

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'T' in red with a white outline and a blue shadow. To its right, the word 'BRAVES' is written in a bold, blue, serif font. Below 'BRAVES', the phrase 'Live Up to the Name' is written in a white, cursive script. At the bottom of the logo, the text 'February, 2012 TMS Newsletter' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# **TMS BRAVES**

*Live Up to the Name*

**February, 2012 TMS Newsletter**

## *Goals for Life*

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

A Community Outreach Program by Miami University  
To the Talawanda Middle School Students and Staff

On Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Talawanda Middle School students have an outstanding opportunity to participate in a special "Goals for Life" program. The program is divided into three areas for all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The eighth graders will spend the day at Miami University focusing on high school course selection. The goal is to help our students align their high school education with their post high school goals. The Miami University Office of Admissions will share a presentation, followed by a campus tour and lunch in Erickson Dining Hall.

The seventh grade will also spend most of the day at Miami University working with the Miami University Athletic Department and Air Force ROTC program. The focus for seventh graders is on life skills required to be successful in life including attendance, character, appearance, attitude, productivity, organization, communication, cooperation, respect, and teamwork. The seventh grade students will eat lunch in the Martin Dining Hall.

The sixth grade students will spend half of their day at TMS with assistance from the Miami University Farmer School of Business and the Miami Psychology Department. The Farmer School of Business will present the Buck Rogers Leadership Program where students will learn to address cyber-bullying. Sixth grade students will eat at TMS and then join TMS seventh and eighth grade students at Millett Hall to watch the Miami University Lady Red Hawks take on the University of Akron Zip in a specially scheduled 12:00 game.

Maria Fantanarosa (Miami Lady Red Hawks head basketball coach) and her staff have once again created a truly unique opportunity for Talawanda School District students and staff to participate in a series of rich learning opportunities, as well as watching the Miami University Lady Red Hawks play. Funding for this special day comes from various Miami University Departments, the Miami-Talawanda Partnership Fund, and Talawanda School District.

# Get Ready For The Glen!

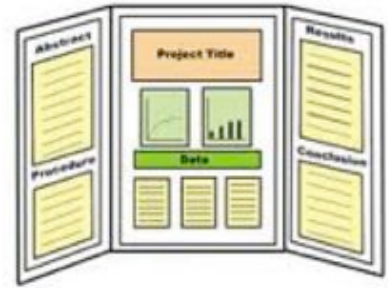
- Information packets came home with students last week!
- Language Arts teachers are ready to begin collecting forms and money!
  - Parent Meeting - Feb. 2, 7 pm in the auditoria.
- Prepare for the cold...dry feet are critical in winter weather!
  - Borrow a sleeping bag if you don't have one...it's easier!
  - Cost is \$145 unless your child brought home a reduced bill for participating in the fundraisers!
- Way to go!
- Please consider a donation to our assistance fund! A separate check or cash may be sent in with your child's paperwork.
- Donations of outgrown winter boots also accepted!
- Remember, no electronics or cell phones! We are exploring the natural world...it's an "unplugged" experience!
  - Good citizenship is expected!

See you February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm!

# Plan Ahead - Be Prepared

## Seventh Grade Language Arts Classes

(Mrs. Abrams, Mrs. Garver and Miss Gill)



You will need to provide a large tri-fold poster board for a research project and presentation we will compete this quarter. Please prepare now.

Tri-folds can be purchase at Hobby Lobby, Staples, Office Max, etc., and can be stored in our classroom. **Get yours today or bring in \$5.00 for your teacher by February 21 and we will get them for you.**



## After School Art Has a New Name and a New Approach! Spring 2012

The Oxford Community Arts Center's After School Art's spring 2012 session for middle school students has a new name...**MidART**... and two sessions this semester to better accommodate busy after school schedules!

The first session begins February 27<sup>rd</sup> and run to March 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be a fun survey of different art techniques included drawing and mixed media collage. Students will meet a professional artist, learn about their artwork, and learn new skills to create similar projects.



The second session begins March 26 and runs to April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and will focus on one large, outdoor, group sculpture project based on the work of world-renown artist Patrick Dougherty.

(For a sneak peek check out Patrick's work at <http://www.stickwork.net/installations.php>).

We still encourage students to register for both sessions if they are available in order to have a more rounded experience and to have more time to develop friendships.

