



Lion's Pride

September 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Julie Plumadore and Kristen Kuhn

We would like to welcome you to the 2008-2009 school year at Tesago. We have a fun and exciting year planned and we are looking forward to sharing it with everyone.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to be part of our PTA. The PTA is a not for profit agency that helps fund many wonderful programs for our children. There is a membership form attached to this newsletter or you can always find one online at <http://www.shenet.org/community/Tesagopta/TesagoHome.htm>.

We are VERY excited to announce that Red Grammer, a Grammy nominee and winner of numerous parents' choice awards, will be performing at Tesago on September 10. Red Grammer has been on the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon. We are proud to announce that the PTA is sponsoring this FREE family concert.

Last year the PTA's Arts in Education program funded over 20 different programs that reached over 150 classrooms. We helped fund the field trips to the Lake George Opera House, NYS Theater Institute and Cohoes Music Hall. We invited Tom McCabe and Jacqueline Sweeney writing residencies into Tesago. We did programs with the Scotia Glenville Traveling Museum and Eco-line such as Build-A-Bug, along with many, many other programs.

We will be kicking off our Fall Fundraiser on Sept 12. The money from this fundraiser goes directly to funding our Arts-In Education programs. You can help our fundraiser by purchasing the product that is in the catalog or by simply writing a check. Again, all money raised will be used to enhance the education of our children.

Also, please remember us at the checkout counters. Price Chopper's Tools for Schools, Box Top\$, Campbell's labels, Target's Red Card.....this is all money that comes back to your child's education.

Our goal this year is to engage every parent so we can continue to help fund these awesome programs.

The only thing that you can make in this lifetime that will last forever is a difference...please help us make a difference! ☺

ARTS-IN-EDUCATION

Arts-In-Education Events for September 2008:

Welcome back everyone! We are wasting no time in kicking off the new school year and celebrating our dynamic Tesago community and new principal, Mr. Pace. What better way to do that than with a **Red Day with Red Grammer**. This one-day residency will take place on **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**, with events as follows:

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. - Assembly for Gr. K-2

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. - Assembly for Gr. 3-5

Two afternoon workshops in Mr. Lotano's music room - p.m. TBD

6:00 p.m. - Free Family Concert in Tesago's Cafetorium

Red Grammer's multiple award-winning music is beloved by children and parents around the world. His songs are widely used in schools to enrich conflict resolution and character education programs. We are very excited to bring this high quality musical experience to Tesago's students, teachers and community.

Parents, please mark your calendars and come join us for the free family concert. This one-day program would not be complete without the kids sharing this experience with you! For more information on Red Grammer please go to www.redgrammer.com.

Stephanie Reilly Dobo & Margarita Zacher
Arts-In-Education Committee Co-Chairs

BACK TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE

It's Time for a Barbecue!!

Join us for our annual Tesago back to school barbecue featuring Giffy's Barbecue and sponsored by the Tesago PTA.

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

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

(Rain location in the Tesago cafeteria)

Bring your chairs and blanket

Dinners must be preordered. The order forms will be sent home in the teacher assignment envelopes.

Please contact Margaret Augustson with questions at Margaret_Augustson@yahoo.com.

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

FALL FUNDRAISER

We need your help to once again make this fundraiser one of our most successful. Remember, all the money raised through this event support Tesago's Arts in Education program – programs that enrich the education of each and every student in Tesago throughout the school year. We are holding the Fall Fundraiser in mid-September this year so we're one of the first schools asking for support from the community.

There will be a variety of catalogs featuring quality products for you to present to family, friends and neighbors.

- The Holiday Wishes catalog offers items like premium gift wrap, magazines, kitchen ideas, and chocolate treats
- Design Collections catalog features exclusively created gifts and distinctive jewelry that is lead and nickel free
- Helping Hands, is truly special. For this catalog, Great American does not obtain products through the normal industry supply sources. The products featured in Helping Hands are hand-crafted exclusively at "Project Centers" that focus on improving the lives of the workers they serve.

Online ordering is also available for this fundraiser to meet the needs of out-of-town family and friends who would like to support the Tesago PTA. Website www.gaschoolstore.com. Enter School Code #1000348; then 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. Distribute the ID to those who want to make purchases online.

