

**TES February Newsletter 2011-2012**  
**A Targeted Assistance School**

*Mission: "To engage students in the learning process and to provide a challenging and nurturing environment"*

Attention!!Upcoming Programming in February at the Talbot County Free Library. For more information, call the library at 410-822-1626, or visit [www.tcfl.org](http://www.tcfl.org).

**Easton:** (Note: Pending Easton's move back to permanent quarters at 100 West Dover Street, children's programming in February must for the time being remain TBA. Please check our website or call the Easton branch at 410-822-1626 for the latest information.)

**St. Michaels Branch of Talbot County Public Library**

1. Puppet Show: "Will you be mine?"

Wednesday, February 8, 4:00 p.m. An original production by the library's own Ms. Carla.

2. Valentine Crafts

Tuesday, February 14, 4:00 p.m. Seasonal crafts for the whole family.

3. Game Day

Tuesday, February 28, 4:00 p.m. For children 6 and up. In addition to playing on the library's Wii and Play Station systems, children can play traditional games like checkers and Uno.

**Welcome to our two new students: Ellie Russell, second grader and Jamal Matthews, fifth grader! Did you know that February 19<sup>th</sup> is International Friendship Day?**

**February Highlights to Remember:**

Feb. 2:	P.T.O. meeting at 6 p.m.
Feb. 3:	Report cards go home
Feb. 13:	Traveling Science Program for grades 3-6
Feb. 14:	Valentine's Day
Feb. 17:	Early dismissal day at 12:05 p.m. Teacher inservices
Feb. 20:	No School: Presidents' Day
Feb. 24:	Pickering Creek at TES for grades K and 1 at 1:00 p.m. School pictures
Feb. 28:	Interim period ends Third marking term is from 1/26 to 3/30

**Looking ahead:** The Bay Hundred Town Meeting hosted by Dr. Salmon will be held at St. Michaels High library on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. MSA testing will occur on March 12-19 for Grades 3 through 6. The testing make-up window runs from 3-22 to 3-28. Remember each grade will be tested two days for Math and two days for Reading. The fifth grade will also test in Science at a later date.

*K-12 Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools*

**From the principal's desk:**

**School Improvement:** On January 25<sup>th</sup>, all TCPS teachers participated in a teacher inservice highlighting the Reading Language Arts component of the Common Core Standards. Mr. Bieber was one of the teacher presenters for the county. He is our Reading Language Arts teacher who received specialized training last June. I was in Mr. Bieber's session and it was well received by the group of teachers in his session. You may log on to the state website and view information on the Common Core. ([www.k12.org](http://www.k12.org)) In June 2010, the MD. State Board Education unanimously adopted the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. These national education standards establish a set of shared goals and expectations for what students should understand and be able to do in grades K-12 in order to be prepared for success in college and the workplace.

Our TES teachers have already received training dates for this summer for even more Common Core Training. So in July, the staff and myself will receive three days of further Common Core trainings.

Kindergarten students have now completed the second DIBELS benchmark (January). This assessment is administered three times per year. It measures student growth in letter naming, phoneme segmentation fluency, initial sound fluency, and nonsense word fluency. Students will be tested again in May to gauge their growth in these areas.

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. TES had a return rate of 41! At the January Board of Education meeting, Dr. Salmon shared the county's results. We will be looking at the results as part of our improvement efforts.

**Title 1 Update:** The Title 1 program will be undergoing a state review on February 6<sup>th</sup> to examine the workings of program implementation in our schools. In years past, TES has done well in the review. Mrs. Whelan will be sending home a quarterly student progress report for the Title 1 students. Our practice has been to send home quarterly progress reports with the report cards. This information is a direct communication link to inform you of what skills the children are working on as they use the research-based reading programs used in the Title 1 program. Parents should expect to see this report with the regular report card on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We do appreciate and want to thank you, the parents, for your continued support for the Title 1 services here at TES.

**TASK:** TASK has now started again and will be running from January 17<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>. We welcome Marilyn Nace, the new Site Coordinator, for TASK. TASK now operates Monday through Friday, after school, and pick up is between 5 and 5:45 pm. This session provides 17 different classes Monday through Thursday, and Friday is the movie day. There are 63 different students attending sessions at this time. We have 64% of our student population enrolled in at least one program or more. Many of the students are attending three or four days! Thank you to everyone that supports this initiative because the need is here and without your support, we would definitely be deficient in this area.

**Crisis Plan Update:** At this time, we are on track for the required drills. Throughout the rest of the year we will complete the remaining drills. Congratulations are once again in order for the state of Maryland as *Education Week* ranked Maryland's state education system at the head of the class. The Maryland public school system has now made ranking first in the nation for the fourth consecutive year, according to an independent national report.

**"In the long run, you hit only what you aim at; therefore AIM HIGH"**

**~Henry David Thoreau**