The ZMS Review

November 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

More than 6,000 middle school educators are expected to visit Indianapolis November 5-8 for the National Middle School Association's annual national conference. This premier gathering for middle level educators changes locales from year to year offering not only access to more people by choosing a different geographical region, but also allows the opportunity for attendees to visit exemplary schools in different states throughout the land. The fact that the conference touches down in Indianapolis allows Zionsville Middle School to play a special role in this year's event.

First on ZMS's agenda is to host visitors from across the United States on November 5. The Indiana Middle Level Educators Association selected ZMS as one of the Central Indiana schools to spotlight. Conference attendees who have chosen to visit us are interested in learning more about our 1:1 program, and the overall role of technology in instruction. Our guests will learn about instructional practices in our core academic areas and in the arts in grades 5-8.

In addition to being a school visit site, ZMS will have a presence at the conference itself, as well. Three of our staff members (Mrs. Valencourt, Ms. Sweeney and Mrs. Plantan) have been selected to make three separate presentations at the convention center on Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7. Their proposals were selected from thousands that were submitted, and we consider it quite an honor to have ZMS staff members chosen to present to their national peers.

Our students will also be represented at the conference. Schools were allowed to submit one piece of student artwork to be displayed at the conference, and Theo Yiannoutsos's work was submitted and selected to hang in the convention center. Additionally, two of our music groups were chosen to perform at the conference. The ZMS swing choir, under the direction of Mrs. Palmer, will perform Saturday morning in the convention center. The ZMS Advanced Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Weirich and Ms. Mullis, received what is possibly the highest honor of all: the opportunity to perform onstage prior to the event's keynote speaker address. This spot is undoubtedly reserved for an outstanding group and will likely draw an audience of a few thousand! Congratulations to all of these students for achieving a level of excellence worthy of national attention.

So what does all of this exposure mean to the ZMS community? For the staff it provides a moment to recognize some of our accomplishments. Interestingly, the ZMS faculty focuses on creating its next improvement rather than ruminate on the last one. It is this fact that creates an environment worth showcasing, but it does not provide much opportunity for celebration. This showcase should offer us the pause to do so. Our staff will also benefit from connections to other educators with similar interests. Collaboration is at an all time high in the educational community, and connecting with these visitors will help us significantly toward that end. Our students will benefit in recognizing that the school environment in which they find themselves daily is one that interests other educators throughout the land, and that the work that they perform daily is meaningful to not only those within our community, but also to others outside our community and beyond the State of Indiana. It is my hope that all this provides parents with affirmation. Seldom passes a day during which I am not told that people chose Zionsville as their home because of the schools. Let's hope this national attention is a sign that these Zionsville residents made the right choice! Mr. Sean Conner **http://sconner007.edublogs.org/** **(**Use this link to comment on Mr. Conner's Blog.)

November Newsletter Highlights

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Information for the December/January Newsletter should be submitted to Dee Dee Medaris (Ddmedaris@zmspto.org) by November 20, 2009.

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 #

PTO News

Promoting Responsibility in Dedicated Education (PRIDE)

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Kate Farley. Her presence and smile will be truly missed in the halls of this school. She touched so many of us in special ways. A donation has been given to Camp Riley/Riley Children's Foundation by the ZMS PTO. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

It is hard to believe that the first nine weeks of school are now complete. It's now time to take a deep breath and turn our attention towards Thanksgiving Break and the Holidays.

ZMS PTO sponsored programs for the next several weeks include Change for Children, Food for Thought, Holidays at Amazon.com and Box Tops for Education Marketplace.

Change for Children encourages classrooms/teams to participate in friendly competition of change collection from 11/30 – 12/4. All monies collected will go toward making the holidays a bit brighter and happier for several children. This program encourages and reinforces the meaning of community service and good will. Let the penny wars begin…

Food for Thought is a newly created program formed as an extension from our previous Home for the Holidays. The program was initiated by the need for food supplies to those that may need some assistance while at home during the school winter break. It has come to our attention that there is additional need during other lengthy school breaks. Therefore, we have added the spring break time period to our program. Please look for information in the monthly newsletter regarding how you can help with this very special project.

Holidays at Amazon is a volunteer program which is quickly becoming one of our favorites. The Amazon.com facility in Whitestown has once again offered ZMS the opportunity to wrap gifts as a way to raise money. It is fun, energetic, social, challenging and quite rewarding. We have secured 12/9 and 12/17 as wrapping dates. For further information on how you can join in the fun please contact Shannon Ross at skross90@hotmail.com.

