

# The TOAST Times



Volume 2, No. 5

April/May 2009

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

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

**Principal:** Mr. Timothy Fowler

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

**Theme Team:** Mrs. Ciufu, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Reynolds-Hoffman, Ms. Whipple

## **From the Desk of Mr. Fowler:**

The Board of Education voted on March 19th to approve the replacement of the floor tiles in the TOAST—Lincoln Park building. As you may know, some of the floor tiles started to loosen due to the colder temperatures, which led to the ultimate board decision. Due to this added work, our building in Lincoln Park will not be ready for occupation until January, 2010; TOAST will continue to occupy the current space in the Philip Schuyler location until our move. Some good news: I have begun a plan to make our current classrooms that are "split rooms" into full size rooms for September.

Middle school enrollment forms are available online through the District website (<http://www.albanyschools.org>) and the school's Main Office. The forms are specific such as neighborhood and sibling preference. Otherwise, the feeder school system is in effect and TOAST feeds into Hackett Middle School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. All forms must be returned by April 3, 2009 to Central Registration.

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

Spring is upon us! Please make sure students are wearing appropriate outside clothing. Now that the weather is getting nicer, we will be going outside during lunch for a little fresh air! If you do not have proper outdoor attire, you will not be allowed to go outside.

There are also a lot of fun field trips and activities coming up so it is very important that students are coming to school, participating and being respectful while they are in the building so they do not miss any opportunities outside the building.

We have both 5th and 6th grade graduation coming upon us sooner than you think!! Let's make the last few months at TOAST the best they can be!!!!

**Ms. Cascone**



## Upcoming TOAST Events:

Please check our website for updates

### April 2009

- **Friday, April 3rd:** Joseph Henry Science Fair; winners of the TOAST Science Fair will go to St. Rose to participate. 8:00 am-4:00 pm
- **Friday, April 3rd:** Middle school enrollment forms are due to Central Registration
- **Friday, April 3rd:** Jump Rope For Heart Assembly; 9:00 am
- **Wednesday, April 8th:** Underground Railroad Play for 5th and 6th grade, Auditorium
- **Friday, April 10th:** NO SCHOOL; Good Friday
- **Monday, April 13th through Friday, April 17th:** NO SCHOOL; Spring Recess
- **Tuesday, April 21st:** TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria
- **Wednesday, April 22nd:** NYS Science Test; Written section, 4th Grade
- **Wednesday, April 22nd:** Earth Day
- **Friday, April 24th:** TOAST T-shirt day; wear your TOAST t-shirt
- **Wednesday, April 29th:** Ballroom Dance Recital; Auditorium

### May 2009

- **Tuesday, May 5th:** Cinco de Mayo
- **Wednesday, May 6th:** NYS Science Performance Test, 4th Grade
- **Sunday, May 10th:** Mother's Day
- **Tuesday, May 12th:** TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria
- **Thursday, May 14th:** TOAST T-shirt Day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt
- **Tuesday, May 19th:** TOAST Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal; 9:00 am in the Auditorium
- **Tuesday, May 19th:** Spring Concert; 7:00 pm in the Auditorium
- **Monday, May 25th:** NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

#### Check out these websites:

##### Spring Activities:

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/spring/>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/spring/>

[http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/spring\\_crafts\\_ms/](http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/spring_crafts_ms/)

##### Educational Websites:

KidSites: <http://www.kidsites.com/>

Basketball Math: <http://www.scienceacademy.com/BI/index.html>

Cool Math: <http://coolmath4kids.com/>

NASA's Space Place: <http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/en/kids/index.shtml>

FunSchool: <http://funschool.kaboose.com/>

Eduplace: <http://www.eduplace.com/kids/games.jsp>



Ms. Whipple

### **Hello First Grade Parents,**

In First Grade we have been working very hard in all areas. We have completed our third unit in reading. In Science, we are just beginning to learn about the Earth. In Math, we have almost mastered our addition facts and are now working on mastery in subtraction. We will be learning how to count money and tell time. Please practice these two concepts at home too. The kids are moving along nicely, thank you for your support this year. We are all looking forward to warmer weather in the upcoming months.

**The First Grade Teachers**

### **Fourth Grade News:**

Spring is here and our fourth grades are abuzz with activity! Congratulations to our fourth grade Science Fair winners; Oniyalese Surgick, Olivia Stebbins-Hopkins, Amanda Eichenhofer and Jasper Nisperos. We know they will proudly represent TOAST at The Joseph Henry Science Fair at the College of St. Rose. We're rooting for you!

