



# THE DEVON DISPATCH

June 11, 2010

DEVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 18

## Mark the Date!

### Tuesday, June 15, 2010

- Fly-Up Day: Students visit the next grade level for a preview of the next school year

### Wednesday, June 16, 2010

- 1st Grade Africa Celebration

### Thursday, June 17, 2010

- Last Day for Kindergarten
- 9:30 a.m. 4th Grade Promotion

### Friday, June 18, 2010

- Last Day For Grades 1-4 ( 1/2 Day)
- 12:05 4th Grade Walk
- 12:20 Dismissal

## Happy Summer !!!!

### CHECK YOUR INBOX

We'll be distributing the Dispatch via email this week as well. If you did NOT receive it via email please send a message to [devondispatch@tesd.net](mailto:devondispatch@tesd.net)

## From the PTO President

It's been a great year! I want to thank everyone who gave of time and spirit to volunteer this year. Whether it was at a PTO event or in the classroom, know that you made a difference in taking the time to volunteer. To me volunteering is helping our community, it's what gives us roots and makes us feel a part of where we choose to live. I like the feeling of a close-knit community and I think Devon provides that for our children. We are so fortunate to have the strong combination of staff and parents that makes our school the special place that it is. So thank you for all you did this year and I hope you'll be there when we need help again next year!

Lots of people have asked me, "Isn't PTO President a tough job?" - the answer empathically is NO. It can take time, but there was always someone there to help and smile and laugh - that's what makes it fun. I was very fortunate this year to have the support of a wonderful board - Audrey Kese, Lori Piccone, Cathy Rains, Gina DeFlavia, Elaine Klinger, Francie Rosato, Stephanie Thibault, Loran Wood, Linda Murray, Coleen Hillman, and Brenda Hess, and Evelyn Shreve are strong leaders who have donated many hours, and with those hours many smiles to accomplish all we did this year. I know that Audrey Kese has the charisma and leadership to make next year a strong, successful, and fun year too. It is exciting to see a new wave of parents take on what has been passed down over the years.

We had a very successful year any way you measure it - we did well financially, we did well organizationally, and we tried some new things and got rid of a few things that didn't work. I hope parents feel pleased with what the PTO accomplished this year and how we contributed to the school community. We are looking forward to making a significant contribution to the school which will be decided on June 9th, but should encompass an expansion of the grade level playground with new equipment, a sound system for the gym to enable it to serve as a group demonstration area, an expansion of the Netbook program in 1st and 2nd grades, and video equipment for each grade. We also hope to start a planning committee and initial funding for an outdoor science classroom/garden area. We feel these gifts will touch each and every child and give teachers additional tools to work with.

After the whirlwind of the past month and all the activities, I hope you and your families have a relaxing summer. Enjoy the time outdoors and the slower pace that summer offers! Be safe and we'll look forward to seeing you back at Devon in the fall! Mark your calendars for the Welcome Back Ice Cream Social on September 2nd!

*Kelly Lee*

## *From the Principal*

When we were children the school year seemed so long, but as adults we realize just how quickly each one flies by! This was a fantastic year, and as it concludes I want to send our deep appreciation to you as parents, and to our P.T.O., in particular. Thank you for the time, energy, and effort you bring as volunteers, as audiences, as homework helpers, and as encouragers. Our school and home partnership runs deep and makes Devon a special place for its children. We deeply appreciate our P.T.O.'s on-going work to provide memorable events and activities, along with financially supporting our programs by providing a variety of educational equipment and supplies. A very special thank you to Kelly Lee, our P.T.O. President, for the outstanding leadership she provided to the P.T.O. and for always putting our children first.

We wish our fourth graders great success as they head into middle school... we will miss each one. We hope that each family has the time to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy during the summer months. Mrs. Burns and I are in the office during the summer, and we would love to hear of your travels and vacations through post cards. See you in September!

*Tom Tobin*

### Devon Elementary PTO Board 2009/2010

President	Kelly Lee
1st Vice President	Audrey Kese
Recording Secretary	Lori Piccone
Treasurer	Cathy Rains
Asst Treasurer	Gina DeFlavia
2nd Vice Presidents:	
~Cultural Arts	Linda Murray/Lorann Wood
~Fundraising	Elaine Klinger
~Social Functions	Coleen Hillman/Brenda Hess
~Issues, Affairs and Programs	Stephanie Thibault
~School Services	Francie Rosato
Member at Large	Evelyn Shreve

### **DEVON DISPATCH**

Publication Schedule

Deadline    Publication

**Look for a 'Greener'  
Devon Dispatch coming  
to an inbox near you!**



**Thank you** to the following volunteers for their support of the Dental Clinic this year.

**Lori Piccone, Diana Sheronas, Pete Shickel, Catherine Ciocca, Kimberly Brightman,**

**Pam DeLuccia, Caroline Madden, Gretchen Rantaner and Beth Ottensman.**

Week after week, I could always count on you to drive our Devon students to Clinic and for that I thank you, the Dental Clinic thanks you, but most importantly, the children thank you!

