Dear ZCS Parents and Faculty/Staff:
September is history and only the speed of it is a mystery. Week seven is complete.

**DATETIME: ZCS – News Briefs...**

**Phoney Baloney!** Employees, students, and parents were patient and otherwise helpful as we struggled with phone services (in-calling) at four ZCS schools since the wee hours of Thursday. Thank you and the tech crew, too. Calls began flowing again Friday afternoon. Wahoo!

**Flu Watch 2009:** A reporter called on Wednesday to assert that there was a flu outbreak in ZCS. That was news to us! A detailed check showed attendance near 100%, as is usual in ZCS. Of course, some students or family members of students in ZCS have experienced flu-like symptoms, but parents have done a great job of keeping these youngsters out until fever free without meds for the requisite time. Bravo. Let’s all keep preaching and modeling the hygiene best practices that reduce the likelihood of spreading the typical seasonal flu and the H1N1 type. Thanks.

**Is ZEF’s Oktoberfest on your calendar?** The Zionsville Education Foundation is throwing its annual fall party on Saturday, October 17. Please visit the ZEF website at [http://www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org/](http://www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org/) for the scoop on this exciting event.

**Literacy Audit Redux:** This important review and recalibration of literacy instruction and resources in our schools began with conversations and consultant interviews in the summer of 2008. The full audit has been posted on the website before, and here is the link if you’re interested in reading all about it: [Zionsville Final Report](http://www.zionsvilleeducationfoundation.org/).

We are proud of our continuous improvement focus in ZCS. Our literacy program is at the core of the gateway academic skill of reading. Our responsibility is to stay on the leading edge of current research and best practice.

**Some dates to know...**
- 10-12-09 – 6:30P, ESC – Board meeting
- 10-17-09 – ZEF Oktoberfest
- 10-23-09 – No school – Conferences
- 10-26 & 27 – No school – Fall Break

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**TEACHER FEATURE: Mrs. Ann Bender**

Meet Ann Bender, originally from Lacrosse, WI, and now calling New Castle home. This Butler grad is one of our 10th grade honors English teachers at ZCHS and she moonlights as an Adjunct Professor at Marian University teaching a dual credit Cadet Teaching course for high school students.

**Ann Bender teaches English at ZCHS**

“Teaching is my calling,” says Ann, “I love doing it. How many people get to go home at night completely exhausted but knowing they are doing what they love, truly love, every day?”

Ann is married to her high school sweetheart, Mark, and they have two children, Cameron, a 6th grader at ZMS, and Lauren, a 4th grader at PVE. The Benders have an active family life filled with their kids’ sporting events, but Ann also enjoys watching movies, traveling and reading when she can find the time. The Benders have a few pets to keep things exciting. The crew includes one Rottweiler mix, one loud bird and a quiet gecko. Never a dull moment in the Bender family.

Ann Bender believes that teachers make an important impact on the lives of their students. This is one of the most rewarding parts of her job. Ann knows she has made a difference in the life of her students by caring about them and the choices they make. Ann also knows that she is the person she is today because her students have touched her life as well. Ann Bender is thankful for the opportunity to make a difference.

*By Julie Oakley for ZCS e-Nexus*

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**Get the Lead Out!**

This article’s title is what my athletic coaches said to me throughout adolescence, but it’s about serious stuff for all parents. I have been reading that the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that less than 10% of their massive recall noticing actually gets attention by consumers. Do you have young girls who buy jewelry? Much of the metal stuff is apparently laced with lead. Toys, shoes, and many other product recalls can be found at the CPSC’s website. Have a look and get the lead out, please—for our kids’ sake.


Happy weekend to you and yours.

Scott Robison, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools