

MMS NEWS FLASH

McHenry Middle School 2120 W. Lincoln Rd. McHenry, IL 60051
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From the Desk of Mr. Reitz, Principal

Dear McHenry Middle School Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already finished with our first quarter of the school year. We are so proud of all of the accomplishments of our students so far this year and are eagerly anticipating all the wonderful things left in store the rest of the year. To that end, your children will be going home with report cards on Friday, October 21st. Please use this as a time to engage in a conversation with your child about their performance so far this school year.

As you all should know by now, our student-led conferences are right around the corner. By now you may have received correspondence from your child's teachers which tell you a little about these conferences. For you parents of seventh and eighth graders, this is old hat, but for sixth grade parents, I'd like to give you a brief outline of how these conferences work.

Although your actual conference will only last approximately twenty minutes, it is important to know that a lot of time and work has gone into them. Over the past several weeks, with the help of their teachers, your students have been creating academic goals that they will work on throughout the year, collecting work samples that they will share with you and reflecting on their performance so far this school year. In short, they've been engaged in an effective educational endeavor that is asking them to think critically about their academic performance. This helps place much of the ownership of academic success on the student. However, teachers are a part of the process as well. Although they will not be actively participating in the conference, they have been actively participating in the success of your child for the past nine weeks. To that end, they will be in attendance on the night of conferences and available for quick conversations or to answer questions if you need assistance from them.

We hope that on the night of your conference, you enjoy this experience and find it helpful and rewarding for you and your child. If you have any feedback for us regarding this conference format, please let us know.

On a different note, it would be remiss of me if I concluded this newsletter without highlighting something special that took place in our building a couple of weeks ago. The event that I'm referring to is our 4th annual MMS Triathlon that took place here on October 2nd. Over 150 students and staff members participated in this event which was filled with physical fitness, teamwork, camaraderie, sportsmanship and school pride.

Once again, great job this first quarter. I wish you a great end to your October.

Sincerely,

Mr. Reitz

Important Dates

Oct. 27 th	Parent / Teacher Conferences 1:30-9:00 NO SCHOOL
Oct. 28 th	Parent / Teacher Conferences 8:30-3:30
Nov. 3 rd	Early Release – Institute Day Dismissal @ 12:35
Nov. 23 rd	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 24 th & 25 th	Thanksgiving Weekend NO SCHOOL
Dec. 21 st – Jan. 3 rd	Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL

Character Counts
Word for November is
Responsibility

A Note from the Health Office-

HeadLice Procedure

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and the National Association of School Nurses recommend that students with nits (lice eggs) not be excluded from school. Students with active infestations of head lice (pediculosis) will be referred to their parents/guardians for treatment. Education of parents/guardians, students and school staff as to the transmission, identification and treatment of head lice is a far more effective management approach and will significantly reduce unnecessary school absences and reduce disruptive screening.

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for your children, it is necessary at times to document specific illnesses or symptoms among our student population. A McHenry County Department of Health regulation requires us to report symptoms and/or illnesses to assist in their efforts to track symptomology. Also, there are specific steps that we, as a school district, can begin in an attempt to contain contagious symptoms; i.e., environmental cleaning, etc. Therefore, when phoning in your student's absence, it is helpful to us to be aware of actual symptoms that your child may be experiencing. We report symptoms and numbers; we do NOT report student's names. Please do not be offended in any way if we seek additional information about your student's illness; it is strictly in the best interest of your student.

Please remember that, if your child is ill, please do not send him/her to school. Furthermore, a child must be fever-free for 24 hours *without the aid of fever-reducing* medication, prior to his/her return to school.

In addition, proper hand washing is the best defense against disease and germ; please remind your students to practice good hygiene, including proper handwashing and covering the mouth when sneezing and/or coughing.

CHORUS NEWS

Thursday, November 10th: Glee Club performs at the MMS Talent Show.

Friday, November 18th: Students who wish to participate in the Solo Ensemble Contest need to have forms and money turned in by this date. Please check the chorus website on the school webpage for more information and registration forms.

Sunday, November 20th: Madrigals sing at the McHenry Area Chamber Christmas Walk

Tuesday, December 6th: 6th Grade Band and Chorus Concert

Monday December 12th: Madrigals perform at McHenry Elementary Schools and the McHenry Public Library

Keep Singing! Mrs. Munn

BAND NEWS

6th grade band, great job of making it through the first quarter in middle school! Make sure you are turning in your practice log every week. It is time to really start digging in to the concert music.