Students attend once a week on Mondays from 3:30 to 5pm. Bus transportation is offered from TMS to the high school from where students will walk up College Avenue to the Arts Center. A healthy snack will be provided. Registration opens January 20<sup>th</sup>. Look for a flier in your child's Friday folder.

Each week students will be able to create original works of art in a relaxed and social atmosphere under the guidance of an experienced art educator and Miami University volunteers. OCAC believes that the arts enhance learning of all types and enrich and nourish the human experience. Plus, art is a whole lot of fun!

After School Art is not a Talawanda School District program - for more information please call the Oxford Community Arts Center at 524-8506 or visit [www.oxarts.org](http://www.oxarts.org) and click on classes.

## Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. partners to bring 'Be E3 Smart' energy education program to Talawanda Middle School

This year, a very special energy education program will be implemented at Talawanda Middle School for the seventh grade students of Steven Hricko and Ellen Jaeger. *Be E3 Smart* is designed to bring math and science learning into not only the classroom, but also into the students' homes to help reduce energy usage.

*Be E3 Smart* is an award-winning, innovative program being launched by Ohio's electric cooperatives in conjunction with the Ohio Energy Project (OEP), a nonprofit organization that promotes energy education and leadership through partnerships with schools, businesses and communities. OEP initially introduced this program a few years ago and won the distinction of being Ohio's "Outstanding Environmental Education Project of the Year" in 2008.

*Be E3 Smart* meets state science standards in a hands-on, creative way that allows students to use energy efficiency devices in the classroom and at home. Students learn about electricity, efficiency, heat and energy transformation, and then collect, graph and identify trends, all according to scientific principles. Each student receives a kit of energy-saving materials for use at home with family participation, which allows students to apply what they've learned in the classroom.

Science teachers, Steven Hricko and Ellen Jaeger attended extensive professional development training in preparation for this new program.

On Monday, December 5, Hricko's seventh grade students were presented their first lesson from the *Be E3 Smart* program. Students compared the energy used by compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) and incandescent light (IL) bulbs (see attached photos).

During a lab project, students recorded the temperatures of the two bulbs in one-minute increments for a total of 10 minutes. Students then graphed the temperatures, and determined that if the IL light bulbs are hotter than the CFL light bulbs, then the CFLs are more energy efficient.

*Be E3 Smart*, sponsored by the Ohio electric cooperatives, is being implemented at 20 schools throughout the state and is anticipated to reach up to 2,500 students and their families. This program is part of the ongoing Energy Advisor program originally introduced by the cooperatives in 2006 in an effort to help electric cooperative members and communities learn how to use energy wisely and save money.

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to be able to sponsor this new energy program. Co-op Manager Michael L. Sims stated, "We feel it's important to reach out to electric cooperative members and the community with energy education. Offering the *Be E3 Smart* program in our local school helps us do that in a very effective way. It helps build even stronger partnerships between schools, teachers, families and our cooperative. It is a win-win scenario for everyone."

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric utility. The cooperative serves 11,500 member-owners in Butler, Hamilton, Preble and Montgomery counties. Since its incorporation in 1936, the cooperative has focused on providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to its members. The cooperative has always been committed to the community and has worked diligently to be an active part of its community for 75 years. The cooperative is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, which is a brand alliance of cooperatives from across the country. For more information visit [www.butlerrural.coop](http://www.butlerrural.coop).



## Children need healthy meals to learn

Talawanda Schools offer well-balanced meals to students every school day.  
Elementary Breakfast costs **\$1.00**; lunch costs **\$2.25**.  
Secondary Breakfast costs **\$1.00**; lunch costs **\$2.75**.



Your child may qualify for free meals or reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch. **An application can be filled out at any time during the school year.**

If you need information or would like to fill out an application, please visit <http://www.talawanda.org/foodservices/> or contact the main office of the building your child attends. Only one application per household needs to be completed.

