The ZMS Review

September 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

Anyone associated with Zionsville Middle School the past couple of years has undoubtedly taken note of the presence of technology in our instruction, our everyday practices, and our discussions about important changes that we're making in the classroom. Previously, parents had a certain comfort level with school because they could relate to the experience. Teacher in front, desks in rows, students with notebooks out taking notes about everything the teacher said, one person talking and 30 people listening – we can all imagine it because we've been there. My personal experience as a student, however, fails me when it comes to the technology-rich classroom. I took typing in high school, and we were lucky that we even had electric typewriters! Keyboarding was so darned important because, well, who wanted to start all over again after getting 3/4 of the way through a page? In the spirit of full disclosure though, I did have a class in which we did some rudimentary computer programming. We wrote our programs on notebook paper, and once or twice a month got the opportunity to input them into the one computer that the 30 students shared. By the end of the year I could make a blip go across the screen with the best of them! As a junior undergrad, I had a professor who required us to use his word processor to turn in our paper. I remember disliking the inconvenience of it all, but he assured us that someday we would need to know how to use one. My point? Those of us in the minivan set might know how to use technology, but not because it was part of our school experience, and as a result, it remains difficult to understand how it transforms the classroom experience.

The most frequent misunderstanding is that the infusion of technology in the classroom equates with education about technology. This likely emanates from our personal experiences, when we, in our 20's, had to learn how to use a computer. I recall being confounded by the cursor, not understanding how to use the arrow keys to move it, and someone had to teach me how to delete random letters strolling behind the cursor. Heaven only knows how they got there. I never taught these things to my children, they just knew. I never taught them how to save games on their Wii, never taught them to connect our video camera via USB to Video Input 4 (and then select it) on our television to watch it, never taught them to use Facebook, to text, to play their video games online with their friends, or to download apps to their itouch. They just knew.

Instead, we use technology to assist the teacher to instruct the way we have long known is best, but logistics prevented us from doing so. Instructional best practice has long called for activities to be student-centered, experiential, holistic, authentic, constructivist in nature, and allow for many forms of expression, reflection, and collaboration. In a classroom with a static textbook and no connection to the outside world, these principles are difficult if not nearly impossible to routinely embed. Our push to put technology in the hands of our students is an effort to alter our activities to make these principles a permanent fixture.

Such transformations do not happen overnight or from simply wishing they might come true. The ZMS staff has been hard at work reading, discussing and putting into practice elements from a number of pedagogical experts. Best Practice; A Whole New Mind; Working on the Work; Successful Teaching in the Differentiated Classroom; Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age; Digital Citizenship in Schools; Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and other Powerful Web Tools for the Classroom; The World is Flat; 5 Minds for the Future; and Reinventing Project-Based Learning are all works that have influenced our staff through our professional learning groups, and played a major role in the development of our 1:1 program, the use of Angel, and the use of other technologies in the classroom. One can see from this extensive (yet, incomplete) list of our major influencers, we did not simply decide one day that we wanted to have laptops, nor did the staff just develop a yearning for new toys and toss it on a shopping list. This direction is the result of a journey begun years ago out of a desire to provide our students the best educational experience possible.

If you are interested in finding out more about our endeavors, I encourage you to use the links above to learn more about our professional literature, and, as always, feel free to chat with any of us about it. There is no doubt that Zionsville Middle School does not reflect the middle school experience that I had, gulp, in '78, '79, and '80. And though we know it can be uncomfortable, to tell us that school doesn't look anything like it used to is perhaps the biggest compliment we could be paid. Sean Conner

http://sconner007.edublogs.org/ Use this link to comment on Mr. Conner's Blog.

September Newsletter Highlights

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Information for the October Newsletter should be submitted to Dee Dee Medaris (Ddmedaris@zmspto.org) by September 21, 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)

It's drive time…

The drive to make a difference, make a commitment and make it all happen!

