The ZMS Review

November 2008

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

View From the Eagle's Nest

I write this article at 38,000 feet, an appropriate place to find myself while returning from a conference entitled "Taking Technology Above and Beyond." A team of 5 teachers and I – thanks to the generous financial support of the Zionsville Education Foundation – have spent the past three days in Denver hearing from middle school educators nationwide and from educational experts across the land.

The lessons learned are numerous and varied. First and foremost, we affirmed that the ZMS staff is ahead of the national wave in terms of our technology use in the classroom. A simultaneous message is that our progress in this direction is not sufficient. The truth of the matter is that schools – including our own – are blocking the pathway to using the interactive technologies that ought to be central to our educational scheme.

Freely admitting we are doing something we shouldn't sounds like an odd message to come from a principal. Maybe it's just the perspective that 38,000 feet gives a person, but it appears to me that such a fundamental shift requires an entire school community's understanding and support. Connecting ourselves with the world at large requires access to blog sites, having the opportunity to not simply read from outside sources, but also to write to them. Web 2.0 is a collaborative, interactive place. Unfortunately, our society has relegated interactivity to the danger zone, and fears that every site, which allows communication between people from different places, harbors the bogeyman.

I do not suggest that the internet is free of poor content, pornographic or otherwise, but I do believe that our students need to be taught to be wise and safe digital citizens, and blocking them from all interactive sites not only keeps us away from quality academic content, it also keeps us from teaching our students 21st Century skills that will be necessary in their personal and professional lives. Interestingly, many of our students do not have these restraints out of school and are exploring without instruction regarding what good digital citizenship entails and requires.

More importantly, while our society is fearful and reluctant to open our access to these tools and connections, other cultures do not share our reticence. As the economy becomes more global and globally competitive, our children are at a disadvantage in 21st Century abilities, knowledge and awareness.

So what then am I asking of ZMS parents? It is my hope that each of us reevaluates our notion of what constitutes a good site and a bad site, examines what advantages global networking offers, and experiences the positive outcomes of the collaboration available with Web 2.0. The best example of such activity is Wikipedia – a site that most do not understand fully and fear partially. This collaborative effort is an amazingly massive and constantly evolving resource. One part of this site, Wiki books, is blocked in our school because people can write about books they have read. My professional opinion is that we should not be blocking our children from reading and writing about books. This change, however, cannot occur until we all begin to shift the way we think about global connectivity and open collaboration.

That's easy for me to say, though, there is no bogeyman at 38,000 feet!

Pajama Grams Are Back…

What is a Pajama Gram? It is a PJ set accompanied with a personal message from the student's friend or family, wrapped in a bow and delivered to his/her homeroom or Soar class the week of 12/15. The PJ's make a great holiday gift as cozy lounge wear to relax in during cold winter nights…they also are comfy to wear during the stressful hours of studying for finals! Order Forms are on line at www.zmspto.org as well as at the school office, main lobby and outside Eagle Hall. Sizing is available to accommodate the whole family! Under Armour and Flannel Lined Sweatshirts are available to order (with a gram) too! Orders will be accepted until 11/21…Hurry before it is too late!

November Newsletter Highlights

- *PTO News*
- *Guidance Information*
- *Club News*
- *Sports*
- *November Calendar*
- *Art Department*
- *Band, and Orchestra*
- *School News*

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

PTO News

PTO President's Message

It is hard to believe that the first nine weeks of school are now complete…we now turn our attention towards Thanksgiving Break and the Holidays!

ZMS PTO Programs that highlight the holidays are Pajama Grams, Box Tops for Education Marketplace, Change a Child's Christmas and Holidays at Amazon.com

*Pajama Grams are back…order forms are on-line at www.zmspto.org , at the school office and by the display cases outside Eagle Hall and the Main Lobby. A Pajama Gram is a PJ accompanied with a personal hand written note from the student's family, wrapped in a bow and delivered to his/her home room or Soar class the week before Winter Break. It's a great way to relieve the stress of finals or simply show you're thinking of them! Pajama Grams can be reserved as a gift too! For more information, read the insert in this month's newsletter. Pajama Grams are only available for order till 11/21…so hurry!

*Box Top 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, Limited Too, 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 for the honor of the recycle chair and Pump It Up Party. Continue to submit Campbell Soup labels too. Clip Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels and send them to school. You can also drop them in the box in the lobby (be sure to identify your child and his/her class on the outside of the bag).

