

# TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

## From the Desk of Mrs. Tansley, Principal

Students entered Tyrrell Middle School this year ready to learn. As parents you have spent at least eleven years instilling the value of education in your children. As students entered this building on August 31<sup>st</sup> they were prepared, organized, and excited about beginning the next phase of their educational career. Every child sat attentively and listened to an explanation of Tyrrell expectations. You could hear a pin drop throughout these assemblies. The theme for Tyrrell Middle School is respect. After the first few weeks of school you would be amazed at the outstanding displays of respect students have shown toward others in the building as well as themselves. Thank you for sending your children to school with manners and ideals that make Tyrrell a safe and positive learning environment.

Student attendance has improved greatly over the past few years at Tyrrell. A child that comes to school on a regular basis traditionally does well academically. As part of the Tyrrell Homeroom Hero's program awards are distributed based on the fewest absences and discipline reports. Continue to instill the importance of being in school as a component of academic success with your children.

Once again we are very proud of our student's CMT scores. Students at Tyrrell surpassed towns in the most affluent communities on 2011 CMT's. When we compare scores for the same group of students from year to year progress is clearly evident. This is thanks to your dedication to the Tyrrell philosophy, our superior teachers, and the community support we receive that promotes the academic programs at Tyrrell. We could not assist your children to excel both academically and as young adults without these vital elements in place.

Thank you again for being so supportive,

Arline Tansley, Principal



## September • October:

### Save the Date:

- 9/19 – Fundraiser Kick-off
- 9/20 – PTO Meeting – 7pm
- 9/20 – P.E. Parent Info Night – 6:00- 7pm - LGIR
- 9/23 – Author Visit - Jackie Davies
- 9/26 – BOE Meeting @ 7:30PM
- 9/26 – Fundraiser Orders Due
- 9/27 – Picture Day for TMS students – Grade 6
- 9/28 – Picture Day for TMS students – Grade 7
- 9/29 – Picture Day for TMS students – Grade 8
- 9/30 – Life Skills Class to Rogers Orchard
  
- 10/3 – TMS Book Fair Begins
- 10/4 – Progress Reports
- 10/4 – T.M.S. Open House for parents from 3 – 5PM
- 10/10 – No School Columbus Day
- 10/11 – Hispanic Heritage Music Assembly – Spanish classes
- 10/11 – BOE Meeting @ Tyrrell
- 10/12 –14 Mile Run @ WHS
- 10/13 – T.M.S. Open House for parents from 5 – 7PM
- 10/ 18 – TMS PTO Meeting 7PM
- 10/21 – WHS Visit Gr.8 - 8:00am
- 10/24– BOE Meeting @ 7:30pm



## OPEN HOUSE DATES:

October 4<sup>th</sup> – ALL GRADES  
3:00 -5:00 PM

October 13<sup>th</sup> – ALL GRADES  
5:00 -7:00 PM

## *Platinum Team News*

Students on the Platinum Team are becoming well adapted to life in the sixth grade. They have spent their first few weeks of school becoming familiar with the ins and outs of Tyrrell Middle School.

**Students in Mrs. Wright's geography class are working on building their map skills and learning the basics of geography. Students have been working with latitude and longitude as well as learning about the continents and oceans of the world. Next month students will learn about North America.**

Students are in full swing in Mr. Goldstone's math classes. We have been busy doing a series of pre-assessments in order to get a baseline of where students are at with their multiplication and division facts as well as various other math concepts. Students have been working on place value as well as pictorial representations of numbers which includes relating fractions, mixed numbers, decimals and percents. All classes have been introduced to the "problem of the day" which might take the form of review problems or a brain teaser type of question. Here is a sample problem of the day that students tried to solve: "What is the fraction? It is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{3}$ . The product of its numerator and denominator is 216." Students will see these critical thinking types of problems throughout the school year. Please work with your child in mastering their basic multiplication and division facts. These are the cornerstone for a strong math foundation and will help with other skills such as simplifying fractions and long division. I look forward to working with all of your children this year. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns. My e-mail is [dgoldstone@wolcottps.org](mailto:dgoldstone@wolcottps.org).

