

The ZMS Review

February 2010

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

Grab a newspaper, watch the news, scan the blogosphere and you are quite likely to see stories about the business of schools, and they are primarily in three areas: school reform, accountability, and school finance. The pieces on these three categories are national, statewide, and local, giving one the impression that the situation in schools is dire, and that all schools share the same issue. While I completely agree that all schools have challenges, I also believe firmly that each school has a different set of circumstances and needs. Unfortunately, as I wade through the news, I rarely find a depiction that mirrors our situation in this school community, even though Zionsville has a story to tell in each of the areas.

School reform is a topic that has been around for quite some time. The post-Sputnik push for more math and science and the 1983 study “A Nation at Risk” are two examples proving that our nation has examined the need and called for reform for quite some time. This desire for reform has not quelled, nor should it, but the type of reform needed varies from one community to the next. Recently, much discussion has focused upon teacher licensing, specifically that content-area teachers should hold degrees in their content area, not “lesser” education majors. Our local practice renders this discussion moot. ZMS science teachers hold chemistry and biology degrees, English teachers are English majors, etc. The statewide discussion is valid and important. Teachers need to be qualified, and there are schools that have teachers teaching out of their areas, or without extensive coursework in their content area. That’s simply not our situation. The point is that the need for reform — or, as I prefer to look at it, continuous improvement — is as real here as it is anywhere else (click here to read a previous post about school reform), but the type of improvement necessary is distinctly different, and the broader discussion misses the mark or is completely misleading in our school community’s context.

Accountability has been in vogue for an extended period, as well. Calls to raise graduation rates, raise graduation requirements, and raise standards are all evidence of increased awareness of student and school accountability. We use words like “high stakes” to signify the importance of what is to be gained or lost by the movement. As with the previous topic, accountability has different meanings in the various contexts. Test scores, attendance rates, graduation rates and the like are all areas in which our community will lead. Dare I say that it is a foregone conclusion that ZMS will perform well in these areas? Is meeting these minimum standards holding our school accountable? I would argue that multiple choice, “give me the right answer” testing is a low bar, and we should be accountable for more: for teaching our students to analyze, theorize, to state and support opinions, to develop hypotheses and then prove or refute them. Accountability for us is to make certain that students well above grade-level are challenged, and that students below grade-level are supported appropriately until that is no longer true. “Race to the Top” suggests that there is an end to the quest, and a competition among educational entities. This seems misguided to me — there is no end for the need to improve, and schools compete against ignorance, not one another.

School finance is another area that has been front and center across the entire nation. Before I bemoan a single thing, let me be clear in stating that schools make up a large portion of the State’s budget, that the State is short on funds, and the need for schools to be part of the money saving solution is necessary. Frankly, I don’t know how else the State could make it through our current financial crisis without looking to schools to (Continued)

February Newsletter Highlights

- *PTO News—Page 2 - 4*
- *Guidance Information—Pages 5*
- *Sports—Page 6*
- *School News—Page 6*
- *Music News—Page 7*
- *Art Department—Page 7*
- *Cafeteria News—Page 7*
- *Community News— Page 8*
- *ZEF—Page 8*
- *Calendar—Page 9*

**Information for the March
newsletter should be
submitted to Dee Dee
Medaris
(Ddmedaris@zmspto.org)
by February 20, 2010.**

Zionsville Middle School

Frequently Used
Phone Extensions
**Dial 873-2426
followed by extension**

	#:
Principal	13999
Ass't. Principal	13998
Student Services	13997
Receptionist	Press 0
Attendance	Press 2
Guidance	Press 3
Nurse	Press 4
Food Services	Press 5
Homework Hotline	Press 7
Athletic Director	Press 8
Repeat Menu	Press 9
Strings Director	13402
Band Director	13312-3
Choir Director	13310
Transportation	873-1237
Staff Directory	Press #

A Letter From the Principal (Continued)

save money. Unfortunately, the discussions tend to turn ugly when belts need to be tightened. Aspersions of entitled, underqualified, overpaid teachers and administrators are leveled vociferously and unjustly. People quickly mention a number of programs that should be cut, footnoting their conclusion by touting their own favorite program, which, in their eyes, must not be cut. Every person and every program has a list of supporters and detractors. Which programs are unnecessary and which indispensable? Music? Art? Foreign language? Physical education? Social studies? Ask ten people and get ten different answers.

