



The TOAST Times



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January/February, 2010

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology

<http://toast.albany.k12.ny.us/>

Principal: Mr. Timothy Fowler

Co-Editors: Mrs. Reynolds-Hoffman & Ms. Whipple

Theme Team: Mr. Fowler, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Ingleston, Mr. Olmstead, Ms. Whipple

From the Desk of Mr. Fowler:

Happy New Year everyone, it's great to be back! We are beginning to settle into our home here at Lincoln Park. By now you should have received the brochure about our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony here at TOAST. On Tuesday, February 9th, beginning at 4:30 PM, we will be officially celebrating our return. Immediately following the Ribbon Cutting we will also be hosting our very first Math, Science, and Technology (MST) Night. Please join us for both of these monumental occasions. This will be another opportunity to see what we have to offer here at TOAST by way of our school theme and some of the things your child has already learned, or will be learning!

Believe it or not we are about half way through the school year. So, let's finish up strong. As I have said in the past, everyone plays a part in the investment of our children's future. Therefore, I would like to share this quote with you. "The way I see it...All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Moms, dads, grannies, aunts, uncles- someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals, and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass on to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes and dreams." ~General Colin L. Powell

Upcoming TOAST Events:

Please check our website for updates

February 2010

- **Friday, February 5th:** Morning Bird Watch; 7:00 am
- **Friday, February 5th:** Basketball Game: TOAST Techs vs New Scotland Elem.; 4pm @ VI
- **Tuesday, February 9th:** TOAST Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; 4:30-6:00 pm
- **Tuesday, February 9th:** Math, Science and Technology Family Night (MST Night); 5:30-7:00 pm
- **Thursday, February 11th:** Red and White Dress Up Day for Valentine's Day!!
- **Monday, February 15th-Friday, February 19th:** **NO SCHOOL;** Winter Recess
- **Monday, February 22nd:** Basketball Game: TOAST Techs vs Brighter Choice Boys.; 5pm @ VI
- **Wednesday, February 24th:** Basketball Game: TOAST Techs vs Montessori.; 4pm @ VI
- **Friday, February 26th:** TOAST T-shirt day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt



From the Desk of the Home School Coordinator:

Welcome back to our Lincoln Park TOAST home! We have really hit 2010 on the ground running! For the most part our students have really transitioned quite nicely to our "new" surroundings. Just a few reminders to families and students in regard to routines here at TOAST, please DO NOT drop students off before 7:40 a.m., school is not open until then and there is NO STAFF to supervise them. Children please make sure you are wearing hats, scarves and gloves for it is very cold in the upcoming winter months. If you need these items please see me in room 112D. Parents, please DO NOT use the BUS LOOP. This is for the SAFETY of our students!! With that being said this also includes pulling into the entrance of the loop to drop your kids off. It is very dangerous with so many vehicles trying to pull into the same location, doing U-turns and backing up. If you drive in the straight away and stop at the flagpole your child can cross safely through the crosswalk and not congest the entrance or exit of the bus loop.

At dismissal, our front door is locked from 2:15-2:30 pm so please DO NOT come to pick up your child at this time. We are doing BUS DISMISSAL and we cannot allow parents through the front doors. You can either pick up your child before 2:15, in the Main Office, and sign them out or pick them up at 2:30 to their dismissal location. Again this is for the SAFETY of our children! Your cooperation is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Ms. Cascone

Note from the Theme Team:

If you are interested in receiving the **TOAST E-Newsletter** and have not returned your form, please email Mr. Olmstead at molmstead@albany.k12.ny.us Thanks!



Hats For Haiti

Thank you so much for your participation and generous support in our efforts to raise money for the earthquake victims of Haiti!

Thanks to you, we raised \$427.56!!! All donations were given to the American Red Cross. Pictures can be viewed on our website under Picture Gallery.

Ms. Whipple

TOAST Drama Club Presents.....

A Broadway Revue

featuring songs from musicals including Aladdin, Seussical, Once Upon a Mattress and many more!

Friday, March 5th at 7pm
and

Saturday, March 6th at 3pm

These performances by the TOAST Drama Club are made possible by past donations from teachers, parents and friends. Thanks for your support!!

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

We are happy to be back at our home building!!!! The Health Office has undergone significant renovations, come by anytime to see it!! It's GREAT!!! There is a new phone # 475-6882. We also have a direct fax line for physicians and/or parents to send notes directly here. Fax 475-6883. We have been very fortunate here at TOAST with very few cases of H1N1. We are only halfway through the winter so we need to continue to be vigilant in regards to the health of our students. Remember to call school if your child is ill and report it. You still need to send in a note regarding the illness and any md notes you may have. Students should remain home 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal, or after the last bout of vomiting and/or diarrhea. Students with persistent coughs should remain home and be seen by their md. The school physician is continuing to complete mandated health screenings, these are not physicals. The 4th graders will be the next set of students to be checked. If your 4th grader had a physical by their own physician please provide a copy to the Health Office.