*Change a Child's Christmas encourages classrooms/teams to engage in friendly competition of change collection from 12/1-12/5. All monies collected will assist in making several children's holiday a bit brighter and happier! This program exemplified the mood of the season as well as reinforces community service and good will! Let the penny wars begin…

*Holidays at Amazon.com is a volunteer gift wrap program. The new Amazon.com Facility in Whitestown has offered our school the opportunity to wrap gifts as a way to raise money for ZMS. For every package wrapped Amazon.com will donate $.75 to ZMS PTO. The average wrapper can wrap 20+ packages per hour. ZMS has secured 4 dates: 12/2, 12/3 and 12/4 from 9am-1pm as well as 12/9 from 6-10pm. All participants must be 18 years old. So, pick a date…get a group of FUN family and friends together…and wrap some gifts! It's a great opportunity for ZMS to raise BIG money! Please contact me at vpokrifcak@yahoo.com to reserve your date/time by 11/10.

ZMS PTO has been busy the past month hosting and sponsoring numerous events. I would like to express my gratitude to all those involved with the various programs. The hard work and generosity of the ZMS community is inspiring!

*The Fall Book Fair was a social gathering place during the week of 10/20…many students, teachers and parents stopped by to purchase their literary favorites and explore the most popular reading material. Thank you to Julie Rauschuber, Rose Ann Mazanek and all 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 10/23 Staff Appreciation luncheon was hosted by Angela Carr and Shannon Ross. The lunch included fried chicken and the fixin's! Angela and her volunteers supplied a delicious meal as well as a deserved break for ZMS Staff from parent/teacher conferences. Thank you all for your hard work!

*Red Ribbon Week was 10/23-10/30. ZMS PTO purchased supplies for each grade level to participate in an activity that outlines the importance of being Drug Free! Thank you to Kristen Stachura for allowing PTO to be involved in this worthwhile event. As parents and students become more aware of drugs and their effects, the significance of this program become more apparent. Education is the key to a drug free environment… Information empowers!

*The Walking Program has concluded, but keep an eye out for new Wellness initiatives. Erin Wilson and Kim Janak will continue to generate interest in healthy and active lifestyles. Thank you to all the parent volunteers that made the Walking Program possible…your countless hours on the track were invaluable!

Lastly, on behalf of the ZMS PTO Board, I would like to extend a wish for a safe, relaxing and enriching Thanksgiving Holiday!

Sincerely, Frances Pokrifcak

ZMS PTO President

*Please join us at the next ZMS PTO Meeting on Wednesday, 11/5 at 9:15am in rm 516…Everyone is welcome!

PTO News (Continued)

Directory Corrections

In the most recent school directory, the Corporation Phone Numbers were inadvertently misaligned. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused! We are providing the correct numbers with the correct schools, on the PTO website at www.zmspto.org. Feel free to cut this out and paste it over the information on Page 1 of your directory. Thank you for understanding!

Ice Cream Sundae Sales

Thanks to the following volunteers for scooping 397 sundaes at October's Sale: Anna Duckett, Missy Higgs, Rose-Ann Mazanek, Dee Dee Medaris, Karlee Moore, Gigi Nicholas and Stacy Singer. Our volunteer schedules are now filled; thanks for supporting the efforts for the 8th Grade Party!

Jen Kennedy, Karla Thimjon, and Laura Dunshee

$$$ CHANGE $$$

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 5

Santa's elves will be visiting all lunch periods the week of December 1 – December 5 collecting spare change. ALL monies go towards making Christmas 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

CHANGE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS!!!!

Fall Book Fair

The PTO sponsored Fall Book Fair was a great success. Our profit of $1,809.00 will not only benefit the library but other PTO supported projects at ZMS. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time to work a shift. A special thank you to Joy Schroyer, Cheryl Bailey and Dee Dee Medaris who helped set up the book fair. The Spring Book Fair will he held during Spring Fling. If you were not contacted for the Fall Book Fair, and would like to volunteer for the Spring Fair, please call Julie Rauschuber @ 769-5411 or Rose Ann Mazanek @ 733-1370.

I Scream, You Scream,

We all Scream for Ice Cream!

Students bring your dollars on the following dates:

November 14; December 12; January 23; February 20; 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.

