

A Message from Tewksbury Elementary School

September

A New School Year

Superintendent's Office

439-2010 x224

William Petrick

Interim Superintendent

Tewksbury Elementary
School

James Miller

Principal

Eileen Callahan

Principal's Secretary

Amy Malzone

School Secretary

Emergency Closing Info

*Tune in to 101.5 or
call 439-2010 Press 5*

Or check:

www.weatherclosings.com

*Request Tewksbury,
NJ*

Report an absence by
9AM

832-2594 x2



Welcome to a New School Year

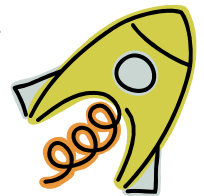
I would like to welcome everyone in the Tewksbury Elementary School community to the 2008-2009 school year. Although every school year has a number of similar aspects to it, each, however, is distinct as we welcome new students, staff members, programs, and new objectives. In the remaining part of this newsletter I would like to share information that highlights some of the unique aspects of the new school year. As always, I would encourage you to be involved as much as your schedule allows. We enjoy having parents as a part of our school community. Your children enjoy it as well! See you at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 25th, at 7:00 PM in our Cafetorium.

- Jim Miller, Principal

Programs

TECHNOLOGY: Our computer lab in the Library/Media Center was upgraded during the summer months. We are very pleased to have new Dell PCs and a printer available for Computer classes with Mr. Rehrig and also for scheduled lab periods when classroom teachers can use the computer lab for additional research, class projects and remedial/enrichment software.

ROCKET MATH: This is a supplement to our math program and emphasizes the acquisition of math facts in an individualized manner. The goal is for students to develop automaticity in their ability to recognize grade level facts. One of the unique aspects of this material is that it takes in account a student's handwriting speed.



ODYSSEY OF THE MIND: Our Odyssey of the Mind program, coordinated by Regina DeStefano, will officially kick off next week with a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM in our Library/Media Center. Interested students are invited to attend one of two "practice" sessions to see what OM is all about. Each of these sessions will be held on October 2nd and 3rd from 3:30 to 4:45 PM. A flyer with details and a permission slip was sent home on September 17th for you to give permission for your child to stay for one of these "practice" meetings. The permission slip is due back on September 30th.

2008-2009 School Goals

Goal 1:

All students in grades one to four will develop mastery in their knowledge of mathematical facts at their respective grade levels. The target goal for each grade level will be that 92% of all students will reach mastery on an assessment of facts relative to grade level benchmarks.

Goal 2:

All students in grades 1 through 4 will demonstrate improvement in non-fiction writing. This is the second year of a two-year objective. The first year was devoted to staff development, analyzing grade level writing curricula and assessment data along with the development of an assessment tool for non-fiction writing. After analyzing the results of at the end of the year (2007-2008) and a September (2008) assessment, a non-fiction writing assessment target goal will be determined for the second year of the objective.

www.tewksburyschools.org

Please check our website, www.tewksburyschools.org, on a regular basis. It has information on our new Honeywell Messaging System, the district calendar, the lunch menus, news and events, and links to the Tewksbury Educational Foundation, the PTA, the Tewksbury Athletic Association, the Hunterdon County YMCA, and much more.

New Staff Members:

We are very pleased to welcome new staff members at Tewksbury Elementary School. They are:

Debbie McKenna, Second Grade Teacher: Debbie has been a Special Education Instructional Aide at each grade level K-8 in our district. She assumes the role of Second Grade Classroom teacher. Mrs. McKenna holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Ohio Wesleyan University. Debbie lives in Tewksbury with her husband, Peter, and her dog, Lizzie. Her twin sons, Will and Charlie attend respectively Lehigh and Elon University. Mrs. McKenna's daughter Kate lives in Manhattan and her daughter Sarah lives in Arizona. Mrs. McKenna is an avid gardener and spends summers on a tiny island off the coast of Connecticut.

Kimberly Hill, Fourth Grade Teacher: Kim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and Music from the College of New Jersey. Kim is also the Director of Music at the Whitehouse United Methodist Church. Kim has previous experience teaching in Readington Township. Miss Hill lives in Annandale. She loves to read, play the flute, and sing.

Megan Verderamo, Second Grade Teacher: Megan was Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008 at the Spruce Run School in Clinton Township and previously worked in the Montgomery School District. Megan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Centenary College in Psychology/Elementary Education with a certificate in Special Education. Megan lives in Clinton with her husband, Richard, a second grade teacher in Clinton Township, their 18 month old son, Trey and their cat Ed.

