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## Seeking Aptakistic Band Alumni

### First Annual Alumni Band Concert

On Tuesday, January 24, at Aptakistic Junior High, the District 102 band alumni are invited to participate in the 1st Annual Alumni Band Concert. The rehearsal begins at 4:00pm, pizza dinner at 5:00pm, and concert at 7:00pm. Please RSVP to Band Director Thomas Eifert at [teifert@d102.org](mailto:teifert@d102.org).

## Would You Like to Help Someone Learn English?

D102 is looking for parents interested in volunteering for approximately two hours per week for eight weeks beginning in March 2012. D102 in conjunction with the College of Lake County will provide training and resources for volunteers to teach a small group of adults who want to learn English. The tutorial training will be January 10, 11, and 12 from 12:30-4:30pm at College of Lake County Vernon Hills

## Aptakistic Junior High School

### Arrowhead

#### AJHS Student Council Sponsors Food Drive

AJHS Student Council will be sponsoring a food drive from December 5 - 14. The food will be donated to the Vernon Township Food Pantry to benefit needy families. Please consider sending non-perishable food items with your child to help the effort. Students will receive a raffle ticket for each non-perishable food item. These items will be collected during lunch. The tickets will be pulled on December 16 during the winter pep assembly and winners will receive a gift card.

#### Teens and Anger Management

*(Article reprinted from [www.angermanagementtips.com](http://www.angermanagementtips.com))*

Now that you're a teen, you probably hear a lot about teen hormones, teen mood swings, and teen problems (as if you weren't living through them!) It's enough to make anyone mad, but here's the thing - teenage anger is a normal part of growing. Besides, anger is a normal emotion for everybody. While anger often gets a bad rap, it isn't bad to get angry. Anger is just another emotion like love, hate, joy, and sorrow. The trick to anger management, like any other emotion, is how you express it. Choosing how to express your anger is anger management. View the entire article in the [Arrowhead](#).

#### Spotlight on Community

District 102 works to make the holiday season a little warmer and brighter for those in need. Thanks to our parents and community, we are able to support organizations such as [Journeys from PADS to HOPE](#). There are stars in all of our schools with a name of an item needed by local social service agencies and families in and around Buffalo Grove. More details in the [Arrowhead](#).

## Meridian Middle School

Campus, 1120 South Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills. For more information or to register, contact Laura Sherwood at 847-543-2327 or [lsherwood@clcillinois.edu](mailto:lsherwood@clcillinois.edu) or Amy Gannon at [agannon@d102.org](mailto:agannon@d102.org).

### **Registration Open for Winter Enrichment Program**

The Center for Gifted, in partnership with Northern Illinois University, will offer a series of courses for students at District 102 this winter. The program, which includes courses in sculpture, robotics and creative writing, among others, will run on Sunday afternoons from January 15 to February 12, 2012 at Meridian Middle School. Find more details in the [Worlds of Wisdom and Wonder brochure](#).

### **PTO At A Glance Shop Online for the Holidays and Earn Money for the District 102 Community Care Fund**

Visit [SchoolStore.com](http://SchoolStore.com) and order from over 200 merchants including Target, Office Depot, Barnes & Noble, WalMart and many more ([view a complete list](#)). Students will earn a prize by going to [www.schoolstore.net](http://www.schoolstore.net), entering school ID, and three email addresses of friends and family to invite them to shop. Questions, please contact Jodi Kearney at [chris.jodi@prodigy.net](mailto:chris.jodi@prodigy.net) or

### **Meridian Minute**

#### **Last Chance to Order Yearbooks**

Flyers were handed out to students that have not yet ordered yearbooks. The full color Meridian yearbook is only \$25. All orders are due by Friday, December 9. Here is a link for the [yearbook order form](#).

#### **Insights from the Social Worker**

The holiday season it is a perfect time to teach children about reaching out to those less fortunate. There are many wonderful organizations and causes, and this article will highlight one that may not be as well known. In District 102, we are most fortunate to have wonderful resources for our students, but not all districts are that lucky. First Book at [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org) is a non-profit group that helps bring books to children. According to First Book, forty-two percent of children in the United States, more than 30 million, live in low-income households. Most of these children have no age-appropriate books at home, and the classrooms and programs they attend are woefully under-resourced.

