



The DEVON DISPATCH



October 07, 2011

DEVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 3



From the Principal

Dear Parents:

Your presence and support at our September events communicated a strong message of your interest, caring, and commitment to your child's education and school experiences. We look forward to seeing you at Devon throughout the school year. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who have already contributed so much thus far, and will continue to plan events and activities that add greatly to our school climate.

At our Curriculum Nights, I shared some thoughts about encouraging children by *giving them courage* and allowing them, within reason, to experience the challenges that come along in life. Here are quotes that have caused me think (taken from several sources):

"Could it be that by protecting our kids from unhappiness as children, we're depriving them of happiness as adults?... Many parents will do anything to avoid having their kids experience even mild discomfort, anxiety, or disappointment-- "anything less than pleasant"-- with the result that when, as adults, they experience the normal frustrations of life, they think something must be terribly wrong."

"A kid needs to feel normal anxiety to be resilient. If we want our kids to grow up and be more independent, then we should prepare our kids to leave us every day."

"The irony is that measures of self-esteem are poor predictors of how content a person will be, especially if the self-esteem comes from constant accommodation and praise rather than earned accomplishment... Research shows that much better predictors of life fulfillment and success are perseverance, resiliency, and reality-testing--qualities that people need so they can navigate the day-to-day."

I hope that you find these ideas good food for thought. As always, your child is our number one priority at Devon. Your support and interest are highly valued and welcomed. Enjoy October!

Tom Tobin

Mark the Date

Monday, Oct. 10, 2011

- No students report

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011

- 1st Grade Franklin Institute Assembly

Wed., Oct. 19, 2011

- PTO Mtg 9:30 a.m.

Thurs., Oct. 20, 2011

- Mark Kistler Assemblies "How to Draw in 3-D" 9:05; 10:00

Friday, Oct. 21, 2011

- **6:00 Devon Fall Festival**

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011

- GR 3 Field Trip- Churchville Nature Center

Monday, October 31, 2011

- **2:15 Halloween Parade**

LOVE IN ACTION AT DEVON

Love in Action is a Devon Elementary PTO-sponsored committee that is dedicated to supporting Devon families during difficult times. For example, in the unfortunate event that a Devon parent or child is ill for a lengthy period, the Love in Action committee can coordinate help for the family, whether it is providing nourishing meals, assisting with errands or giving rides.

Because protecting a family’s privacy is paramount, the Love in Action Committee is very sensitive to an individual family’s needs. On the other hand, we want to spread the word about Love in Action so that we can make sure Devon families are being helped during a time of need. So if you know of a family who could benefit from the support of Love in Action, please reach out to the family to see if they would be interested in learning more about Love in Action, and with their permission, please contact the Love in Action Chair, Stephanie Thibault at 610-725-8922 or stef423@verizon.net. Alternatively, a family can contact Stephanie directly.

Thank you for support of Love in Action!

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' ...



A Few Eco Water Tips:

- *Never send water down the drain when there may be another use for it. If you run water to get it cold for drinking or hot for washing dishes or showering, capture the water to use for watering your plants.*
- *Keep drinking water in a pitcher in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.*
- *Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush instead of letting the water run. Save this water for your houseplants or landscape.*
- *Use a container to save the water left over from drinking glasses or water bottles to use for watering your plants.*
- *Do not use water to defrost frozen foods. Instead, thaw in the refrigerator overnight.*
- *Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.*
- *Operate the washing machine & dishwasher only when completely full.*

<http://www.watersavers.com/pbj/eco-facts.php>

Have a question, idea or suggestion? Please e-mail Heather Hill at globularclusters@yahoo.com – thank you!

Box Tops for Education



the difference
1 can make.

Hi Everyone! Just a reminder to become a member at Boxtops4education.com. When you log on, you will learn about Box Tops products, contests and easy ways to earn money for Devon. There is currently a contest to win 30,000 Bonus Box Tops if you participate between now and November 6, 2011.

You can also track Devon Elementary School's earnings progress, earn cash for our school when you shop online and print valuable coupons for Box Tops products.

Please check out the Box Tops website at www.boxtops4education.com, for a list of the hundreds of products that carry the Box Tops Coupons. Please contact Suzanne Emerson, Box Tops Coordinator, at sea4@verizon.net if you have any questions.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Devon Kindergartners had a super September! The students have learned their way around the school, made new friends, and practiced the classroom routines. We've been learning about building a classroom community and the children are really enjoying getting to know one another. During our *Journeys: Flying into Kindergarten* theme, we read wonderful stories and completed lots of fun follow-up activities. In language arts, we've begun our study of the alphabet. In math, we've been learning about shapes, numbers and patterns. In science, we had fun with a unit on the senses. We've been checking out books in the library, singing and dancing in music, drawing self-portraits in art, and playing fun games in the gym. The children enjoyed celebrating the International Day of Peace on September 21st. Check out the *Peace in Kindergarten* display in our hallway! Our PATHS Kid of the Day poster presentations have begun as well. You can check out the students' posters in the hallway between the kindergarten classes and the art gallery. We've just started our new theme, *Amazing Autumn*, and have lots more fun and exciting learning planned!

