

MMS NEWS FLASH

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. REITZ, PRINCIPAL

I would like to start this newsletter off by thanking all of you for helping us get off to a great start to the new school year. It really has been a joy coming to school every day and being greeted by such enthusiastic and positive children. I'm really excited for this year!

This past week, the faculty and I at MMS have been talking a lot about the "magic" of school and the energy that is generated from those first few exciting days of a new school year. We love that everything is filled with so much promise. Lockers are clean, notebooks and folders are organized and pencils are sharpened. We love the fact that students seem so happy to see friends that they haven't seen in awhile and we love the excitement they show when they bump into their favorite teacher from the previous year. We love the school spirit they show during our opening day assembly and the diligence they attend to even the most minute details of those early school assignments. As a staff, during our first faculty meeting, we spent time sharing some of our favorite moments of these first few days and celebrating what we call around here, "the magic of school." Our goal is to keep this enthusiasm and promise in our students for the entire year. We want the last day of school to be as exciting and positive as the first. Throughout this year we will work hard to make this lofty goal a reality for all of our students. To help us in this endeavor, we ask that you keep us informed if you feel that there is something else we can do to make this year the best year ever for your child. We welcome any and all conversations and suggestions.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the different things going on at our school. Please use it and future issues as a way to stay up to date with what goes on in the building. Also, please use our school website as a tool to stay informed.

Thank you again for helping us off to a great start to the 2009-2010 school year! Have a great September!

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.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PICK-UP

If your child participates in an after school activity, please pick them up on the east side of the building. (Chapel Hill side)

PARKING LOT

If you drop your student off in the morning or pick them up after school, please pull up as far up as possible in the drop off lane. This should help to alleviate the congestion in the parking lot. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Important Dates

Sept. 7 th	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
Sept. 17 th	Mid-Quarter Reports
Sept. 18 th	Teacher Institute Day – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 12 th	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct. 16 th	End of 1 st Quarter
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

Trustworthiness



CHORUS NEWS

Welcome to a new year of music making in chorus at MMS!

Chorus handbooks went home last week. Check Mrs. Munn's classroom page on the website to print a form out if needed. Please sign and return to Mrs. Munn if you have not done so already.

I am proud to say that we have a ton of musical talent here at McHenry Middle School. There are many opportunities for you to shine, so make sure to take advantage of all that our chorus program has to offer.

1. Star Spangled Banner singers are needed for the Walk a Thon and to sing at basketball games this year. Let me know if you are interested.
2. Solo Ensemble registration begins in November. Begin looking for a solo or putting a group of friends together to sing a duet, trio or small group song.
3. Solos at concerts are open for all students. Practice at home. Audition information for solos will be coming out mid-September.
4. Let me know if you would like information about private voice teachers in McHenry. One on one instruction is the best way to improve your singing voice.

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Madrigals!

Sopranos: Serena Payton, Kiki Peterson, Sydney Dyer, Nikki Vicicondi, Shaenon Weinrauch, Emma Prickett, Maddie Milton, Hannah Dreyer, Kayla Harley, Emily Rhoades, Jazmin Blanco

Altos: Claudia Pasche, Michaela Chancellor, Sandy Fuit, Maddie Enright, Sara Wimmer, Dakota Burke, Katelyn Rowlett, Shannon Murray, Kristen Miller, Christina Ditore, Alex Heberly

Boys: Joshue Flores, Brandon Kaminski, Marcus Mohr, Ryan Wykes, Dylan Curry

Section Leaders:

Soprano-Kayla Christy & Katelyn Gaul, Alto-Taylor Denman & Kim McClaughry, Boys-John Krajec, Librarian-Taylor Riemann, Secretary-Hope Schneider

Keep singing! Mrs. Munn

BAND NEWS

Bands, welcome back. It is sure to be a year full of great music making. Thank you to all of the students who participated in the summer band program. It was a great success.

6th grade and Concert Band- Band books have been ordered. If you did not order one, make sure to pick one up at a local music store this weekend. Remember to start turning in your practice logs. Week 1 is due on Monday.

Jazz band- Congrats to the 2009-2010 Jazz band. We are off to a good start already. Make sure to start looking at the new music. Polo shirt money needs to be turned in ASAP!

Band officers, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, and Saxophone Quartet, we will be working out time for rehearsal soon!

