



# The TOAST Times



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May/June, 2010

**Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology**

<http://toast.albany.k12.ny.us/>

**Principal:** Mr. Timothy Fowler

**Co-Editors:** Mrs. Reynolds-Hoffman & Ms. Whipple

**Theme Team:** Mr. Fowler, Mrs. Florance, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Ingleston, Mr. Olmstead, Ms. Whipple

## From the Desk of Mr. Fowler:

Wow, it's the last newsletter of the year! It has been another year of pleasure as the principal of TOAST. Time really flew this year, but we really had to hustle every step of the way. I know I'm not alone when I say that the pace has been exhausting. Is that a robust vocabulary word? Anyway, I'm looking forward to the Memorial Day Weekend. This time will allow us to pay our respect to those who served our country and catch our breath as we finish out the year strong. Hopefully, June will bring in warmer weather so that we can enjoy all the end of the year festivities, our playground, and bikes for the new bike racks that were installed.

I wonder what next year will be like with no swing space and no middle of the year move. Could we possibly have a normal year of school ahead of us? Wouldn't that be great for everyone?

Don't forget to order your 2009-2010 TOAST Yearbook. The pre-order cost is \$10.00, please see the attached flyer for more information.

Lastly, remember to get out and vote. The school budget vote will be Tuesday, May 18th. Have a Happy and Safe Summer!

**Mr. Fowler**

## From the Desk of the Home School Coordinator:

The school year is winding down and summer is almost here. We have field trips and a lot of fun activities coming up so please remember that displaying positive, respectful behavior is a must. Please students-make sure you dress appropriately for school and for field trips. Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers for days when the weather might still be unpredictable. There are plenty of summer camps and programming around the Capital Region that student's can get involved in, so make sure you get signed up early to ensure a fun-filled summer! Congratulations to our Graduates and for those who will be returning next year....See you in September! Have a safe and healthy summer!

**Ms. Cascone**



## Upcoming TOAST Events:

Please check our website for updates

### May 2010

- Thursday, May 13th: Jr. Science Fair Expo (PreK-3rd Grade). Bring in your favorite science collection; 5:30-7:00 pm in the Cafeteria
- Monday, May 17th: Dress Rehearsal: Spring Concert; 9:00 am in the Auditorium
- Tuesday, May 18th: Spring Concert; 6:00 pm in the Auditorium
- Friday, May 21st: TOAST T-shirt Day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt
- Tuesday, May 25th: 4th Grade NYS Science Performance Test
- Wednesday, May 26th: 4th Grade NYS Science Performance Test
- Thursday and Friday, May 27th and 28th: NO SCHOOL due to unused snow days
- Monday, May 31st: NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

### June 2010

- Thursday, June 3rd: International Cultural Event at TOAST; 5:00-7:30 pm
- Friday, June 4th: Awards Day: Grades 1-3; 8:30 am, Grades 4-5; 12:40 pm
- Saturday, June 5th: TOAST NYS Museum Sleepover--See Mrs. Ingleston for more information
- Sunday, June 6th: Kidney Walk at UAlbany; 9:00 am check in, 11:00 am walk. For more information: info@nkfney.org or register at www.KidneyWalk.org
- Monday, June 7th: 4th Grade Science Test; written
- Tuesday, June 8th: TOAST PTA Meeting; 6:30 pm
- Scholastic Book Fair: Preview Day: June 9th, sales: June 10-11th  
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/toast>
- Saturday, June 12th: Soap Box Derby Race; Madison Ave near the NYS Museum
- Monday, June 14th: Everyone please wear Red, White and Blue. Today is Flag Day!
- Wednesday, June 16th: PreK Moving Up Day/Awards Day; 9:00 am
- Thursday, June 17th: Kindergarten Graduation/Awards Day; 9:00 am in the Auditorium
- Friday, June 18th: TOAST T-shirt Day; wear your favorite TOAST t-shirt
- Monday, June 21st: 5th Grade Moving Up Celebration; 6:30 pm in the Auditorium
- Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>: TOAST McDonald's Fundraiser to support the TOAST playground (Holland Ave) 4:00-7:00 pm. 15% of all proceeds during these hours will go to TOAST!

