



# The Howler

October 2017

## From the Principal

Dear TTCS Community:

We have reached the end of the first quarter. It has been a good term for us at TTCS despite feeling the effects of NM State budget cuts for education. As you know the state finances necessitates cuts in education that are currently impacting our day-to-day operation. Our staff is picking up the slack and lack of coverage we experience on a daily basis. Please join me in thanking our teachers and staff for the extra work they have taken on to help keep our school moving forward without the resources that we had in place last year.

As the year has settled in, wait lists have disappeared and we have a few openings in selected grade levels. If you know a family that is unhappy with their current school, have them call us now and look into 2<sup>nd</sup> term enrollment at TTCS. If students get in now they don't have to take a chance with the lottery.

Lastly, as you know, we have conferences coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. It is very important for all families to attend this first round of conferences. Many students are off to a great start and we are seeing great improvement in our student's efforts. However, we have too many students not making the extra effort needed to catch up with their grade level. All parents should be checking their student's progress regularly on our "family link". It should

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## Save the Date

The Halloween Carnival is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Go to the school website to buy your tickets or a wristband in advance to get a discount.

[http://www.turquoisetrailcharterschool.org/pto\\_volunteers](http://www.turquoisetrailcharterschool.org/pto_volunteers)

Thanksgiving Family Meal coming soon!

## Calendar

### October/November

M	T	W	Th	F	Sa/Su
16	17	18	19 GC meeting 5:30pm	20 P/T Conferences	21/22
23 P/T Conferences	24 Tasty Tuesday	25	26 PTO Meeting 3pm	27 Halloween Carnival, 5:30pm	28/29
30	31	1	2 GC meeting 5:30pm Picture Day	3	4/5
6	7	8	9	10 Thanksgiving Family Meal Movie Night	11/12
13	14	15	16 GC meeting 5:30pm	17 Pop N Toss	18/19
20	21 Thanksgiving Break	22	23	24	25/26



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be no surprise if you learn your student is not working at grade level. This year we are requiring students who are below grade level in reading or math to do extra work to catch up. We look forward to having 100% of our families attend conferences.

Sincerely,

Ray Griffin  
Head Administrator

## The Nurses Corner

Pre K, Kinder, 1st & 3rd grade

Wednesday, November 1st the Lion's Club will be here to do digital vision screenings. If your student wears glasses, please make sure they have them and wear them that day. (Everyday for school would be ideal). If there are any issues, you will receive a referral letter from the school nurse recommending a professional eye exam.

**DROPPING Off Prescription Medications:** When you drop off prescription medications such as eye drops, ear drops, and antibiotics at the front office in the morning, **MAKE SURE** you write a note including instructions, parent name and phone number or Amber will ask you to fill out a medication form. I will call parents to confirm before administering the medication. Also remember **NO NURSE** on Thursdays. No one is available to administer the medication. If your student needs non-routine medication, you or a family member will have to come to school and give it to them.

**HUNGRY Students:** Some teachers have expressed concern that students are hungry particularly in the afternoon. Many classes have snack in the morning and I'm always preaching about a healthy breakfast, however some students don't eat all their lunch because they play around or don't like what is served. Teachers cannot supply afternoon snacks in the classroom and it takes time away from academic work.

Please review the cafeteria menu with your child and encourage them to eat! It's amazing how much food we see being thrown away!

**THANK YOU** for all the physician injury reports, doctor/dental excuses, and phone calls! It really helps me do my job and check up on your children while they are here at school.

Jennie Farquhar BSN RN  
Turquoise Trail School Nurse

For more info, go to the nurses corner on the School website: [www.ttschool.org](http://www.ttschool.org)

## PTO News

### Events and Info from your PTO

The Halloween Carnival is coming up soon! October 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm will be full of Games, Prizes, and Food! Put on a costume (if you want) and join this exciting community event that Turquoise Trail has had for many years now. Teachers will be looking for volunteers to run their booths, and will be asking for donations for game prizes. These prizes can be found for cheap all over the place. Pick some up while you are getting your groceries!

The PTO is also helping out with the Fun Run. Mel Martino is the many person in charge, so contact her if you would like to volunteer, donate or help in any way. Proceeds from the fun run are to support the PE program here at TTCS.

