



# The DEVON DISPATCH



November 18, 2011

DEVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 6



## From the PTO President

Wow! It has been a busy few weeks at Devon. The Halloween parade was a lot of fun with many creative costumes. Mr. Smondrowski's fourth grade class completed their "Trick or Treating for UNICEF" service project. This is only the first of several fourth grade service projects this year. The "Dragon Tales" book fair had students excited about books. There were many fabulous titles - something for everyone! While each class had their own time to visit the book fair, fourth graders also took their kindergarten buddies to help them create a list of interesting books. In addition to the classroom learning, children have been experiencing some fantastic school assemblies as part of the cultural arts program. Students laughed along with artist Mark Kistler as he taught them to draw in 3-D while the third graders were all "a buzz" with a visit from the Bee Man.

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only a few days away. Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays and not only because of the delicious meal. I like Thanksgiving because it is a time to spend with family with no pressure of buying gifts. Thanksgiving is an opportunity to take time out our busy schedules and appreciate those around us, an opportunity to spend time together, eating, watching football, jumping in a leaf pile; however you choose to spend the day.

With that said, I encourage you to give thanks for our school. Devon is a wonderful community of learners. Devon's teachers and staff work hard each day and come to school with an incredible amount of enthusiasm and creativity. By now you should have received in the mail information about Devon's annual giving fund. This is an opportunity for you to make a tax deductible monetary contribution to the school. All money from this fund will go right back to Devon students.

The PTO takes a break during the month of December but we will be back in January with more exciting activities - Camp Fair, pizza bingo, cultural arts programs.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tricia Jennings

### Mark the Date

#### Monday, Nov. 21, 2011

- No Kindergarten, Half Day Grades 1-4 , Parent/Teacher Conf.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011

- No Kindergarten, Half Day Grades 1-4 , Parent/Teacher Conf.

#### November 23- 25, 2011

- No School

#### Monday, Nov. 28, 2011

No School - Conference day

#### Please Note

The Devon Winter Concert date has been changed to

Tuesday, December 13th  
9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.





To The Following Volunteers and Their Committees:  
A Big Thank You to...

- **Kristan Burgess, Gina DeFlavia & Chris Kovan** for organizing another successful book fair.
- **Chrissy Bennett & Sarah Keyes** for scheduling all of the wonderful cultural arts assemblies and for being Devon's DELTA representatives.
- **Stephanie Thibault** for kicking off Devon's first Halloween Candy Drive.
- **Suzanne Kinkel & Erika Yablonovitz** for their dedication to Devon's own publishing center.
- **Ronya Hopkins** for representing Devon at Interschool Council meetings.
- **Tracey King** for her work as Devon's Diversity Committee representative.
- **Lauren Baran** for serving as Devon's ARCH representative.
- **Ashley Smith** for scheduling volunteers for picture re-take day.
- **Kathy Meaney** for her tireless efforts organizing the Devon Dispatch.

Information about the Tredyffrin Township Winter Rec program is available on the T/e-Bulletin Board. For Boys and Girls k through 6th Grade

<http://www.tesd.net/cms/lib/PA01001259/Centricity/ModuleInstance/3383/winterrec.pdf>

**Important Phone Numbers**

**School Office**      610-240-1450  
**Attendance**      610-240-1465  
**Emergency Closing**    610-240-1970  
**School District**    www.tesd.net  
**PTO**                www.devonpto.org

**Devon Elementary PTO Board 2011/2012**

President	Tricia Jennings
Vice President	Amy Susanin
Recording Secretary	Lauren Forman
Treasurer	Margaret Ruschmann
Asst Treasurer	Cindy Krapels
2nd Vice Presidents:	
~Cultural Arts	Chrissy Bennet/Sarah Keyes
~Fundraising	Cecilia Cooleen/Georgeann Bernabeo
~Social Functions	Tricia Petrane/Kelly Walker
~Issues, Affairs and Programs	Carli Younce
~School Services	Lori Piccone
Member at Large	Audrey Kese

## From the 'Green Corner'...



### Recycle your CFL bulbs

Though CFL bulbs last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, they do not last forever. CFL bulbs contain mercury so they need to be disposed of properly. Used CFL bulbs can be recycled at the Paoli Hardware, the Home Depot in King of Prussia & the True Value in Newtown Square. Use [www.recycleabulb.com](http://www.recycleabulb.com) to find a recycler near you!



