



# The TOAST Times



Volume 2, No. 4

February/March 2009



**Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology**

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

**Principal:** Mr. Timothy Fowler

**Editorial Staff:**

Mrs. Ciufo, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Reynolds-Hoffman, Ms. Whipple

## **A Message From Mr. Fowler, Principal:**

Can you believe February is already here? The school year is going by really fast, but of course I tend to say that every year. With that thought in mind, Save the Date for the Sixth Grade Graduation and Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony. The Grade 6 Graduation will be Monday, June 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm. The Grade 5 Moving Up Ceremony will be Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

*I wanted to share a few friendly reminders with you: to "Do It the Right Way!"*

1. Attendance is important! When your child is going to absent please call the school and follow up by sending in a written excuse.
2. If you're picking up your child before dismissal, you'll be asked to come in and sign them out. **Remember, sign outs are not allowed after 2:10 pm!** It's too confusing during this time of day with walkers, bus students, and after-school students. The staff needs to ensure that everyone reaches their respective place in a safe and orderly fashion.
3. If you regularly pick your child up after-school, the Western Avenue exit continues to be the place to do that and students are released at dismissal, which is 2:30 pm..

Lastly, 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

## **From the Desk of the Home School Coordinator:**

Parents, please be mindful that when your child/children are absent that you send a note in when they return to school. Letters received more than 5 days after a recorded absence do not have to be accepted. If a student is absent for a few consecutive days, a doctor's note is required to mark it as excused. Also, our school day begins at 8:00 am PROMPTLY! Students here after 8:05 am are marked tardy.

Another quick reminder....parents need to pick up their children BEFORE 2:15 pm. They need to come to the Main Office and sign them out. Students cannot be dismissed during bus dismissal 2:15-2:30 pm. All other students are dismissed at 2:30 pm at the Western Avenue door. This is for ALL students' safety!

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation!

**Ms. Cascone**



**Upcoming TOAST Events:  
February 2009**



- Monday, February 2nd: Basketball game--TOAST vs. Giffen; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Wednesday, February 4th: Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society Assembly: K-3 from 9:00-9:30 am, 4-6 from 9:30-10:00 am
- Wednesday, February 4th: Basketball game--TOAST vs. ASH; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Thursday, February 5th: School House Rock presentation for students; 9:30-10:30 am
- Friday, February 6th College Friday: wear a college t-shirt or sweatshirt
- Friday, February 6th: School House Rock; presented by the TOAST Drama Club; 7:00 pm--Auditorium
- Friday, February 6th: Magnet Schools Lottery for new students: Application Deadline, 3pm
- Saturday, February 7th: School House Rock, presented by the TOAST Drama Club; 3:00 pm--Auditorium
- Tuesday, February 10th: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria
- Wednesday, February 11th: Basketball game--TOAST vs. New Covenant; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Friday, February 13th: Red and White Dress Up Day for Valentine's Day!!
- Friday, February 13th Furry Friends Day: Donate \$1.00 and bring your favorite stuffed animal
- Monday, February 16th-Friday, February 20th: **NO SCHOOL**; Winter Recess
- Monday, February 23rd: Basketball game--TOAST vs. Hackett; 5:00 pm at the VI
- Friday, February 27th: TOAST T-shirt day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt



**March 2009**



- Monday, March 2nd: Basketball game: TOAST vs. Achievement Academy; 5:00 pm at the VI
- Wednesday, March 9th: Basketball game: TOAST vs. Giffen; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Tuesday, March 10th: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria
- Wednesday, March 11th: TOAST Science Fair Night; 6:00-8:00 pm
- Friday, March 13th: Health Fair; 5:00-7:00 pm
- Monday, March 16th: Basketball game: TOAST vs. ASH; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Tuesday, March 17th: Happy St. Patrick's Day! Don't forget to wear green!
- Wednesday, March 18th: TOAST T-Shirt Day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt
- Wednesday, March 18th: Basketball game: TOAST vs. New Covenant; 4:00 pm at the VI
- Thursday, March 19th: Magnet Lottery; Philip Livingston Magnet Academy Auditorium, 10:00 am
- Wednesday, March 25th: Basketball game: TOAST vs. Hackett; 5:00 pm at the VI
- Friday, March 27th: NO SCHOOL For Students; Superintendent's Conference Day--Teachers only

