

# PEEK INSIDE THE CREEK



For The Parents of Plymouth Creek Elementary School Students

April 26, 2007

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Dr. Karla Thompson*

**Thank you** for your participation in your child's conference and the many volunteer hours with spring activities and field trips. Thank you also to Target for their support of education. Plymouth Creek recently received a check for \$2,888.09 as part of the Take Charge of Education plan.

**Class Placement for 2007 – 2008:** Included in this week's Thursday Envelope is a parent input form for student placement. The assignment of students to classes by our school staff is a task that requires careful planning. The primary goal is to provide for socially and academically balanced classes. As in the past, you are welcome to provide us with information about your child but we cannot honor requests for a specific teacher. Input forms should be returned to the Plymouth Creek office by Friday, May 4.

**The Plymouth Creek Site Council** is seeking parent volunteers. Thank you to parents, Becky Maas Girard and Stacy Shaleen and staff members, Kristen Svensson, and Diana Berg who have completed their term of service. We would ask those of you who are interested to make a two-year commitment. Application forms may be picked up in the office and should be returned by Friday, May 4. Thank you for your interest and support.

**Volunteer Appreciation:** You're invited to the Plymouth Creek annual "Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon" on Wednesday, May 16, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Please come anytime during the serving time and staff members will join you, our guests, during their respective lunch periods. We are so appreciative of all the volunteers who support our students and staff. We've never had a day without volunteers at Plymouth Creek and in addition to listening to a child read, stuffing Thursday envelopes, shelving books in the library etc., etc., you spend countless hours helping with homework and special projects. Thank you for all you do to support your children and learning. Thank you to Sarah Seltz who continues to do a great job of coordinating our volunteer activities.

**Spring Testing:** As we complete the state MCA tests we prepare for the district Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test which will be given to third, fourth and fifth grade students starting May 7. This test, which is a nationally standardized test, is designed to measure student progress in mathematics and reading. It is given to students in a computerized format, requiring about one hour for each test and is not intended to be a high-anxiety test for students or their parents. The goal of the District's testing program is to provide assessment data that supports instruction in an accurate, efficient, and useful manner. The MAP has several advantages over other nationally used standardized tests. First, it measures student growth from year to year in math and reading. This allows teachers to identify students who need additional support as well as students making exceptional progress. Second, the test will change in difficulty in order to match your child's performance level rather than matching his or her grade level. This results in test scores that more accurately reflect a student's ability and indicates where his or her "learning level" (the point at which new learning is occurring) is located. Third, the test is not timed. In other words, each student has the opportunity to take as long as needed when taking the MAP tests. Reports to parents are sent in June. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Office of Assessment and Evaluation, at (763) 745-5065.

## CALENDAR

### April

26 "A Day with Shel Silverstein" 7:00 p.m.  
Grade 5 School Play

### May

4 Pastries with Parents 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
(families with last names beginning with O-Z)  
4 Paw Pad Open 1:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
7-10 Grade 2 Field Trips to Cahill School  
7 Site Council Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
8 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
11 Kid's College 1:00 p.m.  
16 Volunteer Luncheon 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
17 Cub Choir Concert 2:30 and 7:00 p.m.  
18 Paw Pad Open 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
18 Grade 1 Program- 2:30 p.m.  
"One Big Happy Family"  
25 Super Sports Day  
Grade 4 - p.m.  
Grade 5 - a.m.  
28 NO SCHOOL—MEMORIAL DAY  
30 Super Sports Day - Grades 1-3

### June

1 Paw Pad Open 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
7 DARE Graduation 2:00 p.m.  
8 Last Day of School

## Plymouth Creek Elementary

16005 41st Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55446-2535  
763-745-5800

**Dr. Karla Thompson, Principal**  
**Bev Gudrais, Secretary**  
**Lora Erickson, Newsletter Editor**  
**Sarah Seltz, PTA President**

Internet Address: *first name.last name@wayzata.k12.mn.us*  
District Web site:  
[www.wayzata.k12.mn.us](http://www.wayzata.k12.mn.us)

**WELCOME**

\*Hanna Daud (1 Brandshaug) from Eden Prairie, MN.  
\*Michael Leius (5 Hoffmann) from Fort Myers, Florida.  
\*Evani Vaidya (KPM Swanson) from Hopkins, MN.

We are happy to have you here with us.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and Found items will be taken to charity some time during the week of April 30. Please stop in and check the cart. Now that the weather is warmer, there are many, many more articles of clothing in the collection.

