



traverse mountain elementary TIGER TIMES

ISSUE 4 • JANUARY 2011

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- January 12th School Community Council Meeting—3:30pm
- January 14th PTA Meeting—1:00pm
- January 17th NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 18th-28th Small Smiles Bookmobile
- January 21st 6th Grade Ski Day
- January 26th-27th Student-Led Parent Teacher Conferences
- January 24th-28th Book Fair

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

Many of you are aware that we are implementing The Leader in Me components into our school. Our faculty received some training at the beginning of the school year and will have another training day in March. A group of teachers also attended an implementation training last month. We are very excited to proceed through the new year continuing to implement strategies and developing our school culture to instill in all children the qualities associated with The Leader in Me process.

Indicators of success with The Leader in Me include:

- Improved student achievement
- Significantly enhanced self-confidence and esteem in students
- Dramatic decreases in discipline problems
- Impressive increases in teachers' and administrators' job satisfaction and commitment.
- Greatly improved school culture
- Parents who are delighted and engaged in the process
- Business and community leaders who want to lend support.

From Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits, The Leader in Me intertwines these habits into our daily practices at the school. We are truly building students to become leaders of their own future. The habits are:

- Be Proactive (You're in Charge)
- Begin with the End in Mind (Have a Plan)
- Put First things First (Work First, Then Play)
- Think Win-Win (Everyone Can Win)
- Seek First to Understand then to be Understood (Listen)
- Synergize (Together is Better)
- Sharpen the Saw (Balance Feels Best)

Please be sure to be proactive in getting online to schedule your parent conferences for either January 26 or 27th. The online scheduler link will be active on our school's website starting Monday, January 10th.

Best wishes for a great new year!

David Stephenson
 Principal





LEFT:
The Kindergarten classes participated in The Polar Express. They had a great time during this fun Christmas activity.



RIGHT:
Our Preschool class enjoyed jumping on the Polar Express train during a fun activity.



LEFT:
The 6th Grade performs at the Christmas Sing.

BELOW:
The 6th Grade has many great artists! Their Egyptian masks are currently displayed in the case next to the gym entrance.



Thanks to all that turned in Box Tops over Nov and Dec. Mrs. Grimes hard work has paid off! They WON the pizza party! Her class turned in 938! WOW! Way to go guys!

We had a our very first parent winner! April Marshal turned in a whopping 457 BT just in 2 months! (Thats why Mrs Grimes won!) Here she is pictured with the awesome gift basket and gift card from Rod Works!! How did she collect so many?? When ever possible April tries to purchase products with Box Tops. She also has recruited Grandma that lives out of state to help collect! Very smart! To help decide which child gets to turn in BT; well, they get take turns.Thanks for your hard work April! Awsome job!

We still have some great prizes planned for the next parent that can turn in the most BT. Up nexted \$25.00 gift card to Lavish Looks here on Traverse Mountain. Make sure you write your name and number on every baggie or collection sheet turned in

Stats : We turned in 15625 for a grand total of \$1562.50 for the year! Remember our yearly goal is \$2000. We are less then \$500.00 away!! Our first check is in the mail right now Whoot whoot!



LINK to collection sheet:
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=51>

Congratulations to our Reflections Council Winners!
Grrrrreat Job, Tigers!

DANCE

- Primary—Sky Oaks
- Middle—Casee Salazar "Going Green"

THEATER

- Primary—Ben Ludlow
"The Forest Giants"
- Intermediate—Lindsey Burker
"We can do anything as long as we have faith, friends, hope and working hard"
- Middle—Allison Ludlow
"My main character discovers what together we can means"

VISUAL ARTS

- Primary—Kaleb Payne

3D ART

- Shaustia Isaacson

KNOWLEDGE BOWL
We need YOU! (parents AND students)

Do you know when the Civil War ended? Do you know who wrote the Federalist Papers? Do you know what Alexander Graham Bell was famous for? If you do (or if you want to learn), then Knowledge Bowl is for YOU. These questions are among the many that we will answer this year as we study HISTORY in the Alpine School District sponsored Knowledge Bowl. Knowledge Bowl is a five person team-based competition where our school competes head-to-head against other elementary schools.

Knowledge Bowl is a fun way for 5th and 6th grade students to learn important and interesting history in a fun competitive environment. Because of that, we really want to get a Knowledge Bowl team going for Traverse Mountain this year. We need 4 parent volunteers (coaches) to do that. The time commitment is 1 hour each week for 12 weeks (ending on March 18 with the competition) either before or after school.

If you are interested in becoming a parent volunteer or participating in Knowledge Bowl, please contact Cheryl Dominguez: Phone 801.610.8725 ext. 208. E-mail: domi103@alpine.k12.ut.us.

Did you know?

January 19th is National Popcorn Day!

Take Home Reading Info

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and that you were able to enjoy some reading time with your children over the holiday break. We hope you are enjoying reading the books that are coming home with your children from the take home reading program. We feel it is so important for parents and children to take time to read together. Since we are getting back into our school schedule this new year we have a few things we would like to make you aware of in regards to our program.

First of all, please remember to return the take home reading books you currently have so that we can switch them out for new books for your children to read. Also, if you lose a book and need to pay a replacement fee, please make the checks out to Traverse Mountain Elementary. And for your information, if a lost book that has been paid for is found and returned, we will reimburse your replacement fee in full. We know that the books often do turn up and we keep track of what has been paid so we can refund your money if we need to.