Upcoming Dates:

September 24-25: Marching Band (Concert Band students)
October 19: After school Jazz rehearsal
October 21: High School Jazz Concert
October 29: Fall Concert (Concert Band)

Musically Yours, Miss Paul



CLUB INFORMATION

Builder's Club is a service club open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 10th in room A105 with Mrs. Agnes as the sponsor. Our first activity will be to elect our officers: President, Vice President and Secretary. We will have some get acquainted activities and clean up around the school. Our food drive for the FISH Food Pantry will be held in October.

Our meeting dates are September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12, December 2 & 17, January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 8 & 22 and May 6. Students can ride the activity bus home at 4:15. If you are picking up your student, please pick up on the east side of the building.

WMMS NEWS –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. WMMS News 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 P.M.

Meeting Dates: August 24 - September 14 - September 21 - September 28

Congratulations to our 2009-2010 WMMS News announcers: Sean Lindgren and Caylin Kaunas!

YEARBOOK CLUB –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 P.M. Meetings will be announced when the online program is up and running.

TEAM NEWS

6 RED

The 6 Red teachers would like to thank all the students and parents who came out to open house this year. Being involved in school from the very beginning helps create a successful middle school experience. So far 6th grade is off to a great start! Here is what we have been up to in all of the core classes. We have had a busy week in language arts reviewing procedures and classroom expectations. The students are writing their first essay of the year on their expectations for 6th grade. We recently completed STAR Testing for AR Reading Levels and AIMSweb Benchmark Testing for reading comprehension. Information on the results of these tests, as well as AR requirements and Reading Logs, will be coming home soon. The students are looking forward to receiving their new literature books and beginning the first unit on Nonfiction and Fiction. It has been a wonderful couple of weeks getting to know all the students in math. It seems we have a great group. To keep the students brushed up on their basic skills, we will be having multiplication drill and practice on the computer into October. Look for the packet given to your child. We will start with chapter 1 on graphing. Students will be learning vocabulary, how to survey people to obtain data and finally graphing that data. In social studies we have illustrated our four expectations; respect, responsibility, being "ready," and being "safe." The kids did a great job! Next we will move onto improving the students map skills here in class. Science classes have covered the rules of staying safe in a science lab as we presented rules to the class and made safety posters to hang in the classroom to remind ourselves of the many important safety tips. We are currently learning the scientific method as we begin conducting experiments in the classroom.

6 SILVER

Welcome to the 6th grade silver team! We are off to a great start! In math class, we have started working with graphs, which we will continue to use in our science classes. We have learned what the scientific method is and we are putting it to use in our experiments. We began weather and have learned our different cloud types, so keep your eyes open! Our language arts classes have picked out our first AR books and will begin reading logs in September. Parents should be signing each night after your child reads. Social studies classes are exploring maps and geography. *Reminder: Our first field trip will be this September 10th to Camp Algonquin for team building activities.

6 WHITE

We've begun our year by learning some geography skills in social studies. Ask your students about latitude and longitude! Mrs. Christian's science classes had a great time working cooperatively inventing their egg catchers. It was a smashing hit when they tested them. Now students are learning safety rules, the seven steps of the scientific method, and metrics in order to be able to conduct experiments. They will be expected to bring in supplies and demonstrate their own experiment after we are done with the chewing gum lab and paper towel lab. Students in Mrs. Kagan's math classes have started their year with some skills review. The classes have now moved on to reading and creating multiple types of graphs. In Mrs. Comstock's math classes' students are reviewing their basic math facts and getting into place values and reading and writing large numbers. Students in Mrs. Evanger's language arts classes are starting a unit on fiction V. non-fiction. In Ms. Marks' language arts classes, the students are starting their first Unit in the new textbook! The students are going to be working with Fiction and Non – Fiction for the next six weeks. With each unit, there is a question that is asked. Unit one is – How do we decide what is true? Take a look at the new book – it is great! There are many resources on line for the students as well.

7 RED

Ms. Martin's math classes are off to a great start! Please remind your students to correct any homework assignment, turned in on time for full credit. Also, there is extra credit given every Monday & collected every Friday, which is another way to help their grade. Mrs. Sheppard welcomes all our students. We will be studying life science this year. We will begin our year studying cells, all the unique items the make up our cells as well as how they work. Remember that if your student scores below a 70% they can do corrections for a better grade. Remember science is everywhere. Mrs. Devine's social studies classes are currently reviewing the states and will be starting a geography unit. We will be reviewing hemispheres, relative location, absolute location, and scale. I would also like to introduce Mr. Dunham to everyone. He will be student-teaching this semester. Welcome! Mrs. Tankiewicz's language arts classes just finished writing biographies on a classmate. Next we will learn how to write an autobiography.