## Using Your Head While Searching the Web Talawanda District Library Media Centers February 2012

### INTERNET TIP: Search Tips

A very important skill for students (and adults) to learn is searching the internet effectively to avoid wading through lines and lines (pages and pages?) of irrelevant or inappropriate sites. Try these internet search tips:

- 1) Use the **Advanced Search** option many browsers have. It allows you to be more specific by selecting exact phrases, synonyms, etc..
- 2) **Search terms** are very important. Think about what you want to find before typing. You might have to use synonyms (teens, adolescents, young adults, etc.). If you're not getting the information you want, rethink your search terms and try again.
- 3) Use **Phrase search** to find a specific phrase with quote marks. This will tell the computer to make sure the phrase is complete. For example: "to be or not to be".
- 4) **Exclude terms** by typing a minus sign (-) before them.  
If you type: *jaguar -cars -football*, you will get information about animals but not about automobiles or sports mascots.
- 5) **Specific Sites** It is possible to search for specific sites (edu, gov, org) by typing: *site:edu* or *site:org* along with your search words. Use a colon between *site* and the domain name. This will give you information only from educational, government, or organization's sites. You can also type *iraq nytimes.com* to get articles about Iraq only from the New York Times.

I hope these search tips help you and your student(s) find what you need. Of course, INFOhio provides accurate, reliable, and grade appropriate information all the time.

WEB SITES: Want access to a lot of valuable information? Go to:

[www.talawanda.net](http://www.talawanda.net)

Schools (select your school)  
Media Center

or INFOhio button on the right

Online CATalog

or

DISCOVERY PORTAL

Call or email me for the username and password for home access.

Don't lose your head – use it – to research wisely on the web!!

Carol Morison

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Ohio Master Teacher

National Board Certified Librarian

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273-3262

## Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl

The results are in for the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl tournament that took place Tuesday and yesterday. There were three sixth grade teams that competed. The sixth grade teams came to practice several times before the tournament and were really excited to participate. The highest score of the three teams was phoned in to represent Talawanda. Our highest scoring team (Hannah Zmuda, Rhonda Krehbiel, Lily Chenault-Clark and Marta Fioretti) came in 16th for 6th grade teams and 28th overall (combining 5th and 6th grade, 61 teams in all).

Our 7th and 8th grade teams ended up being sub-sets of the 7th grade girls basketball team (plus Lily Garver) and the 8th grade boys basketball teams. Finding time to practice was impossible for most of the kids in these grades. I was grateful for the students finding time to participate in the tournament and I think they all had fun.

The results can be viewed online. Go to [www.thinkingcapquizbowl.com](http://www.thinkingcapquizbowl.com) and click on results. Choose the contest you wish to view (5th/6th or 7th/8th) and choose Corn Belt. The login password for both sites is corn.

Hopefully building interest in 6th grade means I can count on participants next year and the year after who know what it's about. I will also look into having a 6th grade team or two for the "America Answers" contest later this spring.



### HCC Corner

#### ***“Healthy Learners are Better Learners”***

According to the American Dairy Council, milk is one of the most nutrient-rich beverages young people can choose. There are numerous benefits to young people who choose to drink milk, including the fact that it provides three of the four nutrients (calcium, magnesium, and potassium) that the Dietary Guidelines identified as lacking in the American diet. (American Dairy Association).

Talawanda’s School Meal Program provides students the opportunity to have low-fat milk for both breakfast and lunch. Flavored milk options are available at every school for students as well. A lot of research has been conducted recently in regards to flavored milk and the results have been favorable in terms of it making a positive contribution to a child’s overall health. “Children who drink flavored milk meet more of their nutrient needs and do not consume more added sugar, fat or calories” (National Dairy Council). For more information on the benefits of flavored milk for youth, please visit [www.nationaldairycouncil.org](http://www.nationaldairycouncil.org).

If you have questions regarding the Health Coordinating Council or any of Talawanda’s Health & Wellness programs, please feel free to contact Amy Macechko at 273.3390 or at [macechkoa@talawanda.org](mailto:macechkoa@talawanda.org).



# Stay Safe Speak UP!

(Remain Anonymous)

Call or go online today to report harassment, threats, suspicious behavior or other concerns which may jeopardize the safety of students, employees or school facilities.

Your message is very important in helping us maintain a safe school environment.



### *It's easy!*

#### **Phone**

1.866.listen2me (toll free)

#### **Online**

1. Go to [www.talawanda.net](http://www.talawanda.net)
2. Click on Health & Safety
3. Click on Safe School Help Online

#### Report these safety concerns:

- Weapons
- Drugs / Alcohol Abuse
- Suspicious Behavior
- Suicide / Self Abuse
- Problem Relationships
- Sexual Assault
- Fights / Violence / Abuse
- Harassment / Threats
- Theft / Vandalism
- Health Concerns / HIV / AIDS



24/7/365

Available all day, every day,  
from anywhere.



online or  
1.866.listen2me



Talk Early And Often About Alcohol, Tobacco  
And Other Drugs. Even When It Gets Tough

## Know! – Resolve To Strengthen Communication

Youth surveys reveal that the number one reason young people give for choosing not to use alcohol or other drugs is that they do not want to disappoint their parents. As this new year kicks off, we encourage you to resolve to increase conversations with your children about the dangers of drinking, smoking and using other drugs.

