



# TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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PTSA NEWSLETTER 2011-2012

Vol. 13, No. 5, January 2012

## President's Letter

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Welcome to 2012! I hope you all had a restful holiday season and your students prepared for returning to school. With the new year we start review for, and taking, final exams, which start the morning after this month's PTSA meeting. Of course, the end of finals means the end of the first semester of the school year. Does the year seem to be rushing by to you?

We have a special program scheduled for this month's PTSA meeting, starting at 7:00 PM in the Media Center. This program is something I have been thinking about for long time. I asked Ms. LaGrange to request that one of the Tilden teachers, preferably the Resource Teacher for one of the subject areas, talk to parents about the curriculum in that subject area. This month we are going to hear from the Tilden English Department. My request was to explain the goals of the curriculum at each grade level, the material that should be mastered at each grade level, and how parents can both monitor progress and help both their students and teachers succeed. Ms. LaGrange told me that to really go into depth in each subject area would take about six hours, so we are not going to get an in-depth presentation. Please attend the meeting with your questions in mind. We will allow an appropriate amount of time for this presentation, but no one wants to stay all night! You can get an idea about the content of this presentation by reading the article in this newsletter from the Math Department.

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## Principal's Message

For many, the beginning of the New Year brings a "fresh start" filled with resolutions and plans for the year. Even though our students are returning from a well-deserved break, they are also coming back to semester exams. With that, too often, comes stress that manifests itself both at school and at home. Our exam season kicks off this Wednesday, January 11, 2012 with an Exam Review Day, and the first Final Exam will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2012. The last exam is on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, followed by make-up exams on January 19, 2012. You can find a copy of our exam schedule on our website. To help students deal with the stress of the exams, please encourage them to get at least eight hours of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. They should also find some time to continue the activities that they enjoy doing and if it's not too cold, get some fresh air. If they are anxious about a particular exam, they can study with a friend or review class notes with a group of friends over lunch.

If you are noticing excessive stress, please encourage them to stop by the counseling office or by the main office. We are always here to help them come up with strategies and put things in perspective (this is done at times through attempted humor or a hug!). If you are looking for an opportunity to simply enjoy some quality family time with other Tilden families, join us for the PTSA sponsored restaurant fundraiser with Noodles and Company at Montgomery Mall on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-9:00 pm. If you mention Tilden, the PTSA will receive 25% off the proceeds. *(Continued on page 2)*



## Principal's Message Continued

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I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with great health and laughter! I would also like to thank all the parents who chaperoned at the dance this past Friday. It would not have been the success that it was without your support. Without mentioning any names, we have some moms and assistant principals who really know how to dance--ask your child for more details!


Warmest Regards,

Irina LaGrange

## Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

February 2012

(A graduation cap icon  signifies SSL Approval at [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) "SSL Community Opportunities".)

- Consider getting involved in service on President's Day February 20 and the "Early Release" day on March 2.
- Local, State, and National elections provide opportunities for students to be involved in the political process. Political organizations and opportunities identified with a graduation cap icon  on the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) are approved for SSL. Any service provided to an individual running for public office requires MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* granted in advance.
- Remember: SSL is a graduation requirement. SSL along with all other requirements must be met for a high school diploma to be awarded.

## President's Letter Continued

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Speaking of programs during our PTSA meetings, I would like to look forward over the next few months. In March, I have a presentation on the Maryland College Savings Fund (529 Plan) scheduled. I know that we all have middle school students, but college costs keep going up and the sooner we start saving for that expense, the better. I believe it will be an interesting presentation and time will be saved for questions and answers. Then, in May, I have started the process of putting together our annual presentation and discussion of the transition to Walter Johnson High School. I will have a couple of parents, a WJ counselor, and four current WJ students on a panel to talk about their transition and what we can expect. That leaves program openings in February and April. Our February meeting is on February 14 – Valentine's Day. I am thinking the best program I can offer is time with our spouses and families on this special day. I will gratefully consider any ideas you may have for our April meeting.

