



The Young Scholars

This is a free monthly publications of YSCP Charter School

November 2007

Principal's Message

Dear Members of the YSCP Family,

It is hard to believe that the second month of school is over! Last month included several exciting activities. It was very nice to see so many parents and community members at our Grand Opening Celebration and Picnic. Thank you for coming to celebrate our success together. As I keep

saying, we believe that education is a shared responsibility and that the successful operation of a school depends on the cooperation of everyone concerned: administration, staff, students, parents, and community members.

We also had our October Parent-Teacher conferences and thank you for your participation and input. This time with your child's teacher provides an opportunity to learn more about your child's learning progress and a way for parents and teachers to continue building a close partnership. If you have ideas that would help us improve our process and/or conference planning, please let us know. We also had a guest speaker from United Nations and it was an opportunity for our students to find out how difficult the life conditions for some other people who live in another part of the world.

We are committed to the quality and excellence of instructional programs, learning activities, student achievement and providing a safe and invit-

ing learning environment to create a wonderful learning community at YSCP. Our dedicated teachers and staff work closely with our students in bringing quality education to every student. Our students are involved in excellent programs as well as Extended Day clubs. We are proud of our commitment to student achievement and look

forward to future success. *Technology Assisted Instruction, Differentiated small group instruction, Character Education and One on One Tutoring* initiatives collaboratively assist our students in achieving academi-

cally as well as in their social and emotional growth and development.

Thank you for working together with us to provide your child with the best possible education and school experience. Your input and ideas are important to us. You are always welcome to join the YSCP Board of Trustees' meetings on the third Friday of each month. Meetings are located in the YSCP Charter School at 1530 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801 and begin at 7:30 p.m.

Have a Great Month!

Dr. Bulent Tarman, Principal/CEO





Dear YSCP Parents/Guardians,

Professional development programs are commonly offered during the summer months and after regular school hours at many schools. Due to the relocation of the school in August and the fact that many staff members participate in the Extended Day program, this not an option.

In order to fulfill the requirements of our professional development plan, the YSCP Board of Directors has decided to modify the school calendar and dismiss students at 12:00 noon on the following dates so that staff can participate in training during the afternoon:

November 30, 2007
 January 25, 2008
 February 29, 2008
 March 28, 2008
 May 30, 2008

Please note that bus transportation home will not be available on those days and children will need to be picked up from school promptly at noon. Lunch will not be served on those days.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
YSCP Board of Directors

Calendar

- Nov. 8 Book Swap Night (6:30-7:30pm)
- Nov. 8 PAC meeting
- Nov. 11-17 National Education Week
- Nov. 12-16 Interim Assessment- I
- Nov. 21 Records Day-No School
- Nov. 22, 23, 26 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 28 Report Cards done
- Nov. DBT- Social Studies Fair
- Nov. 30, Inservice-day, half day school

Dear YSCP Parents & Guardians,

It's hard to believe that November has arrived—and with it, colder weather. Please remember that unless it's stormy, students go outside for fresh air and exercise every day that the temperature is at or above 28 degrees. Hats, gloves, and appropriate outerwear and shoes are important for your child's comfort and health. The rule of thumb is, if a child is not well enough to go outside for recess, he/she is not well enough to be in school. Please keep sick children at home: coming to school prematurely prolongs recovery time and spreads germs to healthy students.

The October Lost and Found pile evaporated during Parent Conferences—thank you for reclaiming all those coats, hats, sweatshirts, and sweaters! We were happy to see that clothing returned to its rightful owners. You can avoid losing it by labeling each piece with indelible magic marker—a child's last name will do. Any piece of clothing so labeled is always returned, but untraceable clothes go to Good Will on the last day of the month.

As we enter the busy holiday season, please make the time to read with your child for at least 10 or 15 minutes each day. Literacy is the cornerstone of education, and your willingness to make it a priority sends a powerful message to our students.

As always, thank you for your support and commitment to your children's education.

Linda Smutz, Assistant Principal

THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Hello all YSCP Parents/Guardians!

