The ZMS Review

August 2008

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

View From the Eagle's Nest

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed after a summer full of engaging family activity. It's hard to believe that it's time to turn attention to the upcoming school year, but the time draws near. Our staff is excited to welcome back our returning 6th, 7th and 8th graders, and we wish to extend a warm welcome to our incoming 5th graders, as well.

This school year will present many new and exciting opportunities. A group of our 6th graders will begin a pilot program using laptops throughout their academic day in an effort to focus on 21st Century skills. The future success of this program will allow us to expand this opportunity to serve more students and grade levels. In similar fashion, the entire ZMS staff will be extending the walls of the classroom through their own technological innovations using Angel – a software program that will allow classroom materials to be available within a select network of students, and will allow those same students to interact with one another and their teacher. Technology use is alive and well at ZMS!

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to new ZMS staff members. Ms. Danielle Palumbo and Mrs. Jane Becker will be joining the 8th grade staff and teaching science and social studies respectively. Ms. Palumbo graduated with honors from the Ohio Dominican University where she was also a 2-year Academic All-American softball player. Mrs. Becker is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and also notably the former president of the ZMS PTO. Lorean Michael will join our 6th grade staff as resource teacher after receiving the Academic Excellence Award from Ball State Teacher's College. Ms. Camden Mullis will be joining our band program from the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music where she was named Cincinnatus Scholar and Rosenthal Scholar. An esteemed group to be sure!

Now that we've established some new things to look for in '08-'09, I'm happy to announce the return to our normal lunch order where the 5th graders eat first and our 8th graders eat last. ZMS veterans will remember that last school year found this order flip-flopped, and we also combined 7th and 8th graders in one lunch shift. Now that our transition from one middle school to two is over, we are able to return to our regular schedule and each grade level will have its own lunch shift again. This will likely please our student body, and we're always happy to do that!

There are a few events that I would like to highlight before I close. (Details for each can be found within the newsletter.) Back to school days – when the students get their locker combinations and have their pictures taken) are August 11th and 12th. New Student Orientation (for students new to Zionsville) is August 13th from 10 am to 12 pm. 5th Grade Orientation is also on the 13th from 3:30-5:30. Both of those orientation events have a meeting for parents during the last half hour in Eagle Hall. Our 5/6 Open House is August 19th and our 7/8 Open House will be held on August 26th. Both events will take place from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

We hope that you are anticipating a fabulous school year, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

August Newsletter Highlights

- *PTO News*
- *Back to School Information*
- *Open House Dates*
- *Guidance Information*
- *Club News*
- *Sports*
- *PTO Calendar for August*
- *Yearbook Information*

Information for the September Newsletter should be submitted to Dee Dee Medaris (Ddmedaris@zmspto.org) by August 20, 2008.

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 #

School News

PTO President's Message

On behalf of Zionsville Middle School PTO, I would like to welcome all new & returning families to another school year. I hope everyone enjoyed an adventurous summer filled with fun, friends & family – perhaps even a bit of rest & relaxation!

To those who are new to Zionsville, I look forward to meeting you & hope you will be able to take advantage of the planned activities to make you feel part of the community. ZMS PTO is committed to helping your family make a smooth transition to our school & community. Please join ZMS on September 16, 2008 for the PTO's New Family Welcome. Also, filling out a New Family Form, reviewing the school website @ www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms, coming to a PTO meeting (2nd Tuesday of each month) &/or contacting Deb Kuller or Angie Leary, the New Family Co-Chairs, for school & community information can be helpful.

The 2008-09 ZMS PTO Board is looking forward to a productive & exciting school year. Parents, teachers & students coming together to create our thriving community are what make Zionsville special! To continue the success of ZMS, consider contributing to our main fundraiser…PTO Membership. Your donations support programs/activities that make a difference in the learning environment! PTO Membership funds sustain Principal/Teacher Grants, Student Study Tables, Wellness Initiatives, as well as other social & academic programs/ activities. Membership Forms may be printed off the PTO Website @ www.zmspto.org Thank you to all those who have already contributed to the 2008-09 PTO Membership Drive. My appreciation to Julie Rauschuber & Holly Waidelich, Membership VP's, for their dedication, organization & efforts in making the drive a success.