Also be careful if the bulbs ever break in your home. Reference the EPA website for a safe procedure for cleaning up after a broken bulb. <http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html>

Have a question, idea or suggestion? Please e-mail Heather at [globularclusters@yahoo.com](mailto:globularclusters@yahoo.com) – thank you!

### Chester County Library Online Language Programs

The Chester County Library has recently partnered with *Mango Languages* to provide an on-line learning language learning opportunity for anyone who holds a library card. *Mango* is an online language-learning system that can help you learn languages like Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian and more. Students and family members may use *Mango* to learn a new language. *Mango* may also be useful in practicing the language that a student is already studying. To access *Mango*, simply go to the Chester County Library website, <http://www.ccls.org/>, and click on the *Mango* tab on the homepage. Use your library card to set up your account and then get started.

### Flite

#### Staff Tributes



Are you trying to think of an extra special end of year gift?

Do you want to honor a teacher, counselor or school nurse who helped your child in a special way? Think about the individuals who inspire your children to learn or who provide encouragement when your child struggled with a difficult subject.

With a Staff Tribute, you can recognize these special individuals by making a tax-deductible donation to FLITE.

If interested, **please see attached donation form on page 9 of the Dispatch.**

Any questions? Please contact Tina Verrelli, Devon Elementary Flite Representative:



## Health and Fitness News From the T/E Elementary Physical Education Department



### Happy Holidays!

What Are Some Ways to Eat Healthy during the Holidays?

When presented with all of the beloved family recipes and tasty dishes expected at any holiday get-together, it can become difficult to say "no." Good news: you don't have to! Here are a few simple tips to make the holiday season more healthful and less guilt ridden.

- Make realistic goals. The holiday season is not the time to place added stress on yourself by attempting to lose weight.
- Use smaller plates if available when at a buffet-style party.
- Try eating a healthy snack before going to a party to ease your hunger.
- Conversation is calorie-free, but move away from the buffet so you won't be tempted to eat while you talk.
- Scope out the buffet before you go up to make your selections.
- Balance what you eat at parties with what you eat during the day.
- Remember that beverages contain calories as well. Many beverages including home-made punches, and chocolaty beverages tend to have sneaky calories that you may not bargain for. Consume these in moderation!
- Watch your portion sizes and take small "tastes" of high calorie dishes.

### Stay Active!

Frequently during the winter months, our activity level goes down because it's cold. Often going hand in hand with less activity is more eating. We eat because of all the holiday parties and because we're bored. So in order to maintain a healthy weight this winter, the next time you find yourself getting bored, get up and move. Include family and friends, but go out and do something, don't just stay in and eat. Try taking a walk or run, skiing, ice skating, snowboarding, sledding, or playing with your children in the snow!

#### Resources:

[www.eatright.org/Public/content.aspx?id=4294967607](http://www.eatright.org/Public/content.aspx?id=4294967607)  
[www.healthyalberta.com/ActiveLiving/691.htm](http://www.healthyalberta.com/ActiveLiving/691.htm)  
<http://weightloss.about.com/cs/moretips/a/aa062700a.htm>  
<http://www.everydaychoices.org/eat.html>  
<http://www.livestrong.com/article/166035-childrens-games-to-play-when-the-electricity-is-off/>

### Embracing Winter: Being Active Outside

There are so many fun activities to do outside in the winter.

Many people in other parts of the world have never built a snowman or even seen snow!

Skating on an outdoor rink, skiing, tobogganing or just walking through a park trying to identify animal prints in the snow are all winter wonders.

Don't hide from the winter weather — embrace it! You just need a few extra steps to keep yourself safe and warm during winter activities.

Just as it's important to be safe during the summer, such as wearing sunscreen and a hat and drinking plenty of water, there are things to think about in the winter.

The hazards in your environment, like slippery sidewalks or thin ice, and the activity you're doing mean taking careful steps to get home safely ready to enjoy a steaming cup of hot cocoa!

