

The ZMS Review

August 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

For the past ten years I have used this space in the back-to-school issue to welcome our patrons to a brand new school year (and for many to a brand new school!). For the sixth consecutive and final year, I do so in a dual role, as both principal and as ZMS parent. The latter role has offered me a unique and valuable perspective of our school, and it has been particularly interesting to me professionally to watch my family members live the ZMS experience and to see the impact that the school's programs, policies, procedures and culture have had on those most near and dear to me. Similarly, I have been moved personally by the development of our sons during this vital, vibrant time in their lives. The little boys that my wife and I sent to ZMS have changed before our eyes in what seems like a matter of minutes into young men. On this occasion of writing my last welcome back missive as both sender and receiver, forgive me for waxing a bit nostalgic as I reflect on the ZMS experience and its significant role in the development of our youth.

It seems like yesterday when we awaited the arrival of our first born. Logically I knew better, but I, like many fathers, was ready to return home from the hospital and commence with tossing the football in the yard with my son. Of course newborns are really only good at three things: eating, sleeping, and keeping the makers of Pampers and Wet Wipes financially secure. Every parent, however, remembers the first time a child laughs, rolls over, crawls, walks and begins to talk. Personalities quickly emerge from these little entities who began with only a triad of skills, and suddenly transform into distinct individuals with dynamic traits.

Middle school is not unlike this period. It is a time of significant physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. Exploration leads to a more keen development of personal interest, social development creates an interest in (and some say a need for) independence, and physical development brings about myriad changes – some that we parents really aren't ready for! – and leave middle schoolers eager to test drive their new models. (There is not a door jamb in this school without fingerprint smudges at the top. Why? Because they can.)

Just as infants quickly develop their personalities, middle school students further develop their sense of self, their likes and dislikes, inclinations, preferences, awareness of aptitudes, and an emergent understanding of their life aspirations. Middle school programs help illicit statements such as "I love science," "I'm really good at math," "I hope I get a part in the play," "I'm a writer," or "Wrestling is my favorite sport." (Lest anyone think I've lost touch with reality, sometimes it's "I don't want to go to school tomorrow," but that's an article for a different day!)

As a father it has been most intriguing to see which programs have drawn the interest of my sons. There have been many surprises along the way as they have undertaken activities with which my wife and I had little or no previous experience. It can be a bit unsettling as they embark on some of their adventures, but it is also rewarding to witness their ability to create and pursue their own path, and I am elated that they have attended a school rife with opportunities and a supporting staff that encourages students to take part in them.

So welcome (back) to ZMS and its '09-'10 school year. I hope your family enjoys its experience at ZMS as much as mine has! Check our newsletter for information about our Open Houses, Back-To-School Days, new student orientations, and more. More than anything, enjoy this stage of your child's life, and thank you for entrusting the staff at ZMS to assist in its unfolding! Sean Conner

<http://sconner007.edublogs.org/> Use this link to comment on Mr. Conner's Blog.

August Newsletter

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**Information for the
September Newsletter
should be submitted to
Dee Dee Medaris
(Ddmedaris@zmspto.org)
by August 20, 2009.**

Zionsville Middle School

Frequently Used

Phone Extensions

Dial 873-2426

followed by extension

#:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Principal | 13999 |
| Ass't. Principal | 13998 |
| Student Services | 13997 |
| Receptionist | Press 0 |
| Attendance | Press 2 |
| Guidance | Press 3 |
| Nurse | Press 4 |
| Food Services | Press 5 |
| Homework Hotline | Press 7 |
| Athletic Director | Press 8 |
| Repeat Menu | Press 9 |
| Strings Director | 13402 |
| Band Director | 13312-3 |
| Choir Director | 13310 |
| Transportation | 873-1237 |
| Staff Directory | Press # |

PTO News

Promoting Responsibility in Dedicated Education (PRIDE)

Here we go again. . . On behalf of the Zionsville Middle School PTO, welcome! Welcome back to all returning families and to those who are joining us for the first time, we are glad to have you.

