DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct.  3  Early Dismissal (1:15 p.m.)
Oct.  6  PTO Meeting (7:00 p.m. – All Purpose Room)
Oct.  6-10  Week of Respect
             Sky Puppet Theater Performances on Conflict Resolution
             Fire Prevention Presentations and Activities
Oct. 10   Progress Reports Issued
          School Photographs
          Walk with the Principal
Oct. 13   Early Dismissal Day
Oct. 14   “Meet and Greet” Orientation for Library Volunteers (9:00 a.m.)
Oct. 17   Fall Beautification Day
          Walk with the Principal
Oct. 20-24  School Violence Awareness Week Activities
Oct. 21   Assembly – “No Bullies Allowed”
          Read for the Record
          Willabees (3:15 – 4:15 p.m.)
Oct. 24   “Make a Difference Day” – Dance-a-thon for Make a Wish Foundation
Oct. 27-31  DARE Red Ribbon Week Activities
Oct. 29   Character Café – Grade 2
Oct. 30   Good Citizenship Activity
Oct. 31   Halloween Parade & Class Parties (1:45 p.m.)
Welcome Truman PTO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTO CO-PRESIDENTS, STEPHANIE HYLAND AND ALISON NAPOLITANO

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We hope you all had a happy and healthy summer. We are looking forward to working with all of you as well as with Mrs. Coffey and the Truman teachers and staff to make this an unforgettable school year for the children.

The PTO officers for school year 2014-2015 are as follows:

Co-Presidents - Alison Napolitano & Stephanie Hyland

1st Vice President - Melissa Romanello

2nd Vice President - Luciann Rivera

Treasurer - Karen Hall

Recording Secretary - Rosalie Costa

Corresponding Secretary - Kelly Enriquez

We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped, in any way, to make last year such a success. Because of last year’s success, we have set aside funds and will be using this money to purchase and/or mount Smart Boards for the classrooms in need. Way to go Truman!

Even though the year has just begun, the PTO has already been very busy. The many activities the PTO has already been working hard on include collating and distributing student materials, hosting the teachers’ Welcome Back Luncheon, helping with the Kindergarten Orientation, launching the Kastle Kreations Fund-raiser, organizing class parents, preparing the Birthday Board for the September birthdays, and the list continues. As you can see, the PTO needs all the help we can get. Volunteers are crucial to the success of all the activities throughout the year. We are in need of volunteers for the many events coming up. These events include retakes for Picture Day, Beautification Day, Winter Wonderland Dance, etc. Thank you to those of you who have already been working so hard.

We are still accepting your PTO membership dues. Individual membership is $6.00 and family membership is $10.00. Family membership may include parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. The money collected for PTO membership goes directly to benefit the children and the school. Even if you are unable to volunteer your time at the events or make the PTO meetings, there are plenty of ways you can help us from home. You can send the dues in to school with
your child. Please include your name, phone number, e-mail, your child’s name and the name of your child’s teacher.

Joining the PTO allows you to participate in PTO sponsored events and it provides the funding necessary to run these events. More importantly, it allows you to be a part of broadening the educational and social experiences for the children at Truman School. Also, keep in mind, you must be a paid PTO member and have worked a minimum of 6 volunteer hours to be able to volunteer for Field Day at the end of the year.

If you haven’t done so already, please return your Kastle Kreations orders. Also, if you received a Kidstuff Coupon Book (Kindergarten and 1st Grade), please send in payment for the book or return the book as soon as possible if you don’t wish to purchase it. For all others, please send in your order form so we can get your book(s) out to you as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate your support of these fund-raisers!

Orders for Truman clothing are due by October 13th. Order forms will be going out shortly. The children love showing their school pride by wearing their Truman attire!

We are also collecting Boxtops and Campbell’s Labels for Education. The first submission date for the Boxtops is October 21st. Please send in what you have collected by that date. Also, be sure to include your child’s name and class on the envelope or bag in order for them to receive credit for the Boxtops. This is a simple way we can all help to raise money for the school.

If you would like to volunteer, chair or co-chair an event or share your ideas, please feel free to contact the PTO at TRUMANPTO@yahoo.com. If you are on Facebook, you can also contact us at the “Truman Parents Info and News” group.

We are very excited to represent the Truman School PTO. We look forward to meeting and working with many new members!

Please join us for the next PTO meeting on Monday, November 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. If you are selected to be a Class Parent, you must attend this meeting.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The family is one of nature’s masterpieces.” - George Santayana
It is with great pleasure that the staff and I welcome you and your child to the Harry S. Truman School for the 2014-2015 school year. We hope you will join us in forming a partnership so together we can provide the best possible educational environment for our students. It is extremely important for parents to work with teachers in order to motivate children in school. Children must be aware of the need to do their best and be successful. Much of this desire to do well can be effectively encouraged in the home. Therefore, we look forward to working closely with you so we can provide a happy and rewarding year for your child.