### UGH! We lost power, what are the kids going to do?







A power outage, particularly at night, creates a scary situation for some children. Playing games in the darkened home helps ease the anxiety of having no electricity. Games that don't require a lot of movement are best to prevent tripping. Keep plenty of flashlights and extra batteries on hand in case of power outages, which allow you to better play games and ease the fears of your children.

\*Flashlight Scavenger Hunt: Each player needs her own flashlight, or players may pair up to form teams. Call out different objects, colors or other clues for the players to find. The first person or team to shine a flashlight on the object wins that round. The control of having their own flashlights also may help the kids feel more secure because they have a source of light.

\*Shadow Puppets: The dark home offers an ideal setting for making shadow puppets. A battery-operated lantern works well because no one has to hold a flashlight. The participants take turns using their hands to create shadow puppets.

\*Guess the Object: If your kids aren't afraid of a dark room, Parenthood.com suggests a game involving the sense of touch. Select an object and hand it to the child. She feels the object with her hands to determine what she's holding. Choose non-breakable items without sharp edges for safety purposes.

## Elementary Physical Education Activity Calendar December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1 Bear crawling is a great way to work on the muscles in your arms. Bear crawl around your house</i>	<i>2 Turn on some music and take turns choosing a way to move.</i>	<i>3 Ask someone to go for a walk with you.</i> 
<i>4 Work on your tossing and catching skills with someone. Toss it right to their hands.</i>	<i>5 Work on your locomotor skills—go outside and practice running, jogging, skipping and hopping.</i>	<i>6 Get outside for a game of tag. If there is snow on the ground, this will be extra good for your body.</i>	<i>7 Have fun rolling around your house. Work on rolling in a straight line and a curly line.</i>	<i>8 Time to get outside and move. Ask someone in your family to come out with you.</i>	<i>9 Use a ball that bounces to work on bouncing and catching.</i>	<i>10 Time to stretch and reach. Turn your body into different shapes and hold each shape, as you squeeze.</i>
<i>11 Can you do a jumping jack? Give it a try!</i>	<i>12 Go low and high—someone holds a broom</i> 	<i>13 Try jump roping. How many times can you jump rope in a row?</i>	<i>14 Running is a great way to make your heart healthy. Try to run for a certain time without stopping.</i>	<i>15 Take a walk with a friend or family member.</i>	<i>16 Turn on some music and make your mom or dad dance with you.</i>	<i>17 Can you skip? Give it a try—step, hop, step, hop.</i>
<i>18 Get outside and play catch. Follow the ball with your eyes.</i>	<i>19 Roll up some socks and practice your self toss and catch skill.</i>	<i>20 Practice your sit-ups. How many can you do?</i>	<i>21 Stretch your muscles. Do you have good flexibility? This helps you from getting injured.</i>	<i>22 Run in circles. Go outside and run in big, small and medium circles.</i>	<i>23 Draw a hopscotch pattern and work on your jumping and hopping skills.</i>	<i>24 Work on dribbling a ball with your feet.</i>
<i>25 Go out and play in the snow. How far can you throw a snowball?</i>	<i>26 Go sledding. The bigger the hill, the better the workout.</i>	<i>27 Dance to your favorite song. Invite a friend or family member.</i>	<i>28 Work on your running today. Go out and see how long you can run continuously run?</i>	<i>29 Using a scarf, practice your self toss and catch skills.</i>	<i>30 Go outside and make snow angels.</i>	<i>31 Pick your favorite activity and do it again!</i>

We are excited to let you know that *LingoKids* will offer a 10-week foreign language program again this spring.

*LingoKids* will offer classes for **grades 1-4** in Spanish, French, Mandarin and German in a fun, convenient and affordable way. For more information about the program please visit [www.lingokidslearning.com](http://www.lingokidslearning.com).

Classes will be scheduled after school, from **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, on Thursdays** and will run for 10 weeks from **January 12 – March 22**. The cost for the program will be \$150 per session and \$135 for each additional sibling.

Registration will open on **December, 1 through December 15**, and will be confirmed via e-mail once classes have formed. Forms will be sent home with your child via backpack or can be found on registration page of the *LingoKids* website.

