



# Lion's Pride

December 2008 - January 2009

## MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

By Julie Plumadore and Kristen Kuhn

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday!! May you and your families find peace, love and joy throughout this wonderful season.

Thank you for making Tesago an awesome school in 2008. Looking forward to 2009. ☺

## DISCOVERY TIME

Attention!!! Discovery time is fast approaching! If there is anyone who would like to teach a class for Discovery or if you know someone who has a talent/skill to share, please email or call me!! Discovery runs 4-6 weeks covering the month of March. I will be setting up the schedule in January, and look for enrollment forms coming home in February (with all the details). Please consider chaperoning a class. Without chaperones Discovery cannot operate.

Thankyou!!! Whitney Decker 371-7123 [kdtri@aol.com](mailto:kdtri@aol.com)

## SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Special Education Committee of the Shenendehowa PTA Council. Attention Parents with children in Special Education in the Shenendehowa District. The SE Committee of the Shen. PTA Council advocates district wide (Pre-K to 12+) for the benefits of all children with special needs, their families 12+ and their educators.

The next meeting will be held **Monday January 5th, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Acadia Library**. All are invited to attend to share successes, concerns, best practices, learn advocacy, and to support each other. You are not alone! For more information, please contact:

[SHENSECPTA@nycap.rr.com](mailto:SHENSECPTA@nycap.rr.com)

## PARENTS AS READING PARTNERS (PARP)

Tesago's PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) program is about to begin another exciting year! Our reading program encourages children to discover the joy of reading by making it a fun family event. Our theme this year is a "Community of Readers" and our daytime January kickoff event will feature "The Storycrafters". Next up is our annual Family Library Night. At this event, families are invited to come to the library to check out books, create crafts, and take part in the always popular Scavenger Hunt. Lastly, we have added a new event this year - Battle of the Books. During this evening "game show" event, students, teachers and parents will get to compete by drawing on their knowledge of books. So, mark your calendars for these fun filled events and get set to cozy up with a few good books! Dates to follow...

## PRESCHOOL AND DAYCARE OPEN HOUSE

The Shenendehowa PTA Council Preschool Committee presents a Preschool and Daycare Open House from 6:30PM - 8PM on **January 6th in the Tesago/Skano Cafeterias**. **Snow Date is January 8th**. Contact Evelyn Hickok at 373-2320 or Kate Kirkpatrick at 280-1176 for more information.

The Shenendehowa PTA Council Preschool Committee presents a Kindergarten Readiness Panel at 7PM on February 10th in the Tesago/Skano Cafeterias. Snow Date is February 11th. Contact Evelyn Hickok at 373-2320 or Kate Kirkpatrick at 280-1176 for more information.

## SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations with the Superintendent are scheduled for the following Saturdays listed below. All are welcome to attend and ask questions or express concerns/suggestions:

January 10, 2009, 9:30 in the Tesago cafeteria

March 14, 2009, 9:30 in the Arongen Library

April 25, 2009, 9:30 am at Cheryl's Lodge

May 16, 2009 9:30 am in the High School West Cafeteria

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

## SPRING CARNIVAL SAVE THE DATE

The Spring Carnival is a highlight of Tesago's spring session and will be held on Friday, April 3, 2009. 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, serving food and more! For more information please contact Sherill Brown at (518) 371-4648 or [sbrown@nycap.rr.com](mailto:sbrown@nycap.rr.com) or Julie Nelson at (518) 280-2677 or [nynelsons@yahoo.com](mailto:nynelsons@yahoo.com).

Keep watch for further details!

## CAMPBELL'S LABEL

Campbell Soups and the Tesago PTA are excited about all of the students who are participating in the Labels For Education campaign. So far, you have brought in more than 2700 points!! **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!**

Now that the cold weather is definitely upon us, don't forget to purchase those Campbell's products and then send the UPC codes in with your child. All the UPC codes we receive add up to points, which in turn helps Tesago earn free merchandise.

Campbell Soups and the Tesago PTA are committed to recognize the class that has brought in the most labels. The November's "Campbell Star of the Month" goes to Mrs. Trent's class!!! **CONGRATULATIONS** on being the Star Class!!! A special thanks goes to Ryan Plumadore for bringing in the most labels for his class.

Other students that helped out this month are:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Emma Lanahan    | • Wesley Turner     |
| • Alex Hickok     | • Rachael Piskun    |
| • Kelly Quinn     | • Quinn Kenney      |
| • Alexis Amash    | • Cassie Goodman    |
| • Lauren Munding  | • Devin Herbinger   |
| • Evan Petronis   | • Brendan Pingelski |
| • Hailey Wray     | • Katie Facticeau   |
| • Alex Maggiacomo | • Abby Durand.      |

Thank you so much!! Without all of your help, we would not be able to earn free materials for Tesago!!

