

TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY NEWS

Two Rivers Community School
A North Carolina Public Charter School

"Home of the Otters" 

September 14, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We continue to enjoy good weather so our students can be outside and our doors and windows can be left open. With various strains of flu in the larger community, this is helping keep us relatively healthy. We have ordered misters and diffusers to assist in keeping our environment as germ free as possible. Please continue to use all appropriate precautions with your children at home as we do at school in our attempt to keep everyone healthy.

Thanks to the volunteers who will be working in our classrooms leading Junior Great Books discussions. The ability to offer Junior Great Books in our classrooms is a great advantage to all of our students. Not only are students enriched by the stories, but they learn to discuss the literature and to use examples from their reading to support the points they are making. A special thank-you to Beth Jacquot for coordinating this effort for us.

Last week, Elise McLaughlin distributed questionnaires inviting parents and community members to become involved by offering after school enrichment activities. If you or someone you know might be interested, please let Elise know. Last year, we had a fledgling effort of enrichment offerings that included science club, Math Olympiad, and Battle of the Books, in addition to the longstanding Fitness Club run by Coach Pack. All of these clubs were well attended and indicated the interest in more options.

We are in the midst of our fall trips to Buffalo Cove for our students. Please make every effort to have your child attend this part of our school program. The Mountain Adventure Program is one aspect of our school that makes us unique and offers students opportunities for personal growth and leadership.

If your child's teacher has concerns about academic progress, you will be receiving an Interim Report this week. This year, at the mid-point between report cards, any child whose grades are dropping or the teacher has concerns about, will receive an Interim Report. The dates for the year are listed on the school calendar.

Enjoy the rest of your week.

~ Ms. Gilch

THIRD GRADE NEWS

We are excited about our fall garden! Margie Mansure from the Agricultural Center in Boone, has invited our 3rd grade to be part of the childhood obesity grant that she is responsible for. Included in this grant are the services of a Master Gardener, nutrition lessons, seeds, plants, supplies from the kid's gardening website, and a small tool shed. Mrs. Mansure also purchased a tiller to use with the school gardens. In addition to our class, 5th grade will be participating as well as Bethel School and Mabel School.

She had fresh organic compost delivered to the garden. The 3rd grade students pulled weeds and prepared the soil for the fall garden. A nutrition student from Appalachian State University also came and helped. The 3rd grade students planted a fall garden from the plants a Master Gardener had started – red cabbage, broccoli, lupine, Echinacea, beets, etc. The students are excited to have planted their own garden, which they will be able to harvest from later.

~ Mrs. April

BRAIN GYM

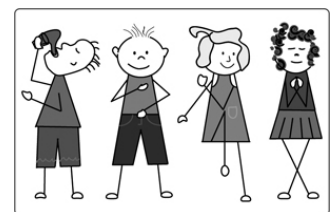
In these first few weeks of school all students have spent time reviewing and learning the original Brain Gym® activities and movements known as "the 26". The Brain Gym program can help learners improve skills such as

- Concentration and focus.
- Physical and organizational skills.
- Memory and attitude.

Throughout the year students will learn a wide variety of activities from Educational Kinesiology, the broad program that Brain Gym is part of.

Thank you to those who have contributed mats to the Brain Gym program. Several more are needed in order to have a full class size set. If you have a gently used pilates/yoga style roll up mat that you would like to contribute, please see me.

~ Ms. Cyndi



TRCS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MINUTES

August 25, 2009

1. Exit remarks from former co-president, Sarah Jackson. Introductions of parents.
 2. Meetings will be 2nd Monday of every month. Currently 3:30pm. Evening meetings possible.
 3. Selection of president (Jennefer Spell) and secretary (Anna Keber.)
 4. Funding Requests:
 1. April - \$40 for material for over-chair book pockets. Do parents have the material? Motion to allot the money. Motion seconded by president. Motion carries unanimously.
 2. Sign in circle that permanent and secure. John Lee will donate design, construction. Request of \$700 for materials. Questions regarding fundraising and donation of materials.
 3. \$3,000 total in budget.
 5. Teacher appreciation
 6. Peace Feast – in past years included hot meal, raffle, silent auction, performance. Celebrates winter holidays. One issue is competing with county schools for donations. Urgent needs: date, committee, space. Discussion of moving Peace Feast to spring. General consensus to keep in winter. President queries group, which decided to hold Peace Feast. Heather Burnette volunteers to email United Methodist Church to reserve hall. Subcommittees suggested to organize Peace Feast.
 7. T-shirt still available. Sizes?
 8. Fundraisers through classes. President would like fundraisers not to overlap with individual classes.
 9. Chick-fil-A Spirit night September 3rd, 7:30. Heather Burnette volunteers to be representative.
 10. Spring Fundraiser, or AURA.
 11. Next meeting September 14, 2009
 12. John Lee is board rep.
 13. Attendance: Andrea Miller, John Lee, Brenda and Ron Frongillo, Tim Miller, Joanna Weintraub, Lessa Edwards, Vanessa Van Valin, Sarah Jackson, Juliana Whitaker, Anna Keber, Sabrina Goebeler, Serene Solinski, Heather Burnett, Julie Mullis, Cheryl Crocker Greene, Jennefer Spell
~ Jennefer Spell
TRCS PTO
"Building Community"
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES AT TWO RIVERS?

Would your child(ren) be interested in taking Spanish or French classes after school at Two Rivers? I am exploring the idea to see if it this would be possible. The first step is to find out how who and how many are interested.

What I don't know yet (since much will depend on interest from the community and the availability of a teacher):

- how much the class will cost
- when it will be taught
- where it will be taught (I am hoping classroom will be available at TRCS)
- what language(s) will be taught (Spanish is my first choice)
- who will teach it
- how to obtain scholarship funds; I want to be sure it is available to everyone

If you are interested, please call or email me to let me know (1) the name and grade of your child(ren) and (2) the language(s) they are interested in. A commitment is not necessary at this early stage as I am only gauging interest at this time. Also, don't hesitate to contact me with questions or to share ideas or suggestions.

Many thanks,

~ Ann Kiefert (parent of Grace Bowling, grade 6 and Claire Bowling, grade 3)

828-719-8922

kiefertat@gmail.com



FOURTH GRADE NEWS

In fourth grade we have been working on our expedition, "Where in the World are We", a comparison of the geography and culture of North Carolina and Pakistan. Thus far, we have focused on the service aspect of the expedition, "Pennies for Peace". Students learned the story of Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea and founder of the Central Asia Institute. After this week's kickoff for Pennies for Peace we will begin an in depth study of North Carolina and Pakistan with an emphasis on the mountain regions of these areas. If you have travelled to Pakistan or have something to share about Pakistan, please let us know!

~ Ms. Natalie

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.

Gilbert K. Chesterton
