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TAP Soars Into 2007!

Parades and Festivals and Thank you's. Oh my.

February 2007

Dear Sonnet,

All of us at TAP spent New Year's Eve downtown marching, and cheering and holding our puppets and banners high for the First Night Austin Grand Processional. We had students from six TAP After-school campuses plus their families marching with us.

We had a great time, but most importantly, all the kids felt like rock stars for the night. It was a memorable night, and we're already planning for next year.

Speaking of planning, we've got a whole load of new events and opportunities to show your TAP spirit - the Urban Music Festival, The Fine Arts Festival, and Camp TAP: We are Superheroes! Plus, once again this year we'll be out at the Kite Festival, painting faces and putting on a puppet show. And coming up this Saturday, The FANTASTIC, TAP-Tastic, ART-ival here at TAP Headquarters. Keep reading to find out more.

ps All the images you see are from First Night. For more, check out our [Flickr](#) page.

Karen LaShelle

Big Thank-you's All Around.

As Karen mentioned above, for the second year in a row, TAP was the hit of the First Night Austin Grand Processional. Our block-long entry, SOAR, was full of all things flying - balloons, kites, birds, dragon flies, butterflies - all to share our hopes and dreams for the new year. A big TAP round of applause goes to First Night Director, and TAP Senior Artistic Associate, Julia M. Smith (Pictured, with megaphone) for bringing together cardboard, fabric remnants, and a ton of glitter and turning it into the big, beautiful spectacle it was.

As the parade ended (We were the finale!) we all marched to dinner. The kids piled their plates high with enchiladas, pizza, sandwiches, fried rice, egg rolls, and sweets, and families and TAP teachers all ate together. It's one of the few times we can get so many kids and families together to celebrate. A shout out goes to Manuel's, Thundercloud Subs, Southside Flying Pizza, Noodleism, Magnolia Cafe, and Sweetish Hill Bakery for providing the grub.

TAP is BUSY!



As if 340 after school classes per week, two completely booked touring shows, and a bunch of Changing Lives Youth Theatre performances weren't enough, we've got a gazillion events in the next few months - events we want you to be a part of.

First off, there's the **FANTASTIC, TAP-tastic, ART-ival**, part performance, part art carnival, totally free, and for the whole family. Come on by TAP

Headquarters (701 Tillery Street, south side of the building) for stilt-walking, interactive poetry, music, mask and puppet-making, and tinikling. What's that? Well, you'll have to come by to find out. (Or click [here](#).) 2 - 4pm, Saturday February 10th. For more info email sonnet@theatreactionproject.org or call Headquarters @ 442.8773.

But wait, there's more:

The 79th Annual Zilker Kite Festival: Sunday, March 4th. For more info about the Kite Festival, click [here](#).

The Urban Music Festival: Saturday, April 6th at Auditorium Shores. For the Festival, TAP is creating Kid City - a place where kids run the show. For more info, click [here](#).

Austin Fine Arts Festival: Saturday, April 14th. Come and make masks, puppets, hats and then join us for a parade. For more info click [here](#).

From the TAP Board

Rich Smalling recently began his second term on the TAP Board of Directors, ending his term as Board President. Rich is the President of American Innovations, Ltd. and has used his financial experience and talent to help TAP become more efficient. He's a whiz with a spreadsheet. We asked Rich to tell us a little about his experience with TAP. This is what he had to say:

In our fundraising efforts, I tell people: "Where else can you help the arts, education, children and society at large with just one check?" It has been incredibly rewarding to see TAP's unique blend of benefits take off: we served more children last year than in the prior six years combined. It has been fulfilling to see my own daughter respond to TAP's programming and employ the skills she learned in The Heroes to resolve a conflict with a friend at school. The staff is energizing and inspirational - where do they find the motivation and drive?! I admit it: there have been times when I've dreaded an upcoming board meeting. We're all so busy and it seems there's never enough time in our lives. But I've always left a TAP meeting with more energy than I brought to the table. I've been humbled by how hard the staff and teaching artists work while getting paid nothing (at least compared with most of our employees), and how many of the schools and teachers we serve make due with so little.

TAP's work is so valuable, and helps so many, that I'm honored to have been associated with it. There are many times when I wonder whether what I'm doing at the office is really doing anyone any good in this world. I never leave a TAP board meeting wondering that.

Wow. Thanks Rich. If you think you might have what it takes to become part of the

TAP team, email sonnet@theatreactionproject.org.

Be a Superhero @ Camp TAP!

Not sure what your kids will be doing for Spring Break? Well, do we have an idea for you - Camp TAP: We are Superheroes! TAP is partnering with the West Austin Youth Association for this special Spring Break Camp, March 12 - 16th. Kids from ages 5 - 12 will explore classic hero stories through creative drama games and exercises and then create their own superhero tales to be part of a fantastic musical performance at the end of camp for family and friends.



Expand your child's horizons with this opportunity to be creative, increase self-esteem, develop public speaking skills, and make new friends. Camp teachers include professional actors, musicians, dancers, playwrights and designers.

For more info, contact TAP at info@theatreactionproject.org.

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