No Hassle Fundraising

Continue clipping and collecting Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels for Education and help ZMS students earn a "bouncing" good time! The top 5 Indianapolis classes/teams that bring in the most Box Tops from 9/22/08-3/15/09 will win a Pump It Up Party! You need not do anything differently to submit your Box Tops. Of course, ZMS is still competing for the honor of the "Hand" recycle chair…September's winning class was Mrs. Valencourt. Congratulations!

To view the items that have Box Tops go to www.boxtops4education.com ;

To review products labels collected go to www.campbellsoup.com .

Another way ZMS can earn cash is when you shop online at Box Tops Marketplace. Save time and energy by going to www.btfe.com/marketplace… Gap, Land's End, Pottery Barn, Old Navy and many other popular stores are participating in this program. The website will list all participating stores. ZMS will receive a donation of up to 8% back on every qualifying purchase—at no additional charge to you.

ZMS families can also help the school raise money by updating your Marsh, Target and Meijer accounts:

*To renew your Marsh account go to http://marsh.net: Click on Fresh Ideas For Education, scroll to Parent sign up and enter the ZMS code—28517. Then enter your card number located on the back of your card.

*Target helps school earn money be using a Target Visa or Debit Card. Go to http://target.com/targetgroup/communitygiving/takechargeofeducation.jhtml

*Meijer community rewards are tracked by our school code—742693. A Meijer Credit Card is necessary… applications are at the school office and at any Meijer Store.

Lastly, an exciting opportunity has been offered to ZMS thru Amazon.com . At Amazon.com newly opened Fulfillment Center in Whitestown, IN, volunteers can wrap gifts as a way to raise money. For every package wrapped Amazon.com will donate $.75 to ZMS PTO. The average volunteer can wrap 20+ packages per hour. ZMS has secured 4 dates: 12/2, 12/3, and 12/4 from 9am-1pm as well as 12/9 from 6-10pm. All participates must be 18 yrs old. Please contact Frances by 11/10 at vpokrifcak@yahoo.com to reserve a date/time. Help ZMS raise some BIG $$$!

Also, don't forget to use GoodSense when you search the web!

Thanks for your time and support!

PTO Wellness Corner

Wellness Corner

Walking Club is quickly winding down for the season. The kids did so well and walked many miles. Many students walked over 30 miles this fall! WOW! Please help your kids keep up the good work this winter. Take time to walk with your children and figure out ways to fit in exercise as a family. The Wellness Committee is proud of all the kids and encourages them to participate come spring! We are working on projects and programs for the winter, so please keep a lookout for healthy things to come. Are you walking and moving? Keep going and shoot for 10,000 steps per day. Remember small bits of exercise do add up to big losses.

NOVEMBER'S HEALTHY HABIT

Change up your usual routine for better weight loss results. Try one or all of the following tips to get better results. 1) Incorporate exercise balls into your weight lifting routine. It will challenge your core and balance; requiring more muscles to fire and burning more calories. 2) Change your workout routine to burn more calories. Try in-line skating instead of running. 3) Get more oomph from your walking workout by hiking on hilly terrain. Or, if you never touch the incline on your treadmill, bump it up to 5%, and you'll burn 50% more calories at the same pace. Final tip – Try standing on one foot. That wobbling means you're recruiting more muscles in your legs and core for extra toning throughout your workout. Try it while doing any upper-body move: arm curls, side raises or overhead press. Don't forget to switch legs!!

To your better health, The Wellness Committee

Guidance News

21st Century Scholars Program

Eligible 7th and 8th grade student 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 7th and 8th grade students enrolled. There are strict income guidelines for eligibility, so not every student and family will qualify. Parents and/or guardians need to complete 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.

New Student Pizza Party!

The school counselors are having a pizza party for students who are new to Zionsville this year. The pizza party will be held on Friday, November 21 in room 716. Students may join in the fun during their designated lunch period.

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.

Operation I.C.U.

We have had great success with Operation ICU (Integrity Character Unite)! Students are awarded with a gift certificates 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. 26th: Megan Tiller, Ellie Ridgeway, and Dieter Swinney. Students awarded October 10th: Allison Miiller, Carly Bailey, Regan Gibson, Andrew Overhage, Patrick Murphy, Elaine May, Ally Hunt, and Erica Becker. Students awarded October 31st: Kit Hill, Tommy Endejan, Ross Hill and Kristen Parks.

Guidance News (Continued)

November Character Trait, Cooperate

When your children can **cooperate** and work well with others, they are ready to take a vital step towards success as lifelong learners and happy, productive adults.

