

MMS NEWS FLASH

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Hello McHenry Middle School Families,

I can't believe we're already in the second half of the school year. The year sure seems to be flying by. Although it's the end of the month, I'd like to tackle a theme common to many of us during the month of January—resolutions. Most of us at one time or another has very enthusiastically started a new year off with some kind of resolution. Some common resolutions that I'm sure many of us have tried over the years are to exercise more, spend more time with our family, get more organized and volunteer more. Although we all hold true to our resolutions for different lengths of time, the common theme we all share is that we relish the opportunity to start the year with a fresh, clean slate and establish goals that will better ourselves.

Something unique about schools is that we have two opportunities to do this because we really have two beginnings to our year. Many students start the academic school year the way most of us start our calendar year. As we start up in August, lockers are clean, folders and notebooks are organized and pencils are sharpened. The devotion and enthusiasm that students start the year off with is tremendously powerful and exciting. We do our best to harness it for as long as possible because our experience shows that that "beginning of the year excitement" can carry students in a positive direction for quite some time. However, as you know, sustaining that positive energy throughout an entire year can be difficult. But with the arrival of January 1st and the start of a new semester, we have a golden opportunity to capture much of that enthusiasm again. As we begin this second part of the year, we will take this opportunity to help students feel like they can start again and recharge. To help us with this process, please use this as a chance to help your children "re-start" their year. Take a few minutes with them to reorganize their folders, binders and student agenda. Speak with them for a few moments and help them set some new goals for the remainder of the year. Spend this time to help them reenergize, recharge and "resolve" to have the best end of the year that they can have.

And as always, if there are things that you feel we could be doing at MMS to help with this, please let us know. Thank you for all of your efforts with your children!

Mr. Reitz

8th Grade Graduation date is set for Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 PM.

Help Children Fight Cancer – Support St. Baldrick's – Feb. 22 – 26.

Important Dates

Feb 5 th	Mid-Quarter Reports
Feb 11 th	Early Release – Dismissal 12:35
Feb 15 th	President's Day – NO SCHOOL
Feb 16 th	Student Led Conferences- NO SCHOOL 12:30-8:00 PM
Feb 19 th	SPRING PHOTO DAY
Mar 1 st	Casimir Pulaski Day – NO SCHOOL
Mar 12 th	End of 3 rd Quarter
Mar 19 th	Report Cards go home
Mar 27 th - Apr 5 th	Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL
Apr 6 th	Classes Resume
Apr 15 th	Early Release Day – Dismissal 12:35
Apr 23 rd	Mid-Quarter Reports

Citizenship



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Feb. 10th @ 5:00
Feb. 13th
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Feb. 23rd
March 13th



Feb 24: 7th grade art club

Mr. Reitz's reflection on Caring,
staff every morning via the
incements are also aired every
< your students about Mr.

ms are in the office. Yearbook
and our photographers are on the

The MMS PTO has started a new PTO Newsletter. This will be a great way to be reminded of upcoming events and important dates! If you are interested in receiving our e-mail newsletter, please send an e-mail with "Add me to your list" in the subject line to mmsptonews@gmail.com.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS - INCLIMATE WEATHER

Please check the local radio station Star105.5 and the Chicago TV Channels 2, 5, 7, & 9 for any possibly school closings.

Please check out the district website www.d15.org for information, newsletters, school calendars, district information and much more.

TEAM NEWS

6 RED

The 6 Red students have been busy this January, take a look at what we have been up to in class. In language arts, the students are reading the novel *Hatchet*. We have had several great discussions on surviving alone in the wilderness. In addition to reading the novel, they are also working on expanding sentences to include details—ask your children about “Tell Me More” statements from science class! We hope to use these statements in extended response writing, which is part of the ISAT Test in March. For math, we are in our unit on fractions and learning how prime numbers, divisibility, greatest common factor and least common multiple can help with making equivalent fractions and lowest term fractions. We will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them soon. If your student is in my Core A or B, have them write down whether the number 684 and the number 2700 is divisible by 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 or 10 and for what reason with your signature for some extra credit. If your student is in my Core C or D, have them write down the prime factorization of 50 and of 75. With that information have them figure out the GCF and the LCM. Turn these in with a parent signature for some extra credit. The ancient Greeks have proven to be an interesting people to study. From the Greek alphabet bookmarks to our comparisons of Athens and Sparta, social studies class has been learning all things Greek! Did you know for every liter of water on the planet only one drop is usable drinking water? Fresh water has dominated the science classroom with facts like this one. With the conclusion of this unit on Thursday we are looking forward to investigating the world of rocks and minerals as we investigate the inner workings of the planet.