The PTO is very excited about the activities we have planned for the 2009-2010 school year. The success of these well-laid plans depends on our volunteers. Please take a moment to consider your involvement and interests. Volunteer forms are available at the ZMS front office.

I would like to acknowledge the parents who have already generously donated their time and "tackled" recent Back to School & Open House events with great enthusiasm and success.

Thank you to Holly Waidelich for leading a successful Membership Drive. Through the generous contributions of the 2009-2010 PTO Members, we were able to present the school's principals, administrators and teachers with a "Mega Grant". With this grant our hope is to continue to inspire and reinforce the excellent academic atmosphere at ZMS.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a huge hit thanks to Julie Tiller. Sandwiches, chips, apples and incredible desserts were enjoyed by over 80 faculty/staff members. Thank you to Subway, Stuckey Farms, Chick-Fil-A and our very talented ZMS volunteer bakers.

Thank you to our enthusiastic Spirit Wear Co-Chairs, Angela Carr and Michelle Barrett. The "recession wear" sales have been brisk with many items already selling out…check out the merchandise at www.zmspto.org. Orders will be accepted through September 1, 2009.

Lastly, I want to thank the following volunteers that helped the PTO Board…their help was truly generous! Shannon Ross, Angie Leary, Erin Wilson, Pam Schacht, Candace Reid, Carrie Alsop, Mary Ann Kasler, Ann Hall, Julie Rauschuber, Heather Sheehan, Carina Girouard, Rebecca Inman, Amy Whitlock, Cathy East, Jan Hornaday, Chantelle Dodson, Molly Murphy, Kelley Leix, Tera Nutter, Lisa Kayes, Cheryl Bailey, Carol Ahmann, Laura Pinegar, Laura Dunshee,Wendy Rosenberger, Kelly Huibregtse, Laura Axelson, Kendra Dazey, Kendra Kitchel, Phoebe Charles. Tami Hobick, Lynn Kissell, Cindy Peterson, Erika Rivercomb, Kim Reinhart, Sue Trewartha, Shanna Wendt, and Kirsten Wujek. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm sorry and thank you!

It is my hope that through dedication and teamwork we can continue to make ZMS a great place to learn!

Sincerely,

Jami Farrell, ZMS PTO President

New Family Welcome Dessert

Are you new to the Zionsville School System? If so, we have a wonderful opportunity for you to come meet some administrators, other ZMS families, hear from our orchestra strings ensemble and simply get more acquainted with your new school system. Please join us for coffee & dessert in Eagle Hall on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. We'd love to meet you and your family!

NO HASSLE FUNDRAISING

Welcome back, everyone! Ready to gear up for another great year of clipping Boxtops, Campbell's Soup labels and Tyson labels?

We will be doing a class competition again this year. When sending in Boxtops and labels please place them in a bag with your teachers name on it. I will keep track of the numbers from each class and the class with the most Boxtops and labels in January, will win an incentive prize all leading up to a "Grand Prize" at the end of the school year. The winning classroom teacher will also win a prize. This is an easy way for the school to raise money and it doesn't take any time at all. You will be able to keep track of how each classroom is doing by checking out the poster board in the hallway (site yet to be determined). I will update it weekly.

Remember, when clipping Campbell's Soup labels to please clip the entire UPC code and the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education symbol. If unsure, feel free to send in the entire label. Check out the following websites for more information and products that are eligible for these programs: www.boxtops4education.com, www.campbellsoup.com, and http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com.

One final note: If you are thinking of purchasing a board game in the near future check out the Boxtops website. If you purchase a Hasbro game (one that is on the list) you can fill out a submission form and receive Bonus Boxtops for our school. The promotion is titled Hasbro Family Game Night. This offer is good from August 10, 2009 until October 31, 2009. If you can't find the submission form or the list of games, feel free to contact me at cmead@indy.rr.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 5TH/6TH GRADE PARTY!