In writing class, we have finished our summer reading activities, which included reviewing the CMT packet with students and creating a newspaper page on the person (or animal) which students read about in their biographies. As a getting to know you activity, students created a "Wheel of Favorites". To add to the getting to know you theme, we took it one step further by interviewing each other, and practiced writing questions and answers. Come check both of these completed activities hanging on our Platinum Team hallway walls. You will surely enjoy reading all about these new 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

All students have received their Holt Grammar Handbooks which must be covered. We are starting our first grammar unit- Unit 11 on Capitalization. We have pretested, and will have a graded post-test at the end of the unit to measure growth.

In Reading, we truly enjoyed sharing our summer projects that accompanied the book, *Where the Ground Meets the Sky*. The students learned about SLAMS. What is SLAMS you ask? S-L-A-M-S is a memory gem that helps students remember the rules used when writing an open ended question, which is something we will be doing a lot of this year. We have read our first anthology story, *Just Once*. The story centers around a football player named Moose (appropriate for this time of year), his goals, and the conflict he must overcome to reach them. During this unit we will focus on the character, his struggles, and the story elements.

We are looking forward to getting to know your children and having a great year in Language Arts!

In science, students are learning about the process skills and how to apply those skills in the lab. We will be working with lab equipment in the near future, so the kids have learned the safety rules and procedures to follow to be safe. Soon we will be working on the metric system and metric conversions. We will have several projects and lab activities focusing on earth, life and physical science topics.

Do not forget to check out the team website, [www.teacherweb.com/ct/tyrrellmiddle/wright](http://www.teacherweb.com/ct/tyrrellmiddle/wright)



# Diamond Team Update



The Diamond Team would like to thank the parents and students for a smooth opening of school. Many students have adjusted well to changing classes and are coming to school excited and ready to learn.

A number of incentive programs are offered throughout the school year. One of the most important is our “**Team Read**” program. Students were given reading logs that are to be signed by parents as they finish a book. Students will have an opportunity to reach four different levels, depending upon the number of pages they complete each marking period.

**Respect** and **responsibility** are stressed in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will earn a sticker for the week if they maintain appropriate behavior and attend class with all of the necessary materials, including their homework. At the end of each week, students earning a sticker will be given a Diamond Dollar to use to purchase school supplies and other items. Students who are missing assignments or unprepared for class will bring home a homework slip to be signed and returned the next day with their completed work. Please help us make homework a priority.

Reminder: *The Diamond Team posts homework assignments online.* You can access the site by going to the [www.wolcottps.org](http://www.wolcottps.org) site, select Tyrrell School, then scroll down and click the Diamond Team. Or you may type in the following in your address bar:

[http://assignaday.4teachers.org/ScheduleTable.php?calendar\\_id=261676](http://assignaday.4teachers.org/ScheduleTable.php?calendar_id=261676)

We suggest that you add it to your favorites. Remember that it is the students’ responsibility to write the homework down in their planners in every class. There may be a few times during the year that the website is not updated for some reason, so please rely on their planners. In addition to monitoring your child’s homework, *please use Power School to access their grades.* A notice went home the second week of school with a username and password for parents. Please contact the office if you didn’t receive notification to access your child’s grades online.

If you would like to contact any teacher on the Diamond Team, the most efficient way is through e-mail. You may also send in a note or call the school and leave a voicemail message. Tyrrell Middle School: (203)879-8151

