

Parent-Teacher Organization

Fostering the relationship between school, community and home for the academic success of all our students

UPCOMING DATES:

- Jan. 29: Velasquez Coffee
Feb. 1: PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 4: State of School address
Feb. 5: Maskenball online auction opens
Velasquez Coffee
Feb. 12-15: No School
Feb. 14: Last day for tickets!
Feb. 18: Maskenball online auction closes, 6pm
Feb. 20: Maskenball!
Mar. 1: PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 19: Family Game Night



Featured Maskenball Raffle:

Teacher/Staff Getaway Package!
Enter your child's teacher or favorite TCGIS staffer to win a two-night getaway at the Deutsche Strasse B&B in historic New Ulm, MN. All TCGIS and Kinder Klub staff are eligible; multiple entries are allowed! Tickets go on sale Feb. 8 and are just \$2 each. For details, check out the online Maskenball auction catalog at www.maskenball2010.org.



ABOUT THE TCGIS PTO:

PTO meetings are on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all and any parent or teacher can join as a voting member. Sign up at a meeting or by emailing PTO secretary Liane Gale, liane.gale@gmail.com.

To learn more, visit the PTO website at www.tcgispto.org.

Meeting Notice: Feb. 1, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for the next PTO meeting on Monday, February 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the school. Topics will include a year-to-date PTO self-assessment, funding priorities, spring clean-up/fix-up planning, and naturally a reminder to buy your Maskenball tickets. Email president@tcgispto.org no later than Friday, January 29, if you would like childcare during the meeting.

Because your PTO president has been reading "How to Make Your PTO Meeting More Fun" tips on the *PTO Today* website, this meeting will also feature a book swap. So bring along a recent good read to trade!



It's hard to believe, but this will be the very last PTO newsletter dedicated to



Maskenball!

February 20, 2010 – Wabasha Street Caves

Last Day to Buy Tickets at School: Thurs., 02/11

Last Day to Buy Tickets Online: Sunday, 02/14

The silent auction is now online! View all of the wonderful donations we've received from businesses, arts organizations, parents, and friends of TCGIS at www.maskenball2010.org. Bidding opens on **Friday, February 5** and closes on **February 18**. In addition to bidding enthusiastically on auction items, you can sign up for many of our Group Events on a "first come, first served" basis starting February 5—no bidding required. We will continue to add new items as donations arrive, so check the catalog frequently. Please try to submit your auction items by February 11 as a kindness to our hardworking auction committee.

Buy your tickets today! Purchase tickets online at www.maskenball2010.org through **Sunday, February 14**. After that you're out of luck, so don't delay!

Donate to the Wall of Wine! We still need 40 bottles of wine for our Maskenball Wall of Wine raffle. Committee members will be on hand to accept your wine donations at next week's State of the School meeting.

PTO Committee Updates:

Classroom Support Committee, Chair: Kami Blackwell Kinney

Many parents donated generously to fund a farewell outing for our hardworking fall Amity interns. The interns enjoyed dinner and a performance of "Rock and Roll" at the Park Square Theater. Thanks, parents! Thanks, interns!

Education Support Committee, Chair: Lisa Friedman

- We are expanding our "Greening Initiative" to include a pilot food recycling program in the lunchroom, to launch in mid to late February. Parent Janet Lenius is coordinating with Barthold Recycling to pick up our kids' lunchtime food waste and deliver it to hungry pigs. Parent volunteers will be needed to help the kids learn to sort their food waste, so watch for your chance to sign up.
- We are working on plans for a Spring Clean-Up and Fix-Up during Spring Break, in consultation with Annika, the Facilities Committee, and school staff. We will need crew chiefs, workers, and handy people of all kinds to help. More info to come!
- Many thanks to the parents and staff who jump-started our school's beautification by hanging our kids' art in the upstairs hallway: *Ursula Hargens, Susan Kocher, Gina Vader, and Amy Lenburg*. Thanks as well to *Gina Vader, Silke Moeller, Nancy Bostrom, Heidi Zimmermann and Andrea Zibble*, who did a great job sorting, dusting, and organizing the lobby and front office in preparation for this week's visit to TCGIS by Rep. Alice Hausman.

Education Support Committee, cont'd

- A number of TCGIS parents have recently attended school fairs and conducting tours for prospective families during this all-important recruitment season: *Julie Elias, Chris Weimholt, Kim Kompel, Gina Vader, Susan Schellenberg, Britta Walker, Barbara Holmes, Linda Michel, and Lisa Friedman.* Danke, danke, one and all!

Parent Outreach Committee, Chair: Britta Walker

- The POC is helping to organize childcare and refreshments for next week's State of the School Address on Thursday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the school. Watch for more information on how to sign up for childcare.
- Mark your calendars for a Family Game Night on March 19. Bring a favorite game and a snack to share, and help transform the school into family playspace for the evening!
- The POC is pitching ideas for a low-key, community/parent get-together in April or May. Contact Britta Walker if you'd like to help plan something fun, easy and inexpensive.

Fundraising Committee, Co-Chairs: Leslie Watson & Heidi Zimmermann.

Our sights are fixed on Maskenball at the moment, but we are also looking at ways to streamline fundraising for the rest of this year and into next. We are tentatively discussing the possibility of foregoing the Rummage Sale to focus our energy on the school wide clean-up and fix-up during Spring Break. We're also taking a hard look at eliminating many of our smaller fundraisers next year, and relying instead on just a few larger efforts to fund PTO activities. Have an opinion? Let us know!

TCGIS PTO MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 1, 2010

6:30 to 8:00 p.m. – TCGIS

Call Leslie's cell phone, 612-275-6225, if the door is locked.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 29, if you need childcare.

Time	Business	Discussion Leader
6:30 to 6:35 p.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Business and Approval of Agenda• Approval of January minutes	<i>Leslie Watson</i>
6:35 to 6:45 p.m.	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review 2009-2010 Balance Sheet	<i>Molly McBeath</i>
6:45 to 6:50 p.m.	School Board Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1/26 School Board meeting highlights	<i>Kim Kompel, TCGIS Board's Parent Liaison</i>
6:50 to 7:05 p.m.	YTD Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach/Community Efforts• Classroom Parent program• Fundraising• Education Support	<i>Committee Chairs</i>
7:05 to 7:35 p.m.	Spring 2010 Work Plan Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding Priorities• Rummage Sale / Spring Clean-Up• Greening Initiative• Playground? Others?	<i>Leslie</i>
7:35 to 8:00 p.m.	Looking ahead to 2010-2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget priorities / Fundraising goals• Leadership transition	<i>All</i>
8:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming PTO Meeting Topics

March 1	Parent discussion with Annika Fjelstad; topic TBA
April ____	Review draft 2010-2011 budget and work plan; consider funding requests. (Meeting date TBA--rescheduled due to spring break.)
May 3	Officer elections; approve 2010-2011 work plan, calendar and budget; consider funding requests.
June 7	Final PTO Meeting of the year! New parent welcome and volunteer appreciation.