

Tillicum Middle School PTSA – January 2011

Note from the PTA President

Happy New Year to you and your family! I am hoping your students are enjoying their last weeks of their 1st Semester. The Second Semester starts on January 26th. Like the first day of school, there will be some PTA members handing out schedules to students on that day. Check your student's backpacks and see if they are needing new binders, pencils and other essentials to keep them successful at school.

I was so proud to be the VP of Programs for the Bellevue PTSA Council's Reflections Program that finished off a great week at Crossroads Mall on January 5-9th. A special congrats to Ally Park, who's work won high praises and is now off to compete State Wide!! A special thanks to Jodene Rolfe-Merrell as the Chairperson for Tillicum. She will be happy to pass this committee on to another parent for next year's program.

In the works for the next few months the Nominating Committee will be looking for parents to help us out with next year's PTA Board. It's never too late to become an active part of your students time here at Tillicum. We will be needing a Treasurer for next year, as Don Pelo's student graduates from 8th grade at the end of the year. There are a variety of tools to support our treasurer with training and software to keep the books going. We also are looking for a VP of Fundraising. This position oversees the variety of events we have throughout the year from the Chinook Books, Magazine Drive, Pass the HAT and Walk a fun. We might even bat around the idea of an auction/dinner party.

I hope all of you will continue to drive all the way forward when dropping and picking your students up. Remembering to only TAKE a right at the stop sign onto 160th really helps the flow of traffic. Traveling up the street a little farther helps those cars going into the parking lots as well. Students tend to jump out and run into the traffic and I have seen one too many close calls lately. Thanks again for helping the school out on this one.

General PTA Meeting Dates for the rest of the year are:

April 13 and one more TBA.

Hope to see you then!

Meg Dunwiddie
Tillicum PTSA President
presidentmeg@gmail.com

Grant from BSF

We are pleased to announce that Tillicum was awarded an \$850 grant from the Bellevue Schools Foundation in support of the SMART Goal Grant proposal. This grant allows for the staff to start up a professional book study in January. The first book is [When Kids Can't Read...and What Teachers Can Do](#). Thank you BSF for your support!

Multicultural Night

Every year, Tillicum hosts a multicultural week with a highlight evening event with talented students sharing their background through a song, dance, poem, instrumental piece etc. Please save the date: Thursday, March 10th.

Cyberbullying

Social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace have become widely used communication tools for middle school students, but they can also be used to bully others. Stephanie Thomas of the Seattle Police Department, a Victim Advocate for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force will be on campus to share information with all of us on cyber-bullying online relationships, social networking sites, sexting, privacy, as well as some safety tips. **We invite all Tillicum parents and their students to join us Tuesday, February 15th from 7:00 to 8:30PM** for a very enlightening presentation.

Upcoming Events

School in session January 24th.

New semester starts Jan 26th.

Focus Day, Feb 21, Olympia

Multicultural Night, Thursday, March 10th.

General Membership Meeting, April 13, 7pm, Tillicum library

Key Resources

[Tillicum PTA Website](#)

[BSD Tillicum Website](#)

[Friday Focus](#)

[Parent Internet Viewer](#)

School Contacts

Attendance: 425-456-6708

Office: 425-456-6700

PTA Contacts

President - [Meg Dunwiddie](#)

Treasurer - [Don Pelo](#)

Secretary - [Kimberly Nelson](#)

VP Membership/
Volunteers - [Michelle Robertson](#)

VP Hospitality - [Suzy Dalton](#)

VP Programs - [Julie Freeman](#)

AVID

March is the month our Bellevue Schools host Student Registration! At Tillicum, counselors will distribute materials and provide an overview of the classes we'll be offering through 6th and 7th grade Social Studies. Later in the month, our counselors visit the local elementary schools while the High School counselors visit Tillicum to register our 8th grade students for their Freshman schedule!

One of the classes for consideration in this process is AVID. Offered in all Bellevue Schools grades 7-12 ; AVID was designed as a College Preparation Course introducing strategies in Reading, Writing, Inquiry and Collaboration. AVID Tillicum Student Applications will be available in January!

For more information, check out AVID's National website at <http://www.avid.org>

Reminder: School's in Session on January 24th

Due to the cancellation of class due to snow in November, we'll be in school on the 24th to make up for a bit of lost time.

Cultural Exploration of Greater China Foundation Accepting Applications

The Cultural Exploration of Greater China Foundation and other community organizations are co-hosting the second annual state-wide Chinese scholastic competition in March, 2011. All K-12 students from public and private schools as well as students from Chinese heritage schools and private or home tutoring institutes are invited to participate.

This event will include typical language competition items such as public speaking, storytelling, and poem recitation. In addition, there will be contests that do not require the participants to speak Chinese such as drawing, talent show, and "Knowledge Bowl" (social studies related to China). For details, please visit their website at <http://CulturalExploration.org/>.

College Conference

Bellevue School District will hold its annual College Conference on Wednesday, January 26 at Interlake High School and Thursday, January 27 at Sammamish High School. This event will begin each evening at 6:00 p.m. with keynote speaker, Dr. Karen Copetas, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Planning from Western Washington University. Breakout sessions will begin at 6:40 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

[View the College Conference program to learn about the sessions offered and to plan your evening >](#)

Superintendent Coffee Hour

Join Superintendent Amalia Cudeiro in a relaxed conversation about our schools during a coffee hour at a school near you. These conversations are intended to provide parents and community members with a chance to have a conversation with Dr. Cudeiro and share ideas and dialogue.