**Language Arts & Co-Team Leader:** Mrs. Mascetti-Johnson: [nmascetti@wolcottps.org](mailto:nmascetti@wolcottps.org)

**Language Arts & Co-Team Leader:** Mrs. Nicol: [dnicol@wolcottps.org](mailto:dnicol@wolcottps.org)

**Math:** Mrs. Cox: [ecox@wolcottps.org](mailto:ecox@wolcottps.org)

**Social Studies:** Mrs. Garbus: [sgarbus@wolcottps.org](mailto:sgarbus@wolcottps.org)

**Science:** Mr. Jones: [tjones@wolcottps.org](mailto:tjones@wolcottps.org)

**Special Education:** Ms. Regan: [aregan@wolcottps.org](mailto:aregan@wolcottps.org)

If you would like to set up a meeting with the entire team to discuss your child’s progress and brainstorm ideas to promote their success, we meet as a team every Day 2 during Period 3. Please contact Mrs. Mascetti-Johnson or Mrs. Nicol to set up an appointment. If Day 2 falls on a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, appointments are usually scheduled from 9:45-10:15. Since Wednesday and Friday are 30-minute read days, appointments will be scheduled from 10:15 – 10:45.

We look forward to meeting you all at one of the two TMS Open House dates:

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

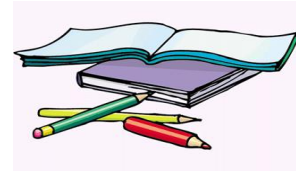
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 PM

## ◆ Diamond Team Photos ◆

Below are some pictures from our first field trip to YMCA Camp Mataucha. The students participated in numerous team-building activities that incorporated problem solving, trust, and the importance of listening. Their behavior and willingness to participate in the challenges were both excellent.



## **GRANITE TEAM**



**Welcome Back to School! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome students to the Granite Team. We are all excited to be back and are looking forward to a great year. Email is the quickest form of communication with the team. Our email addresses are listed in your child's planner. Our team website is <http://granite.educatorpages.com/74931> and it has up to date information on team events, edmodo, field trips, activities... Also the site is linked to each teacher's page where homework assignments are posted.**



## **MARBLE TEAM**



In science, students will be working on properly utilizing the appropriate tools and techniques used by scientists for scientific investigations. This is commonly called process skills. Students will learn about things such as lab safety, the scientific method, the metric system, the different types of measurement, observations and inferences, and graphing. They will also discover how the scientific method can be used to solve everyday problems. These skills are essential for scientific discovery and will be reinforced throughout the year.

Marble team students have been very busy in their reading classes. We started the year by completing activities based on the summer reading books. Students then moved on to learn about the structure of a short story and its elements – setting, characters, conflict, events, climax, and resolution. For our first short story, we read “Rikki-tikki-tavi” by Rudyard Kipling. While reading this story, students used a reading strategy called “Dialoguing with the Text.” This strategy requires students to question, analyze, and react to what they’re reading thus making reading an “active” experience. This is a strategy that we will continue to use throughout the year. We will soon be working on using exaggeration to turn the main character from “Rikki-tikki-tavi” into a superhero before moving on to our next short story.

In Social Studies classes, students have been reviewing some of the essential themes of Social Studies and Geography. They have also been discovering how historians work and what investigative tools they use. Additionally, Marble Team students have been studying the Stone Age. Students have learned about hunters and gatherers and early agricultural societies. They have examined how the earliest human societies developed and have even studied how they hunted and lived.

In the beginning of the school year CMT Summer packets were collected from all Marble team students. Classes are currently working on descriptive writing. The goal is to learn everything we can about writing; purpose, techniques, ideas, feelings, themselves, their worlds, and real-world application. In class, students work on daily journal prompts allowing students to write about things that interest them, challenge them, and allow them to think about how they connect to the world. We have introduced Edmodo as a way to enhance class discussion and to share ideas using Web 2.0 technology. To start off our Memoir Unit we are working on 6 Word Memoirs. It is rumored that someone once challenged the famous author Ernest Hemingway to write a story using only 6 words. He answered the challenge by writing “For Sale: Baby

shoes never worn.” Students are working hard on word choice to create a statement of 6 words that represents an important memory. Every student will then create a visual in PowerPoint to enhance the meaning behind the 6 words. A Power Point will be created to showcase all the students’ hard work. Students will be working on writing their own personal account of an event using descriptive language focusing on figurative language and elaboration.

Many Marble Team math students have been working on concepts including place value, powers of ten, and customary and metric measures. These topics are all review in preparation for the CMT in March. Students will begin a unit on Algebraic expressions in the month of October. Other math students have been studying the order of operations and integers. Students have learned to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative whole numbers. The study of integers will continue through the end of September.