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 Friday, September 12th. 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 Monday, September 22nd. All checks should be made payable to "Tesago PTA" and labeled with the student's name (seller). **The products will be available for pick-up during Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 3rd and 4th.**

Thank you so much for your help! We look forward to a successful fundraiser and school year! For more information or questions, please contact Beth Hart at bethahart@hotmail.com or at 383.9385. Happy Selling!

PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS

TESAGO PTA & PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Tools for Schools program earns the students of Tesago free education equipment simply by using your Advantage Card at any Price Chopper store. This year the program starts on Sept. 14th, 2008 and 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 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. Thanks for supporting the students at Tesago!

Kerri Arserio, Coordinator

MEET THE PTA

COME MEET YOUR TESAGO PTA.....

WHEN: Wednesday September 10, 2008
7:00 – 8:00 P.M. (After the Red Grammer concert)

WHERE: Tesago Gym

WHY: After the Red Grammer concert, the PTA will have tables set up in the gym for you to browse and see what other programs we sponsor throughout the year. This is a perfect opportunity to learn how you can be involved in your child's school and education.

Stop by and learn how three volunteer hours a school year can impact your child's education.

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

Students who participate in the arts do better in school, and the PTA Reflections Program gives students an opportunity to receive recognition for their artistic endeavors. Encourage your child to create an original work of art based on the 2008-2009 Reflections Program theme, "WOW!" All students who enter are recognized at a BEST assembly, so look for your child's entry packet that will be sent home the week of September 8th and unleash your child's talent!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clifton Park Youth Hockey

Register now for the 2008 season. Programs available for ages 4-18. Mini mite program-learn to skate and play hockey, girls and boys ages 4-7 with little or no skating experience, professional skill development and periodic games. Contact Frank Suozzi @ 877-8328 or minimite@nycap.rr.com. Mite program- learn to play hockey, increase skating skills, girls and boys ages 6-8 with skating experience, professional skill development, practices and games. Contact Joe Leinwol @ 817-6974 or mitehockey@nycap.rr.com.

Cub Scout Pack 45

Did you know that Scouts is included in the Shenendehowa Student Code of Conduct as a positive alternative for students? Cub Scouts provides fun and adventure, while promoting and building good citizenship and character in boys.

Boys in 1st grade through 5th grade are eligible to join Pack 45. We currently have 64 boys, more than 3/4 of whom attend the Tesago & Skano Elementary Schools. The Open House will be on Tuesday, September 16th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Tesago/Skano cafeteria. If you cannot attend the Open House, you can obtain more information by visiting our website, www.Pack45.com or contacting our Cubmaster, Brian Bateman at 371-0561.

Hannah's Hope Fund

As many of you may know, the daughter of one of our own Tesago families, The Sames, was recently diagnosed with Giant Axonal Neuropathy, an extremely rare genetic disorder that causes progressive, irreversible damage to nerve cells. (If you haven't seen Hannah's story, take a minute to watch her video: <http://www.vimeo.com/944475>)

Hannah's parents, Matt and Lori, have assembled a full team of researchers and geneticists that want to take on Hannah's case and find a cure for GAN, but they need funding. Please consider joining them at the following fundraisers for Hannah!

- September 9th - Edison Club Golf Tournament. The day will include an 18-hole scramble, a Million-Dollar Shoot-Out, putting contests, raffles, a silent auction, cocktail hour, dinner and live auction. Sponsorships are available, and all funds raised will go directly to Hannah's Hope Fund to fund research, drug and gene therapy, clinical trials and more to find a treatment and a cure for Hannah and all kids afflicted with Giant Axonal Neuropathy.
- September 20th - second annual Old Dater Farm Run for Life. All proceeds will benefit Hannah's Hope Fund. The race is a family race. There is a 5k option, a walk and a kids fun run- something for everyone. If you can't make it please show the Sames your support by purchasing a "Hope Flag" that will be displayed along the race course. Please forward this info to anyone you can think of that would like to run, walk or crawl or friends that live out of town who might like to support Hannah's Hope by purchasing a Hope Flag
Spread the word...bring a friend or 2 or 6!!
Register http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1606853
Show your support by purchasing a "Hope Flag" to be displayed along the race course; www.active.com/donate/hannahshopefund
- October 1st – Nothin but Noodles Night for Hannah from 4-8 pm at Clifton Park Center location. 15% of your order is donated to Hannah's Hope fund, but **ONLY** if you present a flier before you order! Flyers will be sent, and also handed out at the door of the restaurant by one of Hannah's Helpers! There will be raffles for various prizes, including a 50 dollar gift card to Nothin but Noodles.