In addition to the monetary contributions, it takes many dedicated parents willing to donate their time to support the events planned for the students and families of ZMS. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available depending on your time and talents. Join us in creating an atmosphere that promotes pride in learning and school spirit! You may volunteer by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn McKnight @ dawnzumc@hotmail.com

Lastly, I would like to express gratitude and admiration to last years ZMS PTO Board, especially PTO President, Julie Rauschuber. Her leadership, endless commitment & teamwork made PTO a success as well as a great organization to be part of… I look forward to working with the 2008-09 ZMS community & anticipate an exciting, fun-filled year!
Thank you for your support,
Frances Pokrifcak,
ZMS PTO President

Parent Connect Upgraded to PEP

We're getting an upgrade for the 2008-2009 school year! Our upgrade from ParentCONNECT software to PEP (Personalized Education Plan) will allow you the same 24/7 access and provide more historical information than ever before.

Just like ParentCONNECT, PEP will be available 24/7 on the Internet allowing instant, but secured access. In addition to the current information provided by ParentCONNECT, PEP also provides:

- Information from the 2005-06 school year to present
- ISTEP and NWEA data - past and present

Please note that the email alerts function from ParentCONNECT will not be available via PEP. At best, email alerts were only available sometimes anyway due to system deficiencies with ParentCONNECT.

Questions, please contact Rhonda Fox at the Educational Services Center.

PTO News

Newsletter News

Please note that we have an exciting new feature in the newsletter this year! When you see a web site listed in the newsletter, you can click on the link and it will take you directly to that site. Please make sure that you have the latest updates for your Adobe Reader and this feature should work! We hope this makes it easier for you to get all the latest information from your PTO and ZMS!

Get involved be a PTO volunteer!

The PTO could use your help! Please email Dawn McKnight at dawnzumc@hotmail.com. Many opportunities are available including Back to School activities.

Spirit Wear

The ZMS PTO will be selling spirit wear again this year!

Please look for our us at the Back to School Days (August 11 & 12 from 12:30—6:00), New Student Orientation (August 13 from 10—12), 5th Grade Orientation (August 13 from 3:30 -5:30), 5th/6th Grade Open House (August 19 from 6—7:30, and 7th/8th Grade Open House (August 26 from 6:30—7:30)

Membership Drive

ZMS PTO would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the families that joined the PTO during our 2008-2009 Membership Drive. There is still time to join, if you haven't already. Please visit www.zmspto.org to obtain a Membership Form. For questions regarding membership please contact Julie Rauschuber at 769-5411 or Holly Waidelich at 769-1022.

ZMS Sports

ZMS Football

Zionsville Middle School Football for seventh and eighth graders begins soon. We will condition on Aug 4, 6 and 7 from 9-10:00 am. The parent meeting and equipment issue will begin at 5:00 pm on August 5. Both parents and players are expected at this meeting. The first practice begins Tuesday, August 12 at 3:00 pm. Players must have an IHSAA physical on file before participating.

Art Department

Yearbook Order Forms

Order your yearbook early and save money! Yearbooks will be $25 until October 31 and increase to $30 after. You may order online www.jostens.com/yearbook/index.asp or at the main office. An order form is also available on the PTO website www.zmspto.org.

Art Club

Art Club 5/6 will take place on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:45 beginning October 14. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Goodman in art room 406 on September 9 during the school day. This is when application forms will be available.

Yearbook Club

All students interested in joining the yearbook club please consider coming to a callout meeting on Wednesday, September 10 in room 406 from 2:45-3:30 pm. Interested students should have a desire to learn journalistic photography and writing styles.

Guidance News

REGISTRATION PACKETS

Thanks to all who so promptly returned the paperwork from the first registration packet in May. By now, you should have received the second packet which contained your child's schedule and fee statement along with other important information. Just a reminder that payments are due by August 1, 2008 and should be mailed to ZCS, P.O. Box 1126, Indianapolis, IN 46209-1126.

CHANGE IN DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Since we collected demographic information in May it is important that you contact the guidance department at 873-2426 ext. 3 with any changes to your phone numbers, address or email. We love being able to communicate with you so it is vitally important that you notify us at any time during the year that you have a change.