**“A DAY WITH SHELL SILVERSTEIN”**

*“If you are a dreamer, come in  
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar  
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer . . .  
If you’re a pretender, come sit by my fire  
For we have some flax golden tales to spin.  
Come In!  
Come In!” - Shel Silverstein*

*Tonight at 7:00 p.m., thirty-four extremely talented 5th graders will perform an evening of “Poetry and Song” featuring the poems of Shel Silverstein. We hope you can join us.*

*Our cast (in no particular order):*

*Brenna Cook, Alison Cathala, Quinn Farley, Nicole Tran, Kyle Berlin, Andrew Schmidt, Allie Larson, Dena Zahhos, Tiffany Lo, Carter Kowalski, Sydney Hamm, Laura Gove, Maria Zahhos, Grace Hennen, Katie Haller, Amanda Anderson, Noah Milun, E’lesse Manrique, Lexi Hughes, Grant Johnson, Michael Sivanich, Stephanie Ryan, Laura Fricke, Megna Kaul, Mitchell Kowalski, Hannah Sturtz, Molly O’Toole, Lauren Behling, Kaitlin Blauvelt, Rachel Neese, Danika Buss, Victoria Miller, Liese Peterson, Austin Rudin, Jack Garvey*

*Directed by Lori J. Ness*

*Assisted By Cynthia Landis*

**NEXT PEEK: May 24  
DEADLINE FOR  
ITEMS: May 18**

**THANK YOU**

Thank you parents and Target for the **generous donation of \$2,888.09** through the Target Take Charge of Education program. Funds from this program will go toward supporting our school goal of strengthening the reading skills of all students by providing additional leveled (just right) books in each classroom.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Yes! Plymouth Creek will be continuing our summer reading loan program. This program allows staff to send home carefully chosen books with our students who most need to read over the summer months. The books will be carefully chosen to meet the student's "just right" reading level. They will then be placed in a bag and sent home for summer reading. Research tells us that students who neglect their reading over the summer actually fall behind in their skills! All of the books will be returned to Plymouth Creek next fall and used again next year. If you have books at home that your family no longer needs, we would love to have them for this program. We are especially in need of books at the first through fourth grade reading levels. Books may be dropped off in the Media Center or Room 123. Thanks so much for your help.

**PTA NEWS**

Elections were held at our April meeting and it is my pleasure to announce that we have our **2007-2008 PTA Board!** Congratulations to Julie Davis, president; Kris Ebert, vice president; Lynne Deering, Vice President Fundraising/Finance; Karla Kellen, treasurer; and Carin Baumgartner, secretary. Most of you know some or all of these folks from the many volunteer activities they do in our school, so you understand how pleased and excited I am over this new board. I know they will do a wonderful job for our school!

Our **last PTA meeting** will be a **combination meeting and celebration** and we invite everyone to attend. It will be Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 pm in the Media Center. We will review and vote on any last grant requests that have been turned in this month, then have a celebration of our school year and welcome the new board members to their new positions. Please join us for treats and lively conversation.

In Thursday Envelopes this week, there is a list of **open committee chair positions** for next year. Each of these activities benefits our Plymouth Creek students. Please consider chairing one of these activities. It is a great way to support our students and teachers, meet new people, and get more involved with your school. If interested in a position, contact me at slws1@msn.com or 763-551-9946.

**Kids College** is coming up on the afternoon of Friday, May 11, 1:00-3:30. Unfortunately we are still **short on volunteers to assist**. We have volunteer professors who will actually teach each class, but need another volunteer in each class to assist. No special knowledge or training is required to assist, so if you can help out please contact Amy McNiff at Niffour@msn.com or at 763-509-9791.

**PTA NEWS (CONTINUED)**




Many of our 5th graders will perform in the **5th Grade Play tonight**, April 26, at 7:00 pm in the gym. They will present selections from Shel Silverstein's poetry and prose, and by all accounts it is wonderful! All Plymouth Creek students got to see them perform at 2:30 today. Good job 5th graders!

Coming up on May 17th is our 2nd and 3rd grade **Cub Choir performance** at 7:00 pm in the gym. Again, these kids have been working hard to put together a great show and all Plymouth Creek students will get to see them perform earlier in the afternoon on the 17th.

Thank you to Becky Maas Girard and Amy McNiff, and the volunteers who worked with them, for their work on **Basic Aid Training (BAT)**. Fourth grade students at Plymouth Creek have now been Red Cross Certified in BAT. Congratulations to the students!

Many Plymouth Creek students will have art exhibited at the **Focus on Art: Art Show** at the Wayzata Bay Center from April 27-May 14. This is a district wide art show. The art from all the schools is wonderful, but the things many of the high school students display are simply amazing! Stop in at the Wayzata Bay Center during business hours to view this remarkable display of our kids' artistic talents.