DECEMBER 6th will be here before you know it.

Concert band, congratulations on a great concert on Thursday! I am very proud of all the hard work and dedication you put into a fabulous performance. What's next? Well, it's time to prepare for the Festival of Bands (March), contest (March) and the spring concert (May). Make sure to keep working at home and be sure to turn in your practice log each week.

Jazz band: Our first performance is on Tuesday. Make sure you are working on the music and coming prepared to rehearsal each week. If you ordered a polo shirt, you can pick it up in the band room.

Upcoming Dates:

December 4th: Milwaukee Symphony
December 6th: Winter Concert 5th, 6th, Jazz Band, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Paul

CLUB NEWS

ART CLUB the meeting dates for November are as follows: Nov 2nd - 7th grade, Nov 10th - 6th grade and Nov 17th - 8th grade

Builder's Club members have been busy with two projects. They painted "**Welcome Home**" signs to send to an Army troop in New York State that is returning from Afghanistan in late October. Mrs. Agnes, Builder's Club sponsor, has a nephew who is part of the group. The club members also spearheaded a collection of items for "**Welcome Home**" baskets for families of Joplin, Missouri who are going into FEMA trailers following the 4 mile wide tornado in May that devastated their community. The idea for this event was sent to us by students in Alden-Hebron elementary school. They picked up our supplies and are getting them to Joplin.

The next big activity for Builder's Club is the food drive for the FISH Food Pantry. Along with the **food drive**, there will be a "Best Beard" contest between male teachers at MMS. The money raised as students vote will be given to the FISH food pantry. Food Pantry collection dates are October 20- November 10. The next meetings for Builder's Club are also October 20 and November 10.

Making a Difference Club (MAD Club) will be hosting Red Ribbon Week on October 24-26th. There will be Spirit Dress Up days (Monday- PJ Day- Follow Your Dreams By Being Drug Free! Tuesday- Hat/Crazy Hair Day- Tip Your Hat to Being Drug Free or You're Crazy if You Do Drugs! Wednesday- Sunglasses Day- Keep Drugs in the Shade!) and prizes throughout the week for students showing their pride in being drug free!

Students will be receiving a red wrist band to wear during RRW to show their support in living a drug free life. MAD Club is also selling T-Shirts with the logo "Drugs Destroy Dreams." They are \$7 and can be purchased in the Health Classroom. In honor of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, all proceeds will go toward supporting local families that have been impacted by breast cancer.

WMMS News: The news crew has been hard at work advertising for school events and creating news segments to showcase the many student and staff talents. See Mrs. Ladendorf in the Tech Room (B109) or email her at kladendorf@d15.org for more information.

Yearbook: The Yearbook club will begin meeting on November 2nd from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM in the Tech Room (B109). We will meet every-other Monday until the yearbook is due in March. Students must arrange for a ride prior to the meetings. Students should be picked up along the Chapel Hill side of the building at 4:00 PM. Please email Mrs. Ladendorf with any questions (kladendorf@d15.org).

6 RED

The 6 Red team is looking forward to seeing parents and students at school for conferences on October 27th and 28th. The students have been busy working on goals and practicing their scripts to share their progress in first quarter. Look for your conference time in with the report cards. See you next week! The students have been getting a lot of practice reading bar graphs and line graphs in math. They've also learned how to identify a misleading graph. The classes will soon be creating a graph that shows their learning style compared to the class as a whole. Ask them if they remember what their style is, visual, auditory or kinesthetic. Core C & D have finally got the knack of computing football box scores and we are really having fun with it. Soon they will be computing using an algebra formula while we start our algebra unit. Social studies has been discovering the wonders of ancient Sumeria. Ask your student which of the many Sumerian inventions was their favorite and how their harvest went during the farming simulation in social studies. In language arts, the students put the finishing touches on their Parts of Speech ABC Books to end the grammar unit. Great job! We are beginning the second quarter reviewing reading strategies, examining the literary elements, and reading short stories. Science has been investigating how rock weathers to make soil. We demonstrated this process with some pretty interesting supplies. Ask you student what ketchup and pennies has to do with weathering. Be aware, our first test is coming up on October 26th; students have a study guide to help them prepare for this.

