



Lion's Pride

September 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Tesago Elementary 2010-2011 school year. Thank you to all the people involved in the PTA who have been working hard all summer long to keep the PTA moving forward, right up to the school year. Those behind the scenes have made sure that school supplies were delivered to the classrooms, that there were t-shirts available at the walkabout and that the first few events of the school year are being planned. We are excited to start the school year and look forward to being a vital part of your child's school year.

As you are aware, Tesago Elementary is entering its second year of being "green". Believe me, it's not easy being green, but we are committed to maintaining our website with up to date information! All of our newsletters, the school menus and the upcoming events are all listed on the website. The PTA link is on the left sidebar of the Tesago website. Simply go to Shenet.org, click on Tesago, then click on PTA.

Our first event is only a few weeks away and we are thrilled to combine our Tesago Back to School BBQ with our first PTA meeting. The BBQ features world famous Giffy's BAR-B-Q and will take place on Wednesday, September 22 at 4:30 - 7:00 on the Tesago Playground. The first PTA meeting will be an informal meeting with a Meet the PTA area under the Pavillion. Rain location will be determined (but it will NOT rain on our event, right?). Brian Chevalier will be performing a concert during the BBQ. He is the musician who did a writers workshop last year with the students. The Tesago Open house for grades 1 - 5 is Wednesday, September 15 and the Kindergarten Open House is on Monday, September 27. Our Fall fundraiser will kick off on Monday, September 27. You will hear more about the fundraiser later in the month!

In order for the PTA to be successful this year, we are going to need many volunteers. Please consider offering a few hours of your time to the many events over the coming year. We need moms, dads, grandparents and friends to come out and volunteer a little bit to help make these events so wonderful!

Finally, and most importantly, we welcome you to join the PTA as a member. Again, we would love to have moms **AND** dads, grandparents, neighbors, aunts, uncles all become members. The membership application went out with the back to school letters, but it is also available on the website. Membership is \$7 per person. We are looking for 100% commitment **again** this year from our staff and teachers. Be sure to encourage everyone you know to join the PTA. The memberships dues go right back into the classrooms and fun all the events that the PTA cultivates over the school year. Each child in Tesago benefits from the PTA.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the executive committee with any questions or concerns you may have over the coming year!

Beth Silaika
PTA President

SEPTEMBER BACK TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE

It's Time for a Barbecue!!



Join us for our annual Tesago back to school barbecue featuring Giffy's BAR-B-Q and sponsored by the Tesago PTA

Wednesday September 22, 2010

4:30-7:00 pm on the Tesago
playground

(Rain location in the Tesago
cafeteria)

Bring your chairs and blanket!

***All dinners must be pre-ordered and
pre-paid.***

For questions, call **Cathie Smith** at
383-6687 or email at
csmith189@nycap.rr.com

Sign-up to be a volunteer to help

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

FALL FUNDRAISER



Fall Fundraiser –

This year's Fall Fundraiser offers something for everyone and we need your help to once again make this fundraiser successful. Remember, all the monies raised through this event support Tesago's wonderful **Arts in Education program** – programs that enrich the education of each and every student in Tesago throughout the school year.

The catalogues will feature a variety of quality products for you to present to family, friends and neighbors. The catalogs offer items such as premium gift wrap, kitchen ideas, chocolate treats and distinctive jewelry that are lead and nickel free, lifetime guaranteed and is shipped in an attractive gift box suitable for holiday gift giving.

In addition to the catalogs, we are offering online ordering for this fundraiser to meet the needs of out-of-town family and friends who would like to support the Tesago PTA. Simply follow these steps to register your child at www.gaschoolstore.com. At the first screen, enter School Code #1000348; at the second screen enter your child's name; click "Register" on the top of the third screen and enter the necessary information. Then you are provided an Online ID. Once you have an Online ID you are able to email your out-of-town family and friends from the site and ask for their support. All online sales benefit the Tesago Arts in Education program. Products are shipped directly to the purchaser's home.

Of course if you or one of your family and friends would rather not purchase products to support the Arts in Education program, the PTA always accepts straight donations (PTA receives 100% of the money). Like the fundraiser, checks should be made payable to "Tesago PTA" and turned in with the fundraiser envelope.

Materials will be sent home with students on Wednesday, September 22nd. As always, the safety and well-being of our students are the first priority. Students should not sell door to door but sell only to family, friends and neighbors who the student personally knows. It is also our recommendation that students be accompanied by an adult when selling.

Orders and payment are due back in school on October 8th. All checks should be made payable to "Tesago PTA" and labeled with the student's name (seller) and name of teacher. The products will be available for pick-up during Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 18th and 19th. Just in time for the busy holiday season!

Thank you so much for your help! We look forward to a successful fundraiser and school year!