In order to take full advantage of our parent power, we must: be informed on the issues; be clear on where we stand when it comes to underage drinking, smoking and using other drugs; and we must foster and strengthen communication with our children.

### ***Follow these Ten Tips to Boost Parent/Child Communication:***

1. Get in the habit of chatting about the everyday stuff with your child before jumping into potentially intense conversations.
2. Demonstrate your genuine interest in what your child has to say by listening with your full attention.
3. Be respectful of your child's feelings and viewpoint, even when you do not necessarily agree. He/she will then be much more likely to return the favor.
4. Choose your words carefully and be aware of your body language. If you show shock or disgust by what your child has shared, you will have ended the conversation.
5. Be mindful of your tone of voice. It's not just what we say, but how we say it.
6. Avoid interrupting and lecturing. These are also proven conversation busters.
7. You must know the facts about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and share them truthfully.
8. Skip the scare tactics. According to prevention experts, they are not effective.
9. Take advantage of teachable moments: For example, you are in the car with your child, with the radio on. You've got a captive audience, so try talking about that alcohol ad you both just heard.
10. Last but not least, control your emotions. If the talk gets heated and you display anger, your child is likely to go into fight or flight mode... neither of which will benefit anyone.

It is important to clearly communicate your love for your child and your desire for him/her to make healthy lifestyle choices. As you further establish and strengthen the lines of communication, your child will feel more comfortable to share his/her feelings with you, to ask questions, to seek your advice and guidance and in the end, you will be helping your child to make more positive life decisions; like choosing not to use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Talking regularly with kids about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs reduces their risk of using.

Know! urges you to encourage other parents to join Know!.

[Click here for the Know! Parent Tip Sign-Up Page.](#)

Know! is a program of:



Drug-Free Action  
Alliance  
*Lifetime Prevention  
Lifetime Wellness*

6155 Huntley Road,  
Suite H  
Columbus, Ohio  
43229

With funding support from:



United Way  
of Central Ohio

Sources: [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#), [National Association of School Nurses \(NASN\)](#), [HealthyChildren.org](#).

# Talawanda Middle School - Menu - February, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 TACO'S MEXICAN RICE FRUIT & MILK	 2 ROTINI W/MEAT SAUCE, SALAD, BREADSTICK FRUIT & MILK	3 SPICY CHICKEN PATTY SANDWICH, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT & MILK	4
5	6 COOK'S CHOICE FRUIT & MILK	7 CININNATI CHILI SPAGHETTI, SALAD FRUIT & MILK	8 HOT DOG W/ BUN, BAKED BEANS FRUIT & MILK	9 FRENCH TOAST, EGGS, SAUSAGE, HOT APPLES FRUIT & MILK	10 CHICKEN NUGGETS, CORN, ROLL FRUIT & MILK	11
12	13 POPCORN CHICKEN, MIXED VEGETA- BLES, ROLL FRUIT & MILK	 14 MEATLOAF, GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES, ROLL FRUIT & MILK	15 HAM WRAPS PEAS FRUIT & MILK	16 SPAGHETTI W/MEAT SAUCE, SALAD, BREADSTICK FRUIT & MILK	17 SLOPPY JOE W/ BUN, TATER TOTS, COLESAW FRUIT & MILK	18
19 NO SCHOOL 	20	21 CHICKEN STRIPS, CORN, ROLL FRUIT & MILK	22 NACHO'S MEXICAN RICE CORN FRUIT & MILK	23 SPAGHETTI W/ MEATBALLS, SAUCE, SALAD, BREADSTICK FRUIT & MILK	24 FISH W/BUN MAC & CHEESE FRUIT & MILK	25
26 PORK BBQ W/BUN, AUGRATIN POTA- TOES FRUIT & MILK	27	28 ASIAN CHICKEN, RICE, BROCCOLI, FORTUNE COOKIE FRUIT & MILK	29 CHILI SOUP, PEA- NUT BUTTER SANDWICH, CELERY FRUIT & MILK			