Keep sending in the UPC codes from all Campbell Products and V8 Splash. I appreciate everyone placing their child's name and teacher's name on the envelopes or baggies. This helps me to keep track of the students that will be recognized for all of their generosity!

For more information on what Campbell products are eligible for point redemption, you can check online at:

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/eligibleproductsEN.aspx>.

Thank You Very Much, Vidia Wray ([kaybop27@gmail.com](mailto:kaybop27@gmail.com))  
[www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

## PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS



Before you do all your holiday food shopping, make sure you're signed up for the Tools for Schools program at Price Chopper!. There are still a couple months left to earn **FREE** education

Use your Advantage Card at any Price Chopper store. This year's program runs through **Feb. 14, 2009**. 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](http://www.pricechopper.com) and enroll online. The code for Tesago is 15764. 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](mailto:apamba@nycap.rr.com). Thanks for supporting the students at Tesago! Happy Holiday!

## HANNAFORD HELP SCHOOLS

Dr. Oliver Robinson, Superintendent, Shenendehowa Schools, will be the guest speaker at our **January 15th SAGE Meeting, 7pm, Koda Cafeteria**, Shen Main Campus. Dr. Robinson will discuss plans for the school district along with information regarding current and planned accelerated classes designed to address the needs of high ability learners at all grade levels. Please, do not miss this meeting if gifted education is important to you. The Saturday Scholars program sponsored by SAGE will also be discussed at this meeting. For questions or for further information please contact Linda DeMasi at 877-5813 or email us at [sagenews@yahoo.com](mailto:sagenews@yahoo.com)

## SATURDAY SCHOLARS

**SAGE Saturday Scholars** -- March into some fun with Saturday Scholars! Shenendehowa Advocates for Gifted Education (S.A.G.E.) is pleased to offer another year of academically advanced and enriched classes to students in the Capital District. Kids from K-6 grade are welcome to choose classes from many exciting topics with enthusiastic teachers. Come explore, draw and create a custom 3-D journal in the Mythical Creatures class, learn how to communicate with your hands in a class on American Sign Language, or find out how to be a Journalist. If you like flying, join the Aeroscience class, or how about trying Art & Poetry, Picasso style. These are just a few of the many inspiring classes that will be available!

**REGISTRATION is Saturday, January 24 at Acadia Middle School, 9-10:30 am.**

**CLASSES:** Saturday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4 at Koda Middle School. 10am-12pm (Snow Date April 5)

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

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



### You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

- **Clip** Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school.
- **Shop** at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace<sup>SM</sup> ([btfе.com/marketplace](http://btfе.com/marketplace)), and up to 8% of your qualifying purchase will automatically be donated to our school with no additional cost to you!
- **Purchase books** through the Box Tops Reading Room<sup>SM</sup> at Barnes & Noble.

Our 2008-2009 Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign is going great. This year we've set a goal of earning \$1,300 through Box Tops .

For 12 years, Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools raise over \$250 million to buy the things they need. The Box Tops for Education program offers three easy ways to make a difference for our school through everyday activities: buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. School budgets are tighter than ever, and Tesago is asking for the support of families and community members such as yourself.

Sign up to support our school at the Box Tops website ([www.btfе.com](http://www.btfе.com)). You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops for our school and the latest Box Tops news!

For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops for Education, contact Margaret Matocha, our Box Tops coordinator, at [mgtmatocha@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mgtmatocha@nycap.rr.com) or visit [btfе.com](http://btfе.com).

## TESAGO SCHOLARSHIPS

Again this year, the Tesago Elementary School PTA will be sponsoring the Vincent R. DeLucia Scholarship. Shen HS seniors who have an 85 GPA or better, attended Tesago for at least a period of two consecutive years and who will be attending either a two or four year college or university are eligible to apply. Applications can be obtained from the Shen HS Guidance Counselors Office. Deadline for submission is Friday, March 6, 2009. Please address any questions to Rose Savallo, Scholarship Chairperson, at 373-9135. Thank you.

## MARCH BASKETBALL

### MARCH MADNESS.....ALMOST

SAVE THE DATE.....Thursday February 26, 2009. The staff from Tesago will be playing basketball against staff from other elementary schools.....Shatekon, Arongen, Skano and Okte!!

More information will follow, but please save the date.....we are going to need lots of school spirit for T E S A G O.....go TESAGO!!