**Websites For You To Check Out:**

**Ms. Whipple**

**Black History Month Activities:**

[http://holidays.kaboose.com/black\\_history\\_month.html](http://holidays.kaboose.com/black_history_month.html)

**Valentine's Day Activities:**

<http://www.teachingheart.net/valentineprint.html>

**President's Day Activities:**

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>

**St. Patrick's Day Fun:** <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/>

**Highlights Magazine:** <http://www.highlightskids.com/>

**Fun Brain:** <http://www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html>

**Kids Know It Network:** <http://www.kidsknowit.com/>

**Reeko's Mad Scientist Lab:**

<http://www.reekoscience.com/index.aspx>

**Winter Fun:**

<http://childcare.about.com/od/enrichment/bb/winterfun.htm>

**Don't forget to check our school websites for more information**

as well as additional upcoming activities and events. Our website address was updated at the beginning of the school year. Remember to update your bookmark so you won't miss anything! Our district site is: [www.albanyschools.org/schools/toast/toast.htm](http://www.albanyschools.org/schools/toast/toast.htm) and our TOAST website is: <http://toast.albany.k12.ny.us/>

### **Happy New Year from Kindergarten!**

The New Year has brought some new changes with it. We were sad to say good bye to one of our Kindergarten teachers, who was moved to another school. On a happy note, our Kindergarteners eagerly made new friends and learned new routines. January also brought some exciting changes, including a new President. We have learned about President Obama and celebrated his inauguration with the school.

We are now preparing for the busy month of February. Soon we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Students should be working on their special 100<sup>th</sup> day projects where they bring in 100 items displayed creatively. We will also be celebrating Valentine's Day and discussing the importance of friendship while working on our manners. February is also Black History Month and we will be learning about many great African-Americans, including Jackie Robinson. Don't forget to stop by Kindergarten at the end of the month to see our fantastic 100<sup>th</sup> day projects!

**Mrs. Luciani and Mrs. Molitor**

### **News From Second Grade:**

This is a busy time for the second grade. We are currently working on presenting a song for the Black History Assembly and working on projects for the living museum walk through. Our study for Black History Month focuses on inventors. Our newest service learning project community partner will be the Ronald McDonald House. The second grade has plans to make a project for the families that stay there and hope to take a trip there to see the house in the future. Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> was our most recent Movie Party for good work efforts and behavior. We are happy to announce that most of the children have been attending these celebrations.

**Mrs. Lo, Ms. Nies, Mrs. Scandurra, Mrs. Shanahan, Mr. Thompson**

### **News from Ms. Haggerty's Room:**

Ms. Haggerty and Ms. McCaffrey's class has been working extremely hard to achieve the goals we set back in September. We would like to say congratulations to Chyna Taplin for being the first student in our class to complete 10 consecutive days of homework, and earn a special lunch. Way to go Chyna!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We can't wait to see who joins her next time.

**Ms. Haggerty and Ms. McCaffrey**

### **News From the Fourth Grade:**

The fourth graders have been busily at work on our science fair projects. A project with a display board is a requirement for each fourth grader. Most of the students have thought up very interesting topics and have begun their experiments. If you are stuck in any way, now is the time to see your teacher or Mr. Flynn for assistance. Now that our ELA testing is complete, we are also working on Black History Month performances and displays. We are sure you will enjoy what we have planned!

**Mrs. Serapilio, Mrs. Googins and Mrs. Ellis**

### **Fifth Grade News:**

It's been a busy start to 2009 for the 5th grades. We are happy to have finished our state ELA test earlier this month. Now we're focusing our attention on preparing for March's state math test. We have started working on our science fair projects so that we can complete our projects at home. In preparation of Black History Month, we have been doing a variety of activities. We have been doing research on famous African Americans and writing essays about them for writing. In social studies we're learning about abolitionists and about how quilts were an important part of the Underground Railroad. We hope you can attend our Black History assembly and hear us perform our song. Look for information in the spring about the 5th grade "Moving Up" ceremony and about upcoming field trips. Enjoy the February break!