All of this leads me to a list of questions:

- How much is a good education worth?
 - What is the cost of a bad one?
- Does a school's effectiveness have an impact on its community — even for families without children in it?
 - Is it important for high-performing schools to strive for improvement?
 - Should education prepare students for the present or for the future? What's the difference?

Our community will be wrestling with all of these questions and more in the near future and beyond. There is no one right or wrong answer, I admit; though I have some strong opinions, among them that we paid more for our homes for the right to send our children to the absolute best public schools available. What happens to that property value, what happens to our own children's education, and what shapes their futures will largely be determined in the next few months. Here's hoping we make the best decisions about **our schools** for the benefit of **our children** and, ultimately, **our community**.

Mr. Sean Conner <http://sconner007.edublogs.org/> (Use this link to comment on Mr. Conner's Blog.)

PTO News

Promoting Responsibility in Dedicated Education (PRIDE)

Traditionally, this part of the ZMS Newsletter is used each month by the PTO President to address current PTO sponsored events. However, this month I'd like to take this opportunity to turn my attention to those of you who have so kindly and generously given to the ZMS PTO through your Membership donations. Without your monetary gifts, the PTO would be unable to provide the numerous activities and grants throughout the year. Therefore, on behalf of the 2009-2010 PTO Board, thank you for your support and generosity. Jami Farrell, ZMS PTO President

Adkison Family	Jason & Angela Baker	Bohl Family	Tim & Robin Browning	Sean Conner Family
Ahlquist Family	Mike & Marcy Bandick	Matt & Karen Bolton	Buck Family	Steve & DeDe Connor
Ahmann Family	David & Silke Barrett	Bostwick Family	Burks Family	Cornacchini Family
Alexander Family	Barton Family	Bowman Family	Burton Family	Cousins Family
Brad & Nancy Allen	Becker Family	Boyles Family	Carney Family	Coussens Family
Mitch & Urchana Allen	Beebe Family	Brake Family	Jim & Angela Carr	Rick & Amie Cramer
Chris & Kelly Alcock	Bellefuil Family	Dawn Brasco	Carr Family	Crenshaw Family
Allsop Family	Bender Family	Bravard Family	Michael & Jennifer Case	Pat & Jennifer Cross
David & Linda Alms	Berglund Family	Breisch Family	Cecil Family	Keith & Julia Cullison
Brian & Colleen Anders	Betts Family	Bob & Valerie Brennan	Ceryak Family	Kevin & Becky Culp
Anthony Family	Biggs Family	Brewer Family	Jim & Rebecca Chalfin	Cunningham Family
Argentine Family	Greg & Kristin Bixler	Brochhagen Family	Charles Family	Dakich Family
Axelson Family	Blackburn Family	Scott & Grace Brothers	Chrisman Family	Darrow Family
Bailey Family	Andy & April Blakley	Bob & Gail Brown	Coats Family	Marc & Teresa Dixon
Brain & Diane Bakaysa	Gregg & Michele Boeck	Jeff & Cheryl Brown	Connelly Family	Tim & Jae Donathen

