



The Eagle Newsletter

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The new year has come, and the winter weather is here to stay, it seems. We are glad we are all warm and cozy in the school, back at work after the holiday break. Just a reminder to parents, please bundle your children into warm coats, jackets, gloves and hats, so they can enjoy the outdoor time they have each day.

As I monitor the students each morning and afternoon, I often notice drivers taking a "short cut" through the surrounding housing development. Please, do not drive through their neighborhood. We want to be courteous and keep all traffic coming in by the Lincoln Road exit. We know that there are many people in a hurry—but a few seconds of time is not worth the safety risk to students who are walking along the roadway. I appreciate all those who consistently take Lincoln Road to the school.

My final thought this month has to do with the end of the semester coming up. We love to see the progress our students are making. We have several tests and assessments that we use in the classrooms to mark how well the students have advanced in reading, math, and other basic functions. These are just for use within our school, but they are extremely helpful in making sure students are comprehending class material. Help make sure your students are well-rested and well-fed when they come to school so they can do their best on their assessments.

In the high school, their end of semester finals are just as important. High school students need to be proactive in checking their grades and conferencing with their teachers. The missing assignments, make-up tests, or other projects that they need to do to better their grade will make a difference. This semester's grade will go on their high school transcript, which will then be sent to any college they apply to in the future. A little extra effort now may make a huge difference in making their future brighter! These scores are final once January 22 comes around, so be on time and aware of what students need to do to complete their work.

Thank you for being part of our wonderful Taylor's Crossing community. We hope you feel that as teachers, administrators, parents, and students, we are all working together to make a difference in the world.

DINNER AND AUCTION GALA—SAVE THE DATE!



Parents, mark your calendars for March 4! Our annual dinner and auction fundraiser is on its way, and we are excited to see you there!

We are still in the early planning stages, so it's not too late to participate. We need volunteers from every classroom to help gather donations. Please contact the PFA to volunteer.

Come to the front desk and reserve your seats — only \$17 per meal, \$30 per couple, or a full table of eight for \$100! That's a dinner for two for only \$25! Invite your friends and neighbors, too. See you March 4!



To Do List:

- Schedule your elementary school child's Parent Teacher Conference



- Collect Box Tops for the spring contest

SYNC YOUR CALENDAR:

January 13, 7:00 p.m. — Board Meeting

January 16 — Saturday School

January 18 — No School

January 20, 7:00 p.m. — PFA meeting

January 20-22 — In-class Poetry Out Loud finals, high school

January 22 — End of quarter/semester

January 22, 7-10:00 p.m. — Game Night (high school)

January 27 — Sixth grade State Capitol field trip

January 27-28, 3-8 p.m. — Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

January 29, 8:30 a.m. — Citizen of the Month assembly

Feb. 3 — Mayor's Scholarship applications due

Feb. 11 — Poetry Out Loud school contest

Please be courteous to our neighbors and continue to use Lincoln Road to access the school.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE



NEXT ACTIVITY

Game night! Winter-themed games including penguin bowling and board games.

When: Friday, January 22, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Where: TCPCS Commons

For Whom: Everyone! Bring your friends and enjoy the casual competition.

Cost: \$2 per person

DRAMA CLUB

The high school is excited to announce a new after school drama club, beginning next semester. The club will meet on Mondays and Thursdays. The club hopes to have some fun, casual activities and also work towards a performance for the student body. Please see Ms. Newell to sign up.

POETRY OUT LOUD CONTEST DATE SET

Last year our school participated in our first Poetry Out Loud competition, a recitation and memorization contest. This is a national contest created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Poetry Out Loud is administered in partnership with the State Arts Agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and

Puerto Rico. It is in its 11th year. For more information, visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

Each high school student has a chance to participate this year. The recitation will be part of their final grade in English. The class winners will go on to a school-level competition on Feb. 11. The final winner selected will compete at the state level in Boise.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SENIOR CLASS LOOKS FORWARD TO GRADUATION

As our class of 2016 turns the corner on their last year of high school, they are busy preparing for the biggest event of their high school career—graduation! The State of Idaho requires all Seniors to complete a Senior Project and Portfolio. The senior classmen have all selected their project and are hard at work to see it through to the end.

Our school has set the following deadlines for milestones in completing this project:

- **April 8** - minimum of 15 project hours logged and signed
- **April 29** - Finished project: Complete signed log of hours, printed and typed reflection, and self-assessment form
- **May 13** - Completed Portfolio with research paper

Each senior must meet these deadlines on time in order to graduate. The date for graduation is **June 2**.

Looking beyond graduation, our senior

classmen are applying for admission to colleges and for scholarships. Each senior is required to apply to a minimum of two colleges and for at least two scholarships. Not all scholarships are academic-based—there are many avenues to finding post-graduation money.

One local scholarship we'd like to recommend is the Idaho Falls Mayor's Scholarship. Two basic awards are offered: The Senior Scholarship for graduating seniors, and the Mayor's Promise Award for student in grades 8–11 who agree to maintain a college-bound path. The 2015 Senior Scholarship was for \$1,500 and the Promise award was for \$500.

Applications are now available at the school. We had five students selected from our student body last year, and we look forward to having many of our students apply this year. Applications are due **February 3**, so please pick up an application today and get started!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are off to a great start in this New Year! We had two wonderful Christmas Music Programs



Matthew Boone played the Grinch for the middle school's choir performance.

in December. Our elementary students did a program called "Elves at the North Pole." They did a wonderful job singing their songs with Will Wallace playing the role of Santa's son! Our elementary teachers finished off the program with their version of "I'm Gettin' Nothin' for Christmas," which finished off the program with lots of humor and fun. A video can be seen on the school web site.

