

Magic in the Middle



November Calendar

Marks

- 2—P.A.S. starts
- 3—STAAR Night, 2:30-5:30
- 5—STAAR Night, 2:30-5:30
- 6—Early Release 1 p.m.
End of 1st Quarter
- 11—Veteran’s Day Assembly
-10:00 a.m., H.S. gym
- 13—Late Start
- 16-20: Native American
Awareness Week
- 25,26,27—No School
(Thanksgiving Break)

November 2009

Volume 8, Issue 3

Principally Speaking...Pool After School (PAS)

In an effort to promote healthy activity and exercise among our youth, I am happy to announce the creation of a new after school program for our middle schoolers: “Pool After School,” or P.A.S.

The intent of P.A.S. is to provide students with a **FREE** after school activity they can take advantage of every Monday and Wednesday from 3:05-4:15, right here in our own indoor pool. Students will have the opportunity to shower up and change after swimming, so please plan

to pick up your student (or walk home, with your permission) by 4:30. Lunda Center Director Amanda Spangler will be doing the lifeguarding.

I’m afraid we must limit this opportunity to middle school students only, however, due to liability and transportation issues that may arise if our number of participants grows too large.

Please encourage your student to take advantage of P.A.S., beginning **Monday, November 2, from 3:05-**

4:15, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Veteran’s Day

On Wednesday, November 11, from 10:00-10:30, the middle school and high school will jointly hold our annual Veteran’s Day assembly in the main gym at the high school. Please join us for the ceremony which honors vets, past and present.

Have a great month and Happy upcoming Thanksgiving!

-Mr. Rood, Principal

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Don’t Forget

8th grade students need to have their \$20.00 turned in by November 6 to their in house teacher for the December 16 trip to the Guthrie Theatre.



Attention Athletes

Basketball, Wrestling, Tennis and Track and Field Seasons will be here soon. Make sure your son/daughter has a current athletic physical on file in the office prior to your season starting. Your child can check with their coaches to see if they are good to go.



Highlight on 7th Grade Writers

By the time this newsletter reaches parents, seventh graders will have wrapped up the first quarter of English, and many will have become more comfortable with giving speeches, and more thoughtful and experienced in their writing.

The goal in seventh grade English is to get students to write, and we strive to provide many different opportunities for students to exercise and develop their writing abilities. Assigned writing pieces developed in class, personal choice writing done largely outside of class, and journaling which can be done both in and out of class, all provide seventh grade students the chance to write in different ways. The mechanics of spelling and grammar are also visited throughout the year at various points.

As the second quarter of the school year approaches, and students and families become consumed with holiday preparations, the winter sports season, and music concerts galore, seventh grade writers can look

forward to units on narrative writing. Each student will write a short mystery story into which they will weave clues and red herrings. They will also write a fractured fairy tale which is a story that takes a silly twist on a traditional fairy tale. The popular movie series *Shrek* is a good example of a fractured fairy tale. Of course, quarterly units on poetry and speeches will continue, as will the need for students to work on personal choice writing and journaling.

We have been very impressed with the improvement and growth seen from all 7th grade writers so far this year. They have all become more comfortable with the writing process and are trying to incorporate the Seven Traits of Good Writing into each of their pieces. The best part is that each seventh grade student is challenging him or herself to write every day!

--Mrs. Zillmer & Mrs. Kundinger

A Good Cause



Even though October is technically Breast Cancer Awareness Month, any month is a good month for a good cause. If you or your family eats the Yoplait yogurt with the pink lids, please consider sending washed, pressed lids to the Middle School. Students can drop them off with Ms. Henrickson in Room 207. Let's see how many lids we can send in!!

Technology & Engineering

The 1st term manufacturing classes have wrapped up their manufacturing unit. Each class is charged with the task of choosing a product to manufacture, produce, market and sell. A minimum of twenty one products are to be produced. Twenty are sold to make a profit for the company to spend on an incentive party. The twenty first product is donated to the class.

