



## Happy Holidays!

### Principal's News

Fall/Winter 2009  
Volume 5, Issue 1

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Is 2009 almost over already?! As I look back at this busy year, I realize how much there is to be thankful for. I am personally thankful for having a healthy, happy family and a wonderful school to come to everyday full of incredible parents, staff, and children. Being the principal of TMES brings me much joy. Everyday I get to see our students learning and growing and our staff doing their part to give a world class education to every one of our students. It re-news my faith in society as a whole to see how engaged and involved the TMES parents are in the success of TMES. We know that we ask a lot of you as parents at TMES, and you always come through! I thank you and appreciate each and every one of you for supporting TMES!

We have done a lot in 2009 to be proud of! TMES passed AYP again this year (and has since opening our doors in 2005), we have perfected the drive-thru drop-off/pick-up routines (not an easy task), we have completed the build-out of our facility with the addition of the Monarch Room and Art Room, raised over \$30,000 in various fundraisers for the school, had several great parent and family events, successfully started the TMES Preschool Co-op and have most recently completed the re-chartering of TMES! (I can assure you that we are glad that process is over for another 5 years!)

I wish you a very Happy Holidays and a safe Winter Break. See you in 2010!

-Mary Jane Besante, TMES Principal

### Jog-A-Thon Wrap-up!

Without further ado, the grand total of money raised for the Jog-A-Thon in 2009 was \$14, 054.70! Thank you to all of our wonderful families for doing such a great job getting pledges, collecting money, volunteering on the day of the Jog-A-Thon and making the event a big success! We had the biggest turn-out ever of volunteers helping on the day of the event. And of course, a BIG thank you to all of our students who ran/jogged/walked the Jog-A-Thon! All of our students worked really hard and we are very proud of each of them. We even had a few parents join the students in the Jog-A-Thon this year. Nice job everyone! All of the money raised will help pay for our Educational Assistant's salaries. They are an integral part of our classrooms and we are proud to have E.A.'s at TMES!

Ms. Lisa's Class raised the most money at \$1,707.00! They will receive a pizza party for being the class with the most money raised for the Jog-A-Thon. Here is a list of the Most Laps ran per grade level:

- Kinder: Alazar Ilg at 27 laps
- 6-9: Chole Northness at 37 laps
- 9-12: Beau Ritcher at 52 laps

They will each receive a gift certificate for running the most laps in their level!

And the student bringing in most amount of money was **Alivia Abernathy** from Ms. Natasha's class at \$550.00 with a total of 23 pledges! Thank you Alivia! She will receive a special gift certificate for her efforts!

Go to our website to see a list of how much money each TMES classroom raised. Thank you everyone for supporting TMES and our E.A.'s!

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We're on the  
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## Office Notes....

- The Olive Garden restaurant on San Mateo and the frontage road so generously provided a Thanksgiving meal to our staff before Thanksgiving break! Please visit their restaurant and let them know that you appreciate their support of our staff and school!
- Please remember to send in a warm winter coat everyday! It gets cold out on the playground!
- Don't forget to mark ALL of your child's removable clothing and items with a first initial and last name! Without that, the item will be in lost and found and may eventually end up donated to Goodwill.
- Please remember to keep TMES updated on any changes for your contact info! If you move, change your phone number, job, etc., please remember to keep us updated so that we will have current info in case we need to contact you. Also, periodically check and make sure our pick-up list is correct for your child/children.

## PNM Energy Exploration Grant

New in 2009, the PNM Fund is **powering discovery** by offering educators the opportunity to win an **Energy Exploration Grant** and boost learning about energy in New Mexico classrooms. One of our teachers, Ms. Sherry Gwyn, was the recipient of one of the grants! The grant is worth \$1,000! The grant was written with this question in mind: **How much natural resources can TMES conserve by recycling our paper waste?** We will have colored and white paper bins in each classroom for recycling. Master Fibers has agreed to collect our sorted, clean paper recyclables on a regular basis. 9-12 students will weigh the paper as collected from individual classrooms and record the quantity. We will then calculate the amount of resources that were diverted from the landfill and recycled. We would also like to add a composting component after collecting paper recycling is successful.

