The ZMS Review

March 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

View From the Eagle's Nest

http://sconner007.edublogs.org/2009/02/26/school-reform-accepting-the-challenge/

Use the Link above to Comment on Mr. Conner's Blog

I listened with interest as President Obama addressed Congress for the first time in his young tenure. The topics raised were what most would expect: the struggling economy, health care, energy production, international relations and education. As a school principal, my attention was most rapt when the speech turned to education and its necessary reform.

Zionsville Middle School is not the image most people conjure when the topic of school reform is broached. Most would hold our institution up as an example to emulate – a model for others to follow. Our edifice is full of teachers who artfully practice a craft that they enjoy and students who arrive interested and ready to learn because their parents make their child's education a high priority. ZMS has all of the elements necessary to create unbridled success. Interestingly, those are precisely the same ingredients that could lead to complacency and stagnation. Because by most any measurement our school compares favorably, the necessity to evolve and improve is less apparent and, thus, less compelling – a situation parallel to that of our fine nation prior to our financial crisis.

I am happy to report that complacency and stagnation have not taken root at ZMS, though I must acknowledge times when some have questioned the need to change because of our tremendous track record. Human nature dictates that repetition is soothing, and change is unsettling. The known is safe, the unknown is uncertain. Despite this pattern, our teachers have recognized that instructional strategies of the 1970's and '80's – the decades in which many of our educators and most of our parents matriculated in and graduated from school – are not good enough to create leaders in tomorrow's global economy. We continuously seek to re-tool our instructional practices not because of any hint of obsolescence, rather in recognition of a new set of skills required for our students' future success in a much different, highly competitive and ever-changing global workforce.

In his address Obama stated, "In a global economy, where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity. It is a pre-requisite." He continued, "…we know the countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow. That is why it will be the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education, from the day they are born to the day they begin a career. That is a promise we have to make to the children of America."

New initiatives such as Angel, our 1:1 laptop program, and the like are examples of the evolution of the school experience. 21st Century skills, creative problem solving, collaboration, interdisciplinary projects and real-world problems are all fixtures of our vernacular. We are learning to customize educational experiences for individual learners. We are grappling with new terms like digital literacy and digital citizenship. We are redefining school.

Our president challenged us when he stated, "Well, I do not accept a future where the jobs and industries of tomorrow take root beyond our borders, and I know you don't, either. It is time for America to lead again." ZMS is ready to do its part.

March Newsletter Highlights

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Information for the April Newsletter should be submitted to Dee Dee Medaris (Ddmedaris@zmspto.org) by March 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

PTO President's Message

March Madness is upon us and the excitement of spring activities is causing a yearning for warmer weather and sunny skies. Students and parents alike are looking forward to Spring Break…as well as outdoor recess, the Walking Club and Z'Run. Lace up your shoes and get ready to join ZMS on our path to wellness!

Research shows every child should get 60 minutes of physical activity per day. There are many options from organized sports, riding bikes, jumping rope and running around with friends to dance, karate and yoga. All are great opportunities for Zionsville youth to explore the benefits of exercise to promote a better, healthier way of life.

The 7th annual Z'Run, along with the newly established "No Excuses" Health Fair wants to encourage good lifelong fitness habits. Please mark your calendars on April 25, 2009 at 9am and join us for a community 5K and family 1-mile fun walk. Fun, friends, family and fitness in addition to educational demonstrations and exhibitions, medical screenings, a blood drive and much more!

Thank you to Angela Carr, Shannon Ross and Becky Yates for hosting the Staff Appreciation Cookie Walk on February 6, 2009. Trays and trays of cookies, brownies and other baked treats were available for teachers and staff to chose from as they assembled boxes of goodies to take home and enjoy! ZMS PTO is grateful to the numerous volunteer bakers who were kind enough to supply all the delectable treats.

