

TWO RIVERS

Community NEWS

January 25,
2012



wishful thinking...

**2010-2011
Honor School of Excellence!**

Newsletter submissions:

jessica@tworiverscommunityschool.net

TRCS PTO: trcspto@gmail.com

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Two Rivers Community School

A North Carolina Public Charter School

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear TRCS families,

I would like to start by sending out another big thank you to our board members for all that they do to support our school and to help it run smoothly. Much of their work is behind the scenes, but very important just the same. The students in each class prepared thank you cards for our board members and they were presented at the meeting on Monday. Thank you again BOD for all that you do for our students, staff and community! Remember that if you have a comment to share with the board, there is always a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting.

We hope you all love TRCS as much as we do and hope you want to come back for another great year in 2012-2013. If so, then let us know! Today in the Wednesday folders you will find a re-enrollment form. Every family needs to return this form. If you plan to return to TRCS next year (and we hope you do), then indicate that on the form and send it back. Make sure to include both of your children on the same form, and indicate if you have another child who will be joining us next year as well. If for some reason, you will not be returning next year, please indicate that as well. This helps us to do our planning ahead for how many spaces we will have in each classroom. Thank you for patience and cooperation.

Do you want to share this amazing community with friends? If so, then encourage friends who might want to learn more about TRCS and our great programs to join us for our Open Houses in March. The Open House dates will be:

March 22 – 9:30-11AM or 6-7 PM

March 27 – 9:30-11AM

March 29 – 9:30-11AM

April 3 – 9:30-11AM

Please share these dates and times. Application for the 2012-2013 school year will be distributed at these open houses. Each year we are required by the state to offer an open enrollment period for the following school year. During this time, interested families can come to an Open House to tour the school, our classrooms, and chat with the director. Two Rivers open enrollment period for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on March 19th and end on April 27th. Applications for available spaces will be accepted through March 19-April 27th and the lottery for available spaces will take place at the April 30th Board of Directors' Meeting. If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Beth or Ms. Jessica in the office.

It is exciting to bring in new families to our community and share with them all of the amazing things that are happening at TRCS. Thank you for sharing this information.

Warm regards,

~ Ms. Jessica

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Absence Notes

Please remember to send a note with your child when they return from being sick! Call to let us know, then send a note when they return. These notes are filed and help us to document excused and unexcused absences. No note = unexcused absence. We say thanks for taking a few moments to jot down the note. Please let us know if you need another copy of the attendance policy - they are available in the office and in your Student/Family Handbook.

Calendar Committee

February is just around the corner and that is when the calendar committee meets to begin our planning for next year. Please email Ms. Jessica at jessica@trcsboone.org to express your interest in participating in this important planning session. Thanks!

Drop-off and pick-up reminders.

Please pay attention to these reminders. We are committed to keeping your children safe.

1) If you are pulling through the horseshoe for pick-up, please approach from Blue Ridge Energies.

2) If you are parking and walking down, please approach from Food Lion.

3) If you are parking and walking down, please cross at the driveway. Do not walk through the horseshoe.

4) If you are parking and walking down, please turn left only out of the parking lot as you leave. Merge gen-

tly into the horseshoe traffic. No right turns out of the top lot during arrival or dismissal.

5) Please do not park at the bottom of the ramp up to the K-2 cluster. This is a fire line and needs to be open at all times.

6) Please do not attempt to back out of the horseshoe after your child is in the car. Traffic needs to only flow one direction through the horseshoe.

7) Last, but not least, do not forget to use your car signs. Sometimes we have subs and sometimes others pick up your children, this is for the safety of your children and the speed of the line.

We appreciate your efforts to make arrival and dismissal both as safe and expeditious as possible.

Mark your calendars...

There IS school Friday, January 27th. This is a weather make-up day and school will operate on a regular schedule.

There will be NO school on February 3rd. Please make childcare arrangements ahead. This will be a teacher work day and the staff will be focusing on the new Common Core standards. Thank you for your cooperation to help us get this important planning done.