I'm very excited in writing this newsletter informing everyone what the students have been working on during their physical education (PE) classes here at Young Scholars.

My philosophy at YSCP is to introduce and incorporate the fundamental motor skills throughout this year's physical education classes. At the elementary level, it is crucial that each child receives as many repetitions for the essential PE skills (throwing, kicking, catching, etc.). The main goal of our elementary physical education program is to ensure students have the opportunity to be as successful as possible to promote involvement in physical activity. My motto for the students is to guide our youngsters in becoming physically active for their lifetime!



So far this year, the students have been working on a variety of games and units. We have already spent class periods working on Soccer, Team Handball, Cooperative Team Activities



and we are in the process of starting the Frisbee Golf and Ultimate Frisbee Units.

I'm very happy how each class has progressively improved with each skill and game introduced. I challenge you to ask your child/children what we've practiced during each of their PE days (Maybe they can even show you!). I would greatly appreciate this, and I'm sure the kids would get excited in showing you the new "skills" that they have been practicing at school.

On another note, with the seasons changing and the weather being so unpredictable I would appreciate if everyone kept a close eye on the weather! If the weather is

okay the students will be enjoying their PE classes outside as often as possible.

If anyone has any questions I can be reached at hoover@yscp.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hoover

Welcome to Spanish Class!

¡Holitas!

The month of octubre has been busy! We have been working on shapes in all grades and have had our first exams in 2nd – 6th grades. The students who attended the picnic were fantastic with the grand opening presentation. We were really proud of them! We finished our handprint rainbows and the older grades have been working hard on learning Spanish grammar. We are going to end the month with fall/harvest vocabulary and we will read the book "Calabaza, Calabaza".



A Note from YSCP's Parent Advisory Council

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On Oct. 11 we had our monthly PAC meeting. We discussed the successful Book Fair, YSCP's Grand Opening, and the "No Fun" Fundraiser. We also discussed parking, lighting, and the topic of school uniforms. It was great to see more new faces! We hope that the number of parents attending the meetings will continue to grow. Remember, the PAC is an all-inclusive group--every parent is a member, just by having a child here. There are no membership fees.

We're continuing to encourage families to contribute to the No Fun Fundraiser. The money we raise will go to purchase a new Ellison Die Machine for the school, as well as starter dies (these widgets cut letters, numbers, and shapes out of paper for school activities and bulletin board displays), in addition to other classroom and school materials. The PAC is in the process of getting its own non-profit status (right now we have non-profit

status by being part of the school). This will enable us to apply for grants for which public schools are not eligible--but school-support groups are. By completing the application before the end of December, the group's non-profit status will be retroactive to its beginning. This month we will present the group's new by-laws for approval. Every parent present at the meeting can give input and vote.

We are still looking for two parents to volunteer as PAC Secretary and PAC Treasurer. Please talk to Alaska Hults, Ruth Hocker, Denise Rupert, Shannon Cover, or Sara Craig if you have questions.

This week the Young Scholars Spiritwear order form went home in backpacks. If you need another order form, please ask at the office and we'll find you one. The order deadline is November 9.

"Never trouble another for what you can do for yourself."

Thomas
Jefferson



A heartfelt "Thank you!" to the many volunteers who helped with the Book Fair, the Field Day, and the Grand Opening. Our school truly is better for your involvement.

Please note that we've moved the PAC meetings to the second Monday of every month, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We will be meeting in the 6th grade classroom, where it is easier to hear.

