



Medford Township School District

Taunton Forge School Newsletter

32 Evergreen Trail Medford, New Jersey 08055

Future Leaders Begin Here

♥February, 2015♥

As I watch the snow falling outside my office window, I am hoping that all of the information in this newsletter will really happen on schedule! We are looking forward to a very busy February.

Valentine's Day parties are scheduled for February 12 from 1:30-2:30. *Thank you to the Room Parents who are planning games, crafts, and music for the parties. We will again be sending home permission slips that list all of the goodies that are being offered to your children during the parties so that we can get your permission to give your child the treats that you designate. We are continuing to follow a policy of no home-baked treats. Rather we will give out treats that are available in local stores so that you can look at ingredient lists ahead of time*

February 3- NO HOMEWORK NIGHT -Medford Education Foundation's "Dine Out for Education" a fundraiser that benefits Medford schools.

February 5-Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences
Kindergarten teachers will have conferences, too, and the kindergarten classes will be taught by substitutes. That means that PM kindergarten will be in session with a sub at their usual PM time.

February 11- Date with Dad

Thanks to the work of our kindergarten team, we will host our eleventh annual ♥**Date with Dad**♥ on Wednesday, **February 11** from **6:00-7:00 PM** in the cafeteria. Kindergarten students and their Dads (or Grandfathers, uncles, male family friends) work on Valentines for their special person-MOMMY. Photos from the night will be shared on our website.

February 12-*Chick-fil-A* Night to benefit Taunton Forge School.

Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16. **School is CLOSED for Students.** Friday is an In-Service Day for Teachers. Monday is President's Day.

February 18 **Harlem Wizards Night**-an HSA event to benefit Medford Schools at Shawnee High School 7:00-10:00 PM.

February 26 **FAMILY GYM NIGHT**

For Students and Parents in Grades 1 and 2

First and Second Grade families, please watch your email for more details about this night.

February 25-Two hour delayed opening. School begins at 10:25.



Kindergarten/Grade 1 Round Up

We are searching for new kindergarten students. Children must be five years old before October 1, 2015. We're also looking for new first graders, who did not attend kindergarten here.

If you know a child who will be entering our kindergarten or first grade in September, please complete an enrollment form, available online.

PARCC Testing

The new standardized tests in Grades 3-8 will be online this year. New Jersey ASK testing has been replaced by PARCC which will be administered during the months of March and May.

The tests will help us to assess how well our students are mastering the standards that are now part of our curriculum.

We are currently letting the students try out practice tests during the tech lab time so that they are familiar with all of the tool bars and processes available to them as they take the tests.

Security Drills

State law in New Jersey requires us to do security drills once a month. During the drills teachers are instructed to follow directions for the safety of their classrooms. Children practice the skills that they have been taught in order to be safe. While we cannot give details about the drills, we do try to make the drill challenging for the adults and yet calming for the students. If your child is upset about the drill, please talk to him/her about how we are practicing being safe.

Save the Date

♥Our Drama Workshop, under the leadership of Ms. Kasse and Mrs. Brusco is rehearsing for a production of *The Princess and the Pea...the True Story*, which will be presented on May 18 and May 19--highlighting talented students who love to act and work behind the scenes. This year the evening productions (Monday night and Tuesday night) will be held on the stage at Memorial Middle School. A final dress rehearsal will be held at Taunton Forge for our students to enjoy.

♪♪ *SOME **BIG** thank you notes* ♪♪

♥Our [BOX TOPS for Education](#) contest resulted in our collecting **10,471** box tops. When added to our bonus points, Taunton Forge earned over \$1100.00. We've already spent much of it on new recess equipment, thanks to the suggestions of our Assistants who know just what makes recess time the most fun for kids! We've also included indoor recess equipment to be used in the gym when there are no classes scheduled there.

♥HSA money helped to buy a mobile ActivBoard for the tech lab...making it the home for the 'newest' technology of this type and giving us the ability to move the board to any instructional area in the school...*more to come*.

♥Our Truskin family donation to the related arts teachers is being used to purchase equipment like a wireless keyboard and mouse to go with our new ActivBoard in the computer lab, a wireless Bluetooth speaker to use with our music program, and a wooden bridge to be installed by the Art Club in our Pinelands restoration area (created and maintained by the Ecology Club, too)...*more to come*.

♥Two MEF grants for teachers were awarded to Mrs. Papp (and the technology teachers in the District) for a new typing program that children can practice with at home. Mrs. Simpkins (and the Medford Historical Society) received a grant for purchasing *McGuffey's Readers* so that our students who visit the one room schoolhouse can see what reading books looked like in the 1860's.

We are all so very grateful for the generosity of our Taunton Forge families in helping us to continually upgrade our equipment, books, and supplies, as well as to purchase some extraordinary new technology.

Congratulations to the following new parents and grandparents:

Megan Parnell Celli –a daughter, Maggie
Leslie Irwin-a daughter, Natalie
Nurse Chinn-a granddaughter, Riley

Congratulations to **Danny Hill** on his successful completion of 21 rounds of chemo.



Watch for REPORT CARDS to be coming home on January 30

And coming back in February....the LEGO club, our Computer Club and a STEM club (formerly Science Olympiad) for our budding engineers and mathematicians, scientists and technology wizards.

Tennis, anyone?

We are hoping to offer tennis intramurals to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the Spring—outdoors—after school. Please let us know if you would be interested in having your child participate in learning tennis.

And, finally, a favor:

When you are picking up your child early for an appointment and you set a specific time, we will call him/her to the office when you get here. Several parents have expressed the thought that the child would be sitting in the office waiting for them. But traffic, weather, and other conditions can get in the way and we don't want to ask a child to miss instruction to just wait in the office.

Thanks, everyone, for your patience on Monday when the snow predictions led to an early dismissal. We know that several glitches in transportation, particularly for the kindergarten children, made it difficult and worrisome. We are all working hard for the safety of the children and doing our best to believe the weatherman!!

Sherry Weinberg