Thank you to Chantelle Dodson, Sharon Vlasak and the many volunteers on their committee that help organize and host the 5/6th grade Fun Night on February 20th. In addition to enjoying music, Guitar Hero and inflatables, the 5/6th grade group collected stuffed animals to donate to a variety of charitable organizations. Fun and Philanthropy--Good Job!

Lastly, ZMS PTO appreciates the many families and groups that participated in the Monical's / ZMS Community Fund-raiser on February 23, 2009. Family and friends partaking in a food fundraiser—what could be better?

Thank you for your continued support and please have a safe and fun Spring Break!
Sincerely,
Frances Pokrifcak, ZMS PTO President

No Hassle Fundraising

Please continue to clip and collect Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels for Education and Tyson Project A+ labels. You can drop off your labels at the front office of ZMS. To view eligible items go to :

www.boxtops4education.com ,
www.campbellsoup.com and /or
http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com

ZMS is still competing for a Pump It Up Party at the end of the school year . The top 5 Indianapolis area classes that brings in the most Box Tops from September through March 15, 2009 will win a free party. The teachers will receive either a $25 or $50 Visa gift card. Please keep clipping and sending in your Box Tops. Congratulations to Mr. Skuras Class for being the winning February box top/label collectors! They will have the honor of keeping the "Hand" recycled chair for the next month. PTO truly appreciates your continued support!

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream!

Students bring your dollars on the following dates:

March 20; April 24 and May 21 (Thursday)

and purchase an ice cream sundae during lunch. The proceeds from these sales benefit the 8th grade party.

Ice Cream Sales are Scooper!

A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers for February's sale:
Sarah Penczek, Sabine Abbitt, Margaret Reid, Ann Hall, Shannon Ross, and Laura Pinegar
These parents scooped 472 sundaes this month! Our next sale is March 20!

PTO News (Continued)

8TH GRADE PARTY/LUAU

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

6:00-8:30 PM ZMS

Attire: Casual/School Dress Code applies.

Questions contact Shannon Ross

(skross90@hotmail.com)

Or Ann Hall

(annjdhall@yahoo.com)

8th Grade Luau T-Shirt Information

Watch for an email from guidance with t-shirt information. It will have dates for when sample size shirts will be available during lunch, when orders are due, and when delivery can be expected.

REMINDER TO 7TH/8TH PARENTS

7TH/8TH FUN NIGHT WILL BE MARCH 20TH FROM 6-8 P.M.

ONLY STUDENTS WHO ATTEND

ZMS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND

STUDENTS MUST STAY IN THE BUILDING UNTIL 8 P.M. UNLESS AN ADULT COMES IN THE BUILDING TO PICK THEM UP

FREE ADMISSION…RAFFLE PRIZES…

CONCESSIONS/PIZZA FOR SALE

INFLATABLES, GAMES, DJ, BASKETBALL…FUN FOR ALL!!

CANNED GOOD DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED & RAFFLE TICKETS AWARDED FOR EACH CANNED GOOD DONATED.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT

KAYSTEBBINS@YAHOO.COM OR

CANDACE.REID@ERA.COM TO SIGN UP TODAY!!

DONATIONS FOR DECORATIONS, RAFFLE PRIZES, ETC. WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED…PLEASE CONTACT KAY OR

YOU CAN HELP!

In keeping with our "no-hassle" fundraising program, we would like to offer another way in which you can help support the many PTO sponsored activities. By simply donating your old cell phones and empty ink cartridges, you will be changing your trash into valuable cash for our school. It's as easy as dropping off your items in a marked box at the front office. This is a great way to dispose of your trash! Thank you for your support.

PTO Wellness Corner

March's Healthy Habit:

Burn fuel instead of storing fat without having to go to the gym 24/7! Do NEAT! What is NEAT – Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis the calories you burn doing everything that isn't going to the gym, sleeping, or eating. Life impacts NEAT and NEAT impacts life. Sit less move from your tush to your toes at home and at work. Here are simple ways to increase your NEAT – and decrease your carbon footprint.

Shovel snow-leave the snow blower in the garage.