CHARACTER TRAIT OF OCTOBER

RESPONSIBILITY

"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do." John Baptiste Molière

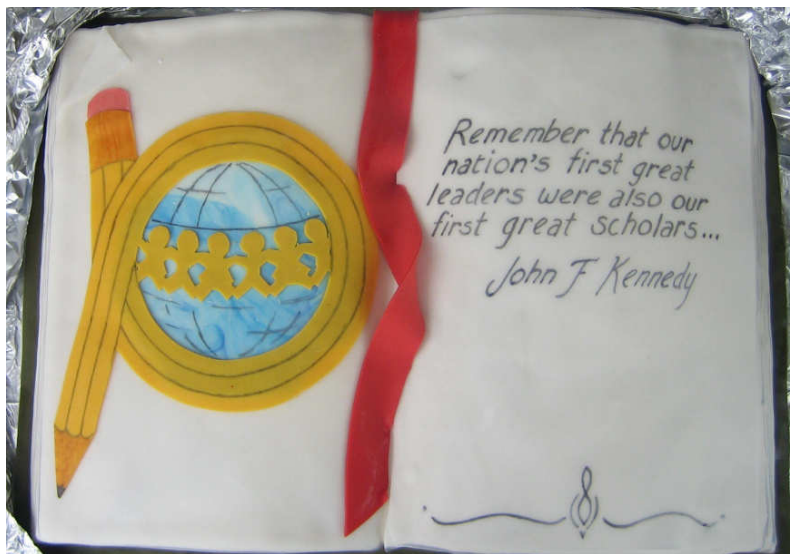
"It is not fair to ask others what you are not willing to do yourself"-
Eleanor Roosevelt

Greetings from the Art Room!

October was a busy month in the art room. The time seems to be flying. With November at our doorstep, I would like to take time to tell you about the highlights from October.

In Kindergarten we began the month learning about patterns with line and primary colors. You'll be able to see these line pattern projects in the May Art Show. We then took some time to learn about Vincent Van Gogh, and the students created handprint sunflowers in response to Van Gogh's work in the same theme.

In first grade, we kicked off October learning how artists use overlap to show that one thing is closer to us and one thing is farther away. We then turned our attention to painting and how to use shape and color to create interesting compositions. We also looked at the works of N.C. Wyeth, an illustrator from Pennsylvania. One book he illustrated was *Treasure Island*. We read a section from *Treasure Island*, just like Wyeth did, about a pirate character named Bill. With that description the students drew an illustration of Bill.



By Mrs. Apryle for YSCP Grand Opening Celebration

Second Grade began the month learning about the life and works of French artist Henri Rousseau. Rousseau was most known for his series of jungle paintings. In those paintings he would combine drawings of plants from botanical gardens, and animals from zoos. The second grade began with printing plants and leaves to on paper: this created their jungle. Next they added animals drawn from source materials. This project can be seen in the May Art Show.

Third grade learned about the native Aboriginal peoples of Australia and how they made art with little dots of color. We then learned different

techniques for bas-relief paper sculpting. We took those techniques and applied them to our next project, working with creative portraits. The techniques we learned helped us add hair, a nose, eyes, beards, earrings, and so forth.

October was an exciting month in fourth grade. We began learning about George Seurat, who was French. He invented a style of art called Pointillism. Pointillism is part science and part art. If you wanted to paint green in the Pointillist style, you would first begin by painting little dots of yellow and then adding little dots of blue. When viewed at a distance the blue and yellow mix in your brain and make green. This technique was a brand new way of working with color in Seurat's time.

In fifth grade we've been looking at the life and works of Marc Chagall, who was a Russian artist. Chagall worked from his memories and dreams. Many of his paintings were about people and places he knew. We then took what we learned about Chagall and created paintings from our memories.

The sixth grade finished up their relief map projects. To help inspire us with our painting, we looked at American Pop artists who use imagery from popular culture to make art. One artist in particular, Jasper Johns, worked with maps. He created maps

of America and used invented color schemes to paint them.

Obviously, we have had another exciting and busy month in art class! We will be continuing our investigations into other artists, cultures, and ways of making art throughout the month of November.

Eli Andrus
Art Teacher

Kindergarten



This month in kindergarten we had many exciting moments! Spiders in science have been a lot of fun. We learned many fascinating facts about spiders that we did not know before. If you have not seen them, stop by to see our hanging spiders in the classroom.

A definite highlight in October was our field trip to Harner Farms. We loved the tractor ride, picking a pumpkin, eating an apple off of the tree, and finding our way through the maze. It fit right in with all we have learned about different types of farms. We enjoyed all of the parent and grandparent help we had.