Meetings are being shifted from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Please attend when you can and give us some fresh points of view and opinions. If you cannot make the meetings, please email the PTO at [ptc@ttschool.org](mailto:ptc@ttschool.org) with your input and don't be afraid to suggest other times for meetings. We need new officers to keep the PTO running, so please don't let this organization fall apart. If nobody steps up, the PTO will simply be dissolved.

## Fun Run!

The 7th Annual Fun Run is on its way! We are looking for sponsors, donations, and volunteers to help out for the December 9<sup>th</sup> fundraiser, which will raise money for the TTCS P.E. Program. We are accepting cash donations, raffle items (including gift cards from businesses) and volunteers for the event. Please contact Mel Martino at (505) 986-4000 or email [mmartino@ttschool.org](mailto:mmartino@ttschool.org)

Some sponsors so far include gift certificates from various restaurants such as:

Buffalo wild wings

Outback

Sweet water café

Mariscos

Ranch house

Maria's

There are gift certificates to:

Big Jo Hardware

The Running Hub

Santa Fe Tennis and Swim club

There is a jewelry contribution from Deb Klezmer.

And

We have cash donations from:  
Santa Fe Ciderworks  
Leyba Real Estate  
Marilyn Fitzgerald

Any Turquoise Trail Community member who owns a business, please donate to the fun run!!!  
Donations are still coming in so please register and participate!

To sign up, go to [http://www.turquoisetrailcharterschool.org/events\\_page](http://www.turquoisetrailcharterschool.org/events_page) or look for a sign up sheet in your student's backpack or through the Tuesday emails.

## From our Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Tammi Padilla, 986 4054

*Tammie Padilla*

*Volunteer Coordinator [tpadilla@ttschool.org](mailto:tpadilla@ttschool.org)*

I'm still in need of a few volunteers:

- **Classroom Helper**- assist teacher with copy projects, work with small reading and math groups. Recess and lunch monitor...
- **Lunchroom Monitor**- Assist staff with students lunch periods (10:40-1pm). Assist with the flow of meal services. Help control students behavior during meal services.
- **"On Call" Volunteer**- If you are not sure right now how you can help, but would like to be involved in the future your name can go on our "on call" list.
- **Halloween Carnival** – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm. Teachers will be running booths for this event and will need help.
- **Food Depot backpack Program** – donated food that is put into backpacks and given to families needing food over the weekend. We need help coordinating and delivering donations.

Remind APP

Now you can sign up to receive automatic texts or emails when I need volunteers. All you have to do is text the message @tammiepa to the number 81010 to sign up!

Other ways to help: - Snacks: classrooms need snacks for students.

Ideas: Animal Crackers, Applesauce, Goldfish Crackers, Granola Bars Cheese sticks, Pre-cut Fruit, Cups, Spoons, forks.

## LANL Grant

TTCS has been awarded a LANL Grant to restock and create the science kits. Thank you Los Alamos National Labs for your generous donation.

## Gifted Testing to Start Soon

Please contact Ms. Gina Aranda in Room B4 ([garanda@ttschool.org](mailto:garanda@ttschool.org)) for information about how students are identified for gifted education at our school or if you would like talk about your child being considered for the gifted education program. How are children identified as gifted in the state of New Mexico? New Mexico has guidelines that determine the need for services beyond the regular classroom curriculum. Students must be assessed in intellectual ability and qualify in one other area: academic achievement, creativity, and/or critical thinking. The specific regulations that dictate eligibility can be found on the Public Education Department website at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/Humanities/Gifted/index.html> , then click on the Technical Assistance Manual for Gifted Education in New Mexico and go to pages 123-124.

## New Mexico Teacher Leader Network School Liaison Program

Heather Herd, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, has been selected to join the New Mexico Teacher Leader Network School Liaison Program. This is a network of teachers that includes one representative from each of the 859 schools across the state. The purpose of the network is to develop teacher leadership skills, learn about the Public Education Department's areas of focus, and serve as their school's liaison when other teachers have questions about PED initiatives. Heather is excited about the valuable connections and networking opportunities promised by this invitation. She will be attending two in-person regional meetings this year; as well as bi-weekly webinars hosted New Mexico's Education Secretary-Designate Christopher Ruszkowski. Congratulations Heather!

## Thanksgiving Family Meal

November 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30 to 1:00pm. Come join the TTCS community for the Thanksgiving Family lunch. Tickets are only \$5 per adult, \$3 per child/non-student under 5years. Go to the school website, [www.ttschool.org](http://www.ttschool.org) to purchase tickets or talk to the Front Office.