Box Tops for Education Marketplace allows our ZMS families to save time and energy by shopping online as well as earn cash for our school. Start every online shopping trip at Box Tops for Education Marketplace… our school will receive a donation of up to 8% on every qualified purchase – at no additional cost to you. Stores such as Barnes & Nobles, Best Buy, Eddie Bauer, Gap, Harry & David, Kohl's, Nordstrom, Target, Walmart and many more participate in Box Tops for Education Marketplace. For more information and a current list of participating stores go to www.btfe.com. ZMS is continuing to collect Box Tops in each classroom to go toward an end of the year party for those with the most Box Tops collected. Current classroom standings are posted in Eagle Hall. Clip Box Tops and Campbell's soup labels and send them in to school with the child's homeroom or soar teacher's name clearly written on the bag.

The Fall Book Fair was a social gathering place during the week of 10/19…many students, teachers and parents stopped by to purchase their literary favorites and explore the most popular reading material. Thank you to Angie Leary, Angela Carr and all of the parent volunteers for preparing, staffing and breaking down the Book Fair. The time and energy the volunteers donated to make this a success is greatly appreciated!

The Walking Club has concluded and will resume in the spring. Thank you to all the students who participated and especially to all of the parents who made the Walking Club possible. Wellness initiatives continue thanks to Erin Wilson and our very own wonderful food service coordinator, Maureen Dvorack, who were instrumental in getting the fresh salad bar approved and up and running. The feedback from the students and staff has been tremendous! Thanks Erin and Maureen!!

We have completed our campaign search for contributions to our first ever ZMS Cookbook. In typical ZMS parent and faculty manner, the recipes came pouring in. Thank you so much to all who participated. You truly are the best – we can always count on you! We look forward to presenting the completed book in the spring.

The 8th grade party committee is up and running with their monthly ice cream sales during lunch periods. New this year…various frozen novelty items and healthy choices. Watch for the next sale on Friday, November 6th. Cost: $1.00.

Lastly, I would like to say a personal "thank you" to Shannon Ross for graciously taking over the reigns for a couple of weeks so that I am able to enjoy our very special family celebration on November 14th. Thanks Shannon for always being there. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely, Jami Farrell, ZMS PTO President

PTO News (Continued)

Amazon.com Gift Wrapping Days

PTO is participating in Amazon.com Gift Wrapping Days again. We do their gift wrapping and PTO benefits. We receive $.75 for every package we wrap. The available shifts are Wednesday, December 9 and Thursday, December 17 from 8 am-1 pm. Please let me know if you are available to work a shift. It is a lot of fun and the money benefits our school. Thanks. Shannon Ross, Skross90@hotmail.com, 733-4159

$$$ CHANGE $$$ FOR CHILDREN NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 4

Holiday Helpers will be visiting all lunch periods the week of November 30th – December 4th collecting spare change. ALL monies will go towards making the Holidays brighter for those in need right here in our community.

Soooooooo……. Hit up Mom and Dad to pay you for those odd jobs; raid your piggy banks; pass on your blessings; and participate in

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN!!!!

To volunteer collecting and counting money, please contact Dorothy Hitchins (dot.hitchins@sbcglobal.net) or Pam Schacht (pam@schacht.com)

NO HASSLE FUNDRAISING

The year has gotten off to a great start! The Boxtops class competition is proceeding at full speed. I was told by Mrs. Coffman that the 5th and 6th grades really got excited when she announced the results, so far, at lunch. The following teachers are in the lead: 1st Place Grimm (617) 2nd Place Seward (465) 3rd Place Bumgardner (362)

Check out the posters in Eagle Hall for current numbers. By the time you read this the first Boxtops deadline will have passed (October 31st). Now it is time to gear up for the January incentive. Continue to cut and save Boxtops and Campbell's Soup labels during this holiday season. Remember the class with the most Boxtops/Campbell's Soup labels, come January, will win an incentive prize.

As always, here are the websites you can go to for more information: www.boxtops4education.com, www.campbellsoup.com and http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com. Don't forget you can also send in your Tyson labels for this competition. Happy Clipping! Carol Mead cmead@indy.rr.com

Z'Chef Cookbook

A big thank you to everyone who submitted recipes for the cookbook! We are looking forward to delivering the finished product! We will keep you posted on the progress of all your ZMS favorite treats! We collected over 200 delicious and family friendly recipes, that will facilitate meal planning, entertaining, or just cooking for fun! Look for the Z'Chef cookbooks in early 2010! Oh, and don't forget, all proceeds from the sales of the Z'Chef cookbook will benefit our ZMS PTO!! Becky and Tracy Zimpfer

8th Grade Party

Anyone interested in assisting with 8th Grade Party please contact Frances Pokrifcak at vokrifcak@yahoo.com. The party is to celebrate the class of 2014 memories at ZMS as well as their journey to ZCHS. The next meeting will be in the PTO Room on November 5 at 9:30am. Come, share ideas and be part of the preparation!