First Grade The month started out with a bang. The children had such a good time when we went on our field trip. It was a beautiful day and we learned so much about how animals use their senses in the forest. We also had a fantastic time at our Field Day. Thank you so much to the parents who helped out with that. What an awesome day it was. The children are working so hard in first grade. We are making such progress in all our subjects.

On a sadder note, Senor Rana and his friend have been set free. I explained to the children that they needed the opportunity to hibernate for the winter. We are discussing the possibility of a different class pet. I'll keep you posted. As always, thank you to all of the parents for your continued support. It is appreciated.

"Let everyone sweep in front of his own door,
and the whole world will be clean."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Updates from the Music Classroom

There are lots of topics being learned in our YSCP music classes, but each grade has some specific areas of concentration. Kindergarten is working on understanding high and low, 1st grade is doing great with melodies and shaping phrases, and 2nd grade has begun playing accompaniments to music and learned a new song in Chinese. 3rd grade wrote their own pentatonic melody, 4th grade learned an Armenian song and line dance to go with it, and 5th and 6th grades know the lines and spaces of the Treble clef by heart. We're looking forward to more playing, more singing, and more concepts taught through diverse music.

Choir News

The YSCP 4th-6th grade choir has been rehearsing really hard. They work on breathing well, a healthy "hooty" tone, and clear pronunciation. In new announcements, the choir will perform at Barnes and Nobles on Sunday, Dec.9 for YSCP purchase day, and hold a joint concert with the band on Monday, Dec.17. Please add these to your calendar!

Listening to Music--Protect your child's hearing!

Many kids LOVE to listen to music. I am firmly in favor of encouraging active listening as much as

possible. Musical areas of the brain develop in the same manner as language centers. Like any language, music is learned first by hearing it "spoken" frequently. Letting your child listen to a diverse range of music, especially when he is young, will increase his musical "vocabulary" and allow his innate musical abilities to grow.

However, many people have the volume turned up much too high on their stereos, iPods, and MP3 players. Listening to noise above 85 decibels (or about the loudness of a large diesel engine idling) for any extended period of time causes hearing damage which cannot be reversed. When listening to music on earphones at a standard volume level 5, the sound generated reaches a level of 100 dB, loud enough to cause permanent damage after just 15 minutes per day

(dangerousdecibels.org)! Apple has developed new means for parents to set a child-proof limitation on how loud some of their personal MP3 players can be, but protecting your child's hearing still takes your supervision. Please pay attention to the volume settings on your TV, stereos, computers, and MP3 players! Be aware of how loudly your child may have their stereo turned up—especially if they are using earphones. It will ensure that your child has a wonderful time listening to music for decades to come.

Fifth Grade

This Friday will be our first field trip for the year! We are going to Penn's Cave to explore the cave on the guided boat tour and enjoy some North American wildlife in a protected environment. Students must bring a packed lunch as we will be eating there at the park. We will be able to throw trash away but will not be able to heat anything. Please make sure that students wear warm clothes as it is supposed to be fifty degrees in the cave regardless of the weather. We will also be outside some of the time, so weather appropriate clothing should be worn as well.

Thank you so much for meeting with me for parent-teacher conferences. It was nice to see you and be able to discuss what and how your children are doing in school this year.

Thank you to those of you who sent baby food jars for our science experiments. I think I have enough now, because the contributors were very generous. We could use several shoe boxes again if families would be willing to send a couple. I always appreciate the helpful donations of household items from you.

Students should know their multiplication facts 1-12. If your children need extra practice at home, please sit down and take the time to help them practice. There are many games online to help them practice as well. www.funbrain.com is a great resource for online educational games.





