

# Truman Times



December 2008

## Kung Fu Panda

Thank you to those families who came to support the Truman Membership Drive and watch the "Kung Fu Panda" Movie. The PTA increased their membership by 20% on that night. If we get the chance to do that kind of movie event again, we've decided to discuss with the kids rules of conduct and "audience etiquette" and strictly enforce those rules so everyone can enjoy the show. We apologize to those who were frustrated with the noise level. We promise to execute that type of event better next time. Thank you so much to the Burdett and Gillespie Family for donating the popcorn makers and supplies for this event.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

9- PTA Board Meeting 9:15  
15- Community Council Meeting 4:15  
22- Jan 2, 2009 NO SCHOOL Winter Recess



A big THANKS to Mrs. Hofer for organizing the Book Fair. Thank You to all the PTA Volunteers who helped Mrs. Hofer in the Library during the Book Fair. She could have never done it alone!

## Community Council Corner

In this month's Community Council Meeting, we discussed the teacher's QTSA projects. Those are the extra projects our teachers volunteer to participate in on top of their daily commitments. Some of these include: teaching after school classes to help groups of struggling students in literacy or math, instructing advanced math students as they prepare for the "Math Olympiad", and analyzing student test data and teaching fellow teachers new and proven teaching strategies. These are all paid projects and will be reviewed for their effectiveness in the spring by the Community Council. If you are interested in the Community Council, what it is and why it's important in our school, please come to the next monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008 at 4:15pm in the school library. Everyone is welcome! The other item of discussion was the great need for parent/grandparent volunteers in the classrooms. Our teachers are doing a great job with the time they have with our kids, but just think how much more effective they could be if they had a little help. If they had a volunteer parent come into their classroom for one hour a week or month to simply make copies, help listen to struggling readers or monitor students while their teacher was able to spend time on their computer analyzing individual YPP test scores, they would be more effective in their teaching and less stressed. Please contact your child's teacher and ask what you can do to help them out.

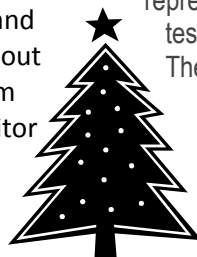
### From the Principal.....

I just received good news. Our school will get a bus turn-through this summer! I spoke with Jim Day who is over district construction; this is a very expensive proposition which I thought was not possible. I had asked for a turn-through last year but was told that the amount of money needed couldn't be allocated. Mr.

Day is looking at several plans to consider and will decide which works the best. He will communicate with me before the Winter Break about the plans. I will let you know what the options are. He wants parents and staff input. When the final plan is decided, it will go out for a bid. Construction will begin this summer. I am hoping the plan chosen can increase parent and visitor parking also.

### Community of Caring:

The sixth grade did an excellent job of writing about Perseverance Last month. The winners are posted by the office for you to read. The theme for November is Gratitude. Second graders will write about gratitude. This is a great month for you to discuss gratitude with your children. We want to thank Mrs. Harwood for introducing our theme to each class. Here are more ethical tests from Thomas Lickona's book "Character Matters". Use these to teach your children how to make good decisions. "The truth test: Does this action represent the whole truth and nothing but the truth? The parent test: How would my parents feel if they found out I did this? The conscience test: Will I feel guilty afterward?" Thanks to you as parents for all your hard work. We appreciate your support.



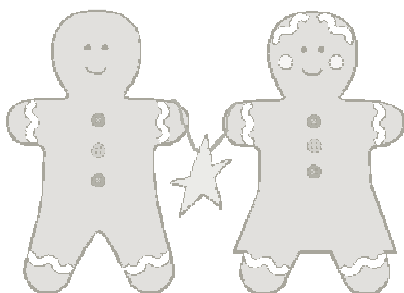
In Mrs. Bitner's fifth grade class we are doing ceramic colonial dolls. We first cut the dolls out of clay, then we had them fired, and finally we glazed them. We are going to be using them for some colonial plays. The students had such a great time doing the ceramic dolls. Our class also made a book about Thanksgiving. The students had be creative not only in their writing, but also had to draw pictures to go along with their stories. When the students were finish they all went to Miss Nield's class and read the story to the kindergarteners. Both the kindergarten students and the fifth grade students had a great time enjoying the stories together.

Sixth Grade-This year we have been studying all about Ancient Egypt on topics like pyramids, pharaohs, and mummies. Students have made King Tut masks that are displayed in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hall. We are also currently learning about Astronomy, and will be making Solar System Models for the entire school to see on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Word Search

E O T E L T S I M A  
 P R E S E N T S B H  
 G N I L O R A C O L  
 C A N G E L R L W Y  
 L M B E L L L P S A  
 I E N A C Y D N A C  
 G N R H A I O E M O  
 H T A E R W E E R K  
 T S Q F D Z V R R H  
 S P W I S M P G E R

Angel, Tree, Star, Ornaments, Candy Cane, Wreath,  
 Caroling, Lights, Red, Bell, Presents, Bow, Green, Poinsettias,  
 Holly, Mistletoe, Cards, Snow



What do elves learn in school?  
 What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
 What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

Ms. Clyne's third grade class has started the Native American unit in Interconnections. It ties in beautifully with Thanksgiving. In Reading this past month we read Trickster stories. Native Americans also told trickster stories to explain how things came to be in the world. We also wrote our own Trickster stories! Incidentally, the trickster stories are very similar to fables because there is a lesson to be learned. In math we just finished the November CORE standards unit on money, time, rounding numbers, and geometry. In writing we learned how to write Character sketches and applied what we learned when we wrote about a character in our lives. In our small reading groups we are learning how to write and ask good comprehension questions. At the end of the day we get to see and hear a Looky Book internet story on the projector screen. One of our favorite stories is called "The Orange Shoes" by Trisha Noble. It is about a little girl who is bullied in school because she doesn't have shoes to wear. One day her dad buys her a pair of orange shoes and the other girls in her class try to ruin them. Their school doesn't have any money for art supplies and the little girl with the Orange shoes decorates them with paints made from natural things. She helps her school to get money so each child can have their own paint kit. This book is a must read.

Kindergarten will be finishing up about food. The Kindergarteners made bread and tortilla. The started with the wheat plant ground the seed into flour than made bread in a bag and tortilla in a bag. The program was November 25 and was great. We finished up our leaf prints with the artist and will soon do another project. We learned about Van Gogh and made our own Van Gogh picture.

How many words can you make out of  
*Rudolph's Red Nose?*



The Elf-abet Frosted Flakes Horn-aments