News from Kindergarten

It's hard to believe we are approaching the 100th day of school (February 9th)! Information on our 100th Day celebration and the 100 Day project has been sent home; all kindergarteners should be working on projects at home with their families. Projects should be brought in NO LATER THAN 2/9.

Our Valentine's Day celebration will be on 2/12. Please have your child bring in a decorated shoe box or tissue box that will serve as a "mailbox" for Valentine cards and a snack to share at our Valentine's party. We will be exchanging Valentine cards and class lists were sent home already to assist your child in addressing their cards. If you need another copy, please contact your child's teacher.

Your children are really taking off with their reading and are learning more words every day. Please continue to read with them at home every night. By now they should be able to do some of the reading too! We are looking forward to seeing "Frog and Toad" at the Egg on 3/15 and "Seussical" at the Palace on 4/29.

Second Grade News:

Second grade is very excited to be back at TOAST. We love our new space and can't wait for the Ribbon Cutting on Feb. 9th. On Jan. 25th our classes went on a field trip to the Palace Theater to see an Opera put on by the Albany Symphony. On Feb. 5th we are scheduled to go the Visitor's Center to experience the planetarium and to learn about the "Drinking Gourd". Get you warm clothing ready because at the end of Feb. we will be going to Thatcher Park for an outdoor learning experience. Second grade is having a great year!



Fourth Grade Facts:

We are living up to the New York state motto "Excelsior!" in 4th grade! Our students are working on test taking skills and how to listen while note taking. We are using our agendas to keep us organized and list homework and long-term assignments like the science fair. Please make sure agendas are signed every night. Home-School communications are vital!

Every student is working towards the goal of reading 100 books for the Readers to Leaders Program. Students should be reading at least 45 minutes each night. Make sure you are keeping track of the titles you read!

We are planning many educational field trips this year. Remember that admission to field trips is based on work performance (class work/homework) and behavior. Do your best at all times!

What's New in Room 214:

We are all so excited to be back in our NEW classroom at TOAST! We would like to welcome our student teacher Ms. Teal from Saint Rose. All of us in room 214 have been working diligently to meet our daily goals. We are looking forward to going to the Pine Bush Preserve in February as well as the NYS Museum. We want to recognize Byonce Whitted, Deshaun Thomas, Chyna Taplin, Elisha Fallen, Samantha Soto, and Jose Prieto-Cole for excellence in homework completion!!! Way to go guys. Congrats to I'Jalief Johnson for his hard work on his Biome project for Science class! That's all for now from 214 ☺

News from the Fifth Grade:

We are feverishly studying decimals in our HSP Math program. We have been learning about decimal place value and we are about to embark on chapters that deal with the addition and subtraction of decimals. Reminder - keep studying basic math facts everyday!

It's that time of year again; time to get ready for the Science Fair. All 5th graders are required to complete a science fair project by March 25th. Each student is assigned a specific day so watch for information to be coming your way soon.

In Social Studies we are studying, re enacting, analyzing and dissecting the American Revolution. So far we have acted out several major turning points including the French and Indian War as well as the Boston Massacre. We will be making our technology based projects in the next few weeks which will include power points, web sites, blogs, vodcasts and many more exciting presentations.

News from the Science Lab,

Welcome home!!! It feels great to be back. Here are just a few highlights:

-- Science Fair is underway for all students in grades 4 and 5. I will be available everyday to help students with any Science Fair questions. Good luck.

--The Rippin' Rocket Roller Coaster Club has been building their new creation...The Looping Lightning Roller Coaster. It should be completed in a few weeks.

--Our two Jr. LEGO League Groups are finishing their projects and will be ready to compete on February 6, 2010 at SUNY Albany. Good Luck!

--The fifth graders will soon begin work on a full scale Soap Box Derby Car that will be raced down the Madison Avenue hill.

Dates to Remember:

- * Morning Bird Watch - February 5, 2010
- * Jr. Lego Expo @ SUNY Albany, Feb 6, 2010
- * TOAST Science Fair - March 25, 2010
- * Joseph Henry Science Fair @ St. Rose- April 16, 2010

Also... afterschool science programs will begin sometime in February. I will send home notices.

Mr. Flynn



Computer Lab:

Welcome back to TOAST, Lincoln Park! It's so wonderful to be back in my room (Room 216), with all new iMacs and a SMARTBoard!! If you haven't been by to visit, please come see me during MST Night on Tuesday, February 9th (this is also the night for our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony which begins at 4:30 pm). During MST Night, you'll see 4th and 5th grade student projects from iMovie and Garage Band; some students will also be available to teach you how to make your own!!

