



RAM REPORT

Twin Peaks Middle School 14640 Tierra Bonita Road, Poway, CA 92064

Dear RAM Country Families~

Soon, you will be receiving the first quarter grades for your student. Discussing these grades with your child to praise him/her for the good work done is important. Please take some time to be sure your child knows how much you value his/her hard work at school. This is a time of reflection, celebration, and recalibration. Reflection and celebration are things we do well. Recalibration is taking the time to focus on changes to bring a better academic result at the end of the semester. If some grades need to improve, this is the time to sit together and set goals for the next grading period. Some ideas to help with this would be: reminders about using RAM for tutorials and make ups; using the school planner effectively; attending teachers' after school tutorial is always helpful; organizing binders and papers; making sure all materials are packed and ready at night before you go to bed; asking good questions in class and after class for clarity of content and expectations. Each of these will help to build better and stronger students. Remember that learning brings struggle with it. There is much learning to do at the middle school. Working together will bring this about and will keep moving students towards the goals of college readiness after middle school and high school success. Please know that I appreciate all you do at home to support learning and please know how important your part in that really is!!

The cold and flu seasons continue to approach. At this time our attendance is up and students out with flu symptoms is a bit lower than last year. Please keep up your hard work at home to keep your students well and attending school. Hand washing and not sharing food, drinks, and cell phones are good suggestions. *continued next page...*

Calendar of Events

11/1	Adopt A Family Begins - Through 11/19
11/1-5	Character Counts! Week
11/4	Math Club meeting (every Thursday) 3:15 – 4 in Room 919
11/4	Distribution Day for ASB Fundraiser Food and Prizes
11/8	Pick up Megaparty wristband at school (must have ID)
11/9	Fundraiser Megaparty - 12-1:30 p.m. (lunches and RAM)
11/10	PTSA meeting at 8:30 a.m.
11/11	Veteran's Day – No School
11/12	District Recess – No School
11/17	Butter Braids Distribution, 3:15-5:00 in MPR
11/19	Adopt A Family Ends – all donations to school
11/22 – 11/26	Thanksgiving Break – No School
11/30	Canned Food Drive begins

...continued from Principal's Piece

Remember to catch a cough in the elbow if no tissues are available. If your student becomes ill, please keep them home until well and if a fever is a part of the illness, keep your child home until there is no fever for 24 hours when not using fever reducing medication. Thank you for your attention to this.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I thank you for your support with making school important at home, through fundraisers, and volunteerism. As the year comes to a close, and you, or your company, need a place to donate funds for financial reasons, please remember TPMS PTSA, or the Foundation, or Teachers, or the Principal's Fund. Each of these areas will make sure the funds are used to support the best learning possible at Twin Peaks Middle School as we guide students to the Peaks of their potential!

PTSA President's Message

Cynthia Iliff Wright

I am unofficially declaring October and November "Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer Appreciation Months" to recognize all the tremendous and important volunteer work going on at our school that we don't often see but upon which our school relies tremendously. Both months, we call on parents to come to school to count magazine and Butter Braid orders, assist with distribution, help with hearing and vision screening, help plan and implement Red Ribbon and Character Counts! Weeks, and so much more! These parents do not always get to interact with kids or teachers or even see their own kids while at school. They work hard behind the scenes and then take a few steps back while our budding ASB and other student leaders run the events and work their own kid magic to make it all come together. So thank you and don't think we don't know and appreciate your efforts because we do! A big thank you to our Red Ribbon Week Chair, Barbara Grant, for working alongside our ASB, after-school kids and school staff to educate our students against the dangers of drug use. We will be implementing these prevention programs throughout the year and including parent nights to keep you informed about ways you can keep your student away from drugs. Look for more information coming soon.

I also want to thank everyone for their membership and their generous donations to the PTSA. Because of you. Last month the PTSA was able to donate \$900 which, together with matching funds from the District, will be used to purchase an AED lifesaving device to be installed on our campus. Thank you for your generosity and care for kids!

Last Call to Join the Science Olympiad Team

The teams have formed and training has just started for the bigger than ever Twin Peaks Science Olympiad Teams! However, there are still a few spots left for students and coaches on the teams. Event teams are starting to meet after school to build battery-powered cars, catapults and towers, bottle rockets, study astronomy, ecology, fossils, ornithology, conduct chemistry and physics experiments, solve crimes, and lots more, to prepare for the regional Science Olympiad Competition on February 5, 2011. Twin Peaks will field 4 teams this year with over 50 students in all grades, up from last year. Over 15 parent coaches and teachers stepped up to coach events and make this awesome program a reality for our kids. Thank you!! If your student wants to join or you can coach an event, please contact head coach Patricia Millan at plmillan@cox.net. For more information about the Twin Peaks program, go to Science Olympiad under the Science Department page on the TPMS website. To learn more about Science Olympiad in general or see the Division B events for this year, check out the Science Olympiad websites at www.soinc.org and www.sandiegoso.org.

