



THE TUESDAY

10/12/10

TYLER *Times*

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 13

PTA Executive Board Meeting, 6pm

Monday, October 18

NO SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Conference Day

Saturday, November 6

Walk for Autism

PTA Meeting

We encourage everyone to attend Wednesday's PTA Executive Board meeting starting at 6:15pm. We will discuss the proposed budget for the year and some difficult decisions, particularly the extent to which the PTA can (and should) contribute to funding Playworks (formerly Sports for Kids) and Turning the Page. Both of these programs are endangered at Tyler due to school budget cutbacks. We'll also discuss various PTA committee activities and volunteering opportunities, including volunteering for child care at PTA meetings (without volunteers, we can't offer child care) and ongoing and upcoming events in Fundraising and Community Building.

Walk Now for Autism

On Saturday, November 6th, Autism Speaks is hosting its annual "Walk Now for Autism Speaks" event to raise money for autism research. Last year our team was 15 members strong, this year we only have a few members. We need you! Come join us for the walk! It will start at 10 am at the National Mall. When we participated last year, it was amazing to see so many people walk for the cure of autism. Make a difference and walk with us, ask friends and family to donate, and spread the word. To join our team, go to <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/national/tylertigers>

Fundraising Forms Due!

The Claire's Gourmet selling period officially ended Tuesday, October 12th. Please bring any orders with the money and checks to your teacher as soon as possible. They will be collected and orders will be placed on Thursday. The selling period for citrus ends October 19th, so sell quickly to friends, neighbors, and coworkers! Every little bit helps. Questions? Contact Daniel Traster at dtraster@gmail.com or by phone at 202-544-4764.

School Pictures

Check your child's backpack this week for information on how to access your child's picture day photos!

Tyler's 1st Annual Harvest Festival

Saturday October 23, 2010, 11:00 - 3:00 pm, bring your friends and family and join us at Tyler for an inspiring mix of children's handcrafts and fun activities including a magic show, petting zoo, balloon animals, scarecrow build, pumpkin painting, flower pot craft, free-style painting, temporary tattoos, moon bounce, and music. Bring some old clothes if you want to participate in the scarecrow build contest. Wear your costume and enter to win fantastic prizes! Admission is free. Food, drinks and some crafts and activities will be for sale. Proceeds support the Tyler PTA.

Learn About Learning

Come learn about how your children learn! At Back to School Night, Tyler Principal Jennifer Frentress welcomed the new school year and urged us to "hit the ground learning." In response

CONTINUED ON THE BACK ➔

SHOUT OUT:

To Ms. K for helping Turning the Page with Community Night last Wednesday. She spoke about children and stress. We will share more on this next week.



➤ **CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT**

to many questions and concerns about academics at Tyler, we are launching a “Learn About Learning” series designed to engage the Tyler Community in the research about learning. Ms. Frentress will guide evening sessions on learning topics. In the days prior to each session, background materials (about 20-30 minutes of reading) will be distributed. Reading the materials is expected, but not required, to facilitate discussions. Topics will include:

- ▶ **Understanding the Numbers:** What do all the tests measure and how is my student doing?
- ▶ **Learning and the Brain:** What can new brain research tell me that can help me with my student and how can we grow the brain?

- ▶ **All About Literacy:** Why reading on grade level is important and how we can help.
- ▶ **Strategies Used By Successful Readers:** How I can support my student as a thinker?
- ▶ **Language Acquisition:** A primer on learning languages
- ▶ **Autism and Spectrum Disorders:** What we know and what we don't know (possible guest speaker)
- ▶ **Multiple Intelligence Theory:** How many ways can we know something, and how can we build our students' intelligence?

If this sounds interesting to you, please let us know which nights of the week are best for you at tylerpta@hotmail.com. [And if there are other topics you would like to learn more about, let us know those too!]

Thank You Eastern Metropolitan Basketball Team!

Tyler ES would like to thank the Eastern Metropolitan Basketball team for coming to Tyler on October 5th. The students loved watching the team shoot around, play a mini-game, and pass around shirts and hats. There was not a silent moment in the gym as the energized students cheered for the players. The highlight of the event was when the players took the time to sign autographs for every Tyler student!

Please send any articles or suggestions for Shout Outs to smcphie4@yahoo.com

Tyler families,

A week ago this past Sunday, on September 26th, we had our first PTA “general meeting.” The meeting started with a short address from Ms. Frentress, who touched on some aspects of this year's academic program to address the confounding drop in test scores last year, including a renewed focus on professional development, culture and climate, maximizing intra-staff collaboration opportunities, and reading and writing groups. She explained, now that the year has started, classrooms and students' current performance levels have been assessed, and the school is settling in, that classroom instruction will be moving to the next phase, including reducing distractions from instructional time. She reminded parents that students need to be in the classrooms on time (by no later than 9am) and that parents interested in meeting with teachers should make

appointments before or after school.

Second, I introduced the “Committees of Two”—one-on-one interviews by all of the attendees to discuss two simple, but very important questions: (1) At the end of the school year, what would you like to be able to say about Tyler Elementary? And (2) How can you help? When and how much would you like to be involved? The purpose was to help PTA leadership learn from its membership what we—as a PTA—want to do. PTA is ready to move forward with some of our previous things, but we want to make sure we have common purposes, that we can learn about the principles to guide hard decisions, and ways to make sure every parent volunteer feels valued for her or his time and energy.

At the end, we moved to the “PTA Open House” part of the meeting, Different PTA committee leaders at tables in the auditorium, hallway, and

cafeteria met with attendees to explain what each committee does and invited views about what each should do.

Parent volunteerism, particularly in the classroom, also will start becoming more formalized. The next PTA meeting—an Executive Board meeting—is set for the night of Wednesday, **October 13th** at the school. We will be discussing the budget priorities for the year. Even with our big fundraising successes last year, we face even bigger funding challenges for this year. At the next PTA “general meeting” on Wednesday, **November 17th**, the full PTA will vote on the budget. **I hope to see at both of these meetings!**

Thank you!
Steve Sweeney
PTA President