



Lion's Pride

February 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Beth Silaika

The cold winter is in full swing and this month is a very busy one in the PTA! We eagerly anticipate the events of PARP (Parents As Reading Partners), especially the Battle of the Books on February 4. The kick off for PARP on January 22 was a fantastic concert by Robbie K! Be sure to ask your child about the story of "How the turtle got its shell". The month concludes with the tremendously fun Almost March Madness. Our ticket sales were incredible - we sold all of our tickets in a few short hours! We are really going to have the support of our Tesago Orange Crush! If anyone has an "Orange Crush" costume they would be willing to lend the PTA -- or if there is a crafty person who can make an Orange Crush mascot -- we would LOVE to hear from you! Email us at tesagopta@gmail.com. Stay warm during this February Freeze!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

The Shenendehowa Council PTA Preschool Committee is hosting a Kindergarten Readiness Panel with members of the Shenendehowa CSD. Topics will include: what we can do as parents to prepare our children for Kindergarten, sending versus holding back, transportation, the screening process, a typical day, and what to expect at the orientation. There will be a question and answer period. The panel will be held in the Tesago/Skano Cafeteria on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

The snow date is February 11, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Kate or Kimberlie at preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org

SAVE THE DATE

Coaches Game To Benefit Patrick Snyder Scholarship Fund

Set your schedules now for the 4th Annual Clifton Park Youth Hockey Game set for Thursday, **March 4**, 7pm at the Clifton Park Ice Arena.

Over the past 3 years CPYHA has been proud to hold this game as a fundraiser for families in our community who have dealt with some form of struggle in their lives.

This past year, we lost one of our Tesago students, Patrick Snyder. Patrick tragically passed away unexpectedly last June from a brain aneurysm. He was a 5th grade student. This year the CPYHA's coaches will play to benefit the Patrick Snyder Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Julie Plumadore, mrsjules@nycap.rr.com, for more information.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Kristi Kenney, Jamie DePaola, and Heather Courtney for their help with the January Popcorn Day. It went amazingly well due to all of you. We would also like to thank the custodial and cafeteria staff for their help - as always you guys are fantastic!

ARTS AND EDUCATION

February

2/2-5 & 2/9 -12/2010 - **Brian Chevalier Writing Residency** - Grades K & 5

2/24/2010 - **Lake George Opera - The Three Little Pigs** - Grades K - 5

March

3/10/2010 - **Proctor's - The Little Mermaid** - Grades 1 & 2

3/15 - 16/2010 - **Scotia Glenville - Everybody Talks About the Weather** - Grade 2

3/15 - 16/2010 - **Scotia Glenville - Sounds Good to Me** - Grade 3

3/29 - 30/2010 - **Eco-Line - Build-A-Bug** - Grade K

Check out our website at <http://www.shenet.org/community/Tesagopta/TesagoHome.htm>

MARCH MADNESS



The ticket and t-shirt pick up for Almost March Madness will be Wednesday February, 24, 2010 in the Tesago Lobby from 3:30 - 7:00 pm.

T-shirts and tickets will NOT be sent home with the students so please make arrangements to have them picked up during that time.

Tickets are sold out, but t-shirts can be ordered through 2/10/10.

Tesago is THE ORANGE CRUSH again this year, so please show your school spirit by wearing orange to the event. The date of Almost March Madness is Sunday 2/28/2010 from 4 - 6:30.

Please contact Julie Plumadore, mrsjules@nycap.rr.com or 348-0189 with any questions.

PARP

PARP NEWS

PARP is off to a wonderful start! Students received their gift book at the beginning of January and were excited to begin their challenge - reading every day for at least 15 minutes. We're in the midst of the challenge now, so keep up the good work. Read with your student at home every day. Read anything your student would like to - non-fiction, newspapers, online stories...it's up to you as a family.

Our next big event is coming up fast - join us on Thursday, February 4th from 6-7pm in the Tesago Cafeteria for **Battle of the Books!** This fun "game show" event asks volunteers from the audience to answer book trivia questions. Hosted by Mr. Pace, the teams of students, parents and teachers will compete to see who knows the most about Tesago's favorite children's books.

Hope to see you there!

Notices about upcoming PARP events will be posted to our Tesago Online Bulletin Board, sent home via the Parent Portal and publicized in school.

Any questions? Shoot me an email at pierkath@shenet.org

Remember to READ, READ, READ!

Kate Pierce, Tesago Librarian

Fran Matson, PARP Co-chair

Jennifer Paradise, PARP Co-Chair

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

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We're in the final stretch for Tools 4 Schools. Stock up on all those point-earning items - the program ends on February 13, 2010. We are SO close to reaching our goal of 100,000 points!! We will certainly beat our record from last year.....**KEEP SHOPPING!!**

5th GRADE PARENTS

CALLING ALL 5th GRADE PARENTS

Send in those photos..keep them coming! Old photos, recent photos. We want them all for the yearend 5th grade DVD. You can send the pictures in an email to mrsjules@nycap.rr.com or you can send a disk with photos into school attention Julie Plumadore.

CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION



Hi everyone!! Campbell's Labels for Education and the Tesago PTA would like to thank everyone for their participation in this wonderful program. Remember, all UPC codes from participating products (Swanson, Spaghettio's, Pepperidge Farm Products, Campbell's Soups and Supper Bakes, AND caps from V8 products)

SPRING CARNIVAL –APRIL 16TH



The Spring Carnival is a highlight of Tesago's spring season and will be held on Friday, April 16, 2010. This event features many fun carnival themed activities for the students and their families. Lots of fun, food, games and music.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event: set-up, clean-up, games, serving food and more! For more information please contact Sherrill Brown at (518) 371-4648 or sbrown@nycap.rr.com or Julie Nelson at (518) 280-2677 or thenelsonfam5@yahoo.com

[Keep watch for further details!](#)

2010 Spring Carnival Raffle Prize Coordinator

We are looking for a dedicated individual who can take charge of reaching out to local vendors to obtain raffle prizes for the Spring Carnival, which is being held on Friday, April 16th, 2010.

For further information please contact Julie Nelson at thenelsonfam5@yahoo.com or at 280-2677.



"Odyssey of the Mind"

Volunteers Needed!

The Tesago PTA is in need of several volunteers to assist the Executive PTA Board on Saturday, March 6, 2010 between 1 and 2:30 p.m. (in half hour to 45 minute shifts) to assist in the cafeteria.

Please contact Sherrill Brown at (518) 371-4648 for further information.

Call for "Helping Hands"

Helping Hands provides assistance on an as-needed basis, often short on notice. Examples include helping in the bus port during the first few days of school or assisting with a special classroom project. Help is also needed during kindergarten orientation, screening and registration times and at times making phone calls. Consequently, we will be looking for some helpers for the kindergarten registration in March. If you can lend a "helping hand" please e-mail Kristyn Alheim at kristynalheim@mac.com.

Volunteers Needed

Parents as Reading Partners (PARP)

This committee works with the school librarian to support the PARP program. During the program, parents are urged to spend a minimum of 15 minutes a day reading with their child(ren). School events include a BEST assembly kick off, evening library scavenger hunt and our new Battle of the Books! If you are interested in co-chairing the program next year or volunteering, please contact Jennifer Paradise at jparadise917@gmail.com.

Reflections

Each year, Tesago students participate in the national PTA Reflections program. This program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Our current chairperson will be leaving Tesago after 2009-2010. If interested, please contact Judy Thayer at jthayer@nycap.rr.com.

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program. This committee prepares students to compete in the national Odyssey of the Mind program. This program fosters cooperative, creative approaches to problem solving. Tesago teams have a proud history of doing well in the competition. Volunteers are always needed to serve as team coaches. If you are interested in chairing or volunteering, please contact Robin Lamb at robinlamb@nycap.rr.com.



Odyssey of the Mind Concessions Volunteers

On Saturday, March 6th Shenendehowa School District will host the New York State Region 7 Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. We are expecting upwards of 2,000 people on Shenendehowa campus from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm for the tournament activities.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Shenendehowa to welcome participants and their families to our school campus. Collectively the Shenendehowa PTAs will host the concessions for this event. Each school is asked to provide volunteers to staff the concession (*from set up to clean up*). **We need your help!** If you would like to volunteer but would prefer a different shift to which your school has been assigned, that can be arranged. Please contact your school's PTA President to join the concession team!

Concession Times

School	Concession Time
Shatekon	7:00 - 8:30 AM
Koda	8:00 - 9:30 AM
Orenda	9:00 - 10:30 AM
Gowana	10:00 - 11:30 AM
Arongen	11:00 - 12:30 PM
Okte	12:00 - 1:30 PM
Tesago	1:00 - 2:30 PM
Acadia	2:00 - 3:30 PM
Chango	3:00 - 4:30 PM
High School	4:00 - 5:30 PM
Skano	5:00 - 6:30 PM
Karigon	6:00 - 7:30 PM



For Immediate Release: January 14, 2009

Media Contacts: Nicole Weinstein, OMRDD
Herm Hill, OMRDD
518-474-6601

NEW YORK ACTS WEB SITE IS LAUNCHED

Site is 'one-stop shop' for information on Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders

ALBANY, N.Y. - Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and their families now have a single comprehensive resource to go to for important information on ASDs and the State services available to address the needs of these individuals and their families. New York State's Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) and the State Education Department (SED) announced today the launch of the New York ACTS (www.nyacts.org) Web site.

New York ACTS (An Initiative for Addults and Children on the Spectrum) was developed by the New York State Interagency Task Force on Autism, a partnership of 11 State agencies, as a way to bring reliable, current information to the public about autism and to assist New York's families to easily find State services for their loved ones with ASD. Because individuals with ASD may need services from different State systems – education, health, mental health and developmental disabilities services – NYACTS offers a dedicated site from which people can get the information they need without any prior knowledge of New York's service agencies.

"New York ACTS demonstrates New York State's commitment to letting the people we serve drive what we do," said OMRDD Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter. "It effectively connects people to the services they seek regardless of which system provides it. It has resulted from and will continue to demonstrate how our government is working together in an effective and integrated way."

"We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with the other State agencies in the development of this website", said SED's Commissioner Dr. David