Next to learning to communicate, learning to cooperate is one of the most essential skills for school success. Children need to practice in order to develop good cooperation, collaboration, and direction following skills. Your child will more likely cooperate with others if he or she feels accepted and valued.

If you have a child who is bashful, practice in small groups with friends and family members. Be sure to give a lot of positive support and recognition, most children can learn to cooperate.

Suggested activities for grades 5-8:

* Practice open-ended questions such as, "How can we get the dinner table set in time for our company?" "What can you do to best contribute to resolve this problem?" Issuing commands often defeats the motivation for cooperation.

* Make breakfast together, or plan a weekly menu together.

* Participate in local clean up days. Volunteering teaches children that one person makes a difference, and many people cooperating together make an even bigger difference.

* Go on a bike photo safari. Then, collaborate to make a presentation of your photos for your family.

* Give occasional rewards when your children complete their chores for one week without being reminded. You shouldn't announce your intent to do this in advance. When you occasionally reward them, it makes a point that others do observe and value their cooperation.

* When your child tells you about a group school project, use the opportunity to discuss ways they can work and encourage cooperation within the group (each member participating, sharing ideas). Offer your support (allow the group to gather at your house, provide a snack), but encourage each group member to be responsible for the project's completion.

Reference: *The Learning Lunchbox Family Guide*, TM 2008 Outreach Communications LLC, Pages 90, 91, 119, & 133

A Note from the Office

What to do for a Planned Absence.

Every effort should be made to schedule vacations and trips at times other than school days. If this is unavoidable, the parent must notify the school to prearrange vacations at least two (2) school 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 ten (10) days absence a year including the vacation days, any vacation days over the ten (10) days absence limit will be considered unexcused. After the parents have notified the school of the prearranged absence, the student should pick up a **Prearranged Absence Form** from the receptionist. Each teacher should sign the form and determine when make up work will be due. Once every teacher signs the form, the student should return it to the receptionist. Family vacations are not allowed during finals and will be considered unexcused absences

Community Conversation Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, November 18th

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. The focus for this Town Hall Meeting will be dealing with stress in a healthy way. Dr. Greg Sipes will present on this issue by sharing how to incorporate his soulful parenting techniques in everyday living. You can visit his web site at www.drgregsipes.com.

Veterans Day 2008

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, 2008

5th and 6th Grade Ceremony 8:15 AM

7th and 8th Grade Ceremony 10:00 AM

ZMS Sports

Cheerleading Competition and Tryout News

The ZMS 7th and 8th Grade Cheerleading Team will be competing in the NHS (Northwest Suburban Conference) on Saturday November 8. They have been working very hard on a cheer/dance routine that they will perform for the competition. Congratulations to the following girls that were added to the cheerleading squads for the basketball season: Lexie Rolland, Ana Campins, Courtney Krajnovich, Lauren Yager, Dixie Schillaci, Sara Pozywio, Elaine Ortyl, Annabelle Schafer, Rosie Robinson, Emily Follstad, Emily Tomey, Sam Petrie, and Morgan Bolton. They will be joining the current team members: Maddie Adams, Ashley Medaris, Claire McElwain, Julia Janavicius, Jessica Peine, Kristin Burgess, Sarah Hoover, Leah Walker, Allison Scherer, Grace Kussow, Emily Nour, Lindsey Wells, Megan Stebbins, Carly Bailey, Brooke Aldrich, Corinne Qualkinbush and Kristin Lange. Good Luck Cheerleaders!

Wrestling Parent Meeting

Parents of those boys wrestling this year are encouraged to come to the parent meeting on Tues Nov. 11 at 7PM in the LGI room. If you are new to the sport this will get you acquainted with other folks and what to expect during the season. Veteran parents as you know we cannot really function without your help. Look forward to seeing you all on the 11th.
Coach Flecker

5th & 6th Grade Wrestling Club

The club is a great way to learn about this exciting sport. It starts on Nov. 10 and goes to Nov 20 everyday after school in the wrestling room till 4:30. 6th Graders this is an excellent time to get an advantage before the season begins in Dec. Did we mention the free pizza? Fill out the club application and we hope to see you there. If you have questions contact Coach Flecker 873-2426 ext. 13702 or vflecker@zcs.k12.in.us.