Coffee Hours are scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on:

- January 26: Highland Middle School (library)
- February 3: Sammamish High School (library)
- February 9: Newport High School (library)

Legislative Focus Day 2011- Pre-Order Your Scarf

We need you again this year to help shape 2011 legislative priorities in what will again be a very difficult economic climate. Bring your kids! Join us for Focus Day **Monday, February 21, 2011** as we rally on the Capitol steps and meet with legislators and staffs, leave notes, receive updates from policy-makers on key issues and network with other PTA advocates. PTA volunteer advocates can make a difference when they come to the Capitol in large numbers. [Click Here to Download the 2011 Focus Day Flyer](#). Diane Lundeen Smith, Tillicum's Legislative Chairperson will be attending. If you have any questions, feel free to contact her at dianelundeensmith@msn.com or 425-417-6107.

Focus Day Scarf Pre-Orders

Due to the success of the blue scarf from last year's Focus Day we are introducing our latest must have WSPTA fashion statement. We are taking pre-orders for the Washington State PTA Scarf,

which we hope to receive in time for distribution at Legislative Assembly.

You can pre-order your scarf and then pick it up at Focus Day or we can also send them to you beforehand. http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/focus_day/Scarf_Order_Form.pdf

Helping Those in Need

- If you or someone you know is in need, you are not alone. Help is out there. The following organizations help families in need in our area:
- The Overlake Service League connects families to resources and is equipped to deal with emergency situations: 425-451-1175.
- Community Services in King County can help with many situations. They can be reached by dialing 211 (expect a lengthy wait time).
- The Jubilee Reach Center, a local organization that offers many resources including some medical care, can be reached at 425-452-4240.
- The South Bellevue Community Center's Bellevue Boys & Girls Club has a childcare program. The Community Center is located on Newport Way and space is still available in their childcare program. A sliding scale can be used to determine what you can afford to pay for care. You can reach the Community Center by calling 425-452-4240.
- If you believe your heat is going to be turned off, you can call the Emergency Energy Assistance program at 1-800-348-7144. It's open Mon.-Thurs. and the best time to call is 9am (expect a wait time).
- If your heat has already been disconnected, you can call 425-869-6027. Hopelink will work with you to get your heat turned back on.

Become a Volunteer in Bellevue Education – VIBES

What is a VIBES volunteer? VIBES volunteers are community members – professionals, seniors, parents, grandparents, college students - who volunteer one hour a week for the duration of the school year to support student success. Parents who become VIBES volunteers work with students other than their own child or in classrooms other than their own child's classroom.

Tillicum Middle School needs VIBES volunteers. Take volunteering to the next level by dedicating one hour a week to support Tillicum's 2010-2011 Instructional Learning Goal - **increase student performance in the area of Reading Comprehension**. Tillicum expects 100% of the student body to demonstrate positive growth in Reading Comprehension as measured by the Spring 2011 MSP. To support this goal Tillicum has established multiple reading support classes and they need volunteers Monday through Friday. Please consider volunteering one hour a week to support young students striving to succeed. More information can be found at www.tillicumpta.org

PTA Membership

Thank you to the 414 currently enrolled PTA members. It is never too late to sign up to be a member of the PTA. Your vote counts! We are all advocates for our children, but being a member of the PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) provides us a venue as a group to be heard by our school, school district, city, county and state legislatures on issues that affect all of our children. [Click here](#) for membership forms. Family membership is \$20, Individual is \$15. Checks are made payable to Tillicum PTA. Forms and checks can be dropped off in the office at Tillicum.

PTA's mission is "Building a Better World for Children."

General Meeting Notes

PTSA General Membership meeting was held on **October 20, 2010**. Notes can be found at www.tillicumpta.org/

Worried about Paying for College?

If you are worried about affording college for you student, please read further!

The Washington Higher Education Board is offering college scholarships to 7th and 8th grade middle school students who pledge to do well in school, are good citizens, and meet their income standards. To find out more, please go to www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound, or stop by the main office to pick up information. Please hurry, the deadline to apply is June 30, 2011. Please call you student's school counselor if you have further questions.

Si está preocupado de no poder pagar la Universidad (College) para su estudiante, por favor

¡sigale leyendo! El Consejo de Educación Superior de Washington está ofreciendo becas para estudiantes de 7º y 8º año que prometan tener buenas calificaciones en la escuela, ser buenos ciudadanos y que cumplan con los estándares de ingresos. Para más información, visite www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound, o tome la información disponible en la oficina de la escuela. Dese prisa, la fecha límite para aplicar es el 30 de junio, 2011. Por favor no dude en llamar al consejero de su estudiante si tiene mas preguntas.

New to Bellevue School District or Tillicum?

Did you know that there is a wealth of information on the Bellevue School District site for newcomers to the district? Access this information by clicking [here](#) or to the website: www.bsd405.org. For information on Tillicum, you can choose the school in the drop down panel of the left navigation bar. From there, you'll be able to access the [Tillicum school](#) website and [PTSA website](#).

If English is not your first language, you can access the multilingual hotlines/phone numbers located on the [PAAC](#) web page. Also, there are afterschool [activities](#) such as tutoring, sports, and reading. We are getting a new program

Friday Focus

Not receiving the Friday Focus? The Friday Focus comes directly from Tillicum Middle School and is sent out weekly. In the past the Tillicum PTSA has also forwarded it to PTSA members with added information. If you are not receiving the Friday Focus, please email your name and request to receive the Friday Focus to Tillicum's Office Manager, Barbara Ghaffari at www.ghaffarib@bsd405.org.