

# The BUZZ

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

appointment. Air out your home, use disinfectant, and keep everyone's hands washed! I'm happy to administer medications during the school day – stop by or call about medication paperwork. If you have a doctor's prescription and medicine needs to be dispensed during the school day, ask the pharmacist to give you two bottles. This way I can have a labeled bottle at school to dispense, per label. Remember that all medicines need to be brought in or picked up by a designated adult only. Different symptoms include:

**Common Cold:**

Usually no fever, lasts 3+ days, no headache, mild fatigue, weakness, sneezing, stuffy nose, mild to moderate cough, sore throat, frequent hand washing can help prevent.

**Flu:**

Sudden fever, usually lasts 3+ days, headache, extreme fatigue, weakness can last weeks, sneezing, stuffy nose sometimes, cough is common, sometimes severe, sore throat sometimes occurs, vaccination & hand washing can help prevent.

Doctors recommend that children stay home with fevers greater than 100 degrees. Children should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

**Odyssey**

By: Lani Patrick, Odyssey Teacher

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:

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

The committee representative for the Tomahawk Elementary attendance area is Mrs. Tracy Dail. If you have input to be shared with the committee, your representative may be reached at 434-525-8905.

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

**News from the Library...**

By: Kathy Meredith, Librarian

Thankfully, as I write this, things in the library are finally taking flight. Our A.R. has been running since September 24th, and our first batch of statistics are displayed on the A.R. "Wall of Fame" in the library.

We've also started "Book Buzz" – our online book blog which has expanded this year to include both 4th and 5th grades. This program provides a safe forum for our older

students to share their thoughts about books and reading using Web 2.0 technology.

I want to thank (in advance) Mrs. Martha Hamlett, author of Bats in the Air, Bats in my Hair for being our special guest at Barnes & Noble. I also want to thank the whole Tomahawk flock for your support. I hope to be able to report our fundraising total in my next article.

I am extra-excited about collaborating with our teachers to bring literature and research-based lessons to enhance their classroom instruction. From "Mother Goose" to Don't Fidget a Feather, and from The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County to researching unusual birds, we're winging our way through this school year. I am thankful for the opportunity to teach and share with your children each day. Happy Thanksgiving!

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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

The cool crisp air of autumn has arrived and along with that comes our fall field trips. All of our students in grades Pre-K through 5 will experience exciting trips during October and November that have been carefully planned by their teachers to support the SOL's they are studying in class.

During the month of October, our 3rd grade students collected new and gently used stuffed animals to

donate to Gleaning for the World, an international non-profit organization located in Concord, VA. The stuffed animals collected by our Tomahawk 3rd grade students will be shipped to children in orphanages in Guatemala and other developing countries in Central America. During the month of November, our entire student body will be joining forces with the students of Brookville High School to collect non-perishable food items to donate to local area food banks. Students will bring in canned food items between Monday, October 26 and Friday, November 20. The high school students will collect our canned items on a weekly basis and keep a running total of how many cans of food we collect. Our total

**PTO President 's Buzz**

Dear TES family: After serving the last four and half years on the PTO board, including three and half as your President, I am informing you that I have resigned my position due to increased family and employment demands. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the PTO board and I wish continued success in all the PTO's future endeavors. Sincerely ~ Tammy Slade

The P.T.O. board would like to extend their thanks to Tammy Slade for her service over the past many years to Tomahawk Elementary School. We appreciate her dedication as president and the time she gave to our school. She has decided to resign as acting president, and we wish her the best. Due to her resignation, the P.T.O. board met in special session, on October 20th, and elected Barbara Rypkema to serve out Tammy's term as PTO President.

Due to the board transition we are now in need of someone to take over the editor's job for *The Buzz* and also someone to pursue and write all possible grants. If you or someone you know may be interested in these positions please contact Barbara Rypkema (661-8111 or rypkema@verizon.net) or Caren Bowling, Vice President.

