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Elementary School
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Violin Students Perform at the Roundhouse



The sound of violins could be heard in the Capitol rotunda in Santa Fe this past Saturday—the first public performance by violin students at TMES. **Ms. Canice** led 14 students from **Ms. Kari's** 6-9 class through five pieces as part of *A Day for Charter Schools*, sponsored by the NM Coalition of Charter Schools. The students have been working hard, and were excellent representatives for TMES. We are all very proud of you!

New TMES Website

Thanks to the hard work of parent volunteer **David Young**, The Montessori Elementary School website is up and running! Be sure and take a look—www.tmesnm.com—you'll find the school calendar, dress code, violin schedule, and the latest edition of this newsletter. Since the site is just getting off the ground, please let David or any of the TMES staff know if you have any suggestions or encounter any errors. The dust is still settling as we learn how to make the most of both the website and the newsletter, so don't hesitate to make any helpful hints.

According to David, "There's plenty of room for innovation. For example, the other night during a parent violin meeting, it was agreed to use the website to post photos on how to hold a violin bow and audio files of 'peanut butter sandwich' cadences and other essential tools for both parents and students."

You can reach David at david@kspar.net or 417-6693.

Parent Committees

Fundraising and Development

Next meeting: February 15, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at TMES.
 Contact: **Kerry Perry** at perrykerry@aol.com

The Fundraising Committee has scheduled some exciting events and activities to raise monies for TMES. As a sneak preview, we will be scheduling a "One Night Out" for families to eat at selected restaurants in the months of February, March, and April. In April, we will be organizing a jog-a-thon for the kids and in May a Golf Tournament with a Silent Auction. Periodically, we will send home information about programs that help bring in money as well as grant opportunities for TMES. Please join us at our next meeting!

Playground and Green Thumb

Next meeting: February 15, 5:30 pm at at the school.
 Contact: **Keith Fleming**, 259-3827 or ahelplinghandnm@comcast.net

Publicity, Communications and Volunteers

Next meeting: February 9, 6:30 pm at the Flying Star on Rio Grande.
 Everyone is welcome!
 Contact: **Laura Buell**, 891-1995 or nmbuells@yahoo.com

Parents: Do you have any good tips or ideas for kid's lunches? Kids: Do you have any funny stories about what your parents pack for lunch? Send them to Jill at riesterr@msn.com for a future newsletter.



Parent volunteers Spencer Visconti and John Giersch put together a picnic table for the TMES playground.

Kudos

Thanks to the following parents and staff who helped set up the new picnic tables and shelter:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Daniel Baillet | Jeff Li |
| Mary Jane Besante | Joanne Li |
| Ron Besante | Dawn McCusker |
| Keith Fleming | Linda Norman |
| Theresa Fleming | Anne Uhring |
| John Giersch | Spencer Visconti |
| Steve Jarrett | Myrle Wasko |

Thanks to the following parents for helping with front desk, playground, and classroom duty:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Edie Baldinger | Cindy Peterson |
| Rebecca Baillet | Mona Purvis |
| Michelle Dickey | Wanda Tuck |
| Theresa Fleming | Myrle Wasko |
| | Kathy Young |

Thanks to **Terry and Hannah Guebelle** for putting together the wonderful TMES information board for the event at the Capitol.

Thanks to **Kathy Young** for getting donations for plants and cleaning/setting up the entryway to the school. Looks great, Kathy!



Parent volunteers Keith Fleming, Theresa Fleming, Daniel Baillet, and Anne Uhring work together to paint the shelter on the playground.

Updated School Calendar

Thursday

February 9

Publicity, Communications, and Volunteers Committee Mtng.
6:30 pm at the Flying Star on Rio Grande **NEW!**

Friday

February 10

Deadline for next newsletter. NEW!
Send info to Jill at riesterr@msn.com or call 281-1337.

Tuesday

February 14

Delisheries Cookie Dough orders and money due to your child's teacher.

Wednesday

February 15

**Fundraising Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at TMES
Playground/Green Thumb Committee Meeting**
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at the school **NEW!**
Parent Education Night
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Monday

February 20

President's Day, No School

Wednesday

February 22

TMES Collaborative Council Meeting **NEW!**

**February 28
to March 2**

Standards Based Assessment Testing
3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th graders only will be tested from 8:30 am -
12:30 pm. No school for K, 1st, and 2nd graders.

