

**Tidioute Community Charter School**  
**Bulldog Bark Newsletter**  
**September 2007**



**Tidioute Community Charter School**  
**to be host to the Pennsylvania State**  
**Tournament of the National Science**  
**Decathlon**

The Tidioute Community long known for being the home of the Pennsylvania State Championship Fishing Tournament now has another exciting opportunity to be known not only on a state but national level as well. The Tidioute Community Charter School will be the site of the Pennsylvania State Tournament of the National Science Decathlon on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The National Science Decathlon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting science education through competitive hands on tournaments, is the fastest growing science competition program of its nature in the United States. Each decathlon tournament is made up of ten team events and up to four pilot events. Some of the events include Bridge Breaking, Ick!thyology (the study of fish), Mousetrap Cars, Crane-fly: Rubber Powered Airplanes and Robotics just to name a few. Division A events are for 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students and division B events are for 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grade junior high, middle school and intermediate elementary students. Teams from the Northeast Conference which includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont are invited to participate in the tournament. Teams qualifying on the state level will then have the opportunity to travel to the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut to participate in the Northeast Conference Tournament in February. The top three teams at that conference will then qualify to move on to the National Science Decathlon to be held at Duke University in North Carolina on April 12, 2008.

Tim McDowell, a science teacher at TCCS and winner of the 2005 Educator of the Year Award from the Warren County Conservation District is the director of the science decathlon. TCCS is currently looking for sponsors for the decathlon

to cover some of the operating costs including registration fees and to sponsor individual teams.

The National Science Decathlon offers small/rural schools, new teams, church teams, home school teams and neighborhood groups an economic opportunity to be formally recognized and rewarded for their achievements and successes as they relate to science education. Any school or team interested in registering for the Pennsylvania State Tournament at the Tidioute Community Charter School can contact the tournament director Tim McDowell at 814-484-3550 or visit the National Science Decathlon website at [sciencedecathlon.com](http://sciencedecathlon.com).

**College Information**

**Senior** year can be intimidating for many students and parents. If your student is considering college after high school, it may be difficult to know where to start. Here is a helpful guide for parents and students alike. September: If your student has not already taken college entrance exams, either the SAT or the ACT, now is the time to register for a fall examination date. Online registration is the easiest method for both the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), however, paper registration forms are available in the office. Start looking for scholarships with internet searches available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Remember, you should never have to pay fees or provide credit card numbers to search for scholarship information. Your student should be researching different college programs and options, some colleges have early admission deadlines of November; be certain to know when your child's prospective university's deadlines for admission applications are.

**Juniors** should also be looking into different universities, tech schools, colleges, and employment as now is the time to start exploring prospective careers. Resources are available in the office for students to explore careers; interest inventories, occupational outlooks, and the ASVAB are a few resources available to our students for careers. The ASVAB will be

administered in November for the eleventh grade. While it gets a bad rap as a military recruiting source, the ASVAB is an excellent tool for students to explore career aptitudes and interests if the test is taken seriously.

As always Mrs. Sabella is available for questions and to help our students and parents through this process. Contact the school at 484-3550.

### **TCCS Library Offers Extended Hours and More Choices**

The library committee has been hard at work all summer to make improvements to the library program. A reminder that the TCCS library is offering extended hours to students. The library is open every Wednesday until 4pm. The library is also open the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to 11:30 am for students to check out books, study or do research. The monthly story hour program begins at 9:45. This month we did Curious George, next month is Halloween themed.

We have magazines which students can check out overnight including Guitar Monthly, Field and Stream, People, Entertainment Weekly, Time, Nickelodeon, National Geographic Kids etc.

We have new books including the entire Harry Potter Series, Lemony Snickett Series, Lord of the Rings Trilogy (including the Hobbit and the Silmarillion), Narnia Series, Inheritance (Eldest and Eragon), Dark Materials Trilogy (Philip Pullman the Golden Compass etc.), The Dark is Rising Series (Susan Cooper), Little House series, Charlie Bone series, and the Land of Elyon Series just to name a few.

We also have Goosebumps, Junie B. Jones, Disney Books, Dr. Seuss, Curious George, Magic School Bus, Artemis Fowl and other books by Eoin Colfer, Newberry and Caldecott author and book winners such as Sharon Creech, Sid Fleischman, Carol Brink and Betsy Byars. We have Holiday Books, Sci-Fi Fantasy books, Mystery (Franklin Dixon, Agatha Christie), Horror (Stephen King, Bram Stoker) adventure and classics as well. We will also be getting some graphic novels in very soon.

We would be happy to aid your child in any way. We currently have over 5,000 books available for checkout.

### **From The Nurses Desk**

A reminder that all emergency cards and student handbook forms need signed and returned by parents for all students as soon as possible. These forms were due at the school by September 7<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative that we have these updated forms in the case of illness or injury of your child.

