

# HotSync

Volume 2 Issue 1 ■ October 2009  
NTH@Coppell PT50 Newsletter

## From the PT50 President

We are off to a fast start this school year. I want to welcome all the new Freshman parents and invite you all to be part of the NTH@C PT50.

The PT50 is here to support our students and faculty, and would love to have you be part of all the fun things we have planned. From wonderful Wednesdays to our new Graduation Committee (Yes, can you believe we will have our first graduating class in 2011?) The PT50 is involved in it all. So come join us on the first Monday of every month at 5:30, and be part of the excitement!

Jean Ainsworth  
NTH@C PT50 President

## Bits and Bytes from Mrs. Branum

Hello [NTH@C](#) Families and Friends, Wow! I am in shock that we are concluding our 1st six weeks of school. I am always amazed at how quickly these days and weeks fly by us all. These first weeks of school have truly been amazing. I am in awe of how incredible our staff is and how quickly our learners got back into the swing of being back at school. We have made some amazing memories already and cannot wait to make many, many more with your learners.

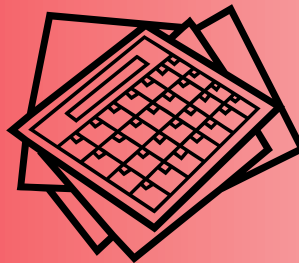
**Rookie Parents:** Things are about to get even harder for you. Your learners are about to bring home their very first report card as a high school learner and to complicate things it is also a New Tech report card. For many of your kids, they are still struggling to figure out how to manage 6 projects, extra-curricular involvement, friends, high school crushes, etc. Your son/daughter comes home some days loving school and others promising that they want to leave [NTH@C](#) and head down the street to CHS. Please remind them it does get easier and as they mature and develop strategies to handle this new environment they will learn to SOAR!

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## SAVE THE DATE



PT50 Meeting.....	October 5
Staff Development Day (no classes) .....	October 9
Fair Day (no classes).....	October 12
PSAT Testing (Sophomores/Juniors) .....	October 14
Red/Gold Renaissance Lunch.....	October 17
Red Ribbon Week.....	October 26-30
PT50 Meeting.....	November 2
Gold Renaissance Lunch.....	November 7
Cyber Bullying Program (CHS).....	November 9
Turkey Drive .....	November 20
Red/Gold Renaissance Lunch.....	November 21
Staff Development & Fall Break .....	November 23-27

## PSAT Testing Coming Soon

NTH@C will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14. Testing will begin promptly at 8:40. Learners should have a good breakfast this morning, as well as, make sure they are awake early enough in order to arrive at school on time and ready to perform their best.

Sophomores and Juniors will take the PSAT administered by the Collegeboard. Freshmen will take a practice test administered by Knowsys Test Prep in order to allow them opportunity to gain experience with timed tests.

Score results and interpretations will be provided for the Freshmen practice test on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Score results and strategies for using the PSAT Score Report will be available for Sophomore and Junior parents upon their release from the Collegeboard in December.

## Flash Drive Fundraiser

Keep your files backed up and support NTH@C in the process! Purchase personalized flash drives and external hard drives to house all of your files.

Visit the following URL to check them out, and don't forget to enter New Tech's fundraiser code (FT3NEWTH). <http://www.pexagontech.com/rd/new-tech-high-coppell.php>

## College Visit Days

We believe it is important for your learner to visit college campuses while school is in session in order to get a true feeling for what the culture is on that particular campus. In order to allow learners to visit colleges while they are in session, they will be given two college visit days per semester during their Junior and Senior years to make these trips. Learners will need to notify the school they are taking a College Visit Day by obtaining the appropriate form from Mrs. Pace. This form will need to be signed by a parent and returned to Mrs. Whittle prior to taking the visit. Absences will be marked as College Visit Days, and will not count against a learner's exam exemptions, when the bottom half of the form is returned with an attached business card from the admissions office of the university the learner visited.

## SAT

Many NTH@C learners will be taking the SAT coming up in November and December. Please pay close attention to the registration dates. To register, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and sign-in. The scores should be sent to NTH@C. To do this you will need our CEEB code, which is 441-486. If you need help or have any questions, contact Gretchen Pace for assistance.