BACK TO SCHOOL DAYS

Back to School Days will be held on August 11 & 12 from 12:30-6:00 p.m. Students may come in and pick up a copy of their schedule with their locker assignment. They may want to practice opening their locker and even put supplies inside (please see the article in this newsletter re: lockers). They can also find their classes and tour the building during these times. You should plan to have his or her school picture taken on one of these days. You should have received a picture order form at home in the mail. We will have extra forms available at school on those days. We would highly encourage you to visit during Back to School Days since ZMS will be closed on Friday, August 15 as the teachers prepare for the first day of school.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

All students in grades 6, 7 & 8 who are new to Zionsville Community Schools are invited to our New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 13th from 10:00am-12:00pm. This is a great opportunity for you to come and meet some of our staff members, other new students as well as some students who already attend ZMS. It's also a great time for you to become more familiar with the building. Lunch will served and prizes will be awarded. Parents are invited to attend from 11:30-12:00 for their own orientation meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to Zionsville Middle School!

5th GRADE ORIENTATION

All incoming 5th grade students are invited to Eagle Orientation on Wednesday, August 13th from 3:30-5:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for 5th graders to come and meet some of our teachers and their classmates. They will also have the opportunity to practice their lockers and become more familiar with the school as they participate in a scavenger hunt. Parents of incoming 5th graders are invited to an informational meeting from 5:00-5:30. We look forward to seeing you all in August!

2008-2009 School Counselors

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

Guidance News (Continued)

Ideas to Keep Your Locker Neat and Organized

5th grade

You will use your locker to keep your lunches, small musical items, and personal items. (large band instruments will be kept in the band room)

Books and supplies will remain in your classroom desk

6th grade

Your locker will be used similarly to how the 5th grade lockers are used.

You will begin transitioning more items to your locker as instructed by your teacher.

7th and 8th grade

You get to keep all items in your locker.

Items might include: books, coats, lunches, small musical instruments, and personal items

Decorating Your Locker

The inside of your locker is an expression of YOU!

It may be decorated with items approved by your parents and that are school appropriate.

Please refrain from using items that might damage the locker. (stickers, duct tape, or materials that could damage the paint)

We suggest that you don't use magnets on the inside of the locker as they sometimes slide down and jam the lock.

Make sure that before you place any item on the outside of your locker that you have the item approved by a staff member.

Locker Shelves

When used properly, locker shelves can be a great addition to your locker.

Due to the size of the lockers, only use one shelf and use caution to make sure it is not in line with the lock. (also make sure that your shelf selection does not raise the books to the point that they are in line with the lock)

Your shelf should measure **10 ½ inches deep and 11 ½ inches wide**. A larger size can damage lockers and often cause them to jam.

Please keep backpacks with wheels on them at home. They do not fit in our lockers. Rollerblades, skateboards and athletic equipment should be stored in a bag and may need to be stored in an athletic locker or classroom if they do not fit easily in your locker.

Please refrain from storing open beverage or food containers in your locker.

Remember that your locker combination is a personal matter. While friendships in middle school change throughout the year, locker combinations do not. Do not share your combination or your locker with anyone. If you need help with your locker, please ask a staff member for assistance.

Guidance News (Continued)

Open House 2008-2009

Save the Date!!

Come meet your new teachers for the 2008-2009 academic year at Open House.

5th and 6th grade families should mark their calendars for August 19, 2008 from 6-7:30 P.M. The evening will include meeting the core academic teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors.

7th and 8th grade families are invited to attend Open House on August 26, 2008 from 6-7:30 P.M. The evening will begin promptly at 6 P.M. in the gym followed by a mini-schedule format. At that time, parents will have the opportunity to meet all seven academic teachers as they experience a brief version of a typical day at ZMS.

Please plan to attend!

August Character Trait, Curiosity

Children with **curiosity** have a desire for knowledge. Children display this trait when they ask questions, seek answers, and want to learn more about the world and their place in it.

To encourage the skill of curiosity, begin with parent and child explorations for answers. Nurture an interest in exploring life's "who, what, when, where, why, and how" kinds of questions and continually complement your children's efforts to be curious. Families will find it enjoyable to research their children's questions. What children need is continuous motivation to use their research technique skills.

Suggested activities for grades 5-8:

* Share "I wonder" statements with your children that will lead to questions.