6 SILVER 6 Silver Newsletter sung to the tune of Monster Mash:

We've been working on our team hard all year,
When our eyes beheld something dear.
For our students with no late work began to rise,
And suddenly to our surprise...

They had a bash,
They earned a pizza bash!
The 6 Silver pizza bash,
It was a schoolyard smash.

They had a bash,

We hope it catches on in a flash.
They did the bash,
They enjoyed a pizza bash.

Ahhhhhoooooo.....

From Ms.Safiran's room in C103
To the Learning Center where the book fair will be,
The ghouls all come from the humble abodes,

To have a conference where the students will share loads.

Make sure and bring your cash,
In for the book fair dash.
We hope that this will be a smash,
The quarter will be over in a flash!

6 WHITE

In science class our students are learning a lot about mechanical and chemical weathering. There have been some great labs that the students have completed with more to come! At the conclusion of this unit our students will have a better understanding of the development of healthy soil and soil conservation. In Social Studies our students are finishing up their unit on Ancient Mesopotamia and will be traveling to Ancient Egypt next! In Mrs. Kagan's Core A & B math classes the students are working on fractions and in Core C and D the students have just begun to learn about geometry. Mrs. Evanger's LA class is learning about non-fiction texts in Read180. In Ms. Marks' language arts classes the students are wrapping up their first half of Unit Two, a study of Short Stories. The classes are also writing a letter of response to their favorite authors. Do not forget to be reading 20 minutes a night for your Reading Log!!

7 RED

The 7th grade Red teachers would like to thank all of the family members that were able to come with on our trip to Richardson's Corn Maze. It was a beautiful day with fun had by all! We would also like to recognize and thank the September Students of the Month: Caroline Wilm, Brandon Jarecki, Courtney Murray, and Nick Lazarra. In social studies students have been learning the differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. We will also be discussing the French and Indian War and the effect it had on the growing colonies. The fiction unit in language arts is coming to an end, but not before we write our very own short story. Our objective is to apply what we learned about what is needed to have a good quality story and create our own. Ms. Martin's Core A, B, D math classes have been working on understanding and calculating with decimals and fractions. Students will be preparing for their test over this material. They will then begin furthering their study with fractions. Core C math class has begun their study of linear equations and inequalities. Please remind your student the importance of correcting their homework assignments to further their understanding of the material. Mrs. Sheppard's science classes are continuing their studies into cells and life. Keep up the good work and remember to do those corrections. They can make a difference. Enjoy fall.

7 SILVER

In science we just learned how traits are passed down from parents to their children. Students loved looking into their families to see what traits they received from their parents. In Core C, students are starting a unit on decimals while Core D just finished a unit on fractions. We are studying the Revolutionary War in social studies and reading the historical fiction novel My Brother Sam Is Dead in language arts to go along with the time period. Congratulations to our September Character Counts students: Trevor Crippen, Rafaella Baglio-Moser, Savannah Poe, Marly Mora, Brandon Redina, Josh Zabor, Stephanie Wett, Mariano Cruz, Tom Riordan and Dane Gates. We want to extend a special shout out to Leah Curfman who was recognized twice last month for her character! Way to go! We look forward to meeting everyone during conferences. Please contact Mrs. Walsh or Miss Pellus if you are unable to make it but would like to meet at a different time.

7 WHITE

The 7 white team has many exciting events on the horizon as second quarter gets underway. Mrs. Schnurr's language arts classes are enjoying their study of short stories from the textbook. Next week they will read a teleplay entitled, "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" in preparation for the Halloween holiday. Mr. Phillips' classes are exploring the founding and development of the first thirteen colonies in North America. In science, Mr. Shevchik's students have just completed the chapter on Genes and Gene Technology, and the students were highly engaged with their Gene Packets. The next unit, The Evolution of Living Things, will be a promising unit for all of the students. In math, Mrs. Villacres's students are using the Saxon book to explore formulas, fractions, measurement and problem solving. Meanwhile, Mrs. Stanard's cores A, B, and D will start working with fraction concepts. Students will learn divisibility rules, prime factoring, and finding greatest common factor and least common multiple of a pair of numbers. Core C will be starting chapter 4- Algebra: Linear Equations and Inequalities. The students will be introduced to the methods of finding solutions of two-variable equations and graphing those relationships. Sharpen your pencils and let the fun continue! Finally, in addition to their coursework, all students are busy preparing their portfolios for the Student Led Conferences taking place on October 27th and 28th. Please contact your student's core A teacher if you have not yet scheduled a conference time.

