



THE TUESDAY

9/21/10

# TYLER *Times*

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wednesday, September 22

Turning the Page/Community Night  
6pm (dinner and child care provided)

### Saturday, September 25

National Book Festival on the Mall  
10-5:30 (free with great activities  
for kids)

### Sunday, September 26

First General PTA meeting  
at 2:30 pm

### Tues. & Wed., September 28/29

School Pictures

### Tuesday, September 28

Tyler Night at Fusion Grill

## Community Night with Turning the Page

You are invited to Tyler's First Community Night of the year with Turning the Page (TTP) on WED, SEPT 22nd @ 6:00 PM - a fun evening that includes parent workshops, child mentoring, book giveaways, and a free, healthy dinner!! Community Nights focus on you being your child's first teacher and shows you how to take a simple, everyday experience and turn it into a learning opportunity!! TTP volunteers read and do crafts with the kids and each child gets a book to take home. By the end of the year, families receive more than 30 FREE BOOKS!

It takes a village to raise our kids, so come on out and meet the rest of

the villagers and take a night off from cooking!! For more info, contact Wanda Polite at wpolite@turningthepage.org or 202.347.9841.

## My Playground is a Jungle!

Thanks to an inspired, parent-led collaboration, including community partner Akin Gump law firm, about four or five years ago, we raised over \$250K in grant funding and started our "Outdoor Classroom." The idea changed an asphalt desert into a living treasure. Soon, we hope to start using it environmental education, including professional development for Tyler staff. Check out the impressive work from the Outdoor Classroom Planting Day this past weekend.

## Come Join Tyler PTA

The first PTA General Meeting happens this coming Sunday from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. After some brief PTA business, learn more about how to get involved with the school and let's discuss what we want to do. Tyler PTA is part of the national DC PTA. To cover these costs, we ask for a \$4 membership fee, which includes 25 cents for the Tyler PTA.

## Fall Fundraisers

Look for Claire's Gourmet Bake Sale and Parker Indian River Groves sales forms this week in your student's backpack.

Consider that a portion of all sales (for either or both company) to your friends,

neighbors, and coworkers will benefit Tyler. Questions? Contact Dan Traster at dtraster@gmail.com or 202-277-7841.

## School Pictures

Tyler PTA has arranged with a new photographer, Colin Hovde (from last year's Winter Festival) for individual photos next Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 28th and 29th. Students from pre-school thru 1st are scheduled for Tuesday, and grades 2nd - 5th and all special education classrooms for Wednesday. School uniforms are not required but encouraged. Advance payment is not required. Classroom teachers will receive and provide you with website passwords for you to identify photos and choose from a variety of packages, including a low-cost single photo option. Tyler PTA will arrange for a Picture Review evening for families wanting computer assistance.

## Tyler Night at the Fusion Grill

On the last Tuesday of the month, the Fusion Grill donates 15% of your bill to the Tyler PTA for meals between 5:00-7:30pm. Mention Tyler when you arrive. Complete kid's meals are available for \$4.

CONTINUED ON THE BACK ➔

# Back to School Night Presentations (1 of 3)

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE COMING WEEKS

## Dear Tyler Community:

*Last Thursday, between 450-500 people crowded into the Tyler Auditorium and the Tyler Cafeteria to enjoy a delicious dinner of chicken, green beans, macaroni salad, rolls and treats compliments of our partner Akin Gump. Afterwards, parents and guardians visited teachers in their classrooms and learned more about what their students would be learning this year. Mr. Bender, my assistant principal, and I welcomed everyone and shared some of our hopes and dreams for the year. In case you couldn't make it, or didn't hear our address, here it is:*

Welcome! We are so glad to see you here to visit your students' school, meet their teachers and learn more about Tyler Elementary. We are delighted you chose to send your children to Tyler. We have a lot to celebrate this year beginning with our renovated school. Students this year are learning in a modernized, clean, and safe school house. But this is just one of the many assets at Tyler. We have great teachers and educational assistants committed to educating your children. They are some of the best in the city. We have supportive partners like Akin Gump, Playworks, Turning the Page, and others. We have helpful parents and family members who invest countless hours helping us here at Tyler. We offer multiple opportunities for our students

to meet their interests and educational needs including Spanish Immersion, Arts Integration, Speech Pathology, Outdoor Classroom, and more. Most importantly, we have your children. As I meet them and talk with them, I see they are our strongest asset.

We have a big challenge this year. We have disappointing achievement results that are inconsistent with what we can do. So this year we plan to pay very close attention a few things. Our focus areas this year include: reading and writing (in Spanish and English), collaboration between programs, teachers, families, etc, and culture and climate. These were identified as priority areas for improvement by the staff before school started. After reviewing additional data, talking with many of you, and learning more from DCPS, we solidified our conviction to focus on those identified needs. But we need you. There is much you can do to help us in our work. As your youngsters' first teachers and as the most influential grownups in their lives, we ask you to help us in the following ways:

- ▶ **Get your students to school every day they are well and encourage them to be on time;**
- ▶ **Support them in completing homework** every night by designating a time and place for them to study. If they do not have

homework, they should sit there and read or write;

- ▶ **Ask your students to tell you about what they are learning at school.**

Good ways to get this information include: Tell me about math today. Tell me about reading today. What good questions did you ask today? Tell me about your special. Teach me something you learned today.

- ▶ **Set high expectations for your students.** It matters to them what you think. Reward effort more than accomplishments. Working hard, and recognizing that achievement is a result of effort, is an important lesson.

Join us in creating a collaborative learning community in any way you can. Meet and support each other because this should be a team effort raising children. Reach out and support us by working with the PTA if your schedule allows and learn more about the measures of success. Hold us accountable as well. We appreciate you entrusting your students to us. Together we will experience success.

If you were unable to connect with your students' teachers, make an appointment with them to do so sometime before or after school very soon. Meanwhile, a big THANKS again to all who helped make Back to School 2010 a huge success this year at Tyler.

Warm regards,  
Jennifer Frentress

## SHOUT OUTS:

- 1 to **Akin Gump** law firm for the outstanding meal and Back to School Night
- 2 to **Tyler families** for our largest attendance in six years (probably longer)
- 3 to **Tyler staff** for planning and making the evening run so smoothly.