Use a push mower to cut grass-not a sit down tractor.

Cook meals at home-don't go to a restaurant

Have friends over for dinner or game night. Keep the TV off!

Stand up when talking on phone and answering emails

Use a whisk instead of an electric beater.

Hold walking meetings in the park.

Hand deliver your messages

These suggestions might seem simple but they do add up to major calories burned.

So think about increasing your NEAT everyday and your heart will thank you for it!

Coming Up:

Please check the April newsletter and the school announcements after spring break for more information on the Walking Club and the Training Club for the Z-Run. We are looking forward to a great spring with activities for both Clubs.

Guidance News

ISTEP

This is the first time the state will be administering ISTEP testing in the spring. 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:

Monday, March 2 - Wednesday, March 11 Monday, April 27 - Wednesday, May 6

NWEA

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 and 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. Tuesday, April 7 – Tuesday, April 21

Orleans-Hanna

This test will be taken in all the 7th grade math classes. The Orleans-Hanna test measures the skill level a student has for Algebra. There are a total of 57 questions. Each student has 45 minutes to complete this test. A score of 50 and above would be considered very capable of doing Algebra related skills. The score a student gets on this test does not have any impact on the 3rd quarter grade.

Silver Team is Thursday, March 19 White Team is Friday, March 20

21st Century Scholars Program

Eligible 7th- and 8th-graders 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. Twenty-first Century Scholars sends applications to schools with 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.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.

Core 40 Testing

All students taking Algebra will be required to take the Core 40 Test. The test will be administered on May 12 and 13, 2009. As part of Indiana's school accountability system under Public Law 221, Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs) are designed to ensure the quality, consistency, and rigor of Core 40 courses across the state. Aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards, End-of-Course Assessments are final exams measuring what students know and are able to do upon completion of targeted Core 40 courses. In addition, the End-of-Course Assessments are an integral component of Indiana's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement. As a part of this vision, these exams would serve an additional purpose of providing valuable information for college placement.

Operation ICU

The following students were "caught" being honest, helping peers, accepting others for their differences, and being great role models. The Counselors would like to congratulate the following students on receiving an ICU award: 5th Grade: Monte Chester, James Haydock, Megan Tiller: 6th Grade: Jordan Grammas, Russell Guinn, Ashlee McBride, Caroline Horn: 7th Grade: Saleem Abufares, Michelle Long, Cole Matthews, Becky Miller, Emily Nelson, Andrew Overhage, Camile Roberts, Grant Schultz; 8th Grade: Jessica McFarland, Alec Simmons, Maggie Smith, Emily Newcomer, David Blaising-Wimmer

High School Placement Test for Algebra & Algebra AT students

Students who are currently taking Algebra or Algebra AT will be given a high school placement test on Friday, March 20, 2009. This test is used in the decision making process for Geometry placement next year.

Guidance News (Continued)

Social Health Program for 5th Grade

For a number of years, Zionsville Community Schools have offered programs on human growth and development for fifth grade boys and girls. In a continuing effort to provide a comprehensive education for your child, we will be providing a one hour and fifteen minute presentation on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, titled Human Growth and Development. The Social Health Association of Central Indiana will conduct this presentation. Parents may view the presentation on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. in Eagle Hall at Zionsville Middle School or on Monday, March 23, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. at Zionsville West Middle School. Detailed information will be sent via email. A hard copy of this information will be sent home with your student on Monday, March 2, 2009. This program is offered on a voluntary basis. The letter must be returned to the guidance office, no later than April 6, only if you **DO NOT** wish to grant permission for your child to participate in this program.

Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program/7th Grade Students

The Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Young Scholars Program application period is open for eligible seventh-grade students. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program supports hundreds of high-achieving students with financial need across the United States. Young Scholars receive funding to participate in academic summer programs, extracurricular lessons, distance learning courses, and other enrichment opportunities. Throughout their time in the program, Scholars work closely with an educational advisor who helps them plan an academic and talent development path to prepare them to enter top universities. Most Young Scholars receive a college scholarship from JKC. Seventh graders who value academic excellence, determination, leadership, and public service are encouraged to apply for the JKC Young Scholars Program. Applicants must have demonstrated financial need-- typically, a family income below $60,000. In assessing financial need, the Foundation considers factors such as family income and assets, the number of siblings in college, exceptional family medical expenses, and geographic differences in the cost of living. For more details about the program and how to apply, visit the Web site www.jkcf.org. Applications are due on Monday, April 27, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy at 847-491-7127 or tammie-stewart@northwestern.edu.

March Character Trait, Perseverance

Our children display **perseverance** when they can stick to an activity or assignment even when school or life's events are challenging. The ability to continually "try your best" is a developed skill, one which will serve your children throughout their academic and personal lives.

Perseverance is an "acquired" skill. It's easy to complete tasks that are fun and engaging. The difficulty arises when the task is difficult, uninteresting, and the process of completing it is long and arduous. Regardless of age, we are tempted to put off these types of activities. You can be of substantial assistance to your children by helping them develop a strong sense of perseverance.

Perseverance is demonstrated in younger children when they are able to stick to an activity for longer periods of time. In older children, perseverance is displayed when they aspire to become a member of a club, sports team, or to play an instrument and see the activity through to the end. Perseverance is demonstrated when they follow through their best effort to completion.

When helping your child to solve a problem with a new solution, be sure to not be critical if the way they come to the solution is different then your way. Follow their lead and reward them for their effort and perseverance. Once completed, you might help your children look at different ways to finish the task or solve the problem.

Suggested activities for grades 5-8:

* As a family, plant a garden. Together you can watch the fruits, vegetables, and flowers grow. Lessons learned in the garden range from "We reap what we sow" to "We have to stick with it if we want to see the fruits of our labor."

* Jointly select and play increasingly complex board and card games that may last for more than a few hours. Try chess, Yahtzee, Monopoly, Uno, or Scrabble. Have a family tournament with numerous playoff rounds.

* When your children are going on an overnight with a friend, encourage them to prepare their personal belongings by thinking about what they need. Have your children plan ahead to ensure that they have clean clothes and emergency contact numbers.

* Allow your children to set up a tent with a friend in your yard. Encourage them to think ahead about what they need for the evening. Persistence exists in the planning and follow-through.

* Build a model with your children.

Have your children research something that they would like to buy. Work with them to save up money for the item and then buy it.

Reference *The Learning Lunchbox Family Guide*, TM 2008 Outreach Communications LLC Pages 82, 83, 97, & 111

ZMS Sports

2009 Track Team Callout

On March 17th from 2:45 - 3:30, the track team will hold its callout meeting in the LGI. All interested 6th - 8th graders are welcome to attend. The first practice will be March 23rd from 3 - 4:15. **You must have physical and emergency forms on file to participate in practice.** Both forms are available online at http://www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms/Athletics.html. There will be a parent meeting after practice on March 24th. The meeting will be from 4:30 - 5:15 in the LGI. Please contact Mr. Koch (pkoch@zcs.k12.in.us) or Mr. Rowe (trowe@zcs.k12.in.us) if you have any questions.

Wrestling News

At the mid-point in the season the team has massed 6-2 record. On Feb 14, ZMS hosted their annual invitational. It is an individual tournament. Place winners were: 4th place : Nathan Valle, Heston Godby, Pierce Hitchens, Cole Wendt, Placing 3rd were: Rex Barrett, Austin Graef, Sam Kern, Mitch Schubert, Mitch Rhodes, Jacob Aven. Placing 2nd were: Casey Brochhagen, Hunter Schubert, Tyler Glenn, Jim Carr, Austin Brewer, Taking 1st place were: Preston Mantel, Mitch Weber, Austin Simpson, Kyle Plummer and Noah Rodgers. Congratulations to the team. ZMS will host the first Heartland conference wrestling meet on March 7th. Wrestling begins at 9am. Come out and support your eagles.

