

MMS NEWS FLASH

McHenry Middle School 2120 W. Lincoln Rd. McHenry, IL 60051
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FROM THE DESK OF MR. REITZ, PRINCIPAL

As you all should know by now, our student-led conferences are right around the corner. By now you should 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 some of the wonderful things that have gone on in MMS over the past few weeks. First off, our Physical Education department hosted the 2nd annual MMS Triathlon on October 2nd. Over 200 students and staff members participated in this event which was filled with physical fitness, teamwork, camaraderie, sportsmanship and school pride. Also, on Saturday, October 17th, some parent volunteers participated in the first annual McHenry Middle School beautification day. They showed up and helped plant, lay mulch and spruce up the front of our building. Thank you very much for all of you who devoted your Saturday morning to this. It looks great. To put it simply, it's been a good few weeks here at MMS.

Have a great end to your October.

Mr. Reitz

STUDENT APPOINTMENTS & LEAVING EARLY

If you must pick up your child up for an appointment from school early, please send a note with them in the morning to bring to the office. We will give them a pass to leave class. This will aid in less disruptions during class time. Thank you in advance.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES REMINDER

Devices such as cell phones, electronic games, laser pens, radios, cameras, MP3 players, CD players, beepers, etc. are generally disruptive to the educational process. Therefore, they should not be brought to school. Cell phones will be allowed if turned off and in lockers only. If such devices are found at school they will be taken from the student, parents will be contacted and arrangements will be made for the item's return.

Important Dates

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| Oct. 23 rd | Report Cards Go Home |
| Nov. 2 nd | Conferences 1:30 – 9:00 PM NO SCHOOL |
| Nov. 3 rd | Conferences 12:30-8:00 PM NO SCHOOL |
| Nov. 5 th | Early Release Dismissal @ 12:35 PM |
| Nov. 20 th | Mid Quarter Reports Go Home |
| Nov. 25 th – Nov. 27 th | NO SCHOOL |
| Dec. 22 nd | End of 2 nd Quarter |
| Dec 23 rd -Jan 3 rd | Winter Break – NO SCHOOL |

Responsibility



CHORUS NEWS

The 7th and 8th Grade Fall Concert will be held on Thursday, Oct 29th at 7:00 PM in the MMS gym. The students have worked very hard preparing their music and look forward to sharing an exciting concert with you! 7th and 8th grade students will also perform their concert for the student body the following morning in an all school assembly.

Thank you for ordering Mum plants this month. All proceeds benefit the MMS music department. In December we will be selling poinsettias. Look for information to come home soon.

Many students have shown an interest in performing in solo ensemble. Make sure to turn in a registration form with payment due on Friday, November 20th. Students are responsible to provide a piano accompanist or submit a \$25.00 accompanist fee with registration.

Additional registration forms can be found on the school website on my classroom page. If you have questions, please contact me at cmunn@d15.org.

Thank you for your continued support for our programs!

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 2nd will be here before you know it.

Concert band: Are you ready for the fall concert on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th? Make sure you have your black pants and white shirt ready to go. I encourage you to get your last bit of practice in for the big day. You will be great.

Jazz band: Nice job at the high school concert. Keep up the good work.

Musically Yours, Miss Paul



CLUB INFORMATION

WMMS NEWS – News teams are covering boys' basketball and clubs at MMS. They have taken both photos and videos to broadcast on the weekly news. Student announcers continue to bring the news to students and staff every morning via the school's intercom system. New to MMS is the weekly announcements aired every morning on the hallway televisions. After school activities, athletics, and lunch menus are shown every morning.

The WMMS News team takes videos of students, clubs, assemblies, and sporting events. They interview students and staff. The news is broadcast on Fridays during Home Base. The WMMS News team meets twice a month August through May. Students may ride the after school activity bus home. Those students not riding the bus must be picked up on the east side of the building along Chapel Hill Road after our meetings at 4:00 PM.