Boys Wrestling News

Wrestling is open to 6, 7 and 8th graders. In addition to being an exciting sport, wrestling builds character and improves your overall physical strength. There will be a call out meeting for boys interested in coming out on Tuesday Nov. 5 in the LGI right after school. Plan to be picked up by 3:20. First day of official practice is Dec. 8. Also boys interested in pre-season conditioning it will begin on Tues and Thurs after school and last till 3:45. Meet in the fitness room. Come be a part of this great tradition!

Rocky Wilderness Challenge 09

Interested in something challenging to do this summer? How about climbing a mountain, seeing wild animals and experiencing nature at it's best. Learn more about this memorable experience in Rocky Mountain National Park at the informational meet for you and your parents on Wed. Nov 12 at 7pm in the LGI. This experience is only offered to current 7th and 8th grade students. If you have any questions please contact Vince Flecker at 873-2426, ext. 13702 or vflecker@zcs.k12.in.us

ZIONSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

** Practice and Game Schedules for the Season will be handed out and discussed.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH OPEN GYM 3-4:30 P.M.

** Must have a Physical to Participate in ALL Open Gyms!!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH OPEN GYM 3-4:30 P.M.

**Attendance at Open Gyms are Optional, but highly Encouraged by the Coaching Staff!!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH OPEN GYM 3-4:30 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 1ST OFFICIAL PRACTICE

**Times have not been finalized , but we are planning on practicing Mon.—Sat. for the first two to three weeks.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH Practice Week #2

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH Practice Week #3

NO PRACTICES DECEMBER 21ST – JANUARY 1ST

OPTIONAL PRACTICES ARE POSSIBLE ON JANUARY 2ND & 3RD

MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH – SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH

**Scrimmage vs. Noblesville on Tuesday, January 6th at Noblesville ** 1st Official Game on Thursday, January 8th at ZMS (Shootout)
**Shootout continues on Saturday, January 10th at ZMS.

Band News

Mark Your Calendars!!

Our students are busy preparing for their December concerts. The 5th and 6th grade concerts will be held on December 9th and the 7th and 8th grade concerts will be held on December 10th. Both concerts begin at 7 PM and should not exceed one hour on length. The jazz bands and percussion ensemble will perform on both concerts. Students will need to arrive and be ready to play at 6:15 PM. The dress for all performances at ZMS are the green band shirt, khaki style pants and dress shoes. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Fifth Grade Band- To date, the fifth grade band has completed 7 pages and over 30 songs in our band method book. We have been encouraging the students to take advantage of the CD ROM that comes in their band method book as well as "Smart Music" Software. By loading this you're your computers, students will have recordings of the accompaniments for all songs in the method book, and capabilities to speed up or slow down all songs with a program called "**The Amazing Slower-Downer**". "**Finale Notepad**" is also included. Finale is music software that allows students to compose their own music. You will also find duets and trios that can be printed off. By using **"Smart Music"** with a microphone on your computer you can play your band instrument and it will tell you the correct and incorrect notes. You can then save and email your music as an mp3 file. These programs can make practicing a lot of fun. I encourage you to check these programs out!

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands- The sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands will be performing on November 11th for the Veteran's Day Convocations during school. Parents are welcome to attend. Please help us by making sure that your child has their green band shirt, khaki pants and dress shoes for this performance. You'll be amazed when you hear the improvement that these students continue to make. The band has been working very hard on these pieces and we expect this to be a very strong performance.

IBA Honor Band Members Selected- We would like to congratulate the following 8th grade band students that were selected for the Indiana Bandmaster's All Region Honor Band. They are: Anna Behrend, Adam Pease, and Kelsey Byrum. These talented students will rehearse at Zionsville West Middle School on November 22nd and give a concert with other talented musicians from the area on November 23rd. Way to go Eagles!!

Poinsettia Sales- The Zionsville Middle School bands will be selling floral quality poinsettias in 6" growing pots. Each plant is wrapped in decorative waterproof foil, and is individually sleeved for protection. All plants are red. Price is $14.00 each. These plants are being purchased locally through Jones Nursery. Orders and money are due no later than November 14th. Plants will be used to decorate the stage for our Holiday Concerts on December 9th (5th and 6th grade bands) and December 10th (7th and 8th grade bands) 2008. Plants will be delivered to our school on the days of our concerts and all plants should be taken home for delivery the night of your child's concert. If you have children involved in both concerts please indicate which concert you will take delivery of your plants.

