th
Mrs. Jensen's class - 5th

Fantastic Carnival Feedback

Barbara Rypkema, Carnival Committee

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned a Carnival Report Card! The results have been tallied and the board has approved to move ahead with a Fall Fundraising Carnival in 2010. Those of you who volunteered to serve on the committee will receive information shortly concerning an initial planning meeting.

For anyone wishing to see the results of the carnival survey's please go to www.tespto.org and follow the carnival link. The majority

3rd Annual Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, December 5th
8:30am to 11:30am



Breakfast tickets ~ \$5 per person
ON SALE NOW!

Photo Packages ~ \$5 per package