Meeting Dates: Oct 29, Nov 9, Nov 16, Nov 23 and Nov 30

YEARBOOK CLUB – Students are busy taking photos of events around the school. Basketball and after-school clubs are taking place and our photographers are on the scene to capture digital memories for the yearbook. Yearbook Club members take photos of students, staff, clubs, assemblies, and sporting events. They work on the computer to plan and design each page of the yearbook. The Yearbook Club meets twice a month September through March. Yearbooks are distributed in May. Students may ride the after school activity bus home. Those students not riding the bus must be picked up on the east side of the building along Chapel Hill Road after our meetings at 4:00 PM. Meeting dates: Nov 9, and Nov 23

M.A.D. Minutes: M.A.D. Club hosted an assembly on 10/16. Our guest speaker was Dr. Mann Spiltler, who spoke about losing his daughter to a drug overdose. He reminded students about the importance of staying away from peer pressure and remembering your goals, aspirations, dreams in life and how drugs will influence the likelihood of achieving this goal. We received lots of positive feedback from both students and staff regarding the assembly's effectiveness in preventing teen drug use. For more information or to contact Dr. Spiltler, visit his website: www.mandasstory.com We would also like to thank **Julie Gilmur from the Hampton Inn** in McHenry. Hampton Inn generously provided a room at no cost for Dr. Spiltler.

We would also like to thank the following students for representing M.A.D. from MMS and attending the Red Ribbon Week Community Kick-Off Event on Friday, Oct. 16: Kim McClaughry, Sera Picard, Alexis Shields, and Alexis Gamboa.

We will be hosting a Spirit Week in honor of Red Ribbon Week the week of Oct. 26. Our theme for this year is *Follow Your Dreams!*

Monday- PJ Day- Don't Sleep On It....Just Say No!

Wednesday- Crazy Hair/Dress Day- You're Crazy If You Do Drugs!

Friday- Halloween Costumes/Dress Your Career- Keep Your Future In Mind!

Tuesday- Neon Day- Keep You Future Bright!

Thursday- Hat Day- Tip Your Hat To Being Drug Free!

Our next M.A.D. meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to judge our school Door Decorating Contest from Red Ribbon Week.

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.

TEAM NEWS

6 RED

The 6 Red Team would like to congratulate our September Students of the Month, Sammi Dominick and Max Huffman. These two students have demonstrated a dedication to school and a promotion of excellent character. Congratulations!! In social studies, we are learning about the many new ideas and inventions of the Mesopotamian people. Bartering was how goods were traded in the Fertile Crescent region. Ask your student how our activity, "Exchange City" worked out for them. Language arts classes continue to strengthen their grammar skills by examining the eight parts of speech and forming complete sentences and paragraphs in preparation for writing their narrative essays. They are enjoying their daily MUG (Mechanics Usage (Grammar) Shots and are finding awesome vocabulary words for our word wall. For AR, the students are reading Rebecca Caudill nominated novels in discussion groups. They are having fun discussing the novels they are reading with each other. They will also have the opportunity to read this year's nominees and vote on the one novel they like best! The students are finishing up the unit on integers in math. Have them solve these problems WITHOUT a calculator ($-15 + 9$; $-18 - 10$; -6×20 ; -7×-8 ;). With your signature they will receive extra credit. Next we will be learning about the order of operations and algebra. We continue to work on extended responses every Friday. Science has been busy preparing for our field trip to Veteran's Acres by braving the cold to orienteer and use GPS units. We have become proficient at navigation with these devices. We are also starting our new unit on Weathering. Ask your student about how we used a Styrofoam cup to represent both mechanical and chemical weathering.

6 SILVER

The sixth grade silver team is just plugging along learning all sorts of new ideas! We have completed our 1st quarter of school and many students have attained some of their personal goals, continually trying to reach new heights. In social studies we have gone back in time with our passports to visit the first civilizations in Mesopotamia. We will be exploring many components that make up a civilization. In language arts we are working hard on complete sentences and using them in our writing. Science has been preparing for an exciting orienteering and geo caching field trip. Starting on Monday, the math classes will be reviewing decimals, and our first quiz of the quarter will be on the 30th!