PTO News

Donley Family	Hitchins Family	MacLean Family	Stu & Cindy Peterson	Staton Family
Donoho Family	Troy & Tami Hobick	Maines Family	Tom Peterson Family	Stebbins Family
Drake Family	Dale & Laura Hockel	Manning Family	Petrie Family	Stevens Family
Drapeau Family	Hoftiezer Family	Mike & Sue Mantel	Phipps Family	Rob & Jayne Stone
Drew Family	Paul & Pam Hoffe	Marron Family	Plocharczyk Family	Strycker Family
Dunshee Family	Kirk & Rita Horn	Janetta Matesan	Pokrifcak Family	Tom & Nancy Sugar
Steve and Lisa Etter	Butch & Jenny Huber	Steve & Linda May	Prestholt Family	Sullivan Family
Evans Family	Deborah Hudson Family	McBride Family	Bill & Maggie Procter	Mark & Lisa Sutton
Larry & Julia Evinger	Mark Hudson Family	McCray Family	Qualkinbush Family	Kevin & Karla Thimjon
Farrell Family	Will & Kelly Huibregtse	McMenamin Family	Rank Family	Thimlar Family
Ferguson Family	Hunt Family	Greg & Sue McMillen	Rapp Family	Thompson Family
Tony & Dawn Firmani	Icenogle Family	Ron & Carol Mead	Ranieri Family	Tiller Family
Franciskovich Family	David & Debbie Ide	Medaris Family	Rauschuber Family	Mark & Lisa Tozzi
Frohlich Family	Janavicius Family	Middleton Family	Reinhart Family	Kurt & Sue Trewartha
Nelson & Rene Frye	Janak Family	Damon & Robin Miiller	Repass Family	Troll Family
Fugate Family	Larry & Dawn Jones	Minnigan Family	Tom & Dianna Ressler	Tucker Family
Gavette Family	Randy & Julie Judd	Mitchell Family	Revercomb Family	Turnbull Family
Geiser Family	Kayes Family	Moomaw Family	Martin & Jolene Rice	Turner Family
Bruce & Vickye Gerlitz	Kenney Family	Jim & Karlee Moore	Richardson Family	Ulmer Family
Gietl Family	Kelley Family	Jim & Barbara Morand	Mike & Kandice Richey	Roger & Ann Unger
Gilbert Family	Kevin & Jen Kennedy	Mourfield Family	Richey Family	Vlasak Family
Godby Family	Kern Family	Muller Family	Riegner Family	Vukovich Family
Gossweiler Family	Kesler Family	Jim & Laura Mulligan	Roberts Family	Mike & Lisa Wagner
Griffin Family	Greg & Jane Kirkham	Mulligan Family	David Roe Family	Waldkoetter Family
Gruninger Family	Rick & Lynn Kissel	Mike & Molly Murphy	Michael Roe Family	Weddle Family
Guerra Family	Tom & Kendra Kitchel	Trent Murray Family	Rolland Family	Wehrle Family
JD & Evelyn Guinn	Kocher Family	Joe & Suzy Mushala	Rood Family	Weingartner Family
Greg & Shannon Hall	Monty & Kathy Korte	Mark & Suzy Nagy	Rosenberger Family	Tad & Lori Wells
JD & Ann Hall	Craig & Dawn Kouns	Neal Family	Ross Family	James & Dana Wentz
Rich & Cindy Hall	Kowala Family	Kevin & Angie Nelson	Rushton Family	Ron & Mary Wertz
Hallstedt Family	Krkoska Family	Rick & Peggy Nelson	Sanchez-Felix Family	Wesley Family
Hammer Family	Ken & Debbie Kuller	Kevin & Angie Nelson	Sattler Family	Wetting Family
Handy Family	Ted & Cheryl Kussow	Nancy Parent	Savery Family	Tom & Karen Wheeler
Hargrave Family	Landschulz Family	Neumann Family	Schacht Family	Whitlock Family
Gary & Sheri Harmon	Lange Family	Nicholas Family	Schillaci Family	Steve & Jennifer Wilkie
Havlin Family	Lantz Family	Nierman Family	Schroyer Family	Roger Williams Family
Paul & Sandy Haydock	Lautzenhiser Family	Nolan Family	Schulte Family	Wilson Family
Troy & Leslie Hayes	Lehnen Family	Nutter Family	Schultz Family	Scott & Erin Wilson
Haythorn Family	Leix Family	Dave O'Brien Family	Seamands Family	Bob & Kelly Woodward
Brian Healey Family	Jerry Lian & Meg Li	Mike O'Brien Family	Sibila Family	John & Kirsten Wujek
Helterbran Family	Liao Family	Ortyl Family	David Simpson Family	Zaneteas Family
Herms-Horn Family	Greg & Annette Liechty	Overhage Family	Gordon & Teesie Slack	Ted & Laura Zeunik
Hernandez Family	Gregg & Cecilia Linder	Nick & Tracy Pappas	Sloan Family	Zimpfer Family
Rick & Missy Higgs	Long Family	Pawlowski Family	Smith Family	
John & Melissa Hill	Luciani Family	Penczek Family	Squier Family	THANK YOU!
Hilton Family	Lynn Family	Petersen Family	Starks Family	From your ZMS PTO

PTO News (Continued)

Amazon.com Fundraiser a huge success!