**The 5th Grade Team**

**NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:**

WE HAVE HAD QUITE A FEW CASES OF FEVERS, STOMACH ACHES AND SORE THROATS. IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN OUR SCHOOL, PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- ANY CHILD WITH AN ORAL TEMPERATURE OVER 99.9 DEGREES SHOULD STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL UNTIL HIS/HER EVENING TEMPERATURE IS NORMAL FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS WITHOUT THE AID OF MEDICATION.
- ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE SYMPTOM FREE FROM NAUSEA, VOMITING AND FEVER FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL. AS MUCH AS THEY WANT TO BE IN SCHOOL, (AND AS MUCH AS WE WANT THEM HERE), THEY SHOULD STAY HOME IN THE MORNING IF THEY HAVE VOMITED OR HAVE A FEVER DURING THE NIGHT OR IN THE MORNING.

**MS. GREENWOOD**

**NEWS FROM THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE:**

WE ARE HOSTING A HEALTH FAIR ON MARCH 13, 5 - 7 PM. IT WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE READING AND WRITING NIGHT. PLAN ON STOPPING IN , WE WILL HAVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE BALLROOM DANCE CLASS! THERE WILL BE HEALTHY SNACKS, GIVE AWAYS AND PRIZES!!! THERE WILL BE LOTS OF PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING: HONEST WEIGHT FOOD CO-OP, PRICE CHOPPER, HANNAFORD, ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER MEDICAL STUDENTS AND DIABETES EDUCATOR, CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, ST PETERS HEALTH CARE SERVICES, ALBANY COUNTY HEALTH DEPT, AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION, NYS DENTAL SOCIETY AND THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INTERNET SAFETY!!

**News From the Museum Room:**

The Museum Program is very busy preparing for the Hudson 400 Celebration of Discovery. The City of Albany is commemorating the Journey of Henry Hudson up the Hudson River in 1609. In partnership with the Albany Visitors Center, the TOAST museum program will be focusing on the Archeology, Architecture of early Dutch Albany and everyday life in Dutch Colonial Albany. The first two Archeology Discovery Trunks have arrived. They are filled with authentic and reproductions of important artifacts found in digs around the Albany area; there is a large amount of resource material for teachers and students. We will be visiting the New York State Museum to visit the New Netherlands Project. In the Career Series, several students will be meeting with Eduardo Valverde-Salas for brunch. He comes from Ecuador and is teaching Spanish and chess at the Arbor Hill School. Hopefully, we can get him to play a game with us!

**Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleston**

**Computer Lab:**

Students in grades 4-6 have been busy planning, researching for and typing their Science Fair projects. The titles look great and the projects sound interesting!! They have also learned how to input information into a spreadsheet and create a graph to put on their boards. Remember to sign up outside my room if you need additional help. I can't wait to see the completed projects on Science Fair Night!

Students in grades K-3 have been learning new programs, more about animals (House is Bugged), simple machines (Gizmos & Gadgets), math (Zoo Zillions, Treasure MathStorm, Carnival Countdown), reading (Phonics Express, Reader Rabbit 2 & 3) as well as practicing their typing skills.

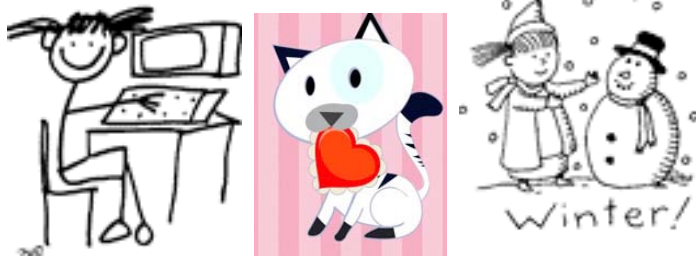
If you haven't returned your internet contract, please do so as soon as possible; there are many educational websites that we will be going onto in the upcoming months. Thank you!!