Susan Stecker, Speech Teacher: Susan is a graduate of East Stroudsburg and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology and a Master of Science degree in Speech/Language Pathology. She lives in Philipsburg with two cats, Bear and Prince. Ms. Stecker loves horseback riding, skiing, and snowboarding. She is an avid skydiver.

Staff Information Continued from Page 2:

Kathie Natale, Kindergarten Instructional Aide: Kathie joins us after being a substitute teacher in the district for several years. Kathie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education with teacher certification for K through 12 from The College of St. Elizabeth. Kathie resides in Tewksbury with her husband, Carmen, and her fifth grader, Andrew.

Diana Fiore, Spanish Teacher: Diana will come over from OTS with Katrina Moore to teach 1st grade Spanish. She received a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Communications from Rutgers University and currently lives in Flanders with her husband and five month old daughter, Angela. Diana enjoys dancing, cooking and writing. She is originally from Venezuela.

Diane Fortino, Kindergarten Special Education Instructional Aide: Diane has been in the district for one year. Last year she was with the Pre-K program at OTS. She lives in Clinton Township with her husband, Michael, and her son, Domenic. Her son Michael is at Cornell University and her daughter Dana is at Montclair State University. Mrs. Fortino has a Portugese Water dog, named Sonny.

Barbara Tosco, Basic Skills Instructor: We are pleased to have Mrs. Barbara Tosco with us during the morning hours as she provides basic skills instruction in the area of language arts and math. Mrs. Tosco continues to teach in the Pre-School program at Old Turnpike School in the afternoon.

Maximizing Instructional Time

Each year our teachers are challenged to maximize the use of time dedicated to instruction in order to provide a comprehensive education program. To provide them with the best opportunity to do this, we seek to create a climate that minimizes interruptions. Studies indicate that if a class is interrupted during instructional time by a phone call or a visitor, it can take up to 8 minutes for students to get back on task. Therefore, to minimize interruptions, we are implementing the following procedures:

Any lunches/other items dropped off for students in the morning will be brought to the student's classroom if they are dropped off prior to 10:30 AM. After 10:30, lunches will be dropped off in the Cafetorium for pick up during their lunch period.

Instruments for 4th graders that are dropped off will be held in the office for the student to pick up prior to going to instrumental instruction. Students who have forgotten instruments will know this procedure and after calling home will be able to come to the office later to pick them up.

Birthday treats and snacks will also be held in the office for the student to pick up as previously arranged by the parent and teacher.

If a note regarding dismissal has been forgotten, the parent /guardian should call the office. The office staff will write down who is added to the pick up list. Prior to dismissal, fourth grade student messengers will bring updated pick up lists to the classrooms.

In order to maximize teaching/learning time, the office staff will be working hard to minimize calls and unscheduled visits to the classrooms. The office staff will ask you the nature of your visit when you sign in. You will be welcome to go to the classrooms if you have been asked to be a volunteer or prearranged with the teacher for attending a special function.



WINTER CONCERTS

WE ARE PLANNING THE WINTER CONCERTS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

3RD AND 4TH GRADES: 9:15 AM

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADES: 10:30 AM

Parents, please review the playground rules with your children:

Stay with Adults

If you can't see them, they can't see you

Stay within play areas

Do NOT play in the woods

Always Wear Proper Footwear and Clothing

No flip-flops on the equipment

No scarves, ties or long hanging jewelry

Follow Equipment Rules

Down the slide

Swing on your bottom

Do NOT sit on top of the monkey bars

Stay a safe distance away from the swings

Everyone Care for the Playground

and treat it with Respect

No rocks or sticks on the playground

Balls, Frisbees, jump ropes and running games in the field area only

Take Turns

One at a time on slides and swings

Be alert and Watch out for others

You will use Gentle Hands

No pushing, tackle games, hitting, or punching

Dates to Remember:

Our district calendar is available at www.tewksburyschools.org.

9/25/08 - Back to School Night - 7:00 PM - TES Cafetorium

**9/30/08 - Odyssey of the Mind Parent Meeting - 7:00 PM - in the
TES Library**

**10/03 and 10/04/08 - Odyssey of the Mind "Practice" Sessions - 3:30
to 4:45 PM in the TES Library**