Any parent willing to join our group of driver's next year, we would love to have you.

Please consider volunteering for this very worthwhile cause.

Trish Connell, [teeconn@aol.com](mailto:teeconn@aol.com) Dental Clinic Rep.

TEACHER'S APPRECIATION BREAKFAST THANK YOU!!!

The Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast held on Thursday morning, May 20th was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers!! The teachers truly enjoy this time together relaxing and chatting before the day begins. On this special morning, the Science Room is transformed into a fine dining establishment complete with white tablecloths, flowers and crystal juice pitchers. Thank you to Mrs. Benning for allowing us to disrupt her room and her many experiments in progress! Marty Engle is retiring this year, and the PTO presented her with a going away gift.

**Thank you to the following people:**

**Our Hardworking Set-Up Crew:**

Suzanne Emerson, Tricia Jennings, Barbara Sredenscheck, Stephanie Thibault and Kim Wetzel

**Floral Designer: (For the Tables)**

Chrissy Bennett

**Our Wonderful Devon Chefs:**

Nicole Bennyhoff, Cecelia Cooleen, Jill Cutler, Shelly Grove, Kim Maher, Kim Rycynzyn, Tina Verrelli and Karen Winnemore

**Our Early Morning Coffee Runner:**

Kelly Walker

**Our Gracious and "Animated" Servers:**

Allison Hayden, Audrey Kese, Tracey King, Jen Neely, Jeanine O'Mara, Cindi Overton and Lori Piccone

**Our Very Efficient Clean-Up Crew:**

Kelly Graver, Allison Hayden, Audrey Kese, Tracey King, Jen Neely, Jeanine O'Mara,

Cindi Overton and Lindsey Wisch

**Moms Willing to Lend their fine wares for this event:**

Barbara Hess, Tricia Jennings, Tracey King, Marla Musman and Francie Rosato

I also want to send a special thank you to the dads who dropped off the casseroles early in the morning!!! If I forgot someone - I apologize!! Thanks again, and I look forward to next year!

Andrea Voehringer

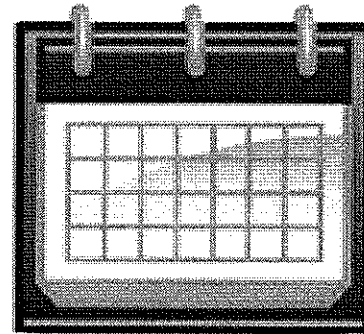
## Advertise in the Devon Directory

The 2010-11 Devon Directory is a great place to advertise your business!

For more info or to place an ad, email Laura Hutton at [devonelementarydirectory@hotmail.com](mailto:devonelementarydirectory@hotmail.com).

### REMINDER – First Day of School is September 1, 2010

The District activities calendar has gone digital and will no longer be printed and sent home during the summer. The full activities calendar will be available on the TESD web site at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) in July 2010. Paper copies of the digital calendar will be available in all school buildings after July 30, 2010.



Please note that the first day of school for all students in grades 1-12 is Wednesday, September 1, 2010. The first day for kindergarten students is Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

There is currently a single-page summary of the 2010-2011 school calendar available on the TESD web site at [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net). From the home page, click on “calendar” on the right side of the page under “Quicklinks” to access the single-page calendar.

## School District Hotline

The school District Hotline is 610-240-1970. This is a 24-hour hotline and contains information on delayed openings and school closings. Please check this number any time you have a question about the status of the opening of school when the weather and road conditions are causing some uncertainty.

### DEVON DISPATCH

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Distribution Cecilia Magana/Sarah Reindel

Produced bi-monthly by Devon Elementary School, 400 S. Fairfield Road, Devon, PA 19333, 610-240-1450, under the direction of Principal Tom Tobin and PTO President Kelly Lee.



# Thank You!

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all of the parent volunteers who helped with Devon's annual Field Day. Your time and effort truly helped make such a large event more manageable, and contributed to a wonderful day of fun and games for the children. I would also like to thank the Devon PTO for providing me with the funding for drinks for all the volunteers, as well as soft pretzels and ice pops for the children.

I truly appreciate everyone who helped me with Field Day 2010 and look forward to working with many of you again in the years to come. Thank you all!

*Mrs Nicole Lohmeyer*

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Registration extended – spaces still available

## Devon Dragons Fun Camp

Morning Summer Camp at Devon Elementary School with Mrs. Lohmeyer, Miss Dudrick, Mr. Hyett, Miss McElvogue, & Mr. Smondrowski

- Session #1 Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Session #2 Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> - *FULL*
- Session #3 Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Session #4 Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

**Cost: \$80 week/per child**

Play your favorite Physical Education and Field Day games – water games, too!

