

The BUZZ

Tomahawk Elementary PTO Newsletter

hopefully carry on with them throughout their life. Play with your child and participate with them in as many physical activities as possible. You will see many benefits coming from this not only for the child but also for you.

News from the Library...

By: Kathy Meredith, Librarian

We trying our best to settle in the library, however, as of this writing, A.R. is still not available and unfortunately, there's no date in sight as to when it will reappear. But just because A.R. isn't up doesn't mean our students aren't reading! We've got lots of new books and we love story time! From Akiak to Velma Gratch to The Jack Tales, our students are hearing terrific stories, and others are using the library resources for map and classifying skills practice.

I'd like to congratulate this year's 5th Grade Library Helpers: Emily Schira, Jordan Dail, Sarah Dooley, Audrey Webb, and Julia Yoder. Also Jasmine Arthur, Maddie Martin, Damon Manor, Trevor Booker, John May, and Carter Brooks. Although they're just getting started, they've already been a great deal of help.

Please circle Thursday, October 29 on your calendar. That's the night of our 2nd (annual?) **TES night at Barnes & Noble**. I'm

sure there'll be a lot of student talent on display and a whole lot of fun besides...and it's never too early to start shopping for the upcoming holidays! Our library gets a percentage of all sales made in conjunction with our event. See you there!

Hospitality Highs

By: Allison Schmitt, Co-Chair

Wow can you all believe the first 6 weeks is over! We have been busy bees on the hospitality committee making calls and planning for the first parent teacher conference. Thanks to all who have helped with donations for this event to be successful.

American Education Week is November 16th and is our next big event. We welcome any ideas and help!

Helpful ARTiFacts

By: Angel Harney, Chair

In tough economic times everyone is looking for a way to save money. What if you could save money, have an experience with your children and help them develop creatively all at the same time? Of course you're in to that! Cards for events in life can get expensive, but cards you make carry more meaning and are less costly.

Here's a few ideas on how you and your child can make cards together at home. The easiest

way to begin is to get paper right out of your printer, fold it in half and voila, a card. Next you can mix up the fun with magazines, glitter, buttons, fabric, leaves, and the usual assortment of crayons, colored pencils and markers. Then, create! Help your kids cut out pictures in magazines that make them laugh, or remind them of the person you're making the card for. Finally write the occasion on the card. Anything from "Happy Birthday," "Merry Christmas," to "We miss you!" As Christmas, Valentine's Day, birthdays or even when someone special crosses your mind what a better way to show them how much they are loved then with a handmade card?

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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.

PTO President's Buzz... PTO vs. PTA?

Tammy Slade, PTO President

Several years ago I wrote an article highlighting the difference between a PTO vs. PTA. With the start of the new school year it seemed like a good time to re-run the article for those who may not know the difference! Here it is in it's entirety.

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.



2nd Annual "Dinner with the BHS Football Team" Raffle

October means it's that time again for Tomahawk and the BHS football team to hold their annual DINNER WITH THE BHS FOOTBALL TEAM raffle. Here's how it works. In your Monday, October 12th, 19th and 26th folders you will receive a flyer for the raffle. It is \$1 per chance (unlimited chances). Submit the form and dollar(s) back to your homeroom teacher. We will collect these for the next two weeks. 2) On Tuesday, October 27th we will call all students who submitted chances to meet in the gym. One of our fabulous BHS football players will draw **TWO** names from the box. These **TWO lucky winners** will each receive A) a t-shirt signed by all BHS football players, B) dinner with the entire BHS football team on Friday, October 30th (right after school), C) photo with the entire team (in a frame that is also signed by the entire team), D) tickets to the Oct. 30th BHS last regular season home football game vs. EC Glass and E) special recognition at the football game during pre-game or half-time. Will you be one of the lucky two winners? It only takes one ticket to win! For more information, send an email to cindy@cindywatson.com.

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER DATES

Mon. 10/5	End of 1st 6 Weeks
Wed. 10/7	2 Hour Early Dismissal
Mon. 10/12	"Dinner w/ BHS Football Team" Raffle starts
Wed. 10/14	Spirit & Pride Orders DUE!
Thurs. 10/15 3:30pm - 6:45pm	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thurs. 10/15	TES Cat's Meow Orders DUE!
Tues. 10/27	"Dinner w/ BHS Football Team" Winners Announced
Wed. 10/28	End of 1st Classroom "Box Top" Contest
Thurs. 10/29 4pm - 8pm	TES Barnes & Noble Night
Fri. 10/30	2nd Annual "Dinner w/ BHS Football Team"
Tues. 11/3	Election Day School Closed

(Continued from page 1)

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.