**Huge thanks to PNM for the financial support for this project!** Ms. Sherry will keep us all updated on the progress of this project.

## Kudos- We really want to thank...

We have some great parent volunteers who go above and beyond! Thank you for volunteering at TMES and making our school great!

Thank you

- Ann Baca
- Mack Davis
- Missy Liotta
- Catherine Cuslidge-DeValle
- Theresa Fleming
- Brett Hayworth
- Gloria Landavazo
- Becky Caalim

And of course a **BIG thank you** to all of our wonderful parents who volunteered their time and resources for I.C.D., the Mercado, and the Jog-A-Thon! We truly appreciate you all being such an important part of our success as a school!

## And a HUGE thank you to....

### Stacey Ignarski!

Stacey Ignarski volunteered many, many hours of her time, and her own resources, for the Mercado. Stacey spent countless hours creating the Mercado, and organizing it for several weeks. We certainly would not have had the Mercado without Stacey! It was a big success!

*Thank you Stacey!*

## TMESNM.com Updates

Our website, [www.tmesnm.com](http://www.tmesnm.com), is constantly being updated. We encourage you to check it often for new content, reminders, and helpful information regarding TMES. Did you know on our website you will find:

- **School Calendar**- it is always available to you so you never have to search for a paper copy of it.
- **Healthy Snack and Lunch Ideas**- a great list of good for you, easy to prepare snacks and lunches.
- **Montessori Resource List**- helpful lists of books and websites regarding the Montessori method.
- **Violin Practice Guide**- an excellent self-help guide complete with pictures to guide you through helping your child practice at home.
- **Archives of Newsletters**- All of the TMES newsletters that we have ever sent are available.
- **Parent/Student Handbook**- wondering about our Dress Code or Severe Weather policies? They are all available online in pdf form.
- **Classroom Pages**- every classroom has their own page complete with teacher bio's, contact info, classroom updates, classroom wish-list's, etc.
- **Support Staff, Admin & Board Member Pages**- contact info, bio's and pictures are available for your convenience.

## TMES is going green!

You are receiving this via email only so that we can reduce the use of paper, ink, and resources. If you would like to add or change email addresses on file, please email MJ at: [msams@tmesnm.com](mailto:msams@tmesnm.com). You can add as many email addresses as you like!

## Ms. Kari's Corner

*A note from Ms. Kari... just in time for the holidays!*

Ever had one of those Mondays...you know the kind that gets planned all weekend? You find yourself spending a majority of the weekend thinking about all the things you want to get done on Monday so your week will go smoothly? Monday morning arrives; you start work early, and begin checking off items on your list. Little by little, time starts slipping away. Before you know it, half the day is gone and you are nowhere near completing even a fraction of what you planned.

Well, this is the kind of Monday I was having on December 13<sup>th</sup>. I was behind before I started and the day was slipping away. I saved a large number of copies I needed to make for the afternoon, only to find a "broken" sign posted a top the machine. One of the copies in my mound of papers was an informative note to the classroom teachers about caroling and coffee in the commons. Oh well, I thought, I guess I will walk around the school and visit the classrooms and tell the teachers myself. Besides, observing the children working and visiting the classrooms always puts a smile on my face.

What happened next changed my day and I would like to share it with you.

As I began my walk though the school to deliver the message to the teachers...this is what I found: I peeked into Ms. Jenn and Ms. Maura's Kindergarten classrooms and found Santa's workshop in full swing. Students and teachers were bustling with Kinder excitement! I was able to slip in unnoticed as the students continued working on their projects. Success!