AURA

Our spring arts event will be on Saturday, May 5th. Plan ahead so you do not miss this exciting evening of fun.

Buffalo Cove

Buffalo Cove trip dates are in for the spring. We look forward to another great season of mountain adventure trips.

- April 3rd – 5th – 8th grade adventure trip
- April 18-20th – 7th grade Buffalo Cove
- April 23-26 – 8th grade DC trip
- April 26-27 – 6th grade Buffalo Cove
- May 3-4 – 5th grade Buffalo Cove
- May 10-11 – 4th grade Buffalo Cove
- May 17-18 – 3rd grade Buffalo Cove

Committee Members Needed

Are you interested in serving on a new committee? Do you like to garden or write grants? Do you want to know more about school farm opportunities for TRCS? Yes, then we have the committee for you. If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please email Ms. Jessica at jessica@trcsboone.org to express your interest. Please indicate if you would like to join the grant, garden or school farm committee. Thanks for sharing your interest and gifts!

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR K-5 CLASSES!

Starting today, one of our middle school teachers, Rachel Wood, will be offering weekly school counseling services to our K-5 classes. Ms. Rachel has taught at Two Rivers since we opened, and for almost as long she has been working on completing a Master's Degree in Professional School Counseling at ASU. One of her degree requirements is to get some supervised experience



in a school, and she has arranged to do this with the lower grade classes at TRCS. So, on Wednesdays, Ms. Rachel will be working on getting a counseling program started at Two Rivers. "What will this look like?" you ask. Well, this semester she will be collaborating with teachers, parents, and students to find out the needs of our school community. She will be offering some new services such as classroom guidance activities on topics like diversity and self-esteem, small group and individual sessions for students needing additional support, and organize some school community opportunities for whole families. If you are interested in meeting Ms. Rachel or seeking her services for one of your children in grades K-5, you can look for her on Wednesday mornings. She will be available in the main office or the Student Support room where Ms. Sallie and Ms. Jo's spaces are. On the other weekdays, she will continue to teach the middle schoolers. We are very excited to have Ms. Rachel sharing her expertise with our students and staff. Ms. Rachel can be contacted via email at rachel@trcsboone.org.

READING PRACTICE AT HOME

Sometimes parents wonder why the books their beginning readers bring home to read are so easy! They are easy because the children have already had lots of practice reading these books. They are first introduced during guided reading. In guided reading lessons teachers provide a lot of support and target



specific skills. Then children read these books silently or to one another during the school day. After that, we send these books home for additional practice because research has shown that repeated reading builds fluency and helps children learn sight words. It also builds confidence when children can read smoothly and easily. To help make practice at home more beneficial, you can monitor the reading to make sure that your child is not simply repeating the book from memory, but is really looking at the words as he or she reads them. You can also help children read with expression, not in a monotone. If you have any questions, please give us a call and we'll be glad to meet with you.

~ Joy Schlagal

AFTER SCHOOL FITNESS CLUB

We had another Bead Challenge day last Tuesday. Bead earners are as follows:



- Handstand against Wall-- 5th- Huxley- 1:10, Griffin- 1:00, Landrum- 1:15, Sadye- :50; 6th- Elias 2:00; 8th Maddie-1:10
- Freestanding Handstand--6th- Erin- :15
- Pushups-- 6th- Hannah- 33, Erin- 31
- Pushups in 4:00-- 8th- Josef- 41
- Chinups in 4:00-- 6th- Aidan Powers- 23
- Jump Rope in 1:00-- 6th Erin- 151; 7th Mary Leah- 138, Grant- 107
- Jump Rope in 3:00-- 5th Sadye- 341; 7th Mary Leah- 419

- Double Unders-- 5th- Landrum- 10
- Double Unders in 2:00-- 8th Josef- 24, Trafford- 20
- 200m-- 6th Erin-42.34, Hannah- 39.61
- 800m--5th Griffin- 3:39, Huxley- 3:39, Landrum- 3:08
- Ring Pushups-- 7th- Beckham- 12, Darion-7
- Wall-sit--6th Catie- 2 hours!