## REFLECTIONS

The following students participated in the 2008-2009 National PTA Reflections Program, by submitting an entry based on this year's theme "Wow". The Reflections Program, is a national PTA sponsored program that provides students with the opportunity to display their talent and creativity in Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Music, Dance Choreography or Film Making, relating to a specific theme.

Jake Amell, Brianna Bass, Hannah Butts, Sarah Butts, Lyric Caramto, Evan Flint, Janine Lee, Mia Longo, Brooke Mahoney, Sierra Mahoney, Katie Paniccia, Ryan Plumadore Isabella Silaika, Karen Silaika, Victoria Silaika, Kelsey Smith, Shayla Smith, Anya Tralshawala, Ethan Yattaw, Mason Yattaw, Juliana Zacher. Parents of these students are welcome to attend the recognition ceremony during the Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> BEST Assembly.

### THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped create a great family event and huge success during our Holiday Extravaganza.

Please take a minute to read below and nominate someone you know that goes over and above.....can be a teacher, staff person, someone in our community, parent, etc .

To: Members of the Tesago Community

From: The Executive Board of Tesago PTA (Julie Plumadore, Kristen Kuhn, Cathie Smith, Beth Hart, Susan Flint and Rose Savallo)

Re: Honorary Life Membership and Distinguished Service Awards

The Tesago PTA promotes a channel of communication between parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards, children and the public. The children we, as the Executive Board, represent and serve reside in the neighboring towns Clifton Park and Rexford.

At this time we are accepting nominations from members of the Tesago Community for both the Honorary Life Membership and Distinguished Service Award. **These awards recognize individuals for their contributions to the welfare of children and youth.** The significance of these awards is outlined in greater detail in the attached documents. Individuals receiving these awards are recognized publicly at a Founders Day Dinner (**April 6, 2009**), which celebrates the founding of PTA in 1897.

The postmark deadline for submission is **Monday, January 19, 2009**. (See form below for more details).

#### **Honorary Life Membership Award**

**PURPOSE:** To recognize individuals for their contributions to the welfare of children and youth.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The award is given *only to individuals*. Recipients worthy of honor need not be PTA members nor well-known beyond their own area of service.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** A PTA unit, council or region may award an Honorary Life Membership to an individual as *recognition of distinguished service to children and youth*.

**AWARD:** The recipient receives a Life Membership pin, congratulatory card, and a presentation card.

**NOTE:** This is an honorary award. In order to be a member of the New York State/National PTA the recipient must purchase a membership in a unit or Empire State PTA.

#### **Distinguished Service Award**

**PURPOSE:** To recognize individuals for their *outstanding* contributions to the welfare of children and youth *or to a PTA organization*.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Recipients **must be** PTA members who have been awarded a State Honorary Life Membership Award. The Distinguished Service Award may be given only by the New York State PTA or by its regions, councils or units.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** The award is given to PTA officers or members who have served faithfully, but it is reserved chiefly for those who have *devoted exemplary service to the maintenance and growth of the PTA*. Service to children and youth may encompass work within the community and/or school.

**AWARD:** The recipient of the award receives a certificate and a Distinguished Service pin.

### **History of Founders Day**

**February 17, 1897:** Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst founded the National Congress of Mothers at its first meeting in Washington, DC. They saw the beginning of the largest (and now oldest) volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of children and youth.

**1908:** Name change to National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to reflect the importance of the parent-teacher partnership.

**1926:** Selena Sloan Butler founded, and was the first president of, the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT), which closely followed the pattern of National PTA.

**1970:** The NCCPT and the National PTA united in 1970 to expand their outreach.

**February 17 became known as Founders Day since it celebrated the founding of PTA.**

#### **SHENENDEHOWA COUNCIL PTA Honorary Life Membership Award Form**

The New York State PTA Honorary Life Membership Award is given to individuals (not couples or groups) in recognition of superior dedication and distinguished service to children and youth in any or all of the following areas: home, school, community and place of worship. Nominees may be chosen from any area, are not required to be PTA members nor be well known beyond their own area of service. Nominees may be a staff member, administrator, parent or community member. The recipient does not become an active member of PTA by this award. To submit a nominee for consideration by the Shenendehowa Council PTA Honorary Life Membership Award Committee, please fill in the information below. Use the reverse side or a separate piece of paper if needed.

Please send the completed form in to school to: The Tesago PTA, c/o Julie Plumadore by Monday, January 19, 2009. You may also send the form via email to [Mrsjules@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Mrsjules@nycap.rr.com).

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**REASON(S) FOR NOMINATION:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact # or address:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_