Our Middle and High School Choirs added to the festive spirit with their performances of "Grinch" and "Polar Express" medleys. The Grinch was played by Matthew Boone who was outstanding in his performance of the villainous Grinch. A lot of work went into creating the backdrop for the Christmas performances along with costumes and props. These choirs also performed at the Lincoln Court Retirement Home, giving out gift bags afterwards. A special thank you to all those who donated items for these gift bags. They were much appreciated!

Both choirs did a wonderful job in their performances and look forward to a new year of singing and entertainment! Thank you to all the parents for your support of music at our school!

Bobbi Campbell
Music, Choir, Title 1 Director

Parent Teacher Conferences

Our next scheduled conferences for the elementary school students will be on the evenings of January 27 and 28. Sign up slips will be going home soon. Please make sure you return the form and speak with your child's teacher about their continued improvement.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET REPORTS GREAT SUCCESS

The December food drive spurred on fierce competition: the elementary brought in 1,254 cans of food and the high school brought in 1,238 cans. The Community Food Basket reported the following on their Facebook page:

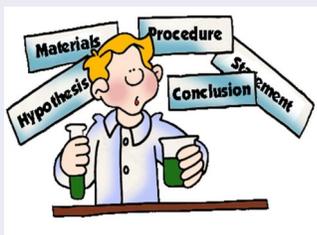
"Taylor's Crossing Charter School ... collected nearly 2,500 food items that added up to over one ton of food. ... [there was] a competition between students in the K-6th grades and the 7th-12th grades. ... The K-6th grade team won the competition. A total of 2,496 food items were collected in the food drive [by both groups]."

"The spirit of giving was felt by more than just the students. Holly Borresen, high school volunteer coordinator, remarked that 'this is the most humbling experience I have ever had.'"

"The volunteers of the Community Food Basket Idaho Falls are overjoyed. 'This is truly one of the most successful food drives that has ever been hosted to the benefit of our organization. I can't express enough gratitude to the students, faculty and staff of Taylor's Crossing Charter School for their assistance in helping us fill the need during the winter season,' says Bud Langerak, Executive Director of the Community Food Basket Idaho Falls."

SCIENCE FAIR

Taylor's Crossing will be holding a science fair this year. Anyone one may participate, however, seventh and ninth grades will be required to complete a project to enter in the science fair. They will also be required to do a research paper. All projects must be approved by Mrs. Meldrum for grades 1-8 and Mrs. Kunde for high school before the project is started. Make sure you are following the scientific method. This is the most important thing in a science fair.



The fair is going to be held on March 11th. All projects must be turned in by that date. You may turn them in early if you are going to be absent that day. Make sure to talk to Mrs. Meldrum if there is a problem.

The science lab will have books available with project ideas, or you can look on the internet. Better yet, come up with your own idea. Make sure your question or hypothesis is one that you can test (experiment).

Get started now! This is not a project that can be done in a day or a week. Some will take several weeks.

Project ideas are due January 22 to Mrs. Meldrum (Mrs. Kunde for high school) and should have a parent's signature. Please support your student in this exciting event!

BOARD UPDATE

The Board of Directors met on Jan. 13 and discussed several new, exciting items. They approved a request from the student body to form an after school drama club, which will begin next semester. They also discussed a new format for hearing from parents, Town Hall meetings. Look for information on these forthcoming events. Finally, our new board member, Mr. Capener, was sworn in. We look forward to his service on our school board.

CLOTHING DRIVE EXTENDED TO JAN. 19

The National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring a winter clothing drive. Coats, gloves, scarves, boots, etc. for all ages and sizes are being accepted through January 19th. This will be another competition between the Elementary and the Junior High/High School students. The elementary won the Canned Food Drive in December, and we are hoping to have another friendly competition to again benefit residents in our local area. All donations will be given to The Haven, a shelter for women and children. We appreciate the continued generosity of all our TCPCS families.

PFA NEWS

The PFA is busy working on the next opportunity for parents to get involved to help raise money for the sprinklers and grass addition for the summer of 2016. The Dinner Auction is set for Friday, March 4th! Mark your calendar for an evening of food and fun! We would love to get some parent involvement to help get donations, assemble baskets, or decorate. Please contact a member of the PFA to help. Also, look for upcoming information on class baskets for the auction too. We know we are asking a lot, but lots of helping hands make light work. Hope to meet and work with some awesome people!

Come to our next meeting, Jan. 20, to help us make this event great!

KITCHEN RECEIVES DAIRY COUNCIL GRANTS!

Hello from the kitchen! January is starting off to be the beginning of a wonderful year. We are so excited to be back from a great Christmas break and ready to finish the second half of the year.

The kitchen is excited to announce that we have been awarded two grants. The first one is from the Idaho Dairy Council. We are getting two Milk Barrels to hold milk for the high school side. This will help keep the milk colder during serving times. The other is from the National Dairy Council. We signed up for the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, and applied for a \$4000.00 grant to improve items in the kitchen and also to help with PE program. The website is FuelUptoplay60.com. Go check it out and see what there is for you.



Thanks for all your support to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. Remember to drink plenty of milk and thank a cow for its service to us.

— Beth Long, Food Service Director