**NOVEMBER and DECEMBER DATES**

Tues. 11/3	Election Day NO SCHOOL
Fri. 11/6	Carnival Report Card DUE!
Fri. 11/6 9:30am & 1:30pm	<i>Jungle Book</i> by Theater IV
Tues. 11/10 6:00pm	PTO Board Meeting - NOTE TIME CHANGE
Mon. 11/16	Breakfast w/ Santa Ticket Presales Start
Mon. 11/16 - Fri. 11/20	American Education Week
Tues. 11/17	End of 2nd 6-weeks
Fri. 11/20	Canned Food Drive Ends
Sat. 11/21 9am	Girls on the Run Celebration 5K
Wed. 11/25 - Fri. 11/27	Thanksgiving Break
Sat. 12/5 8:30am - 11:30am	Breakfast with Santa
Mon. 12/21	Christmas Break

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cans collected will be added in with the cans collected by BHS and of course the element of completion is that Brookville Bees will collect more cans of food than Rustburg Red Devils. These activities are indirectly related to several of our Social Studies SOL's but more importantly these activities help to teach our children how to be productive citizens by giving back to their community, their Country, and to their world. During these difficult times of economical downturn, we know that our local food banks rely on donations, we ask for your support as our students take on this project to give back to our community.

**Carnival Wrap-up**

By: Barbara Rypkema, Carnival Committee

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fall Carnival a success! The total raised from the carnival and silent auction was right at \$7,700. While this figure is down from the previous years, based on the economic times, the committee is overall pleased with the results!

This year's carnival would not have been possible without help. THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers from the BHS Cheer Squad, BHS Football Players, and BHS Key Club members who gave of their time, the staff and faculty of TES who supported us through donations and time, and of course, the families who willingly donated items, volunteered their time, and brought their families out for a great day of fun! With over 30 games and a cafeteria full of auction items it wouldn't have been possible without all of you!

To help us as we wrap up this year's carnival and get ready to start

planning next seasons a "Carnival Report Card" was sent home in last week's Monday folder and are also available on the website, www.tespto.org. Please complete and return these no later than Friday, November 6th. We value the information we receive each year from the "Report Cards" and find it very useful in planning the next carnival. If you are interested in serving on the 2010-2011 Carnival Committee contact Barbara Rypkema at 661-8111 or rypkema@verizon.net for more information.

**FUNdraising Corner!**

By: Susan Litchford, FUNdraising Chair

T-shirt orders have been mailed to the company. We hope to have these back around Thanksgiving. Thank you for your orders.

Don't forget our trash to treasure collections that are on-going through the school year: Tyson labels, ink cartridges, and Box Tops.

Our Box Top collection is off to an awesome start. So far, we have collected over 9,000 box tops!! Please watch your Food Lion advertisements and Monday folders for special offers only at Food Lion. Our second contest started on Thursday, October 29th!

**Winners Announced!**

By: Cindy Watson, Treasurer

Two lucky winners were drawn for the annual Dinner with BHS Football Team raffle. Each winner received a group photo with the team in an autographed signature mat frame. A delicious dinner was enjoyed. A t-shirt with the entire team's signatures was worn by each winner. And, tickets to the football game and a special announcement rounded out

the evening. Congratulations again to the two lucky winners.

**ARTiFacts**

In the art classes, taught by Karen Warner, the students have been creating sunflowers as they learn about the Impressionistic Movement in Art. The Impressionists created a revolutionary movement in Art when they chose to "capture a moment in time" with their paintings. They chose to paint ordinary everyday scenes, using short brush strokes, unblended with beautiful color. It changed the way people looked at art. Vincent Van Gogh and his beautiful sunflowers are a perfect example of this kind of art. And now the students at TES have the chance to experience the same beauty.

