

TEC TALK

information sharing and community building

October 2, 2006

Volume 4, Edition 1



***A Note from the Principal:** The beginning of the school year is such an exciting time for the TEC community. Families are returning, sharing delightful stories of summer adventures, reconnecting with friends and staff, as well as meeting new members of our team. Suzanne Decker, who recently relocated to Spokane from Kansas City, joins our staff, as well as Shauna Mayer, who is providing Spanish instruction. We have a number of new*

Community-Based Contributors: Lisa Sedlacek-Marcum, Kirsten Erickson, Holly Finnoe, Allyson Halpin and Anne-Marie Stephens. Barbara Comito is a new member of our office team. Several members are wearing multiple hats: TEC parent, art instructor, friend, co-worker. It is a blessing to know that people are called to serve our students and share their unique talents and gifts.

This is a banner year for both the number of returning TEC students (230) and newly enrolled students (104). Today we have a total of 334 students including 46 who are participating in the Running Start (early college) Program. Some families joined TEC as their first public school experience; some are returning from other district sites; and a handful of students are returning to TEC after homeschooling. As you can see, there is no single pathway to TEC, but the good news is that we are able to network with many families who have opted for our unique approach to partnership in learning. We recognize that providing a team approach to student instruction and learning takes a great deal of devotion, time and energy.

Our goal is to provide personalized education for your children! The best way to access information about TEC is to contact your child's WSLP teacher directly. Please feel free to use e-mail, drop by before or after enrichment classes, or call the office (354-7810) and ask us to put you in touch with your WSLP teacher.

Welcome to another great year at TEC!

*The Enrichment Cooperative at Bryant Campus
910 N. Ash St., Spokane, WA 99208 * 509.354.7810
www.tecspokane.com*



Lunch Info

Please order lunch before 9 a.m. each day by calling the recorded 24-hour lunch line, 354-5666. You may also stop by the office when you arrive in the morning. A monthly menu will be placed in your mailbox. If you don't have a mailbox, please notify the office. The menu is also available online at spokaneschools.org. We offer the first entree on the menu only. All students automatically have a lunch account here in which they may deposit as much money as they like. If they had a balance (negative or positive) at another school, it will transfer here. Free and reduced applications are available in the office and take approximately ten days to process. Prices for lunch are:

- **Elementary \$1.85 (with milk)**
- **Secondary \$2.35 (with milk)**
- **Adult \$2.50**
- **Adult with milk \$3.00**

Lunch is ready to be served in the gym at approximately 11:50 a.m. Students and families are all welcome to have lunch in the gym whether purchasing a lunch or bringing their own. Many hands make light work, so please help out by safely folding your chair and leaning it against the table when you are ready to leave.

SHARING SPACE

TEC is one of three special programs at Bryant. The ABLE (Autistic Behavioral Learning Environment) Program and Head Start Pre-School also serve Bryant students and their families. Sometimes rubbing elbows can provide opportunities to make new friends, and other times it is a challenge to navigate the hallways. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The large playground on the south end of the building is off limits to TEC students and their younger siblings from 10:45-11:40 Monday – Thursday. The smaller playground in the courtyard is used by ABLE/Head Start students Monday – Friday for most of the day. Please also be aware of ABLE/Head Start students making their way through our narrow hallways en route to the playground or the gym. Simple awareness will help to facilitate safe, efficient movement. Thank you in advance for your assistance.



A Note From Cheryl



Many of the TEC families already know, but for those who are new or like me and only have a fuzzy memory of last year, I want to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of my vision disability. Since the age of ten, I have had limited vision due to an extremely rare genetic disease. The resulting

limitation causes me to see as if I were looking through heavily waxed paper. I do not see fine details, facial features, objects at a distance or many of the other little aspects of life. However, the good news is that I am highly adaptive. As the students already know, I do not recognize people's faces – so please, do not be offended when I ask you for your names. It is not that I don't remember you; it is simply that *I am not able to see you*. Though my vision is surely a personal inconvenience, it is not a problem that will lessen the quality of your children's education in my workshops. Throughout my previous 23 years as an alternative educator with Spokane Public Schools, I have been a successful and effective secondary teacher. My vision has not been a disability for my students.

Fortunately, the school district is providing clerical assistance for me this school year. Currently, Joan Bryan is serving in the position on a substitute basis; eventually, a permanent placement will be made. This invaluable assistance allows me to spend more time focusing on your student's learning and less time on routine paperwork; even with my adaptive technology, small recordkeeping tasks take much longer for me to perform.