Finally, I would like to again thank the amazing group of officers and committee chairs serving this year. My life has been rather complicated lately and I have not had much time to push these people. But they don't really need me - they just continue to do their things!

We have a restaurant night scheduled this Thursday at Noodles and Company at Montgomery Mall. Please attend, mention that you are with Tilden, enjoy an easy dinner night, and help raise some money for your PTSA. Visit the Tilden website frequently and open the calendar to stay up to date on school events and watch your listserv email – you are a member of the listserv, right?

Thank you for your continued support of your PTSA and the teachers and staff of Tilden Middle School.

Joe Piff

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

What a busy semester for the Student Government Association!!! The SGA has been very active this year. We are currently getting ready for our second all school dance!! A great time was had by all at our first dance and we anticipate an even better time for the winter dance. Our students have been involved in several fundraisers. We collected can and dry food to help support the Mana Food Center. We recently raised over \$200 to support a local homeless shelter to provide gloves, scarves, hats and necessities for the residents. In February candy-grams will be sold for the low, low price of \$1. All proceeds will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, then on to Pennies for Patients to support research for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our officers have been attending Montgomery County Junior Council meetings. They get together with all the other M.C. middle school officers to collaborate on school and government issues. This is a wonderful way to expose the students to real government happenings. SGA is a wonderful way to get involved with your school and community, meet new people, make decisions, form committees and overall have fun! All students are permitted and encouraged to get involved.

Thank you,  
Amy Domingos and Michelle Cassels  
SGA Sponsors

## FACS

It has been a wonderful semester this year in Family and Consumer Sciences. **The sixth grade** students have really excelled with their cooking skills, making pasta dishes, creative desserts, baked goods, pizza and many other exciting recipes. Working together as a group during planning and labs has helped to promote communication and problem solving. I looking forward to watching the students excel next year in seventh grade!

**The seventh grade** students recently completed their free choice lab. The classroom looked and smelled like a gourmet restaurant. Dishes included: fettuccini alfredo, home-made stir fry, bow tie pasta and home-made garlic bread, chicken tenders and Stromboli! The students excelled a great deal this semester as they used their skills for budgeting and economic strategies with lab preparation and planning! **The eighth grade** students recently completed their free-choice lab as well. I was quite impressed with the variety of dishes prepared. Everything from Latin prepared steak and rice, shrimp and chicken kebobs, falafels, and baked ziti were the delight of the day! Group and individual student selections are encouraged when choosing dishes. The students have worked hard this semester learning about banking, credit cards and debit cards. Personal finance helped to give the students the knowledge to save and budget when planning for labs. FACS is a great way to meet new students, plan and strategize for lab preparation, communicate and compromise with others. A wonderful way to mature as a middle school student. All students are encouraged to sign up!

Thank you,  
Amy Domingos  
FACS Teacher

# TILDEN EXAM INFO

Exams for Algebra and Honors Geometry will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Extra copies and answer keys of the exam review packets are available at the links provided below. Please make sure to select SEMESTER A.

## Algebra (Semester A) -

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/high/algebra1/>

## Honors Geometry (Semester A) -

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/high/geometry/>

Please encourage your child to seek help during MAP with their math teachers. Please make sure that your child has a graphing calculator on the day of their exam. Extra calculators will be available.

Miim Kwak - Math Content Specialist  
Tilden MS 301-230-5930



**Wednesday, January 11**  
FINAL EXAM REVIEW DAY

**Thursday, January 12**  
FINAL EXAMS - Periods 1 and 7

**Friday, January 13**  
FINAL EXAMS - Periods 3 and 5

**Monday, January 16**  
Holiday - Martin L. King, Jr. Day

**Tuesday, January 17**  
FINAL EXAMS - Periods 4 and 6

**Wednesday, January 18**  
FINAL EXAM - Period 2

