



# The ZMS Review

## September 2008



*The Monthly Newsletter of the Zionsville Middle School Parent Teacher Organization*

### View From the Eagle's Nest

August certainly proved to be an action packed month. Sandwiched between Michael Phelps's swims for Gold, May-Treanor and Walsh's dominance in the sand, and Usain Bolt's moments of self-aggrandizement and speed, it was hard to notice anything else of importance going on. This just in: School is in session! Because so many headline events may have obscured other new initiatives, announcements, and programs worthy of note, I thought I might use my column to highlight a few.

**P.E.P.:** ZMS parents will note that Parent Connect is no longer the program used to provide parents with a glimpse into their children's academic lives. P.E.P. is the replacement for this service. Though the interface is a bit different, the program allows parents to view attendance, grades, and student discipline just as Parent Connect did. Unlike Parent Connect, P.E.P. also provides parents access to standardized testing reports, and data from previous years. This software is also imbedded in the school management software, so it works more efficiently than Parent Connect did. If you have questions about your log-in, contact the ZMS guidance department and they will help you.

**ISTEP:** The State of Indiana has changed the timing of the ISTEP test from fall to spring. Because fall testing covers content from the previous school year (and because No Child Left Behind requires states to assess children each year), we will be required to test in the fall and spring this year. In subsequent years ISTEP testing will be restricted to the spring. Other than enduring the transition, this change seems to be a positive one for all, and it certainly makes more academic sense to be testing within the school year that we're trying to assess.

**Angel:** You may hear your son or daughter refer to Angel and his or her account. This reference is regarding classroom management software that teachers have the option to use with their students this year. This software enables educators to post calendars, assignments, and documents for student access. It also allows students to e-mail their teachers and other students in their class, and of course share documents in so doing. Because the software is quite new to us, some teachers may be using it before others do, and we hope to have everyone using it by the end of the year.

**Pilot Laptop Program:** 75 sixth grade ZMS students began the school year in a program in which students use laptops throughout their academic day. The purpose of the program is to create a new instructional design and delivery – one that is interactive, engaging and focuses on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Over 90% of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents were interested in placing their child in this program – a strong statement that the school has the parental support necessary to move in this direction. It is our hope to have a successful year in this program, to train more teachers in instructing in such an environment, and to expand the program for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Indiana Teacher of the Year Finalist:** ZMS's nominee for the school's TOY is Mrs. Monica Plantan. Mrs. Plantan was subsequently chosen as the corporation's TOY. We were just informed that Mrs. Plantan has been selected as a finalist, and is one of only ten teachers in Indiana now eligible for this honor. The award will be presented in November. We're proud to have a distinguished representative from our distinguished staff! Looks like Phelps, Bolt, May-Treanor and Walsh may have some company after all!

### September Newsletter Highlights

- *PTO News*
- *Guidance Information*
- *Club News*
- *Sports*
- *September Calendar*
- *Art Department*
- *Band, Choir, and Orchestra*
- *A Note from the Office*

**Information for the  
October Newsletter  
should be submitted to  
Dee Dee Medaris  
([Ddmedaris@zmspto.org](mailto:Ddmedaris@zmspto.org))  
by September 20, 2008.**

### 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



## PTO President's Message

Here we go again...

Another year of striving & thriving as students head back to class. The Zionsville Middle School PTO is fired up for the new school year & ready to spread our message of parent involvement & making a difference at school, one commitment at a time.

Help transform *Involvement* by putting the "P" in PTO! As little as an hour of volunteering is valuable. Research shows that when a parent gets involved in their child's education, the student does better, the school improves & the teachers are happier!

Also, contribute to our community's *Wellness*. There are many steps on the path to wellness...it is a life-long process of enhancing your physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual & environmental well-being. But, wellness is mainly about finding balance in your life & nourishing your body correctly. PTO is doing its part to help establish wellness in the ZMS community by:

- Striving to offer healthy treats & incentives
- Continuing to offer activities that exercise the mind & body
- Providing improvements that enable students to make positive choices
- Promoting new programs that will encourage wellness

Please join ZMS PTO on our path to wellness... volunteer your time as well as your energy! Activities being sponsored by PTO to develop wellness are The Colts Fitness Camp, "No More Excuses" Health Fair, Z'Run & The Walk-On Mileage Club. All these programs are an excellent opportunity to become involved! Contact Erin Wilson at [wilson1427@earthlink.net](mailto:wilson1427@earthlink.net) to find out more.

Now, to all the dedicated parents that planned, prepared & "tackled" recent events, I would like to acknowledge their successes...their involvement ensured positive experiences thru-out the Back to School & Open House events.

Thank you to Julie Rauschuber & Holly Waidelich for directing a successful Membership Drive. Based on the generous contributions of the 2008 ZMS PTO Members, we were able to present the school's principals, administrators & teachers with a "Mega Grant". Honoring the spirit of excellence, our hope is this grant continues to inspire the academic atmosphere of ZMS.

The Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs, Angela Carr & Becky Yates organized an outstanding Back to School

Luncheon. The staff & faculty enjoyed pizza, salads & an array of home baked cookies. Thank you to all the volunteers that donated food, time & supplies. Thank you to Amore'for donating the pizza, Chick-Fil-A for providing drinks & Chris Orbaugh for the paper products.

Thank you, Jami Farrel for "peddling" Spirit Wear...Check out the new "Go Green" merchandise at [www.zmspto.org](http://www.zmspto.org) or in the display case in the main lobby as well as outside Eagle Hall. Buying ZMS Spirit Wear not only is a great way to support the school but allows you to show your Eagle spirit!

Box Tops continue to be collected with the first deadline of 9/18. A new drop off box is located in the front lobby. Collect your Box Tops / Campbell's Labels, place them in a zip lock bag with your child's name and class & drop them in the box. Their class will get credit towards the collection contest. Students may also continue to bring them to class. Please keep clipping...it is an easy way to help fund the basic needs of ZMS. Any questions contact Jane Rapinchuk at [mark\\_jane25@yahoo.com](mailto:mark_jane25@yahoo.com)

The New Family Coffee is on September 16 at 7pm. Angie Leary and Deb Kuller have planned a fun & informative event. I look forward to meeting the newcomers at this casual evening of desserts, beverages and camaraderie!

Lastly, I want to thank the following volunteers that helped the PTO Board...their assistance was tremendous! Jill Savary, Deb Grammas, Laura Pinegar, Lisa Brown, Ann Hall, Shannon Ross, Tracy Pappas, Erin Wilson, Mary Ortel, Kay Havlin, Katie Russell, Jane Mitchell, Vicky Taylor, Kathy Barton, Donna Hoftizer, Christina Gibson, Laura Dunshee, Shanna Wendt, Lynn Kissel, Chantella Dodson, DeeDee Medaris, Kelly Hui-bregtse, Kirsten Wujek, Sabina Abbitt, Rose Ann Mazanek, Jodi Geitl, Phoebe Charles, Dana Rich, Annette Ratz, Rhonda Fox, and Paige Rauschuber. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm sorry & *Thank You!* Also, my appreciation to Kristen Stachura and the Ambassador Club... their friendly faces & positive attitudes were a pleasure!

Thank you for your time & I hope that through our dedication & teamwork we can continue to make ZMS a great place to learn!

Sincerely,  
Frances Pokrifcak  
ZMS PTO President



# PTO News (Continued)



## Newsletter News

Please note that we have an exciting new feature in the newsletter this year! When you see a web site listed in the newsletter, you can click on the link and it will take you directly to that site. Please make sure that you have the latest updates for your Adobe Reader and this feature should work! We hope this makes it easier for you to get all the latest information from your PTO and ZMS!

### **Attention 8th Grade Parents:**

Here's the "scoop" . . .

We need volunteers to help staff the monthly Ice Cream Sundae Sales!

The proceeds from these sales go directly toward funding the 8th Grade Party in June.

Please take time to consider your availability to help on any of the following Fridays:

September 19; October 17; November 14;

December 12; January 23; February 20;

March 20; April 24 and May 21 (Thursday)

Work shifts will run from 10:45-1:00 during the four lunch periods.

Thanks, in advance, for contacting one of us--

Laura Dunshee; [lauradunshee@indy.rr.com](mailto:lauradunshee@indy.rr.com)

Jen Kennedy; [jenkennedy@indy.rr.com](mailto:jenkennedy@indy.rr.com)

Karla Thimjon; [kthimjon@aol.com](mailto:kthimjon@aol.com)

## Membership

PTO would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the families that have joined the PTO Membership Drive. We currently have 52% of our families as PTO members. If you haven't joined yet, there's still time. The Membership Form is available at [www.zmspto.org](http://www.zmspto.org). Zionsville Middle School PTO does no fundraisers...no selling candy or wrapping paper. All of our funds come from the Membership Drive. If you should have any questions about what PTO does with these funds, please contact [jrauschuber@tds.net](mailto:jrauschuber@tds.net). Thanks again for supporting all of the PTO initiatives.

Julie Rauschuber & Holly Waidelich, Membership Co-Chairs

## Student Appreciation

During the 2008-09 school year, the PTO will once again decorate the students' lockers for their birthdays. In addition, we will provide each student with a small gift bag for their birthday. We would like to thank the following for their generous donation to the students' gift bags: Monical's Pizza, Schokolad, Traders Point Cold Stone Creamery, and ZMS staff. We will provide information on additional student appreciation activities in upcoming newsletters.

## 8th Grade Party Meeting



There will be a Committee meeting on Sept. 8th at 9:00am in the PTO Room #516 for the 8th Grade Party. Anyone who has an 8th grader is welcome to attend.

## Spirit Wear

The ZMS PTO is selling spirit wear again this year!

Please check out our new line of clothes for the 2008-2009 school year. Order forms are available online at [www.zmspto.org](http://www.zmspto.org).