6 WHITE

Students in Mrs. Comstock's math classes are multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. Mrs. Evanger's language arts classes are writing personal narratives and then moving into a short story unit. All students are working diligently in science with Mrs. Christian to master the compass and GPS units for the science field trip on Thursday, October 29th. This should be a lot of fun and a great experience for all! In Mrs. A's social studies classes, students have discussed the Elements of Culture and how they relate to our American Culture. The students are now learning about Early Humans and Mesopotamia; they have also created pretend Passports they will use as we travel to different civilizations! We have also talked about what a Passport is used for and why it is an important primary source document. In Math with Mrs. Kagan the students are learning all about decimals. The students have been reminded to visit the class blog for extra credit it can be found at <http://mms6whitemath.blogspot.com/> Ms. Marks' language arts classes are working through their second unit – Is Conflict Always Bad? – check the website for postings (pearsonsuccessnet.com). Students are concentrating on Characterization, Making Inferences, Asking Questions, Drawing Conclusions, Theme, Setting and Verbs. Please pay attention to Reading log dates – the time has increased to 20 minutes for second quarter.

7 RED

Mr. Dunham's social studies classes have finished Chapter 3 and have presented their projects on the founding of the original 13 colonies. We are now beginning Chapter 4 which will examine the differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. In this chapter students will also be learning about the growing tensions between the British and the French in America and the French and Indian War. Ms. Martin's math classes have done an excellent job in the 1st quarter learning many new concepts & reinforcing ones learned previously. Please remind students to help reinforce an understanding of a concept & to improve their grade they may correct any homework assignment turned in on time. Another important tip is that before each test there is a review sheet given out and gone over in class. Studying this review & practicing the problems will help a student prepare for the test. Mrs. Sheppard's science classes are continuing their explorations into cells. We are now going to studying how traits get inherited, and how genes work. Remember that if you score below a 70% you are to do corrections for a better score. Have a great fall. Mrs. Tankiewicz's language arts classes can rap what the five elements of a short story or novel are. Well Done! Now that we know what it takes in order to have a good story, we can easily identify them. Currently, we are reading a novel which takes place during the Revolutionary War, My Brother Sam is Dead. Will Tim ever decide which side he is on?

7 SILVER

Congratulations to our September Character Counts! students: Mayson McIntyre, Nick Adam, Gabe Ramirez, Cameron Riemann, Lara Rybicki and Mandy Galway. We appreciate your great character!! Congratulations also to our pizza party winners for first quarter: Alexis Atwater, Jessica Jablonski, Kelsie Kirchner, Kevin Zheng, Nick Adam, Melanie Foland, Annamarie Gaskell and Cheyenne Koster. These students had no late or missing assignments the entire quarter. We hope to see you again next quarter! Way to go! In science this month we have been learning about the different phases a cell can go through. The students created a mobile with other students in class that showed the four phases of mitosis. Ask them what the phases are! We just finished the chapter on Friday and are starting Chapter 3: Heredity this week. In math we are getting a more in depth look at algebra. We have been learning how to solve for a variable in 2 step equations. We have finished our fiction unit in language arts and have started our novel My Brother Sam Is Dead. The novel correlates with our social studies curriculum. We are studying the different colonies and events that led to the Revolutionary War. Students will use the information from both classes to write a research paper next month.

7 WHITE

Mr. Shevchik's science classes have just started "Classification." Overall, the students have done well with the first quarter material. They are very engaged in their learning. Mrs. Stanard's math classes are working on refining skills with equations in all four operations. Students are also working on writing a phrase for a given expression and writing an expression when a phrase is given. Core A, B, and C will enter the world of fractions, reviewing the basics before they are applied to equations. Core D will continue to work with equations going beyond two-step equations to finding solutions of two-variable equations and graphing these equations. Mr. Phillips' social studies classes are learning about the Spanish Armada of 1588 and the impact of the English victory on the future colonization of the Americas. In language arts the students are exploring a variety of short stories. They focus on one story per week. Eventually the students will be writing their own short stories. Good job on 1st quarter AR and keep it up for 2nd quarter!

In Ms. Mutter's social studies class, the students are studying The 13 Colonies and in LA they are studying the short story. In Mrs. Villacres's math class the students are working on the vocabulary of math and their fraction/decimal/percent unit and in science they are studying the cell. We would like to welcome Ms. Flowers to the 7 White team. She will be substituting in Mrs. Schnurr's class during her leave of absence.

