



# The TOAST Times



Volume 3, No. 1

September/October 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:** Mr. Fowler, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Ingleston, Mr. Olmstead, Ms. Whipple

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

Welcome back everyone! We're off to a great start this year and there are several things planned this year, which will make this year one of the best yet! First and foremost, the move back to Lincoln Park is still moving forward for this January. Also, if you haven't heard about it yet, our school will be hosting three power packed nights of fun. The first is Turkey Shoot Out. Come out Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and your child(ren) may have a chance to win a turkey, or other prizes by shooting some hoops with us that night. The other two events are Math, Science, and Technology (MST) night. Our Science and Tech team are in the process of planning these and it's going to be a night you don't want to miss. These two nights will be in February and May, refer to the District calendar for the specific dates.

As a reminder, I need your help!!! In order to provide our students with a safe and orderly dismissal, **2:00-2:30 PM each day will be closed out for student pick up and phone requests to change after-school plans.** There are approximately 400 students in our school and trying to accommodate such requests has made it very difficult to ensure every student is set with the various plans each one has such as after-school programs, busing, walkers and parent pick-ups. For example, if you arrive after 2:00 PM wanting to do an early dismissal and you hadn't made prior arrangements via a note or phone call, you will have to wait until the 2:30 dismissal bell. However, we can accommodate changes very easily before 2 PM because it gives our office staff ample time to communicate with teachers and the staff assisting with dismissal. If you are picking up your child after-school, the Western Ave. exit of the building remains as the place where students will be released.

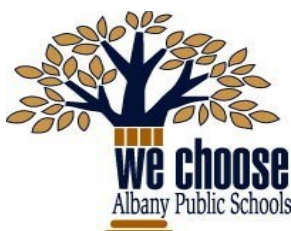
Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to an awesome year!

**Mr. Fowler**

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

Welcome back students and families! Hope everyone had a healthy and happy summer...Now its time to get "Back to Learning"! This is a very exciting year as we are moving back to our TOAST building. There will be a lot of change and transition mid-year and so we really need to have great communication and work together to make our move as smooth as possible! There are a lot of fun exciting events planned for this year and I look forward to watching our kids grow and become strong learners!! Parents make sure your checking backpacks for any information that might be sent home with upcoming information or dates of important events...sometimes they get forgotten (especially on a Friday!)....:)

**Ms. Cascone**



### September Events:

- Wednesday, September 23, 2009: Open House; 6:30-8:00 pm
- Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: NO SCHOOL; Yom Kippur

### October Events:

- Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: TOAST T-Shirt Day; wear your favorite TOAST T-shirt
- Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: NO SCHOOL; Columbus Day
- Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm
- Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Crazy Socks Day

#### **AAARRRRRTTTTTT!!!!!! (ART)**

Welcome back TOAST!! I am excited to see many familiar faces, as well as, many new faces!! In art classes we are just beginning to get our minds, eyes and hands ready for art. Students have learned their assigned seats, art room rules and routines. We are now beginning many fun and different activities ranging from making bubble gum machines to self-portraits. Many more fun and interesting art activities are planned. Stay tuned and keep making art!

**Mrs. Wright :)**

#### **Welcome Back from the Museum Program**

We're getting ready for a great year starting with 1st grade participating in the Scotia Glenville Children's Museum Program in October. Making ice cream can be fun but eating ice cream makes it better. New York State Department of Transportation Traffic Engineer William Northup will start off our Career Series for 2009-2010. Have you ever wondered how they decide speed limits? Mr. Northup will be discussing that and more with the 5th grade. I'm looking forward to a fabulous year.

**Mrs. Ingleston**

**Museum Education Coordinator**

#### **Library Lowdown**

Welcome to another productive and fun-filled year at TOAST! As the warm days of reading outside under a tree are slowly fading, the cool, crisp September air has re-energized us for reading, listening and learning new things. The TOAST Library Media Center continues to share space and books with Arbor Hill Elementary. Skills classes have begun and we are excited about our new, updated library cards for book borrowing. RIF will be here before we know it and we'll have lots to read. So, if you have time on your hands, visit a library and read a book!