## ZMS New Family Welcome

The ZMS New Family Welcome will be held Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. 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. Join us for dessert, coffee and a chance to win some great door prizes! Watch you mail for more information or contact Angie Leary at [galeary@att.net](mailto:galeary@att.net) or Debbi Kuller at [dkuller@indy.rr.com](mailto:dkuller@indy.rr.com).

## BOXTOPS and CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

Budgets are tight and going to get tighter. Please clip and save boxtops and labels—we collect both! Your child should bring them in a plastic bag to their teacher, or there's a box in the front office. You can put their name and classroom on a slip of paper to be entered in the monthly win-the-green-chair-competition. There are simply too many products to list or display. Just look at the box you're throwing away next time to see if the cereal you buy regularly (General Mills, for instance) has a label. If you want to look, the website is:

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). We earned about \$1,700.00 last year!!!

[www.campbellsoup.com](http://www.campbellsoup.com) Campbell's does things a little differently—awarding points to purchase goods with. Our points were used to buy a new microwave for the students, a digital camera, a scanner, a paper cutter and heavy duty stapler, wipe off boards for math teachers, and stopwatches, a steel cash box and label bin.



# PTO News (Continued)



## Hello and Welcome to the Wellness Corner of the PTO Newsletter.

The Wellness Committee is excited to get moving and is looking forward to a healthy school year. Every month we will include a section called, "Healthy Habits for Better Health". You might find tips for cooking light, news on exercising, wellness updates and much, much more. Please look for us each month!!

The WALKING CLUB is BACK!!!

We will be walking the track again during 5th and 6th grade recess. Please encourage your kids to participate, and please think about coming out yourself. We need more volunteers and you can get your exercise as well. We plan to begin the first week of September and go through October. Incentives to promote participation will be given out to students throughout the program. Please contact Erin Wilson at 270-2125 if you would like to volunteer one day a month.

### SEPTEMBER'S HEALTHY HABIT

90 Minutes to Better Health – If you are going to talk the talk on healthier living, then walk the walk for better health- at least three times a week for 30 minutes. Research cited in Prevention Magazine showed an average drop of 5 points in systolic blood pressure and 1 inch off their waistlines in 3 months. Studies showed you could even break the walks up into smaller chunks, no smaller than 10 minutes. A stroll at lunch, and 10 minutes before work and after work, should enable you to reap the benefits. Bottom line is to get moving and it all adds up over time!!

To your better health, Wellness Committee (Kim Janak, Cheryl Rolland, and Erin Wilson)



# Notes from the Office



Welcome back! We look forward to another great year with your children. We are here to support you and your students and to make sure the school year is the very best it can be.

If you have any questions throughout the year, please don't hesitate to ask. To make communication easier for you, the office staff and their phone extensions and responsibilities are listed below:

**Attendance Secretary: Jane Tucker, 13995**

Daily attendance, pre-arranged absences

To call in an absence, please dial 873-2426 ext. 2

**Administrative Secretary: Kati Haseley, ext. 13988**

Appointment with the Principal or Assistant Principal, announcements

**Administrative Secretary: Sharon Cornacchini, ext. 13996**

Reserving facilities and/or calendar dates

**Guidance/Athletic Secretaries: Judy Enders, ext. 13990 & Christy Tharp, ext. 13011**

Changes in personal contact information, appointments with guidance counselors, work permits, homework requests, sports passes, athletic event information

**Treasurer: Dru Kiker, ext. 13994**

Textbook rental statements, payments, refunds

For the most current daily school news, check the ZMS website ([www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms](http://www.zcs.k12.in.us/zms)). Announcements are posted and updated daily.

### Office Procedures!

**Reporting Absences:**

To ensure the safety of your child, it is imperative to report all absences on our 24-hour attendance line before 8:00 A.M., call 873-2426, then Press 2. This must be completed before 8:00 A.M. on the day of the absence. An attempt will be made to contact the parents of students whose absence has not been called in by 8:00 A.M.

**Appointments Off-campus**

- All students should bring a signed parent note to the office the morning of the appointment.
- The office will issue the appointment pass.
- The student shows the appointment pass to be excused from the class at the appropriate time.
- The student will meet the parent in the office to be signed out by the parent.
- The student will sign back in at the front desk, indicating the time of return.



# Guidance News



## **YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!**

Please be sure to inform the Guidance Department of any changes in your email address, as well as other contact information. A quick phone call is the easiest way to take care of this. We can be reached at 873-2426, extension 3. Email is a convenient way for ZMS to communicate with the vast majority of our parents. We will be sending some important information via email regarding the upcoming NWEA and ISTEP testing schedules so it is important that we have current information in our files. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Last school year the 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens written by Sean Covey was introduced with our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. This school year, the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor will be implementing this curriculum once again. The 7 Habits give practical and effective strategies in how to be a successful student. This curriculum will teach the students to be more proactive, set goals, prioritize their busy life, and to have a positive outlook even when the going gets tough.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

This past year, the guidance department applied for and was awarded a Grant from the Zionsville Education Foundation. The Zionsville Education Foundation provides funds to Zionsville Educators for projects that promote academic excellence. We are honored to have received this grant and thrilled to start a new program with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

We were awarded \$2,750 to purchase materials from CollegeBoard that includes student workbooks and a parent guide. The curriculum is centered on making the most of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, planning for high school, and looking beyond to post secondary options.