### **TCCS Recycling Drive**

Mr. Brown's Environmental Science class has begun a recycling drive that will last the entire school year. Students and community members who are not currently involved in the community recycling program may drop off their newsprint, #1 and #2 plastic and aluminum and steel cans at the school. Their goal is to collect 1000 pounds of recyclables by years end. All of the recyclables will be given to the Tidioute Lion's Club recycling program.

### **TCCS Accepting Recycled Phones and Ink Cartridges**

TCCS is still collecting old cellular phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Those items can be dropped off in the office.

### **Yearbooks**

The 2006-2007 yearbooks have arrived! They are available for purchase at a cost of \$25.

### **Elementary Volleyball**

Elementary volleyball begins Monday September 24, 2007 for grades 2-6 from 7 to 8 pm. The event will run every Monday through November.

### **Tutoring Available**

Beginning Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup>, advanced math tutoring will be available to students in grades 10 – 12. Tutoring will be available every Tuesday from 3 until 5 pm.

### **Miss Tidioute Pageant**

The Miss Tidioute pageant for girls in grades 11 and 12 will be held Thursday September 27, 2007 at 7pm in the gym.

### **Port Farms Field Trip**

Students in grades 1-3 will once again be going to Port Farms in Waterford on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Students will depart at 8:45 am and arrive back at 2:30 pm. The children will learn about life on a farm through hands on activities. They will have the opportunity to go on a scavenger hunt through the corn maze and take a hay wagon ride through the fields to the pumpkin patch to pick their own pie pumpkin. Cost is \$5.00 which will cover their lunch and entrance into the farm. **The students will be outdoors all day. Please dress them appropriately for the weather.**

### **Open House**

The Tidioute Community Charter School annual open house will be held on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. The schedule of events for the evening includes, the kick off of the 1000 page reading challenge, the Scholastic Book Fair, information tables on volunteer opportunities for parents, giveaways, and food and refreshments. All students in Kindergarten will have the chance to win a Leapster Learning Game System with 2 games and all students in grades 6-8 will have the chance to win a Fly Pentop computer, both systems are courtesy of Leap Frog.

### **Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held Tuesday through Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup> in the school library. Students will have the opportunity to purchase high quality books at reasonable prices.

Mark your calendar for our Open House on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. Shop our Fair and enjoy fun activities, giveaways, refreshments and so much more! Stop by the Classroom Wish List display while visiting our Book Fair. Help add books to our classroom shelves by purchasing books and donating them to your child's class.

This year we have a new opportunity to bring more books to our students and classrooms. We call it One for Books. Stop in at any local business between now and October 1st and donate just \$1 and sign a Book Slip with your name or your child's name so we can display it at our Book Fair. All of the money collected goes directly to purchasing more books for our school. Scholastic Book Fairs will match the One for

Books dollars we raise with a donation of up to one million books to three non-profit organizations devoted to improving reading skills among children: Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., National Center for Family Literacy and Toys for Tots.

Information will come home with the students on the dates and times they will be attending the fair. Don't forget Christmas is right around the corner! Books make great gifts!

### **Reading Challenge**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, TCCS will kick off its first annual 1000 page reading challenge. The 1,000-Page Reading Challenge (250 for grades K-2) is designed to get students reading! Students from all grades are encouraged to read any books they want, and keep track of the number of pages they read. Not only will they fine-tune their reading skills they'll also turbo-charge their imaginations! At a time in our education system when students' reading skills and test scores are being questioned, can you think of a better goal? All students who read 1000 pages — alone or with an adult — will receive an official Scholastic Certificate of Achievement on awards day plus the opportunity to win group and individual prizes. The school goal is 300,000 pages for the year. With your enthusiasm, our program, and the students' efforts, we can create a nation of readers!

### **Picture Day**

Picture Day at the school will be Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fall Fundraiser**

The Club's Choice fall fundraiser sponsored by the Student Activities Committee will kick off on Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Delivery is Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4pm in the cafeteria in plenty of time for the Thanksgiving holiday. All monies raised go towards student activities for the year. Every student is encouraged to sell at least 10 items. For every 10 items a student sells they will be placed into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to Walmart. Monies raised over the last two years have gone towards the field trips to Waldameer, Geauga Lake and Kennywood, the running of the student store, The purchase of the schools laminator, and the Santa's Workshop and Dr. Seuss family events just to name a few.

### **Student Activities Meeting**

The Student Activities Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 9th at 6:30 pm in the library. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Planetarium Field Trip**

Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the astronomy class will be going on a field trip to the planetarium on Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Skating Party**

The next TCCS skating party at “The Rink” in Titusville is on Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Thanks to a donation from Armstrong Cable to the Borough of Tidioute, round trip bus service will be available on a first come first served basis to take interested students, parents and community members to the skating party. The bus will depart TCCS at approximately 5:45 and arrive back at TCCS at approximately 9:00 pm. There is NO COST to ride the bus. Students must have a note signed by a parent or guardian if students are to ride home with someone else and not take the bus. Cost for skating is \$2.50 per person, \$6 per family and \$1.50 per skate rental. This event is open to the public.