The new **First graders** have been doing an outstanding job of adjusting to their new classrooms and teachers. We have worked on getting to know each other and have already made lots of new friends! Going from a half day to a full day is a big step and the students have persevered quite well. For the first few weeks of school, the five first grade classes have focused on learning classroom routines, procedures, and school rules such as: walking in the hallway, going to the cafeteria for lunch, solving problems using our Devon Pledge and the I-Care rules as a guide, choosing Just Right books for Reading Circle, and writing about our summer adventures. In math we have been making patterns, reviewing numbers, and we are beginning to talk about the concept of addition: joining two groups in different ways to make 6,7,8,9, 10, 11, and 12. We have blasted off with our solar system unit in Science and have re-entered the Earth's atmosphere for our community lessons in Social Studies. Our first grade teachers have been elated to have such wonderful students thus far!

Fall is here and **Second grade** is bustling! In social studies we have begun our unit on dinosaurs. We will spend time as paleontologists and dig for fossils in dinosaur eggs. New dinosaurs are being discovered through our invent-a-saurus projects. During our "Big Mac" lab time, we are learning about dinosaurs by visiting websites and going on a scavenger hunt. We will research many dinosaurs and find out many interesting facts. Our field trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences will provide us with hands on discoveries through a dinosaur dig. In science we are studying balancing and weighing. We have learned about the beam and equal arm balance and how weights and a fulcrum help objects to balance. Creating a mobile was lots of fun and provided students the opportunity to use what they learned. Our Character Trait for October is Service Learning. Through our class meetings, we will be discussing the importance of helping those around us who are in need. We will have the opportunity to help by collecting for UNICEF. We are on our way to a school year filled with fun and adventure!

Welcome back for another great year at Devon ! **Third grade** has had a wonderful start to the new school year. We want to thank all the parents who were able to attend our Curriculum Night. We really appreciate all of your continued support. Every day the students are busy learning in all of their classes. During Math class, students have been working hard and learning about place value. Many parents may be happy to know that cursive handwriting instruction has begun. In Language Arts, the students are busy reading many wonderful stories with their reading groups and writing their own creative pieces. We have also begun growing our own plants in Science class where we will learn about the plant cycle, honeybees and pollination. Just a reminder, that third grade plant projects are due by December 5. In Social Studies, the students have become more familiar with maps and globes and we have begun our unit on Native Americans. The learning and fun never stops in 3rd grade! We're off to a great start! Students seem very enthusiastic about the year ahead of us. The third grade team is looking forward to motivating all students to have meaningful 3rd grade experiences.

Continued on Page 5

...continued from Page 4

Fourth grade is off to a great start. We've been busy reading, writing, and spelling in Language Arts. In Math, the classes are working on building number sense and, in several classes, working on place value concepts, too. Our first science unit, Electric Circuits, is electrifying! Fourth graders have been working with batteries, bulbs, and wires to create circuits and learn about conductors and insulators. We are using the scientific method regularly in the science lab. We are also learning about Thomas Edison and his hard work and perseverance to invent the incandescent lightbulb. We have begun our Global Studies unit with an introduction to the five countries of focus: Spain, India, France, England, and Brazil. We are studying the geography of these countries first. Additionally, we are working on other map skills, including a review of continents, oceans, latitudes, and longitudes. Throughout all areas, we are practicing listening and organization skills. We're busy with other exciting events too, like meeting our Kindi-buddies and celebrating the Constitution. We thank fourth grade parents for supporting our program on Curriculum Night...it was great to meet everyone. We are looking forward to a great year!



CALLING ALL BOOK-LOVING VOLUNTEERS

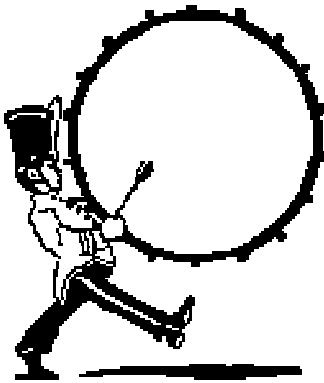
It's that time of year again – time for the Devon Dragon's Book Fair!

The book fair will be held Monday **November 7th** through **Thursday November 10th**. We need **LOTS** of volunteers to set up on Friday November 4th and to help with the fair throughout the week.

Fair hours will be announced soon but we will be open each day during school hours and a couple of evenings. Any time you can give will be appreciated!

A link through VolunteerSpot.com will be available soon.

Please contact Gina DeFlavia at deflavia@hotmail.com with any questions.



The Conestoga High School and the Marching Pioneers will host their Second Annual Cavalcade of Bands competition, **'Stoga Showcase of Sound, on Saturday, November 5, 2011**

starting in the late afternoon and ending by 10:00 p.m. More than twelve high school bands from Pennsylvania and New Jersey are already scheduled to perform on our very own Teamer Field at Conestoga. It will be an extravaganza of music and color guard performances, bringing over 1,000 people into the stands. Ticket information will be available shortly at stogamusic.com. If you or your organization would like to place an ad, make a donation, sponsor a trophy or any of the activities for the evening, OR if you would like to help out in any way, please contact Co-Chairs Joan Capolupo at jazcapsax@aol.com or Janet Fell at janet.fell@comcast.net. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to bring the whole family for an educational and enjoyable evening of musical entertainment.

Mileage Club –Sneaker Alert!

Mileage Club starts Wednesday, October 12th and runs every Mon., Wed., Fri. through October 28th. 1st through 4th graders will have the opportunity to walk, jog or run laps during their lunch recess time to earn Devon Dollars (for spending at the school store) and Toe Tokens at the end of the program. Please help your child remember their sneakers!! Any questions?? Contact Tina Verrelli or Annie Detwiler



Devon Dispatch Publication Schedule

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication</u>
10/14/11	10/21/11
10/28/11	11/04/11
11/11/11	11/18/11



Remember to visit the
T/E Bulletin Board at

www.tesd.net

For the latest news, events and announcements in our community. Its updated frequently so check back often.

Devon Dispatch

Editor/Layout

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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.

DELTA

(DISTRICTS LEARNING AND EDUCATING THROUGH THE ARTS)

comprised of the PTO Cultural Arts Committees of Radnor, Tredyffrin-Eastown and other area school districts and independent schools

presents



BALL IN THE HOUSE

All a cappella, but a sound that will amaze you

**November 4
at 7:00**

Valley Forge Middle School

Tickets: \$10

Go to www.artsdelta.net or use the form below

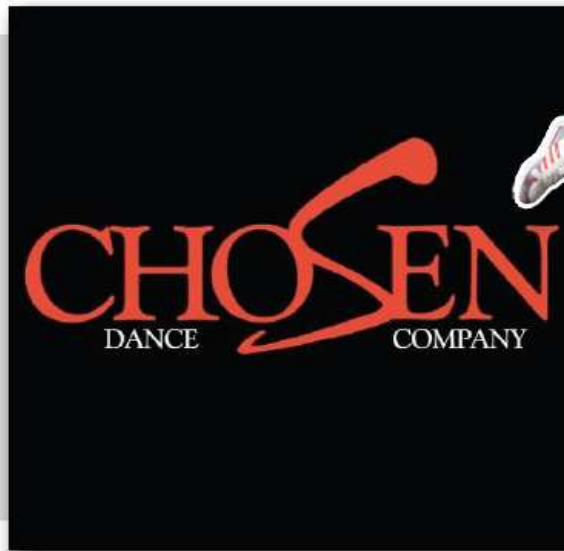
Chosen Dance Company

**MARCH 9, 2012
at 7:00**

Radnor Middle School

Tickets: \$10

Go to www.artsdelta.net or use the form below



TICKETS:

- Ball in the House..... _____ persons x \$10 per = _____
- Chosen Dance Company..... _____ persons x \$10 per = _____
- BOTH SHOWS! (\$16 for Ball and Chosen)..... _____ **persons x \$16 per = _____**
- Total Enclosed: _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____ Teacher _____

Return this form to school office in envelope marked "DELTA shows-PTO Cultural Arts." Checks payable to DELTA.

Use this form or go to www.artsdelta.net and click on "Buy tickets for a show."



B.U.I.L.D.

(Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences)

Welcomes you (and your student!) back to a new school year to look ahead to a talk on:

Support Services to College Students with Learning Challenges

**.Guest Speaker, Kira Branch, Regional Program Coordinator,
*A.H.E.A.D.D. (Achieving in Higher Education with Autism/
Developmental Disabilities) on***

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

VALLEY FORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDION

105 West Walker Road, Wayne, PA

Kira Branch works with AHEADD a private, community organization providing support services to individual students who are on the autistic spectrum, have ADHD, and/or learning disabilities to develop strategies to manage their college careers and live independently. Initially supporting students at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, AHEADD provides coaching, mentoring and personal advocacy services through professional staff involvement, and development of campus and community support networks at colleges throughout the country. Visit their website at www.aheadd.org. Kira graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently pursuing her PsyD at La Salle University.

Please RSVP by October 3, 2011 to any of the following::

Wendy Brooks: wenobrooks@aol.com

Michele Lynch: rlynch610@verizon.net

Susan Peterman: shpeterman@yahoo.com

STAY TUNED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL GATHERING AT WILSON FARM PARK!!!