6 SILVER

Third quarter is almost half way over; mid-quarters will go home on February 5. In social studies we have been studying the culture of ancient Greece and we will have formal presentations soon. In language arts, we are extending our study of ancient Greece through mythology. In our science classes, we have been examining rocks and minerals. Our “rock” songs were a hit...students did a fabulous job! In math, we have finished reviewing adding and subtracting fractions, and will be moving on to multiplying and dividing them. *Just a reminder, please be on your best behavior so you can attend the reward trip for 3rd quarter!

6 WHITE

In science the students are starting to learn about the different ways that organisms can be fossilized. They also started reading a novel of their choice. While reading the novels, students should make connections to their own life, make predictions, form opinions, ask questions, identify unknown vocabulary, recognize interesting or surprising events, analyze the characters, and recognize the environmental features of the novel’s setting. In social studies, the students have completed the first half of their unit about Ancient Greece. Students have learned about: the impact of the Geography of Ancient Greece on daily life, popular city-states like Athens and Sparta, battles during the Persian Wars, and the History of Democracy. To conclude their study of Ancient Greece, students will be learning about various aspects of Greek Culture, including mythology. Students are continuously working on note taking techniques and keeping quality notes that are organized within a notebook exclusively for social studies. Students who have Mrs. Comstock for math have been fine tuning their fraction skills. Students in Mrs. Kagan’s math class have started working on a story problem contest in class. Ask your student about their groups progress. In language arts with Ms. Marks the students are finishing their Unit 4 with Poetry. Don’t forget, keep reading!

7 RED

The 7th grade red team would like to recognize the following students for having no late or missing assignments for the first semester: Oliver Anderson, Alyssa Brush, Becca Buckner, Sierra Gandy, Brant Gates, Caitlin Harder, Gretchen Hausser, Sophie Hecht, Jessica Johnson, Caylin Kaunas, Cori May, Kristen Miller, Jackie Pozadas, Brie Ryan, Alison Schneider, Zach Trybula, Trevor Willemarck, and Molly Wright. Thank you! Ms. Martin’s Cores A & B math classes are finishing their study of ratios, rates, and proportions. Next we will be exploring how this relates to scale & symmetry. Ms. Martin’s Cores C & D math classes are finishing their study of rational & irrational numbers, including number sense. When completed we will begin our exploration of geometry. Please remind them to correct any homework assignment, turned in on time, to help them gain a better understanding of the concept. Mrs. Sheppard’s science classes are continuing their explorations into plants. We will be investigating mushrooms and plants in the near future. Remember to keep turning in your homework on time and doing those corrections. Take time to go to a museum, take a hike, read a book or magazine. Conferences are February 16, 2010. ISATS will be during the weeks of March 1 to March 12. Check your calendars. Before you know it, it will be spring. Mrs. Tankiewicz’s classes are currently reading Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson. The 7 Red students are thoroughly engaged as we read and discuss the novel. Mrs. Devine’s social studies classes are in chapter 9: The Jefferson Era. We are currently studying about Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the War of 1812. In our next chapter we will be discussing the continuing growth and expansion of the United States. We also be talking about the upcoming Olympic Games in Vancouver.

7 SILVER

Happy New Year! We have been working hard second semester! It’s hard to believe how quickly this year is going! We had ten students who earned the pizza party by having no late or missing assignments for second quarter: Jessica Blowers, Joseph Coats, Jenna Ehrhardt, Jessica Jablonski, Joey Orlando, Cameron Riemann, Brad Smith, Dylan Curry, Melanie Foland, and Cheyenne Koster. Way to go! Congratulations also to Marcus Mohr and Elizabeth Byrd for receiving Character Counts! tickets for the month of December. In language arts classes, we finished our research papers! Students did a great job finding information and organizing it into a paper using MLA format. We are currently reading the novel The City of Ember. Continue reading for Accelerated Reader. Midquarters are right around the corner. Have at least one book read before that time. In social studies we are finishing up Unit 4. Students studied the War of 1812 and are currently working on the Industrial Revolution. In science this past month we have finished up our unit on cells. The students really enjoyed classifying different types of organisms and learning about DNA. We just started our next book Microorganisms, Fungi, and Plants and look forward to an interesting new topic. In math, Core C has been working with percentages. Now they are experts on determining sale prices at their favorite stores. In Core D the students have been focused on geometry and applying those skills to real life scenarios.