## **MATERNITY LEAVES**

Mrs. Nonte & Mrs. Hoffman will be taking maternity leaves in September and will return on January 5, 2009. Janice Langford will be filling in for Mrs. Nonte. More information on Mrs. Hoffman's substitute will be forthcoming.

## **REQUESTING HOMEWORK**

If your child is absent, you may request homework from the teachers on the second day of absence. Please call the Guidance Department to make your request. You will be able to pick it up in the front office between 2:45 and 4:00pm that afternoon. On the first day of absence, you may check the homework hotline for any work missed. To do this, just dial the school phone number (873-2426) and when you hear the recorded message begin, press 7 for the homework hotline message center. You may then enter the homework hotline extension for the first teacher. These extensions are listed in your child's planner or on our school website in the Handbook. When checking multiple mailboxes, you may press 0 to go to the next teacher.

We will be debuting a new online classroom program called Angel that some of our teachers will be using. This may take the place of the Homework Hotline for those teachers. Students will receive a password from their teacher for this program. Teachers will let students know which system they will be using so that they will know where to check for homework.

## **GREAT RESOURCE**

To learn more about college and education, visit the Learn More Resource Center website. Learn More Resource Center is an interactive website that offers college related information as well as many other education related subjects. There are links for parents and students of all ages. Visit Learn More at [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org).

## **2008-2009 School Counselors**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Counselor</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Homerooms: Skura/Ertel, Amburgey/Hamelmann, and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Carrie Nonte, Ext. 13992, <a href="mailto:cnonte@zcs.k12.in.us">cnonte@zcs.k12.in.us</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Homerooms: Gray/Monaghan and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Krista Hoffman, Ext. 13991, <a href="mailto:khoffman@zcs.k12.in.us">khoffman@zcs.k12.in.us</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Homerooms: Paska/Myers and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Kristen Stachura, Ext. 13986, <a href="mailto:kstachura@zcs.k12.in.us">kstachura@zcs.k12.in.us</a>



# Guidance News (Continued)



## TEST DATES

### NWEA

August 25-September 9, 2008

NWEA is a computerized test that evaluates a student's language, reading, and math skills. This test will be given in the fall and spring, so yearly progress can be measured. Fifth and sixth grade students will test with their homeroom teacher and seventh/eighth grade will test with their team teachers.

### ISTEP

September 15-26, 2008

March 2-11, 2009

April 27-May 6, 2009

Content Area	Grade Level(s) Tested	Test Window
English/Language Arts	Grades 3-8	September 15-26, 2008, March 2-11, 2009, April 27-May 6, 2009
Mathematics	Grades 3-8	September 15-26, 2008, March 2-11, 2009, April 27-May 6, 2009
Science	Grades 5 & 7 Grade 6	September 15-26, 2008, March 2-11, 2009, April 27-May 6, 2009
Social Studies	Grades 5 & 7	March 2-11, 2009, April 27-May 6, 2009

ISTEP is the state standardized test.

In November 2006, the Indiana State Board of Education approved a new comprehensive testing plan for K-12 education, which included new computer-based diagnostic tools (grades K-8), moving the traditional ISTEP+ accountability testing to the spring (grades 3-8) and replacing the current Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) with high school End-of-Course Assessments in Algebra 1 and English 10. Reference: [www.doe.state.in.us/istep](http://www.doe.state.in.us/istep).

Please make sure you eat a healthy breakfast and get plenty of sleep. Also, please refrain from making any appointments during testing dates.

## September Character Trait, Confidence

Confidence is the belief in ones self and the courage to accept the responsibilities and personal effort required to achieve. It is the attitude of "Yes, I can learn this!"

When your child tells you, "I can't", this is the perfect opportunity to respond with, "Yes you can, let's practice together." Families promote confidence by building upon children's strengths rather than to overemphasize on weaknesses. Your child will take confidence gained at home to school.

Keep in mind all of us experience setbacks in our confidence. Your child will certainly experience self-doubt. When setbacks occur, reassure your children that it happens to all of us, and we need to make adjustments and move on.

### Suggested activities for grades 5-8:

\*Encourage your child to participate in the community by watching a neighbor's child while the mom is busy, picking up trash in your neighborhood, or teaching a neighbor's child how to shoot a basket or catch a baseball.

\*Have your children write a thank you note to a public service worker, such as a bus driver or mailman. Explain how much a person truly appreciates an unexpected note of acknowledgement.

\*Every grading period, stage a special family program evening where each family member shares an accomplishment from the quarter. Perhaps it is an improved report card or a new golf trophy. Praise your children for their efforts, and encourage them to praise each other.