**Ms. Whipple**

### Library Lowdown

The cold has been relentless so we've all had to use our imaginations to stay warm. While Lola (from "Charlie & Lola" fame) has declared that "Snow is My Favorite and My Best (Lauren Child)," we prefer to read about snow by staying "TOASTy" inside. We've read folktales such as How Snowshoe Hare Rescued the Sun: A Tale from the Arctic (Yuit people of northeast Siberia; Emery & Durga Bernhard), fairy tales including The Little Snowgirl (Carolyn Croll), and nonfiction like Animals in Winter (Henrietta Bancroft & Richard G. Van Gelder). We've even read about Snowflake Bentley, the scientist who studied snow (Jacqueline Briggs Martin). Now all we need is a roaring fire and a steaming cup of hot cocoa...

**Mrs. Florance**



### **NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE LAB**

We have been busy this month learning about snowflakes and temperature. There has also been a lot of building going on in the Science Lab. I have been meeting with several students each day as we get closer to TOAST's Science Fair. Keep working hard...and *don't forget your log books!!!*

Mark your calendar this for our February full moon, occurring on Monday, February 9th at 6:50 am. Also February 2 is Marmota monax Day...you know, Groundhog Day. Is winter coming to an end?

Join us on Friday February 6th for our monthly morning bird watch at 7:00 am. We meet on the Western Ave side of TOAST.

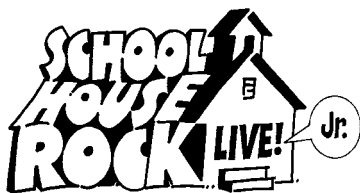
Look for new after school permission slips, which include dates through June.

There will be an informational Science Fair meeting on Thursday, February 5th for students and families to ask questions and get insight into our upcoming science fair. We will meet in the Science Lab from 5:30-6:30 pm.

**Mr. Flynn**



### **TOAST Drama Club Presents**



**Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
and**

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

**Come and enjoy the show!!**

**~~Donations appreciated~~**

### **What's Going On in Art?**

Plenty!! We are excited to have TOAST's student artwork on display for various community activities in 2009 including: The Annual Founder's Day Dinner Celebration, Magnet Schools Day, and The Meyers Middle School Black History Month Art Exhibit. Also, don't forget, The All City Concert and Art Show is just around the corner in March!!! We are working hard on many fun and challenging art projects that can be selected for this year's show! Here's a snip-it of some of them: 3-D geocentric spheres, Claude Monet's Impressionist Bridge, Rainbow Fish, Van Gogh's Sunflowers, Weaving, Georgia O'Keefe's Flowers, Complex Checkerboards, and Origami Pinwheels...Keep up the creativity!!!

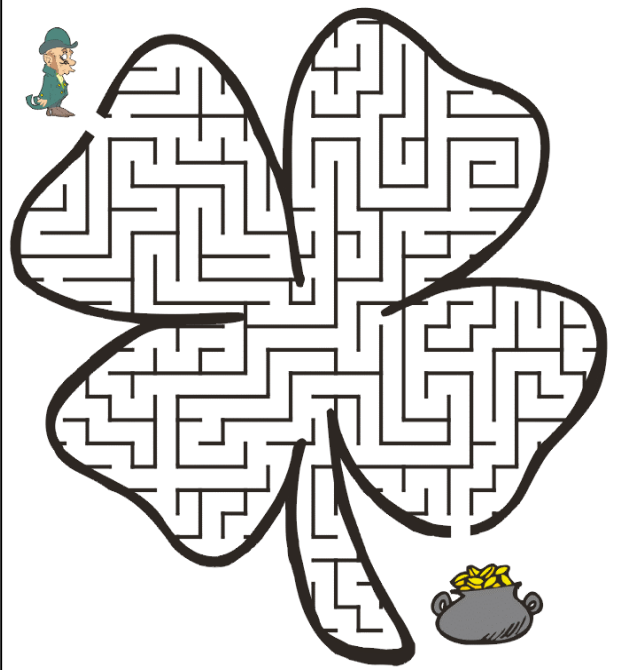
**-Mrs. Wright :)**

Hola! Find the classroom objects that you already know!!!