Third Grade

The month of October brought many opportunities for learning in 3rd grade. We had the opportunity to celebrate and talk about cultural holidays, go on a field trip, and take a hands-on approach to our school curriculum. In Social Studies we studied the Revolutionary War. The students ate hardy tack and experienced first hand what it was like to be a soldier at Valley Forge. We studied the American flag and what it symbolizes, and then made our own class flags that symbolized our classroom. In Math we started to dig into new concepts such as measurement, perimeter, and area. We worked with geoboards and visited websites that reinforced conceptual thinking of these new concepts. For Language Arts we began developing new reading strategies such as illustrating main events in chapters as well as performing class jobs that dissect the text for deeper comprehension. The month of November promises to bring new and exciting experiences such as Rafa Rafa and creating a classroom constitution.

Announcing: The Third Annual YSCP Bookswap and Read-In!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007: 6:30-7:30

Join the YSCP staff at the school for an evening devoted to bookworms of all ages! Here's how it works:

6:30-7:15

Bring gently used books that your children no longer read or have outgrown. You may take home as many books as you bring, but if you take fewer, the remaining books will be distributed among classroom libraries. **You will receive 1 raffle ticket for each book you bring.**

Find a quiet corner in the Multi Purpose Room and read with or to your child. Or, you and your child may join Mrs. Smutz in 6th grade where she will do a Readaloud. Feel free to drop in any time after you get your raffle tickets.

7:15

We will begin the raffle promptly at 7:15. Winners receive a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card, which can be used at the store or online.

Note: Parents, if you would like to donate books on parenting or education, please place them in the book rack just inside the front doors (these do not qualify for a raffle ticket).

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade has done a great job in our second month together! Our unit on erosion and physical change has been going very well. The 4th grade was even treated to a guest lecture from one of our own parents. In math, the fourth grade students have been working on number computation. This includes multiplication of large numbers. It is very important that your student knows their multiplication facts. If you are able to, I would recommend that the students practice occasionally with flash cards or verbally with their family. You may want to quiz your child on their facts during a car ride. These facts are a building block to higher math concepts. In Ms. Bunten's math class, the students are starting to work on geometry. Please make sure to note the multiple days toward the end of the month that school is not in session or abbreviated. These dates are readily available from previous newsletters, on the online school calendar, and even inside this monthly newsletter as well. Finally I would like to say thank you again to all the 4th grade families for our great conferences. I can't wait to see everyone again for our conferences in spring.

YSCPCS
2007-2008 Academic Calendar

November

Nov. 8 Book Swap Night (6:30-7:30pm)
Nov. ???- National Education Week
Nov. 12-16 Interim Assessment- I

Nov. 2 Act 80-Inservice No School
Nov. 21 Records Day-No School
Nov. 22, 23, 26 Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28 Report Cards done
Nov. Social Studies Fair???
Nov.30 Inservice-Half Day

December

Dec 9th Barnes & Noble 9am-9pm
Dec. 3rd Distribute Report Cards
Dec-10-12 Cyclical Monitoring Special ED
Dec 21st International Winter Celebration Date
Dec. 24-31 Winter Holiday

January 2008

Jan. 1 Winter Holiday
Jan-7-11 Interim Assessment II
Jan. 21 Act 80-No School in service
Jan 21 EdCheck ups done
Jan-25th Math Night
Jan-25th Health Screening (6th graders)
Jan 25- Inservice-Half Day

February

Feb 8 Health Screening ???
Feb 16- Publishing student's book –Student treasures ???
February 11 – 22, 2008- PSSA (5th grades Writing)
February 21 International Mother Language Day Feb 7- Chinese New Year
Feb 29 Inservice-Half Day

Second Grades

Second grade had a tremendous learning experience in October. We really enjoyed all of the planting that took place during our science unit. The dynamic growth rate of our lima beans has been charted, observed and scientifically discussed to culminate our plant unit. We had authentic hands on planting activity thanks to Sandy Craig who taught us how to plant and take care of crocus. Watch for the flowers in the spring. our plant unit. In social studies, maps were the highlight of the month. The students were proficient in utilizing the smart board during our multicultural and technologically advanced mapping unit. More exciting learning and fun to come in second grade.

