

The ZMS Review

March 2010

The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

I imagine myself on the set of the game show Jeopardy. Alex Trebek reminds the contestants that we must respond in the form of a question. On the big board flash the categories, and the game begins. The first clue pops up, and I click my buzzer confidently. I know this one! Alex reads the clue: "ISTEP." I respond: "How do I begin to walk, Alex?" Alex now knows two things: It's going to be a long show, and the parting gifts will be for me tonight.

All Hoosiers know, of course, that ISTEP is really our state's standardized test. The exam's format changed last year, and is still in flux a bit from last year's version. ZMS students will be taking part one of the exam on Tuesday and Wednesday (March 2nd and 3rd). This part of the test is more open-ended than the next, and students will be required, for example, to show work in math and respond to writing prompts.

The second part of the exam will occur within the window of April 26-May 7. The DOE has encouraged us to take part two of the exam online this year, the first time it has been available in this format. This portion is multiple choice only.

ISTEP is an assessment to determine mastery of grade level standards. In other words, it assesses whether students meet a minimum level in that particular grade level's curriculum. This contrasts with the NWEA exam (also administered in April) which measures student growth irrespective of grade level. It adjusts to and pinpoints the student's level of mastery. (The NWEA exam is also an online, multiple choice exam). The ISTEP assessment determines if a student is working at grade level, and the NWEA shows student growth over time for students whether they are at, below, or above grade level.

Results of these exams can be very helpful for individual students and for our institution. If for example, a student does not pass the ISTEP, it is important to see if (s)he is still exhibiting growth, and then to respond accordingly. The same holds true for students well above grade level. Yes, they will pass the ISTEP, but are they still exhibiting growth over time? Sometimes the answer to that question is no, and if that is the case, it is up to us to figure out why. As a school, it is important for us to recognize trends and patterns in order to know whether our curriculum is properly aligned and whether our instructional strategies are effective.

Testing has become a political football over the years, and it is both praised in some camps and vilified in others. I have had parents tell me they chose to send their kids to our school because of our students' standardized test success, and had others tell me that all we care about is our test scores. I suppose we are proud that our students fare well on the assessment. When I consider other response options (apathy, disdain), it seems our choice is proper.

So if "ISTEP" did pop up on Final Jeopardy, what would be the correct response? I can hear the music playing in my head as I consider what to write next. "Why should students eat a good breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday?" Nah. "Why do students need to bring and sharpen multiple number 2 pencils next week?" May I phone a friend? Darn, wrong game show. Hurriedly I write, "What required assessment will ZMS students take next week in hopes to determine whether the student is working at grade level and whether the school is performing appropriately?" The timpani sounds the final two notes of the theme song. Alex explains that he loves my answer as he brushes his mustache, but tells me that contestants without money don't get to play Final Jeopardy.

I knew I should have played Deal or No Deal.

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

March Newsletter Highlights

- *PTO News—Page 2 - 3*
- *Town Hall—Page 3*
- *Guidance Information—Pages 4 -5*
- *Sports—Page 5*
- *School News—Page 5*
- *Music News—Page 6*
- *Art Department—Page 6*
- *Cafeteria News—Page 6*
- *Calendar—Page 7*

**Information for the April
newsletter should be
submitted to Dee Dee
Medaris
(Ddmedaris@zmspto.org)
by March 18, 2010.**

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)

So much to do...so little time!.....As we hopefully say goodbye to winter and look forward to spring, the ZMS PTO is hard at work heading toward the end of the 2009-2010 school year. In typical PTO fashion, we will be finishing with a bang! Please mark your calendars for the following special events:

- March 1: Food for Thought collection begins
- April 24: Z'Run and "No Excuses" Health Fair
- April 26-30: Book Fair
- April 28: Spring Fling
- May 7: Reality Store
- May 14: 8th Grade Field Day
- June 2: 8th Grade Party
- June 4: Staff Appreciation Breakfast

The 8th annual Z'Run, along with the "No Excuses" Health Fair wants to encourage good lifelong fitness habits. Please mark your calendars on April 24, 2010 at 9am and join us for a community 5K and family 1-mile fun walk. Fun, friends, family and fitness in addition to educational demonstrations and exhibits, medical screenings, a blood drive and much more!