3rd hour class, Tiger Tech Inc, produced two different products; chocolate suckers and Plexi-glass tiger sports necklaces. After all of the bills were paid the company made \$62.81. Nice job!

4th hour produced three different products; flamingo candy bars, tiger pride buttons and squishy balls (stress ball). All three products sold out and the company made a profit of \$135.35. Each product had a manager. The

company plans to spend a portion of their earnings on a pizza party. They have also chosen to donate the remainder (\$40.00) of their earnings to the Rios family. Very proud of them! If you have any questions regarding our manufacturing unit for the eighth grade technology and engineering program, contact Mr. Stemper.

Brian.Stemper@brf.org

715-284-4357 ext 3116

Encouraging Reading

All the way through college and beyond, the best readers are often the best learners. The more your child reads, the better off he'll be. The trick, of course, is getting him to want to read. Try a few of these ideas:

Issue a challenge. Research has shown that reading at least four books over a summer is particularly helpful. So apply that to another three-month period-- November, December, and January--and challenge your child to read four books by 2010. Offer some incentive, such as the chance to stay up later, or have an additional privilege for doing so. Ask your child questions about what he is reading. If you are really at a loss, help him choose at least one book that has discussion questions at the

end. Once he's finished reading the book, get his opinion on the questions. Enlist help. Seek out the librarians at your child's school and ask them to recommend books based on your child's reading level and interests. Make a point of telling them you are actively trying to get him to read more. Do the same at your community library. Every so often, visit it with your preteen. Each of you should check out a book or two.

Take advantage of the upcoming holiday movie season. Some of the movies your child hopes to see may be based on books. Make reading the book a condition for seeing the movie.

Reprinted from Parents Still Make a Difference

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island"

~Walt Disney~



Our Middle School LMC is full of treasures in great variety! Along with a new year in school we have a selection of new books to offer! Just a sampling of these books are: Biographies on Ole Evinrude, John Deere, Kurt Busch & Matt Kenseth.

Non-Fiction new items include Three Cups of Tea (Young Reader's edition) "One man's journey to change the world, one child at a time." (The Greg Mortenson story), 100 Most

Dangerous Things on the Planet by A. Claybourn, 2001 World Trade Center Attack by J.

Greene and On the Hunt- History of Deer Hunting in Wisconsin by R. Willging.

We have something for everyone in our new novel selection as well, including: The Forest of Hands and Teeth by C. Ryan, The Dream Maker's Magic by S Shinn, Peace, Locomotion, by J. Woodson, Alligator Bayou by Donna Jo Napoli, and last but not least, Yggyssey: How Iggy wondered what happened to all the ghosts, found out where they went and went there! By D. Pinkwater.

Thank you to everyone that attended our Middle School Book Fair in October! Every item purchased helps our school and your support is greatly appreciated! We had wonderful student help keeping the books in order and recommending reading to those that stopped by!

Make sure you stop by the LMC and open your own treasure box with a book today!

Mrs. Carlsen and Mrs. Helland

Friends Sharing Food

Do you remember seeing plastic Wal-Mart bags of food near the doorways at your elementary school or at the Boys and Girls Club? Well, now the local organization Friends Sharing Food is distributing food at the B.R.F. Middle School. If you feel that there is a shortage of food at your house, just visit Mr. Stanley or Mrs. Ferstenou during in-

house. They will help you choose a few food items to supplement what is in the cupboards at home!



What's for Dinner?

What does your middle schooler really want for dinner? You.

Families live hectic lives. Sometimes, you may wonder whether gathering for a family meal is worth all the hassle. Maybe it would be easier to grab a quick bite in the car.

In fact, family meals make a huge difference. Research by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that kids who eat dinner with their families five or more nights a week were less likely to try cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. They're

also twice as likely to get all A's.

Perhaps you can't schedule five dinners a week. But start with one or two. Turn off the TV and don't answer the phone. Spend time talking and listening to each other.

Over time, you'll learn things you never knew about your preteen. You'll have a stronger relationship. And you'll help your child be more successful in school and in life.