If you are new to Zionsville, I look forward to meeting you in the near future at one of our planned events. ZMS PTO, along with the school guidance department, will work toward helping your family make a smooth transition to our school and community. You will find our website, <http://zmspto.org/> to be helpful. As well as the school website <http://www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms/>. We hope that you will join us on September 15, 2009 for the PTO New Family Welcome.

The 2009-2010 ZMS PTO Board is already hard at work and is looking forward to a productive and busy year. The success of our organization depends greatly on donations made to our PTO membership. Membership funds help to sustain Principal/Teacher Grants, wellness initiatives, as well as social & academic programs/activities. We ask that you please consider making a donation to continue

with our efforts. Thank you to families who have already contributed to the 2009-2010 PTO membership drive.

Year after year parent involvement becomes more apparent in the success of our endeavors. It takes many dedicated parents donating their time and talents to support the various events planned for the students and families. Please join us in Promoting Responsibility In Dedicated Education (PRIDE) by giving a little bit of your time. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn McKnight at dawnzumc@hotmail.com.

I would like to conclude by thanking last years ZMS PTO Board for their dedication and recognizing the endless, tireless, efforts by Frances Pokrifcak. Her energy and enthusiasm led to the success of both current and newly created events throughout the year. And to the new 2009-2010 ZMS PTO Board my greatest gratitude for offering your services to the ZMS community. It truly takes all of you to make it happen for our kids. I look forward to a fun, exciting year. Thank you.

Jami Farrell, ZMS PTO President

ZMS NEW FAMILY WELCOME

Please join us in Eagle Hall on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 for coffee and desert. All families who are new to the Zionsville school system are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the ZCS family. You will be able to talk with other ZMS families and many of our administrators. We hope to see you there!

NO HASSLE FUNDRAISING

As the new school year approaches us, so begins the race to meet our new goal for the 2009 – 2010 school year. We had a great year last year. Let's make this year even better!

The Campbell's Labels for Education program is being updated and getting a new look. You can still clip and redeem the same UPC codes, as always, but you may notice a new logo. Campbell's is focusing on supporting schools through their Arts, Athletics and Academics programs with the points earned. Be sure to check out their website at www.campbellsoup.com.

BoxTops for Education has added some new products to their list. Be sure to check out Avery office products when buying your back to school supplies. Also, don't forget about Ziploc and Hefty products. Our next deadline for Boxtops submissions is October 31st. You can check out the entire list of BoxTops products at www.boxtops4education.com.

Don't forget to also check out the Tyson Project A+ website at <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com>. I am still hoping to get enough labels to send in this year. Check out the September newsletter for news of the Boxtops/Campbells Soup Labels competition.

RECESSION WEAR

Your ZMS PTO is aware that everyone is keeping an eye on their spending. With that in mind, we have gone back to basics and designed items that will look cool on your kids while being light on your wallet. Look for us at the Back to School days and Open Houses. We know you will like what you see.

Angela Carr and Michelle Barrett, Spiritwear Co-Chairs

Guidance Department

REGISTRATION PACKETS

Thanks to all who so promptly returned the paperwork from the first registration packet in May. By now, you should have received the second packet which contained your fee statement along with other important information. Just a reminder that payments are due by August 1, 2009 and should be mailed to ZCS, P.O. Box 1126, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1126.

CHANGE IN DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Since we collected demographic information in May it is important that you contact the guidance department at 873-2426 ext. 3 with any changes to your phone numbers, address or email. We love being able to communicate with you so it is vitally important that you notify us at any time during the year that you have a change.

BACK TO SCHOOL DAYS

Back to School Days will be held on August 10 & 11 from 12:30-6:00 p.m. Students may come in and pick up a copy of their schedule with their locker assignment. They may want to practice opening their locker and even put supplies inside (please see the article in this newsletter re: lockers). They can also find their classes and tour the building during these times. You should plan to have his or her school picture taken on one of these days. You should have received a picture order form at home in the mail. We will have extra forms available at school on those days. We would highly encourage you to visit during Back to School Days since ZMS will be closed on Friday, August 14 as the teachers prepare for the first day of school.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

All students in grades 6, 7 & 8 who are new to Zionsville Community Schools are invited to our New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 12th from 10:00am-12:00pm. This is a great opportunity for you to come and meet some of our staff members, other new students as well as some students who already attend ZMS. It's also a great time for you to become more familiar with the building. Lunch will served and prizes will be awarded. Parents are invited to attend from 11:30-12:00 for their own orientation meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to Zionsville Middle School!