#### **Meridian Building Updates**

Students recently enjoyed the [Get A Grip](#) assembly that challenged them to take control of their lives. Students learned how to exercise self-control when they are in a bullying situation, confronted with negative influences, or feeling frustrated or angry. They learned that self-control is not only about denying something enjoyable or missing out on the fun, it is about taking control of oneself in an effort to shape and control the future.

There are two upcoming events before winter break for students and families. On December 14, Meridian will celebrate its second quarter art and music night with tile painting and clay lantern making in the art room and a music performance in the multi-purpose room. Also, orchestra students are preparing for the December 15 winter concert at Stevenson High School.

Visit the [Meridian Middle School webpage](#) for more school information.

### **Pritchett Elementary School**

#### **Pritchett Times**

#### **Before You Write**

Good writers take time to come up with ideas and organize their thoughts before they begin writing. Encourage your youngster to use this three-step strategy for his/her next report or essay. The

847-821-9325.

### **2011-2012 Student Directories Available**

Student directories have been delivered to all families who have joined the PTO. If you would like to join the PTO or purchase additional directories, please [complete the order form](#). Questions, contact Ilana Kopinsky at 847-459-7527 or at [paperdreams@comcast.net](mailto:paperdreams@comcast.net).

### **2012 Entertainment Books**

If you are interested in purchasing an entertainment book, send a check to school for \$25 payable to District 102 PTO. The PTO earns \$10 for every book purchased. For more information contact Marcy Weinstein at 847-459-8269 or [mweinstein68@comcast.net](mailto:mweinstein68@comcast.net).

### **Want updates to all of our events?**

Be sure to "LIKE" District 102 PTO on Facebook.

## **Community**

### **Youth Programs at the Vernon Area Public Library**

*Registration required for all programs. Register in person, online at [www.vapld.info](http://www.vapld.info), or by phone at 847.634.3650.*

### **Frogs! Frogs! Frogs!**

**December 7** from 7:00-8:00pm for all ages. Meet the coolest and strangest group of animals on the planet, frogs! Deb Krohn aka "The Frog Lady"

article tells how to choose a topic, gather information, and then organize the facts. Read the [Pritchett Times](#) for details on this great writing method.

### **Technology Tips - Apps for the i-Pad**

Children love using the i-Pad at school and at home, but many parents are asking for suggestions for educational apps. Each month Pritchett technology teacher Julie Pingel will highlight a few favorite educational apps appropriate for every grade level. See the [Pritchett Times](#) for early childhood through fourth grade app suggestions.

### **School Social Worker's Scoop - Community Resource Review**

Beginning this month and in the months ahead, different social service organizations or mental health resources in the Buffalo Grove community/surrounding suburbs will be highlighted. This month features the Arbor Counseling Center located in Buffalo Grove. Arbor Counseling Center is a comprehensive psychotherapy practice that provides counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families. Therapists at Arbor Counseling place an emphasis on strengths and resiliencies. Arbor's collaborative approach to solving problems helps clients achieve the highest level of health and fulfillment. More details in the [Pritchett Times](#).

## **Tripp Elementary School**

*The Tripp Times*

### **Talented Poet Visits Tripp**

Poet, performer, and teacher Bill Buczinsky visited Tripp Elementary School on November 14 for two performances. Mr. Buczinsky is the founder of [A Child's Voice](#), a company created in 1997 to help children of all ages discover and develop their own voice. See the Tripp Times for more details and photo.

### **A Message of Appreciation from the Principals**

Tripp Principals wrote a note of appreciation for this season of giving. The Tripp Student Council canned-food drive recently concluded, and it was a huge success. Several hundred items were given to the Vernon Area Food Pantry to support needy families in Lake County. D102 families also gave books to Bernie's Book Bank which collects, processes, and redistributes new and gently used children's books. And a huge thank you to the teachers and students who are participating in the Stars Program by donating funds to purchase gifts for families who would otherwise not be able to celebrate this holiday season. More details in the Tripp Times.

### **Upcoming Friendship Groups at Tripp Elementary School for**

will introduce fascinating and bizarre frogs facts in this lively program.

#### **Jiggle Jam**

**December 10** from 10:30-11:30am for infants - six-year-olds with caregivers. Jodi Koplin will have toes tapping and fingers snapping as the group sings and dances to energetic tunes.