## College Prep Testing

Project Graduation is sponsoring **College Prep Testing** four times this year at CHS. These ACT/SAT tests are *practice* opportunities, offered in a friendly environment, and will *not* be sent to any colleges. Ten days later, the learners and their parents may pick up their scored tests and learn what those scores mean during an evening strategy session. The strategy session will offer tips for a better score in the future. This opportunity should ease anxiety over these tests. Please contact the Guidance Counselors office for more information.

## Dig for the Cure Volleyball Tournament

October 6th is the Coppell High School Dig for the Cure tournament. Last year, the girls raised over \$15,000 for Komen Dallas County. The CHS volleyball teams are selling pink t-shirts and cookies to promote and raise money for the event. T-shirts will be sold for \$10 at the high schools during lunches on Monday, Oct. 5 and Tuesday, Oct 6.

## Truancy Policy

We love having your learners here at NTH@C with us. One of the benefits of being part of small community is that we notice when learners are out ill or are having an issue getting to class on time in the mornings. It is difficult to recreate what a learner misses during class time. Facilitators may give workshops over new content, a lab experiment may be performed, or a group may meet to divide up work for their latest project. Your learner will be behind if they frequently miss classes here at NTH@C. If your learner is absent, please have them email their group members and facilitators to see what they missed in class. It is also crucial to check PeBL for each classes' daily agenda and assignments.

Remember that days missed during a semester can add up between now and January 15<sup>th</sup>. Learners can be denied credit if they miss more than nine days per semester in a course. Extreme tardiness can also count as an absence if a learner is more than ten minutes late to class. We will be sending home truancy warning letters if our attendance records indicate that your learner has missed, without excuse, more than three days or parts of days within a four-week period. Please schedule doctor, dentist, orthodontist, and other appointments on Wednesday mornings from 8 – 10am, if possible.

Please email Mrs. Brown at [kbrown@coppellsid.com](mailto:kbrown@coppellsid.com) if you have any questions about NTH@C's attendance or truancy policies.

## Bits and Bytes from Ms. Branum

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I want you to know what an honor it is to work with your children. I am enjoying getting to know them and am truly falling in love with their sense of humor, quiriness, and their hearts. I could not have asked for a better group of incoming freshmen. I truly believe everything happens for a reason. These 140 learners were brought together to New Tech for a reason and I am so grateful.

**Veteran Parents:** Your kids have rocked my world this year. They came back to [NTH@C](#) with such maturity and confidence. Many of them are stepping up everyday and demonstrating leadership for our incoming freshmen. More and more of them are interested in becoming ambassadors and assisting with our tours. This shows me they believe in our school and want to share that with our guests. Our facilitators are challenging them even more in each project. They are asking our learners to go deeper with the content, develop new presentation techniques, and think even more globally. Thank you for coming back this year. You all know how special your kids are to me...thank you for sharing them with me.

Our tour season is already in full swing. We hosted visitors from Northwest, Grand Prairie, Mansfield, and Hawaii just to name a few. The TASA/TASB (School Administrators and School Board conference) asked us to present at their conference this past weekend. Mr. Ball, Mrs. Spannagel, Claire Mosley, Andrew Shay, Ryan Whittle, Sloane Ansell, Scott Dance, Taylor Mays, and I all traveled to Houston to demonstrate 21st Century Learning and Project-Based Learning. It is awesome to hear "outside" people comment on how amazing our kids are. They always comment how mature our learners are with their ability to communicate orally and articulate their learning experience. It truly makes me proud and you should be too.

I am finalizing dates for Director's Dialogues and will send those out through [mysign-up.com](#) shortly. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you or your learner. Thank you for your support. Please remember how hard our facilitators work for your learners. We know sometimes you might be frustrated with a project or a grade but please know we do try and do what is best for our kids each and everyday. I treat them like they are my very own children...I protect them like they are my very own...and I love them like they are my very own! **Don't Stop Believin', Captain B.**

## Cyber Bullying/Internet Safety

Coppell ISD is sponsoring a program to help you protect your child online. Two presentations by Aaron Covey, FBI, Dallas Division, will be held:

Thursday, October 1, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Coppell Middle School West Cafeteria

Monday, November 9 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Coppell High School Lecture Hall

For more information contact [dhart@coppellisd.com](mailto:dhart@coppellisd.com).