7 WHITE

As third quarter rolls on, students on the 7 white team continue to impress with their excellent efforts. In Mrs. Villacres's math class students are working with fractions, decimals and percents while laying the foundation for a shopping unit. Remember to bring in those catalogues! Mrs. Stanard's math classes are working with various formulas to find surface area and volume of irregular shapes, pyramids, cones, cylinders, and prisms. Students are required to apply the Pythagorean Theorem when shapes are missing a necessary side length, an abstraction that can be quite challenging. In science, Mrs. Villacres's students are about to enjoy a fungus feast before beginning a unit on plants. Meanwhile, Mr. Shevchik's science classes have just finished their second textbook and will soon begin their unit on animals. They are looking forward to their upcoming dissections! In conjunction with the animal unit in science, Mrs. Schnurr's students will soon begin a research unit in language arts. Students will write a formal research paper on the animal of their choosing. In Ms. Mutter's language arts class, students have been enjoying the exciting novel, *Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island*. Finally, in social studies, Mr. Phillips' classes are studying the Louisiana Purchase and the voyage of Lewis and Clark while Ms. Mutter's students are studying George Washington and the origins of our country. Please be on the lookout for a letter regarding our upcoming conferences on February 16th. We hope to see you there!

8 RED

Math classes have just finished their unit on geometry and are just starting a new one on percents. Algebra classes have just begun their unit on geometry after finishing their chapter on solving systems of equations using graphing, substitution and elimination. Students just finished up their unit on the Great Depression. Students watched the Cinderella Man, a movie about a man and his family trying to survive during that time period. The next unit of study is World War II. In science, we have moved on to physics. We are currently studying motion, velocity, and acceleration. Our next chapter will cover Newton's Laws of motion. Students should also be working on their Science Exhibit projects. The next due date is February 11 when their review of literature is supposed to be turned in. In language arts students have just finished learning how to cite information correctly using APA Style. Students will use this information on their Reference List for their science research paper. Classes are now starting to read the *Outsiders* novel.

8 SILVER

8 Science students have a new title. Theorists. They should be in the middle of their science fair experiments. Two deadlines have come and gone and most students have met their deadlines. Please check with your student and stay abreast of their science fair projects. In addition to science fair students are starting with the basics of chemistry. We are learning about atomic structure and periodic table. We will build on our knowledge of the atom and basic chemistry daily. It is important your students current with their daily work. 8 Science Social Studies were feasting on 1920's fare in conjunction with our Roaring 20's unit. Student's planned the "Party of the Decade" by researching famous people, fashion, places and foods of the 1920's. Students will come back to earth after the celebration as we begin the "Great Depression." Visual images by Dorothea Lange and primary source documents from the depression should give students a pretty good idea of the depth of despair during this time. 8 Silver language arts has been working on our new computer program, Essay Scorer. Each student has written at least one essay on the program and has had it scored electronically. The students then have the opportunity to go back and revise their essay to add in their own voice, more details, and longer and more varied sentences. The program well be very beneficial in helping our students with the writing process. Math students have just finished a unit on percentages. We have learned the concept of wholesale, retail and sales discounts as we've calculated our way through this unit. Algebra students recently completed a unit on geometry, learning how the formulas for 3-dimensional solids are derived for surface area and volume.

8 WHITE

Math students are reviewing their geometry skills by finding area, surface area and volume of various shapes. Continue to check out Mrs. Peter's classroom pages for extra interactive practice. Students need to continue to turn in assignments and work hard in class to carry on their success. In Science, after learning about elements, mixtures and compounds and the students are studying the history of the atom. We found out that the theory of the atom is 2,500 years old! Language Arts students are writing an essay about an unforgettable day with a friend. They will be using Focus skills for organization, and Voice techniques to complete their final drafts. Students in Social Studies have just finished learning about "The Great Depression" we are now shifting gears and will begin learning about U.S. involvement in World War II. While studying about the conflict students will be exposed to a number of primary documents, individual/interactive group activities, and various video segments. The test over World War II is scheduled for mid February. Students will then begin learning about the changes that occurred in American politics after WWII and a revived sense of global responsibility as the United States made every effort to protect Western democracy.