For more information and a registration form, please contact Mrs. Nicole Lohmeyer at 610-240-2426 or go to the Devon Elementary homepage at [www.tesd.net/devon/](http://www.tesd.net/devon/)



### To The Following Volunteers and Their Committees:

- To the 2009-2010 PTO Board - an amazing group of leaders who give tirelessly of their time and energy to supporting Devon - a standing ovation for a year of accomplishments! Audrey Kese, Vice President; Lori Piccone, Secretary; Cathy Rains, Treasurer; Gina De-Flavia, Asst. Treasurer; Elaine Klinger, Fundraising; Linda Murray, Cultural Arts; Loran Wood, Cultural Arts; Coleen Hillman, Social; Brenda Hess, Social; Stephanie Thibault, Issues, Affairs, and Programs; Francie Rosato, School Services; Nicole Lohmeyer, Faculty Representative; Evelyn Shreve, Past President and Dr. Tobin.
- To all the parents who supported Field Day - Thank you! It was a hot day, but the kids had a ball!
- To all our 4th grade parents who are moving on to the middle school, we wish you a smooth transition and best of luck, and a HUGE thanks to the parents who volunteered to assist with the 4th grade party at Grand Slam.
- While we thank and recognize everyone throughout the year, we need to say a special thanks again to all our chair people who have run events this year!

## *Get the Scoop....*

The 2010 Annual Ice Cream Social

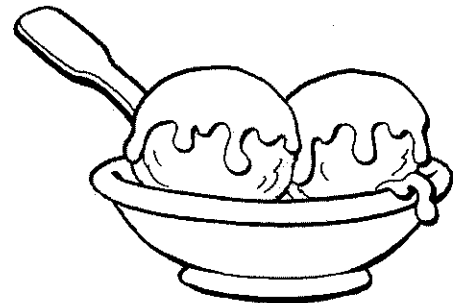
Thursday, September 2

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

*Calling all Scoopers!*

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the board in the lobby or contact Karen Moon at [karenkmoon@yahoo.com](mailto:karenkmoon@yahoo.com)

Have a great summer and we'll see you in September!





# School Board Update



Summaries of School Board Committee Meetings for May 2010

Visit [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) and click on 'School Board' for meeting dates, agendas and minutes.

## **Education Committee, Chair: Karen Cruickshank**

Prepared by: Committee Liaison

The Committee received a report on World Languages. The committee recommended modifications to the current program by phasing in a two language program for the middle schools. The 5th grade program will consist of French and Spanish, each for a semester, for two periods each cycle. The 6th grade program will provide students with a choice of either Spanish or French for 2 periods per cycle for the entire school year. The 7th and 8th grade programs include daily instruction in either Spanish or French. German and Latin instruction will begin in 9th grade. The District will maintain the current language offerings for 2010-11 and begin to phase in the new program in the 2011-12 school year.

The Committee received a report on Gifted Programming/Literacy Intervention. The Committee accepted the administrative recommendation to adjust the staffing levels of each elementary program to address the needs of individual students while meeting state mandates for gifted education. If current enrollment in these programs remains steady, the current combined staffing levels for these programs will be maintained.

## **Facilities Committee, Chair: Pete Motel**

Prepared by: Business Office

The Facilities Committee met on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Committee heard a report from the administration on the status of the summer 2010 construction projects. The report included updates on the bid process for the disposition of the ESC building and the status of other summer projects that have already been awarded. The Committee discussed the shutdown of the ESC, the impact on storage, the cost savings from closing the building and the relocation of the remaining employees.

The administration updated the Committee on the status of the printing request for proposal due on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee had a short discussion on print jobs that will be completed next year by outsourcing and what jobs could be completed in schools.

The Committee reviewed regulation 7040 "Use of Facilities" and the increases to labor rates, rentals and impact fees for the 2010-2011 school year. The Committee discussed the proposed changes and asked the Administration to provide information concerning the rate changes on existing users at the next Committee meeting.

The Committee heard a report on the status of the Tredyffrin Township sidewalk project and the Hillside green roof project. The administration also discussed a meeting between District personnel and the Assistant Manager of Tredyffrin Township to talk about the possibility of sharing services.

The administration shared an analysis of solar panels and the limitations and availability of grants and tax breaks for governments that are tax exempt. In addition, since the District has already negotiated their electric rates with their provider, reductions are already being realized.

Finally, the administration reviewed the status of the energy review. The group from Penn State will be starting their energy review this summer and will most likely begin with Conestoga High School.