PTA's have the National PTA organization to assist them in doing their work. Independent groups, as of 1999, have had the many resources provided by PTO Today to help them be more effective. The services of PTO Today are provided, free of charge, to all parent-teacher groups, both PTO and PTA's, 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.

If you still have questions about how a PTO is different than a PTA or further questions about YOUR PTO in particular please feel free to contact me! My contact information is on the PTO website, www.tespto.org. I may also be reached on the PTO Facebook page so check us out and become a friend of YOUR PTO today!

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

From The Assistant Principal's Hive...

Mrs. Marti Bradt, Assistant Principal



Fall is right around the corner, and the school year is off to a fabulous start! It is wonderful to see the teachers and students settling into their daily routines. I want to thank the P.T.O. for a wonderful Open House! It was great to see teachers, parents, and students sharing with one another. Parental support is vital to the children and to our school. Thank you so much!

I am excited to experience my first P.T.O. Fall Carnival at Tomahawk. I hope to see you here on Saturday, October 3rd.

All of the students at Tomahawk, from Pre-K through fifth grade, participated in a Bus Safety course last week. Students learned proper bus behavior.

They also practiced entering and exiting the bus in a safe manner. The children were fabulous listeners, and learned valuable information about bus safety. I want to thank all of the teachers and students for participating in this important lesson!

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, October 15th – Parent/Teacher Conferences, will run from 3:30pm – 6:45pm. More information regarding this evening will be sent home in Monday Folders. Mrs. Elliott and I want to thank you for your support, and we are here if you need us.

Here We Grow Again! More Cool Stuff for Tomahawk!

By: Cindy Watson, Treasurer

Thank you to our families for turning in their old ink cartridges for our recycling. In September we were able to convert the used ink cartridges into a fabulous new "A" frame sidewalk sign that you see out front of the school advertising our upcoming PTO events. You probably saw it with the countdown for our fall carnival this past month. Next we will keep you up to date with our October event that is the "Dinner with BHS Football Team" raffle. This "A" frame sign and the bulletin boards we purchased over the summer are compliments of you, our PTO family. PLEASE PLEASE

PLEASE keep the used ink cartridges coming! If everyone can continue to send in one or two on a regular basis this will help our school greatly. Thank you for your support.

FUNdraising Corner!

By: Susan Litchford, Chair

Wow!! I would like to thank each of you for the awesome start toward our Box Top Competition. We picked up Box Tops from each class on Thursday. We collected 3,794 box tops. That is \$379.40. Way to go. The 1st contest will end on October 28, 2009 and then the 2nd contest will start. Below is a list of the leaders as of September 14, 2009:

Pre-K & Kindergarten: Mrs. Cox with 167 and Ms. Dailey with 99

First through Fifth grades: Overall Leader – Ms. Key's 2nd grade class with 694

Grade Level Leaders:

- 1st: Mrs. Warrender - 228
- 2nd: Mrs. Armontrout -145 & Mrs. Allen - 141
- 3rd: Mrs. Ingram - 211
- 4th: Mrs. Avery - 230
- 5th: Mrs. Jensen - 223

Keep up the good work!!

In today's Monday folder, you should find the Spirit and Pride order forms. Please return these to the school by October 14, 2009. Please make the checks

payable to Spirit and Pride. Shirts should be delivered in 4 to 6 weeks.

Physical Education

By: Woody Wooldridge, P.E.

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. This report will be sent home again at the end of the school year with their Spring scores recorded. 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 grade students will continue working on spatial awareness with games and manipulatives incorporated

into their lesson. 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.

Statistics and studies have shown that physically active and educated children are more likely to thrive academically and socially. Through effective physical education, children learn how to incorporate safe and healthy activities into their lives. Physical education is an integral part of developing the "whole" child in social settings and the learning environment. Please be assured that your child is receiving two 30 minute structured physical education classes weekly. However this is not enough for your child to maintain a level of fitness that will

Did You KNOW?

Thirteen different teachers at TES collect Willow Tree Items? One TES Teacher LOVES to fish? There is another teacher that is a Duke Fan besides Mrs. Meredith? Two faculty members say "Dr. Seuss" is their favorite books? Our new principal's favorite Major League Baseball team is the Atlanta Braves?

Check out the PTO website, www.tespto.org, and follow the "Know Your Teacher" link and get the latest information about what your child's teacher enjoys!

Be sure and become a friend of the PTO on Facebook too, www.facebook.com/TomahawkPTO, for updates and other PTO news!