Our students are getting ready for the third NYS test we will take this year- science! We are reviewing the major concepts taught to us in grades K-4 and practicing for the lab component. We will have to measure objects, test magnets and electricity and explain about gravity and mass.

In Writer's Workshop, we are finishing our Historical Fiction Unit. Please ask us about the creative stories we have written; they take place during the American Revolutionary War.

We will be going on field trips to learn more about our local history. Remember, we need to behave in class and do our work if we want to participate!

**The Fourth Grade Teachers**



### **News From the Fifth Grade:**

5th grade has been very busy. We just finished our last state test of the year (Math) and what a relief that was! Each of us has been working very hard on our Science Fair projects and we're excited to show them off. Recently, we found out that we are going to the Bronx Zoo in June. That is going to be an exciting trip. Please save the date for our Moving Up Ceremony, which is Tuesday June 23rd at 6:30 pm. Happy Spring!  
~Ms. Tanenhaus, Mrs. Chaiyuk and Ms. Franke

### **News From the Sixth Grade:**

We would first like to thank all the folks who came out to support our chili cook off at the health fair. There will be a dessert off coming soon.

In Writers Workshop, the students turned their realistic fiction into great picture books. We are now working on persuasive essays and students are learning how to defend a position very well, so parents beware.

It has been an exciting time in social studies. Our students have been exploring the Middle Ages, the renaissance and golden age empires as well as the revolutions in industry and science. We are currently discussing how geography effects the migration and cultural diffusion in Africa.

Now that the science fair is over we will be moving on to a further study of Forces & Machines. I will be assigning a science unit project soon.

Happy Spring!

**The Sixth Grade Team**

### **TOAST Techs Basketball Team**

Congratulations to our TOAST Techs Basketball team on a winning season!! We are proud of your hard work, dedication and positive attitudes. Congrats to: Anquan, Carlos, Christian, Elijah, Elsinaja, Inshallah, Jaiquan, Jake, Jeremy, Malik, Myaire, Sabrina, Jordan, Thomas, and Zaymear! You played hard and represented TOAST in a positive way! A BIG THANKS to Mr. Richardson for coaching the Techs and to Mrs. Richardson for all of her help this year!

**Kindergarten News:**

Kindergarten students continue to learn and make progress. We are currently working on these letter blends: ox, ix, st, sp, th, sh and ch. Please discuss with your child different words that begin with these sounds. This skill will help your child in Writer's Workshop. Students are finishing up their How-To Books and will soon be starting All About Books. Is there something you know a lot about?? Take a few minutes to talk to your child about 3-4 sentences they could write about their topic. We recently celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We all realized that looks are deceiving!! Everyone tried the green eggs and ham we made in school and most of the kids thought they tasted good. We want to thank all of the students who participated in the 100 Days of School project. Many students had creative ideas and enjoyed sharing their work with their friends in both classes. Many Thanks from your Teachers!!

**Mrs. Molitor and Mrs. Luciani**

**FROM THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE:**

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE HEALTH FAIR, IT WAS A LOT OF FUN AND A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. THERE WERE LOTS OF PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS AND THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS WERE IMPRESSED BY THE ATTENDANCE!!

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO THE BALLROOM DANCING MEMBERS, THEY WERE FANTASTIC!! THANKS MISS FRANKE, MRS LUCIANI AND MR. SKINNER FOR DOING A GREAT JOB WITH THEM. THE POSTER CONTEST WINNER WAS MATTY FLYNN, ALL THE ENTRIES WERE AWESOME!! THEY ARE HUNG IN THE FRONT STAIRWAY.

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE 6TH GRADERS' FUND RAISER. THERE WAS A TIE FOR FIRST PLACE IN THE CHILI COOK-OFF, THE HONORS WENT TO FELICIA IRBY, PARENT OF ZA'RAE AND ZAIRE IRBY-ROBINSON AND ALSO MRS GREENWOOD OUR SCHOOL NURSE TEACHER!!!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAIR NEXT YEAR!!!

**Notes From the Music Department:**

Don't forget that our Spring Concert is Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. If you are a member of Orchestra, Band or Chorus attendance at this concert is mandatory!! If you need ride, let us know ahead of time so we can figure something out! As always, we thank all our parents for their support of our program and our concerts!

**Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Cady**

**NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:**

ATTN: PARENTS OF 1ST AND 3RD GRADERS, NY STATE ED DEPT REQUIRES A PHYSICAL TO BE ON FILE FOR ALL 2ND AND 4TH GRADE STUDENTS. THIS YEAR THERE IS A NEW REQUEST FOR A DENTAL CERTIFICATE FOR THOSE GRADES. THESE FORMS ARE BEING SENT HOME WITH THE REPORT CARDS. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE FORMS ARE DUE BACK TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER. WE WILL TAKE THEM ANYTIME BEFORE THAT.

ST PETERS AND RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES ARE BRINGING BACK THE DENTAL VAN IN APRIL!!! IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE A DENTIST YOU CAN SIGN UP IN THE HEALTH OFFICE, IT IS A FULL SERVICE DENTAL VAN: X-RAYS, FILLINGS, SEALANTS, EXTRACTIONS AND CAPS. CALL THE HEALTH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, 462-5248.

**MS. GREENWOOD**

**Music Quotes**

**Without music life would be a mistake.**

~Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

**If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music.** ~Gustav Mahler

**Music is what feelings sound like.**

~Author Unknown

**Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn.** ~Charlie Parker

### **Computer Lab Happenings:**

Congratulations to students in grades 4-6 on completing your Science Fair projects! After many hours of work in the Computer Lab, at school and at home, your boards look organized and your graphics were eye catching! Great job!

Students in the intermediate grades are researching science and social studies topics and will soon be creating slideshows in PowerPoint. They will learn how to make their presentations visually appealing, how to record their voice, insert text, pictures and movies. Be on the lookout for an upcoming night in late May/early June, which will showcase their presentations.

Students in the primary grades have been working according to their grade level on the Harcourt's Phonics Express Reading program. They will also continue to learn new math programs, more about animals, sound, simple machines and practice their keyboarding skills.

If you haven't done so, please return your internet contracts as soon as possible. Thank you!!

**Ms. Whipple**

### **Library Lowdown**

It's been a long, dreary winter with loads of severe (but interesting) weather. We now understand why so many of us are feeling sick these days from reading books like Germs Make Me Sick! (Melvin Berger) and Achoo! All About Colds (Patricia Brennan Demuth). It feels as if the sniffles will never go away! But, we are certain that spring will surely arrive! We've been reading books such as Hopper Hunts for Spring (Marcus Pfister) and When Will It Be Spring? (Catherine Walters) as well as the springtime adventures of Fluffy, the classroom guinea pig starring in Fluffy's Spring Vacation and Fluffy Grows a Garden (McMullan). We've even searched for signs of spring by checking out springtime sports (for example, Batboy: An Inside Look at Spring Training by Anderson)! Hope you're feeling "springier" already!

**Mrs. Florance**

### **Spring Fever Alert!**

The Museum Program is looking at different kinds of gardens and Pre-K through 2nd grade will all be growing plants for their own gardens. The Henry Hudson celebration is getting underway, more information to come. The city of Albany has a website [www.albany1609.com](http://www.albany1609.com) that lists activities that will be city wide. You might want to put June 13th on your calendar. The Halfmoon, a replica of the ship Henry Hudson sailed, will be coming in with several other ships to the Albany Port. 3rd and 4th graders are measuring up, looking into different types of measurements. 5th & 6th grade will be investigating artifacts from the 1600-1700's and how everyday items are portrayed in the art of the time.

**Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleston**

### **News From the Science Lab**

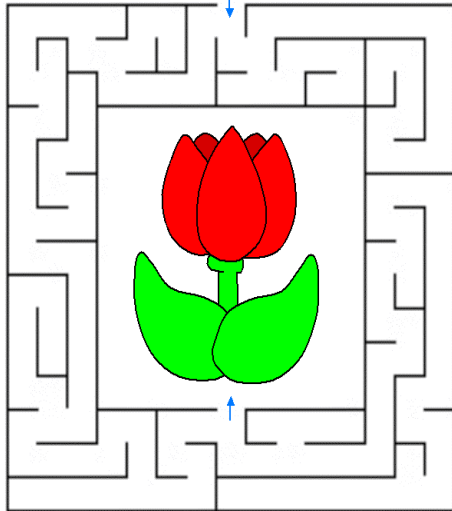
By the time you read this it will be spring!!! Have you seen any robins or red-winged black birds yet? We have been playing, "Bears in the Den." This is a great, interactive game that teaches students the difference between true hibernation and winter sleep. As the weather continues to get nicer, I will do my best to get our TOAST scientists outside to observe the first signs of this new season.