For more information or questions, please contact Stephanie Goodman at sgoodman@nycap.rr.com or 423-1591.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

You can help us earn **FREE** education equipment simply by using your Advantage Card at any Price Chopper store – there is no additional cost to you. This year's Tools For Schools program has already started and continues until February 2011 – please make sure you're signed up for the Tools for Schools program at Price Chopper! To earn "points", your card must be enrolled with Tesago. If you signed up with Tesago last year, you do not need to re-register. To register your card or SWITCH your school (i.e. from your former elementary school to Tesago), visit www.pricechopper.com and enroll online. The code for Tesago is 15764. Teachers, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and neighbors can also help out by signing up. If you need assistance or do not have internet access, please call Kerri Arserio at 371-7475 or send an email to apamba@nycap.rr.com. Thanks for supporting the students at Tesago! Welcome back!

Kerri Arserio, Coordinator

5TH GRADE PARENTS

ATTENTION ALL 5TH GRADE PARENTS

Although the school year has just begun, planning for the 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony is underway. We will be composing a DVD for the 5th graders and are going to need your help. Please start pulling together all of those photos from preschool through fourth grade so that they can be included in the DVD. Photos can be sent to Meridith Haskins and will be returned if you include your mailing information on the back of the photos.

Thanks so much, and start pulling those photos!

PTA MEMBERSHIP

Help us help you!

Please don't forget to send in your PTA membership form, along with \$7 per member. Your money goes to support PTA initiatives which enrich our children's education at Tesago. Everyone in the family can join! Benefits include: a directory of PTA members (great for setting up play dates!), emails from the PTA with important school information, and occasional perks or discounts at PTA sponsored school events. Forms were sent home in the summer packets and can also be found at the Tesago website under the PTA link. Contact our Membership Chair, Susan Flint at rflint@nycap.rr.com, with any questions.

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, and other art forms, they grow intellectually and socially and become more interested in the ideas and works of others.

Please encourage your child to create an original work of art based on the 2010-2011 Reflections Program theme, "Together We Can". Your child's entry packet will be sent home during the week of September 20th! All participants will be recognized at a BEST assembly.

HANNAFORD HELPS SCHOOLS

Hannaford Helps Schools provides Tesago with funds simply for purchasing the products that you normally buy during your weekly shopping! From September 5 to December 5, 2010, purchase participating products (choose from more than 900 participating products!) in the Hannaford Helps Schools program and you'll earn school dollars that Tesago can use to purchase sports equipment, art supplies, computers, books, musical instruments and more.

When you purchase four participating products, you receive one \$3.00 school dollar certificate at the checkout register. Simply have your child drop off the dollar certificates in the designated box in the school lobby.

In addition to the funds raised by the school dollar certificates, each individual Hannaford Supermarket store will award a \$1,000 education grant to the school that raises the most dollars through the program of all the school registered at that particular store. Tesago is registered at the Hannaford in Village Plaza (9 Clifton Country Road, Clifton Park). Let's earn the \$1,000 grant for Tesago this year!!

Visit www.hannaford.com/hhs to learn more, or contact Kristi Kenney at kkenney01@yahoo.com.

CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Hello Tesago!! Another year is here and that means another year of helping earn free merchandise for our school!! Labels for Education is a program that is set up by the Campbell's corporation. All of the products listed below are eligible to be redeemed for points. All you need to do is cut out the UPC code or send in the V8 juice caps in an envelope or ziplock bag with your teacher's name and the number of UPC codes and caps included, and your child's class will be eligible to win the Campbell's Star of the Month!! There is a first place plaque and second place plaque. Each month at the BEST Assembly the two classes that bring in the highest amount of UPC codes will win the "Stars". It is a fun competition to see who can keep the plaque the longest! Please spread the word about the products that can be redeemed for points. Have a GREAT school year!!!!

Here is the list of eligible products:

- * Campbell's Condensed Soup, Chunky Soup, Chunky Fully Loaded Soup, Microwave soups (UPC)
- * SpaghettiO's Pasta (UPC)
- * V8 100% vegetable juice (caps)
- * V8 Fusion (caps)
- * V8 Splash Juice (caps)
- * V8 Soup (UPC)
- * Campbell's Gravy (UPC)
- * Select Harvest Soup (UPC)
- * Campbell's Soup at Hand (UPC)
- * Prego Italian Sauces (UPC)
- * Pace Picante Sauce (UPC)
- * Pace Salsa (UPC)
- * Swanson Premium Chunk Chicken (UPC)
- * Swanson broths or stocks (UPC)
- * Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers (UPC)
- * Pepperidge Farm cookies, breads, croutons or stuffing (UPC)
- * Pepperidge Farm snack mix (UPC)
- * Pepperidge Farm frozen products (puff pastries, garlic bread, cakes, turnovers, and dumplings) (UPC)

Thanks so much,.