For the second straight year our Amazon.com Fundraiser was a huge success. Many thanks to: Jami Farrell, Angie Leary, Angela Carr, Dee Dee Medaris, Candace Reid, Mary Ortyl, Kathy Blackburn, Judy Pugh, Laura Axelson, Sue Trewartha and Lisa Kayes for raising over \$1,300 for our PTO. Volunteers each did a 5 hour shift of gift wrapping at Amazon.com and PTO received \$.75 per package wrapped.

Change for Children

Wow, we had another exciting year for Change for Children! We once again raised right around \$3000 and helped many local families have a brighter Holiday! Thank you to the wonderful and enthusiastic staff, teachers, and STUDENTS at ZMS for the outpouring of support and generosity! Congratulations to Mrs. East's 6th grade homeroom for being the overall school winner in collecting change! A huge thank you to the Student Councils and all of the parent volunteers who helped to collect and count change...Carina Girouard, Laura Dunshee, Brenda Knecht, Linda Wesley, Pam Humphreys, Tracy Zimpfer, Kristen Jones, Kristin Marron, Jenny Riegner, Becky Zimpfer, Becky Yates, Michelle Barrett, Michele Boeck, Barb Mares, Laura Pinegar, Allison Wharry, Dawn Helterbran, Christine Phifer, Donna Hoftiezer, Cathy Gavette, Suzy Mushalla, Lynne Manning, Karla Thimjon, Julie Rauschuber, Jolene Rice, Cheryl Orr, Leslie Cain, Angie Leary, Pamm Thimlar, and Jami Farrell...whew! Hope we did not leave anyone out...it takes an army of dedicated volunteers to also help to make this project a success, and we are so thankful and honored to have worked with so many to give back and try to make a Change for Children!!! Dorothy Hitchins and Pam Schacht

Mark your calendar:

7/8 Grade Fun Night Friday, February 26 6-8 PM

Admission-Canned Food Item Inflatables, DJ, raffles and concessions available for purchase.

Any questions: Contact Shannon Ross at skross90@hotmail.com or Ann Hall at annjdhall@yahoo.com.

8th Grade Party – June 2, 2010

The 8th Grade Party committee has started to plan a special event for those students preparing to leave ZMS and start their adventure at ZCHS. The party is to celebrate the Class of 2014 memories at the middle school as well as their journey to high school. Anyone that is interested in volunteering his or her time, energy and/or resources, contact Mary Ortyl at tmetos@sbcglobal.net or Frances Pokrifcak at vpokrifcak@yahoo.com. The next meeting will be February 24th at 9:30am in the PTO Rm...please come and join the party!

NO HASSLE FUNDRAISING

Exciting news! We received our first Boxtops check in the amount of \$729.44 in late December. Thank you to everyone who sent in Boxtops! We are very close to reaching our goal for the year. It would be great to see how far over goal we can go.

The Boxtop/Campbells Soup Label competition is going strong. The winner of the January incentive will be announced on January 22nd. Who will it be? I will have new posters put up in Eagle Hall by the end of the month so everyone will be able to keep track of the numbers.

Our final submission deadline for the year is March 1st. Even though the deadline is March 1st, keep sending in your Boxtops for the class competition which will conclude in May. Remember, the winning class (along with the teacher) will receive a special prize.

Check out the following websites for more information: www.boxtops4education.com, www.campbellsoup.com, and <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com>. Any questions feel free to contact me at cmead@indy.rr.com.

Guidance Department

ISTEP

The assessments will be on-grade level and summative. As in past years, the ISTEP+ assessments are also cumulative. This affects all grade levels at the middle school.

The testing schedule is as follows:

ISTEP+ Applied Skills test: Monday, March 1 - Wednesday, March 10

ISTEP+ Multiple Choice test: Monday, April 26 – Wednesday, May 5

Grade 5 will take math, language arts and social studies. Grade 6 will take math, language arts and science.

Grade 7 will take math, language arts and social studies. Grade 8 will take math and language arts.

Please make sure your student eats a healthy breakfast and gets plenty of sleep. Also, please refrain from making any appointments during testing dates.

NWEA Tuesday, April 6 – Wednesday, April 21

NWEA is a computerized test that evaluates a student's language, reading, and math skills. This test is given in the fall and spring, so yearly progress can be measured. Fifth and sixth grade students test with their homeroom teacher and seventh/eighth grade students test with their team teachers. Please make sure your student eats a healthy breakfast and gets plenty of sleep. Also, please refrain from making any appointments during testing dates.