\*Take any facts your child needs to remember and help your child make a picture that incorporates the key words. The picture doesn't have to make sense and probably works better the more ridiculous it is. You can also make acronyms, which use the first letter of every major word to make a new word.

Reference

*The Learning Lunchbox Family Guide*, TM 2008 Outreach Communications LLC

Pages 78, 79, 107, & 121

## OPERATION I.C.U.

Operation ICU is back again this year! Operation I.C.U. is a program designed to recognize students, grades 5-8, for displaying acts of thoughtfulness and respect. The program provides meaningful and appropriate challenges to students that promote character development. Refer to subsequent PTO newsletters for the monthly student nominations. If interested in donating gift certificates or various rewards, please contact the guidance office.



# Guidance News (Continued)



## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOLAR

Eligible 7th- and 8th-graders 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. Twenty-first Century Scholars sends applications to schools with 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled. There are strict income guidelines for eligibility, so not every student and family will qualify. Parents and guardians need to fill out the application. Students and parents 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.in.gov/ssaci/2345.htm>, contact your local Scholars Support site or call the Learn More Helpline at 1-800-992-2076. 21st Century Scholar information will be distributed to all 7th and 8th grade students.



## ZMS Sports



### Girls Volleyball

The Zionsville Middle School Girls Volleyball team is in full swing! Tryouts were finished on August 14th, and 24 eighth graders and 19 seventh graders were welcomed to the team. We are very excited for the season ahead and it has been showing in practice. The girls are working hard at acquiring the skills required to be successful and are fully committed to working together as a team.

We also have new coaches this year. Kelly Drane (8A) and Jen Rust (8B) will be leading the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, while Blair Williams (7A) and Tracy Baumgardner (7B) will be heading up the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team.

Please check out our schedule and on the school's website and come out to support us...we would love to hear your cheers in the stands! Please take note of our Conference Tournament Date: October 4<sup>th</sup> Conference Tournament; 7<sup>th</sup> grade tournament will be hosted by ZMS, 8<sup>th</sup> grade tournament will be at Brownsburg West.

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets every Tuesday at 7am in the LGI. All students are welcome and you do not have to be on a sports team to come. It is an opportunity for fellowship and learning before school. If you have any questions contact Mr. Flecker Ex. 13702 or [vflecker@zcs.k12.in.us](mailto:vflecker@zcs.k12.in.us)

### GIRL'S LACROSSE

Any middle school girl interested in learning or playing girls lacrosse is welcome to attend the open practices every Wednesday afternoon. Practices will be held September 10 - October 15, 2008 at Jennings field from 3:00-4:15 pm. If you need to borrow equipment please let us know. No experience necessary! Questions? Please email Coach Sherman at [lesliedsherman@gmail.com](mailto:lesliedsherman@gmail.com)

### BOY'S LACROSSE

Any middle school boy interested in learning and improving their lax skills is welcome to attend fall ball every SUNDAY starting September 7 - October 26, 2008 from 2:30 pm - 4 pm at Jennings field. If you need to borrow equipment please us know. If you have equipment please bring it with you. No experience necessary. Questions? Please email Coach Dan Gray at [dpgray@iupui.edu](mailto:dpgray@iupui.edu)

### Zionsville Cadet Winter Guard Callout

The Zionsville Cadet Winter Guard will hold their callout meeting on Monday, October 20 at 7:00 pm. The meeting location is TBD. Prospective members and their parents should plan on attending this meeting.

Winter Guard is a pageantry activity that gives students the opportunity to combine sport and art in a competitive arena. Essentially, it is an indoor, winter version of the flags, rifles and dancers that perform with the marching band in the summer/fall.

It is a team sport in which everyone that joins will participate in every event. Pre-learned skills are not needed, as part of our job is to teach you those skills. The activity is open to students from both Zionsville Middle School and Zionsville West Middle School, grades 5 – 8.

If you'd like more information prior to the meeting, please contact Jeff King at [zcvwg.jeffking@yahoo.com](mailto:zcvwg.jeffking@yahoo.com) or call 317-403-7473.

### Cross Country

The time has come to break in your sneakers! Cross Country is Here! This year 6th graders are allowed to run on the team. We run on the trails in the heart of Nancy Burton Park. Practice is from 4:00-5:30pm. Contact Coach Sheff at [apsheff@bennettsheff.com](mailto:apsheff@bennettsheff.com) if you want to join the ZMS Cross-Country team!



# Clubs and Activities



## 5th and 6th Grade Auditions

5th and 6th grade James and the Giant Peach auditions will be immediately after school on Monday, September 22nd in Eagle Hall. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, September 23rd. A helpful audition workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 16th in Eagle Hall. Production dates are November 20th and 21st. Performers may not miss production dates. For further questions contact Ms. Reed at [mreed@zcs.k12.in.us](mailto:mreed@zcs.k12.in.us).