Wellness Corner

Hope all is going well and everyone is trying to stay healthy. Please remember in times of cold and flu stay hydrated. Drink Water!!!!

We launched our Salad bar in October and everything seems to be running well and very popular. Big thanks to Maureen Dvorak, head of food service for ZMS. Without Maureen's support and hard work the salad bar would never have gotten off the ground. We are all excited about the healthy option now available at lunch and would love to have the students' feedback on how we can make it better. Keep on visiting the salad bar and remember we need your support to keep it an option for lunch.

Walking club is wrapping up for the fall. Final day is Friday October 30th and at that time I will award a winner, 1 per each grade, for the student who walked the farthest for the fall. Big thanks to all my volunteers!! Without your help the program would not have been available and many kids would have missed out on the opportunity to walk for better health. Thanks to everyone!

Please remember as the weather gets colder and the days get shorter we still need to get out an exercise. Ten minutes three times a day will work. Ten minutes one time per day can even improve your health. The bottom line is to get moving and keep moving. Make it a priority to work it into your life. Take time to care for yourself. It does not get easier as we get older. Start today and promise yourself you will get stronger and you will make healthier choices and you will get MOVING!!!

To your better health, Erin Wilson, Wellness Committee, Wilson1427@earthlink.net

Guidance Department

Parent Volunteers

We are interested in organizing efforts for parent volunteers to assist with enrichment activities with our students throughout the school day. If interested, please inform your grade level counselor as to what day of the week and time you would be available. When calling please indicate areas you would be most comfortable tutoring.

Grade 5 & 8 Krista Hoffman, ext. 13991, Grade 6 Carrie Nonte, ext. 13992, Grade 7 Kristen Stachura, ext. 13986

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.

Study Table Reminder

Study Tables are well underway. Study Tables are staff assisted study halls for students who wish to receive help with homework completion, study skills, and organization. They are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and/or Thursdays from 3-4pm for students in grades 5-8. Please see your grade level counselor for a permission form.

Guidance November Character Trait

Enhancing your Self-Esteem

The way we feel about ourselves has a huge affect on the way we treat ourselves and others, and the kinds of choices we make. The following are some ways you can protect, raise, or reinforce your self-esteem:

- Spend time with people who like and care about you. Ignore and stay away from people who put you down or treat you badly
- Set goals and work to achieve them
- Always do what you believe is right
- Make good choices for yourself, and don't let others make your choices for you.
- Take responsibility for yourself, your choices, and your actions.
- Do things that help you feel success

While having daily discussions with your children, ask them to consider the following:

- When someone says that person has high self-esteem, what does that mean? What does high self-esteem look like? Is there a difference between self-esteem, smugness, or conceit?
- Do you think you have to "prove yourself" in some way in order to deserve high self-esteem? Do you have to be great at something? Do you have to be super-popular or part of the "in crowd?" Do you have to be terrifically good-looking with all the right clothes? Is there any reason why someone should not be entitled to have good self-esteem?
- Where does high self-esteem come from? Why do you think some people have high self-esteem and others have low self-esteem?
- Is our self-esteem permanent, or does it change?
- Can we sometimes be too critical of ourselves? What happens when we do that? Can self criticism sometimes be good for us? How? How do we know when we have crossed the line and are being too hard on ourselves?

Citation www.goodcharacter.com

Guidance Continued

Operation ICU

We have had great success with Operation ICU (Integrity Character Unite)! Students are awarded with a gift certificate and anything else that we may have available. We are very proud of the following students for a few reasons: setting a positive example for others, consistently being polite and on task, and being accepting of the diversity within their classes.

Students awarded Sept. 25th: Eli Copner, Matt Dukeshire, Brody Davison, Claire Drew, Rachel Linder, Serena Glenn, Sarah DiPlotti, Zach Stevens, Megan Rogers, Abigail Brow, Carson Skelly, John Janak, Joel Janak, Sade Artest, Caitlyn Kilpatrick, Hudson Ruddell, Davis Furman, Morgan Reid, Morgan Thimjon, Kyle Kelly, and Aaron Dodd. Students awarded on Oct. 9th: Dan Doyle, Ella Penczek, Kaelan Roush, Lela Gallagher, Taylor Trepanier, Will Frecker, and Marissa Simmons.