## Four-Legged Student at NTH@C

This year as you walk down the halls of New Tech, you may see the scurry of four black furry legs hustling to Spanish class wearing a yellow jacket. That would be Bonita, a pure black lab guide dog in training. She belongs to Sra. Pierson, who is a puppy raiser for the Guide Dog Foundation located in Smithtown, NY. Bonita attends school every day with Sra. Pierson so that she can be socialized and practice her obedience in the school environment. She will live with Sra. Pierson for a full year before returning to New York for her next phase of guide dog training. She will be almost two years old before she graduates. This is the fifth pup Sra. Pierson has raised for the foundation, all of which have attended school here in Coppell.

## Around Campus...

**Scientific Analysis** Learners are working as applicants for a job with Starbucks. They produced cover letters explaining some of their qualifications, and will produce an Employee Handbook as the final product. The handbook will explain how to make one coffee that Starbucks brews, including the physical and other chemical properties.

**Spanish 1** classes have all received an 'early' graduation gift from their grandparents of \$5000 and are eagerly planning their trip to a Spanish speaking country. They have already learned the countries and their capitals of all 22 Spanish speaking countries and are busy reciting the alphabet and their numbers. They have learned how to convert their US dollars into the money of the country they are travelling to and have been exploring flights and hotel options. We are eager to hear all about their travel plans and how they decided to spend their money.

**Spanish 2** Throughout the month of September, the learners in Senora Gruman's Spanish 2 class worked on a survival guide for the Spanish 1 class. This project helped the learners review the main grammar concepts from last year. Our next project is one that was a favorite last year. The learners will be making a music video about their morning routine and a commercial advertising a sale in a department store. It will be hard work, but lots of fun also.

**Spanish 3** The learners are creating a Review Music Video (chosen from the educational recording artist Etienne) and they are submitting a Review Flip-Chart (that would be used to help learners transition from Spanish 1 and 2 into Spanish 3.) They recorded their Review Music Video in late September.

**Spanish 4** The learners just finished their first project: A research paper about studying foreign languages and how studying languages will enhance their futures. On Sept. 15th they started their first Spanish Content project: Creating an informative and fun video highlighting security while in an airport and on an airplane. In addition, they will be creating the security information card that is placed in the seat pockets of most airlines. This project will be completed without using English.

**World Studies** We took a cue/challenge from Kevin Gant to try the "FedEx Project" that Google and other forward-thinking companies use with their employees to see what kind of project that they can create within 24 hours. We gave the learners some history and literature strands as overall topics, from which they'll choose their own topic. Some of the topics are History, Citizenship, Government, Culture, Economics, Literature, etc.

Our learners had 48 hours to deliver their product to our door, 203. Some of their final products were as varied as PowerPoint, song, poem, video, story, puppet show, children's book, puzzle, demonstration, step-by-step instructions, game, website, collage, recipe, or their own choice (with facilitator approval). The learners were intrinsically motivated for this fun, creative short project

**Global Issues** The facilitators are launching a journal service learning project for the children at the Village of Hope. The Freshmen learners will prepare personalized journals to give to each child.

**New Tech Foodies (Food Club)** The first New Tech Foodies met and created an antipasto bread bowl. We shared stories of favorite foods and talked about the direction of the club. We are locating chefs from some local restaurants to give some demonstrations within the next few months. Learners will be sharing the spotlight during future meetings as they teach the New Tech Foodies about new recipes, techniques, spices and anything culinary in nature. The New Tech Foodies had over 50 members join the club this semester!

**Community Service Club** provided mini-mums. All donations from the project will go towards funds for our first laptop for the children living in the Village of Hope.

## Nurse's Notes—FAQs regarding the Flu

### What is H1N1 Flu (swine flu) and how is it transmitted?

The respiratory virus is passed from person to person the same way that seasonal flu is spread, which is through people infected with the virus who are coughing or sneezing. It can be spread by touching something with flu virus on it, such as a tissue or door knob, and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.

### How can I avoid getting infected?

Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water. You can also use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Stay away from people who are ill, especially if they have fever, cough, and a sore throat. Get plenty of rest, exercise, fluids, and nutritious foods.