8 RED

Math classes have just wrapped up a chapter on basic algebra including solving one and two step equations as well as solving and graphing inequalities on a number line. Algebra classes are working a unit involving equations with variables on both sides and solving absolute value equations. They are also rearranging formulas for a new variable. 8 Red Science is simply studying machines. The 6 simple machines. We are calculating the efficiency and the advantage machines provide us. We will be exploring each of the machines and looking for real life examples in our daily life. Looking ahead 8 Red students will be travelling to Milwaukee's Discovery Museum, Nov. 9. We will be looking for 4-5 chaperones to accompany us. If you would like to volunteer please email me bforeman@d15.org In social studies, students are learning about immigration in the late 1800's - early 1900's. Students went on the internet and looked at a website about Ellis Island. They learned about all the different steps an immigrant had to go through at Ellis Island in order to be let into the U.S. We also read a novel titled, Letters From Rifka, which helped further the students' understanding of immigration.

8 SILVER

8 silver language arts students have just finished up a unit on propaganda. We discussed techniques used in propaganda, viewed commercials while determining the type of propaganda being used, as well as created advertisements. We are now beginning our unit on persuasive writing and tone and mood. 8 silver social studies students have just finished up chapter 19 on the industrialization in the early 1900's. We have discussed the many inventions that came about during this time period and some students even had a chance to create their own electricity. We will now be moving on towards immigration in the early 1900's. Along with this chapter, we will read a great novel entitled, Letters from Rifka. In Science, 8-Silver students are completing a unit on work and machines. After learning to describe and calculate work and power, students will be explaining the advantages that come with using each of the simple machines. In the next few weeks, we will be switching our focus to energy, including both renewable and nonrenewable resources.

8 WHITE

Math students are working on solving many different types of algebraic equations. Check out Mrs. Peter's web page for extra practice links on balancing equations. In Social Studies we will begin our Immigration Unit by reading Letter's from Rifka. The story profiles a Jewish family looking to migrate to the United States from Russia during the years surrounding World War I. Students will be exposed to structured discussions, and will be accountable for the story through their written responses on homework and periodic quizzes. Science students have been studying work and simple machines. They have learned how to calculate mechanical advantage and mechanical efficiency. We also had a hands on lab determining mechanical advantage of simple machines. Language Arts students have been reading short stories and studying the literary style of several authors including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Once we have finished The Speckled Band, students will begin reading their first novel, The Giver. Mrs. Liput's math class is learning about ways to collect and organize data. We are reviewing mean, median and mode along with bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs. The test on this will be Wednesday, Oct. 26. Hope to see everyone at student lead conferences on Oct. 27 and 28.

UNIFIED ARTS

HEALTH:

6th grade: We have been discussing the 3 different parts of health and doing activities in class to practice using all 3 parts. Students will begin their Health Triangle Choice Assignment in class this week to demonstrate their understanding of the 3 parts. Some options of projects include posters, mobile, 3D model, and power points. Also, students received their first comic book that should be completed at home with an adult and returned to me.

7th grade: We have been talking about the consequences of using tobacco products. Students engaged in an emphysema activity in which they were able to feel the effects of being a lifelong smoker and the difficulty breathing. Students will be completing a Tobacco Choice Assignment to demonstrate their understanding of the consequences of choosing to smoke.

8th grade: We have had some great discussion on what factors in society influence teens to be and not to be sexually active. We have talked about media influences and peer pressure as well. Students will compile their knowledge and understanding of abstinence in a Benefits of Abstinence Choice Assignment.

McHenry Physical Education - "Where it is a hit to be fit"

Hopefully everyone is adjusting to the second term of activities. We will be working on our individual fitness testing and recording on their personal fitness cards. You can ask to see them during parent teacher conferences. Speaking of conferences, the PE staff will be in the main gym during the conferences.

We will be working on many different activities during this term. Fielding games, Team building, challenges, personal fitness, kick ball, juggling, crate climbing and misc. games.

We ask that the students be prepared for class everyday. If they forget their uniforms, they have the option of talking to the teachers and working something out. While we ask that each student be prepared, we also ask that they attempt to do their best everyday (participation).