8 RED

In science we are currently we have completed our element reports and have been doing presentations. Next we will be focusing on the periodic table. In language arts, we are focusing on parts of a sentence. We are trying to identify the predicate and subject of the sentences. In algebra, we are working on solving systems of equations. In general math, the students have been working on basic concepts of formulas. In social studies, we are in the middle of our unit on Immigration. We are reading a novel called Letters from Rifka. The story is about a family from Russia who immigrates to the U.S. Students learn what it was like to immigrate from Europe to the U.S.

8 SILVER

Math classes have all been busy solving multi-step equations and we begin our algebra unit. I am very proud at how well they are learning and using the language of algebra. Algebra classes have been busy learning how to manipulate and rewrite equations. They are also working very hard as the learn how to write equations from real life story problems. 8 Silver language arts have been focusing on non-fiction stories over the past couple of weeks. We have read about the Underground Railroad, missions to outer space, and personal narratives by famous authors. While reading the stories, we have also been exploring the topics of main idea and finding details which support the main idea. The goal is for students to create their own writings which clearly state the main idea and provide supporting details. Social studies classes have just finished studying the growth of industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Students learned how to make their own electricity with a flashlight bulb and batteries. They have also been working with groups in order to create their own inventions to fit the current time period. Mrs. Foreman's social studies class is looking for similarities between modern day immigration issues and immigration issues from the early 1900's. We will be creating passports based on our nationalities. We constructed graphs that represent where our ancestors have hailed from around the world. Many, many countries are represented. We will conclude this unit, by reading the novel entitled Rifka, which is a coming of age story about a girl who emigrated to America and the struggles she faced in doing so. 8 silver science can be found flinging washers, wrapping inclined planes around a tube to make a screw, whisking objects easily into the air using a pulley and prying around the lab investigating the mysteries of the simple machine. We should be pondering ideas for the science fair based on some of the investigations we do in class. The simple machine lab is a fantastic observation for some really great projects. Be thinking ahead! We hope to see you at Student Led Conferences.

8 WHITE

Algebra students have been busy keeping algebraic equations balanced while pre-algebra students have just begun the balancing act. Check out Mrs. Peter's classroom page on the district website for additional interactive and/or tutorial practice. 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. Language Arts students are half way through their literature unit and have been learning about narrative structure including flashback, foreshadowing, and their importance to both the reader and the story. Soon they will be writing a descriptive essay about a classmate. Bench testing will follow their essay presentations. Ms. Lombardo's LA class is reading a short novel on immigration called, It's Only Goodbye. The students are continuing to learn their syllable types and practicing their reading and writing. Mrs. Liput's math students just finished a unit on divisibility and starting a unit on central tendencies and graphing. Ms. Lombardo's science class is learning about atoms and elements. Their element projects were due Monday 10/19. Mrs. Liput's students are learning about immigration in the late 1890's to 1920's. They will need to build a 3-D model of the Statue of Liberty due Friday 10/23. The students will also be participating in an activity where they will pretend to be immigrants coming to America and have to go through processing at Ellis Island. Students will be asked to share their heritage and nationality with the class, so parents are involved as well.

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

Heartland Blood Drive sponsored by MCTA- McHenry Classroom Teachers Association will be sponsoring their 2nd annual Blood Drive for Heartland Blood Centers on Thursday, November 5th at Riverwood School in the cafeteria from 3:30pm – 7:30 pm This drive is open to the public! Appointments can be scheduled online at <http://iwebb.heartlandbc.org/pls/iwebb/adrv?pdz=75038&pdr=DRV2007207> Walk-ins are also welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Chase at 815-344-7130 ext. 5450

Library News:

The Fall Spooooktacular Boook Fair @ MMS is scheduled for Tuesday – Friday, 10/27 – 10/30. It will also be Oooooopen during cooonferences on Monday and Tuesday. Be sure to stop by and see the latest titles as well as everyone's favorites. If you have time to vooooolunteer, please email Mrs. Stampfl (mstampfl@d15.org) and let her know your availability.