**Mrs. Florance**

#### **Computer Lab News:**

Welcome back everyone! It's great to see all of you again and to also meet all of our new students. We're off to a great start and I'm very excited for all of the projects and events that will be happening this year! Soon I will be starting our Video Production Class and also taping and uploading student vodcasts to our website—be on the lookout for more information!

If you haven't already, please sign and send back your child's internet permission form as well as the photo and media release form as soon as possible. Thank you, I look forward to having a fun and productive year! Don't forget to come by and see me during Open House on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ms. Whipple ☺**

#### **News from the Science lab:**

Welcome back all students and parents! I am looking forward to another fun and exciting year at TOAST. Plans are already underway for TOAST'S Science Fair, the Joseph Henry Science Fair and our Science, Technology and Math nights. In addition to weekly science lab classes, I will be working closely with the fourth grade team as we prepare our students for their State Science test. Last year 98% of our TOAST students scored either 3 or 4!!

I am also putting together my after-school and before-school science offerings. I will notify you soon and send out permission slips when they are ready. Finally, I have a few new enrichment ideas that will take place during this school year. Stay tuned. My goal is to provide each student with a unique science experience in a special laboratory environment, where learning is meaningful and fun. If you need to speak with me for any reason, call the office and leave a message. I will return your call as soon as I can. Keep in Touch,

**Mr. Flynn**

### Notes From the Health Office:

The St Peters/Ronald McDonald House Dental Van is accepting applications for their program. It is a great opportunity to have your child's dental care conveniently taken care of at school!! All children who return applications will be entered in a drawing for one of three prizes, Nintendo DS, a bike and helmet, and tickets to the River Rats and dinner for the family!! Please return the application ASAP, the deadline is October 2nd.

2nd and 4th grade students are required to have a physical and dental certificate on file. Please contact your MD and have copies faxed to school at 462-7152.

With the start of the flu season it is recommended that all students receive the flu vaccine, please call your MD or the Albany County Health Dept to schedule an appt. Albany County is holding flu clinics by appointment only, on Wed 9/30/09 from 3 - 6 pm. Other dates will be available, call for the schedule, 447-4589.

**Ms. Greenwood**

### Important Newsletter Information:

Would you like to continue to receive a hard copy of our newsletter or an email when the newsletter is posted on our webpage? Please fill out the last page of our newsletter and return it to **Ms. Whipple** as soon as possible. Thank you very much!

**TOAST Theme Team**



### Music News:

Welcome back TOAST students! For those of you who don't know yet, my name is Mr. Olmstead and I will be the General Music / Chorus / Orchestra teacher for the year. I am very excited to continue the musical progress we made last year.

Chorus and Orchestra will be starting this week, so I'm looking for a large group of dedicated musicians to fill out these two ensembles. Also, since the recorder choir was so well received at our last concert, I will be looking for new recruits. If you're interested in joining recorder choir just ask any of the brown or black belts from last year. Sounds exciting, huh? I will be handing out recorder information during October.

Needless to say, I am incredibly excited to undertake the immense amount of talent looming at TOAST!

Musically yours,

**Mr. Olmstead**



### School Store Hours:

**Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday**

**7:30-8:00 am  
Outside of the cafeteria**



### More Fun Websites For You To Check Out!!

Homework Help: <http://www.slco.lib.ut.us/kidhelp.htm>

Fall Crafts & Activities: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/fall/kids-crafts/>

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

Quiz Hub: <http://quizhub.com/quiz/quizhub.cfm>

Scholastic BookFlix: <http://bkflix.grolier.com/>

Harcourt Reading: <http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/trophies/menu.html>

**Ms. Whipple**

