



PTA TIMES Takoma Park Elementary School

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December 2008



Two Minutes with the Co-Presidents from Shmuel Shoham and Nina Garfield

Wow! What a great November we had! The Directory was published, we enjoyed a successful and interesting Coffee with the Principal to honor adoption month, benefited from a fundraiser at the Culture Shop, had more books than we could distribute at the Book Exchange, earned more money than ever at the election bake sale, supported the parent teacher conferences with great meals, and met with pre-k parents to introduce them to TPES and engage them in the Grosvenor planning process. You can see photos of some of these events on our TPESPTA.org web site. Thanks to all of you who made these events possible and successful. And thank you to all of those who contribute to our school in your own individual ways such as volunteering, translating, copying, beautifying our school, helping out with the play, organizing assemblies and wrapping up and planning a new semester of after-school programs.

This December we initiate the Grosvenor planning process by addressing issues raised by our TPES and pre-k community. Thank you to all who volunteered to work on seeking solutions to the complex set of issues that have been identified. This effort will not be easy, but it will be interesting to see what we come up with collectively.

We also kicked off the Dolphin Appeal and hope that you take some time to reflect on what the PTA does and make a contribution to keep our work alive. Thank you to PTA Treasurer **Pam Loprest**, and Vice President **Shruti Bhatnagar**, for leading the Dolphin Appeal this year and reminding all of us that this and the Sally Foster campaign are the main sources of support for all of the many different ways in which the PTA supports and enriches our school.

We will dedicate our last PTA meeting on December 11th to a Festival of Giving. We ask people to bring a dish to share and clothes or toys to donate to needy families. We honor the contributions that we have made as members of our PTA to the school this year. We honor the support of our teachers and staff. And we reach out to welcome a new class of parents to our

community next year. We all have something to give that can brighten up someone's life - whether it's money, clothes, toys, a helping hand, a welcome into our community, an invitation to get together, a phone call just to say hello, a dish to share. Giving is a gift available to all of us and lifts up the spirit of those who give as well as those who receive. We sincerely hope that you all can make it on the evening of December 11th to celebrate the past, present and future contributions that reflect the spirit of our school and community.

On behalf of the PTA Executive Committee, we wish you all a happy, healthy and relaxing Holiday season and New Year.



TPES Staff Dinner Is A Hit

The TPES Staff Dinner, sponsored by the PTA and second-grade parents/guardians, was held during parent-teacher conferences and was well received by the staff. The staff enjoyed delicious lasagna catered by Olazzo's in downtown Silver Spring, with additional dishes and beverages provided by second-grade parents/guardians. A big thank you to **Jackie Kuchta** and **Lydia Oberholtzer**, who were major contributors in helping this event go so smoothly, with additional thank yous to **Chris Tucker**, **Diane Bartz**, **Karen Mark**, **Kate Kelliher**, **Ellen Conway**, **Patti Mallin**, **Chyhe Becker**, **Gemma Flamberg**, **Kathleen Murray**, **Flo Wilson**, **Cheri Perry**, **Lira Davies**, **Ann Masse** and **Lisa Moran**. Plus a thank you to **Annie Power** from the Beautification Committee, who made time today to bring in some flowers for the individual tables, as well as a larger bouquet.

Because this day is so long for the teachers, they are extra appreciative, and they wanted to express their gratitude for how nice the dinner was. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to this event. The next Staff Appreciation Committee event will be a treat tray on Friday, December 12th with an array of goodies for staff to enjoy and take home for the weekend. If you would like to contribute baked goods for the event, please let **Jayne Holt** know at 301-891-2957 or girodj@gmail.com.



Cultural Arts at TPES

The PTA Cultural Arts Committee is excited to present another year of performances and workshops to enhance the students' educational experience at TPES. The Cultural

Arts Committee aims to expose TPES students to high quality, lively performing arts, to encourage good audience skills, and to promote an appreciation for and enjoyment of the arts. If you have any questions, or are interested in joining the Cultural Arts Committee, please contact committee co-chairs **Amy Kincaid** at 301-588-1073 or **Janet Rumble** at 301- 270-4572.

Upcoming Assemblies:

February 10 - Lesole's Dance Project, a dance company whose performances highlight the movement and history of such popular South African dance styles as Gumboots, Indlamu, and Panstula.

March 19 - Nada Brahma, a musical duo offering a lively, interactive, multicultural journey exploring a variety of ethnic instruments and the vital role that music plays in many regions of the world.

May 28 - Magician Jay Mattioli, who combines stunning visual magic with comedy and audience interaction.

Tuesday Arts Studios

Do you play an instrument, design buildings, or write poetry? Can you move to the beat, sing like an angel, or draw your heart out? TPES is looking for parents to come share their talents in the classroom as part of the school's new Tuesday Arts Studio enrichment program. Even if you've got just an hour to spare, please consider participating. It's a great way to expose our kids to a wider world of creative expression. Please contact TPES music teacher **Cora Bruner** at 301-650-6414, or Cora_J_Bruner@mcpsmd.org.

2009 Arts Showcase

Save the date: This year's Arts Showcase will be on the evening of Wednesday, April 22. Come out and stroll the halls of TPES, which will be magically transformed into an art gallery exhibiting individual works by all TPES students. Be sure to also keep an eye out for **Ms. Cayne's** school-wide collage project, which involves three big canvases covered with photos and collaborative artwork by grade level. Projects created in TPES cluster classes will also be on view. As the Showcase approaches, the PTA will solicit volunteers to assist Ms. Cayne in putting up and taking down the artwork.



Ms. Cayne needs volunteers every afternoon second semester. Please contact her directly to help out: June_H_Cayne@mcpsmd.org



December Principal's Coffee

In response to parent requests, the next Principal's Coffee will be held on Friday, December 19th at a different time than usual, 2:30 pm. Feel free to bring a holiday cookie to share; coffee, tea and juice will be provided. Bring your issues, but more importantly bring yourself as we have our last coffee for 2008. Please let **Sheri Verdonk** know, at 301-920-0612 or sverdonk@yahoo.com, if you plan to bring something or would like to help set up or clean up.

2nd Grade Play a Huge Success; A Special Thank You for Ms. Bruner

This year's performance by the 2nd grade, *Circus Circus*, was spectacular and would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of music teacher **Cora Bruner** and the many parents who helped with costumes, make-up, and logistics. The PTA, with donations from 2nd grade parents, presented Ms. Bruner with a bouquet of flowers and a gift certificate for a massage after the show. Ms. Bruner sent a lovely thank you note and told one parent that the massage was exactly what she desired most at this time.



Important Dates

December 11	Festival of Giving, 7pm
December 12	Staff Appreciation Treat Tray
December 19	Principal's Coffee, 2:30pm
January 6	PTA Meeting, 7pm