



The TOAST Times



Volume 2, No. 6

June, 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

A Message From Mr. Fowler:

Wow, it's hard to believe June is already here! It seems like only a few months ago we were hustling to get into school and now we're hustling to wrap up the year. During the month of May we had some pretty cool things happening such as Earth Day events, Family Fun Night, Spring Concert, visit from Seth Franco-the Harlem Globetrotters, a trip to the State Senate, and the school-wide Henry Hudson field trip! Oh, by the way, it's rumored that our 4th graders did really well on the NYS Science Assessment. The results aren't official yet, but we don't need the state to tell us how great our science program is right?

There are several changes in staffing for next year and some things aren't quite set, but I will send this out as a separate letter to inform everyone of the movement. Thanks to everyone who worked very hard to make this year a success in more ways than one. There are too many to name specifically, which is a good problem to have, so thank you one and all.

Have a Happy and Safe Summer!

Mr. Fowler

From the Desk of the Home School Coordinator

June is finally here!! We have a lot of field trips, school events and Graduations to look forward to.

Also, the yearbook goes on Sale June 1st until June 12th....so get your order in as soon as possible! Yearbooks will be delivered to our school on June 15th and you don't want to miss out!

Remember summer break does not mean taking a break from learning...it is very important to keep reading and participating in academics over the summer. Get involved in summer programs and camps and keep those brains working!!!

One final note, Congratulations to all the Graduates of 2009! We will surely miss you as you move on to Middle School! Have a great summer!!

Ms. Cascone



Upcoming TOAST Events:

Please check our website for additional updates

June 2009

- **Thursday, June 4th:** Jr. Science Expo; grades K-3; 6:00-7:30 pm
- **Tuesday, June 9th:** TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm at Bob and Alex's house
- **Thursday, June 11th:** Wear red for watermelon (the fruit of the month)
- **Friday, June 12th:** Everyone please wear Red, White and Blue (to honor Flag Day, which is Sunday, June 14th)
- **Tuesday, June 16th:** TOAST T-shirt Day; Wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt!
- **Wednesday, June 17th:** 1960's Picnic on the Green; Western Ave side of TOAST. 5:30-7:30 pm. Bring a blanket, a picnic and wear your '60's outfit. Music & games!
- **Thursday, June 18th:** Environmentally Friendly Lunch—decrease your carbon footprint and throw out as little garbage as possible (see website for more details)
- **Thursday, June 18th:** Kindergarten Graduation Day; 9:00 am in the Auditorium
- **Monday, June 22nd:** 6th Grade Graduation; 6:30 pm in the Auditorium
- **Tuesday, June 23rd:** 5th Grade Graduation; 6:30 pm in the Auditorium
- **Wednesday, June 24th:** Awards Assembly; 8:30 am



Sixth Grade Poetry



"Life" by LuNeil

I kicked the moon
I bounced the sun
Then I wonder how kids can have a gun
Is this is what it's like to have power? No fear?
Then maybe I guess the end is near
It makes me mad to see people go
I'm sorry but I have to let all of you know
I think about if it's the right choice
But I can stand it, it's sad, it's wrong
but if the world was right I would let you live long

"How Crazy is Life?" by Destini

Life is like a jungle
It can also be pretty, crazy, or even odd
But when you think too hard about it
It can get crowded in your mind, with no activity
You can feel lonely lots of times
Even though you think your personality
Is boring or even intimidating
Always remember life is exciting

"My Lost Head" by Zaymear

I am very sorry I got angry
I guess I lost my head
But it really does not matter
because I will borrow yours instead
But I will have it back by Wednesday
You will not miss it at all
But until then you can borrow
My brother's basketball

"Invisible Poems" by Jose
Invisible poems are poems
that can only be read
By the person who wrote them
My invisible poems are
The Best in the world
It's all twisted, knotted, and
curled
Into humorous things
While the poem sings
You'll be lost in a place
Beyond outerspace
And it's called my imagination

"Me" by Simeon
I am sufficient and intelligent
Thoughtful and very thankful
Intellectual and visual
Stimulated and balanced
Outgoing and always knowing
Tired and irritated,
mad and sad
Angry and sorry
Learning and growing



Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has hit the road in the month May. We have had an exciting field trip every week in May and have another fun trip scheduled for June. In May, we went to the circus, the Visitor's Center, the Palace Theatre and Schodack Island State Park. It's a fun and busy month. We have learned about life cycles and we grew our own plants. We are also reading now! In June we will go to Thatcher State Park for a tour of the visitor's center and a nature hike. We have become poets in Writer's Workshop and are now learning about authors as mentors. We are learning about Ezra Jack Keats. You can tell we are on our way to First Grade! We will be graduating on Thursday, June 18th. We can't wait for our big day! We've worked hard to get there. Congratulations Kindergarten!!!!
Mrs. Luciani and Mrs. Molitor

Fourth Grade News

A quote from Albert Einstein summarizes the TOAST Fourth Grade 2008-2009 school year "*In the midst of difficulty ... lies opportunity!*" The students worked diligently on ALL New York State Exams. Cooperation and collaboration were vital in the split classrooms. Agenda books helped to develop organizational skills that will prove invaluable for next year. Emphasis will be placed on a type of Social Studies writing known as Data-Based Questions (DBQ's).

SUMMER SUGGESTIONS:

- Read every day for fluency & comprehension
- Journal every night
- Practice ALL basic math fact
- Think about next year's Science fair project. Take out books/Bookmark websites - Become an EXPERT on the topic.
- Join BrainPop.com for a small fee & have fun learning

The Fourth Grade team would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe summer! Your kind words and thoughtful support has been greatly appreciated. Thank you for your chaperone support for the end of the year field trips.



Sixth Grade News

It is hard to believe that we only have one more month of school left! The sixth graders have been very busy working on their poetry, biome projects and finishing our unit on World Wars. Feel free to check out the biome projects in the first floor hallway and some of the students' poetry in the TOAST Times. We are starting units on American Indian culture, ocean life (to get us ready for the Boston trip) and writing our very own autobiographies! A letter was sent home mid-May to let parents know about all of our June trips and their approximate costs. Some important dates to remember are June 19 for our trip to Boston and June 22 for 6th grade graduation. While we have some great things planned for June, parents please help your children to remember how important it is to come to school prepared and ready to learn. The year is not quite over yet!!



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			1		7			
5			2			6	9	
4						5	2	
	5	6	9	4				8
9	1		5	8				

News from the Science lab;

Our 4th graders took their state-wide science tests this month. From my initial and unofficial observations, they performed at a very high level. Great Job fourth grade team!!!

Special thanks to all who made the trip to the movie EARTH possible for TOAST's second and third grades. I will be working with Mr. Ken Skinner as we bring 35 more students to this fine nature movie.

Coming Soon...Look for info on the Illustration Competition.

Dates to keep in mind:

June 1 After school Science-Grade 2 and 3

June 2 After school Science-Grade K and 1

June 4 Junior Science Expo 6:00-7:30 pm in the Cafeteria

June 5 Morning Bird Watch-7:00 am

Have a great summer,

Mr Flynn

Hola!!! from Español Class

Se acerca el verano y junto con esto el fin de nuestro año escolar. Espero que este año haya sido uno de mucho aprendizaje para ti.

(When you can tell me what this says stop me in the hall and let me know.)

Mrs. Martha Boria



What's Going On In Art?

Things are moving along in art classes this year - it's almost unbelievable we are quickly moving into the last weeks of school!! Here's a list of some fun projects classes have been working on most recently: rainbow collages, striped fish, patterned bead necklaces, nature rubbings, clay food, weaving, paper sculpture masks, 1-point perspective drawings, primary color pattern caterpillars, Van Gogh sunflowers, and animal drawings... Keep up the good work everyone!!