ZMS Cheerleaders

We have had a wonderful basketball season this year. Thank you to all the cheerleaders and their families for your support during basketball. To celebrate, we will be having our end of the season party on Thursday, March 5 from 3 to 5. Please meet in Coach Faulkner's classroom. Remember to bring your uniforms and warm-ups.

Softball Try-outs

7th and 8th grade softball call-outs were on February 23rd from 2:45-3:00 in the LGI room. Softball Pre-Tryout Parent Meeting will be Monday, March 2 from 5:30 pm in the LGI Room. We will be going over all information regarding try-outs and important season information. If you are unable to attend please see Coach Faulkner prior to the meeting to get the information and to sign up. You can also call at 873-2426 ext. 13802 or e-mail at tfaulkner@zcs.k12.in.us with any questions.

Art Department

Yearbook

If you have any photos for the yearbook that include students at work in the classroom or at events related to school, such as sports or clubs, please send a cd to Mrs. Goodman or Mrs. Valencourt. Thank you!

8th Grade Art

Miss Bond's 8th grade art students will be taking a field trip on Thursday, April 16th to the Indianapolis Museum of Art to view the contemporary art galleries. We are in need of 9 parent chaperones to make this trip a success. If you are interested please contact Miss Bond via email or at ext. 13408.

Yearbook Order Forms

Yearbooks are for sale for $30. 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.

17th Annual Spring Fling

When: Wednesday, April 29th

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: 400 art hallway, Eagle Hall, and the academic hallways.

Book Fair—Free Admission– Concession Stand Open– Cake Walk

Spring Fling is an opportunity for students and staff to showcase the results of hard work and learning that has taken place throughout the school year. Exhibits, demonstrations, and performances will be scheduled during this open house. Please plan to join us as we celebrate Spring Fling '09 at ZMS. Hope to see you there!

Musical Notes

Music Department News

On March 14, ZMS will be hosting a Non-Competitive Festival, sponsored by the Indiana Music Educators Association. 40 music groups will perform, throughout the day, for a panel of clinicians. Every group will receive written comments on their performance, audio comments, a video tape, a plaque, and a clinic. There are concerts and clinics all day long, and they are all free and open to the public .

ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) Solo and Ensemble Contest

Congratulations to all students who participated in the ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) Solo and Ensemble Contest on Jan. 31 at Avon High School. In Orchestra, we had 10 soloists and 4 ensembles performing, and all performers received Gold or Silver ratings. Cellist Katie McCarthy and violinist Miranda Bernard each scored a Gold in the top performing level (Group I) and will perform again at the State Level on Feb. 28.

Congratulations—A Perfect Score

Congratulations to 7th Grade violinist Miranda Bernard who earned a PERFECT Score and a Gold Medal at the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Event on Feb. 21. It is rare for a middle school student to earn a chance to perform at the state level, and it is very rare for ANYONE to receive a perfect score!!

8th Grade General Music Class

Thank you PTO for providing funding for Young Audiences dancer Laurie Cutsinger, who visited the 8th grade General Music Class to teach about Western Line Dancing and improvisation. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to get up and move, and Mrs. Cutsinger makes it so much fun!!

Volunteers Needed

Attention all parents: We still need volunteers at the IMEA Non-Competitive Festival on March 14. We can always use hall monitors -- you can bring the paper and sit, or you can use it as a workout and high-step it through our hallways and up and down the stairs. We also need video-taping, announcing, and headquarters. We also need people to help move chairs and stands in between performing groups. Please let Kathleen Swayze know if you would like to help! kswayze@zcs.k12.in.us

March Band News

March starts to get busy for our band students! Here's an update about what to expect this month.

ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest Results:

Our students performed extremely well and should be proud of their accomplishments at the district solo and ensemble contest. We had over 80 entries, which included soloists and ensembles, perform on February 1st at Avon High School. Austin Graef advanced to the state level and received a Gold Rating!