Please feel free to ask me any questions about my sight (or lack thereof), the adaptive technology located on my desk, or any other aspect of school life. I am not shy or easily embarrassed, am rarely at a loss for words, and am always eager to inform or just have a good laugh.

I look forward to meeting and working with each of your families.

– Cheryl Aker, Room 131

Career News

From Deb Crapes, Career Specialist

PSAT/NMSQT to be offered at TEC!

For the first time we will be offering the PSAT here at Bryant for any interested juniors. Any homeschoolers (not just TEC students) are invited to take the test here at Bryant on Saturday, October 21st from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The cost to take the PSAT is \$16. The PSAT is the qualifying test for entry to the 2008 National Merit Program. For more information on the PSAT, you can visit the website at www.collegeboard.com. If you are interested in taking the test, please register with your advisory teacher or with Deb Crapes. Pay your test fee of \$16 to Kathryn Dobson.

Construction Career Day at the Fairgrounds

On Thursday and Friday, October 5th and 6th, there will be a hands-on event for all interested homeschoolers at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. This event is your chance to check out careers related to the construction industry. There will be over 25

pieces of equipment for students to explore and 20 hands-on activities. Homeschoolers and their parents are invited to attend either morning from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Please email Deb Crapes at deborahcr@spokaneschools.org with your registrations.

Youth Leadership Summit on Ethics: Courage, Conduct, Character

This event will present a unique environment for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to actively engage in discussions and debates on a variety of critical topics facing our communities, our businesses, and our public institutions. This will take place at Gonzaga University on Friday and Saturday, October 6th and 7th. The cost to attend is \$25.00, and scholarships are available. See Kay Schutz for more details.

WOIS

We have access to a great career information website, www.wois.org. You can find information on careers and colleges in Washington. Contact Deb Crapes for the site key to access this great site.



Taste of Ancient Egypt Class: Lashing & operating a shaduf (watering system used in Ancient Egypt).

Leadership Opportunity

Would you like to gather together once a month with a team of TEC parents and staff to make recommendations for program improvement? Our TEC Leadership Team is looking for at least one, if not two, parents who are experienced homeschoolers and have been enrolled at TEC for a year or more to join our advisory group. This team meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to brainstorm ideas, generate solutions, and create support for TEC students and their learning. To inquire about this opportunity, please email Dana at danaly@spokaneschools.org or Sarah Bain at sarah@bainbooks.com.



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Tec Treks Field Trip to Mobius/Upper Power Plant	3	4	5 Construction Career Days	6 Construction Career Days	7 Youth Leadership Summit on Ethics Gonzaga
8	9 Tec Treks Field Trip to Spokane House	10 Enter Monthly Progress	11 TEC Leadership Team — 2:30	12	13	14
15	16 Tec Treks field trip to Riverfront Park	17 Vision Screening in Afternoon	18 Vision Screening in Afternoon	19	20 WSLP Updates Due	21 PSAT Testing @ TEC
22	23 Tec Treks to Walters Fruit Ranch	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	School Pictures November 1st & 2nd.			

Quick Bits

Flute

Know of an available used flute? We have a family who needs one. Contact Aaron, 354-7856.

Beautiful Bryant Babies

Aaron, Darby and Sydney McLean welcomed Nash Lloyd to their household in August.

Kevin and Amanda Workman are joined by their beautiful daughter, Maya Grace.

Thank You

Thank you all for the photo album. What a great way for Grandma to brag about her new grandson. Thanks for thinking of me, Elisabeth Silver.

Girl Scouts

Interested in Girl Scouts? Contact Deanna Doyle at 747-8091, ext. 218.

Coats 4 Kids

Would you like to help distribute coats at the West Central Community Center? They need volunteers M-F from 3 to 6 p.m., October 23rd to November 3rd. Please call Candice @ 326-9540 if you're interested.

Etiquette Classes

Students learn phone etiquette, table manners, introductions, personal care and posture. Call Monica at 509.209.6394 or visit www.imagebymonica.com for information on classes.

Free Developmental Screenings

If you have questions about your infant's or toddler's development, free screening is available through the Spokane Regional Health District from October 6 –17. Call 324-1651 for more information.

World Book Online

Our school now subscribes to the award-winning World Book Online Reference Center. Our subscription allows us to give our students and their families access to this valuable reference at their home computers. To access the center, go to www.worldbookonline.com. Your login ID is "spokanesd81." Your password is "student."

Carpooling

A TEC parent from the Mount Spokane area is interested in carpooling. Please call Holly @ 238-5059.

Upcoming Picture Dates: November 1st & 2nd.