As I moved my way through the 6-9 classrooms, I began with Ms. Lisa. She was giving a whole group impressionistic lesson on the formation of mountains. The students and Ms. Lisa were so involved; they didn't even notice me peeking in. I walked down the hall to Ms. Samantha's class and she was involved with a small group of students working together on their reading skills while Mr. Kit was having PE outside with the other students. Ms. Angie came next and when I entered her room she was working with a group of students on a History lesson, while Mr. Joel was working with a different small group of students on language. The students were engaged and working quietly on their "jobs", (although I did have one student write and give me a note that said, "I love you!") But again I was barely noticed and still unable to deliver my message to any of the teachers.

Hum...let's try Ms. Karen's room next. When I entered the room, I found Ms. Karen giving a small group cultural lesson and when I looked around for Ms. Jenifer to relay the message, I found her with another small group, reviewing a golden bead math lesson. "I'll come back," I mouthed to them, as not to disturb. Ms. Susan's classroom is next on the 6-9 tour and I found her in a whole group History lesson on the Time Line of Life. As I backed out of the room, still unable to deliver my message to any of the 6-9 classrooms, I was beginning to notice a trend. Ms. Natasha and Ms. Jessica were both involved directly with children in language and Spanish lessons, as were Mr. John and Ms. Lorena. I kept looking at my watch, estimating the time they had left in their lessons until clean up and pick up. Even though it was almost 2:30pm every teacher was going strong and the students were engaged.

The 9-12 students were involved in their Fine Arts classes and I found the 9-12 teachers having a planning meeting. I was finally able to deliver my message to a few teachers and as I walked back to my office, I started to realize the amazing things going on here at TMES! What wonderful, remarkable, driven teachers we have! The week before Winter Holiday is a time known to teachers as a "coast" week. The students are too excited about break, travel and presents to focus in school, so teachers usually plan lots of busy work, craft assemblies, and worksheets. Imagine my total joy when I saw all SEVEN of our 6-9 classroom teachers and students engaged in major curriculum areas, loving learning and exhibiting a fidelity to Montessori philosophy.

As I was making these connections, I ran into Theresa Padilla outside Ms Lisa's room. (Theresa Padilla is a retired teacher, volunteer extraordinaire and grandmother to two of our students). She had come to listen to readers and found Ms. Lisa's class so involved in their lessons that she didn't want to disturb them. We began to speak about the wonders of teaching and the joys of learning. We discussed the ironic beauty in my undeliverable message!

By the time I made it back to my office, I found my thoughts were care free. I was overjoyed and no mounds of copying, messy desk, or Frito Pie ingredients littering the floor were going to get me down. This is time to celebrate and be part of the magnificent community that makes up TMES... all that other "stuff" can wait!

We wish you all a Happy Holiday's with lots of relaxation and family fun! -Ms. Kari

## What's New at TMES



- Sand box
- Music equipment
- Art room- the Art Room was completed over the summer, including the kiln.
- School Crossing signs in front of our building (Thank you Mack Davis for working with the City to get this done!)
- TMES Preschool is up and running! We have a very limited amount of openings left.

## First Annual TMES Mercado

The first annual TMES Mercado was a big hit! We ended up having 20 vendor tables and several TMES tables. The money raised per TMES table is listed below. Between the vendor tables that were rented from TMES and the money raised at the tables for TMES activities and levels, we raised over **\$2,700 total!** Thank you again Stacey Ignarski for putting together such an incredible fundraiser for TMES! And thank you to all of the parents who chipped in to make the TMES tables such a big success too!

- Kindergarten - \$359.75 total
- 6-9 - \$684.60 total  
*(of the total Ms. Susan's class table earned \$57.00, Ms. Natasha's class table earned \$51.00 and \$576.60 will be shared among the seven 6-9 classrooms.)*
- 9-12 - \$177.15 total
- Choir - \$35.00 total
- Aftercare - \$67.00 total
- Pre K - \$268.21 total
- Raffle - \$96.00 total

## New Music Equipment

Last Spring the Wagner family (Rand, Mar and Nathan) organized the donation of the beach house rental as an item in the silent auction. TMES received \$2500 for the item and the money was used on general music instruments. With this generous donation the school purchased a bass xylophone, two large shape drums, four tubanos, drumming mallets, and extra xylophone mallets. The instruments arrived during the month of October. The majority of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year classes played on the xylophones every class period during the Fall Semester. The students were very excited to feel the vibrations in the floor as they played on the bass xylophone. All of the other xylophones that TMES purchased in the previous years were altos and sopranos, so this was a new experience for all of the students.