Performances:

6th grade and 7th grade will participate in the IMEA non-competitive festival held right here at ZMS on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Times are:

6th Grade Band	7th Grade Band
Arrive at 7 AM	Arrive at 9:45 AM
Warm-up at 7:15AM	Warm-up at 10:05AM
Perform at 8 AM	Perform at 10:40 AM
Clinic until 8:30AM	Clinic until 11:10 AM

Your students will bring home a handout with more information regarding this performance.

The 8th grade band will perform on March 21st at the ISSMA Organizational Contest. We are expecting to find out about our performance time soon. We will be at Westfield High School. Please watch for your students to bring home a handout and permission slip when this information has arrived.

Thanks as always for your parental support. We couldn't do it without you!

School News

Pre-Arranged Absences

We believe that being a Four Star School (top 25% in the State) is very important. School-wide attendance is one of the measurements used in determining a Four Star School. Every effort should be made to schedule pre-arranged absences at times other than school days. If this in unavoidable, the parent must notify the school to prearrange absences at least 2 days prior to the absence. If the school does not receive notification at least 2 days prior to the absence, the absence will be considered unexcused. If the student has more than 10 days absence a year including the pre-arranged absences, any days over the 10 day absence limit will be considered unexcused.

After the parents have notified the school of the pre-arranged absence, the student should pick up a Pre-Arranged Absence Form from the receptionist. Each teacher should sign the form and determine when make up work will be due. Once every teacher and a parent sign the form, the student should return it to the receptionist. The form needs to be turned in at least 2 days prior to the absence.

7/8 Student Council

Student council members have been busy planning for a spring door decorating contest, Staff Appreciation Week, and the remaining dress days. Student council members recently raised $700 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and they are continuing to collect money for a number of children's hospitals through their student council dress days. March 20th will be "Crazy Sock Day".

American Girl Club

The march through U.S. history is up to 1934 (Kit) and the Great Depression. Join us on March 10, 2:45-3:45 pm in the LGI room for food, fun, games, and crafts. There is no cost to attend, and since each meeting is a different period in history, new friends are welcome at any time. Susan Bigler

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Zionsville Middle School will present C.S. Lewis' classic tale, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, on Thursday, March 5th and Friday, March 6tht at 7 p.m. Travel to Narnia with Zionsville's talented young performers. The show will take place in Eagle Hall and the doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets are $3 for students and seniors, $4 for adults, and $12 for a family.

Crash Course in Writing for Incoming Freshman

Knowing what is expected in a high school English class ahead of time is valuable, and this course helps build the necessary skill sets, as well as student confidence. This is a week long course that focuses on the essentials of exemplary high-school level writing. We'll meet two hours daily to learn the tricks of the trade, practice, read from "the greats," share our own work, and discuss what makes for a "good" piece of writing. Designed to allow students the chance to write in a comfortable, relaxed, and creative environment, this crash course will benefit any incoming freshman. It's highly recommended for those incoming freshmen new to the HA/Honors program. Details and registration can be found in the Eagle Recreation Summer Program Bulletin; cost is $125.00 per student with three different sessions to choose from. If you have questions, please contact Christie Clark, ZCHS English teacher, at this address: cclark@zcs.k12.in.us

Sign-Up for the Zionsville Town e-Newsletter!

The Zionsville Town Council launched its Enhanced Access and Responsiveness (EARs) initiative to improve communication between the public and Town officials. As part of the EARs initiative, Town Hall provides a monthly email newsletter to keep the public supplied with the latest Town Council news (board meeting information, public hearings, and more). The monthly email newsletter provides the Town with an extremely cost-effective way to keep you apprised of local activities and events. We hope you will sign-up to get the latest news about Zionsviile delivered straight to your desktop by visiting the Town website at www.zionsville-in.gov.
Thanks in advance for your participation, Zionsville Town Council

Cafeteria News

In an attempt to hold our costs down and continue departmental improvements we have recently joined a new food Co-Op. This group is composed of many local school districts and is associated with the Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC). Obviously we are hopeful that our food and supply costs will improve or hold steady in the year ahead. While we have always networked within our industry and did in fact belong to another Co-Op, this year provides a new opportunity to interact and learn techniques from a different set of our peers.