7 SILVER

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break! We have been busy our first two weeks of school. Students have taken their STARS test to help them find appropriate Accelerated Reader books in LA. Students will need to read at least two books in their reading levels per quarter this year. We have also started our Nonfiction Unit. We will read examples of biographies, autobiographies, and essays. Students have begun their autobiographies in class for our first major writing assignment. In social studies we have previewed the first two chapters. We reviewed the information as we got to know our textbooks. We will begin chapter three next week. In science we have been reviewing procedures and becoming familiar with equipment we will be using in labs especially microscopes. We are beginning our unit on Cells and will have a variety of fun labs to go along with it. In both math classes we are working with various types of graphs and seeing what their data represents. We are looking forward to a terrific year on the 7 Silver team. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Walsh (kwalsh@d15.org) or Miss Pellus (apellus@d15.org) at any time.

7 WHITE

Welcome to the 7 White team and the 2009-2010 school year! Classes are already off and running as the first quarter gets underway. For both Ms. Mutter's and Mrs. Schnurr's language arts classes, the focus will be on nonfiction. Students will read a variety of nonfiction selections and author their own selection in the form of an autobiographical experience paper. Mrs. Stanard's math classes are up and out of their seats working in the area of data analysis. Students will develop a survey and compile the results to produce the various graphs that apply to their topics. Students can earn some extra points by cutting out a graph from a magazine or newspaper, and only those who read the newsletter will know! Meanwhile, in social studies, Ms. Mutter's and Mr. Phillips' students are studying about the ancient cultures of North and South America and exploring how these people influenced the growth of our nation. Mr. Phillips' social studies classes are also working to complete their first unit as a class. Subsequent units can be found in a packet distributed to all students during the first week of school. Finally, Mr. Shevchik's science classes are beginning the year with a study of lab safety. They are looking forward to a year filled with exciting experiments! Students are encouraged to continue using their agendas to record daily assignments, and families are reminded that the Homework Hotline can be accessed both by phone and the school website. We're looking forward to a great year!

8 RED

In language arts the students just completed to humorous stories: [The Clown](#) and [Painful Memories of Dating](#). We will be identifying some examples of simile and metaphor—as well as hyperbole in each story. We will also be doing other work with these literary terms. Math classes are beginning the year studying data analysis. Algebra classes are starting out reviewing the tools of algebra. In social studies students just finished a unit on U.S. States and Capital cities. Our next unit of study is the Civil War and Reconstruction. In science, we are beginning our year discussing basic properties of matter. We are discussing malleability, density, boiling point, and other basic properties. The students should be working on their density bottle projects which are due on Monday, August 31.

8 SILVER

8 Silver science is beginning the year with the study of physics. We will be familiarizing ourselves with concepts like speed, point of reference, velocity and acceleration. A fair amount of math will be used in conjunction with physics concepts, so encourage your student to bring a calculator to class. Social studies classes are starting the year reacquainting ourselves with the location of the 50 states and their capitals. Map activities and flash cards will be created to aid in our studies of the U.S. Language arts classes are starting the year with a grammar review. We will be looking at capitalization, subject/ verb agreement, and dialogue. Students should now have their AR books, and they will each need fifteen points this quarter.

Beth Foreman 8 Silver science/social studies, Jackie Brush 8 Silver language arts/social studies, and Tina Kazlauskus 8 Silver math/language arts

8 WHITE

Welcome 8th graders to a new and exciting school year. Language arts students are working on a short story unit, journaling, and other writing activities. Ms. Lombardo's LA class is reviewing the six syllable types and starting a Tall Tale unit. The students will be reading Tall Tales/ Fables and then writing their own Tall Tale. Ms. Lombardo's science class is reviewing the metric system. Mrs. Liput's math class is reviewing their basic facts, order of operations, and starting pre-algebra skills. Mrs. Liput's S.S. class is learning their states and capitals and then reviewing the Civil War. In social studies classes after an opening unit of U.S. States/Capitals we will now shift our attention to The Civil War. We will begin to analyze the issues of slavery and states' rights, and preview the economic and cultural differences that occurred in the United States during the 1800's. Students will be exposed to a number of individual and group activities as well as various video's and primary documents from the time period. Physical Science students have started the year learning about speed and acceleration. They enjoyed their Hot Wheels Lab where they determined speed and graphed their results.

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

McHenry Elementary Education Foundation "Walking for Words" is being held on
Sunday, September 13th @ Riverwood School
For more detail please contact John Lehnen or Cindee Nootbaar @ 815-385-7210

UNIFIED ARTS

Health: Welcome Back, Everyone!