## **Finance Committee, Chair: Kevin Mahoney**

Prepared by: Business Office

Reviewed by: Committee Chair

The T/E School Board Finance Committee met on May 3, 2010 to discuss the 2010-2011 budget. After discussing the tax rate and selected budget strategies, the Committee recommended a preliminary budget that included a tax increase of 2.9%, which results in \$2.5 million in revenue, \$5.3 million in expense reductions and \$1.3 million in fund balance contribution to address the \$9.25 million gap between revenues and expenditures. At the meeting, the Committee discussed reducing, in lieu of eliminating, raises for non-contracted employees; imposing an activity fee for extra-curricular activities; and including contingency funding for special education personnel.

At its regular meeting on May 10, 2010, the T/E School Board approved the 2010-2011 proposed final budget. The 2010-2011 proposed final budget includes a property tax

Continued ....

increase at the Act I index of 2.9%; which results in \$2.46 million in revenue, or \$128 to the average assessed T/E homeowner; \$5.26 million in expense reductions and revenue enhancements; and \$1.48 million in fund balance contribution to address the \$9.25 million gap between revenues and expenditures. The Board voted to remove the implementation of a student extra curricular activity fee from the proposed budget and agreed to study it further during the 2010-2011 school year. The proposed final budget will be available for public inspection beginning on May 25th and the Board will vote on the final budget at its regular meeting on June 14th at 7:30 p.m. at Conestoga High School.

#### **Policy Committee,**

**Chair: Betsy Fadem**

Prepared by: Committee Chair

At the May Policy Committee Meeting, the Committee began with a review of two policies that have been discussed at previous meetings; new Policy #6164 – US President Request to Address T/E Students and revisions to an existing policy; Policy #5116 - Non-Resident Students-Enrollment Eligibility. Recommendations for first readings for both policies are expected after the June Policy Meeting.

As follow up to the last month's meeting, the Committee discussed the following policies; Policy#9300 -Methods of Operation, Policy#1123 -Public Access to School District Records, and Policy #7040- Use of District Facilities. All three will be recommended to the full Board for approval. Additionally the Regulations for Policy #9350 - Reimbursement for Expenses of Board Members was reviewed and approved to go to the Board for a first reading.

The Committee reviewed the following policies and determined that they will have further discussion at the next Policy meeting. The policies include Policy #1100 -School District Communications with the Public, and Policy#1122 - Comments and Complaints Regarding the District. The Committee revisited the request made at the last Policy Meeting to determine the eligibility of Foreign Exchange students based on Policy #5119- Foreign Students and International Exchange Study Program. It has been determined that no change is recommended at this time and the policy will be updated to include a "Reviewed Date". The Committee then dedicated their time to reviewing the Regulations for Policy #5422 -Student Accidents and Injuries- Treatment and Reporting. It was recommended that this regulation will be revised by the administration and return to the Committee in June. In addition, the following policies were introduced but discussion will be held until June: Policy #9360- Conflict of Interest (Board Members),

Policy #9370 -Code of Civility (Board Members) and draft policy on Staff Responses to District Issues.

Next, the Committee approved the following policies (and regulations) for recommendation to the full Board for second reading at the May Board Meeting: Policy #9350 - Reimbursement for Expenses of Board Members, new Policy#9380 -Communication Between Board and District Legal Counsel, and revisions to Policy #9316- Convening Special Board Meetings.

The next Policy Committee meeting is Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 5:15 pm at the TEAO on West Valley Road. (Please note the earlier start time.) These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

#### **Public Information Committee,**

**Chair: Debbie Bookstaber**

Prepared by: Public Information Office

The Public Information met in May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the *T/E Insight* newsletter publication and recommended that the frequency of the *T/E Insight* be reduced from four times a year to twice a year and that the funds normally used for the two extra publications be reserved for special topic publications and targeted mailings as needed.

Next, the Committee discussed the District's practice of allowing local elected officials to speak for non-campaigning purposes during the public comment periods at regular School Board meetings. The Committee recommended that a statement indicating the District's practice be included on all regular School Board meeting agendas and be stated by the Board president prior to the public comment periods.

The administration reviewed the awareness campaign for the new TESD web site, which is scheduled to become live in July 2010. Last month a preview of the new web site was presented at the Public Information Committee meeting, regular Board meeting, ISC meeting and District Technology Committee meeting. In addition, the site will be featured in the June T/E Board Talk program. There is a short video introducing the new site available on the current TESD web site to give parents and community members a preview of the new design. Building principals will be asked to show the preview video at curriculum nights in the fall. Finally, advertisements for the new web site will be included in school newsletters and on T/E TV.

Finally, the Committee reviewed topics for the June T/E Board Talk program. The program will feature segments on the 2010-2011 School District budget, the strategic plan and the Conestoga High School senior internship program.