Sarah Seltz, President

**Mark Your Calendar for  
Plymouth Creek's  
Pastries with  
Parents Events**



Start your day out right and enjoy some muffins and juice with your child before their school day.

**When:**  
Friday, May 4, 2007  
(for last names beginning with O - Z)

**Time and Place:**  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
in the Plymouth Creek Commons/Cafeteria

**Sponsored By:**  
**Plymouth Creek PTA**

Have Questions? Call Glenn Deering (763-519-1684) or  
Bruce von Stein (612-382-3937)

### PTA NEWS (CONTINUED)

#### ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS. . .

Looking for some way to get involved with your student next year when they move to East Middle school? The Volunteer Coordinator is just that position! The Volunteer Coordinator position is responsible for getting the lists of volunteers out to each Committee chair person and occasionally assisting staff and teachers in obtaining volunteers for special projects or one day events. If you would like more info about this position, please contact Kris Ebert at 763-509-9508 or [krisannebert@msn.com](mailto:krisannebert@msn.com).

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#### FUND RAISING

Interested in getting more involved in the fund raising at Plymouth Creek? The co-chair position for the Fall gift wrap fund raiser is open. Contact Kris Ebert to get more exciting details at 763-509-9508 or [krisannebert@msn.com](mailto:krisannebert@msn.com).

#### **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM CULINARY EXPRESS\*\***

**When writing checks or depositing cash in lunch accounts here at school, please remember to include both the first and last names of the student on the memo line of the check or on the envelope.**

Effective Monday, May 21, 2007, students must have money in their account in order to purchase a lunch or ala-carte items. Parents are still able to deposit funds into their student's lunch account during this time, and are encouraged to do so.

The cost of a Full-Price Lunch is \$2.20 and a Reduced-price lunch is .40. Additional items that your student may purchase include Water (.65), Milk (.40), and Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich (.70). Please keep these items in mind when making deposits to your student's account.

How do you check a student's balance? There are 4 ways to do this.

-At the elementary schools, watch for the **red** stamp on your child's hand. This is usually done when they have 3 meals or approximately \$6.00 left in their account.

-Call the District Community Ed/Culinary Express hotline (763-449-6003) for Culinary Express. You will need to enter your student's 6-digit ID number and their keypad number. The balance is the first information given.

-If you are set up with PayPams.com—the Internet Payment site, your child's balance is updated every evening on the site.

-Call the manager at the site and ask what your child's balance is. Please do not call during lunch-time; they are busy serving lunch. If you call in the evening, leave a voice mail with your return phone number.

If you leave funds in your student's lunch account over the summer it will be available in the fall when school opens. The money will transfer if the student is moving to a different building in the fall.

Thank you for your cooperation as we finish out this school year.



### Culinary Express Corner for May

The Culinary Express bus makes its final stop in Georgia on May 23. Georgia, the Peach State, was admitted into statehood in 1788. The economy of the state is based on poultry and eggs, peanuts, textiles, food processing and tourism. Famous Georgians include former President Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King Jr., Alice Walker and Ty Cobb. The state is home to such attractions as Fried Green Tomatoes Café, World of Coke, Atlanta Zoo and the Lunch Box Museum. We hope you will join us on May 23 when our menu will feature Chicken Pot Pie, BBQ Riblet and a Peach Yogurt Parfait.

On May 15, the Grains on the Go program will feature brown rice as the whole grain product for the month. In the milling process of rice, only the hull is removed from brown rice increasing its nutritive value. Brown rice is very high in manganese and a very good source of fiber. Rice, as a product, has a very long history dating back 9,000 years. The majority of the world's rice is grown in Asia, where it plays a very important role in their food culture. Thailand, Vietnam and China are the three largest exporters of rice. Please join us on May 15 where we will feature brown rice along with Honey BBQ Bites, a Cheese Quesadilla and a Southwestern Turkey Wrap.

# GLANCE AT THE GRADES

## Highlights from the classrooms of Plymouth Creek

**Grade 3:** Our MCA preparation is complete with the testing this week. Thank you parents for your support. Students are feeling great about our current math unit which introduces three strategies for multiplying two and three digit numbers. Our new science kit is Structures of Life. I'm sure you'll be hearing about the fun new critters we are studying. Looking forward, we will be visiting Crystal Cave as an extension to our Earth Materials study and enjoying our end of the year Flight Week activities.

**Grade 4:** We've just finished a math unit that includes reflections and symmetry, as well as some work with adding positive and negative numbers. Our next unit combines some fun math explorations. We'll learn about 3-dimensional shapes and find the volume of a rectangular prism. We also review weight, and then relate capacity and weight. Once again, we'll work with positive and negative integers, this time with subtraction.