### **Websites For You To Check Out:**

Sea and Sky: <http://www.seasky.org/>

The Science Explorer: [http://www.exploratorium.edu/science\\_explorer/](http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/)

Infrared Zoo: [http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/image\\_galleries/ir\\_zoo/](http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/image_galleries/ir_zoo/)

National Geographic Kids Games:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/actiongames/>

SwitcherooZoo: <http://switchzoo.com>

Little Critter's Website: <http://www.littlecritter.com/>

Sea World Shamu Webcam:

<http://www.seaworld.com/sitepage.aspx?PageID=375>

San Diego Zoo: <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/index.html>

National History Museum Fun & Games: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/fun-games/>

Spelling City: <http://www.spellingcity.com>

ABCya: <http://www.abcya.com/index.htm>

**Ms. Whipple**

### **Read For The World Record!**

Join the summer challenge!  
Keep track of the books & minutes you read over the summer!

**Register today at:**

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/record/>

**Mrs. Ingleston**

### **Kindergarten News:**

Wow, this year is really flying by! The warm weather is here and we are looking forward to walking to Albany Medical Center to deliver flower pots to cancer patients. We hand painted the pots and planted marigold seeds to brighten their day. We are learning about our community and how to help others, near or far, so we are also collecting crayons and scissors to send to a school in Ethiopia. We are collecting until May 7th, so if you think you can help please send in your donation. We had a great time seeing Seussical the Musical at the Palace on Thursday, April 29th. Thanks for your continued support! It will be graduation before we know it. Keep reading, doing the nightly homework, and preparing for 1st grade!

### **News from the First Grade:**

Dear First Grade Families,

Wow! The year has gone by so fast! In first grade we have done so much learning and exploring. We have learned to read and are becoming really good writers. We have also become a whiz with our math facts. It is important that during the summer children continue to read and write. We hope that you have enjoyed your first grade experience, we have. Have a safe and happy summer!

**Mrs. Sands and Mrs. Sokaris**

### **Second Grade News:**

The second grade has been very busy. We just finished participating in the Health Fair. Our classes wrote factual books and recipes books, handed out healthy snacks and shared a student video. We also just finished our RIGBY testing. We are looking forward to our Alphabet Countdown for the last 26 days of school. Families please follow the letter we sent home. We will also be participating in numerous field trips. Don't forget to return the field trip forms promptly, so everyone is able to attend. The end of the year is a very exciting time.

### **Greetings from the Third Grade!**

It has been a busy and exciting school year! We worked very hard on the New York State ELA and Math exams, and now they are behind us- Yippee!!! We hope to see everybody at the International Fair coming soon in June. Third graders are learning interesting facts about Australia!

As summer soon approaches, it is important that third graders continue to practice their multiplication and division facts for fourth grade. Keep up the reading this summer! Be sure to visit the library and book stores to participate in fun and enjoyable reading activities/programs!! Perhaps even do some book reports for your fourth grade teacher. Have a wonderful, safe, and healthy summer vacation!!!

### **Fourth Grade Facts:**

It is testing time in 4th grade! Our students have worked hard to prepare for these important exams. We are using our agendas to keep us organized. Keep track of all of the big events coming up. Make sure you are well rested and ready to do your best! Every student is working towards the goal of reading 100 books for the Readers to Leaders Program. Students should be reading at least 45 minutes each night. Make sure you are keeping track of the titles you read! We will be collecting them soon!

We are planning many educational field trips for the end of the year. Remember that admission to field trips is based on work performance (class work/ homework) and behavior. Do your best at all times so you can go on these learning adventures!

### **Fifth Grade Updates:**

To infinity and beyond! In Science, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about the Solar system and its many parts. We have been comparing the features on Earth to those on the Moon. We even made craters out of flour, water and a marble. It was kind of goopy but fun. We all did much better on our last science test, thanks to our families for the help! Fifth graders finished taking the New York State math test. It was administered on May 5th and 6th. We thank Mrs. Chesley for her help and guidance in assisting us with test preparation. We are now working with fractions. We should continue to review our basic math facts frequently! Our students have been immersed in one of the greatest American stories of all time, the Civil War. We have looked at it from the Industrial Revolution to the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We are excited about our end of the year trip to Boston where we will walk the Black heritage trail and do our usual visit to Faneuil Hall.

### What's Going On In Art?

Lots! Our school art has just been showcased at the TOAST Health Fair in April and at Albany's 1st Fridays in May at the Cathedral of All Saints. The work looked great! Check out more TOAST artwork in The Sunshine Building during the month of May!

\* 5th graders are in the middle of their intensive, plaster-paris mask-making project. We are seeing some really interesting characters with horns and ears developing! \* The 4th grades are busy working on straight weaving their very own wall-hanging using a loom. \* The 3rd grades have just completed their big project of Van Gogh's Flower paintings in the Impressionist style. They look beautiful! Now they are on to clay food sculptures. \* Ms. Haggerty's class is just finishing sculptures of people out of wire, newspaper, and plaster. \* The 2nd grades are just finishing their big project of Monet's Bridge learning to work on a long-term project in the Impressionist way. Now they are moving on to Andy Warhol and Pop Art.\* 1st graders & Mrs. Steven's classes are now beginning colored tissue paper, flower collages for Spring. \* Kindergarteners just completed their sponge painted bunnies with eggs and are now on to painting parrots.

What fun!

**Mrs. Wright :)**

### Library Lowdown:

We're getting cozy in our new Library Media Center and we're getting reacquainted with lots of "old friends." So many of the books and authors that we knew before the big move have recently re-entered our reading lives! Unfortunately (?), the weather has become quite summer-y and there are many excuses to go outside to stretch and play. Remember, that the nice weather is also an excuse to bring a book outside to read under a tree. And when it rains, reading goes right up to the top of my list of fun things to do! With RIF and summer Library programs coming up, there should be many opportunities to enjoy a good story or to find out about something new! Your local branch of the Albany Public Library is a good place to start your exploration. Happy reading!!

**Mrs. Florance**

### News from the Museum Room

Hello TOAST families,

It's been a very busy few months and we're not slowing down yet. Classes have been visiting the New York State Museum every Wednesday and Friday for Early Bird Programs. Trumaster, one of the NYS museum educators, brought in the "feathers & fur" program. He'll be back in May & June. Carol Ann Margolis from the Albany Visitors Center continued working with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on the Heritage Garden Program and the history of different plants. Professor Hopkins from St. Rose came in and discussed the science of seeds and we planted several different kinds. Both of them will be back for Programs in May & June. The museum grow table is up and running. We are growing the Three Sisters (corn, bean and squash). We have several herbs growing (basil, parsley and chive) and several different kinds flowers (zinnia, echinacea and petunias). It's almost time to plant them outdoors.

**Mrs. Ingleston**

### Computer Lab Updates:

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have finished their surveys and graphs in Excel; if you need to know about spreadsheets, ask one of our students, I'm sure they'll be able to help! 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be using their new email accounts to learn all of the proper terms, the correct way to write an email along with more safety tips and about cyber bullying. We will be sending emails to community members and maybe even President Obama! Their technology test will be coming up in June; be on the lookout for the study packet that will help them remember all that they have learned!

Primary grades have been learning more about animals in switchzoo.com. It's a great website that is fun and educational! They have also been using thinkcentral.com, Wacky Web Tales and spellingcity.com (to name a few). PreK students have also been immersed in sesamestreet.org, learning math, reading, thinking skills, science, etc.

Our weekly school podcasts will be uploaded to our website soon, we hope you like them! More vodcasts will be uploaded too! The students have been working hard planning, preparing and practicing! Have a great summer, have fun and be safe!

**Ms. Whipple ☺**

### News from the Science Lab,

-Several of my classes celebrated Earth Day by picking up trash, filling the bird feeders and playing fun outdoor science games.