The PTO is sponsoring a FREE after school party for all 5th/6th graders on Friday, September 18th from 2:40-5 pm. There will be lots of fun activities like an obstacle course, a giant slide, a cookie walk, fun music and tasty treats to purchase from the concession stand.

PTO News (Continued)

Wellness Corner

Walking club is back!! We will start the club at lunch time for the 5th and 6th graders beginning Tuesday, September 1st. I wanted to take a minute and thank all the volunteers who have signed up to help out!! We could not provide this healthy opportunity for the students without your assistance.

Salads for lunch!! Our trial was a huge success at the end of last year and we are trying to provide salads on a regular basis for the students. Please have your children keep their eyes open for something green coming mid-September. Any feedback you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Health tip for September: Exercise is good for your mind and body, but you need to support your healthy life style goals with good food choices as well. Always keep in mind the 80/20 rule: 80% food choice followed by 20% exercise. Stay true to your goals and remember you are what you eat! Erin Wilson, Wellness Coordinator, wilson1427@earthlink.net

Back to School Faculty/Staff Luncheon

Big Thank You to the following volunteers who helped make the Back To School Faculty/Staff Luncheon a success: Phoebe Charles, Laura Dunshee, Jami Farrell, Tami Hobick, Lynn Kissel, Cindy Peterson, Erika Revercomb, Kim Reinhart, Shannon Ross, Julie Tiller, Sue Trewartha, Holly Waidelich, Shanna Wendt, Kirsten Wujek. Thank you also to our local Subway owner Uday Patel; Stuckey Farms owner, Jeff Pierce; Chick-Fil-A and Costco for their generous support of this event.

Z'EAGLE CHEF

Here it is! Your opportunity to share in the making of the first "Zionsville Middle School Cookbook". Take part in this fun, historic project by submitting your favorite recipes and perhaps a story that might go along with your masterpiece. Whether your recipe is family famous, family favorite, holiday favorite or just a favorite daily special, we want it! So, please help us to make this a memorable and fun project by submitting your recipe(s) to zimpfer@aol.com or drop them off at the front office as soon as possible. Deadline for submissions is Friday, October 23rd.

A Note From the Office

Welcome back! We look forward to another great year with your children. We are here to support you and your students and to make sure the school year is the very best it can be.

If you have any questions throughout the year, please don't hesitate to ask. To make communication easier for you, the office staff and their phone extensions and responsibilities are listed below:

Administrative & Attendance Secretary: Sharon Cornacchini, 13996
Daily attendance, pre-arranged absences, facilities usage and calendar items
To call in an absence, please dial 873-2426 ext. 2

Administrative Secretary & Treasurer: Kati Haseley, ext. 13988
Appointment with the Principal or Assistant Principal, all school business transactions

Guidance/Athletic Secretaries/Fees: Judy Enders, ext. 13990 & Christy Tharp, ext. 13011
Changes in personal contact information, appointments with guidance counselors, work permits, homework requests, sports passes, athletic event information, textbook rental statements, payments and refunds

Telephone Shortcuts: #0 - Receptionist, #2 – Attendance, #3 – Guidance, #4 – Clinic, #5 – Food Services, #8 - Athletics

For the most current daily school news, check the ZMS website (www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms). Announcements are posted and updated daily.

Help ZMS Receive Free Equipment and You Could Win Free Groceries!!

Zionsville Middle School is once again participating in the Marsh Fresh Ideas for Education program during the 2009-2010 school year. In the past, this program has provided various classroom resources to help enhance the student experience at ZMS. Examples of items purchased through our Marsh funds include a Yamaha keyboard, recess equipment, mathematics games, Happy Birthday pencils, and numerous office supplies. Please consider taking a few moments to register your Marsh or O'Malia's card today to help up reach our goal of 300,000 points!!

In addition, the more you shop at Marsh of O'Malia's, the more chances you get to win Free Groceries. Register your card by November 15, 2009 and receive an additional chance to win each time you scan your Fresh IDEA card or O'Malia's CouponPlus card.