Recently we have received some exciting news from food manufacturer's representatives. Our Frito Lay representative provided information regarding their eagerness to promote products which qualify as healthier options. In fact, they are in the midst of re-formulating a Grandma's Cookie™, which will be introduced in the fall of 2009. Our representative from General Mills shared a whole wheat biscuit and Pillsbury mini pancakes, both of which were taste tested with great success! The best part about many of the products, beyond the taste testing, is the fact that they are considered healthier options!

Our industry is fortunate to work with many food manufacturers that have a genuine concern for the health and well being of kids! Having the opportunity to work with such concerned companies makes our jobs in the school cafeterias a whole lot easier!

As always, thanks for your continued support of our program. Our webpage located at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm will provide additional information to you regarding the Food Service Department.

Jan Swander, ZCS Food Service Director

A NEW BREAKFAST PROGRAM AT ZIONSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mornings can be really hectic! The alarm doesn't go off, the kids don't want to get up, there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes or they're just not ready to eat. Or maybe your teenager grabs a can of soda and a candy bar on the way to school. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you.

Beginning February 18, an expanded Breakfast Program is available at Zionsville Middle School! Take advantage of this option to ensure your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Recent studies show a link between nutrition and learning. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can actively participate in class. Breakfast has vitamins and nutrients for a strong and healthy body. Breakfast at school is affordable, too. If you qualify for free and reduced price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program, with no additional paperwork. The price for a breakfast meal, which includes an entrée item, juice, and milk, is only $1.40. If your student currently receives reduced-price lunches, the breakfast meal is only 30 cents. If your student currently receives free lunches, then he or she can receive a free breakfast meal as well. In addition to meals, a variety of a la carte items are available for purchase.

So take advantage of this opportunity to start the day on the right foot. Your child will find breakfast at school provides not only a nutritious meal but also a relaxed atmosphere for socializing with peers before school. Breakfast is served in the Cafeteria from 7:15 a.m. to 7:40 a.m.

Information obtained from the USDA-FNS Discover School Breakfast Toolkit

Check out our café web page at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm! It has all the last information and menus.

March 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 **Parent Meeting (Incoming 6th, 7th and 8th Graders)** 6:30 pm, EH **Softball Pre-Tryout Parent Meeting** 5:30 pm, LGI **ISTEP Testing**	**3** **ISTEP Testing**	**4** **ISTEP Testing**	**5** **7/8 Drama Performance** 7:00 pm, EH **ISTEP Testing**	**6** **7/8 Drama Performance** 7:00 pm, EH **5/6 Choir Concert (IMEA)** 3:30 - 4:30 pm, EH **ISTEP Testing**
9 **ISTEP Testing**	**10** **ISTEP Testing**	**11** **Social Health Parent Meeting** 6:30 pm, EH **ISTEP Testing**	**12** **David Lubar Presentation (6th Grade)** 9:00 - 10:15 AM, EH	**13** **14** **IMEA Festival**
16	**17** **Hank Fincken (6th Grade)** 8:30 am, EH **IB Information Meeting** 6:30 pm, EH **SB Parent Meeting** 5:30 pm **Boys/Girls Track Call-out Meeting** 2:45 pm, LGI	**18** **1:1 Laptop Parent Meeting** 6:00 pm, LGI	**19**	**20** **7/8 Fun Night** 6:00 - 8:00 pm SG/EH
23 **Exploratory Finals**	**24** **Track Parent Meeting** 4:30 pm, LGI **Tech Final (Day 2)**	**25** **Parent-Teacher Conferences** 10:35 am Dismissal (5/6 only)	**26** **Parent-Teacher Conferences** 10:35 am Dismissal (5/6 only) **End of the Nine Weeks**	**27** **Snow Makeup Day #4** **27** **Spring Break**

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