* Discuss fact and fiction and then how inquiry (observation, asking questions, and research) assists in being able to tell the difference between what is real and what is make believe. Talk about the difference between facts and opinions.

* Together, observe a change in your community. Are parks being developed, is a new shopping area coming in, are older homes being renovated or new homes being built? Discuss why this change may have occurred. Consider both the positive and negative impacts on your community. Keep in mind that it is okay to have difference of opinion.

* Encourage your children to start a hobby.

Reference *The Learning Lunchbox Family Guide*, TM 2008 Outreach Communications LLC Pages 80-81

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Supply lists for all grade levels are posted online at www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms.

Check it out!

Cafeteria News

On behalf of the Zionsville Community School's Food Service Department, at this time each year it is my pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to all!

As you may imagine, the increased prices that consumers find in the grocery store and gas stations have certainly impacted our program. We did anticipate this increase last spring and were fortunate that our Board of School Trustees had the foresight to approve lunch price increases to help us address this issue. We will continue to monitor our situation closely and look for ways to work efficiently.

Beginning the 2008-09 school year, lunches at the elementary level (grades K-4) will be $1.75 and secondary level lunches (grades 5-12) will be $1.95. Additional student lunches and adult lunches will be priced at $2.75. We believe our lunches are a considerable value and we want you to know that our focus will continue to be on the quality and nutritional value of products served.

As mentioned, expenses are a major focus for us this year; however we have other exciting issues to address. If you should come visit us in the cafeteria after August 18th you will observe our new uniforms! Last year we formed a committee to select a new, professional and easily maintained look. We are excited at the change and eager to obtain feedback.

September 6, 2008 marks the fifth consecutive year that our Department will participate in the Fall Festival Parade. We have exciting plans which include "Bobby Banana", courtesy of Dole Food Company. We hope to see you during the parade!

We continue to have a webpage filled with pertinent information such as menus, nutrition tips, recipes, etc. at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm. In addition, our webpage provides notification of position openings if you should have a desire to explore career possibilities with us!

As in the past, we continue our involvement with the Meal Assistance program. Each family should have received an Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals and Other Benefits. This is a form which after being completed, approved and implemented can provide valuable assistance for those in need. Instructions were included with the application, but please note that only one application is required for the entire family, regardless if siblings are in different ZCS school locations. If anyone is in need of an Application, please call the Food Service Office at 873-1232.

Please also note that if you send lunch deposits for more than one of your children, you can simply send one check with a notation of the PIN numbers for each child. This might save you both checks and time! The best part is, your children can be in different schools and you can simply write one check! Please contact your school Cafeteria for any questions. Contact names and emails are also available through our webpage at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm.

Our department continues to value the support of our students, parents, faculty and administration. We thank each one of you and hope that everyone has a fabulous start to a positively remarkable school year! Jan Swander, Food Service Director & the entire ZCS Cafeteria Staff

ZEF

Who We Are—The Zionsville Education Foundation (ZEF) is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive impact on public education in Zionsville. Our mission is to provide funds that promote academic excellence. We share Zionsville Community Schools' vision to instill a lifelong desire for knowledge and learning. **What We Do**—We fulfill our mission by awarding over $125,000 to educators in Zionsville Community Schools. ZEF supports all Zionsville Community Schools, but there's more to be done.

How You Can Help—Give your time, talent and energy to ZEF. Make a donation! Your tax deductible donation directly impacts the classroom experience and your child. Go to the website to find out more information at www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org. Make a donation or contact our office. Donation form available at http://zmspto.org.

August 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 Back to School Days (includes school pictures) 12:30 - 6:00 p.m.	12 Back to School Days (includes school pictures) 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. PTO Meeting 9:15	13 **New Student Orientation** 10:00 - 12:00 (parent meeting at 11:30) **5th Grade Orientation** 3:30 - 5:30 (parent meeting at 5:00)	14 Tennis Parent Meeting 6:00 pm, LGI	15
18 **First Student Day**	19 5/6 Open House 6-7:30 pm	20	21	22
25 CPR Parent Meeting Grades 6, 7 and 8 6:30 pm, EH & LGI NWEA Testing	26 7/8 Open House 6-7:30 pm NWEA Testing	27 NWEA Testing	28 NWEA Testing	29 NWEA Testing

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