21st Century Scholars Program

Eligible 6th, 7th and 8th grade student that enroll in the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program and fulfill a pledge of good citizenship to the state are guaranteed the cost of four years of college tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana. If the student attends a private institution, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a public institution. If the student attends a participating proprietary school, the state will award a tuition scholarship equal to that of Ivy Tech State College. There are strict income guidelines for eligibility, so not every student and family will qualify. Parents or guardians need to fill out the application. Students and parents/guardians have access to 16 regional support sites providing services and guidance for college preparation. If you have any questions about the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program, visit the Twenty-first Century Scholars Web site at <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/college/paying/TwentyFirstCenturyScholars/Pages/home.aspx>, contact your local Scholars Support site or call the Learn More Helpline at 1-800-992-2076.

February Character Trait, Self-Control

Your children display **self-control** when they have the ability to direct, guide, and regulate their interest, focus, and behavior. Self-control is a learned skill, developed through guidance and practice. You can greatly enhance your children's chances for success by helping them learn how to behave with respect, give attention to activities of importance, and make decisions that enhance learning.

Self-control is a difficult concept to learn. We often act on our emotions and our desire for immediate gratification rather than what is proper or expected of us in certain situations, such as school.

A major cause of improper behavior in school, at any grade level, is the amount of stimulation and gratification that is available in the home along with unstructured behavior. If your children are consistently entertained by music, computers, and other electronic devices at home, they may have a problem adjusting to school. We must develop a little school at home. This can be accomplished by having regular quiet times and quiet study at home. Try turning off all electronic distractions one night a week. Your family can take advantage of this time to really get to know each other. Over time, your children will look forward to these quiet family times. If your children can practice good school behavior in a quiet atmosphere at home, their self-control at school will be much improved.

Focus and concentration are more learned skills that are important characteristics of self-control. These learned skills can be improved with practice at home. Parents can demonstrate how important it is to concentrate on a particular function, such as making dinner or paying bills. When your children realize that many tasks require focus and concentration, they will soon see the benefits.

Suggested activities for grades 5-8:

- * Host a contest night. The entire family participates in different contests, such as who can cut the longest apple peel or build the tallest house of cards.
- * Play No Peeking: one person calls out an object and the other must draw it without looking.
- * Debate each other. Make sure the topic affects children (dress codes, curfews). Each side has two minutes to speak in order to prove their point.
- * Devote space for a thinking area. Provide a private hideaway for schoolwork and reading.
- * Model calmness and civility during confrontations with your children.

Reference *The Learning Lunchbox Family Guide*, TM 2008 Outreach Communications LLC Pages 84, 85, 99, & 113

School News

7th and 8th Grade Drama Club Auditions

This spring the 7/8 Drama Club will present the classic play, *The Wizard of Oz*. No experience is necessary and if you like to act, dance, or work behind the scenes for crew you should attend. Auditions are February 1st and 2nd in Eagle Hall from 3-5. Performance dates are April 15th, 16th, and 17th. Please contact Ms. Reed with any questions mreed@zcs.k12.in.us.

Eagle Ball Dodge Ball Tournament

The ZMS 5th and 6th grade student council will be hosting their annual Eagle Ball dodge ball tournament on Friday, March 5. This year, the tournament will begin shortly after school at 3:30. If your child chooses to participate, permission slips will be coming home throughout the month of February. The cost per student is \$3. While we cannot know for sure when the tournament will end, we estimate the winning teams will be awarded around 5:30.

7/8 Student Council

This month the 7/8 Student Council will be helping the 5/6 Student Council prepare for their annual dodge ball tournament and February sucker sale. Eagle Ball will take place after school on March 5th. Any 7th or 8th graders interested in participating must pick-up a permission slip from Mrs. Williams in room 810. Forms will be available on February 1st and must be completed and returned by February 23rd. The February sucker sale will take place during lunch from February 8-12. All money collected will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Sports

Cheerleading Competition

The ZMS 7th and 8th Grade Cheerleading Team will be competing in the NHS (Northwest Suburban Conference) on Monday, February 22 at 6:08 at Westfield. They have been working very hard on a cheer/dance routine that they will perform for the competition. Good luck to our cheerleaders!

