

# Parent-Teacher Organization

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

## UPCOMING DATES:

- Nov. 2: PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Velasquez Coffee AM
- Nov. 15: Latin Dance Class
- Nov. 20: Velasquez Coffee AM
- Nov. 21: Community Craft & Bake Sale
- Nov. 23: Last day to order Equal Exchange chocolate
- Dec. 1: Strudel Sale begins
- Dec. 4: Velasquez Coffee AM
- Dec. 7: PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8: Equal Exchange chocolate delivery
- Dec. 17: Strudel delivery
- Dec. 18: Velasquez Coffee AM

## THANK YOU, PTO VOLUNTEERS!

### **Auflauf Committee:**

Renee Moelders, Michelle Sheire, Gina Vader, Leslie Watson, Heidi Zimmermann.

### **TCGIS Zen Cart Figurer-Outer:**

Leslie Watson

### **Staff Photo Directory Makers:**

Jesse Zibble, Leslie Watson, Lisa Antony-Thomas

## ABOUT THE TCGIS PTO:

*PTO meetings are open to all and any parent or teacher is eligible to join as a voting member. Membership also means inclusion in the PTO e-mail list, which helps you to keep abreast of the many PTO volunteer activities at the school. Sign up at any meeting or by emailing PTO secretary Liane Gale, liane.gale@gmail.com.*

## Meeting Notice: Nov. 2, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for the next PTO meeting on Monday, November 2, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the school. Email [president@tcgispto.org](mailto:president@tcgispto.org) no later than Friday, October 30, if you would like childcare during the meeting.

## Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Please watch your kids' backpacks for the UNICEF trick-or-treat box coming home this week, and help them remember to bring it along on their Halloween outing. Boxes should come back to school on Monday, November 2, for tallying. More details in the attached flyer. Thanks to Ursula Hargens and our 5<sup>th</sup>-graders for organizing this effort to encourage our kids to do something sweet for others this Halloween.

## Congratulations Auflauf Winners!

We were knee deep in noodles at the first-ever Auflauf competition on Friday, October 23. Kitty van Hofwegen (mom to Ava, 2B) won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Vegetarian category for her "Curry 'Chicken' Broccoli" and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the International category with her "Taco Pie." Silke Moeller (Till, 4) also earned a 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Inter-



national with "Oma Anne's Auflauf," while Carmen Dahlberg (Flannery, 2A), took home 1<sup>st</sup> in American Traditional with "Penne Pasta Hotdish." In a clean sweep, Kitty's Taco Pie also earned both the Grand Prize and the People's Choice award! She and our other winners have promised to share their recipes, so watch the PTO website for updates.

Congratulations to Gina Vader, Sue Westacott, and Ursula Hargens, who won Honorable Mentions for their creations. And thanks to everyone who organized, competed, judged, cleaned up, and ate hot dish!

### **Special thanks to our Auflauf celebrity judges:**

**Erich & Joanne Christ**, owners of the Black Forest Inn; **Marko Fields**, Resident Artist and faculty member, Concordia University; **Lübbert Kruizenga**, President, German American Chamber of Commerce; **Andrew Oxenham**, Board Chair; and **Julian Oxenham**, TCGIS 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

**To Ursula Hargens**, for creating a lovely, hand-crafted Auflauf traveling trophy.

**And to our event volunteers:** Lisa Antony-Thomas, Xenia Kramer, Molly McBeath, Silke Moeller, Tina Pfitzenmaier, Karola Rauer, Ariane Racz, Anne Wissman, and the Auflauf Committee.

## Calling all Crafty Folk: Craft & Bake Sale is Nov. 21

Contact Heidi Zimmermann, [hzimmermann22@yahoo.com](mailto:hzimmermann22@yahoo.com), if you would like to donate a craft item or baked good to the sale. Details can be found in the attached flyer.

## Now online: The TCGIS PTO Storefront

Please visit our new online store at [www.tcgispto.org/zencart](http://www.tcgispto.org/zencart), where you can place online fundraiser orders or buy tickets for PTO events and pay conveniently using your credit card or Paypal account. Friends, family, and other TCGIS supporters are welcome to support us by shopping online. **Current PTO fundraisers:**

**Equal Exchange:** Chocolate, nuts and tea—see the accompanying flyer and catalog.

**Salsa Dance Class, 11/15:** Tickets now on sale—space is limited! TCGIS parent and dancer Berymar Funk will lead us through Latin Dance basics in this workshop. See the accompanying flyer for more information.

**Velasquez Coffee** Now you can conveniently order this wonderful fair-trade coffee online, even if you don't regularly stop by our biweekly coffee stand in the school lobby.

**Still available: Blue Sky Guide.** On sale in the office--\$20 per book; tons of savings!

# Greening Initiative Takes Shape

The PTO's Education Support Committee has been working to develop a greening initiative to help improve some of our school's environmental habits. As a first step, we have recruited our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to spearhead a school-wide paper, can and bottle recycling, with help from every classroom. More plans are in the works, but we need your help! Please email Committee Chair Lisa Fiedman, [lfriedman@uuma.org](mailto:lfriedman@uuma.org), to join the Committee.



And speaking of greening, at our December meeting the PTO will welcome guest speaker Neely Crane-Smith, Community Energy Coordinator for the Center for Energy & the Environment, who will give us some practical tips and inspirational advice on ways that kids and adults can work together to reduce our carbon output at home.

## TCGIS PTO MEETING AGENDA

Monday, November 2, 2009

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

*Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, October 30, if you need childcare!*

*(If you arrive after 6:30 pm and encounter a locked door, call Leslie's cell phone: 612-275-6225.)*

Time	Business	Who?
6:30 to 6:35 p.m.	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Business and Approval of Agenda</li> <li>Approval of October minutes</li> </ul>	Leslie Watson
6:35 to 6:40 p.m.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on fundraiser outcomes, ytd</li> </ul>	Molly McBeath
6:40 to 6:45 p.m.	<b>Teacher Check-in</b>	Michelle Nellis
6:45 to 6:55 p.m.	<b>School Board Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/27 Board meeting highlights</li> <li>Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	Kim Kompel, TCGIS Board's Parent Liaison
6:55 to 7:35 p.m.	<b>PTO Board &amp; Standing Committee Updates.</b> <i>Please review Committee reports prior to meeting and come prepared with any questions.</i>	
	<b><u>PTO Board</u></b>	Leslie Watson
	<b><u>Fundraising Committee</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the new PTO online store</li> <li>Maskenball – FAQ on auction solicitations</li> </ul>	Leslie Watson & Heidi Zimmermann, Co-Chairs
	<b><u>Classroom Support Committee</u></b>	Kami Blackwell Kinney, Chair
	<b><u>Educational Support Committee</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greening Initiative</li> </ul>	Lisa Friedman, Chair
	<b><u>Parent Outreach Committee</u></b>	Britta Walker, Chair
7:35 to 8:00 p.m.	Feedback/Q&A/check-in/brainstorming/general conversation about PTO projects and possibilities	
8:00 p.m.	<b>Adjournment</b>	

**Next PTO Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Special guest: Neely Crane-Smith, Community Energy Coordinator for the Center for Energy & the Environment*