



TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL BACKPACK MAIL – issue 35 – May 1, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope many of you will make time to attend tonight's Taylor Art Fest from 6-8 pm. It promises to be a wonderful evening of fun. You will find the walls plastered with vibrant student art and the band and chorus performances are sure to thrill.

This week's issue has news about:

- Precautions we are taking to keep your kids healthy
- Celebrate 8 Shining Stars Dance
- Upcoming events including the chorus and band concerts
- Students of the month and week

Finally, I know there is a great deal of anxiety and concern for the health of our students in the face of the swine flu. We are in constant communication with district and state health officials about the situation. We currently have zero students with swine flu-like symptoms. But we do have a communicable disease protocol we are following if a child displays flu-like symptoms (see page 2). We strongly encourage our students and staff to wash their hands. If you would like to donate a bottle of hand sanitizer to your child's classroom, we would be happy to receive it. In the meantime, rest assured that we are actively monitoring our student's health and taking precautions to keep everyone safe.

Mike Bateson
Principal

Taylor Students Garner Honors

Our students have been quite busy earning state and regional honors in a variety of venues:

- **MESA** – our Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement team earned a **Third Place Trophy** in the recent State MESA Competition at the Convention Center. The team is coached by Ms. Sueann Miller
- **Band**– our band under the direction of Mrs. Gerri Reese-Smith placed **Fifth** among all middle schools in New Mexico in last weekend's state band competition in Los Lunas. This is our highest placement in recent memory.
- **Track and Field** – in our first year of completion, our students placed first in the city-wide APS Track Meet in the smaller schools' division. Congratulations to Coach Annamarie Andler and her boys and girls athletes.

It is wonderful to see the hard work and hours of practice pay such rich rewards for our students. Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians who have supported our boys and girls, coaches and teachers this year.

Celebrate 8 Planning Meeting!

Parents of eight graders need to help with the events schedule for 5-21-09. PTO is holding a special Celebrate 8 meeting Sunday May 3rd at 1:30PM at the Barnes and Nobles Cottonwood Corners Shopping Center 3701-A Ellison Drive NW. If you would like to help, but are unable to attend please contact Tanya Lattin at 319-1438 or Bryah909@aol.com

Students of the Week and Month!

Our *Taylor Students' of the Month for April* are:

- **8th Grade** – Yesenia Lopez and Jose Bueno
- **7th Grade** – Anthony Ruiz and Jessie Tietgens
- **6th Grade** – Sarah Roy and Alex Rodriguez

Our *Great Kid Students' of the Week* are:

- **8th Grade:** Maribel Chavez and Royce Alcocer
- **7th Grade:** Mayra Salguero and Wyatt Robledo
- **6th Grade:** Kevin Goodwin and Estrella Sedillo

Congratulations to our outstanding students and their proud parents and guardians. We have great kids at Taylor and we thank you for sending them to us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 1st** – Art Fest: 6-8 pm – fun for entire family!
- **May 5** – **DRESS DOWN DAY!**
- **May 5** – **Teacher Appreciation Day** – Luncheon provided by PTO. Mr. Bateson will be doing the grilling!
- **May 5** – Taylor Talent Show – two performances
- **May 5** – Chorus and 8th grade guitar concert – 7 pm in the gym (students need to report at 6:30)
- **May 8** – Great Kids Dance – 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Info on page 2
- **May 15** – Cliff's Field Trip (AM) Yearbook Signing (PM) – Parents who want to help with Cliff's must be finger printed and on file to go. Also, there is no room on the bus for parent volunteers. Sorry!
- **May 21** – Celebrate 8 Promotion Ceremony – 9 – 10:30 am in the Taylor Gym. The **Shining Stars Dance** is that evening from 6:30 – 8:30 in the Taylor Cafeteria.