## Destination ImagiNation

The Destination ImagiNation (DI) Program is the largest creative problem-solving program in the world, and features an annual competition at local, state, and international levels. DI teaches creativity, creative problem-solving skills, teamwork to solve open-ended Challenges (those with no single answer), performance and improvisational skills, technical skills, creative use of materials, and lots more! Teams of 2-7 participants will be formed to learn the Creative Problem Solving process and tools to help them, as a team, solve a Team Challenge over a sustained period of time, as well as practice the application of the skills in impromptu challenges called Instant Challenges. Through solving problems students learn life-long skills such as working with others as a team, evaluating ideas, making decisions, and creating solutions while developing self-confidence from their experience.

The DI participants engage each other in a culture of creativity, teamwork, and respect. DI fosters an environment that encourages high participant development as well as output. Through its programs, participants and their mentors are encouraged to enhance their creativity, to consider alternative perspectives, and to identify and solve real problems. Through its development, it strives to provide people with resources and opportunities to learn and grow together in their thoughts and actions as they work. Through its events, recognition and reward will be provided to those who achieve a level of excellence in support of the organization's mission.

If you'd like to find out more, come to our call-out meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2007, 2:45 – 3:45 in the LGI Room, Snacks • Games • Prizes, Yours in creativity, Michelle Ulmer (769-4098), [zvilled@indy.rr.com](mailto:zvilled@indy.rr.com)

## Service Learning Club

Attention all ZMS 5th graders! Are you interested in making a difference in our community? If so, please join Mrs. Ertel on Friday, August 29th to learn more about the Service Learning Club. The Service Learning Club is an opportunity to give of your time, talents and sometimes your treasures. Our group volunteers to help the school community. If you are interested bring your lunch down to room 502 on Friday during lunch/recess. See you there!

## 7th and 8th Grade Student Council

The seventh and eighth grade student council meets on Wednesday mornings from 7:00-7:30. They plan on working closely with the fifth and sixth grade student council this year, and all student council members will be attending a leadership conference at Zionsville Middle School on October 29th. Students are currently planning dress days for the year and a fall door decorating contest. Please contact any member with ideas or questions.

## National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is proud to continue for the 2008-2009 school year. The Zionsville Middle School's NJHS chapter's purpose is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character and to encourage citizenship. National Junior Honor Society will be starting soon. If your child participated last year as a seventh grader, look for an e-mail update in September. Also, if your child is eligible for the 2008-2009 school year an e-mail will be sent to you in September.

## Go Green at ZMS!!

The Zionsville Middle School Recycling Club is becoming more active this year with monthly meetings and weekly duties. This club is open to any student in grades 5-8. Our building has been recycling paper products for the past several years but this year we are able to add to that list. We are very pleased to add plastic containers, cans, newspapers, laminated items, and glossy magazines/catalogs. Since we will be recycling more items, we will need several students to participate. Our first meeting will be at 7:10 am on Friday, September 5 in the library classroom. Questions, please contact Anita Brummett, Staff Recycling Coordinator, [abrummett@zcs.k12.in.us](mailto:abrummett@zcs.k12.in.us)

## Spell Bowl

Spell Bowl callout for 6-8 graders will be Tues., Aug. 26th from 2:50-3:15 in Room 613.

## MATHCOUNTS

MATHCOUNTS will meet in Room 608 on Monday afternoons, 2:45-4:00, starting on September 8. MATHCOUNTS is a national program whose mission is to develop problem solving skills and mathematical ability among middle school students. Our weekly practice sessions throughout the fall will culminate in competitions, both within the school and against other schools, in the winter. More information is available at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org). All ZMS students who enjoy math are welcome.



# Art Department



## Peace Poster Contest

Students in year long art are participating in the Peace Poster contest sponsored by the Lions Club for the third year in a row. This year's theme is: "Peace Begins With Me". The top 20 posters from ZMS and ZWMS will be on display on September 7 from 12-4pm at Lions Park for the Fall Festival. Come out and vote for your favorites!



## Donations Needed

Donations needed - The art department is in need of small plastic containers (ex. butter containers, cool whip bowls). If you have any donations you'd like to make please bring them to the office.

## Seventh and Eighth Grade Art Club

Art club is open to all seventh and eighth grade students at ZMS. The club is limited to 25 students and will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. Sign up will begin on during the first week of September and will end when all 25 spaces are filled. We'll meet on Tuesdays at 2:50 in Miss Bond art room 408.

## Yearbook Order Forms

Order your yearbook early and save money! Yearbooks will be \$25 until October 31 and increase to \$30 after. You may order online [www.jostens.com/yearbook/index.asp](http://www.jostens.com/yearbook/index.asp) or at the main office. An order form is also available on the PTO website [www.zmspto.org](http://www.zmspto.org).

## Third Mural

Our third and final ZMS Mural "Children Throughout History" will begin work again in October with artist M.K. Watkins. The final three columns, in the 400 hallway, will be completed by the end of the school year. The art department would like to thank PTO and Tri Kappa for their generous donations. Please join us in enjoying the creation of this mural.