In science, fourth graders are learning about magnetism and electricity. We are exploring magnets and creating electromagnets. We are also constructing and comparing series and parallel circuits.

We are working hard on our MCA, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. The kids are all working very hard. The MAP tests, Measures of Academic Process, will be between May 14 and May 24.

Our end-of-the-year party will be on the second to the last day of school, Thursday, June 7th. We'll enjoy games and fun activities at French Park in celebration of all the fun learning and great relationships of our fourth-grade year.

**Grade 5:** \*5th Grade has enjoyed many activities the past few months. Black History Month was successful as we researched African Americans in history, made trading cards with the important information we found, and then traded our cards amongst all fifth grade classes.

\*DARE has been up and running now since the end of February. Be sure to talk with your child about what they are learning. We appreciate Officer Gottwald as she works with our students with great enthusiasm each week.

\*In March, we went to French Park and learned about Maple Syruping. On the 29th and 30th of May, our classes will take our last trip to French Park where we will do a pond study.

\*Don't forget about our last trip to Feed My Starving Children. Those students who did not attend last time will have the chance to go on the 29th of May. While we would love for everyone to participate, we can only accommodate 45 students. Keep your eyes peeled for the permission slip soon!

\*As school comes to a close, we will wrap up Minnesota history through a day trip to the Capitol, the James J. Hill House, and the History Center. We've been working through Unit 9 in Math - Coordinates, Area, Volume and Capacity. Next we will explore Unit 11 - Volume, and conclude the year with Unit 12 - Probability, Ratios and Rates.

**Physical Education:** \*The primary grades (1-3) are practicing different tumbling skills such as animal walks, rolls, and balances. They also will be practicing base running games. The intermediate grades (4& 5) have finished up with polo (like hockey), skills, drills and lead-up games. They will be starting striking skills using a racquet and "birdie" and playing badminton type games.

\*All grades are playing fitness games and practicing fitness components. Fitness testing for grades 3-5 will start next week (Ap. 23). This would be a good time to review goals that were set last Fall.

The annual "Jump Rope for Heart" event was April 17 and 20 during scheduled specialist times. Envelopes have been handed out to those students who want to participate in collecting money for the American Heart Assoc. Last year we were able to raise just over \$6,000 dollars. A tough number to beat! Envelopes were due back on the 23rd.

**Spanish:** Fourth grade:

- Students learned how to say family members in Spanish
- We learned the Spanish vocabulary for various food words
- Students learned how to order food in Spanish (i.e. I want a hamburger and french-fries)
- Each student researched a Spanish speaking country. Students created a travel brochure for the country as well as a flag of the country.

In the upcoming weeks fourth graders will:

- Share what they learned about the country they researched
- Learn about Cinco de Mayo
- Learn how to describe their likes and dislikes
- Continue to learn Spanish through TPRS (Teaching for Proficiency Through Reading and Storytelling)

Fifth grade:

- Students have been learning Spanish vocabulary and phrases through TPRS (Teaching for Proficiency Through Reading and Storytelling). Initially the students learn the vocabulary words by connecting the words to an action. After students know these words we read a story that incorporates the new vocabulary. Students then act out the story and create their own story in Spanish using the new words.

In the upcoming weeks fifth graders will:

- Learn vocabulary for various locations (i.e. beach, forest, apartment, etc.)
- Learn vocabulary for things found in a classroom.
- Continue to learn Spanish through TPRS

What are TPR and TPRS?

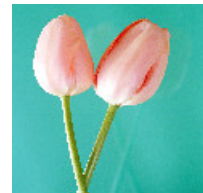
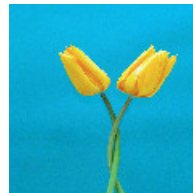
TPR (Total Physical Response) allows students to learn new vocabulary by connecting it to a physical response. Connecting a physical muscle movement to a word helps students learn and retain the word.

Once the students have learned the vocabulary through TPR, they apply the vocabulary through TPRS (Teaching for Proficiency Through Reading and Storytelling). Students read and act out a story which includes the newly learned vocabulary words. After students have acted out the story they retell the story in Spanish, create a new story in Spanish, respond to Spanish questions pertaining to the story, or complete another activity related to the story.

If you would like more information on TPR or TPRS please visit the following websites:

- [www.tprsource.com/author.htm](http://www.tprsource.com/author.htm)
- [www.SusanGrosstprs.com](http://www.SusanGrosstprs.com)
- [www.tpr-world.com](http://www.tpr-world.com)
- [www.sdkrashen.com](http://www.sdkrashen.com)
- [www.kristyplacido.com](http://www.kristyplacido.com)

Please continue to have your child share what he/she is learning in class!



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