March 6 - 10

Book Fair (sponsored by Kindergarten classes)

Friday

March 17

Underwater Overnight at the Aquarium (3rd and 4th graders)

Wednesday

March 22

Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early dismissal, 12:30 pm

March 23-24

Parent/Teacher Conferences, No School

March 27-31

Spring Break

Friday

April 7

Teacher In-Service, No School

Thursday

April 13

Science Fair

Friday

April 14

Vernal Holiday, No School

Wednesday

April 26

Spring Music Concert, 6:30 pm at Sandia Preparatory Theater

Wednesday

May 24

Graduation and Last Day of School
School closes at 1 pm.

Box Tops for Education

Thank you to all who have turned in official Box Tops coupons. We were very excited to send in our first submission, which came to 1, 250 coupons. That's \$125 that TMES can spend on new materials and/or activities!

Here are a few **Do's and Don'ts of Box Tops**:

DO

- Check all of your General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, and Ziploc products. They probably have an official Box Top Coupon on them!
- Clip close to the dotted line on all coupons. This saves precious volunteer time!
- Write your child's first and last name on the back of the coupon. There will be a drawing every month for fun prizes.
- Send in Box Tops coupons with your child. He or she can put them in the collection box located near the front desk.
- Sign up for the Box Tops Booster Club. Even if you can't collect coupons, this is a great way to support our school.
- Have friends and family members collect Box Tops for you! It's amazing how fast they add up!
- Pat yourself on the back for helping our school!

DON'T

- Send in Betty Crocker Points. Although they are valuable to an individual who would like to purchase discounted bakeware, they are not valuable to the school.
- Tear coupons. Torn Box Tops become invalid.
- Send in general box labels. The school can only send in official Box Tops Coupons.
- Be afraid to ask questions. **Ms. Melissa** is the Box Tops Coordinator and would love to talk to you!

TMES had its first Box Tops drawing for prizes earlier this month. **Kolya Venturi** and **Faith Schifani** from Ms. Kari's class, and **Garrett Tatum** and **Chira Noce** from Ms. Melissa and Ms. Angie's class all won gift certificates to Cold Stone Creamery. Yum!



TMES families and staff enjoy the Welcome Back Potluck on January 21.

Mr. Frank Rocks the House!

The kindergarten and 6-9 classes all took a field trip last Thursday to see Mr. Frank's concert at Sandia Prep. The kids (parents and teachers, too) had a great time singing and dancing to the fabulous performance. And, of course, Mr. Frank was joined on stage by Ms. Pilar—who was lovely, as always. Thanks to the Letos for sharing their music with us!



A good time was had by all!



Our Ms. Pilar leads the dancing.



Mr. Frank and his band charm their adoring audience.



Swann Baca and Claire Young get set to enjoy the show!



Ms. Canice and her violin students take a bow after their performance at the Capitol.

YMCA Before/After School Program

Looking for before and after school activities for your children? You might want to try the Heights Family YMCA's FuntYmes program. Heights YMCA offers before and after school care for certain schools in the area. To get TMES added to the list of schools they service, at least 5 children from our school need to participate in the program. The program is open to boys and girls in grades K through 5 and includes art, sports, science activities, as well as help with homework. Rates range from \$27/week (for morning only) to \$46/week (both morning and afternoon). A YMCA membership is also required (\$35 a year per child or adult for a Basic membership). There are brochures at the TMES front desk or call the Heights YMCA at 265-6971 for more information.

Young Dragons, Inc.

Another option for after school is Young Dragons, which offers transportation from school, an afternoon snack, Karate class, and study time. Rates are \$75/week or \$275/month, with a \$75 enrollment fee. For more information, call them at 881-5200 or visit them online at www.youngdragons.net.

Your Help Still Needed

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to help out with front desk and playground duty. We still need a few volunteers for the front desk in the mornings and afternoons. Please contact **Ms. Phyllis** if you're interested.

Parent Reminders

Please let the front desk know if your contact information needs to be updated.

Kindergarten parents: Be sure to wash your child's towel and send it back on Monday mornings.

Delisheries Fundraiser

Everyone should have received order forms and information about the Delisheries Fundraiser in your child's communication folder. Don't forget to turn in your orders and payments to your child's teacher by February 14. If you have any questions, contact **Debbie Kennedy** at 771-8084 or 270-8713.