### What are the symptoms of H1N1 flu?

Sudden onset of fever (half have a temperature greater than 102.5) and cough. Most have had a sore throat. Other symptoms include runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. People may have only one or two symptoms besides the fever, or they may have many. People remain contagious for seven or more days after they become ill. Severe symptoms include difficulty breathing, discoloration of lips, vomiting, signs of dehydration, seizures, loss of consciousness, and alteration in thinking, flu-like symptoms that improve then return, fever with a rash.

### What do I do if I have these symptoms?

Stay at home if you feel ill. Wait to be around people until your fever has been gone for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medications! Contact your medical provider. Warning: Do not give Aspirin or aspirin-containing products to anyone 18 years of age or younger.

### Who is most at risk?

Children under 5 years old (especially under 2 years old); pregnant women; adults and children with certain chronic medical conditions including chronic lung problems such as asthma, heart, liver, blood, nervous system muscular, or metabolic disorders such as diabetes. Anyone with immune-suppression, including that caused by medications such as corticosteroids or chemotherapy, or diseases such as HIV/AIDS; People 50 years old or older ).

### Where do I get more information?

Monitor the Department of State Health Services website ([www.texasflu.org](http://www.texasflu.org)) or the CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))

## Yearbook Sale

Yearbooks are available for purchase, via the web, for \$45 through January 31<sup>st</sup>.

To place an order, visit <http://jostensyearbooks.com/REF=A01106380>. The price of the yearbook goes up to \$50 for those orders place after February 1. Order early!

## Office 2007—"Ultimate Deal"

Academic Superstore is offering Microsoft Office 2007 at the discounted price of \$59.98 for home use. Please note: this is a permanent license that may be used on any machine and is not limited to use as an active student within Coppell ISD. Other software packages are available, visit the Academic Superstore site at <http://www.academicssuperstore.com/institution/select/>. Use the information below to complete your purchase:

School: K-12 School  
School/Institution's State: Texas

School/Institution Name: Coppell  
Purchase code: 220513

Additional information for many of the topics included in this newsletter may be accessed on the school website at [www.coppellisd.com/newtech](http://www.coppellisd.com/newtech). Be sure to visit the site on a regular basis for updates and more NTH@C news.

## Beyond academics, Coppell's New Tech High teaches social awareness and responsibility.

### **Producing graduates who are able to excel in the workplace – and create a better world – top on school's agenda.**

While everything New Tech High @ Coppell does to impart knowledge to its approximately 450 students still hinges around “The Three ‘Rs’,” the faculty and staff also work to instill a fourth “R” – Responsibility. Each student is required to perform at least 10 hours of volunteer service each year, ideally to gain a broader perspective of the challenges and hardships people in other cultures and societies face in today's ever-changing world.

“New Tech Gives Back’ is a program we launched during our 2008 inaugural year to bring that learning to life,” says Tabitha Branum, New Tech principal. “There are many needs in the world today, and our students have much to give – time, experience, encouragement and resources. All are valuable commodities we have in abundance to share.”

As part of the program, New Tech students are regularly exposed to opportunities to reflect and learn – and give. For example, the school raised and donated \$10,000 to Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Hospital administrators have made return trips to say “thank you,” but also to share more of what they do, and also to present New Tech students with a beautiful work of art created by the medical center's patients. “That was a very meaningful connection for our student body,” says Branum.

Also, the student body is reading and studying “Jantsen's Gift,” a book written by local author Pam Cope that exposes the issue of child slavery in much of the world and efforts to rescue them and provide safe havens. Author Cope is founder of the Touch A Life Program, a not-for-profit group that provides the means for fundraising and “adopting” children from places like Ghana in West Africa. Each Touch A Life networking group works to raise enough funds to rescue at least two children. Through the program, New Tech students have met and developed relationships directly with the children through letters and video technology. Touch A Life also works to provide laptop computers to children in developing countries that will help them to use knowledge to lift themselves up and out of the cycle of poverty.

“This is an amazing learning opportunity for our students,” says Branum. Most kids have no idea of the concept of human trafficking – and this program brings it very much to life for them. As a result, they're better prepared to make a lasting mark on not only the workplace, but society, as well.”

### **About New Tech High @ Coppell**

As a 21st Century school, New Tech High @ Coppell embraces rigor in both traditional core learning areas and in skills typically not taught as a part of a traditional curriculum. These skills include: Collaboration, Content Literacy, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Oral Communication, Professional Ethics and Responsibility, Research Skills, Technology Literacy, and Written Communication.