Thank you to Julie Rauschuber for hosting the Staff Appreciation Cookie Walk on February 4th. Trays and trays of cookies, brownies and other baked treats were available for teachers and staff to choose from as they assembled boxes of goodies to take home and enjoy! ZMS PTO is grateful to the numerous volunteer bakers who were kind enough to supply all the delectable treats.

The 7/8th grade Fun Night was a wonderful success thanks to the hard work by Shannon Ross and Ann Hall. Together with their many volunteers they provided a great evening of music, dancing, inflatables, and food for the students. The canned food donations will be donated to Food for Thought as well as various food pantries. Fun and Philanthropy – Good Job!

Mary Ortyl is again hard at work organizing another great campaign to collect food items and monetary donations for Food for Thought. During the winter break, Food for Thought was successful in serving over 400 breakfasts and 400 lunches to 15 families in our ZMS community. It is our hope to be helpful and supportive in a similar fashion during the upcoming Spring Break. Collections will begin in Eagle Hall starting March 1st. Thank you for your support and thank you Mary!

Lastly, if you would like to become involved in PTO, support the school or help facilitate certain events. There are opportunities available. PTO always is looking for fresh ideas, new leadership and guidance for the numerous programs it undertakes each year. Please express your interest to Shannon Ross at skross90@hotmail.com.

Jami Farrell, ZMS PTO President

LACE 'EM UP AND LET'S GO!!! Mark your calendars -- The 8th Annual Z'Run, along with the "No Excuses" Health Fair, will be held Saturday, April 24th from 9-11am. Everyone is invited to this 5K run and 1 mile family walk. So, bring yourself, bring your family....heck, even bring your dog for a walk. It's a family fun-filled healthy way to get out and get moving! While you are there, take advantage of the many demonstrations, health screenings and educational interactive booths. For information or to register go to www.tuxbro.com.

PTO News (Continued)

Staff Appreciation Cookie Walk

Thank you to the 40 bakers who provided home-baked goodies for the Annual Staff Appreciation Cookie Walk. The goodies were enjoyed by faculty and staff, and possibly their families if the treats made it out of the building. Special thanks to Joy Schroyer and Jami Farrell for helping with the set-up for this wonderful event. Julie Rauschuber, Staff Appreciation Cookie Walk Chair

NO HASSLE FUNDRAISING

As I am writing this, I am getting ready to send in our final Boxtops submission for the year. I think that we are going to come up just short of our goal. I do want to thank all those who sent in their Boxtops this year. With your help we have raised close to \$1200. Please keep sending your Boxtops and Campbells Soup labels in as we are still doing the class competition which will end in May. The following classes are in the top three as of today: Grimm, McCarthy and Valencourt. Mr. Grimm's 7th grade SOAR class won the January incentive and enjoyed a lunch from Subway in their classroom.

You can check out the following websites for more information: www.boxtops4education.com, www.campbellsoup.com and <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com>. Any questions feel free to contact me at cmead@indy.rr.com.

PTO is looking for you!

We are currently looking for leaders for the 2010-2011 PTO Board. No experience necessary. If you are interested in a position please call or e-mail Shannon Ross (skross90@hotmail.com or 733-4159). Thanks-we can not do it without you.

Wellness Corner

Spring is just around the corner and time to get up, get out and get moving!!!

Walking club will begin for the spring following spring break: Monday April 5th.

Volunteers are needed to keep this fitness program going. Please send me an email if you are interested in helping out for one time slot, just one hour for the month. For those of you who have helped in the past I will be notifying you by email and offering the same "sign me up" web site as last time to make the process more convenient and efficient.

Health tip for the month: Family dinners can be part of a recipe for success

Something as simple as sitting down to dinner together as a family can go a long way in helping a child fend off obesity. New studies suggest that family behaviors can have a significant impact on the weight of children. Other behaviors that might help kids stay slim include getting adequate sleep, limiting TV time and parents who set a good fitness example. Children who regularly ate with their family, got enough sleep and watched less than two hours of TV a day were 40% less likely to be obese. Eating together as a family sets solid ground work to build healthy lifestyle habits. We are all busy but we need to remember how important it is to take time to be together as a family and build healthy habits that will last a life time.

So make March the month you take time out for "The Family Dinner". We all need to remember we only have one body to get us through life on earth. Make it a priority to take care of yourself, eat right and exercise regularly.