Wrestling News

Wrestling opened the season with a 66 -32 win over Carmel Middle School. There are over 50 students participating in this year's program. February 13 is the ZMS Invitational and on March 6 is the NSC Conference at Avon MS North. Check the web page for the rest of the team's schedule. Go EAGLES!

Boys and Girls Track Callout

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader interested in being on the track team this year should attend a callout meeting on March 10th in the LGI room from 3pm to 4pm. The first practice will be March 15th from 3-4:30. In order to participate, one must have a current physical on file. To check if you have a current one on file, please contact Mrs. Tharp in the Guidance Office (ctharp@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13011). Please contact either Mr. Rowe (trowe@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13302) or Mr. Myers (dmyers@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13505) if you have any questions.

Impact Testing Available through St. Vincent Sports Performance

We are pleased to announce that online ImPACT testing is now available as part of the services that St. Vincent Sports Performance offers ZMS and the athletics community world wide. The online version of this ImPACT testing is available for any ZMS student for \$10.00. This service is offered so that any child that plays a contact sport outside of ZMS Athletics can also have this baseline test done. This test will measure the student's neurocognitive functioning. If a concussion would occur, this baseline test will be utilized to monitor the healing process. Impact testing is provided to ZMS athletes at school, free of charge, if they play a contact sport for the school. ImPACT testing is available for ZMS teams through Rick Santerre, St. Vincent Sports Performance and ZMS Athletic Trainer. For more details, please see the PDF file on the ZMS PTO website at <http://zmspto.org/>. If you have any questions you can contact Rick at rsanterre@zcs.k12.in.us or 873-2426 Ext. 13908.

ZMS Golf

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade boy who is interested in playing golf that missed the callout meeting please see Mr. Skura in room 501 for details.

Golf Fundraiser: 1 round of golf + cart at The Golf Club of Indiana for \$45. If you are interested in purchasing a round or two please contact Jeremy Skura at jskura@zcs.k12.in.us.

Musical Notes

IMEA Music Festival

IMEA Music Festival March 13!! PARENTS: watch for a volunteer signup sheet to come home with your child or to find you via e-mail. We need hundreds of volunteers to make this event a success. Thank you in advance for your help!!

Tri-M

Don't forget about the Elms concert at ZCHS on Jan. 30 in the Performing Arts Center. The Elms is a rock band from Seymour, IN, who supports the Africa Water is Life charity as does the ZCHS Tri-M group. Contact Mrs. Swayze for more information or tickets! The next Tri-M meetings are Jan. 25 at 7am and Feb. 22 also at 7am, both Monday mornings. .

Strolling Strings

The Strolling Strings will be performing the National Anthem at the Indiana Ice hockey game on Feb. 12! Contact Mrs. Swayze if you are not affiliated with orchestra and you'd like to purchase a ticket to the game.

Orchestra

The 7th Grade Orchestra students will be performing at the March 13th IMEA event here.

The 8th Grade Orchestra students will be performing at the ISSMA contest on March 20, location TBA

Art Department

Art Club 5/6 Meeting Dates

Grade 6- February 2 and 16

Grade 5-February 9

Yearbook Club Party

Tuesday, February 17 from 2:45-3:30 in art room 406.

All who 5-8 students who helped with yearbook this year are invited to attend.

Cafeteria News

This article is to serve as a reminder of information that perhaps many of you have seen in the past. The ZCS Food Service Department operates on a self funded basis, receiving revenues from several sources, one of which is government reimbursement for student lunches served. One additional revenue source is income received from the sale of extras, or a la carte items. While we do product evaluations to verify nutritional contributions of these items, we understand that some parents may prefer to restrict the sale of these extra items to their children. Please note that should you desire to do this, there is a form on our website which can be printed, signed, and sent to the food service manager at your child's building. Please visit www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm and select General Information where you will see an option to select which is entitled "Purchasing Extras".

While on the food service website, you are encouraged to further explore in order to discover additional information which may prove useful in the understanding of our program. Applications for meal assistance are available on the site, as are menus, nutritional information, informative newsletters, recipes, staff contacts, etc.