Sopa de letras La Escuela  
Encuentra estos 6 elementos de la escuela

Pizarra . Lapiz . Borrador . Tiza . Pupitre . Carpeta

W Z D B T D Y D M H E V B E B  
 B P U P I T R E C X I T M G B  
 N U S U R Y I N N M L A P I Z  
 B N T I Z A N I V L A R G F S  
 W M L M N H F R R A P K W E W  
 C V H I T H D Y U I I L L K I  
 B A I Y Y T R G T U Z E F M F  
 U O O Y Y M J Y O V A F I P L  
 R P A M D U T R E C R A Z R M  
 A C A R P E T A D E R N F L O  
 C I T C H U J H G F A T R D T  
 A N M A M K L O E T S V H Z K  
 M U R O F L A V Y P M G T O N  
 B N Z A E K B O R R A D O R P  
 Z B M A Y C M W P O V K S A K



President's Day

G V W U R R  
 S A Z B B X E D U P W V  
 Y I M O A U C M P M Y Y H R Y F  
 C D Q O D J Z R N E G A T R U R Y R  
 O M B C T K A O R M D N N K S A F  
 O A H T R A M F I T O H E O E K H U G X  
 G R H W K O H Q T N U T E N O W V M R M Z I  
 S U R V E Y O R A E N R T R P U Z D O B W I N  
 G E O R G E E P M T I X E R U M F L R E D  
 B F H N I A I U N B I V E G M Q P V E F U A  
 E V T P G C N O O S S W D E B A T E S P P  
 A A P U Y N O T A N T I S L A V E R Y C A O T J  
 F G L T A M G L R Q D O A I N I G R I V E F T O R  
 C O M M A N D E R S Y R A M Q W I F W U L K N D J  
 U H E M I K P N N M S V Z N A A I E S B K E Y L D  
 Z L H N U R T K S K P C O O W M T G I X M F U Z  
 J S F B O S E E F N E A L I G L E R O Z S  
 W A X L R W I R V L S N N R T R K A R N L N  
 W T I F Q E G T N Q Z N D T A U L K T I Z N C  
 V C M H O N Y I U S T Y I S M B O J H L C B Y L  
 O L A O S M W Q L L P D R A S C B U L H A U I F  
 T C P P A P A V O Z A I L Y F Z L I L J N N L  
 D Y V H G J L U V T F C T B R I T I S H C U  
 A W M V K E E H O T D O L L A R K O N  
 R T P E M Z T R R E T J D E Y I L L W  
 C B T X H R S J W P G G B P J G I N  
 B R A C U S T I S Q S F X Y

ABRAHAM  
AMERICAN  
ANTISLAVERY  
BIRTHDAY  
BRITISH  
CANDIDATE  
COMMANDER  
CONGRESS  
CUSTIS  
DEBATES  
DOLLAR

ELECT  
EMANCIPATION  
FARMER  
FEBRUARY  
FIRST  
GEORGE  
GETTYSBURG  
ILLINOIS  
LAWYER  
LINCOLN  
MARTHA

MARY  
MONUMENT  
MOUNT  
PENNY  
PRESIDENTS  
PROCLAMATION  
REPUBLIC  
REVOLUTION  
RUSHMORE  
SIXTEENTH  
SURVEYOR

TODD  
VERNON  
VIRGINIA  
WASHINGTON

### Black History Month Secret Decoder Worksheet

1. Who was the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

3 15 12 9 14 16 15 23 5 12 12

2. Who was the first African American woman to travel into space?

13 1 5 10 5 13 9 19 15 14

3. What is the oldest historically black institute of higher education in the United States?

3 8 5 25 14 5 25 21 14 9 22 5 18 19 9 20 25

4. Who invented the traffic signal and gas mask?

7 1 18 5 20 20 13 15 18 7 1 14

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| A=1  | B=2  | C=3  | D=4  | E=5  |
| F=6  | G=7  | H=8  | I=9  | J=10 |
| K=11 | L=12 | M=13 | N=14 | O=15 |
| P=16 | Q=17 | R=18 | S=19 | T=20 |
| U=21 | V=22 | W=23 | X=24 | Y=25 |