Get up and get going, Erin Wilson, Wellness Coordinator

Town Hall Meeting

**Community Conversation Town Hall Meeting, Zionsville Town Hall, 1100 Oak Street, Zionsville
Wednesday, March 3rd 7:00 pm-8:00 pm**

You are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting designed to focus on the 2010 Census and its impact on our community. We are pleased to feature a representative from our census office. The representative will discuss how the census affects our community, privacy, statistical methods, and the types of data the Census Bureau collects. After the presentation, members from our local census office will hold a testing session for any citizens interested in collecting data for the Census Bureau.

Guidance Department

ISTEP

We will be testing our students starting next week with the 1st round of ISTEP. March 2nd and 3rd are our scheduled dates to give the written portion. We will be having an alternative schedule these two days. Please refrain from scheduling dental and doctor appointments until the afternoon. Also, please stress with your child the importance of a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Please have your student remember to bring a #2 pencil and a calculator. The 2nd round of testing will take place in April and this will be multiple choice. The window for this test will be from April 26-May 5.

NWEA

NWEA is a computerized test that evaluates a student's language, reading, and math skills. This test is given in the fall and spring, so yearly progress can be measured. Fifth and sixth grade students test with their homeroom teacher and seventh and eighth grade students test with their team teachers. Please make sure your student eats a healthy breakfast and gets plenty of sleep. Also, please refrain from making any appointments during testing dates.

Tuesday, April 6 – Monday, April 26

High School Placement Test for Algebra & Algebra AT students

Students who are currently taking Algebra or Algebra HA will be given a high school placement test on Friday, March 19, 2009. This test is used in the decision making process for Geometry placement next year. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's math teacher.

Orleans-Hanna

This test will be taken in all the 7th grade math classes. The Orleans-Hanna test measures the skill level a student has for Algebra. There are a total of 57 questions. Each student has 45 minutes to complete this test. A score of 50 and above would be considered very capable of doing Algebra related skills. The score a student gets on this test does not have any impact on the 3rd quarter grade. Silver Team is Thursday, March 18, 2010 White Team is Friday, March 19, 2010

21st Century Scholars Program

Eligible 6th, 7th and 8th grade student that enroll in the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program and fulfill a pledge of good citizenship to the state are guaranteed the cost of four years of college tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana. If the student attends a private institution, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a public institution. If the student attends a participating proprietary school, the state will award a tuition scholarship equal to that of Ivy Tech State College. There are strict income guidelines for eligibility, so not every student and family will qualify. Parents or guardians need to fill out the application. Students and parents/guardians have access to 16 regional support sites providing services and guidance for college preparation. If you have any questions about the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program, visit the Twenty-first Century Scholars Web site at <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/college/paying/TwentyFirstCenturyScholars/Pages/home.aspx>, contact your local Scholars Support site or call the Learn More Helpline at 1-800-992-2076.

Guidance March Character Trait: Peacefully handling conflict

Conflict is a healthy part of life. We all have conflicts, even with the people we love. Though, we should not let little conflicts turn into big fights. Here are some guidelines for keeping conflicts from getting out of control:

- In a nice manner, tell the other person what is bothering you
- Do not let your emotions take control
- Listen to the other person and try to understand how he/she is feeling
- Avoid name calling and using insults
- No hitting
- Avoid yelling or raising your voice
- Look for a compromise
- If all else fails, ask an adult for help

When talking with your student about his/her relationships, consider the following questions:

- Have you ever been in a fight with a friend because you were upset about something else that was unrelated? What did you learn from this?
- When somebody says something insensitive to you, should you confront him/her? What is a good way to confront that person without starting a fight?
- Is it ever a good idea to hit someone? Whose responsibility is it to prevent violence? (Tip: It's your responsibility, because you are the only person you have control over)
- Some people think it is very hard to just walk away from a fight. Do you agree? What could you do to make it easier for yourself to walk away?
- Name the benefits of resolving conflicts in a peaceful and positive way? Citation www.goodcharacter.com

Guidance (Continued)

Social Health Program for 5th Grade:

For a number of years, Zionsville Community Schools have offered programs on human growth and development for fifth grade boys and girls. In a continuing effort to provide a comprehensive education for your child, we will be providing a one hour and fifteen minute presentation on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, titled Human Growth and Development. The Social Health Association of Central Indiana will conduct this presentation. Parents may view the presentation on Wednesday, March 16, 2010, at 6:30 P.M. in the LGI room at Zionsville Middle School or on Monday, March 22, at 6:30 P.M. at Zionsville West Middle School. Detailed information will be sent via email. A hard copy of this information will be sent home with your student on Monday, March 1, 2010. This program is offered on a voluntary basis. The letter must be returned to the guidance office, no later than April 5, only if you **DO NOT** wish to grant permission for your child to participate in this program.