Log on to www.marsh.net to get more details and to register your Marsh Fresh IDEA card or O'Malia's CouponPlus card for our school. The ZMS school code is 28517.

This will automatically earn credit for the school and earns you an additional entry every time you use your Fresh IDEA card or O'Malia's CouponPlus card. If you have signed up for our school previously, you do not need to re-register and you will automatically be entered to win free groceries.

Guidance Department

REQUESTING HOMEWORK

If your child is absent, you may request homework from the teachers on the second day of absence. Please call the Guidance Department to make your request. You will be able to pick it up in the front office between 2:45 and 4:00pm that afternoon. On the first day of absence (and any subsequent days), your child may check his or her Angel account for any work missed.

7TH GRADE

7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens written by Sean Covey will be a part of our curriculum once again. This will be implemented by our 7th Grade Counselor. The 7 Habits give practical and effective strategies in how to be a successful student. This curriculum will teach the students to be more proactive, set goals, prioritize their busy life, and to have a positive outlook even when the going gets tough.

TEST DATES NWEA

August 24-September 10, 2009

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

21st CENTURY SCHOLAR

Eligible 6th, 7th- and 8th-graders who 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. Twenty-first Century Scholars sends applications to schools with 6th, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled. There are strict income guidelines for eligibility, so not every student and family will qualify. Parents and guardians need to fill out the application. Students and parents 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.in.gov/ssaci/2345.htm, contact your local Scholars Support site or call the Learn More Helpline at 1-800-992-2076. 21st Century Scholar information will be distributed to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Please be sure to inform the Guidance Department of any changes in your email address, as well as other contact information. A quick phone call is the easiest way to take care of this. We can be reached at 873-2426, extension 3. Email is a convenient way for ZMS to communicate with the vast majority of our parents. We will be sending some important information via email regarding the upcoming NWEA and ISTEP testing schedules so it is important that we have current information in our files. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

GREAT RESOURCE

To learn more about college and education, visit the Learn More Resource Center website. Learn More Resource Center is an interactive website that offers college related information as well as many other education related subjects. There are links for parents and students of all ages. Visit Learn More at www.learnmoreindiana.org

OPERATION I.C.U.

Operation I.C.U is back again this year! Operation I.C.U. is a program designed to recognize students, grades 5-8, for displaying acts of thoughtfulness and respect. The program provides meaningful and appropriate challenges to students that promote character development. Refer to subsequent PTO newsletters for the monthly student nominations. If interested in donating gift certificates or various rewards, please contact the guidance office.

2009-2010 Counselors

Grade	Counselor
5th Grade Homerooms: Steidler/Hamelmann and 6th Grade	Carrie Nonte, Ext. 13992, cnonte@zcs.k12.in.us
5th Grade Homerooms: Gray/Monaghan and 7th Grade	Kristen Stachura, Ext. 13986, kstachura@zcs.k12.in.us
5th Grade Homerooms: Paska/Myers and Skura/Ertel and 8th Grade	Krista Hoffman, Ext. 13991, khoffman@zcs.k12.in.us

School News

Annie Auditions

The 5th and 6th grade drama club will perform Annie Jr. on November 19th, 20th, and 21st. Auditions for the show will be held Monday, September 21st and Tuesday, September 22nd. Students will sign up for audition slots outside of room 704 beginning September 15th and only need to attend one audition day. A potential callback is scheduled for September 23rd. A helpful audition workshop will be held from 3-4 pm on September 14th in Eagle Hall. Any students interested in crew should attend the workshop. For further questions contact Ms. Reed (mreed@zcs.k12.in.us).

Power Cards

The ZMS Cheerleaders are selling power cards until September 18. The vendors are: Amore, Dairy Queen, Pizza King, Philadelphia Steak & Fries, Tuchman Cleaners, Massage Envy, Arby's, Kern Brother Shoes, Subway, Papa Johns, Eagle Creek Coffee, Body Beautiful Day Spa, Burger King, Zionsville Golf Course, Villagio, Donatos, Cookie Cutters, and Stone Creek. The cards are $10.00. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Coach Trisha Smart, tsmart@zcs.k12.in.us, or pick one up in the front office.