APS Procedure for Dealing with Student who Exhibits Signs of a Communicable Disease

The APS Health and Wellness Office prepared the following protocol for schools in dealing with sick students. To date, no one has shown swine flu symptoms. We are working very hard to keep it that way! The protocol we are following goes like this:

1. Student exhibiting flu-like symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, or stuffy nose is sent to the school nurse.
2. Nurse examines student to determine if symptoms are consistent with swine flu or other communicable disease.
3. If yes, the nurse isolates the student and contacts the student's parent/guardian as well as the New Mexico Department of Health.
4. The student is sent home with a parent/guardian and advised to see a physician.
5. Physician takes a culture, which is sent to the state lab for testing.
6. If the test comes back positive for swine flu or another reportable communicable disease, the state notifies the child's doctor, parents and the APS Nursing Services, which will then notify the school. The school and school district work with the Department of Health and the Public Education Department in determining whether the school should be closed.
7. If the school dismisses, all school-related gatherings also will be cancelled and parents and students will be encouraged to avoid congregating outside the school or attending any other type of daycare services.
8. The Department of Health will make decisions regarding broader school dismissal within the district.
9. If there are no additional confirmed or suspected cases identified among students or school-based personnel for a period of seven days, schools may consider reopening after first consulting with the Department of Health.

Ultimately we hope we do not have any cases. In the meantime, make sure your children wash their hands frequently, cover their mouths when they sneeze, and get lots of sleep. If your child comes down with a bug – **please keep them home and go to the doctor.**

GREAT KIDS' DANCE – MAY 8

We have great kids at Taylor Middle School. That is no secret. Each day our teachers recognize the positive behavior and contributions of our students by use of a **Great Kid Award**. Because every great kid does not get recognition as a student of the week, we decided to do something extra for them. We are having a dance on Friday, May 8 from 5 to 7 pm in their honor. Every student who got a Great Kid Award is invited. There is no admission charge. The DJ is being provided by the PTO. Snacks and water are being provided by the school. Mrs. Green and Ms. Trujillo have graciously agreed to volunteer their time to help with the dance. Mrs. Meyer and I will be helping chaperone. If you would like to volunteer as a chaperone, please call Tanya Lattin 319-1438 or email her at bryah909@aol.com. Mrs. Beller-Hudgins has compiled a list of all great kids and this will be used to determine who gets in. If you have a question, please email her at beller-hudgins@aps.edu.

APES-PTA Clothing Bank Needs You!

As you may know the APES/PTA Clothing Bank is in dire financial straits. While they need clothing donations, they are desperate for CASH. We are all aware of the good work and service this organization provides for our students and their families. We request that you help the clothing bank if you can. All financial contributions are tax deductible. You may send checks to the Clothing Bank to the school and we will route them to the Bank.

Celebrate 8 Shining Stars Dance

Eighth graders are invited to celebrate their promotion on May 21 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The dance will be in our cafeteria. Students are expected to wear nice clothing.

The Principal's Corner with Mr. B

Have you ever had a **great** teacher? I have had numerous great teachers in my life. The first one was my tough-as-nails eighth grade teacher. Her name Miss Grace Klampe (not Ms, Miss thank you very much). She was as stern as a dried prune and as demanding as a drill sergeant but she could TEACH. She demanded respect and got it. She actually had to use the ruler across the knuckles for yours truly on one occasion when I was less than stellar in my behavior. But to this day I respect her. She wasn't warm and fuzzy but she taught me important lessons like personal responsibility and being accountable for my actions.

The next great teacher was my 9th grade English teacher, Mrs. Harmon. She was young, sweet, and beautiful – the antithesis of Miss Klampe – but she was also smart and literate and engaging. Where Miss Klampe made learning a duty to be honored, Mrs. Harmon made learning a journey of discovery to be relished. Of course I fell hopelessly in love with her in the way that only a 13 year old teenager can. Despite my boyhood crush, she did instill in me a love for English and it occurs to me that she may have influenced my decision to become an English teacher.

My final great teacher was my major professor and advisor in the graduate program for educational leadership – Dr. Ernest Noack. Ernie was Princeton-smart and Montessori-kind. He anchored many of his leadership courses around the work of Stephen Covey and he taught us that it is core principles that guide us in life. And like all the great teachers, he walked the talk. He made us feel like we could succeed as school leaders by his words spoken and written on the countless essays and projects we were expected to write. Never did he utter a discouraging word. Like all the great teachers in my life, he instilled confidence. There were many more influential teachers including my parents but that's next week's topic. **I honor these great teachers because next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. We have great teachers here at Taylor and we will honor them at our PTO Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday May 5.** I invite you to take time this week and recognize the teachers who have positively influenced you and your children- especially those here at Taylor. Remember – those who can – teach!