Science Fair was a great success! We had over 140 projects entered this year and 42 finalists. Ms. C., Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Thompson and I, narrowed down the field to the top seven. This year our finalists are: Olivia Stebbins-Hopkins, Jasper Nisperos, Amanda Eichenhofer, Oniyalese Surgick, Hailea Mabee, Jake Flynn and Brandon Nicholson. These students will be competing at the Joseph Henry City Wide Science Fair on Friday April 3, 2009. Good Luck!!! Look for our next bird watch and upcoming afterschool science programs.

**Mr. Flynn**

# Springtime Maze

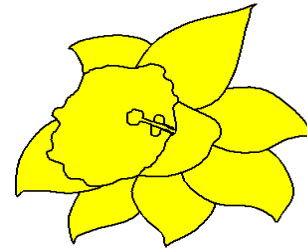
Help the raindrops find the flower.



# Spring Word Search

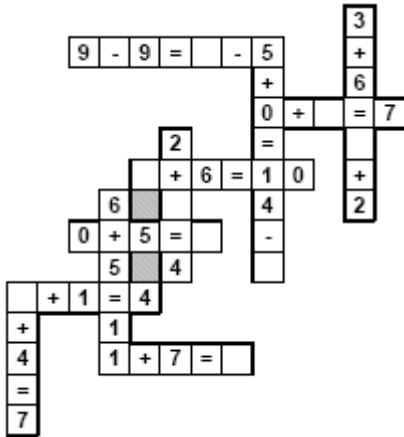
O M G Q R A I N B O W S T H G  
 E N I H S N U S F Z Y P E S Y  
 J D A L V B N J C K S O K A S  
 G N I T L E M I P V T R C L P  
 E M I T G N I R P S O D A P R  
 G A D A F F O D I L O N J S O  
 G N L S E I Y W Z H B I M E U  
 R R I L P H Q A E T R A T C T  
 Z E O N E I I I L M E R A J E  
 F G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

daffodil  
 flower  
 gardening  
 green  
 growth  
 jacket  
 melting  
 puddle  
 rainbow



raindrops  
 rubberboots  
 seeds  
 splash  
 springtime  
 sprout  
 sunshine  
 tulips  
 umbrella

## Run Away Math Puzzles

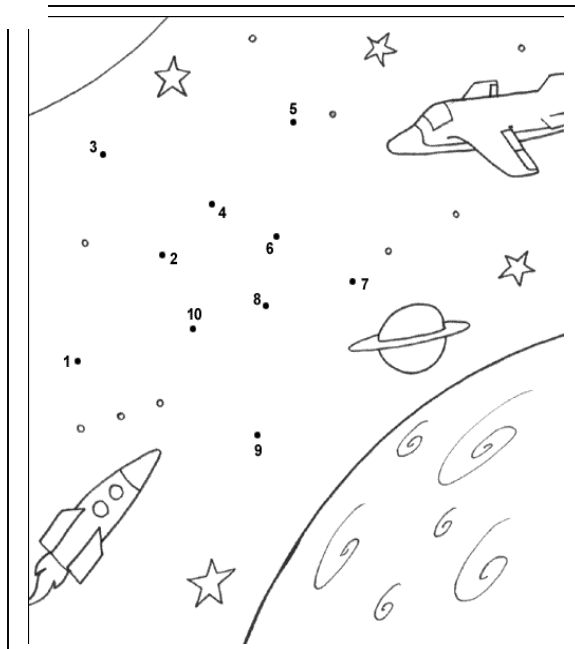


## Mad Libs

## A Day At The Zoo

Today I went to the zoo. I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) jumping up and down in its tree. He \_\_\_\_\_ (verb: past tense) \_\_\_\_\_ (adverb) through the large tunnel that led to its \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). I got some peanuts and passed them through the cage to a gigantic gray \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) towering above my head. Feeding that animal made me hungry. I went to get a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) scoop of ice cream. It filled my stomach. Afterwards I had to \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) \_\_\_\_\_ (adverb) to catch our bus. When I got home I \_\_\_\_\_ (verb past tense) my mom for a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) day at the zoo.

## Dot to dot



## Help the soccer player find his way to the net