If you have any questions please contact Helena Malarkey at # 484 318 8334 or [Helena.Malarkey@lingokidslearning.com](mailto:Helena.Malarkey@lingokidslearning.com).

## Mileage Club Update

Devon Students Were Moving in October & November!! Despite the rain, mud and snow we managed to hold 6 mileage club sessions.



This year the students at Devon walked or ran over 1,500 miles during their lunch recesses. Wow!! What an amazing accomplishment!! The children had a great time and really had their hearts pumping and muscles moving!!

Big thanks to all the Devon staff, faculty, mileage club daily leaders and all the parent volunteers!!! This would not have been a success without your help!

Tina Verrelli & Annie Detwiler

## Devon's 1<sup>st</sup> After Halloween Candy Drive was a huge success!

**Wow!** We collected over 125 pounds of candy during the recent drive! The beneficiary of all the candy is the Jerusalem Community Food Pantry, with which Mr. Stever, Devon's Librarian, works closely. Mr. Stever was thrilled with the response of the Devon community and the Food Pantry will share the treats with children during the winter holiday season.

A special thanks to the parents who helped with the Candy Drive: Nicole Bennyhoff, Denise Cooper, Alice DiAddezio, Suzanne Emerson, Ricka Jenkins, Jeanine O'Mara, Lori Piccone, Amy Susanin, Niki Tsetsekos and Carli Younce. Thank you also to our Lobby Aides, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Conaway and Mrs. Lee for their help and support.

-Stephanie Thibault,  
Halloween Candy Drive Chair

## REMINDER

### Call Attendance Line if Your Child is Absent

Please remember to call the attendance line at

**610-240-1465**

when your child is out sick. or going to be late. This will save our office staff from making phone calls to you. Thank you.

## Devon Dispatch

### Publication Schedule

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication</u>
12/02/11	12/09/11
12/23/11	01/06/12
01/13/12	01/20/12



## Devon Dispatch

Editor/Layout

Kathleen Meaney  
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Produced bi-monthly by Devon Elementary School, 400 S. Fairfield Road, Devon, PA 19333, 610-240-1450, under the direction of Principal Tom Tobin and PTO President Tricia Jennings.

## Information Regarding Parent-Teacher Conferences

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

This year we have the opportunity to collaborate together at Parent-Teacher Conferences on these dates:

**Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>:** Half day for grades 1-4 with dismissal at 12:20 p.m.; No Kindergarten; Gr 1-4 Conferences in afternoon

**Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Half day for grades 1-4 with dismissal at 12:20 p.m.; No Kindergarten; Gr 1-4 Conferences in afternoon

**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>:** NO School for K-4; Full Conference Day

Conferencing is one of the most important activities we do together to benefit your child. Prior to the conferences you will receive your child's Progress Report. To get the most out of this valuable, but short time, please consider the conference tips below:

### ***Getting Ready for the Conference***

Beforehand, talk to your child about strengths, areas for improvement, and peer relationships. How does your child rate his/her own performance?

### ***Possible Topics for Discussion at the Conference***

Classroom Behavior: How well does my child get along with others? How does my child solve conflicts? In what ways does my child contribute to the class?

Work Habits: How does my child work independently and with a group? How well does my child pay attention in class? What activities does my child seem to enjoy most in school?

Academic Progress: What does my child do well? Does my child recognize this strength? What does my child need to work on most? How can I help? How can I support my child at home?

### ***At The Conference***

The teacher will discuss your child's academic and social progress. It is a good idea to ask your most important questions first since the teacher has a conference schedule to follow. You and the teacher may develop common goals for your child.

### ***After The Conference***

Make sure your child knows that you and the teacher both care, and will work together to support his/her progress. Develop an action plan and implement it. If appropriate, follow-up with the teacher about the progress your child is making.

While you are at Devon for your conference, we also invite you to visit the special areas and support teachers to learn about their programs and/or your child's progress. Our staff looks forward to meeting with you and is pleased to partner with you as we work together for your child.