Sports

Wrestling News for 5th through 8th graders!

5th & 6th Graders be a part of the wrestling club. It begins Nov 9 and ends Nov 19th. It will meet every day after school in the wrestling room until 4:30. This is an introduction to a great sport. Register by 10/23 and get a free t-shirt. Applications are in the office or room 702

November 3 is the call out day for all boys interested in coming out for wrestling. The meeting will be in the LGI right after school and should be done no later than 3:30. If you are planning on wrestling but cannot be there see Coach Flecker in 702 for information.

November 3: Wrestling Parents meeting in the LGI at 6:30pm. We encourage all parents of boys wrestling this year to attend.

7th and 8th Grade Girls Basketball

Any 7th and 8th grade girl who is interested in playing basketball this season is invited to attend open gyms before the regular season begins. Anyone who attends open gyms must have a completed **IHSAA Physical Form** signed by a physician, parent, and athlete. An **Emergency/Medical** form must also be completed and signed by the parent and the athlete. All of these forms may be picked up in the main office.

Open Gyms will take place at ZMS on the following dates and times in November:

Monday, November 2nd 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Monday, November 9th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tryouts or the first official practice will begin on Monday, November 30th. 8th Graders will practice from 3-5 p.m. and 7th graders will practice from 5-7 p.m. on the 30th. A schedule for the entire season will be available to all potential players after the Fall Break. Players or parents who have any questions should contact Andy Maguire at school. amaguire@zcs.k12.in.us or 873-2426 (ext. 13905)

Cheerleaders to Perform at Pacers Game

The 7th & 8th grade cheerleaders will be performing before the Indiana Pacers game on Wednesday, December 9. If you are interested in purchasing discounted tickets for the game, please see Coach Smart in room 802 or in the south gym for order forms. You can also email her at tsmart@zcs.k12.in.us. The girls would appreciate your support!

School News

Annie Jr.—America's Beloved Musical at ZMS

Leapin' lizards! The 5th and 6th grade drama club will present Annie Jr. on November 19th and 20th at 7 pm and November 21st at 1pm in Eagle Hall. Come see Annie foil Miss Hannigan's evil plans, befriend President Franklin Roosevelt and find a new family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy. Tickets are $3 for students and seniors, $4 for adults, and $12 for a family. See you at the show!

MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH

For many years Zionsville Community Schools has participated in the Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) for mathematically and verbally talented third through ninth grade students. Qualifying students are invited to take the SAT or ACT at Grades 7 and 8, the EXPLORE test or the SAT or ACT at Grade 6, and the EXPLORE test at Grades 3-5. ZCS is merely informing you of this opportunity. Participation is strictly voluntary. Students and their parents who are interested should visit the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats.

Students from 3rd through 9th grades will continue to access above grade-level tests (EXPLORE, ACT and SAT) and will receive help in interpreting test results and planning their future education path through the materials provided through NUMATS. The EXPLORE, ACT and SAT all have long track records as good measures of academic talent. These tests are more appropriate for academically talented students than standardized tests designed for their age group. By taking these tests, Talent Search students get a more detailed picture of their abilities in comparison with other bright students.

Students may register to take the EXPLORE (Grades 3-6), SAT (Grades 7-8 and Grade 6) or ACT (Grades 7-8, Grade 6, and Grade 9) in one of several ways. Please see the NUMATS website to determine if participation is appropriate for your child.

If you would like to register to take the EXPLORE, SAT or ACT, please do so online at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats.

AMC8

The AMC8, a challenging math contest for middle school students, will be offered at ZMS on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 17. Students wishing to participate should sign up in the guidance office by November 9. More information is available in the guidance office, or by contacting Carol Ahmann at 873-5217 or carolahmann@sbcglobal.net.

Rocky Mountain Summer Wilderness Adventure Informational Parent Meeting November 3

This meeting is for 7th & 8th grade students interested in spending a week this summer in the beautiful Rockies of Colorado. Meet in the LGI on November 3 at 7:30. Because we are planning on flying this year it is important all information is returned in a timely fashion.

Veterans Day 2009

Please join the students and staff of Zionsville Middle School as we honor those who have served our country.