Art Department

7th & 8th Grade Art Club

Attention all 7th & 8th grade students, art club is open to any student interested. Art club will participate in a variety of art enrichment activities and art related community service. Sign up began on the first day of school and will end when all 20 spaces have been filled. We'll meet on Tuesday's beginning on October 6th in Miss Bond's room. The meetings will start at 2:50 and end at 3:50 in room 408. See Miss Bond for an application.

Old Tennis Balls Needed

If you have old tennis balls that have lost their bounce, send them our way! The art department is collecting used tennis balls. Please send them in a bag marked "ART" to the main office. Thank you!

5th & 6th Grade Art Club

Art Club 5/6 forms will be available beginning Tuesday, September 1st. Write it in your student planner so you don't forget. See Mrs. Goodman in room 406 on this day if you are interested. Space is limited, so don't miss out!

Yearbook Orders

Yearbook order forms are available in the main office and online at shop.jostens.com. Order by October 31 to get the discounted price! No yearbooks will be sold after winter break! ORDER NOW!

Last Year's Artists of the Year

Congratulations to last year's "ARTISTS OF THE YEAR"! The following students will go down in history at ZMS for joining the permanent collection of framed student art. This collection is on display currently in Guidance and includes work by the following students: Madison Sinclair, Anna Weddle, Jessica Kuhnle, Clare Stephens, Valerie Halvorsen, Bailey Jones, Casey Stone, Theo Yiannoutsos, Grant Sloan, Eugene Park, and Allison Scherer.

Artsonia

Check out our online student art gallery at: http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=4352

Yearbook Club

The Yearbook Club callout meeting will be Wednesday, September 9 from 2:45-3:30. If you like taking photographs and working with computers, this is the club for you. This club meets in art room 406 and is open to all students in grades 5-8. Contact Mrs. Goodman or Mrs. Valencourt with any questions.

ZMS Mural

The Art Department would like to thank the PTO and Tri Kappa for funding our latest ZMS mural. The two year project involved 6 columns in the 400 hall and was completed at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. These beautiful paintings are the result of many hours art students put in with the help of visiting artist, M.K. Watkins. The murals reflect 6 famous children who made a difference throughout history. Be sure to stop by and see them when you are at ZMS. Thanks again to our sponsors for making this worthwhile student experience possible!

Band News

5th and 6th Grade Bands

This year, the 5th graders have been challenged to complete Unit 1 in the Music Theory book before we begin to play our instruments. In the first two days of theory work, they have completely blown me away by completing the first three lessons. Amazing! In addition, many students are busily working on earning their rhythm and scale chunk awards through self-study. Impressive!

Seeing all this hard work makes me confident that we will begin playing our instruments earlier than expected. Perhaps as soon as August 27th! (Earlier than any other 5th grade band within remembering!)

If your child is not renting an instrument from Paige's Music he or she will know when to bring instruments to school from home through class announcements, reminders on ANGEL, and an e-mail to parents through our listserv. Accessories such as music stands, metronomes and tuners should be left at home for practicing. Please make sure instruments and books are labeled with your child's name.

7th and 8th Grade Bands

The Fall Festival Parade is September 12, 2009. All band members will need to meet in the high school cafeteria no later than 9:15AM. The parade steps off at 10:45AM. Students will be assigned to a bus and transported back to the HS. We ask that ALL students be picked up at the high school rather than Love Furniture Gallery. We are looking forward to marching close to 350 students and we certainly don't want to leave anyone behind. Please pickup your student from the high school no later than 1:00PM.

Students will wear khaki/tan colored shorts, band shirts, short white socks and all white shoes. We will provide as many shoes as possible for students who do not own white shoes! (If for some reason the weather is unusually cold we may switch to long khaki pants.)

