



traverse mountain elementary

# TIGER TIMES

ISSUE 6 • MARCH 2011



## MARCH AT A GLANCE

March 2nd	Cookie Dough Orders Due
March 2nd	2nd Grade to Clark Planetarium
March 4th	9:15-9:45—1st Grade Breakfast of Champions
March 4th	6th Grade to Willowcreek Middle School
March 14th	NO SCHOOL—Snow Make-up Day
March 18th	1:30pm—SNAP Assembly
March 23rd	1:15pm—5th Grade Maturation Program
March 23rd	Preschool to Living Planet Aquarium
March 28th	Minimal Monday
March 29th	Cookie Dough Delivery

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Can you believe how quickly February flew by? The last three months of school always go by so quickly so let's get prepared to leave a great impact on high levels of academic learning balanced with worthwhile activities. Teachers and students are working harder than ever to achieve at the optimum level. Teachers are continuously analyzing student work and student data to plan the best lessons, to work with all students in small groups, and at times even one on one to hone those skills with which they need just a little more practice.

Just as important as the work they do here at school, is the work students can do at home. This is particularly helpful in the area of math. Anytime a student spends time talking about math, playing games that involve math, or just finding math in daily living can be a wonderful reinforcement and enrichment to what they have learned at school. When students spend extra time at home practicing math facts, it increases their automaticity. When students have spontaneity with addition/subtraction facts and multiplication/division facts it allows them to apply learned concepts to problem solving much easier. If students spend less time struggling with math facts, they can learn more content, which will boost their success in all areas of math.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the purchase of our WeatherBug weather station. We hope to get it installed soon. Besides the normal weather, we are excited about ways teachers will be able to use the data collected from the station in math and science lessons. Students will be able to analyze weather data, make charts and graphs, and really have a personal connection to something that they experience everyday, the weather. We sincerely appreciate a local software company, Doba, for "raising the mercury on our fundraising thermometer" by donating the last \$1500 needed to purchase the weather station.

Best wishes!

David Stephenson  
Principal



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# FEBRUARY PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

BELOW: 2nd Grade Breakfast of Champions



ABOVE: During our last professional development training on February 7th, we had various parents attend presentations by each grade level describing the collaboration efforts of our school. We thank the 30 parents and even one legislator that attended.

RIGHT: Stories about Horses and Chicks by two very happy 1st grade students.



## "March to School" with a Walking School Bus

If your neighborhood hasn't tried a Walking School Bus yet, March is the perfect month to begin. Just organize the students in your neighborhood to walk together to school. Parents can take turns being the "driver." The Walking School Bus keeps students safe by keeping them together and reducing the amount of cars around the school.

To keep students safe, make sure they know walking rules and traffic hazards and encourage them to respect those conditions. Students can be safe when walking and biking to school by doing the following:



- Follow the safest routes on your school's SNAP map.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike. Make sure the helmet has a safety certification and that it fits properly.
- Avoid ditches and be careful around rivers and streams. During spring, runoff water can make shallow rivers and creeks faster and deeper.
- In rainfall, hold your umbrella above eye level and look up. Don't allow the umbrella to block your view of traffic and signs. Use a bright umbrella as drivers' views are likely to be distorted by the rain.

More information about SNAP, including helpful tips, is available at [www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents](http://www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents).



## BOX TOPS FEBRUARY TOTALS

Overall class winner  
Mr. Van Orden  
609 Box Tops!

Kindergarten—Walker  
1st Grade—Grimes  
2nd Grade—Bair  
3rd Grade—Reeves  
4th Grade—Lewis  
5th Grade—Van Orden  
6th Grade—Dominguez

Keep it up!

# DISTRICT MESSAGE

## Alpine School District Bond Update

Since the bond passed in 2006, Alpine School District has grown by 9,820 students and is projected to grow an additional 10,000 students in the next five years.

As part of the bond process, the district has commenced the process of determining what growth and capital needs projects should be included and the amount the bond will need to be to cover their cost. Research is being conducted and a survey is underway.

Public meetings will be held during the months of April and May to receive public feedback on the bond proposal. We invite you to attend to learn more about the bond and to offer input.

SCC/PTA input meetings will be held at the cluster high schools on the following dates and times:

American Fork High School Cluster—April 20 from 1-2 p.m.  
Lehi High School Cluster—April 20 from 1-2 p.m.  
Lone Peak High School Cluster—April 26 from 10-11 a.m.  
Mountain View High School Cluster—April 26 from 10-11 a.m.  
Orem High School Cluster—April 22 from 10-11 a.m.  
Pleasant Grove High School Cluster—April 22 from 10-11 a.m.  
Timpanogos High School Cluster—April 28 from 10-11 a.m.  
Westlake High School Cluster—April 28 from 10-11 a.m.

Community input meetings will be held in the evenings at the below secondary schools throughout the district:

May 4, 7 p.m.: Mountain View High School  
May 11, 7 p.m.: Willowcreek Middle School  
May 12, 7 p.m.: American Fork Junior High

We encourage and invite the participation and feedback of our Alpine School District community and stakeholders as we assess the needs of our ever-growing district. The capital needs assessment will not only deal with growth but also address aging facilities, safety and program concerns in all areas of the district.

## Alpine School Records Destruction Notice

Alpine School District is required to give public notice before destroying archived special education records. If you were born between January 1, 1984 and December 31, 1985, received special education services through Alpine School District, and want to claim your records before they are destroyed, please contact Lacey Jackson 801-610-8461 before Friday, November 11, 2011. Records will be destroyed December 30, 2011.

Dear Traverse Tigers,

Wow, can you believe we only have 3 months of school left? This year is sure blowing by quick! We have a few exciting PTA events coming up next month!

On April 4th at 10:30 we will have a talent show. Kids can try out the week before on March 28th. The auditions will be after school and will be in front of a panel of judges that have no affiliation to our school. They will pick the best ones to participate. Look for more details to come.

On April 22nd we will have our first TRYathlon!! This will be an event focused entirely on fitness! Our goal is for the kids to TRY their best and to have fun while they do it!! Because this is not a fundraiser, we are looking for businesses to help! We are hoping for 10 businesses to sponsor us by donating \$300.00, in return the business will receive their logo on the back of our t-shirts as well as the ability to hang a banner at the event and pass out flyers. Please contact us at [TraverseMountainPTA@gmail.com](mailto:TraverseMountainPTA@gmail.com) if you can help or if you have connections! We are also having a TRYathlon planning meeting on March 10th at 1pm at the school! We would love your help!

On March 11th we will have a special General PTA meeting at 1pm where we will elect the executive board for the 2011/2012 year and invite you to attend!

We are also looking to fill Board positions and committees for next year. It's always fun to be involved!! If you are interested please contact us at [TraverseMountainPTA@gmail.com](mailto:TraverseMountainPTA@gmail.com)



Rikke Kotter  
Traverse Mountain Elementary PTA President

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Kindergarten/Pre-K  
Breakfast of Champions  
April 1**

**Talent Show Assembly  
April 4**

**Spring Pictures  
April 6**

**4th Grade to Heritage Park  
April 8**

**NO SCHOOL—Spring Break  
April 11—15**

**TRY-athlon  
April 22**

**Community Council Elections  
April 25-29**

**Fine Arts Week  
April 25-29**



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