Rebecca Caudill Award Titles: Many MMS students are busy reading Rebecca Caudill 2010 books (www.rcyba.org). If they read three or more, they will join thousands of students around Illinois and vote for their favorite book (spring, 2010). It is always fun to compare MMS's top three picks with other students from around the state. This reading program is voluntary, but all Caudill books are AR.

Are you a Registered Nurse or LPN? Do you enjoy working with children? Would you like to be on the same work schedule as your student's school days? If so, we need you! We are interested in hiring available LPN's or RN's as substitute nurses for our schools. On occasion we have a need to place a substitute nurse in a building while a nurse is at a seminar, training, etc. If you are interested, please drop off a resume or application at our Central Administrative Office at 1011 North Green Street. Applications are available at the Central Office or in each school building.

UNIFIED ARTS

Health: Welcome to Term 2!

6th grade: We have begun discussing the three parts of health and brainstorming activities to incorporate into our daily lives to be healthy in all three areas. Students will practice some of these activities in health class!

7th grade: We have been talking about the deadliest drugs in society and the fact that the majority of teens are NOT using drugs. Students will be discussing short and long term consequences of tobacco use and participating in an emphysema activity in which they find out what it feels like to live with emphysema.

8th grade: We have been discussing the definition and importance of practicing abstinence, including its many benefits. We have also been discussing the social, physical, and emotional consequences of being sexually active.

Music Appreciation

6th Grade – All 6th grade music students are currently studying rhythm and melody/pitch through singing, dancing, drumming and boomwhacker performances. We will be starting our term-long piano composition this week.

7th Grade – We have been traveling the world through music, dance and drumming in 7th grade. Students are currently comparing the traditional music of Africa, Latin America, India, China/Japan, Native America, Eastern/Central Europe and North America/Canada.

8th Grade – All 8th grade students are hard at work studying the history of rock and roll, determining the styles they would like to use in their own classroom "band." We will start working on our band budgets and songs/compositions in the coming weeks!

The P.E. Department held the 2nd annual Triathalon on October 2nd! We had 53 teams participate this year, which nearly doubled from last year. The students all received a T-Shirt after they completed the challenge. It was a huge success! A big thanks to our Office staff and Administration!

A "big thank you" to the PTO for sponsoring the Triathalon!

We have also added a new unit to P.E. under the Team Challenge/Team work umbrella. We have started a Crate Climbing activity. The students climb up (milk) crates stacked on one another and the students are harnessed in. Safety is Paramount. This activity requires teamwork, communication, and lots of safety. We look forward to seeing this activity get off the ground!

We also will be hosting Open Gym night on 10/23 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We have another one on 11/13 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. *Only McHenry Middle School Students* are allowed to attend.

Proper uniforms and gym shoes are required for P.E. class every day. Be aware during the colder months if your child wears boots, please have them leave an extra pair of gym shoes in their locker. We are looking forward to an awesome Term 2. P.E. Department

Get Real! A Mother/Daughter Conference - "Removing the Mask. Revealing the Truth"

You're invited! Saturday November 7th, 2009, 9:00-3:30 PM

Expect to be inspired, encouraged and challenged to face today's issues with honesty and truth. To Register go to www.girlsembracingtruth.org Held at: Evangelical Free Church, 575 E. Crystal Lake Avenue, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Run Your Life Events:

***Fall Running Club for 6th-8th Grade Runners** meets **Oct. 27, Nov. 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1 & 8**, Edgebrook School, 4:30-5:30PM **Cost: FREE!** T-shirts: \$15

***Running Club for Adults:** Saturdays, 7-8AM, Chauncey H. Duker School in McHenry, **Start date: Oct. 24th** **Cost: FREE!** T-shirts: \$15

***Kids Clubs: Fun activities each gathering! Clubs meet: Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27, and Mar. 6th**

***K-2nd Grade:** 9-10:30AM, Edgebrook Elementary School, McHenry ***3rd-5th Grade:** 9-10:30AM, Edgebrook Elementary School, McHenry

***6th-8th Grade:** 6:30-8PM, Duker School, McHenry

Our group is **very social** and "**group oriented.**" **Come "hang" with us!**

To Register: email participant name, age, grade, contact info, and whether or not you are purchasing a t-shirt to: runyourlife@sbcglobal.net or call (815) 861-5074.