6th grade: We have started the year discussing what HEALTH is, including differentiating the three parts of health and why it's important in our daily life. Students began their Health Triangle Choice Assignment August 27th in class to demonstrate their learning of activities to incorporate into their daily lives including mental/emotional, physical, and social health. I look forward to getting to know all of you!

7th grade: This year we will start off discussing tobacco and how it influences one's physical, social, and emotional health. Since studies show the more you practice saying no, the more comfortable and confident you will be in a peer pressure situation, we will be role-playing ways to say no in realistic situations!

8th grade: This year we are discussing the mature subject of sex education. We have been discussing abstinence and its benefits, along with various pressures and influences a teen faces regarding one's decision about 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 early next week!

Physical Education: Term 1 has started and we will be involved with frisbee, football, la crosse, team challenges, fitness and miscellaneous games. Please remember to be prepared for P.E. This includes a uniform and shoes that tie. We will be going outside weather permitting. **PARENTS: Please be aware of our students when we are outside. DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH OUR CLASSES! Safety First!** The 2nd Annual Triathlon will be held October 2nd during the school day. Teams of three participants can Sign-up this week and Permission slips are due September 2nd! We look forward to another successful challenge! Any questions, please contact Mr. Schweitzer. BSchweitzer@d15.org Again we are looking forward to another great year in P.E.!

TECHNOLOGY - Grades 6, 7, 8: Welcome Term 1 Technology Students!

Technology students should have brought home a letter for parents to sign. The letter goes over Technology use and safety in District 15. Technology students completed Internet Safety lessons. They watched three short video about cyber bullying, cyber predators, and social networking. They watched a PowerPoint presentation and took an Internet Safety Quiz.

"Tractors for Charity" is a two-day event in McHenry. Technology students created original digital drawings of antique tractors using Paint software. Drawings will be displayed at the event. This year's show is on Oct. 3rd and 4th at the historic Petersen Farm on McCullom Lake Road. The show hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. Please go to www.tractorsforcharity.com for more information. Students work daily on MicroType Pro keyboarding to improve their speed and accuracy.

DISTRICT NEWS

On September 8th from 7-7:30 PM at Parkland School, the McHenry Elementary School District 15 Board of Education will be holding a public forum to solicit community input. The Board of Education is in the process of updating the district's strategic plan and would like to hear any ideas citizens may have to improve the education for all of our students. The current strategic plan is detailed on the district's website at www.d15.org. Please attend and offer your opinions. In addition, a survey will be available on the district's website by which you may offer your input.

Registration for '09-'10 Run Your Life Community Clubs for Kids is now open!

Our Club Run Your Life age-based programs are the means to which we promote our core principles. They've been designed for children to have a safe place to learn, grow, have fun, and accept themselves fully. **Run Your Life was created as an addition to children's lives**, not in replacement of any activity they are already involved in; **a fun community club**. We believe that a **solid sense of community** is important in guiding children and creating a connectedness among its members. **We encourage kids to come as often as they can and we look forward to having them join in!**

What are our core principles?

- * **Running Our Lives:** Taking charge of our lives; not blaming others
- * **I Am Amazing!**: Everyone is amazing; embracing exactly who we are as well as respecting everyone for who they are as well
- * **Response-ability:** If we're feeling it, it's ours; we choose how we respond to situations
- * **It's All About Choices:** All choices have consequences, choose wisely; The choice game
- * **We're All in This Together:** Taking care of each other and the planet; Community 101: Plugging in

When and where do Clubs Run Your Life for Kids meet? (2nd & 4th Saturdays)

Sept. 26, Oct. 10 & 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27, and Mar. 6th

***K-2nd Grade:** 9-10:15AM, Edgebrook Elementary School, McHenry ***3rd-5th Grade:** 10:15-11:30AM, 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!

Family Open Gym & Game Time **When and where is Family Open Gym & Game Time?** Sunday afternoons, 12:30-2PM during the winter:

Nov. 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20. Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7, 21, and 28.

All families must fill out an activity release form and All children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house during the cold weather and play with your family. Come shoot some hoops in the gym or play a board game in the café...feel free to bring a favorite game from home. Remember to bring your basketball! **How do I join? Easy!** Simply fill out an activity release form and send it in! Each participant is required to have one on file in order to participate. Individual and family activity release forms are available on our website:

www.runyourlife.org **Each participant must be registered to attend.** **Questions?** Please contact Charlene at: runyourlife@sbcglobal.net or call 815.861.5074.

Mark Your Calendars! Bingo Fundraiser for Adults Only at The Moose Lodge, Oct. 12th