There will be a dress rehearsal after school on September 10, 2009 from 2:50-3:45PM. Anyone having a conflict should contact Mr. Weirich immediately. Please check with your student for the handout with details or look in the Fall Festival Parade folder in Charms.

Volunteers

We're always in need of volunteers. Hopefully you signed up at open house, but if you didn't and would like to give us a hand, please contact us!! Thanks in advance for your help.

Kleenex

With over 800 nostrils entering our classroom on a daily basis we can NEVER have enough tissues. If you would be so kind as to send in a box with your student we would be very appreciative.

Fundraiser

There will be a grade 5-8 Band Fundraiser beginning September 4th and ending September 18th. We will be selling pre-formed Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough. We were very successful last year and hope to raise over $10,000.00 this year. This money will be used to purchase school owned instruments and electronic equipment for our classrooms. We hope you will all participate.

Percussion Ensemble

Miss Mullis will be sending home information for percussion ensemble tryouts during the 3rd week of September. Students may be percussionists in grades 6-8, or non-percussionists in grades 7-8. This ensemble will rehearse on Mondays after school until 3:45 PM.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

All students involved in choir, orchestra and band in grades 6-8 are invited to apply to join the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Applications will be handed out in early September. See the website for more details.

Jazz Band

Mr. Weirich will be sending home information for jazz band tryouts during the 3rd week of September. Students must have one year of playing experience and be in grades 6-8. The "Disney Trip" Jazz Bands will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 3:45 and the Blues Band will meet on Wednesday until 4 PM.

We are looking forward to another great year!! Musically, Josh Weirich and Camden Mullis, ZMS Band Directors

Orchestra Notes

Orchestra: The 8th Grade Orchestra students will perform at the Fall Festival on Sept. 12, 4:25pm, in the Entertainment Tent. The Z-West Orchestra and the High School Orchestra will also be performing.

Strolling Strings: Strolling Strings returning members have started practicing after school on Thursdays until 4pm. New students will be invited to join in October.

Tri-M: Induction Ceremony is Oct. 21. Tri-M is a Music Honor Society for interested music students in grades 6-8.

Community News

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE CHANGES SEASONS

The annual ZEF scholarship raffle is moving. The next raffle will kick off at the 2010 InStyle Fashion show next spring.

"The Scholarship Raffle has been and continues to be a wonderful fundraiser for ZEF and a great opportunity for our community. In the spring, parents and students are thinking more about college and scholarships and it seems like the ideal time to stage the raffle," said ZEF Board President Julie Redman.

Selection of a volunteer raffle chairperson and ticket sales representatives is currently underway. To be considered, please contact the ZEF office.

ZIONSVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS $26,000 IN EDUCATION GRANTS

In May, the Zionsville Education Foundation (ZEF) awarded innovative educational grants to teachers in all Zionsville Community Schools. ZEF awarded more than $26,000 in educational grants during its spring grant cycle and more than $70,000 during the last academic year.

"ZEF grants give Zionsville teachers the opportunity to continue to be creative and innovative even during challenging economic times," said ZEF Board President Julie Redman. "We are proud to be able to continue to promote academic excellence in our schools and community," she continued.

A committee comprised of ZEF Board members, community members and educators gives careful review to each grant proposal received. The grant committee makes its recommendations to the ZEF Board which awards grants based on the available funds. ZEF grants provide funding for academic excellence and innovation; community and school partnerships; and leveraging external grants.

Zionsville Middle School received the following grant: IPODS for Everything ($7,353.00 Jeremy Skura and Amy Ertel) Purchase of 30 iPods for 5th graders that will allow them download audio books, record literature circles, review Mighty Math facts, podcasts, in the form of interviews, reenactments, or oral histories, Google news to connect to current events, create digital projects, create and publish blogs or wikis on topics learned in class, narrating labs or experiments in science class, internet searches for additional information and pictures, access weather and astrological information to help with two major units in this content area.