All Marble team math students have been introduced to their online math book which can be found at [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com). Students created user accounts and passwords so that they may access an online version of their text and other resources at home. Students are also using the secure social network Edmodo in math. Students are able to answer bonus questions and discuss mathematical topics using this tool.

## ***PEARL TEAM***



The Pearl Team would like to remind parents and students that they can access information about our team from our team website, located on the Tyrrell main page. Teacher sites can also be found via this link.

### Social Studies

The Pearl Team has started off the year by tracking the migrations of early man and examining the cultures of the Native American people. Students have revisited some prior knowledge from seventh grade about the Renaissance and the inventions of the time to help better understand the push for exploration and the competition between European nations that resulted from the new technology. The clash of cultures as “Old” and “New” Worlds collide will soon be studied and we will use excerpts of Jared Diamond’s book, *Guns, Germs, & Steel*, to look at the encounter of Pizarro and the Inca to realize more deeply the impact that the contact between the two worlds had on each of its inhabitants.

### Science

Students are working on their process unit and the chemistry portion of the course. This includes lab experiments and class/group activities where students collect and graph data, measure and convert measures using the metric system, and use proper science tools and equipment.

### Math

Our math students are off to a great start. In Pre-Algebra, students have been working mastering the importance following the rules of order of operations (PEMDAS). Students are now learning the fundamentals of computations with positive and negative numbers. Honors Algebra I students began the year with a review of the fundamentals of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions along with evaluating expressions according to order of operations. It is essential for students to be proficient in these foundations in order to succeed in Algebra. In addition, students have been learning to translate word problems into equations containing a variable. I have been working to establish sound habits in showing one’s work and solving problems in a step-by-step manner. The complexity of the course will increase in the coming weeks as we learn the distributive property.

### Reading and Writing

The Pearl Team reading and writing classes have had a great start to the school year. During this first quarter, reading classes are concentrating on reading and interpreting short stories. Students have been introduced to the elements of fiction and have applied them to the first two stories, “Raymond’s Run” and “The Ransom of Red Chief.” Writing classes have also been off to a busy start. So far students have been introduced to two new units of vocabulary and received lessons reinforcing the parts of speech. The Pearl Team language arts teachers are looking forward to a productive year in both reading and writing.



## *Onyx Team*

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Onyx Team! The Onyx Team is comprised of: Lisa Roman (team leader and science), Scott Blacker (social studies), Marian Boisvert (math), Nicole Rutledge (language arts), Mike Terry (language arts) and Kelly Gilchrist (special education). This year the Onyx team has a website where you can find nightly homework, announcements of quizzes and tests, and upcoming school and team events. [www.teacherweb.com/CT/TyrrellMiddle/OnyxTeam](http://www.teacherweb.com/CT/TyrrellMiddle/OnyxTeam)

The 8th grade will be attending a trip to Boston on November 7th from 7:00 A.M. until approximately 7:00 P.M. The trip will include a visit to the Boston Museum of Science, IMAX movie "Ring of Fire" and the historical Boston Duck Tours. We are all really looking forward to this annual trip!

This month we have been getting settled into the new school year. In **science**, students are working on their process unit and the chemistry portion of the course. This includes lab experiments and class/group activities where students collect and graph data, measure and convert measures using the metric system, and use proper science tools and equipment. The **social studies** classes have been discussing early Native American societies and their cultural aspects. In addition, the students will be studying the European explorations of the Americas and impact of exploration on society. **Math** class has focused on the concept of “order of operations” (many parents may remember “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally”). Students were assessed on the summer reading book, Where the Ground Meets the Sky in **language arts** classes, and have now begun the Short Story Unit with “Raymond’s Run.” In addition, in writing classes, the students are reviewing the parts of a sentence and the parts of speech to start the year.

The Onyx Team teachers are looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding school year with our new 8<sup>th</sup> graders!