UNIFIED ARTS

Health: *FYI*** I will NOT be attending conferences on Tuesday, Feb. 16. If you would like to discuss anything with me concerning health class or your child in health class, please call or email me (815.385.2522 ext.5594 or sandresen@d15.org). Thank you!**

6th grade: Students will compare food labels and learn what to look for when reading and analyzing food labels. We will be watching Super Size Me and discuss how “fast food” can be damaging to one’s health. We will be having a guest speaker in on Monday, Feb. 1 to discuss the importance of Dental Health with students from Dr. Conlon’s office in McHenry.

7th grade: Students are completing their ME Collage. We’ve discussed bullying and how one individual has the power to influence other’s self-esteem.

8th grade: Students have been researching a drug of their choice and will be presenting their research to the class in a fun, creative way. We have been focusing on the life skill, decision-making, throughout our units as well; focusing on how healthy decisions lead to healthy lifestyles!

MUSIC APPRECIATION

6th Grade – 6th Grade music students have been hard at work on their piano compositions. Students are currently adding harmony, form, tempo and dynamics to their pieces. They will be uploading their music to the computers in just a few short days!

7th Grade – After our world travels and study of music history, 7th grade students have completed and presented their composition projects. 7th graders will end the term with a study/comparison of opera and musicals. We will be watching the musical *Newsies* to end the term.

8th Grade – 8th Grade students are studying modern trends in music, including the internet’s involvement in music sales/distribution. All band groups are also completing their tour information and band albums. Each student arranged a popular song for instruments of their choice and presented their arrangements.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. Class has been going strong since winter break! We have been crate climbing, playing volleyball, basketball; the boys wrestled and the girls did a group dance unit. We are wrapping up Term 3 with a student run volleyball tournament. The students picked their teammates and team names. They are very excited about their tournament! Ask your child which team they are on! We are closing out Term 3 with a social dance unit. We are looking forward to Term 4 with badminton and pickleball, floor hockey and fitness challenges. Keep an eye out for Open Gym dates and times! Have a great February!

TECHNOLOGY:

Term 3 Technology students continue to work in the iCollaboratory learning about food. They are video recording oral history interviews of each other regarding meals, exercise, and screen time.

Students continue to work daily to improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy. Daily they input data into their Excel spreadsheets.

Technology students took digital photos of students demonstrating character for our Character counts project.

Celebration of the Arts

The McHenry Elementary Education Foundation and the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce will be co-hosting the 8th annual Celebration of the Arts Program, Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the First Midwest Bank in McHenry from 4pm-7pm. This event showcases District 15’s student artwork. Choral and band students from McHenry Middle School and Parkland School will also be performing throughout the evening. The Foundation will be raffling off many wonderful prizes. The Foundation will also host a “Taste of McHenry” during the program featuring many local restaurants. All proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit District 15 fine arts programs and the McHenry Elementary Education Foundation. For further information, please contact Cindee Nootbaar at 815-385-7210.

McHenry Middle School Expansion Planning Meeting February 25, 2010 7:00pm, McHenry Middle School Cafeteria

The Board of Education is planning to expand facilities at all of the district’s schools in the near future **without the need of going for a referendum**. You are invited to attend a brief presentation at which the Superintendent will share what the district has preliminarily planned for McHenry Middle School. Please attend to share your ideas and offer input.

PRESS RELEASE – LANDMARK SCHOOL

Landmark School, District 15’s year-round, multiage school, is hosting its parent information night on Tuesday, Feb. 2th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym at 3614 W. Waukegan Rd. All parents of students in grades K through 5th are invited to attend to learn more about the program, meet current Landmark staff and families, and take a tour of the classrooms. Landmark will begin its tenth year as an open enrollment school of choice for families who reside within the boundaries of McHenry School District 15. All are welcome to attend. For more information about this evening and/or the program, please call the Landmark office @ 815-385-8120.