"The grant committee is always impressed by the exciting ways our teachers find to engage their students in learning," grant committee chairperson Peggy Edwards said. "Zionsville Community Schools' teachers continue to lead in helping all students achieve their greatest potential. We are happy to be their partner in that effort," she continued.

ZEF is currently accepting applications for the 2009 fall grant cycle as well as Imagine Grant applications from ZCS educators. For more information on the fall grant process or any other ZEF program, please contact Executive Director Lynn Kissel at 733-4805 or lkissel@zcs.k12.in.us. Form more information on ZEF or the grant process, please visit www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org.

8th Annual Oktoberfest

ZEF announces the 8th annual Oktoberfest coming on October 17th! Once again the event will include dinner, a silent auction and games in the Fun'd Zone. Join us at the Irsay Pavilion from 6:30-11:00 pm to support grants for our educators! Tickets are $100 per person with tables of 8. Contact Lynn Kissel at 733-4805 for more information. Many thanks to Witham Health Services for their generous $5000 sponsorship.

What is DestinationImagiNation?

DI is a community-based, school-friendly educational organization in which young people apply creative and critical thinking skills to open-ended challenges (those with no correct answer!).

DI is less a program than a process of learning to appreciate and apply creativity.

DI participants develop lifelong problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Each year there is a selection of challenges, with an appeal to both the technical and dramatic. Challenges Previews for this year can be found at http://www.idodi.org/.

A call-out meeting for ZMS students is scheduled for Wednesday, 9/16 in the ZMS LGI at 2:45.

Questions? Contact Michelle Ulmer 769-4098 or zvilledi@indy.rr.com

Stonegate Bazaar

Attention Vendors! Stonegate Elementary is looking for vendors to share their unique &creative personal businesses at our 6th Annual Holiday Bazaar. The bazaar will be on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 9am to 3pm at Stonegate Elementary School. For more information please contact: Chelle Smitson 733-1330 or Andi Hardesty 873-5567 or email us at stonegatebazaar@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Stonegate Elementary PTO.

HGBL League Information

We will be playing in the Hoosier Girls Basketball League (HGBL). We feel this program best meets the needs and goals of this program at this time. Game locations vary from week to week. Last year we hosted at ZMS about 6 times. Other game sites may be at other area schools (Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield, Brownsburg, Southport, etc.) or at The Fieldhouse in Fishers.

· Seasons

· HGBL Fall Season (for grades 3 thru 8) Games on Sunday afternoons beginning Sept 13 & ending on Nov 1st

· HGBL Fall II Season (for grades 7 and 8) Games on Sunday afternoons beginning Nov 1st thru Dec 8

· HGBL Winter Season (for grade 3 thru 6) Games on Sunday afternoons beginning Nov 8 thru Feb 14 end of season league tourney thru the end of Feb.

All girls who wish to play in the program will make a team. There will be a couple evaluation days for the girls and then teams will be formed.

Evaluations for fall team formation will occur at ZCHS on August 16 and August 23. It is encouraged to attend both dates but is not mandatory. Times will be as follows. Winter only players are encouraged to attend the fall evaluations: If needed, we will have a winter evaluation for those players who were unable to make one or both of the fall evaluation dates. Please report to the Freshman Center by entering door #11.

· Grades 3, 4 and 5 = 5pm-630pm · Grades 6, 7 and 8 = 630pm-8pm

September 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 NWEA Testing	**2** NWEA Testing	**3** NWEA Testing	**4** NWEA Testing
7 Labor Day No School	**8** Staff Development No School	**9** NWEA Testing	**10** NWEA Testing	**11**
14 CPR (Grade 8)	**15** CPR (Grade 8) New family Welcome Eagle Hall	**16** CPR (Grade 8)	**17** CPR (Grade 8)	**18** **CPR (Grade 8)** **Picture Retake Day** 11-1 pm, WR **5/6 Fun Night** 2:45 – 5:00 pm EH/SG
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
28	**29**	**30**		

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