I have started a weekly Computer Mentor program for 3rd-5th graders (they mentor the PreK-1st graders) and have also started a 5th grade iMovie/Video Production class which takes place on Wednesday afternoons. During this class, students will be taking pictures, creating slideshows as well as learning more about making movies (in iMovie), editing and uploading them to our website.

The new iMacs have the capability of using both Mac and Windows systems, so I have the best of both worlds! Students have been learning both systems and how to log into and out of each. They all have to use their computer id's and passwords, please work with them so they can memorize both; this will assist greatly with logging on. Thanks so much!

Don't forget to check our website out for updates! Thanks so much, hope to see you soon!

Ms. Whipple ☺



News from the Museum Room

Thursday, January 28, 2010 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm will be the TOAST museum night at the New York State Museum. Open to only TOAST students, friends and family, they will be able to participate in special programs throughout the museum. Snack will be provided by TOAST PTA. TOAST Museum passports will be handed out on that night. Any student who completes the passport will have an opportunity to participate in the TOAST sleepover at the New York State Museum.

We've added a new partnership here at TOAST. The Pine Bush Discovery Center has become a partner with the TOAST museum program. On February 23rd the fifth graders will be snowshoeing the Pinebush and on the 25th the fourth graders will participate. Make sure you dress warm!! More grade levels will be participating in Pine Bush activities in the coming months. Don't forget to check out the Pine Bush Discovery Center display by the Cafeteria.

Also, check out the New York State Museum web site <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov> for programs during February break. Anyone who has any questions with regard to museum programs please e-mail Mrs. Ingleston at cciufo@albany.k12.ny.us.

Mrs. Ingleston

What's Going On In Art?

Plenty! We are sooo excited to move back to our Lincoln Park Art Room!! We were welcomed with freshly painted walls, new floor, ceiling, air conditioning, heating, and newer furniture. Our two sinks have had a "facelift" with new faucets too. No more black boards and chalk dust! The room looks great! We also received two I-Macs and a color printer that we will be putting to use soon! Students are now nestled into art classes and have learned their new assigned seats at the purple, blue or green tables. Projects are getting underway such as: Monet's Bridge, Van Gogh's Sunflowers, Clay Snowpeople, Snowmen drawings, Ice-skater Puppets, and Watercolor Winter Landscapes. Welcome back everyone!!

-Mrs. Wright

Notes from the Music Room:

Greetings from your friendly TOAST music teacher. There will be a lot of noise coming for the new music room over the next few months. The 4th and 5th grades are starting up recorders in February. The Pre-K classes are now coming to see me, which means lots of energy! The 2nd Graders are also learning about the instruments in the orchestra with help from carnegiehall.org. Speaking of instruments in the orchestra, the 2nd graders are going to the Palace Theatre January 25th to see "Mozart in the Opera". Also, The Albany Symphony will be stopping by TOAST to give presentations on everything from the piccolo to the harp.

Chorus is singing some bluesy tunes, one of which is a Michael Jackson piece from *The Wiz*, and another tune by Matisyahu entitled "One Day". Select Choir was also chosen and they will be preparing for the All-City concerts in March.
Mr. Olmstead

Library Lowdown

Brrrrr! It's cold outside. But it's nice and warm in our new, state-of-the-art Library Media Center! Although we are not yet able to borrow books, there are plenty of cold-weather stories and activities to help us to cozy up and read. We've been sharing "cold" stories like the Caldicott Award-winning Snow (Uri Shulevitz), Snow is My Favorite and My Best (Lauren Child), and Snow Family (Daniel Kirk). We've talked about the problems of "snow days" (The Snow Day; Axle Annie) and dressing appropriately for the weather (Thomas' Snowsuit). We honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by discussing several biographies and by responding to his "I Have a Dream" speech with our own hopes and aspirations. In the coming weeks, we are looking forward to exploring the Library Media Center's mini-computer lab and the new Smartboard. And RIF is just around the corner! Stay warm and read!!

Mrs. Florance

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:

We have a date for the Health Fair!!! Wednesday, April 28th!!! SAVE THE DATE! We can always use volunteers for the event, see Mrs. Greenwood if you are interested. We also can use ideas for vendors and refreshments. Maybe your employer is connected to the health field and wants to participate, let us know! The Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program is in full swing! The students are receiving a fresh fruit or veggie almost every day! Green beans, oranges, bananas, kiwi, carrots and apples are some of the items the students have had in the last month. Remember that 5 servings of fruits and/or veggies a day is the recommended number! Let your children see YOU eating healthy and they will be sure to imitate you!

The Winter Olympics begin on February 12, 2010

For schedules and results, go to:

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-schedule-results/>

Meet the Mascots:

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/mascot>

Mascot Games & Activities:

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/mascot/en/games.php>



Vancouver Winter Olympic Mascots



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