Core 40 Testing

All students taking Algebra will be required to take the Core 40 Test. The test will be administered on May 5-7, 2010. As part of Indiana's school accountability system under Public Law 221, Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs) are designed to ensure the quality, consistency, and rigor of Core 40 courses across the state. Aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards, End-of-Course Assessments are final exams measuring what students know and are able to do upon completion of targeted Core 40 courses. In addition, the End-of-Course Assessments are an integral component of Indiana's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement. As a part of this vision, these exams would serve an additional purpose of providing valuable information for college placement.

Sports

Wrestling News

The wrestling team has had a tough season with sickness, weather and injuries. In spite of that they have done well with currently a 5-3 record. At the ZMS Invitational the team had 16 place winners with four Champions. They were at 90 Preston Mantel, 135 Matt Cramer, 140 Shayne Haverson and Jacob Aven at Heavy weight. Preston Mantel captured his fourth consecutive title. The team finishes their season March 6 at Avon North with the conference meet.

Boys and Girls Track Callout

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader interested in being on the track team this year should attend a callout meeting on March 10th in the LGI room from 3pm to 4pm. The first practice will be March 15th from 3-4:30. In order to participate, one must have a current physical on file. To check if you have a current one on file, please contact Mrs. Tharp in the Guidance Office (ctharp@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13011). Please contact either Mr. Rowe (trowe@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13302) or Mr. Myers (dmyers@zcs.k12.in.us or ext. 13505) if you have any questions.

Impact Testing Available through St. Vincent Sports Performance

We are pleased to announce that online ImpACT testing is now available as part of the services that St. Vincent Sports Performance offers ZMS and the athletics community world wide. The online version of this ImpACT testing is available for any ZMS student for \$10.00. This service is offered so that any child that plays a contact sport outside of ZMS Athletics can also have this baseline test done. This test will measure the student's neurocognitive functioning. If a concussion would occur, this baseline test will be utilized to monitor the healing process. Impact testing is provided to ZMS athletes at school, free of charge, if they play a contact sport for the school. ImpACT testing is available for ZMS teams through Rick Santerre, St. Vincent Sports Performance and ZMS Athletic Trainer. For more details, please see the PDF file on the ZMS PTO website at <http://zmspto.org/>. If you have any questions you can contact Rick at rsanterre@zcs.k12.in.us or 873-2426 Ext. 13908.

ZMS Golf

Any 6th 7th, or 8th grade boy who is interested in playing golf that missed the callout meeting please see Mr. Skura in room 501 for details.

Golf Fundraiser: 1 round of golf + cart at The Golf Club of Indiana for \$45. If you are interested in purchasing a round or two please contact Jeremy Skura at jskura@zcs.k12.in.us.

School News

Canned Food Drive

The ZMS Art Club and Student Council are partnering to collect canned food for the Zionsville Food Pantry. The canned food drive will take place from March 8-19. Parents and students may drop off any donations in the collection boxes located outside of the main office. If you have any questions please contact Christine Williams at cwilliams@zcs.in.us.

Eagle Ball

The ZMS 5th and 6th grade student council will be hosting their annual Eagle Ball dodge ball tournament on Friday, March 5. This year, the tournament will begin shortly after school at 3:30. If your child chooses to participate, permission slips will be coming home throughout the month of February. The cost per student is \$3. While we cannot know for sure when the tournament will end, we estimate the winning teams will be awarded around 5:30.

Musical Notes

Parent Volunteers Needed

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT STILL NEEDS STUDENT AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS for March 13, the IMEA Non-Competitive Festival. Please contact Mrs. Swayze if you are available. Most needed: Group guides (looking for friendly people, 3-hour shift); set-up and teardown (after school on March 12 and throughout the day on March 13).