## Yearbook Club

All students interested in joining the yearbook club please consider coming to a callout meeting on Wednesday, September 10 in room 406 from 2:45-3:30 pm. Interested students should have a desire to learn journalistic photography and writing styles.

## Artsonia

Our school is a member of Artsonia ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)), the largest online student art museum. Artsonia showcases artwork from thousands of schools around the world. Artsonia's goals are to help develop students' pride and self-esteem, increase their multicultural understanding through art, and involve parents and relatives in student education and accomplishments. We invite you to view this website and are excited to offer it as a resource to our art students.

## Art Club

Art Club 5/6 will take place on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:45 beginning October 14. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Goodman in art room 406 on September 9 during the school day. This is when application forms will be available.



# Musical Notes



## Swing Choir Auditions

Swing Choir auditions will be on Friday, September 5th after school in the choir room. No preparation is necessary. See Mrs. Palmer for details. Swing choir is for girls who are currently enrolled in 7/8 choir. Rehearsals for Swing Choir will be Friday after school from 2:45-3:30.

## Zionsville's Got Talent

Mark your calendar now for "Zionsville's Got Talent" on Friday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. This talent show is open to any ZMS student, parent, or faculty member. If you can tap dance, juggle, sing, tell jokes, Irish step dance, or have any other great talent, you need to be in this show! Participants must register with Mrs. Palmer by September 19th so details of stage requirements can be determined. Contact Mrs. Palmer at ext 13311 or [mpalmer@zcs.k12.in.us](mailto:mpalmer@zcs.k12.in.us) Tickets for the show are \$5 and can be purchased from any choir member or in the choir office. Food and drink will be available for purchase.



# Musical Notes (Continued)



## Orchestra News

Please check out the Orchestra Web Page for information regarding concert dates, and other items. The Orchestra page is linked to the ZMS Home Page. Our first concert involves the 7th Grade and the 8th Grade Orchestra, performing at the Fall Festival, Sept. 6, at 4:25pm.

## Strolling Strings Club

Strolling Strings Club veterans practice on Thursdays after school and will have a float at the Fall Festival Parade on Sept. 6!! New Strolling Strings members will be invited to join SS on Thursday, Sept. 11.

## Tri-M Callout Meeting

Tri-M callout meeting will be at 7:00am on Sept. 9 in the Orchestra Room (402, upstairs). Tri-M is a music Honor Society for students in grades 6-8 in Band, Orchestra, or Choir. Mrs. Swayze is the sponsor. If you cannot attend the callout, please see Mrs. Swayze for information.

## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands

5<sup>th</sup> grade rental instruments from Paige's music will be delivered on August 29<sup>th</sup>. If all goes well the students will begin playing on September 3rd!

If your child is not renting an instrument from Paige's Music they should bring their band book and instrument to school on September 3rd! Accessories such as music stands, metronomes, tuners...should be left at home for practicing. Please make sure instruments and books are labeled with your child's name.

6<sup>th</sup> graders will begin playing in class on August 18th. Please make sure instruments and books are labeled with your child's name.

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands

The Fall Festival Parade is September 6, 2008. All band members will need to meet in the high school cafeteria no later than 9:15AM. The parade steps off at 10:45AM. Students will be assigned to a bus and transported back to the HS. We ask that ALL students be picked up at the high school rather than Love Furniture Gallery. We are looking forward to marching close to 350 students and we certainly don't want to leave anyone behind. Please pickup your student from the high school no later than 1:00PM.

Students will wear khaki/tan colored shorts, band shirts, short white socks and all white shoes. We will provide as many shoes as possible for students who do not own white shoes! (If for some reason the weather is unusually cold we may switch to long khaki pants.)

## Fall Festival Dress Rehearsal

There will be a dress rehearsal after school on September 4, 2008 from 2:50-3:45PM. Anyone having a conflict should contact Mr. Weirich immediately. Please check with your student for the handout with details or look in the Fall Festival Parade folder in Charms.

## Band Volunteers

We're always in need of volunteers. Hopefully you signed up at open house, but if you didn't and would like to give us a hand, please contact us!! Thanks in advance for your help.

## Band Donations Needed

With over 800 nostrils entering our classroom on a daily basis we can NEVER have enough tissues. If you would be so kind as to send in a box with your student we would be very appreciative.

## Fundraiser

There will be a grade 5-8 Band Fundraiser beginning September 8th and ending September 19th. We will be selling pre-formed Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough. We were very successful last year and hope to raise over \$10,000.00. This money will be used to purchase school owned instruments and electronic equipment for our classrooms. We hope you will all participate.



# Musical Notes (Continued)



## Percussion Ensemble

Percussion Ensemble rehearsals begin this month. If your child is participating please make sure you have the rehearsal/performance schedule. This handout can be found in the Percussion Ensemble folder in Charms.