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Sixth Grade News

In science we are learning about simple and compound machines. We learned a bunch of different ways that we use in everyday life. There are six types of simple machines. They are: levers, wedges, pulleys, wheel and axles, inclined planes, and screws. A compound machine has two or more simple machines put together. Then we had to build a balloon powered car.

In Math we are learning about multiples and factors. We are also learning different ways to find common multiples. Everyone is learning their multiplications facts too. Every time we come into class we do an activity called math gymnastics. Math gymnastics is when our teacher reads us a series of number operations that we have to do in our heads. We are all having a great time learning new things in math.

We just started a new chapter in social studies. We will be learning about pharaohs and ancient Egyptian civilizations.

In reading we started a new novel called The Lottery Rose. The Lottery Rose is about

a child being abused. The main character is a seven year old boy named Georgie. His mother tends to drink a lot and also neglects him. His mother's boyfriend Steve physically abused Georgie. Since Georgie doesn't have a very good home life, he doesn't do very well in school. He can't read or write, but is good in math. His teacher doesn't really like him. One of his friends, Mrs. Sims works a the market. Georgie's mother sent him to the store to get some beans. While he was there he ran into Mrs. Sims and she gave him a lottery ticket. When it came time for the drawing, he ran to the market an hour early. If you want to find out the rest about The Lottery Rose, you will have to read it!

By Taylor Dugan
Courtney Hilts
Jenny Taylor



Peer Pressure

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTENSIONS:

~ Dial 284-4357, then the extension of the person with whom you wish to speak.

Mr. Rooz	3001	Mr. Markee	3212
Mr. Amborn	3114	Mr. Markhardt	2210
Ms. Anderson	3201	Ms. Massart	3214
Mrs. Boerger	3113	Mrs. Nelson	3006
Mrs. Bragee	3215	Mrs. Nortman	3101

Mrs. Carlsen	3205	Mrs. Reichenbach	3114
Mr. Cowley	3216	Mrs. Rodney	3110
Mrs. DeBerg	3208	Mr. Rufsholm	3150
Mr. Dokkestul	3102	Mrs. Rumsey	3117
Mr. Downie	3106	Mr. Schmitt	3214
Mr. Dutton	3202	Ms. Schwarz	3210
Ms. Erlandson	3003	Mr. Shepard	3206
Mrs. Ferstenou	3002	Ms. Skogstad	3212
Ms. Ghelf	3109	Mr. Stanley	3022
Ms. Hendrickson	3207	Mr. Stemper	3116
Mr. Jensen	3108	Mrs. Swenson	3152
Mrs. Jensen	3112	Mr. Tande	3111
Mr. Johnson	3211	Ms. Weberg	3203
Mrs. Krista	3105	Mr. Wester	3107
Mrs. Kundingger	3103	Mrs. Zillmer	3204

Let the power of positive peer pressure work for your preteen

influence the sorts of kids he selects if you:

You've heard the horror stories: Peer pressure is dangerous. It causes otherwise good kids to do bad things.

While it's true that negative peer pressure can lead to trouble, there's such a thing as positive

peer pressure, too. Unlike its negative counterpart, positive peer pressure may encourage kids to:

- Work hard (or harder) in school.
- Try a new sport or other healthful activity.
- Develop a good attitude about school or themselves.
- Behave more respectfully toward teachers and other adults.

One way to help your preteen enjoy the benefits of positive peer pressure is to nudge him toward honest, decent friends. You can't choose his friends, but you can

- Talk about what makes a good friend. "Would a friend put you in a dangerous situation? Would he enjoy seeing you get in trouble?"
- Reinforce your values. "A real friend stands up for you when someone else tries to force you to do something. He wants you to do the right--not the wrong--thing." As great as positive peer pressure is, don't rely on it constantly. Whether it's joining the drama club or trying out for wrestling, your preteen's reasons for pursuing something should go beyond "because all my friends are doing it."

Black River Falls Middle School
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Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615

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