This is both a way to make our concert look festive and a mini fundraiser for ZMS bands. 7th and 8th Graders attending the band trips will earn $4 per plant sold towards their trip account. All other student profits will help support the ZMS band program. Thanks for your support.

Trip Information- Detailed trip information will be sent home in both a hard copy and via email. Please note that trips are not mandatory but we love to see as many students as possible attend. The 7th and 8th graders and Advanced Jazz band will travel to Gatlinburg, TN to attend the Smoky Mountain Music Festival on April 23rd –25th.

All payments will be made directly to Music Travel Consultants. Payments can be made by check or even more easily online. There will be a major Fundraiser in February to help you defray costs.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me. Please note that we don't want to see any child not attend because of financial circumstances. Last year, money was collected in honor of Mrs. Graef and is available to assist students in music based on financial need with music activities including band trips. If finances are a concern for your family but you would like for your child to participate in this trip, please contact Mr. Weirich. All information will remain confidential.

I am delighted with the enthusiasm and focus that our band has shown during this first grading period. You have very musically talented children and this is only the beginning of a great educational experience in our band program. THANK YOU for the support you have offered to this success via your encouraging words and attention to your child's practice schedule and development. You simply can't imagine how important these two factors are in the growth and development of the ZMS band. You are a key element in our ability to continue at our current positive pace. If you have any questions concerning our band program please know that we are available to discuss them with you. THANK YOU once again for your participation in this important educational experience.

We look forward to seeing you at our performances!! Josh Weirich and Camden Mullis

Musical Notes (Continued)

Sandy Graef Memorial Garden

Some of you may have noticed the new tree by door 4. This is part of a wonderful project that has been taking shape over the past few months. The project is the Sandy Graef Memorial Garden. The garden will consist of a beautiful Red Sunset Maple and an engraved, memorial bench in memory of Sandy. By Thanksgiving the bench should arrive and be dedicated in her honor.

Last May we lost Sandy after a long battle with breast cancer. Through it all, Sandy remained a dedicated teacher to all her band students. She has left an indelible mark on so many students that came into her classroom over the years. This garden is dedicated to her love of music and her gift of teaching.

The entire project has been funded by generous donations from around our community. The tree was donated by J.D. Williams Landscaping. The bench was made possible through the kindness of Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Home, ZMS PTO Beautification , ZCHS Marching Band Box Mom's, Music Travel Consultants and employees, Paige's Music, ZMS Tri-M, ZCHS Tri-M, Red Apple (Otis Spunkmeyer), and miscellaneous cash donations.

It has truly been an honor for me to work on this project. I, personally, would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that made this memorial a reality. Julie Rauschuber

Orchestra Updates

The 6th and 7th Grade Orchestras will be performing at Veteran's Day at school on Nov. 11. Students should wear their green shirts and khakis for the performance.

Dec. 3 is the first all-orchestras concert of the year. The 5th and 6th grade will start at 6pm, and the 7th and 8th grade will start at 7:30pm. The orchestra students are selling poinsettias in the next few weeks!! They make lovely concert decorations and then the families take them home after the concert. For more information, see Mrs. Swayze.

Strolling Strings: The Strolling Strings students will be playing the National Anthem at the Indiana Ice game on Nov. 7. Students are selling tickets through Oct. 31, $12 a piece. We make a profit from every ticket we sell!!

Tri-M ....Congratulations to the new members of Chapter 4085 of the Tri-M Music Honor Society! The following students were inducted into the organization on Oct. 22: Miranda Bernard, Courtney Herms, Emily Higgs, Taylor Hoftiezer, Jack Horn, David Landschulz, LeAnne Lautzenhiser, Katie McCarthy, Sadie Minnigan, Aidan Moore, Zach Neumann, Adam Pease, Jonathan Qua, Caroline Richardson, Trevor Rood, Maria Schultz, Jessica Seamands, Justin Simpson , Michael Trepanier, Sophie Wagner and Claire Wendt.

School News

Seventh Grade White Team

The seventh grade white team and the seventh grade silver team will be attending a field trip on December 4th to the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis. They will be seeing A Christmas Carol, which students will be reading in their language arts class. To fully appreciate the theatre experience, students should be dressed in appropriate "dressy" attire for the occasion. Students should also bring a sack lunch. The buses will depart from Zionsville Middle School at 9:10 a.m. and will return at approximately 2:00 p.m. Teacher sponsors are Carol DeMaio and Chris Kern.