~Vidia Wray Chairperson for Labels for Education

kaybop27@gmail.com

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

Help Needed

Spring Carnival

The Spring Carnival is a highlight of Tesago's spring season. This event features many fun carnival themed activities for the students and their families. Lots of fun, food, games and music. We need committee members to help arrange raffles, games, prizes, concessions, and volunteers for the event. Volunteers the night of the event will help with running the games, handing out prizes, running concessions, set-up and clean-up. If you are interested please contact one of the Non-Academic VP Chairs: Evelyn Hickok at 373-2320 or phickok@nycap.rr.com, or Vidia Wray at kaybop27@gmail.com. **If we are unable to get enough committee members to put this event together we will have to cancel it.**

Odyssey of the Mind is looking for a chairperson and volunteers ...

Odyssey of the Mind 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. Volunteers are needed to serve as team coaches. If you are interested in chairing or volunteering, please contact the Academic VP chair, Robin Lamb at robinlamb@nycap.rr.com. **If we are unable to get enough committee members to have a team, Tesago will not be represented in the competition.**

Membership Committee is looking for some volunteers ...

We are looking for one or two volunteers to help with our membership committee. This is an easy job, which can be done mostly at home. It involves entering member information into a spreadsheet, filling out the membership cards and staffing the membership table at various PTA events. Please contact Susan Flint at rflint@nycap.rr.com if you are able to help out. Thanks!

The Arts-In-Education Committee is looking for an additional member ...

Do you have strong organizational skills? Do you enjoy working with people? The Arts & Education Committee would like to speak to you! Come help Tesago's teachers enrich our children's education! Please contact Margarita Zacher mzacher@nycap.rr.com for more information.

Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) is looking for a co-chairperson and/or volunteers ...

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.

Photocopying Committee is looking for volunteers ...

This Committee is in need of some people who can volunteer to go into the school and make copies of flyers that the PTA is sending home with the students. The person must be available in the evenings since we can only use the copier after school hours. If interested, please contact Jen Landers at jlanders3@nycap.rr.com.

Invest In Your Child's Education and Enjoy the Benefits of the Tesago PTA

We are encouraging every Tesago family and teacher to join the PTA for the 2009-2010 school year. Membership is open to parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends. The benefits of membership will include:

- A complimentary directory of the names, phone numbers and addresses of other PTA members at Tesago
- Inclusion on the Tesago PTA group e-mail list which provides parents with frequent updates on the PTA activities and other school programs
- Voting rights on many important PTA issues which affect our children's educational experience

While we encourage every Tesago parent to volunteer for at least three hours each year to help out with PTA and school activities, membership in the PTA does not in any way obligate you to do so. PTA membership is an easy, inexpensive way to show your support for the many programs we sponsor which enrich the education of our children.

Please return the attached membership form by November 1st, 2009.

Facts you should know about our PTA:

1. **The PTA helps fund many different Arts-in-Education events including:**
 - Lake George Opera performances
 - Writing residencies
 - Radio City Music Hall field trip
 - Visiting museum programs
 - Cohoes Music Hall performances
 - Palace Theater performances
2. **The PTA sponsors the school's PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) program.**
3. **The money raised during our various PTA fundraising events goes directly back to our students in the form of educational programs, classroom supplies, social activities and much more.**
4. **Student scholarships, birthday recognition, and teacher retirement gifts are all part of our PTA initiatives.**
5. **The Discovery after school enrichment program is funded and organized by the PTA.**
6. **Last year our PTA started a new Lego club for our young inventors.**
7. **The PTA organizes the School Banking Program that helps our students learn about money and the value of saving.**
8. **There are many social activities throughout the year that are funded and run by the PTA. These events help build a cohesive, positive school environment for our students, faculty and parents. Examples of such programs include:**
 - Spring Carnival
 - Fall Family Fun Night
 - Ice Cream Social and School Walk-About
 - Tesago Movie Nights
 - Popcorn Days

Help us meet our goal of 100% participation!

Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher with a check made payable to Tesago PTA.
Questions? Please e-mail Susan Flint at rflint@nycap.rr.com.

Tesago PTA Membership Form
2009 – 2010 (PLEASE PRINT)

Mother's Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Additional Member: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

TOTAL # OF MEMBERS: _____ (\$7.00 per person)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please make checks payable to Tesago PTA and return to your child's teacher.

Student Name(s)

Teacher(s)

I give permission for the above information to be published in the Tesago PTA Directory: yes ___ no ___

I would like to receive information about PTA activities through e-mail: yes ___ no ___

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____