The staff and I have many exciting activities and learning experiences planned for our students that are related to this year’s school theme, “Truman Team.” Throughout the year, we will be concentrating on different ways we can work together as a team in the classroom, school and community to make great things happen. With our school theme, we will focus upon topics and activities that provide opportunities for the students to set and reach academic goals, solve problems, develop character traits, make good choices, commit to good health and physical fitness, and to express themselves through writing, speaking, drawing, singing, and dancing.

In addition, our school theme will have a three-fold focus each month that will concentrate on a specific content area of the curriculum, character education trait and community service project whenever possible. For example, during the month of September, we have been concentrating on the content area of “art” by working on developing the students’ interest in the content area. The students have been involved in “getting acquainted” activities that have involved a focus on art as they create class books, bulletin board displays, murals, etc.

The character trait for September was responsibility. We focused on the meaning of responsibility and the students’ responsibilities both at school and home. For example, we concentrated on their responsibility in regard to behavior, learning, homework, chores, health, environment, community, others, etc. After all, it takes responsibility and teamwork in order to make great things happen.

Our community service project for the month involved collecting soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

In conjunction with this year’s theme, the children have the opportunity to attend a monthly luncheon called the “Character Café,” which is funded by our generous PTO. The luncheon consists of pizza and a nutritious treat. Each month beginning in September, one homeroom class at a designated grade level along with their teacher will be my guests of honor. Attendance at the café is based on different criteria each month as such the homeroom bringing in the most
soda can tabs at a designated grade level. I look forward to these luncheons because they enable me to interact with the youngsters in an informal setting and spend some quality time with them.

Many fun-filled activities related to the “Truman Team” theme have been planned for the year. We will integrate the theme across the curricula and it will become the basis for special school-wide events and assemblies.

In closing, I remind you that your interest, support and cooperation are essential in establishing a positive, constructive learning environment for your child. We encourage you to become an active participant in our school. Developing a positive relationship with us will increase your child’s awareness of the importance of school. Your involvement in the PTO, the volunteer library program, school functions, etc. helps the school in providing many worthwhile learning experiences for your son or daughter and makes Truman School a special place for all children.

Throughout the year, I will offer suggestions so that working together as partners in learning we can make a difference regarding your child’s success. The following ideas outlined in “Go for the Goals” will assist you in helping your child in having a “winning” year as he or she “goes for the gold!” After all, if we believe, achieve and strive to succeed, our possibilities are limitless!

**GO FOR THE GOALS!**

Want to help your child form a habit that brings lifelong success? You can by teaching the importance of setting and reaching goals. These tips can help you get started:

- Ask your child to think of a school subject in which he/she wants to improve. Perhaps a math skill such as multiplication? If it’s important to him/her, your son or daughter is more likely to try.
- Brainstorm and discuss ways your youngster can reach his/her goal … one step at a time. Then help your child set up a schedule. Can he/she learn three multiplication facts daily, practice with speed drills, or create a times table to study?
- Point out and praise your child’s efforts along the way. For example, “You spent a lot of time working out the examples. That’s what it takes to improve.”
- Help your child imagine what it will feel like to reach his/her goal. For example, “Picture yourself breezing through these multiplication problems once you know all the facts!”
GET READY FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR

With the beginning of another school year, here are six suggestions that will get your son or daughter off to a great start.

1. **Meet your child’s teacher.** Explain that you interested in hearing about your child’s progress. Ask how you can help.
2. **Use routines.** Morning, bedtime and study routines are key to school success.
3. **Have high expectations.** Tell your child that he/she doesn’t always have to be the best, but he/she should always do his/her best. Continually support your son or daughter by saying how proud you are of him/her.
4. **Monitor your child’s homework.** Offer help, but don’t do the work.
5. **Read, read, read!** If your child doesn’t have a library card, go get one for him/her. Visiting the library and reading with your child is essential.
6. **Support Truman School.** Attend parent nights, PTO meetings and volunteer in ways you will enjoy. Show your child that school is a family priority.

TEACH YOUR CHILD “SCHOOL MANNERS”

How can parents teach their children “school manners?” Go beyond the basics, such as saying please and thank you by emphasizing some of the suggestions listed below. Here are some things to talk about with your child:

- **Raising hands.** A teacher who has 25-30 students all trying to say something at the same time cannot conduct class. Discuss with your child why raising hands is so important to do in school.

- **Paying attention.** A teacher who has to repeat an assignment because one child was not listening has less time to help students learn. Discuss and practice ways to listen carefully such as tuning out distractions and making eye contact.

- **Disagreeing politely.** A teacher who has students talk back to her or him has to use valuable class time to maintain discipline. Talk to your son or daughter about speaking respectfully to teachers and classmates.