### **APRIL JEWEL CARD WINNERS**

**HOME ROOM 104 – NICHOLAS GIZZI**

**HOME ROOM 206 – KYLE FISHBEIN**

**HOME ROOM 310 – JOCELYN JACOVINO**

## MAY JEWEL CARD WINNERS

HOME ROOM 102 – NICK AGRINZONE

HOME ROOM 208 – GABRIELA SINGH

HOME ROOM 311 – TODD MANZOLLI

### *Silver Team*

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION: MRS. KRUSEWSKI

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are preparing for the CT Physical Fitness Tests that will be administered in October. Students will be tested on sit and reach, push-ups, curl-ups, and the mile run. All 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be bused up to the high school track for the mile run test. Permission slips will be handed out in class with additional information. Students are completing fitness stations and playing cooperative games in September to help prepare them for the testing in October. We strongly encourage students to stay active outside of school on a daily basis.

#### ART: MR. KELSEY

Grade 6 - Students will be exercising their “right brains” throughout the semester. The focus of the lessons will be on learning how to look and see accurately, which ultimately leads to “real” drawing.

Grade 7 - Students will be studying Surrealism this year. First, students will interpret works of art to find important and significant meaning. Then, they will have the opportunity to share their own thoughts – through their own art.

Grade 8 - Students will be learning about the life and art of Chuck Close. In a style inspired by him, students will have a chance to create expressive self-portraits.

### The Tyrrell Girls’ Soccer Team 2011:



Taylor DiBona-Piacentini	Kayla Mayo
Allyson Hickey	Kayleigh Blaszyk
Christina Velezis	Sarah Begley
Kaylee Hale	Emily Cofrancesco
Mackenzie Thibeau	Alexis Mulhall
Autumn Cipriano	Morgan McGinnis
Jessica McKeon	Michelina Gagliardi
Brook Berthold	Emma Gargano
Kaylee Bosque	Sam Hickey
Megan Doubleday	Marissa Morales
	Anna Forrest

## *World Language News*

The World Language Department is pleased to welcome Lisa Tassinari as the full-time French teacher this year. We are also excited to announce that this year the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish and French students will attend classes EVERY DAY! In addition, all world language teachers have received a Mimio (interactive white board), which has enabled us to incorporate even more technology into the classroom, making learning fun and exciting for the students! Also, each World Language teacher has a Google site which can be accessed from the Tyrrell Middle School homepage under the *Joyas Team*. We are also available any day after school for extra help. Students should give a one day notice to stay after school.

Students in sixth grade Spanish and French have recently learned the alphabet, basic greetings and good-byes and are currently learning the numbers, days of the week, seasons, and months of the year.

Students of seventh grade Spanish and French have already learned basic greetings and cognates. They reviewed both the alphabet and the numbers from 0 to 1,000. We are also learning the geography of the French and Spanish speaking countries. Spanish classes have also been working with Google Voice to practice their speaking skills from home by calling in and recording designated assignments.

Eighth grade Spanish classes have reviewed the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, months, seasons, weather, feelings, and greetings. We also began our Escudo unit which covers their Spanish names, age, birthdays, origin, favorite animals and colors, family vocabulary, writing descriptive sentences, and their likes and dislikes. We have reviewed the verbs *ser*, *estar*, and *tener* which have enabled them to practice their conversational skills by communicating in the target language.

Eighth grade French students have also reviewed the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, and months. In addition, we have reviewed how to conjugate the verb avoir and –er verbs. Students have been using these verbs, along with telling time, to express their likes/dislikes, and to talk about their class schedules.

September 15<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. We are planning an assembly of Latin American music for the Spanish classes in October to commemorate this celebration.



## **Project Explore News**

What middle school students look forward to doing additional schoolwork, homework, projects, and community service? The answer is simple – the many gifted and talented students who are part of the Project Explore Program at TMS. And the best news is that the program has been further expanded this year to include even more of these exceptional students!