Adopt a Family Program Brings Joy to Local Families in Need

Last year the Adopt a Family Program, sponsored by Palomar Council PTA and implemented at our school by ASB and PTSA, helped over 400 local PUSD families have a Happier Holiday Season. This year we expect the numbers to be close to last year, if not a little higher. The generous donations of your time and gifts are priceless to a family in need. In addition to helping others, working on this event makes our families feel good about giving. When we help others less fortunate, the process puts our own lives in perspective, and helps us and our children appreciate our lives and families through new eyes. It is a win / win for everyone involved. Twin Peaks would like to thank everyone who donates to this worthwhile program.

This year we get to start our shopping a little earlier. The retailers will be happy about this. The ASB will be providing Wish Lists to RAM classes and groups on campus who wish to adopt a family. Your child's class may be participating in this manner, so be on the lookout for donation requests coming home with your students around November 8, 2010. We hope to have all the donations in by November 19th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. We then begin to process the donations, add wrapping paper, food and gas cards. After processing, delivery begins. We would like to have all 400 families delivered by the last day of school before winter break.

Whether or not your child's class is participating, there are also other opportunities to help, including adopting a family by your family or a group of neighbors, girl or boy scout troop, Bunco group etc., buying a gift or a gift card and bringing it to the office labeled "Adopt A Family Direction Donation," or volunteering at the distribution center with processing and delivery. Please feel free to email Bonnie James to be a part of this event bonniek-james@gmail.com

PTSA Meeting Changed to November 10 Due to District Recess

Please note that the PTSA Meeting will take place this month on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the administration conference room (through the office). This will be an Association and Board meeting and all members are invited and encouraged to attend. We will be approving the end of year audit and catching up on all the great programs happening on our campus. Agendas available from Cynthia Iliff-Wright at cynthia@lewistools.com.



Foundation FUNdraiser is November 2 at Pat

and Oscar's! We all need to eat so why not support your favorite school at the same time?

The next FUNdraiser is at Pat and Oscar's in Carmel Mountain Ranch. You can download the flyer at our website at <http://www.twinpeaksfoundation.org> and

turn it in when you pay your bill so TPMS Foundation gets the credit. It is that easy! Also, don't forget to "like" the Friends of Twin Peaks Foundation on Facebook to stay up on Foundation news and events! Last but not least, thank you also to everyone who turned out for our last FUNdraiser at El Ranchito Taco shop in September. Your support is appreciated!

Foundation website: www.twinpeaksfoundation.org or visit the Twin Peaks School website at www.powayusd.com/pusdtpms and click on Foundation.

Butter Braids Pick Up Date Coming Soon!

I can see them rising and smell them cooking now so I hope you bought some for yourself! Butter Braids Distribution will be on Wednesday, November 17 from 3:15-5:00 in the MPR. Thank you for supporting 6th Grade Camp! Thank you also to the PTSA parent volunteers who helped count the orders and money and will assist in the distribution. Go Team TPMS!

CHARACTER Always COUNTS!

Character Counts Week is November 1-5. Take PRIDE in GREAT Character! Parents, this is a perfect time for you to **show support** by wearing these colors with your children!

Monday (11/1) Respect Day- WEAR YELLOW

Tuesday (11/2) Trustworthiness Day- WEAR BLUE

Wednesday (11/3) Responsibility Day- WEAR GREEN

Thursday (11/4) Fairness & Caring Day- WEAR RED/ORANGE

Friday (11/5) Citizenship Day- WEAR PURPLE



What's going on in the QUAD? Plenty of games and fun! This is the perfect time to check out the graphics for the Character Counts shirts. Your help is needed to vote for your favorite.

Friday is the QUAD party. Students nominated by a staff member to show **trustworthiness** during October receive special gifts. This is also when you will receive your first of the PRIDE stickers. Get ready for more details about the limited edition shirt and the pizza party in June. Remember the GREAT character we can show!

Twin Peaks Math Club Now Forming

It is time to join the Twin Peaks Math Club, led and coached by teacher Mr. Lou. The first meeting will be after school on Thursday **November 4, 2010** from **3:15- 4 p.m.** in **Room 919**. The meetings will be every Thursday thereafter (school days), same time, same place. Math Club students will prepare for MATHCOUNTS and Math Field Day competitions. All grades welcome!