## Tri-M Music Honor Society

All students involved in choir, orchestra and band in grades 6-8 are invited to apply to join the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Applications will be handed out in early September. See the website for more details.

## Jazz Band

Mr. Weirich will be sending home information for jazz band tryouts during the 3rd week of September. Students must have one year of playing experience and be in grades 6-8. Please see the Jazz Band folder in Charms for more details.



# Help Raise Money



## Help Raise Money Use Good Search

GoodSearch is a search engine powered by Yahoo, but it has been set up so that it will raise money for non-profit organizations, like schools. The companies that advertise on the site donate the 1-2 cents per search. This may not seem like much, but if you consider the number of searches we do in a day and the number of people in our community it sure adds up quickly.

The search box on our home page automatically sends the contribution to the ZMS account on GoodSearch, however there are other ways one can search using GoodSearch and still benefit our school. The home page is <http://www.goodsearch.com/>. Below the search box it asks, "Who do you good search for?" If you type in, "Zionsville Middle School" and click verify, it will set our school for your search donations. You can then set GoodSearch as your home page or you can add GoodSearch to your toolbar for IE, Firefox, or Mac internet applications. Both of the links that walk you through the setup of either option are just below where you typed in Zionsville Middle School.

In addition to online searches, ZMS can benefit from online shopping as well. Using GoodShop <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>, you once again select Zionsville Middle School as school of choice and then shop from over 500 online stores using the GoodShop search page. Up to 30% of your purchase will go to the ZMS account. This is where the money really starts to add up.

Thank you for your support. As you can see it is as easy as doing what you already do on a daily basis. It is just using different tools to do it!

## ARE YOU STILL PAYING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL????

Please remember to shift your MARSH, TARGET, and MEIJER accounts to ZMS!!! Many of the elementary schools are getting a big windfall from their former students.....

**MARSH-** Funds were used to purchase a computer keyboard, 10 solar calculators, a karaoke machine, and many classroom size supplies like: washable markers, scissors, pencils, paper clips, and teaching materials. MARSH can be located online at:

<http://marsh.net>. Go to : Fresh Ideas For Education, scroll to Parent sign-up and enter the ZMS code: 28517. Then enter your card number (on the back of the card).

**TARGET** - School ID number is: 49164. You can get a Target Visa, designate your existing target Visa, or get a debit/Red Card. Last year ZMS earned \$1,700.00 from parent Target purchases. Go to:

<http://target.com/targetgroup/communitygiving/takechargeofeducation.jhtml>.

**MEIJERS-** We are in the process of enrolling the middle school in their program. It should be up and running by next week, and you can register at community rewards at: [www.meijer.com](http://www.meijer.com). No number required- it's by school name.



# ZEF



I want to personally thank you and those in your buildings who have agreed to assist ZEF with our raffle ticket sales. This is a huge part of our Oktoberfest fundraiser, which helps us award classroom grants to teachers in all 7 schools. Last spring, ZEF was able to award over \$47,000 in classroom grants to our teachers. That is the largest amount ever, so we were thrilled. I know that you support our school system in many, many ways and, as a parent, I thank you. More information on the raffle ticket sales is on the web site at [www.zmsppto.org](http://www.zmsppto.org). You are appreciated! Sincerely, Lynn Kissel, ZEF Executive Director



# September 2008



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <b><u>Labor Day</u></b> <b><u>No School</u></b>	2 <b><u>Staff</u></b> <b><u>Development</u></b> <b><u>No School</u></b>	3 <b><u>NWEA Testing</u></b> <b><u>CPR</u></b> <b><u>Grades 6, 7 and</u></b> <b><u>8</u></b>	4 <b><u>NWEA Testing</u></b> <b><u>CPR</u></b> <b><u>Grades 6, 7 and</u></b> <b><u>8</u></b>	5 <b><u>NWEA Testing</u></b> <b><u>CPR</u></b> <b><u>Grades 6, 7 and</u></b> <b><u>8</u></b>
8 <b><u>NWEA Testing</u></b> <b><u>8th Grade Party</u></b> <b><u>Meeting</u></b> Room 516 9:00 AM <b><u>CPR</u></b> <b><u>Grades 6, 7 and 8</u></b>	9 <b><u>NWEA Testing</u></b> <b><u>PTO Meeting</u></b> Room 516 9:15 AM <b><u>CPR</u></b> <b><u>Grades 6, 7 and 8</u></b>	10	11	12
15 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	16 <b><u>ISTEP</u></b> <b><u>Testing</u></b> <b><u>New Family</u></b> <b><u>Welcome</u></b> 7:00 PM Eagle Hall	17 <b><u>ISTEP</u></b> <b><u>Testing</u></b> <b><u>1:1 Laptop</u></b> <b><u>Parent Meeting</u></b> 6:00 PM LGI	18 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	19 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b> <b><u>Picture Retakes</u></b> 11 AM - 1 PM Wrestling Room
22 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	23 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	24 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	25 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>	26 <b><u>ISTEP Testing</u></b>
29	30			