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

Invest In Your Childs Education

Be a Member of the TESAGO PTA!!

We are encouraging EVERY family at Tesago to join the PTA for the 2008-2009 school year. Membership is only \$7.00 and open to parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends... anyone interested in supporting all the great programs PTA is involved with.

Help us meet our goal of 100% participation.

*Kindly complete the the form below and return it to your child's teacher.
Questions?? Please e-mail Susan Zophy at zophy4@earthlink.net.*

Tesago PTA Membership Form (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 used in the Tesago PTA Membership Directory: yes _____
no _____

I would like to receive information about upcoming PTA events through e-mail: yes _____ no _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

DID YOU KNOW...

**Last year the PTA funded 20 different Arts in Education events for
... Over 150 classrooms!!!!!!**

Lake George Opera House, Cohoes Music Hall, Apple Orchard Field Trips, Radio City Music Hall, Palace Theatre, Writing Residencies, Build a Bug... All PTA Funded

Here is a glimpse of just a few ways PTA impacts your children's school experience:

Arts-in-Education

Arts-in Education enriches all the students by bringing special programs to them throughout the school year. Committee members choose a variety of programs – in drama, literature, and visual arts – to help stimulate creativity, self-expression and imagination. Tesago's Arts-in-Education program is so well managed that we receive compliments regularly on how organized it is and on the quality of the scheduled programs. We want to continue to make it one of the best elementary programs in the district.

Back to School Bar B-Q - Family Fun Night – Ice Cream Social - Spring Carnival – Movie Nights

These events offer an opportunity for you and your family to have a lot of "FUN". You get to mingle with other Tesago families and meet many of your children's newest class-mates and friends. The purpose of these events is to foster school spirit and a sense of community.

PARP (Parents As Reading Partners)

This committee works with the school librarian to support the Parents as Reading Partners Program. During the program, parents are urged to spend at least 15 minutes a day reading with their child(ren). Students who participate and meet the requirements of the program will receive a PARP Certificate, an age appropriate reading book and one other memento compliments of the PTA.

Reflections

Each year Tesago students participate in the national PTA Reflections program. This program is designed to encourage the students to express themselves through creative arts. Please urge your child to participate and to submit as many entries as he or she would like. Contest categories include visual arts, literature, music and photography.

School Banking

This program helps students get into the habit of saving. Sponsored by First Niagara Bank., the program allows students to make deposits in the school, one morning a week. As further incentive to save, school accounts receive an above the market interest rate.

Staff Appreciation Week

This is a sweet and fun way for the children and Tesago families to thank our fabulous teachers for all they do. We will plan a theme for the week, such as "Apples for the Teacher" or "Notes for the Teacher". We would present tokens of our gratitude throughout the entire appreciation week. Each child would be asked to write a short thank you to their teacher(s) on theme based cards.

Shen Inventors

This program gives students in grades K-5 an opportunity to turn their ideas into inventions. Inventors get to display their inventions at the Clifton Park Center Mall.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to another great year at Tesago! My name is Margaret Matocha and I'm the volunteer coordinator for Box Tops for Education. This year, our goal is to raise \$1,500 for our school.

Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities such as buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books.

Clip — Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education.

Shop — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (btfe.com/marketplace). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Buy books — Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM. Our school will receive 6% of your new book purchases and 3% of all other online purchases.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to sign up to support our school at btfe.com. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs.

To learn more, visit btfe.com—and thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!

Margaret Matocha – mgtmatocha@nycap.rr.com