



January Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

The temperature outside my office window serves as a keen reminder that we have officially welcomed the winter season. The atmosphere in the middle school equally served as an indicator of the seasonal change as we moved closer to the holidays and winter vacation. Excitement associated with upcoming festivities, time with family and friends and a break from the school day schedule could easily be seen on the faces and heard in the voices of many middle school children. It is a pleasurable time of the year to be working in this profession and in each year the experience has helped me recall many of my fond childhood memories.

I was pleased to see the number of parents and family members in attendance at the annual middle school concert. Whenever we're provided with the opportunity to bring so many of you into the school, your willingness to accept the invitation is always appreciated.

We have many opportunities and events awaiting us in 2010. Throughout the winter months and forward into the spring we will continue to prepare middle school students for the academic challenges that wait them. I encourage you to maintain your support and engagement in your child's education.

Until next time, keep safe and enjoy time with your family.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

The next School Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the office conference room.

NO SCHOOL:

There will be no school on Monday January 18, 2010 - Martin Luther King Day.

REPORT CARDS HOME:

Report cards will be sent home on Monday, February 1, 2010.

D.C. INFORMATION NIGHT:

There will be an information night for parents of students attending the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room.

Please bring any questions you may have about the trip with you to this informational meeting.

KEY NEWS:

Grade 7 Ceiling Tiles will conclude 7 weeks on 1/8/10. Grade 8 Ceiling Tiles will begin on 1/15/10 for 7 weeks. Artist in Residence – Kara Beausoleil. 8th Grade Legacy will begin in March. Artist in Residence – Kara Beausoleil. Grade 5-6-7 Stock Market will begin the 2nd week of February. We have been notified that there will be no Construction

Challenge program this year. The Solar Car Sprint Competition information meeting will be held in March. Watch for the date in the March newsletter. Grade 5 Math Questers are completing their 2nd project. The "Perfect Greek" exploration will be on display in the hall outside Room 103.

MUSIC NEWS:

The Chorus, Band, and WMG had a very successful Winter Concert on December 17th. Mr. Danziger and Mr. Emery would like to thank all the students for their hard work and the parents for their support.

GUIDANCE NEWS:

Transitioning to 9th Grade
Parent information night for 8th graders is **February 24th at 6:00 pm** in the STRHS auditorium (snow date is March 3rd). Parents should go through course booklets with your child. Students will be introduced to 9th grade course selections on March 2nd. Mrs. Kiltonic will work with students March 8th through March 11th for scheduling courses. All **course selections must be returned** to Mrs. Kiltonic by March 15th. Course verification sheets will be sent home for parent's signatures on April 1st and must be returned to PMMS **by April 5th**. If a high school choice includes the Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative for a vocational education, there will be a spring tour of the school for all interested students.

For students interested in Westfield Vocational Technical High School next year, please visit the website apply.vwth.com for an application. If you need more information, call Mr. Ollari at 572-6533 box 1004 at WVTHS. Contact Mrs. Kiltonic at 569-5951 for the necessary paperwork for school choice.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:

Prices: Student lunch \$2.25
Reduced Lunch \$.40
Ala Carte Milk \$.50
Paid Breakfast \$1.25
Reduced Breakfast \$.25
Lunch tickets sold at \$45.00 for a 20 day ticket.
Assorted snacks are sold between \$.25 - \$1.00

If a student forgets his/her lunch money, they will receive a sandwich and milk for \$1.00. **This will be paid the next day.**

Free/reduced student lunch applications are available throughout the year. If your child is eligible for free/reduced lunch, he/she is entitled to free/reduced breakfast daily.

GRADE 5 NEWS:

The fifth grade Spirit Club held its annual flea market and it was a success. \$978.00 was raised. This money will be used to fund programs for the students and to purchase educational equipment. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the flea market. Continue to keep us in mind when you clean out closets and basements. We especially thank Laura DeGray, Shellie Fairlie, Jen Schmidt, Mona Flynn, Carol Winters, Crystal Brooks, Lois Dittrich, Terry Day, and Jane DeBarbieri who gave of their time, so that students could shop.

The next Spirit Club function is an evening with A Ray of Elvis. This will occur on Jan. 28th in our auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$6 for students and are on sale now at the main office. Several students will perform as the opening acts for Elvis.

Just a reminder: fifth grade students are expected to read two Reading Counts books per marking term. These count as test grades.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

Congratulations to Ethan Whitton for winning the bicycle raffle.

P.A.C.E. will be having a bake sale the night of the Ray of Elvis performance. Come enjoy a night of music and desserts!

GRADE 6 NEWS:

Welcome back! We are looking towards a positive and productive 2010. Hopefully teachers and students alike are refreshed and relaxed from the holiday break.

Academics will continue to be challenging. In math we will be studying measurement, including the concepts of area and perimeter. Social Studies classes will be studying Egypt and science classes will be studying the eco systems.

Parents, please continue checking agendas and ask to see completed homework. Also, it is probably time to replace existing folders, especially the homework folder. As always, feel free to contact any one of your child's teachers if you have any questions.

AVALON TEAM NEWS:

Start the New Year off with new supplies! (Please replace what is used and worn out) Congratulations to our band, chorus, and Wednesday Music Group members, your concert was great! January is "Something New" month. This month try something new! Learn a new language, learn how to knit, paint a picture. Anything! (As long as it's new and not dangerous.) Ideas are posted in the hallway. Congratulations to our students of the month: Hannah King and Domenic Abbondanza.

OLYMPUS TEAM NEWS:

We hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy holiday break. For 2010, Team Olympus will be focusing on effort, participation, and products that are high quality.

Homework is still crucial. Continue to check agenda books and any other resources that teachers make available to students.

Please consider updating supplies. By this time of the year, it is important to replenish any materials that have become lost or ineffective.

Congratulations to our students of the month: Millan Andreoli, Paige Cool, Liam Jackson, and Jimmy Steinhart.

Again, thanks to all parents who return paperwork quickly, who keep us posted on absences and appointments, who support our efforts to make students the best they can be. We appreciate all you do.

Here's to a very successful new year.

Remember Washington payments and the hard work in school that will get you there!

ATLANTIS TEAM NEWS

The Atlantis Team donated \$150.00 to the Toy for Joy fund. The Team theme for December was "Giving". Students could give a monetary donation, give their time or give respect to others. A hand would be added to the giving wreath for each student as they participated. The goal was to have 100% participation. There was 89% in giving, 30% in time and 8% in respect. Donations were to the Toy for Joy fund. Time was given in the form of tutoring a classmate, helping teachers in lower grades and helping with school projects. Respect was the most difficult hand to get because it required going beyond day to day respectfulness. We would like to thank all who participated. The teachers are very proud of the team's effort. The theme for January is celebrating our differences.

We hope everyone had a wonderful vacation and are ready to start the New Year.