5th GRADE ORIENTATION

All incoming 5th grade students are invited to Eagle Orientation on Wednesday, August 12th from 3:30-5:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for 5th graders to come and meet some of our teachers and their classmates. Students will also have the opportunity to practice their lockers, become more familiar with the school as they participate in a scavenger hunt, and have their picture taken for the yearbook. Parents will accompany their 5th grader through the afternoon events. We look forward to seeing you all in August!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Supply lists for all grade levels are posted online at www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms. Check it out! 5th & 6th grade will be listed by teacher names. 7th & 8th grade will be listed by teams. The 7/8 teams for the 2009-10 school year are as follows:

7 Silver – Kern, Grimm, Mears & Becker 7 White – Schreiner, Williams, Weldy & Reed
8 Silver – Kern, Grimm, Mears & Becker 8 Green – Bloede, McCormack, McCarthy & Williams

2009-10 SCHOOL COUNSELORS

| Grade | Counselor |
|--|--|
| 5 th Grade Homerooms: Steidler/Hamelmann and 6 th Grade | Carrie Nonte, Ext. 13992, cnonte@zcs.k12.in.us |
| 5 th Grade Homerooms: Gray/Monaghan and 7 th Grade | Kristen Stachura, Ext. 13986, kstachura@zcs.k12.in.us |
| 5 th Grade Homerooms: Paska/Myers and Skura/Ertel and 8 th Grade | Krista Hoffman, Ext. 13991, khoffman@zcs.k12.in.us |

Ideas to Keep Your Locker Neat and Organized



5th grade

You will use your locker to keep your lunches, small musical items, and personal items. (large band instruments will be kept in the band room)

Books and supplies will remain in your classroom desk

6th grade

Your locker will be used similarly to how the 5th grade lockers are used.

You will begin transitioning more items to your locker as instructed by your teacher.

7th and 8th grade

You get to keep all items in your locker.

Items might include: books, coats, lunches, small musical instruments, and personal items

Decorating Your Locker

The inside of your locker is an expression of YOU!

It may be decorated with items approved by your parents and that are school appropriate.

Please refrain from using items that might damage the locker. (stickers, duct tape, or materials that could damage the paint)

We suggest that you don't use magnets on the inside of the locker as they sometimes slide down and jam the lock.

Make sure that before you place any item on the outside of your locker that you have the item approved by a staff member.

Locker Shelves

When used properly, locker shelves can be a great addition to your locker.

Due to the size of the lockers, only use one shelf and use caution to make sure it is not in line with the lock. (also make sure that your shelf selection does not raise the books to the point that they are in line with the shelf)

Your shelf should measure **10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide**. A larger size can damage lockers and often cause them to jam.

Please keep backpacks with wheels on them at home. They do not fit in our lockers. Rollerblades, skateboards and athletic equipment should be stored in a bag and may need to be stored in an athletic locker or classroom if they do not fit easily in your locker.

Please refrain from storing open beverage or food containers in your locker.

Remember that your locker combination is a personal matter. While friendships in middle school change throughout the year, locker combinations do not. Do not share your combination or your locker with anyone. If you need help with your locker, please ask a staff member for assistance.

School News

5th and 6th Grade Musical

The 5th and 6th grade musical this year will be Annie Jr. Performance dates are November 19th, 20th, and 21st. An audition workshop will be held September 14th and auditions will take place on September 21st and 22nd. Anyone interested in auditioning must be at all performances. Please note that cast and crew slots are limited. This club is by audition only. Any student solely interested in crew positions should attend the audition workshop. Please contact Ms. Reed with any questions at mreed@zcs.k12.in.us.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for the 2009-2010 school year are now for sale. Order online at <http://shop.jostens.com/> or with the attached flyer. New this year: Yearbook sales will end on December 18. NO YEARBOOKS WILL BE SOLD AFTER WINTER VACATION. Books are only \$25 before October 31 and will be \$30 after.