### **Halloween Story Hour**

The Tidioute Community Charter School will be hosting a Halloween Story Hour featuring Franklin the turtle on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:45 to 11am at the TCCS library. Events include reading, crafts and take home activities. This event is free and open to the public.

### **No School**

There is no school on Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> for students due to a Professional Development Day for teachers.

### **Volunteer Opportunities Available**

The following volunteer positions are now available:

**Open House Volunteers** – Volunteers are needed for Open House on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers and donations are needed for the refreshment table, book fair and information tables. Times available include 5:30pm-7pm, 7pm-8pm and 6pm-8pm.

**Science Decathlon Volunteers** - Volunteers are needed for the Science Decathlon on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 volunteers are needed for the decathlon to help run the different events. This is an all day event and training will be provided.

The law now requires that all volunteers working with children obtain three clearances, Act 34 and 151 for criminal background check and child abuse and Act 114 FBI Criminal History. There is a fee per clearance but your clearances are effective indefinitely as long as you continue to volunteer at our school. In order to participate in any school event, parents and community members **MUST** have their clearances. This includes but is not limited to; room parents, field trip chaperones, expeditionary project volunteers or any event where volunteers will be working with the children.

We strongly encourage each family to make a commitment to contribute a minimum of 10 hours a year to the school by volunteering in one or more areas of the school's operation. You are not expected to serve at each of the events a particular committee will sponsor, but help as your schedule permits. Your involvement in special events is equally important to that of the daily or weekly volunteer because these projects could not be completed without your help.

We urge all parents to join the CAPTIVATE (Community And Parents Together Involved in Volunteering and Teaching Excellence) program. For more information on the CAPTIVATE Volunteer program or to obtain clearance forms, contact the school at 484-3550 or visit our website at [tidioutecharter.com](http://tidioutecharter.com) and click on the links page.

### **After School Activities**

The following after school activities are currently taking place. Contact the school for more information.

- **Football** – Fridays for grades 6-12 September through November
- **Soccer** - Mondays for grades 7-12 September
- **Ultimate Frisbee**- Wednesdays for grades 7-12 September through November

- **Spirit Club** - Tuesdays for grades 7-12 all year
- **Weightlifting** - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for grades 7-12 in October.

### School Clubs

The following clubs are being offered this school year:

- Yearbook – Grades 9-12
- Prom Committee – Grades 9-11
- Academic Bowl- Grades 9-12
- SADD – Grades 7-12
- Spirit Club – Grades 7-12
- Environmental Club- Grades 7-12
- Book Club – Grades 7-12
- Archery/Trap – Grades 9-12
- Debate – Grades 11 and 12
- Art Club –
- Drama Club – Grades 7-12

For more information contact the school at 484-3550.

### September/October Events

- **Thursday September 27** - Miss Tidioute Pageant 7 pm in the gym
- **Thursday September 27 – Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>** – 48<sup>th</sup> annual PA State Fishing tournament
- **Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>** Girls Volleyball at Rocky Grove
- **Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>** – Port farms field trip grades 1-3
- **Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Cross Country (away)
- **Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Girls Volleyball at Youngsville
- **Tuesday – Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** – Scholastic Book Fair in the library
- **Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>** – **Open house 6-8 pm**
- **Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>** – **Picture Day**
- **Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball vs. French Creek valley Christian 4:30 (Home game)
- **Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>** – Club’s Choice fall fundraiser begins
- **Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Cross Country (away) at Linesville Invitational
- **Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball vs. North Clarion (Home)
- **Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>** – Student Activities Committee meeting 6:30 pm in the library
- **Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball @ Kennedy Catholic
- **Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>** – Cross country (away) Rocky Grove Invitational
- **Monday October 15<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball vs. West Forest (Home)
- **Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Field trip to planetarium grade 9 and astronomy class
- **Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>** – TCCS Board of Trustees meeting 7pm in the library
- **Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup>** – Cross Country (away) Freedom Invitational
- **Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup>** – Skating Party at the Rink in Titusville 6:30 to 8:30PM
- **Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball @ North Clarion
- **Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>** **TCCS Library Open 9:30-11am with Stories and Crafts beginning at 9:45**
- **Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Girls Volleyball @ Venango Catholic
- **Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup>** – Girls Volleyball vs. Rocky Grove (Home)
- **Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>** – Cross Country Districts
- **Monday October 29<sup>th</sup>** – **No School Professional Development Day**
- **Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>** – Halloween parties

For information on any of these events contact the school at 484-3550.