Drama Club

November 20th and 21st the 5th and 6th grade drama club will be presenting James and the Giant Peach. Come see James and his friends travel across the ocean to escape his evil aunts in a gigantic peach. Performances are in Eagle Hall and begin at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are $3 for children and seniors and $5 for adults.

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!

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.

Cafeteria News

Things have been busy in the Food Service Department this school year! In fact we were off and running from day one and are now beginning to slow down and attend to some special projects. What in the world could keep us so busy you ask? For starters, we have several new staff members in our Department. In fact, every school kitchen with the exception of Eagle Elementary has had new staff join our fun! Two of these staff changes involved hiring new Managers within the cafeterias at West Middle School and Union Elementary.

We strive to ensure smooth operations regardless of the knowledge and experience of our staff members so that we can effectively carry on with the business of serving "our" kids! Efforts directed toward new staff are to accomplish this goal and to help them understand the importance and value of their contributions. It is our hope that they learn they can and do make a difference in the lives of children.

Hopefully, several of you were able to see us during the Fall Festival Parade. We had twenty representatives of our Department walking in the parade, smiling and greeting the students while passing out "Better Choices" in snacks! Our Department involvement was made possible by the generous donations from Fifth Third Bank, General Mills, Piazza Produce and Coca Cola as well as the generous donation of time given by our staff members!

You may recall that "Better Choices" are those snack food items identified as having 30% or fewer calories from fat, 10% or fewer calories from saturated fat and 35% or less of their weight from sugars. Our goal this year is to help better identify those items for our customer's benefit. If you have an interest in these "Better Choices" and are eager to explore how these and other topics might relate to the Wellness Policy identified by our school corporation, please contact Jan Swander at 873-1232, extension 11600.

Also, when you desire more information about our program, please come visit us at our website www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm. There you will find menus, contact information, recipes, applications for meal/text assistance and a great nutrition related newsletter entitled *Nutrition Nuggets*!

-Jan Swander, Food Service Director

Community News

Stonegate Holiday Bazaar

Mark your calendars for The 5th Annual Stonegate Elementary Holiday Bazaar! Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 9am-3pm at Stonegate Elementary. Adult Admission: $2.00(kids are free!) Have your holiday gift lists ready–shop over 40 exciting vendors with a large variety of items including jewelry, purses, ceramics, toys, baked goods, candles, holiday decorations, crafts, and more! Food will be provided by the Stonegate Elementary Drama Club Back by popular demand: Kids can make or paint their own pottery! Sponsored by the Stonegate Elementary PTO

Programs at Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library

Preregistration is required for each event unless noted otherwise. Payment, if required, is due at registration. Resideces may register online at www.zionsville.lib.in.us or by calling the library at 873-3149, ext. 12400.

Wii Play Games: Wed., Nov. 12 and Wed., Dec. 10 from 3 - 5 p.m. Come play games in the Teen Area at the Library. We'll have the Wii set up, and our board games out, too. Game play will be informal, so feel free to hang out with your friends and have fun. Open to students in grades 6-12. Registration not required.

Teen Council, Nov. 18, 7-8:15 p.m. Students in Grades 7-12 may help plan and promote teen services at the library.

Teen and Adult Volunteers Needed for the Annual Holiday Stroll Preregistration required by Monday, December 1. Help create a festive atmosphere at the library during the annual Holiday Stroll Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. Teen and adult volunteers are needed for two- and four-hour shifts. Time may be applied to National Honor Society requirements if applicable. Share holiday cheer with your neighbors by registering with Marilyn Martin at 317-873-3149, ext. 12452.

For more information please contact: Virginia Hilbert, Circulation Services, Asst. Dept. Head, 317-873-3149 ext. 11280, viginiah@zionsville.lib.in.us

November 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 CPR (Grades 6, 7 and 8)	4 CPR (Grades 6, 7 and 8)	5 CPR (Grades 6, 7 and 8) 5-8 Choir Concert 7:00 pm, EH	6 CPR (Grades 6, 7 and 8) Karaoke Night, 5-7 pm, EH	7 CPR (Grades 6, 7 and 8)
10	11 Veterans Day Convocation, 5/6 - 8:15 am & 7/8 - 10:00 am, South Gym	12	13	14
17	18	19 1:1 Pilot Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm, LGI	20 5/6 Drama Performance, 7:00 pm, EH	21 5/6 Drama Performance, 7:00 pm, EH
24	25	26 Thanksgiving Break	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Thanksgiving Break

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