#### **Teen Scene: Holiday Photo/Memo Boards**

**December 19** from 7-8:30pm for grades 6 -12. Running out of ideas for the holidays? Photo and memo boards are fun to make and give as gifts. Please bring at least six colorful buttons for the board, all other supplies will be provided by the library.

#### **Winter Reading Club**

**December 18 - January 29** for kindergarten - grade 8. Bingo is back! Join Dream Big Bingo at home or in the library. Enter weekly raffles and collect prizes as you participate in a variety of reading related activities.

#### **Puppet Workshop**

**December 27** from 7-8:00pm or **December 29** from 10-11:00am for ages 3 -14. Children under six must be accompanied by a caregiver. Puppets will come to life at this hands-on workshop.

#### **Ready, Set, Read!**

New this year, a specially designed reading club for our youngest patrons,

#### **First and Third Graders**

Friendship groups are being formed at Tripp Elementary School for students in first and third grades. These groups will help children develop positive relationships with peers by teaching social skills and building self-confidence in fun ways. More details in the Tripp Times.

### **UPCOMING FINE ARTS EVENTS**

12/6 Beginning Band Concert, Meridian Gym, 7:00pm

12/8-12/9 Half Magic, Aptakistic Junior High, 7:00pm

12/14 Art & Music Night, Meridian Middle School, 6:30pm

12/15 Orchestra Concert, Stevenson High School, 7:00pm

1/24/12 Aptakistic Alumni Band Concert, Aptakistic Junior High, 7:00-9:00pm

1/30 Consortium Choral Concert, SHS, 7:00pm

2/28-2/29 Tripp 3rd/4th Grade Winter Music Concert, 7:00pm

3/7 Music & Art Night, Meridian Middle School, 7:00pm

3/19 Orchestra Concert, SHS, 7:00pm

3/20 Band Concert, SHS, 7:00pm

4/12 Meridian Talent Show, Meridian Gym, 7:00pm

4/18-4/19 Tripp 1st/2nd Grade Spring Music Concert, 7:00pm

4/25 Jazz Cafe, AJHS, 7:00pm

4/30 Orchestra Concert, SHS, 7:00pm

5/8 Band Concert, SHS, 7:00pm

5/9 Choral Concert, SHS, 7:30pm

5/21 Consortium Art Show, SHS, 7:00pm

5/24 Meridian Showcase of Learning, Meridian, 7:00pm

5/31 Tripp Elementary School Art Show, 7:00pm

infants through pre-kindergarten.

## Calendar Change for Kindergartner Parents

Please note January 13 affects PM Kindergartners/EC, and March 1 and May 25 affects AM Kindergartners/EC.

### Dates

12/6 Beginning Band Concert, MMS, 7:00pm

12/8 AJHS Play - Half Magic, 7:00pm

12/9 AJHS Play - Half Magic, 7:00pm

**12/13 PARENT WORKSHOP - Internet Safety** by Sarah Migas, internet safety specialist with the Illinois Attorney General's office, Fremont Intermediate School, 6:30pm. Open to D102 parents.

12/14 Art & Music Night, Meridian, 6:30pm

12/15 Orchestra Concert (MMS & AJHS) at SHS, 7:00pm

12/19 Winter Break

1/3 School Resumes

1/15-2/12 Worlds of Wisdom and Wonder enrichment classes. The Center for Gifted, MMS, Sundays, 2:00-4:30pm

**1/25 PARENT & STUDENT WORKSHOP:** Cyber Bullying in the 21st Century, Aptakisic Junior High Cafeteria, 7:00-8:30pm

3/21 Community Event- Learning Vision

## District 102 Board of Education

### Members

Gary Friedlander, President  
Ellyn Ross, Vice President

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

### 12/13 - Internet Safety

Sarah Migas, Internet Safety Specialist with the Illinois Attorney General's office. Her presentation will cover: Harsh Truths on Surfing the Net, Sexual Exploitation, and Cyber Bullying.

Fremont Intermediate School, 6:30pm

### 1/25 - Cyber Bullying

Parents and students are invited to attend a presentation on bullying and what to do about it. Please contact Jill Campeol at [jcampeol@d102.org](mailto:jcampeol@d102.org) or (847) 353-5665.

Aptakisic Junior High Cafeteria, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Pelleg Graupe, Secretary  
Joan Koriath, Board Member  
Steve Lefar, Board Member  
Lenny Ostach, Board Member  
Alan Rubenstein, Board Member

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questions to  
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