***CAPCO PRESENTS.....***

***BAGEL FACTORY  
CERTIFICATES!!!***

***Support CAPCO by purchasing coupons for  
BAGEL FACTORY Bagels (a bakers dozen) 61 cents per  
bagel same price as in the store!***

*Purchase coupons for \$8.00 each. These certificates will be available  
throughout the school year!*

*The proceeds go to the*

*Conestoga After Prom Celebration Organization (CAPCO)*

*Coupons can be redeemed at any Bagel Factory store for 13 bagels  
of your choice & CAPCO makes \$4.00 on each coupon!*

*Please use the form below to place orders*

*Questions?? Call or E-mail Dianne Lamina*

*610-688-5878 or novanova1@comcast.net*

*Thanks for your Support!!!*

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**BAGEL COUPON ORDER FORM**

*(Order as many as you would like, there is no limit!)*

**Please mail \_\_\_\_\_ Bagel certificates for a bakers dozen (61 cents per  
bagel) of Bagel Factory bagels at \$8.00 each to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ certificates at \$8.00 each.**

**Please mail to Dianne Lamina, 169 Sullivan Road, Wayne, PA 19087**

**Please make checks payable to CAPCO. Thanks you!**



*Are you trying to think of an extra special end of year gift?  
Do you want to honor a teacher, counselor or school nurse  
who helped your child in a special way?  
Think about the individuals who inspire your children to  
learn or who provide encouragement when your child  
struggled with a difficult subject.*

With a Staff Tribute, you can recognize these special individuals by making a tax-deductible donation to FLITE.



Your honored individual will receive a note card thanking them for their dedication and positive impact they have made on your student and family. This is an important year to make your tribute. The school budget is in crisis and FLITE will be called on to help fill the gaps.

FLITE works in partnership with the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District to help all district students reach their potential. FLITE promotes academic achievement with programs from preschool tuition assistance to college preparation.

Simply fill out the form below. Your chosen recipient(s) will be notified by letter of the honor (but not the dollar amount). Your donation will go a long way toward helping FLITE fulfill its mission.

**Thank you!**

Please accept this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for FLITE in honor of the staff member(s) listed below.

Staff member honored	School	Student's name

\*Additional names can be attached on a separate page

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

All checks should be made payable to FLITE and mailed to: PO Box 806, Southeastern, PA 19399-0806

Please visit [www.FLITE-pa.org](http://www.FLITE-pa.org) to learn more about FLITE.  
If you have any questions about Staff Tributes, please call Chris Caine at 610-644-0686 or [cdcaine@yahoo.com](mailto:cdcaine@yahoo.com)

Approved: 10-24-11

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District

# 2012—Calendar—2013

**NOTE:** 1st full day for ALL students in Gr. 1 - 12: Sept. 4, 2012; 1st day for Kindergarten students: Sept. 10 2012  
 Tentative Last Day for students: June 14, 2013 (1/2 day) No Kindergarten students report  
 Tentative Last Teacher Days (6): June 17-24, 2013 (full day)

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	△	△	△	△	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		18	19	△	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	⊙	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31					25	⊙	27	28	29	30	
						30																						
DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1		1	2	3	4	5						1	2				△	2				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	⊙	16		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	△				24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																					31						31
APRIL							MAY							JUNE							MS/HS Marking Periods							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4							1									
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sept. 4—Nov. 9 ..... 47 days							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	△	15	Nov. 12—Jan. 25 ..... 43 days							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	22	Jan. 28—Apr. 5 ..... 43 days							
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	⊙	25	26	27	28	29	Apr. 8—June 14 ..... 49 days							
														30														

### KEY

	= No School		= Kindergarten Screening & Parent Conferences: no Kindergarten				
	= 1/2 Day: Elementary Parent Conferences, Grades 1-4, no Kindergarten						
	= 1/2 Day: Elementary/Middle School Parent Conferences, Grades 1-8, no Kindergarten						
	= Districtwide Parent Conference Day: no students report		= 1/2 Day: no Kindergarten				
	= New Teacher Inservice, no students report		= Instructional Staff Inservice, no students report				
<b>Rescheduled student days for use in the event of emergency closings.</b>							
Day 1	June 17	Day 2	June 18	Day 3	June 19	Day 4	June 20
Day 5	June 21	Day 6	March 25	Day 7	March 26	Day 8	March 27
At its discretion, the Board reserves the right to further reschedule instructional days by using days when school is not in session.							