Don't Miss Distribution Day for Your Food and Prizes from the ASB Fundraiser and, of course, the Megaparty! Thursday, November 4, 2010 is the day for students to pick up the food they sold for the ASB Magazine Fundraiser and to also pick up their prizes. Distribution for students will be from 3:15 to 5 p.m. in the MPR. Students **MUST** have their student ID card to pick up prizes. Parents may come at 2:30 to pick up food items only, but **NOT** prizes. Thank you for your tremendous support of this fundraiser to help implement many programs and events on our campus. Thank you also to the PTSA volunteers who counted orders and money on 3 different days and helped organize the distribution. We have a GREAT Team at TPMS!

The Megaparty for eligible students will be on Tuesday, November 9th from 12 to 1:30 p.m. which is during both lunches and RAM times in the MPR. Students may attend the party for the entire period but cannot return to the party once they leave the MPR. Students who earned the party will receive a wristband that lists those events in which they are eligible to participate at the party, so they do not need to locate all those individual tickets. The wristbands will be available for distribution the day before the party. Students **MUST** have their student ID cards to receive the wristband. You will receive more information from Connect/Ed and students should listen to K-Ram for more details as the date approaches.

Counseling Corner – November, 2010**Counseling Staff:**

Karen Geist – A-M, ext. 2813

Jami Jennings – Mc-Z, ext. 2814 (Wednesdays, Thursdays, and alternate Fridays)

Barbara Tomicich – Counseling Assistant, ext. 2815

Grading Information

2nd Quarter - Ends Friday, 1-14-11

Report Cards Distributed to Students: Wednesday, 1-26-11

3rd Quarter – Ends Friday, 3-25-11

Report Cards Distributed to Students: Wednesday, 4-13-11

4th Quarter – Ends Thursday, 6-9-11

Report Cards Mailed Home by District Office

Please check Learning Point for updated grades throughout the quarter.

College and Career Planning at Twin Peaks

We are very pleased to have Sharon Friedman, a college admissions specialist and Twin Peaks parent, volunteer as our PTSA College Readiness Chairperson. Sharon is excited to support our students explore the unlimited college and career options available to them. If you are interested in volunteering your time to support this program please contact Sharon at 395-7776 or sfriedman@cox.net.

We are hoping to continue using the Career Cruising program at Twin Peaks. Career Cruising has been designed with one goal in mind: to help your students plan their future. With exceptional assessment tools, detailed occupation profiles and comprehensive post-secondary education information, students move seamlessly through the career exploration and planning process. This powerful portfolio system helps students make concrete, long-term plans, and gives you access to the real-time information and statistics you need to track your students' progress and achievement. The cost of the program is approximately \$600.00 dollars for a site license. *If you would like to make a voluntary financial contribution to help fund this program please contact Mrs. Antrim, our principal, at lantrim@powayusd.com.*

Food for Thought:**Real-life tasks can encourage kids to write**

Good writing skills are vital to your middle schooler's success in school and beyond. Of course, forcing your child to work on his writing skills may backfire. Instead, find imaginative ways for him to practice writing creatively. (If he's having a good time, he may not realize he's sharpening his skills at all.) Ask your middle schooler to:

1. Craft a holiday letter. The fall and winter holidays are fast approaching. If your family typically sends out an end-of-year holiday letter, ask your child to take the lead. Suggest he start by recapping the seasons: "In the spring, our family" Beyond that, let him decide what to write about.
2. Maintain a family blog. Have you been thinking of starting a blog? Let your child tackle the setup. (He's probably much more tech-savvy than you are!) If you already have a blog, ask him to update it every so often. Remind him that he's doing something valuable by keeping family and friends posted on what's happening in your lives.

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Counseling Corner continued next page...

Counseling Corner continued...

An encouraging environment helps children do well on tests

As a parent, you have an important role to play when your child takes a test. Your attitude about schoolwork and the way you nurture your child at home help her do her best. Do your best to:

- Stay calm. Many children are anxious enough about taking tests. Your anxiety makes it worse.
- Be positive. Your child will benefit from words like: "You studied hard." "You are prepared." "You know your stuff."
- Understand that sometimes things go wrong. If your child generally does well, there is no need to panic about one poor test result. Just say, "I'm confident you'll do better next time. Let me know if you want me to help you review."
- Know what's expected. Stay in contact with your child's teachers, to learn things such as how far in advance tests are announced, the format of the test and whether the teacher provides a study guide.
- Promote attendance. Your child can't do well on tests if she doesn't get to school regularly. She should be there unless she is sick or there is a family emergency. She also needs at least eight hours of sleep each night, and three balanced meals each day, including breakfast.