The 9-12 classes used the drumming mallets and shape drums and mallets for an improvisation lesson. During the Spring semester I would like to introduce the students to drumming. Field trips to other schools and special guests will come to TMES to teach the children drumming techniques.

I'm very grateful for all of the support throughout the past four years for the general music program. When TMES first opened, the school didn't own any general music instruments. The foundation and the school provided funds to purchase instruments in past school years. There are still different types of instruments that the students haven't had the opportunity to experience. The students would also be ecstatic if more xylophones were purchased. This would enable us to give instruction on the xylophone to the entire class at one time so that half of the class isn't waiting while their peers are receiving instruction.

Thank you Wagner family for organizing this donation to the General Music Program! The instruments will be utilized for several years to come! Most of the instruments in APS schools have been used by students for the past 15 years!!! The xylophones are the student's favorite instrument to use in the general music program. ~Ms. Canice



## Musical Opportunities over Winter Break

You are all highly encouraged to go to a music performance over the break. Nothing is more inspiring than seeing someone performing live. This time of year is full of concerts, ballets, operas and plays. Listed below are some web sites that are useful in finding something to do:

- <http://www.abqarts.org/something-plain.htm>
- [www.unm.edu/~shapiro/MUSIC/](http://www.unm.edu/~shapiro/MUSIC/)
- <http://www.classicalkhfm.com/> (This has a calendar you can search by type of event or date. Look under the Arts Calendar tab at the top)

Some specific recommendations:

**Sat, Dec 19 '09**      **Christmas Classics**  
*Performance*      Presenting choruses from Handel's Messiah and John Rutter's Gloria, as well as settings of traditional English Carols. Accompanied by members of the UNM Symphony Orchestra.  
 7:30pm  
 Albuquerque, NM      [Albuquerque Civic Chorus](http://www.abqchorus.org)  
 505-293-3201      Carlisle at Central  
                                  [www.abqchorus.org](http://www.abqchorus.org)

**Thu, Dec 24 '09**      **White Christmas (Multiple Performances)**  
*Performance*      The classic holiday tradition comes to Albuquerque direct from Broadway. Irving Berlin's White Christmas promises a merry and bright theatrical experience for the whole family.  
 1:00pm  
 Albuquerque NM      [Albuquerque Little Theatre](http://www.albuquerquelittletheatre.org)  
 505-242-4750      224 San Pasquale SW  
                                  [www.albuquerquelittletheatre.org](http://www.albuquerquelittletheatre.org)

## TMES Parent Violin Class Graduates!

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the third graduating TMES parent class had their "final exam"! This consisted of a rousing performance of *Twinkle, Peanut Butter Sandwich* and *I'm a Little Monkey*. Forty parents performed bravely for their children. It was the children that were the most fun to watch. They sat very proudly watching their parents play violin as the biggest TMES parent class yet. We know that it took a lot of extra time and planning for everyone to attend classes, do homework and perform. You are truly appreciated and congratulated for all your efforts parents!

## Did You Know...?

- TMES merchandise is still available! The link to the website is on the TMESNM.com homepage.
- TMES passed the re-charter process this year! This is a very lengthy process that is done every 5 years. Starting in the 2010-2011 school year, TMES will no longer be an APS charter school, but will be chartered through the state. This will not have any changes for our families or students.
- Meet TMES day will be held on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 4:40 pm. This is the once-a-year event that we invite the public to come to TMES to tour our school, meet with our teachers and staff, and hear TMES students play the violin. It is also the first day applications are available for the 2010-2011 school year. Spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in TMES!
- We have almost 400 email addresses in our database now. We have already saved close to 20,000 sheets of paper by sending our correspondence via email! Please remember to keep MJ updated with your most current email address at [msams@tmesnm.com](mailto:msams@tmesnm.com).