We understand that each student has strengths and weakness when it comes to the various activities that we participate in. All we ask for is their best effort each day.

Stay active and enjoy the outdoors!!! Ms. Emigh, Mrs. Krysh, Mr. Heinrich and Mr. Schweitzer

Technology: Term 2 is in full swing! All students are off to a wonderful start in technology class! 8th grade students are researching products, companies and marketing plans for inspiration for their own businesses. 7th grade students are focusing on who they are and who they want to be – their family history, heritage and characters and traits they want to exhibit as people. They are currently working on family trees and a history of their heritage. 6th grade students are reviewing Microsoft Office while creating websites for an exchange with students in the Chicagoland area, China and Brazil.

PTO NEWS:

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO HELP WITH THE MMS PTO FUNDRAISER! New Incentives for students have been added to the Power of One Fundraiser! In addition to the original incentives, turn in 10 tickets by October 31 and receive the chance to win one prize of a \$200 gift card OR one prize of a \$100 gift card OR two prizes of \$50. Incentive drawings will be held at the November 19th PTO meeting along with two of the scheduled monthly drawings. Thanks for your support of our ONE main fundraiser that benefits ALL students. Good Luck! Congratulations to the October POWER OF ONE winner of \$200, band teacher Leslie Paul! The student seller, John Leon will receive his choice of \$25 gift cards. The PTO would like to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to Mrs. Paul who generously donated her winnings to the PTO Angel Fund. If you don't already know, the Angel Fund is money allocated by the PTO to purchase gifts around the holidays for MMS students who, for various reasons, may not otherwise receive any. It also assists these students in other ways throughout the school year.

8th graders don't forget to order your Class of 2012 t-shirts! The deadline to order is October 26. T-shirts are \$10, hoodies are \$22. Class shirts are a great keepsake from your years at MMS, so don't miss out! At the request of many students, something special has been added to the list of names, you won't want to miss this shirt!

Upcoming events: The Fall Book Fair runs the week of October 24! From Monday thru Wednesday the fair will be open during school hours. On Thursday and Friday, come browse and buy during Student Led Conferences! As always, there are many items of interest in addition to the great books offered so stop by the Learning Center and check it out! Wendy's Wars is back! 6th, 7th & 8th graders compete on three consecutive nights to earn the title of Wendy's Wars Champ! The winning grade level is treated to free Frosties during a designated lunch period. Wendy's Wars runs October 25, 26 & 27. No fliers or coupons are needed and Wendy's donates 15% of ALL sales earned between 5pm-8pm on those dates! Market Day Pick-Up is Nov. 16 from 3:30 PM-5:00 PM. Deadline for ordering on-line is Nov. 12, paper orders are due in the PTO mailbox Nov. 7. If you would like to volunteer to help at Market Day or have any other comments/requests/suggestions please email the PTO at mchenrymiddleschoolpto@gmail.com. Congrats to October Box Top Pizza Lunch winner Kierstin Katsafados. Kierstin will enjoy a pizza lunch with 5 of her friends. Keep cutting & turning in those Box Tops (in a bag with your name!) for your chance to win. For every 10, your name is entered in the monthly drawing. For up-to-date information check out the PTO website. Click on our link under the "Parent" tab on the MMS homepage.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the October PTO meeting. Our attendance is increasing and it's refreshing to see new faces and hear new ideas! Our next meeting will be Nov. 14 at 6:30pm in the Learning Center. All are welcome and encouraged to come so stop by and find out what the PTO REALLY does for our school!



Michelle Hedge Giving Back 5K - November 12, 2011 9AM @ McHenry Township

online registration: www.signmeup.com/78940

"Honoring the life and legacy of a beautiful woman taken from us too soon. "

Please join us and Michelle's family, as we celebrate the life of 1989 McHenry graduate, Michelle Hedge!

**for more information on this event, please visit our team Updates & Events at:*

www.teamrunyourlife.info

*Proceeds from the event donated to: *Run Your Life Pro-active Kids Clubs*

**McHenry County Turning Point*

Run Your Life Run-Walk Club Starts Saturday, October 29th, 8am, Duker School

Fridays beginning November 4th, 12:30pm, meet @Firefly Café in Algonquin

Runners, Walkers and In-between-ers, All meeting together!

online registration: www.signmeup.com/79252 Questions: runyourlife.director@gmail.com or (815) 861.5074