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Motivate your preteen with timing, routines & support

What happened to your once-enthusiastic student? She turned into a preteen! Suddenly, motivating her to do just about anything can feel like pulling teeth. But don't despair. To motivate your preteen to do what needs to be done:

- Catch her before she plugs in. It's tough dragging a preteen away from her favorite TV show or website. So if there's something you need her to do, ask before she turns on the TV or computer. She may be more compliant.
- Stick to routines. Routines are critical when it comes to keeping order at home. So don't abandon them just because your preteen is now in middle school. If she knows exactly what time she's supposed to study, set the dinner table and get ready for bed, she may be less likely to dig in her heels when it's time to do those things.
- Support her interests. Find out what your preteen likes to do and encourage her to do it. If she's interested in soccer, for example, kick around the ball together. The more you support her as she works at something she loves, the more inspired she may be to work hard at other things--like school!

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Use empathy, attention when talking with your daughter

Preteens can be tough to talk to--especially girls. Ironically, though, GIRLS may be the secret to talking to your preteen so she'll listen. Here's what it means: *Continued next page...*

...continued from Counselor's Corner

G Get to know her. Learn who your preteen is by spending time with her. Ask her to share her favorite music with you. She may be more willing to listen to you if you care about the things she cares about.

I Ignore stereotypes. Your preteen is a dynamic individual, not a "tomboy" or a "bookworm." Labeling her will shut down communication. So, embrace the notion that she's a complex, ever-changing young person.

R Remember who she is. That ranting creature who just slammed her bedroom door is a child struggling to mature. So keep that in mind whenever you witness one of her not-so-flattering moments. And be willing to remind her of better times when she's feeling particularly overwhelmed.

L Listen. Don't expect your preteen to listen if you won't. So the next time she has something to say? Pay attention. Preteens don't often open up, so when they do, it's crucial to tune in.

S Share yourself. Let your preteen see the real you, warts and all. Show her that you're a real person who has real triumphs and makes real mistakes.

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Check Out Our Great After School Sports and Activities for this Month

Hey TPMS- if you haven't already signed up to be a part of the before and after school program, it is not too late! Stop by Room 201 to see everything we have to offer and pick up a registration form or print it off the TPMS website.

Some of the activities taking place after school this month are as follows:

- **Academic Tutoring- Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:40 with 8th grade teacher Ms. McKibbin**
- **Cheer- Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:30 with PHS cheerleaders**
- **Break Dancing- Tues/Wed 3:30-4:30 with RBHS Break Dancing Team**
- **Self Defense/Karate- Fridays 3:30-4:30 with special instructor Burt Crossman**
- **Soccer- Mon/Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:30**
- **Guitar/Music Club- Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:30**
- **Spanish Club- Wednesdays 3:30-4:30**
- **Dessert Decorating- Monday/Tuesday 4:45-5:30**
- **"Boy's Time"- Wednesdays 4:45-5:30**
- **AND MUCH MORE!**

The before school program offers supervised gym activities and a light breakfast. Program hours are from 6:15 to 8:00 Monday through Friday. Students who are taking part in the program must be checked in no later than 7:15 and attend a minimum of 3 days each week.

Check in for the After School Program is in room 201. Program hours are 3:15 to 6:15 Monday through Friday. Students who are taking part in the program must attend a minimum of 3 days each week and stay at least until 4:45 for each of the three days. Questions? Contact: Michelle Ling at miling@powayusd.com

November in the library

By Linda Bjork, Teacher Librarian



In November we display books about family, giving, and the history of this great holiday. Warm autumn colors surround the stacks and I always highlight the theme "Give Thanks." I would like to thank our many volunteers who assist us during the day. With their help, we manage to stay open more hours than ever before. We are open from 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday we close at 3:30 p.m.

If it's Thanksgiving time, the holidays are right around the corner. Books are always great presents to give during the holiday season.

The Twin Peaks Library will happily accept donations of gently used books. If you are cleaning out your shelves to make space for holiday books, we would be happy to add them to our collection. We often replace older copies of what we have or add additional copies to the collection.

As you shop bookstores for holiday gifts, the library always has a wish list. Donations of new books are always appreciated. Here are some books on our wish list. You can also use this list simply as suggestions for holiday books.