In the coming weeks, Project Explore students will find themselves engrossed in current events, hydroponics, journalism, videography, digital photography, economics, and so much more. They are very excited to begin classes which run 40-45 minutes every three days. They especially look forward to “Projects” periods when they can spend additional time in the Project Explore room working on independent projects, challenging themselves with critical thinking activities, or finally just getting their hands on the classroom MAC! For now, they are off to a great start!

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

All Grade Level Times  
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

All Grade Level Times  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Please come to either session based on your availability.



# BOOK FAIR

**Monday, October 3rd-Friday, October 14th**

Open daily from 8:05 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Additional hours for parents/guardians:

October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm-5:00 p.m. & October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Make sure to stop by the TMS Media Center to check out the books**



## **WOLCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE**

Most information that is pertinent to Tyrrell Middle School can be found on the Wolcott Public Schools website, <http://www.wolcottps.org>. Please utilize this site to access our student handbook, staff directory complete with email addresses, and sports schedules.

## Parent Communication

Please sign in to your Powerschool account that was sent home with your child a few weeks ago. This enables you to see every grade and assignment that has been issued. It also gives you the opportunity to contact teachers if you have any specific concerns. One very nice feature of this program is that you can direct the program to send you updates automatically. You can specify exactly what items you would like to see in the email communications and how often you would like to see them. Just click on the **Email Notifications** drop down window. You can then select the items you would like sent to you and how often you would like them sent. Please utilize this service. It is your means of being an integral part of your child's education.



## Tyrrell Middle School Guidance Department



### **Identification and Notification**

The Wolcott Board of Education is seeking to identify and notify the parents or legal guardians of children who may be in need of Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504 services. The purpose of this act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. If you have a child with a handicap that substantially limits one or more major life activity, and how is not currently identified, please contact your building Principal or Mr. Walter Drewry, District ADA 504 Coordinator at (203) 879-8164.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you as the school counselors at Tyrrell Middle School. Mrs. Elizabeth Buzzelli is the counselor for students with last names A through L, and Ms. Ashly Hovland is the counselor for students with last names M through Z. Ms. Jenna Pelosi is joining us this year as our counselor intern. We look forward to working with you and your children, and we will make every effort to ensure that your child receives the personal assistance that he or she deserves.

Mrs. Buzzelli attended the University of Connecticut, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Human Development and Family Relations. She earned her Master's of Science Degree and Certification in School Counseling from Central Connecticut State University. Ms. Hovland attended the University of Connecticut, earning a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She earned her Master's of Education degree in School Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Pelosi graduated from Quinnipiac University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She is currently a graduate student at Western Connecticut State University, completing her Masters degree in School Guidance.

Our School Counseling Program is designed to assist with interests and issues related to the stages of student growth in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social development. The following services will be offered for the 2010-11 school year at Tyrrell Middle School:

- Small group sessions for students focusing on: life skills, coping with divorce, grief, study skills, friendship, social skills, and self-esteem
- Individual sessions to help students in personal and social development

- Classroom lessons with emphasis on personal/social skills, academic development (study skills), and career awareness and development
- Referral assistance to other programs and services in the community

If you have any questions regarding our counseling program, please contact us at (203) 879-8151. You can also email Mrs. Buzzelli at [ebuzzelli@wolcottps.org](mailto:ebuzzelli@wolcottps.org), Ms. Hovland at [ahovland@wolcottps.org](mailto:ahovland@wolcottps.org), or Ms. Pelosi at [jpelosi@wolcottps.org](mailto:jpelosi@wolcottps.org). Working together helps to ensure your child's success in school, the community, and life in general. We wish you and your child much success in this school year.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Buzzelli  
Tyrrell School Counselor

Ashly Hovland  
Tyrrell School Counselor

Jenna Pelosi  
Tyrrell School Counselor Intern

## TMS Respect!

The "TMS Respect!" program is designed to recognize students who go above and beyond to show respect in our school community. These students will receive a "TMS Respect" bracelet that will give them access to privileges throughout the school year.

Each school month will be designated a different color bracelet. At the end of each month, those students wearing that particular color of bracelet will be able to participate in activities such as going outside during SSR, going into the lunch line first at lunch, among other privileges.