-Mrs. Wright

News from the Museum Room

The children in the Museum Program have been very busy. We've been investigating Henry Hudson's trip up the Hudson River, the Native Americans who lived along the Hudson at the time and how we can protect the river for the next 400 years so our children's children can enjoy it. Please place June 17th on your calendar. We will be having a 1960's picnic on the green, which will take place on the lawn (Western Ave side) from 5:30-7:30pm. Please bring a picnic, a blanket and wear your best 60's costume. There will be music, games and yes...Prizes. There is also a tie dye t-shirt on sale designed by "Sergio" (one of our own 5th graders). T-shirts are \$10.00 and will help support future fieldtrips and programs for the museum program. Have a great summer.

Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleson

Library Lowdown

Our school library has been jumping with books, activities and multimedia projects and, sadly, things are beginning to wind down. We're in the home stretch for the 2008-2009 school year! But, that doesn't signal the end of reading for the summer. On the contrary, now we have time to read all of those books that we didn't have time to read when we were so busy getting assignments and homework done and the days were so short! Please don't forget to add some visits to your local branch of the Albany Public Library for some cool summer programs and great books and media. The theme for the NYS Summer Reading Program for 2009 is Be Creative @ Your Library. Enjoy the warm weather and we'll see you back in the fall!

Mrs. Florance

Computer Lab News:

Students in grades 4-6 are busy working on their PowerPoint slide shows and should be finished in the next week or two. Third graders have also been learning and practicing their Word and PowerPoint skills and creating an All About Me project. I have started to record student reviews in iMovie and their videos will soon be uploaded to our TOAST website (you can write one too!). An updated media form (which now specifically includes website pictures & videos) was recently sent home; please return this form as soon as possible. Thank you!! ☺

As an introduction to a new video production class that I am starting, I took ten students to visit Capital News 9 and the Senate Media Services Department. Students had the opportunity to learn more about video production, the various positions (in front of the camera as well as behind the scenes) and had a chance to record their own segment. They also visited with Senator Neil Breslin, sat in the Assembly Chambers and toured the Senate and Capitol buildings. Some of our TOAST students will also be featured in a public service announcement with Senator Breslin, which will promote Summer Reading!! Be on the lookout for our TV stars!! Have a great summer and stay safe! See you in September!!

Ms. Whipple ☺

News from the PTA

The PTA wishes to thank everyone who participated in the various fundraisers and activities at TOAST this school year. With your help, our teachers and students were able to see, hear and learn about the symphony, visit the planetarium, discover Albany's Pine Bush, experience the circus, and have two RIF distributions where every child in our school picked their own book to take home and read. Your support also will help the Kindergarten, 5th and 6th grades to have their moving-up/graduation ceremonies. The PTA also helped fund, in part, the school-wide field trip to Schodack Island to commemorate Henry Hudson's 400th Anniversary. Our children will have a wonderful opportunity to explore the Dutch heritage of the Hudson Valley, the life of Henry Hudson and that of the Hudson River Valley where we all live.

Your generous support of our teachers, staff and children has made this unconventional school year a success. We look forward to moving back to our newly renovated TOAST building next January and will continue the good works on behalf of the entire TOAST community. Have a great summer!

More Fun Websites For You To Check Out!!

Surfing The Net With Kids Top Ten: <http://www.surfnetkids.com/topten.htm>

Discovery Channel's Brain Boosters: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/brainboosters/>

Summer Printables: http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/summer_printables.htm

Billy Gorilly Music & Fun For Kids: http://billygorilly.com/billygorilly_puzzles.html

Funology: <http://www.funology.com/>

Starfall: <http://www.starfall.com/>

Primary Games: <http://www.primarygames.com/>

Literacy CyberSpace, Websites for parents/children: <http://literacy.nwfstatecollege.edu/familit/index.htm>

Ms. Whipple



2008-2009 Yearbooks

On Sale Now!

Order by June 12th

\$10.00 (cash only please)

Send money to Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleston

Order your 1960's tie-dye t-shirt!

Designed by Sergio R.