Catie brought a book, arrived early for the club, and then did a wall-sit for 2 hours. I didn't even realize this was feasible; I still fail to comprehend the mental and physical determination it takes to perform such a feat. Her main complaint was that her belt loop was digging into her hip. A wall-sit is where is sit with your back to the wall, legs parallel with the ground, knees directly over your ankles. I challenge any parent or guardian to attempt a 5 minute wall-sit. Of course, have your student judge your form. If you can do so, I want to hear about it.

~ Coach Pack

3RD GRADE NEWS

Third graders came back from Holiday Break ready to learn. They have been productive and supportive of each other. The work habits and caring demeanor of our class has not gone unnoticed and we celebrated with a SPARK party last Friday. Pajamas were worn, popcorn and hot chocolate were consumed and Fraggie Rock was watched. All in all, it was a fabulous afternoon. Thank you to parents for all the popcorn and hot chocolate donations.

Just call us Geometry whizzes! Students can identify two and three dimensional figures and describe each one's characteristics. Ask them about their Marshmallow Math adventures. We will be moving full steam ahead into multiplication next week. Once we learn the concept behind that tricky times symbol, it will be the responsibility of the students to practice facts at home A LOT!

Students are excited to learn about our Solar System. We have been inquisitive scientists, learning about how the planets and satellites move around the sun. This has included concepts of day and night, seasons, years, and moon phases. Now, students will delve into research of their own to become an expert on one planet in our Solar System. The final product of their research will be a brilliant non-fiction book.

Be sure to ask your student about the planet they are studying. If you have resources at home to look up information, (internet, encyclopedias, books, etc.) find some fun facts together with your child. Have them bring in the facts to share or add to their books.

~ Miss Ali

TRCS WELCOMES A LITERACY INTERN

Nora Vines is a former kindergarten and first grade teacher with five years of public school teaching experience. She is a graduate of Lees McRae College in Banner Elk where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. Nora holds her Masters Degree in Reading Education

(K-12) from Appalachian State University where she is currently enrolled in the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Nora is also an adjunct instructor at ASU for the Reading Education and Special Education Department. At present she is teaching children's literature and emergent literacy undergraduate courses. In the past Nora has taught undergraduate reading methods courses as well as Masters level courses in word study. Nora's passions are teaching, learning and reading. She is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Two Rivers learning community!

EC NEWS

Stakeholders' Committee Meeting will be on Monday, January 30th at 3:30. Look forward to seeing the team then.

Think about topics for another Parents' Night. We would like to have one in March. Call or write in suggestions to Sallie at sarnold@tworiverscommunityschool.net.

AFTER SCHOOL NEWS

We are excited to have the 4-H program of Watauga County joining us for the 2012 year. Karee will be here Wednesday the 25th for a great project! We look forward to having her continue to do great activities with the After School program once a month!

We are also pleased to announce that our new ASU interns will start next week! We are proud to have a group Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday!! We are a lucky program to have 2 sections!

Just a reminder that bills are due today! Year to date notices will go out Monday the 30th for taxes. If you have outstanding bills your tax forms will only represent what you have paid.

Thanks for your support,

~ Jo Betts

STUDENT ART SHOW

Mark Your Calendars for the TRCS Student Art Show at the Jones House!



The annual TRCS student art show is approaching. The Watauga County Arts Council will once again be hosting us in their Open Door Gallery in the upstairs of the Jones House in downtown Boone (604 West King Street). Students in grades K-8 will all have at least one piece of artwork on display for the month of February. The opening reception for the show will be Friday Feb 3, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please let me know if you can bring finger food to supplement the Arts Council's supply. If you cannot attend the opening, feel free to check out the show during gallery hours Tuesday-Friday noon-5pm. See you there!

~ Ms. Kelly

Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.

~ Thomas Jefferson