## Box Tops for Education

A special thank you to those parents and students who are actively collecting box tops. Keep those Box Tops coming in! We have collected almost \$400.00 this school year. We encourage everyone to sign-up at [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) for additional ways our school can earn money through the box top program. General Mills Box Tops program is willing to hand out \$20,000 annually per school. **Congratulations to Mr. Derek's class who won the class contest by collecting the most Box Tops.** Their class collected 568 Box Tops this year already! Cici DeValle, our Box Tops Coordinator, bought pizza, nachos, fruit salad and ranch salad on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> for Mr. Derek's class. The kids loved the food! The class will also be receiving a Home Depot gift certificate worth \$75.00. Mr. Derek is excited to spend the money on sprucing up the classroom! Cici has spent countless hours working on the Box Tops program for our school and has spent her own money on prizes for the winners of the Box Tops contests. We want to say a special **THANK YOU!** for being so dedicated and working so hard on this fundraiser for TMES. We truly appreciate everything Cici!



## TMES Student Shines!

### Collaborative Council

Spencer Visconti,  
President

Rob Crandall,  
Vice-President

Jeff Li, Treasurer

Joanne Li, Secretary

Larry Espinoza

Connie Dove

**We're on the Web!**  
**TMESNM.com**



(above) Nicole Fleming made homemade boxes, collected lots of bones, toys and \$150.00 for dogs at NM Animal Friends.

TMES Student, Nicole Fleming (pictured left), decided that in lieu of birthday gifts this year, she would help dogs in need. Included in her birthday party invitations was a note telling her friends and family that she would like donations for the NM Animal Friends that provides foster homes for dogs until they find forever homes. These dogs are spayed or neutered, treated for any disease, get dental work done and have all shots before they can be adopted. She asked that people bring dog bones, tennis balls, leashes, collars and cash donations. The Fleming family currently has a foster dog and Nicole volunteers every Saturday at Petsmart on Montano from 11-2 walking dogs, loving them, making sure they go to the bathroom and have fresh water. Thank you Nicole for doing such a nice thing for dogs in need! Go to [www.nmaf.org](http://www.nmaf.org) for more info on this organization.

## TMES Preschool

We are proud to say that the first year of our TMES Preschool program is going really well! We have two very dedicated teachers, Ms. Jaja and Ms. Sanaa, with nine children ranging in age from one year old to 4 years old. The children receive daily lessons in the traditional Montessori fashion. The program is a co-op, meaning the Preschool parents contribute all of the items in the classroom and volunteer their time to help make the program a success. We currently have a very limited amount of openings available and will soon be starting the enrollment process for the program for the 2010-2011 school year. See Ms. Geri in the office with any questions regarding the program!

## HB33 Update

APS approved our inclusion in the HB33 election for February 2010. TMES is slated to receive funds. Thank you all for the support in emailing the APS board members! We may be asking for your assistance again in January during the legislative session to help support Charter School Legislation.

## Extra Music Help

Help for General Music (singing, recorders, xylophones) is available from Ms. Canice at the following times:

- Monday and Tuesdays 3:30-4:00 pm
- Tuesday and Wednesdays 12:15-1:15 pm
- Before School (If a parent comes to take her spot for morning drop-off)

Notes will be going home after the break to those students who should be coming in for extra help.

## \*\*\* Important Upcoming Events \*\*\*

### December-

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>- Pajama/Movie Day at TMES! ALL students may wear pajamas and choose to watch a movie in the afternoon.
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>- Last day of classes before Winter Break! After Care is available until 6:00 pm today.
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>- Last day to drop off items for Road Runner Food Bank.

### January-

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup>- Last day of Winter Break- **NO SCHOOL/NO CHILDCARE**
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>- First Day back from Winter Break! Normal school day starts at 9:00 am. Before/After Care is available.
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- MLK, Jr. Day **NO School/ NO Childcare**
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>- Parent/Teacher Conferences- **NO SCHOOL/NO CHILDCARE**