The Secret Series Books

This isn't what it looks like by Pseudonymous Bosch

This book is not good for you by Pseudonymous Bosch

If You're Reading This, It's Too Late by Pseudonymous Bosch

Rangers apprentice Books

The Battle for Skandia: Book Four by John Flanagan

The Sorcerer of the North: Book Five by John Flanagan

The Siege of Macindaw: Book Six by John Flanagan

The Kings of Clonmel: Book Eight by John Flanagan

Last Apprentice Books

The Last Apprentice: Wrath of the Bloodeye by Joseph Delaney

The Last Apprentice: The Spook's Tale: And Other Horrors by Joseph Delaney

The Last Apprentice: Night of the Soul Stealer by Joseph Delaney

The Last Apprentice: Curse of the Bane by Joseph Delaney

Hunger Game Series

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

MockingJay by Suzanne Collins

Guinness Book of World Records 2011

Ripley's Believe it or Not 2011

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

Behemoth by Scott Westerfeld

TIP is Coming!

The first quarter is behind us and students who received all O's in Citizenship will be recognized with a TIP sticker on their ID cards, which will allow them to check out more books at the library and makes them eligible for the TIP picnic bash at the end of the year. Tip rewards will be given out at lunchtime once we receive the list of eligible students so have your student listen for the K-RAM announcement of when the TIP Table will be on campus.

Inkjet Recycling Raises Green While Being Green

Who said: "It's not easy being green?" Well not Twin Peaks PTSA! Bring in your empty ink cartridges to the office and we recycle them and turn them into cash! For more information, contact Elyssa Watkins at elyssawatkins@hotmail.com.

And The TPMS Bands Play On. . .

A Great Big "Thank You!" to all students who participated in this year's PIFT (Poway Invitational Field Tournament). You helped earn \$250 for TPMS Band. Thanks also to PHS Music Boosters for your generous donation. And now to our upcoming events:

Thursday Nov. 4th, Time: 8-9pm. Poway High Emerald Brigade has invited Twin Peaks Band to watch this year's field show under the stadium lights. Afterward stay for refreshments, meet section leaders, and PHS music booster parents. *non-mandatory event*

Friday Nov. 5th. -- CALL TIME: 5:30pm. Poway High Emerald Brigade has an amazing opportunity to participate with the Marching Band and join them for a PHS football game! You will have an opportunity march along with the Emerald Brigade when they enter the stadium, play the fight song for the crowd, and sit with the band members and perform in the stands. This is one of our favorite events for the middle school musician! **Dress Code:** Emerald Green Shirts/Blouses or TPMS Polo Shirts, Pants-jeans, and closed shoes. DO NOT wear sandals, off-color shirts/blouses, or cut-offs. Remember you will be marching side-by-side with a "fully-uniformed" band member. Parents - please drop off your student at PHS Band Room by Call Time. For more details please refer to our website "tpmsband.com". *non-mandatory event*

Wednesday Nov. 17th and Thursday Nov. 18th. Our November Fundraiser will be held at "El Ranchito" Taco Shop. Please support the TPMS Band and help us sound great! **You must bring in our flyer!!!** Please go to our website to download the flyer. Both locations are participating in this event (14149 Twin Peaks Rd. & 13654 Poway Rd.). Stop in between 7:00am - 9:00pm or just plan on eating "breakfast, lunch, and dinner"! This was a great fundraiser for our band last year. Don't forget to invite co-workers or extended family too!

Finally, to all Band Parents: There will be a monthly "Band Booster" meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in our Band Room. Please join us!

KUSI News Special on Oxycontin Abuse Among Youth in San Diego

On November 16, 8-10 p.m., KUSI News will present its feature on prescription drug abuse, "Oxy: What Your Kids Aren't Telling You!" Some children are experimenting with "Oxy" as young as 12 years old. The addiction takes control of them quickly and follows them into adulthood. Many never shake it. Other die trying. Parents often have no idea their kids are hooked until it is too late. Don't miss this one-time only, must-see television event with a direct impact on you and your family's health and safety.

WHAT WILL MATTER

By Michael Josephson*

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.
There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours, or days.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.
Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.
It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.
So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.
It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.
It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.
Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built;
not what you got, but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success, but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, em-
powered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew,
but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.
What will matter is not your memories,
but the memories that live in those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom, and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.

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* Michael Josephson is the founder of Character Counts!

The RAM REPORT is a monthly on-line newsletter posted the first of each month on the TPMS website during the school year. Information published must fall within the PTSA guidelines of being nonsectarian, noncommercial, and nonpartisan. This newsletter is a publication of the Twin Peaks Middle School PTSA 14620 Tierra Bonita Road, Poway, CA 92064. Palomar Council, Ninth District PTA CCPTS.

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Material for the Ram Report must be submitted by midnight of the 2nd Friday of the month prior to publication via both of the following e-mail addresses: jjemm5@sbcglobal.net and cynthia@lewistools.com. Articles are accepted on a space available basis with priority given to PTSA news. Articles may be edited.