5th and 6th Grade Art Club

Art Club 5/6 signup will begin in September. Look for information in the September ZMS newsletter and on daily announcements.

Power Cards

The ZMS Cheerleaders will be selling power cards again this year. More details will be in the September newsletter!

Cheerleaders attend NCA Camp

Congratulations to the ZMS Cheerleaders for an outstanding performance at the NCA (National Cheerleaders Association) 3 day summer camp held at ZCHS. The 8th graders won the overall award for stunting and the 7th grade squad received the overall certificate for jumps. The 8th grade came home with 2 superior ribbons for their cheer and as well as one excellent. They also received 1 superior ribbon and 2 excellent ribbons for their chants. The 7th grade squad received 1 superior and 2 excellent ribbons for their chants and 1 superior and 2 excellent ribbons for their cheer. Many of our girls were nominated to try out for the NCA All-American Team which is an individual honor. After try-outs, Carly Bailey, Maria Schultz and Katie Medaris were selected to be on the All-American team. We are very proud of all the cheerleaders and excited for all of the awards that they received at camp. They did a great job representing ZMS!

Cafeteria News

Welcome all to a new school year! On behalf of the Zionsville Community School's Food Service Department, it is my pleasure to greet you with an update regarding the cafeterias.

Some of you may recall that we increased lunch prices during the 2008-2009 school year due to the rising costs of the food products we purchase to prepare your lunches. Unfortunately for many, our costs of operation have increased again this year, try as we may to hold our costs down and work more efficiently. Beginning the 2009-2010 school year, lunches at the elementary level (grades K-4) will be \$1.85 and secondary level lunches (grades 5-12) will be \$2.05. Additional student lunches and adult lunches will remain priced at \$2.75.

It is our strong belief that we continue to offer our customers a great value, both nutritionally and economically. In fact, we do a lunch price survey each year to assure that our prices are comparable to surrounding school districts and on average we certainly are. As a double check, we also compare our prices to those charged in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference schools, and we are in line with their prices as well.

Even though our operation costs are increasing, our goal remains to serve our customers in the most efficient and friendly manner! We hope you all agree that this is a worthy goal, one that we can and do meet! If ever the time arises when there are questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or anyone within our department. A list of contact names and other great information is available on our website at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm.

This website is where you may also find information regarding the Meal Assistance program. Each family should have received an Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals and Other Benefits over the summer. This is a form which after being completed, approved and implemented can provide valuable assistance for those in need. Instructions were included with the application, but please note that only one application is required for the entire family, regardless if siblings are in different ZCS school locations. If anyone is in need of an Application, please call the Food Service Office at 873-1232.

One additional reminder to perhaps make life easier as related to the cafeteria, please note that if you send lunch deposits for more than one of your children, you can simply send one check with a notation of the PIN numbers for each child. This might save you both checks and time! The best part is, your children can be in different schools and you can simply write one check! Please contact your school Cafeteria for any questions.

As always, our department values the support of our students, parents, faculty, and administration. We thank each one of you and hope that everyone has a great start to a tremendous new school year!

Jan Swander, Food Service Director & the entire ZCS Cafeteria Staff

August 2009

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 Back to School Days 12:30 - 6:00 pm Wrestling Room 1:1 Laptop Orientation 5:00 pm Eagle Hall | 11 Back to School Days 12:30 - 6:00 pm Wrestling Room 1:1 Laptop Orientation 3:00 pm Eagle Hall | 12 New student Orientation 10:00 am - 12:00 pm 5 th Grade Orientation 3:30 - 5:00 pm 1:1 Laptop Orientation 8:00 am, Eagle Hall | 13 | 14 |
| 17 <u>First Student Day</u> | 18 5/6 Open House 6:00 - 7:30 pm | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 NWEA Testing CPR Parent Meeting | 25 NWEA Testing 7/8 Open House 6:00 - 7:30 pm | 26 NWEA Testing | 27 NWEA Testing | 28 NWEA Testing |
| 31 NWEA Testing | | | | |

For a complete listing of school activities, please refer to the ZMS Web Site at www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms/index.html.