Enthusiastically,
Mrs. Pastore
Mrs. Etchells

March

Mar. 3-6 Interim Assessment-III
Mar. 7- Records Day-No School
Mar. 10-14 Spring Break
Mar. 20 Progress Report Cards
Mar 21 Act 80- In service- No School
Mar 28 Inservice-Half Day
Mar 31- April 11 PSSA Math and Reading Assessment (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Grades)

April

April 3rd Thursday Spring Picture Day
April Science Fair???
April 18th Extravaganza
April 24, 25 Act 80-Parent Conf.
April 28- May 9 (4th Grade Science Assessment)
April??New Parent Open House New Kindergarten students/parents

May

May 5-9 TerraNova
May 5-9 Teacher appreciation week
May 19-23 Interim Assessment-IV
May 23rd EdCheck ups Done
May 26 Memorial Day Holiday
May 12th - Art & Music Show- 6:30-7:30???
May 30 Inservice-Half Day

June

June 6th End of the year program/picnic
June 11 Last Day for Students
June 11 Progress Report Cards
June 12 Inservice for Staff

Sixth Grade

Hello from 6th grade! We have been working on a lot of great things in our class. One thing that will be coming around soon is a monthly school newspaper. It is being written and published by the students. It will contain a lot of great things such as pictures, comics, interviews and much more. This should be arriving very soon. We hope that you'll enjoy our work.

Extended Day

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to thank all the parents for helping out and showing support for the Extended Day! Each month I would like to introduce a few Extended Day teachers, with the description of their clubs.

Christy Wells

Hi! My name is Christy Wells. I am the assistant teacher for the first grade and Spanish teacher for k, 1, 2, 3, and 6th grades in the Ext. Day. I am a native of Pennsylvania and a recent graduate of Penn State in the field of Elementary Education. I have a background in business and advertising as well.

Spanish Club in the Ext. Day is a fun time for students to practice what they are learning in their regular Spanish classes and to expand their vocabulary and use of the Spanish language. We focus on word groups such as 'food words,' 'emotions,' 'colors,' and so forth. The students play games, make artwork, and sing songs that require them to use these word groups repetively and which help them to connect the new words to their everyday lives. Many of the games I use or create also give the student a chance to use individual words in a sentence chunk. This helps them to translate the vocabulary they are learning into short sentences that they can use on a daily basis. Additionally, I also try to bring in activities that allow the students to share their learning with the school and to expand their knowledge of Spanish culture and art.

Sheila Bunten

Hi! My name is Sheila Bunten and I am the Extended Day Junior Chef instructor for 1, 2, 4, and 5th grades. I am also the Spanish instructor for 4 and 5th grades. During the regular day I am enjoying my job as an assistant teacher for fourth grade at YSCP. I am very excited that I am about to complete with the teaching certification program in Pennsylvania!

The main goal of the Junior Chef club is to expose students to healthy, easy, and multi-cultural cooking. I expect the students to be able to understand and use basic cooking and baking utensils. They will understand how to measure down to 1/4 cup, tablespoon and teaspoon. They will also be able to use a mixer and blender with little to no assistance. A lot of math ties into cooking through the use of measurements to find the perfect taste combinations. Reading and comprehension is needed when the students are figuring out recipes. By reading recipes students are enhancing their vocabularies as well. Junior Chef exposes the students to many aspects of education that are honored at YSCP. Recipes they have learned so far include: smoothies, fruit kabobs, caramel apples, and edible play dough to name a few. Bon appetit!

The main goal of the Spanish club is to expand the students' understanding of concepts, vocabulary, etc. taught during the regular school day. They will be expected to follow along and summarize Spanish stories. The students will learn about and describe certain Hispanic/Latino holidays, such as el Dia de los Muertos. Students will also use their knowledge of vocabulary and conversational Spanish to write their own dialogue to be performed with puppets in front of the class. While the Spanish club is extending the lessons the students are learning during the day, it will contribute to the students' future growth in the language. Hasta luego!

I just wanted to give you a few dates that we do not have Ext. Day clubs, which are: November 2, 21-26, and 30th.

Thanks,
Sincerely,
Helena Khan



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Questions or Suggestions? Please
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