We've also had questions about the levels of books being sent home being either too easy or too hard for kids.

For parents who think that the books are too hard because the children don't know all the words or can't sound them out, don't be discouraged. These books are meant to be read together by children with their parents. Read the book to your child first pointing to each word. Then let your child read it to you pointing to the words. Also, let children use the pictures to figure out words. Learning to read using context clues and pictures is the same way the teachers teach them to read in the classroom.

For those who think the books being sent home are too easy – you are probably right. But the teachers pick a level or two lower from your child's abilities so that they can reinforce the things they already know and the kids can increase fluency and accuracy in their reading. They get faster and better at reading by using these easier books. Plus, because they have an easy time reading the books they are building strong confidence in their reading abilities.

I hope this information is helpful to you, but if you have any other questions please contact me and I will do my best to answer them. Thank you for your support of the take home reading program.

Rachelle Funk
801-407-6445 or rachelle@atomicsmurf.com

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the PTA members that helped with the 12 Days Before Christmas Break for our teachers and staff! Everything turned out great and it is because of you! We would also like to thank the following companies for their generous donations:

Ruby River
Chick-Fil-A
Megaplex
Every Body
El Pollo Loco

Texas Roadhouse
Rumbi Grill
Olive Garden
The Little Extras



BAND/ORCHESTRA

Strings for early birds will remain after school Monday and Tuesday. Strings for later gators will be after your session of school gets out on

Monday and Tuesday (M2:45-3:30 and T3:35-4:20). Band for early birds will remain after school on Wednesday and Friday. Band for later gators will be after your session of school gets out on Wednesday and Friday at 3:35-4:20.

If interested,
contact Mrs. Andrea Jones 801-636-3932

TESTING FOR ACCELERATED LEARNING LABS (A.L.L.) 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

A.L.L. Testing for 3rd through 6th Grades

Testing of 2nd grade through 5th grade students for consideration of placement in an A.L.L. will take place at the following testing sessions:

2/5/11 @ Highland Elementary (8-11am or 1-4pm)
2/12/11 @ Saratoga Shores Elem (8-11am or 1-4pm)
2/19/11 @ Suncrest Elementary (8-11am or 1-4pm)

Online Registration will be open until February 11. Applications for the testing will be available online at www.alpine.k12.ut.us.

There is a \$20 non-refundable fee for each test. Reduced fees will be handled at the PDC building in person.

DISTRICT MESSAGE

Communicating Concerns with Your Child's Teacher

When parents and educators work together in the best interest of students, good things happen. Building a relationship of trust is critical. Sometimes, there are concerns that parents have relative to their child's issues or perceptions with school. Here are a few suggestions that may help ensure that the parent/teacher relationship flourishes:

- **Be a partner with the teacher**
Don't approach the school with an angry or defensive attitude even if there have been problems in the past. Teachers and principals realize communication is an important part of their job and are willing to work out concerns and issues.
- **Get Comfortable within the school and with the teacher**
Join an activity or program for parents at the school: participate in activities at the school or volunteer in your child's classroom. PTA or the School Community Council are great ways to get involved in your school.
- **Feel free to make the first contact with the teacher**
Don't wait for the teacher to make the first contact—communicate with your teacher by phone, e-mail or in-person. Opportunities such as open houses, parent-teacher conference and meetings are available. Use resources such as a school handbook or directory, website or ask the teacher or principal to determine the best time and method to contact your child's teacher.
- **Communicative with the teacher early**
Don't wait until a concern is out of control. It is better to deal with issues immediately rather than waiting until the end of the quarter or trimester.
- **Communicate Often**
Regular and ongoing feedback is important!
 - *How to Communicate:* decide which communication method is easiest and most helpful (face-to-face meetings, phone calls, written notes, email, etc.) for both the teacher and you as a parent.
 - *What to Communicate:* parent and teacher should agree on what concerns or problems should be monitored. Examples include how well the child obeyed the teacher, the child's level of participation or specific information about homework assignments or test dates.
 - *How Often to Communicate:* use good judgment. Absolutely communicate when there is a concern or problem. However, be thoughtful of the time it takes the teacher to respond.
- **Follow through with what you said you would do**

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Traverse Tigers,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and that you all have enjoyed your winter break. December sure was magical around Traverse Mountain Elementary. We were able to raise \$1135.00 for the Make a Wish Foundation by participating in the Macy's Believe program, Provide Toys for children in need, and help two different families have a wonderful Christmas by doing an Angel Tree. With the help of our Teacher Appreciation Committee we were also able to provide the 12 Days of Christmas for our wonderful Teachers and Staff. They were also entered into a drawing each day for different gift certificates from local businesses. A Big thanks to Jenny Hester who headed it up as well as all of the other Parents and local Businesses that donated so much, making it an amazing experience for our Staff!!

As we start into the last half of our School year, I hope that we can continue to strive in making our School great by volunteering our time and energy in helping our Teachers in the classrooms. I believe that this is one of the best ways to show your students how much you care. Whether it is just a few hours each year or a few hours each week, every minute counts and is appreciated. We are currently looking for people who may be interested in serving on the PTA board during the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested, please contact me at Luvnbmom@msn.com.

Rikke Kotter

Traverse Mountain Elementary PTA President



LOOKING AHEAD

Minimal Monday
February 7th

2nd Grade
Breakfast of Champions
February 11th

Valentine Parties
February 14th

NO SCHOOL
Presidents Day
February 21st



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