Teachers will recognize students' exceptionally respectful behavior by giving those students a "TMS Respect!" Post-it note. The student will then drop off the sticky note in the box outside the guidance office. Ms. Hovland will check the box daily and will put earned bracelets in each student's homeroom teacher's mailbox. Students will then receive their bracelet from their homeroom teacher the next day.

Several times per month, students wearing that month's color of bracelet will earn a privilege.

Students will only be allowed to earn one bracelet per month, but should try to earn as many Post-it notes as they can. At the end of the school year, the two students with the highest number of Post-its will earn another special privilege!

Ms. Ashly Hovland  
School Counselor



## SCHOOL BUS



Every child is assigned one seat on one bus. Students are not permitted to ride other buses. If students need to arrive at alternate locations in the afternoon or get on the bus at alternate locations in the morning parents are responsible for providing those modifications. Please understand that the safety of our students is our prime concern.

## PTO NEWS



Please plan on attending the first PTO meeting of the year on **Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Tyrrell auditorium.

**PTO Meeting Dates: September 20<sup>TH</sup>**



**October 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 15<sup>th</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 17<sup>th</sup>**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 20<sup>th</sup>  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
May 15<sup>th</sup>  
June 12<sup>th</sup>**



The PTO fundraiser will be Yankee Candle/Gift Wrap. This will run from **September 16<sup>th</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please plan on participating. The money raised from this endeavor funds numerous cultural programs for our students as well as providing funding for field trips and the Washington trip in Grade 8. Order forms and brochures are available on [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) Fall 2011. All orders must be picked up by **Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** 3:00-8:00 pm at Tyrrell Middle School.



## News from the Media Center

The TMS **card catalog and circulation update** is complete. Students can now access the card catalog from any internet connected computer by visiting:

[www.wolcott.follettdestiny.com](http://www.wolcott.follettdestiny.com) and chose Tyrrell Middle School.

Books can be checked out at anytime during school hours. Our borrowing period is 2 weeks, but we do allow for renewals. Please be sure that your child returns their books in a timely, well-kept manner. We receive many new titles each month and love to take suggestions for new books.

The Media Center will offer **Scholastic Book Club ordering** for all students and staff. Flyers are available in the Media Center; orders will be placed monthly. Books make great gifts and rewards!!!

The **TMS BLOG** is up and running—check in often to see what is happening at TMS and maybe find yourself caught in learning!

**Author Jacqueline Davies** will be visiting TMS on Friday, September 23. She is the author of many children and young adult books including Where the Ground Meets the Sky, which all students read over the summer. We look forward to a great visit!

Mrs. Tedesco and Mrs. Krug work very hard to keep the readers at TMS happy. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Tedesco at [stedesco@wolcottps.org](mailto:stedesco@wolcottps.org) or 203 879 8151 x 622 at anytime.

## **Tyrrell Middle School Music Department**

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lynda Curtiss. I am taking Barbara Skrebutenas' position as the instrumental music teacher here at TMS as Mrs. Skrebutenas has moved up to the high school. My previous 18 years of teaching have all been in Wolcott, but as the instrumental music teacher for all three elementary schools. I am looking forward to working with your children and having an excellent year. It is very exciting for me to see how they have grown since I taught them in elementary school.

The instrumental music program is off to a good start. There are 23 students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band, 23 students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band and 34 in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Guitar I there are 13 students and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Guitar II there are 7. I am hoping that, over the next several years, we can increase the enrollment in the instrumental music program.

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands have been invited to join the WHS band in playing at the football game on Friday, October 7. Also, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band has been invited to play at two additional home games: Friday, November 4 and Thanksgiving Day.