Zionsville Middle School, South Gym

November 11, 2009

5th and 6th Grade Ceremony 8:15 AM

7th and 8th Grade Ceremony 10:00 AM

Orchestra and Tri-M Notes

Tri-M: The next Tri-M meeting is Monday Nov. 30 at 7:00am. On Oct. 21 we had our Induction Ceremony and we have 27 new members for a total of 52 students in Tri-M!!! (Tri-M is an honor society for musicians in grades 6-7-8 at ZMS)

Orchestra families will be asked to sell poinsettias, which will decorate our concert hall and then be available for pick-up after the concert.

Community News

Community Conversation Town Hall Meeting
Monday, November 16th 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 Oak Street, Zionsville

You are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting designed to focus on teen decision making in our community. We are pleased to feature Judge David from the Boone County Circuit Court during this year's speaker series. Judge David will present on the many challenges of parenting teenagers. Judge David will use his experiences on the bench to highlight strategies for effective parenting during these critical years of adolescent development.

It's Pie Month at Market Day!

In addition to the regular items, Market Day is featuring fourteen delicious pies and desserts just in time for the holidays, and ZBOP (Zionsville Band & Orchestra Patrons) will earn additional profit on these items. Help us bring in extra money for our students -- and save yourselves time in the kitchen this holiday season!

November's Dessert Bonus Days: Get a FREE 12 ounce bag of Cups for Hope coffee when you purchase three qualifying desserts!

Please remember to place your order online by 11:00pm Wednesday, November 11th at http://www.marketday.com/ using account #5941. If you prefer, you can pick up and drop off an order form at the Hussey-Mayfield Library before the 11th. Forms can also be found in all school offices (but must be returned to library).

Order pickup will be at the high school cafeteria from 5:00-6:00pm on Monday, November 16th. Adult and student volunteers are always appreciated from 4:00-6:00pm on order pickup day; high school band and orchestra students earn $15 for their ZBOP accounts for working.

If you have any questions or can volunteer please contact us. We'll do everything we can to help! Thanks so much! Deirdre Moore (zeemoores@yahoo.com) 732-4360, Liz Qua (elqua@yahoo.com) 769-1161, Diane Weddle (gregndianew@mac.com) 769-3789

Z'Bop Gala 2009

Presents Phil Dirt and the Dozers, World Class Vintage Rock N'Roll. Saturday, November 7, 2009. More details @ PTO website.

ZIONSVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION TIDBITS

Thank you to the many teachers, parents and friends who supported the 8th Annual ZEF Oktoberfest on October 17. With your support, we are able to continue to offer Zionsville teachers the chance to be innovative and creative in their classrooms.

Just a reminder to teachers that the Fall grant applications are due to the ZEF office by November 3. The application process is not cumbersome and all of the needed information can be found on the ZEF website at http://zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org/grants_zefgrants.shtml. After applications are received, a committee comprised of ZEF Board members, community members and educators give careful review to each proposal. The grant committee makes its recommendations to the Board. Based on the funding that is available for that grant cycle, the ZEF Board then approves as many of the recommended grants as possible. The level of funds raise during each year directly impacts the number and size of the grants that are awarded.

Congratulations to ZWMS teacher Erin Bivans and ZMS teacher Jeremy Skura who were selected to receive the 2009 Imagine/Professional Development Grants. Ms. Bivans will be attending the Florida Virtual School Leadership Training and Mr. Skura will be attending the National Educational Computing Conference.

Zionsville educators are embracing the opportunity provided by ZEF and its partnership with DonorsChoose.org. Nine grants have been posted for funding on the website and one was completely funded within just a few days! Please visit www.DonorsChoose.org to see if there is a Zionsville grant that you would like to support. ZEF is providing half-funding up to $5,000 for these grants.

November 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	**3** Wrestling Callout Meeting 2:45 pm, LGI Wrestling Parent Meeting 6:30 pm, LGI Rocky Mountain Parent	**4** 5-8 Choir Concert 7:00 pm	**5**	**6**
9	**10**	**11** Veterans Day Convocation, 5/6 - 8:15 am & 7/8 – 10:00 am SG	**12**	**13**
16 CPR	**17** CPR	**18** CPR	**19** 5/6 Drama Per-formance 7:00 pm, EH CPR	**20** CPR 5/6 Drama Performance 7:00 pm, EH
23	**24**	**25** Thanksgiving Break	**26** Thanksgiving Break	**27** Thanksgiving Break
30 Change For Children Collection All Lunch Periods EH				

21
5/6 Drama Perform-ance
1:00 pm, EH

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