**The "Bear Necessities"**

By: Lisa Arrington, Performing Arts Chair

On November 6th Theater IV will once again be at TES to present "The Jungle Book" as part of the Performing Arts program at TES. Two performances will be held that day; PreK - 2nd grade will be at 9:30 A.M. and 3rd - 5th grade will be at 1:30 P.M. Both performances will take place in the gym. The P.T.O. is excited to be able to provide another great opportunity to the students.

**Hospitality Highs**

By: Allison Schmitt, Hospitality Co-Chair

A big thank you to all who helped provide a wonderful meal for the teachers on conference night! The potato bar was donated by Super Dollar grocery store and all the potatoes were prepared and cooked by EICabritos'. We also had the most amazing deserts form parents, Kathy May, Lisa Schmitt, Mitzi Bible, Kim Viar, Marinda Wade, Judy Austin,

Fran Ferrell and Cytrina Brander. Our next celebration will be America Education Week starting November 16th.

**Playground Painting**

By: Mark Schmitt, Playground Chair

The board approved some improvements for the rear playground. The basketball court is going to be resurfaced and repainted. Pressure washing has all ready taken place as well so new lines can be painted for the hopscotch/four corner games on the outside concrete pads. This work should be completed by the end of November and is priced less than \$600. We are also looking at bids to install swing sets. The hope is that

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Student pictures were taken on October 22nd. If you did not order pictures or would like to order additional pictures please call Lifetouch at 1-866-587-1081!

Membership directories were sent home on October 26th. If you joined the PTO and did not receive a directory please contact Susan Litchford at 941-4042 or at susanlitchford05@aol.com

Cat's Meow orders have been processed and the order placed. If you did not receive a confirmation of your order please contact Barbara Rypkema at 661-8111 or rypkema@verizon.net as soon as possible.

POSITION(S) TO FILL: The PTO has 2 positions currently available. 1) Editor of *The Buzz*. 2) Grant Writer. Please contact Barbara Rypkema for information!



**Breakfast With Santa**

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Your PTO is planning the Third Annual Breakfast/Photos with Santa the first Saturday in December. From 8:30am to 11:30am on December 5th, all you can eat pancakes (with fruit, sausage, coffee, juice and milk) will be served in the cafeteria. SANTA is planning to arrive at 8:30am as well and will be ready to listen to the children's wish lists. Several photo packages (including a CD option) will be available for \$5 each. Photos will be sent home in the Monday, Dec 7th folder for you to share with your family and friends. We will also be writing letters to Santa to remind him of our wish lists. Presale tickets will be available starting Monday, November 16th. Please bring the entire family and enjoy a morning out with Santa!!!

the swing sets will be installed sometime during the summer and cost under \$8,000. Once again if you or anyone you know would like to make a contribution or have a suggestion for any projects contact Mark Schmitt.

**Physical Education**

By: Woody Wooldridge, P.E.

Grades K through 1st will continue to work on manipulative activities with various types of equipment, spatial awareness, and cooperative games.

Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> will concentrate on ways to achieve cardiovascular conditioning. Parents should have received their child's Physical Fitness Report Card. Please sign and return the card as soon as possible. Use the card to assess the fitness level of your child in correlation with their age. If you notice that your child scored below the 50% on any test items then encourage participation of activities listed below the test item.

For the 26th year, our school personnel will be participating in the Governor's Fitness Award Program. The purpose of this program is to

encourage individuals that do not exercise regularly to begin and continue a program. It is also to challenge those already involved to increase their levels of activity. Participants must be active a minimum of 3 times per week to qualify for an award and are also encouraged to share their exercise logs with their students to show a positive influence towards exercise.

We continue to collect Campbell Soup Labels. Please cut the UPC code off of the label and send it to school with your child to place in the Campbell collection bin located in the front lobby. Last year we collected around 20,000 labels leading to free footballs, basketballs, and other equipment for use in class as well as providing equipment for recess. Continue supporting our program here at Tomahawk by saving those labels!

**From the School Nurse...**

By: Susan Anderson, R.N.

Type A flu seems to be prevalent right now. Check with your doctor about symptoms, suggestions, or an