Parents should always keep in mind the following quote by Dot Hattich, “**Discipline is guidance, not punishment.**”
START THE YEAR WITH NEW GOALS

Now is the time to talk with your child about his or her goals for the upcoming school year. What would he or she like to accomplish? What specific steps will he or she take? Make a progress chart to keep your son or daughter motivated.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Turn the tables and ask your child to teach you something. He or she could help you surf the Web or learn the words to a new hit song. You will boost the youngster’s self-confidence and spend quality time together in the process.

STAFF NEWS

A warm welcome to the following staff that have joined the Truman faculty: Kelly Cibrian - Kindergarten, Christina Kiernan - Grade 2, Jena Smith - Grade 2, and Andrea Roman - Grade 1. In addition, best wishes to Kara Scefcyk Wood on her recent marriage. Congratulations to Diana and Adam Russ on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Eliana Marie. We also look forward to the return of Barbara Wichinsky filling in for Nikki Pandozzi while on maternity leave.

WHEN DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

Please note that students should be dropped off on Taft Place beyond where the crossing guard stands (between Wilson Avenue and Buchanan Avenue). Cars should not stop or park in front of the school where the buses drop off students. It is very dangerous to have children and adults walking between parked and moving buses.
Since **Bus Safety Week** is in the month of October, please discuss and reinforce the following bus safety rules with your son or daughter. Your child will be happy to see that you are interested in what they are learning in school.

- Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes early.
- Wait in a safe place for the bus, at least three giant steps away from traffic and the street. As the bus arrives, look for its safety lights and make sure they are flashing.
- Wait until the bus stops completely, the door opens and the driver tells you it is OK to get on the bus.
- Use the handrail when getting on and off the bus. Take your time.
- If you have a backpack on wheels, carry the backpack up and down the steps.
- As soon as you get on the bus, find a seat (or go to your assigned seat).
- “Buckle up” your seat belt!
- Do not get out of your seat when the bus is moving.
- Do not talk loudly or make loud noises. This can distract the bus driver.
- Do not place books or bags in the aisle. This area needs to be clear in case of an emergency.
- When you are close to your stop, get your books and belongings together so you’ll be ready to get off the bus.
- Always cross in front of the bus and be sure you can see the bus driver.
- If you drop something when getting off the bus, do not try to pick it up. Wait for an adult to help you.
WALKERS

If your child is a walker, please remind your son or daughter that if the adult escorting him/her home is not outside the school at dismissal, to report to the office for assistance. If you or the person meeting the walker is running late, please call the school and that information will be shared with your child’s homeroom teacher. In that case, the child would wait in the office until your arrival.

JUST A REMINDER

Send your child the message that attending school every day is important. Research shows that on state tests, students who were in school most did the best. Children who came to school 93 percent of the time outscored everyone else. It is also imperative that children not arrive late or leave early. In both cases, children lose valuable class time. May we please ask that you give consideration to this and assist us in limiting late arrivals and early dismissals. Whenever possible, schedule doctor and dentist appointments and other commitments after school hours. Take family vacations during school breaks.

CHARACTER CAFE

Way to go to all Truman School students and their families who collected soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House for September’s community service project. Congratulations to Mrs. Ford’s/Mrs. Csapo’s and Ms. DiBernardo’s students who attended the Character Café on September 26th with Mrs. Coffey. Students in 3D8 and D1 demonstrated lots of “responsibility” by bringing in the most soda can tabs for their grade level. Great job to the following students:

Mrs. Ford’s/Mrs. Csapo’s Homeroom

Abisola Ajala
Korey Bowles
Kyle Garcia

Ms. DiBernardo’s Homeroom

Evangelie Gonzale
Nicholas Heisler
Adrian Matos
Matt Grygorcewicz
Amy Iqbal
Dominik Kuras
Jack Lesserson
Anthony Little
Vincent Luberto
Sophia Mendoza
Isabella Rae Naguit
Dylan Paluzzi
Sia Patel
Kayla Sokolow
Rohan Vaidya
Isabella Vasquez
Christopher Vivar
Sean Wilson
Kamila Zieba

Special thanks to Mrs. Lisa Bascone, the coordinator of this special monthly activity, which is funded by the terrific Truman School PTO. She did a wonderful job hosting the luncheon and decorating with our “Truman Team” theme.

SODA CAN TABS FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Although Truman School reached its one million soda can goal in June 2007, we are continuing our efforts to collect soda can tabs for this wonderful organization. We encourage students and their families and friends to continue to collect and send in soda can tabs throughout the year. This will be an on-going community service project because we feel strongly that the children and families at the Ronald McDonald House need our help. By working together, we can make a difference for others. Thanks in advance for your support and help with this project.