-Our TOAST Science Fair was a big success and nine of our finalists went on to the Joseph Henry Science Fair at the College of Saint Rose. Our young scientists made me so proud!

-Soap Box Derby Up-Date-Our Drivers name is Patrick Bringas (he was chosen by a drawing) and the car is named "THE TOASTER" (chosen by our students)

-Finally...Our Car wash was successful and fun. Thanks to everyone who helped out and brought their cars down. We will use the money for race registration and some really 'cool' detailing work!

#### **Mark your calendar...**

May 13, 2010- 5:30 -7: 00 pm in the Cafeteria --**The Jr. Science Expo**-Open to Pre-K through Grade 3

May 25 and 26, 2010- **4th Grade Performance Test**

June 4, 2010 Our **Last MORNING BIRD WATCH**, 7:00 am near the front office

June 7, 2010- **4th Grade - Written Science Test**

June 11 and 12, 2010-**Albany Soap Box Derby**, Fifth Grade Project - Madison Ave Near the NY State Museum:  
9:00 am-4:00 pm - Actual race times to follow

### NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

It's time to remind everyone that the students in PreK, K-garten, 2nd and 4th grade will need to have a physical on file for next September. Those forms were sent home along with a Dental Certificate that is to be signed by your child's (children's) dentist. If you need additional forms, please call the Health Office at 475-6882.

Allergy season is upon us!! For the students with asthma it is important that they have their inhaler on hand in the Health Office if their asthma is triggered by environmental allergies. If your child is one who suffers from severe allergy symptoms, please have them seen by their pediatrician for symptom relief.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:

Our Health Fair was a great success! Thanks to all the families that attended. Thanks to Ms. Franke and the Ballroom Dancers who put on a great show and to the 2nd graders and their teachers who worked hard and had a great presentation on healthy snacks with a cookbook and samples!!!!

We are looking forward to the National Kidney Foundation 2010 Kidney Walk on Sunday, June 6th at SUNY ALBANY; we would like to participate as a school group. Let's put that day aside and show everyone that the TOAST Family is an involved community!! Sign up sheets will be sent home the last week of May by the PTA.

### Greetings from your friendly TOAST music teacher,

Spring is finally here! You know what that means; Spring concert season. The students have been diligently preparing their music to impress all that come to watch. There will be 3 part harmonies, dancing, an orchestra/ recorder mash-up, and much more. You will laugh a little; maybe even shed a tear, and all because of your immensely talented children.

**\*\*Important note\*\* NEW Spring Concert time:**

**Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm in the TOAST Auditorium**

4th and 5th grade recording projects: The 4th grade will be recording commercials, complete with an eco-friendly product, script, staging, props, and a catchy jingle. The 5th grade will be conducting interviews with famous musicians ranging from Buxtehude to Lady Gaga. These interviews will be in the form of a late night special news report. The most entertaining recordings will be showcased in the TOAST foyer for all to enjoy.

Musically yours, **Mr. O.**

### News From the Playground Committee

Great News! We raised almost \$500 towards playground equipment from our fundraiser at Pizzeria Uno's. A big Thank You to all who participated. We are hoping everyone will come out again, this time to the McDonald's on Holland Avenue, on Tuesday, June 22.

McDonald's will give TOAST 15% of the proceeds made between 4-7 pm, and TOAST faculty and staff will be working behind the counter, taking and making your order! So stop in for dinner or a snack on June 22nd between 4-7 pm and raise money for our playground at the same time. We hope to see you there!!

# 2009-2010 TOAST Yearbook Order Form



Pre-Order your 2009-2010  
TOAST Yearbook for only \$10.00

If you send in this form and your money (**cash only please**) by June 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
the cost is \$10.00; **starting June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the cost will be \$12.00.**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I'd like to pre-order a TOAST yearbook. I'm enclosing \$10.00  
(cash) for each book ordered. **Deadline to pre-order is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Yearbooks Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form, along with your money to Ms. Cascone.**

## TOAST Yearbook Staff Only

**Please do not write inside this box.**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

Order Number: \_\_\_\_\_