\$10.00 (cash only please)

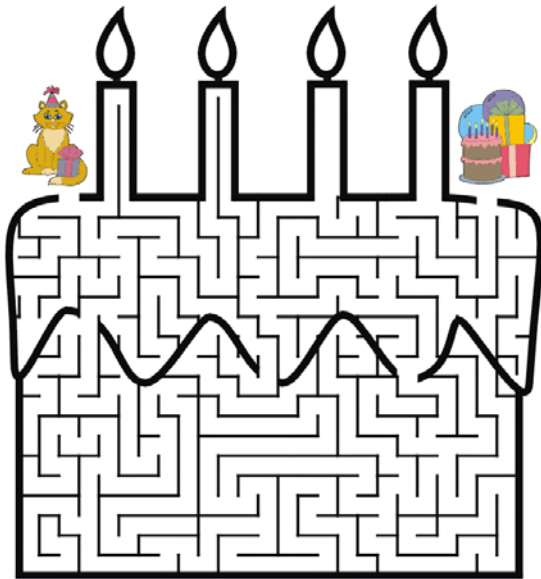
Send money, shirt size & child's name

to Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleston

FROM THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE:

WE ARE WINDING UP A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND BUSY YEAR!! WE ARE HOPING TO ATTAIN A GRANT THAT WILL PROVIDE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGGIES FOR SNACKS FOR OUR STUDENTS. MORE INFO ON THAT IN SEPTEMBER. OUR FINAL FRUIT OF THE MONTH WILL BE THE WATERMELON!! WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE DAY IN JUNE AND OUR STUDENTS WILL WEAR RED FOR WATERMELONS!!!!

REMEMBER TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DRINK PLENTY OF WATER EVERY DAY. SPORTS DRINKS HAVE 9-12 TSP OF SUGAR PER BOTTLE, LEMONADE - 15 TSP, ICED TEA - 11 TSP, VITAMIN WATER - 11 TSP AND SODA - 16 TSP. WATER IS A MUCH HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVE!!!!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

ALLERGY SEASON IS UPON US, FOR THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH ASTHMA THIS IS THE TIME WHEN THEIR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IS REALLY NEEDED!!

SOME STUDENTS WILL HAVE ADVAIR, PULMICORT OR FLOVENT. THERE ARE NEW MEDICATIONS FOR SWOLLEN, ITCHY EYES. ASK YOUR MD!!

REMEMBER THAT ALL STUDENTS GOING INTO KINDERGARTEN, 2ND OR 4TH GRADES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE, A DENTAL CERTIFICATE IS ALSO RECOMMENDED.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS MUST HAVE TWO (2) MMR IMMUNIZATIONS ON FILE BEFORE THEY COME TO SCHOOL. MAKE YOUR SUMMER APPTS NOW!!

REMINDER: TO PARENTS WITH MEDS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE TO PICK THEM UP BY OR ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL OR THEY WILL BE DISCARDED.

HAVE A HEALTHY AND SAFE SUMMER; DON'T FORGET PLENTY OF WATER AND SUNSCREEN!!!!

MRS. GREENWOOD



The Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Celebration:

Our school-wide field trip on May 29th to Schodack Island State Park was a **HUGE Success!!** Each grade level participated in four different stations throughout the day, in which students learned more about Henry Hudson, Native American Culture, Nature and the Hudson River. During the many months of planning, we were proud to offer the following learning experiences: The Music Mobile with Ruth Pelham, Storytelling by Kay Olan, Native American Culture with David Cornealius, as well as water sampling stations, orienteering, scavenger hunts, butterfly migration games, The 3 Sister's Garden, learning about beavers, making Native American crafts (rainsticks, kainsish and dream catchers), making pine cone feeders, decorating butterflies and mini canvas bags and planting 400 tulip bulbs (Thanks to Judy Stacy and the City of Albany for all those tulips!!)

It was a beautiful day, everyone enjoyed themselves and it was a truly wonderful experience! We hope that you had a great time and will remember this special day for a long, long time! Thank you to everyone for your support!!

The TOAST Theme Team (Mr. Fowler, Ms. Whipple, Mrs. Ciufu-Ingleston, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Olmstead)

Secret Decoder Worksheet

8 1 22 5 1 19 1 6 5
1 14 4 8 1 16 16 25
19 21 13 13 5 18 !!!

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