## **Introducing the 2011 Tyrrell Middle School Boys Soccer Team!**

<b>Jake</b>	<b>Audibert</b>	<b>Colin</b>	<b>Jenkins</b>
<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Audibert</b>	<b>Simon</b>	<b>Kubrynsky</b>
<b>Donaven</b>	<b>Bianchi</b>	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Kubrynsky</b>
<b>Matt</b>	<b>DelBuono</b>	<b>Tyler</b>	<b>Lagasse</b>
<b>Matt</b>	<b>Finke</b>	<b>Nick</b>	<b>Mango</b>
<b>Tyrn</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Anthony</b>	<b>Mennillo</b>
<b>Alex</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Nick</b>	<b>Roth</b>
<b>Conner</b>	<b>Hillman</b>	<b>Brennan</b>	<b>Zynda</b>

The TMS Dance Team is pleased to introduce this year's team. Best of luck with another amazing season!!!!

Adduci, Emma	Iarrapino, Makayla
Amedeo, Valerie	Janeiro, Emily
Audibert, Julia*	Lacombe, Elizabeth
Babon, Randi*	Ladd, Skylar
Barlow, Shealyn	Lafferty, Kayla
Bates-Hillhouse, Janice	Laurendeau, Tiana
Blanchard, Tashawna	Lewis, Mi'Nasia
Boutote, Brenna*	Martinez, Sabrina
Burton, Sarah	Mix, Stephanie
Capristo, Alyssa	Morelli, Amanda
Capristo, Brianna	Morton, Jessica
Cavanaugh, Jayda	Nobrega, Alyssa
Ciccione, Chloe	Pelletier, Erica
Comeau, Alyssa	Phillips, Alexa
Critelli, Hannah	Roscoe, Kunetta
D'Adamo, Margie	St. George, Brandielee
Doucette, Katelin	Veronesi, Morgan
Filar, Daria	Williams, Julia
Fontaine, Ashley*	Zhuta, Bjonda
Heredia, Christina	Zhuta, Fjolla

**\*Team Captain**



**TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION  
PTO  
MEMBERSHIP FORM  
2011-2012**

**Support the Tyrrell PTO. Become a member today!**

Student(s) Name:	Grade:	Homeroom #

<b>Parents' Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>

<b>Family Membership \$10.00</b>	<b>Supportive Membership \$15.00</b>
<i>Please circle one</i>	

**Check made payable to "Tyrrell PTO"**

**Please attach your payment to your membership form and send them into the TMS main office in an envelope marked "TMS PTO". ~ Thank you**

The first PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th beginning at 7:00 pm at the Tyrrell Middle School Auditorium. All are welcomed to attend.

## ***Box Tops for Education***

The PTO has launched its ***Box Tops for Education*** and ***Campbell's Soup labels*** incentive at Tyrrell. Every homeroom has a bucket for box top collections. The homeroom that collects the most box tops and/or labels will receive a pizza party at the end of the month. Please cut out box tops and send them to school with your children.

Below is a listing of on-line companies that are part of the ***Box Tops for Education*** program. If you will be ordering items from any of these companies please access them through the Box Tops for Education website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Once you list Tyrrell as your receiving school the Tyrrell account will automatically be credited with the amount indicated below.



### **PTO MEETING DATES:**

**PTO meetings will be held in the TMS Large Group Room on the last Tuesday of the Month at 7PM beginning in September.**

**September 20, 2011 in Auditorium**  
**October 18, 2011**  
**November 15, 2011**  
**December 13, 2011**  
**January 17, 2012**  
**February 28, 2012**  
**March 20, 2012**  
**April 17, 2012**  
**May 15, 2012**  
**June 12, 2012**

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

**All Board of Education meetings will be held on the second & fourth Mondays of the month. All meetings begin at 7:30pm.**

**September 12<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**September 26<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**October 11<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup> @ Alcott**  
**January 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Frisbie**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup> @ Tyrrell**  
**February 27<sup>th</sup> @ Wakelee**  
**March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ WHS**  
**May 14<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> @ WHS**

### **PROMOTION POLICY**

**Please note that the following promotion policy is in effect:**

A student may fail no more than (1) major subject (reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, world language) per academic year. Furthermore, a student may fail no more than one (1) enrichment subject (art, band, chorus, family & consumer science, music, physical education, technology education, etc.). An 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student must pass reading, writing, and mathematics to be promoted to the high school (5123a). The final decision for promotion will rest with the principal who will make his/her decision (5123).