ISSMA, PIANO/VOCAL and STRINGS

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the I.S.S.M.A. Piano and Vocal Contest on Jan. 30th at Avon HS. The following students received Gold or Silver ratings for their performances: Trevor Rood, Alex Wang, Alan Fang, Regan Gibson, Dominic Rossi, Kaelyn Becker, Lauren Cross, Ellis Cain, Rachel Zeunik, Matthew Kesler, Kami Barnes, Kendall Gibson, Annie Weidner, and Caroline Richardson. In addition, Baizhen Zhu and Abbey Roberts earned Gold ratings in Group I, which is the most difficult level. Baizhen will performed his solo once again at the State Level competition on Feb. 20.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the I.S.S.M.A. Instrumental Contest on Feb. 6 at Avon HS. The following students received Gold or Silver ratings for their performances: Candice Park, Jack Horn, Britton Pitcher, Lily Deeg, Michelle Stallman, Emma Congdon, Emilee McBride, Trevor Rood. Teresa Ortyl, Alejandro Eulacio, Mary Peterson, LeAnne Lautzenhiser, Alan Fang, Sabria Abufares, Sam Tucker, Hari Dhadha, Will Savery, Will Rushton, Ashley Francisco, Aidan Moore, Nick Taylor, Parker Swayze, Bryce Cousins, Alex Yiannoutsos, Courtney Herms, Lauren Cross, Cheyenne Lantz, Annie Kissel, Audrey Revercomb, Samantha Robbins, Rachel Sattler, Rachel Zeunik, Rachel Ranieri, and Sarah Luciani. The trio of Miranda Bernard, Grace Rushton, and Candice Park received a Gold rating in Group I, which is the most difficult level. They will perform again at the State Level competition on Feb. 27.

Art Department

7/8 Art Club

7/8 Art Club are currently help design the sets for the musical, Wizard of Oz. Students are creating the Emerald City Gate and house from Munchkin Land. This month they begin work on the fantasy like flowers that will hang from the houses. Students will use paper-mache and foam board to create the back drops.

Peace Poster

On display this month at The Eagle Creek Coffee Company will be a selection of Peace Posters from Miss Bond's 8th grade classes. The theme of the collage project was "The Power of Peace." Students designed and created a poster that represented what peace meant to them. The top 3 winners were Samantha Petrie, Laura May, and Nick Ceryak.

Cafeteria News

Welcome to spring! How wonderful to hear the birds singing! Those of us in the ZCS Food Service Department are amazed at how quickly the year has progressed. We've added some new concepts to our program this year which perhaps has led to the quickened pace. As you may recall, there is now a reimbursable breakfast program at our High School and Freshman Center. This program supplements one previously introduced last year at our Middle School. The phrase reimbursable simply means that rather than being a breakfast composed of a la carte items, it consists of products when selected appropriately, meet more nutritional qualifications and receive government reimbursement to help pay for the meal. Certainly during these times, that is a benefit that all students may utilize! Those food service managers at the participating school locations are always eager to share their knowledge of the program!

Our department continues efforts to enhance operations and build skill levels by participating in our own *Professional Development Series*, provided by the St. Vincent Employee Assistance Program. We've joined forces with the ZCS Z'Care Department and are preparing for our next topic entitled *Conflict Management*. In addition, we are most fortunate to have Donna Hudson, ZCS Coordinator of Unified Student Services, lead us in upcoming training sessions of Non-violent Crisis Intervention. We have four sessions planned with small groups of fifteen to enhance the training and the value provided.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our program and encourage you to visit our website to learn more about us. While on the site at www.zcs.k12.in.us/cafe/index.htm you will discover menus, recipes, nutritional information, and even a *Cafeteria Chatter* newsletter which reflects life from our perspective. I hope you will explore and let us know how we can better serve you and your children.

Jan Swander, ZCS Food Service Director

March 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 ISTEP Testing	3 ISTEP Testing	4	5 Dodgeball Tournament 3:30 pm N/S Gyms
8	9	10 Track Callout Meeting 3:00 pm LGI	11 Math Bowl to Maple Glen Elementary 3:30 - 7:00 pm	12 Gray/Monaghan to Cincinnati 7:30 am - 7:00 pm 13 IMEA Festival Math Counts to Purdue 7:00 AM - 3:30 pm
15 Sit N Knit to Ronald McDonald House 4:30 pm 4 th Grade Parent Meeting 6:30 pm, EH	16 Softball Parent Meeting 5-6 pm Library Classroom Social Health Parent Meeting 6:30 pm, LGI	17 Wrestling Banquet 6:00 pm, EH	18	19
22 Exploratory Finals	23 Tech Final (Day 2) End of 9 Weeks	24	25	26 No School
29 Spring Break	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break	1 Spring Break	2 Spring Break

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