Looking towards the completion of this school year and into the next year, we remain committed to ensure a professional approach to our food service operations. Some of the methods used to achieve this are ongoing meetings and training opportunities. The ZCS Food Service and Z'Care Departments have recently made plans to participate in a *Professional Development Series*, provided by the St. Vincent Employee Assistance Program. Topics included will be: Improving Communication Skills, Conflict Management, Office Courtesy/Etiquette, and Maintaining a Peaceful Workplace.

In addition, we have recently sent two department staff members to a food safety class, bringing to a total 22 of 58 staff members who have completed this type of course. The training, which is actually required by the Board of Health for only nine individual positions in our department, ensures greater assurance of food safety related practices.

Beyond these training opportunities, ZCS Food Service will obtain training in civil rights and nonviolent crisis intervention in the next few months. Each of these training sessions reinforces the concept that, regardless of the position a person has, professionalism and an ongoing commitment to quality need to exist. It is hoped that within the ZCS Food Service Department, our customers find assurance of these concepts.

Jan Swander, ZCS Food Service Director

ZEF

Save the Date

ZEF "In Style" Luncheon

Friday, February 26, 2010

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Boone Meadow School

Tickets: \$50 per person

Please contact your PTO President or Lynn Kissel, ZEF Executive Director

lkissel@zcs.k12.in.us or at 317-733-4805

ZEF Grants

Congratulations to the following Zionsville Middle School teachers on the grants that they received in December. For a complete listing of all ZEF grants. Please see the PDF on the ZMS PTO website www.zmspto.org.

One Book...Two Schools...Three Cups of Tea: Uniting A Community Through Reading

(Carrie Sanders, ZWMS and Sarah Seligman, ZMS; \$7,670.00) The media centers of both schools will purchase several classroom sets of The Young Reader's Edition of Three Cups of Tea, an inspirational true story about Greg Mortenson's decision to help impoverished children learn to read and write, forever changing their lives, his own, and countless others in the world who have been moved by Mortenson's work. The students and staff at both schools will read and discuss the book, engaging in cross-curricular activities that will bring the events and lessons they read into their everyday lives here in Zionsville.

Chinese Program: Together We Will Get Higher Achievement (Wendy Yuan, ZCHS, ZMS, ZWMS; \$695.00) This grant funds guest speakers, purchases classroom dictionaries, Chinese club art crafts, holiday celebration decorations, Asian shuttlecocks, and some Chinese games and a moon cake mold from Chinatown to supplement the Chinese language program in ZCS.

Probing Our Physical World. (Andy Seward, ZMS; \$2,932.00) This project allows science students to use Passport probes and sensors to measure and collect their own authentic data. They will analyze their data, make inferences, draw conclusions and better understand physical laws of the universe.

Get Up and Move It! (Kathleen Swayze, ZMS; \$304.00) This grant will fund workshops taught by Laurie Cutsinger, a Young Audiences dance teacher, to the General Music classes and the Life Skills students. Through listening and observing, all students will be able to demonstrate a form of dance, and they will experience and learn about new types of music.

Community News

Safesitter classes at Zionsville Boys and Girls Club

Dates:

Saturday January 23 9:00-3:30pm \$55.00

Saturday February 20 9:00-3:30 pm \$55.00

Saturday March 20 9:00-3:30 pm \$55.00

Must be at least 11 years of age on class date.

To sign up call or stop by the Zionsville Boys and Girls club at 317-873-6670
Call Nancy LaFon 317-626-7019, or Sandi Byle 317-514-7370 for more information.

February 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 7 & 8 Baseball callout meeting 3:00 p.m. LGI	3 4 th Grade Concert & Tour 9:30-11:00 a.m.	4	5 Mandarin I to Asia Mart 9:20 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
8	9 8 th Grade to IRT 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m	10 Optimist Oratorical Contest 7:00 p.m. LGI	11 Activity Pictures 1 st period Disney Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m. EH	12 Bumgardner to Humane Society 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Strolling Strings to Indiana Ice 7:00 p.m.
15 President's Day – No School	16	17	18 Day, Elkins, Bumgardner to Clowes 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Jazz Band/Swing Choir to Disney- World (return Feb. 21)	19
22	23 Softball callout meeting 2:45-3:00 p.m. Room 802	24 5 th Grade to ISO, 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	25	26 7/8 Fun Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m. EH/SG

For a complete listing of school activities, please refer to the ZMS Web Site at www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms/index.html.