

# MMS NEWS FLASH

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## FROM THE DESK OF MR. REITZ, PRINCIPAL

For this edition of our newsletter, I'd like to write a little bit about a great district-wide program that we promote in our building called the Character Counts program. In District 15 and in McHenry Middle School, character does indeed count. Not only do we want our students to grow academically, we want them to grow as individuals and citizens. A great way to do this is to stress the importance of positive character traits. That is why we place an emphasis on the character counts program and take the time to teach the pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship that are highlighted in the program. We don't see these as just words that are hanging from banners in our hallways or are just posted on our marquee outside our building. Instead, we see them as essential traits for people to have. To that end, as a staff we try to model them for our students every day and we also try to recognize and reward them when we see them being displayed. I'm pleased to say that I have, countless times, seen our students display these traits in their classes, in the hallways, on the athletic court and field and amongst their peers. Great job MMS families and students! Keep up the great work.

To switch gears a little bit, I wanted to also mention that during the course of the past week your child should have brought home to you two important documents. One was their mid-quarter report. Please use this as a timely gauge to see how your child is performing and as a conversation starter to see how things are going for them so far this year. The next document was your child's 2008-2009 ISAT performance profile report. This report is an account of how your child performed on last year's ISAT tests. As a school, we are excited to have this data and will soon be analyzing it on a school wide scale to see what it tells us and how we might learn from it.

Finally, as you probably already know, our student-led conferences are scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. More specific information regarding these conferences and what they entail will be coming.

I wish you all a great end to your September and a terrific start to your October. Thanks again for helping us get off to such a great start this year!

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>                         | Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL                |
| Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup>                         | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter          |
| Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>                         | Report Cards Go Home                    |
| Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>                          | Conferences 1:30 – 9:00 PM<br>NO SCHOOL |
| Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>                          | Conferences 12:30-8:00 PM<br>NO SCHOOL  |
| Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>                         | Mid Quarters Go Home                    |
| Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup> – Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup> | NO SCHOOL                               |
| Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>                         | End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter          |
| Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> -Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | Winter Break – NO SCHOOL                |

## Respect



## CHORUS NEWS

Chorus students have been working hard in rehearsals to read and perform a variety of music! We have had a great start to the year and I look forward to building our program and preparing students for the 7th and 8th grade IGSMA chorus contest this spring. We have a lot of musical talent in our ensemble this year!

Congratulations to the National Anthem singers who performed at the Walk for Words on Sunday, Sept 13th: Ryan Wykes, Maddie Milton and Caroline Monsen. Thank you for representing MMS!

\*\*\*7th & 8th Grade Concert-Thursday, October 29th 7:00pm\*\*\*

Solo Ensemble registration forms will be posted on the chorus classroom web page in October. Start thinking about performing in a small group or as a soloist. It is a great opportunity to work on your musicianship.

Please continue to check the chorus classroom webpage for more detailed information. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have additional questions at [cmunn@d15.org](mailto:cmunn@d15.org).

Keep singing! Mrs. Munn

## BAND NEWS

6<sup>th</sup> grade band- You have been doing a great job. Make sure to keep practicing and turning in practice logs every Monday. Good luck on your first playing test next week.

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> band- The fall concert is just a month away. Make sure to keep practicing at home and turning in logs every week and make sure you are putting in your best effort to be on time to class and be prepared every day.

I am still taking ticket money for the Milwaukee Symphony. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity.

Jazz Club- It is not too late to join jazz club. Books may be purchased at Mike's in Johnsburg. It is a great time!

Reminder dates:

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| After School Jazz Band rehearsal | October 20th |
| High School Jazz Night           | October 21st |
| 7/8 Fall Concert                 | October 29th |

Musically Yours, Miss Paul



## CLUB INFORMATION

### BUILDER'S CLUB

Builder's Club elected the officers for the current school year. Congratulations to President: Sara Wimmer; Vice President: Maddie Milton and Secretary: Angie Milton. Members cleaned up around the school and found some very unusual things with the winner being a chopstick! Our first big project will be the food drive for the FISH Food Pantry. The last date for food collection will be October 19. The Homebase for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade that collects the most food items will receive prizes.

Upcoming meetings are October 8 and 22.

**M.A.D. Minutes:** We had our first M.A.D. meeting Tuesday, September 22. Students from any grade level who believe in **Making A Difference** for the better are welcome to attend. We will be discussing ideas to celebrate Red Ribbon Week and our school recycling program. We meet every other Tuesday after school from 2:30-4:00. Questions and comments can be directed to Mrs. Andresen ([sandresen@d15.org](mailto:sandresen@d15.org)) and Mrs. Apostolopoulos ([napostolopoulos@d15.org](mailto:napostolopoulos@d15.org))

**WMMS NEWS** – News teams are covering volleyball, cross country, soccer, and student council elections.

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 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: September 28, October 5, October 19, October 26

Congratulations to our 2009-2010 WMMS News announcers: Sean Lindgren and Caylin Kaunas, Mykela Lofendo, Cassidy Belpedio, Nora Tucker, Maggie Bantner, Michael Walsh, Nate Floress, and Kaleigh Shofner!

**YEARBOOK CLUB** – Meeting dates to be announced when the yearbook company makes available the yearbook website.

If you are a student who likes to take photos, work on the computer, design individual pages, then Yearbook Club may be right for you. 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 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.

**PTO NEWS:** Our next meeting date - October 19th at 6:30 PM in the Learning Center.

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](mailto:mmsptonews@gmail.com).

## TEAM NEWS

### 6 RED

The 6 red team would like to congratulate our August students of the month. Justin Rzesutko and Nora Tucker have shown themselves to be full of great character as they continue to climb as star students. Keep up the great work! Math classes are finishing up their unit on graphing. The students did a great job researching their information for their final line graph project and the surveys are giving some interesting data for the bar graph project. Have your student find the mean, median and mode of this data set (62, 23, 47, 55, 57, 47) for some extra credit. Please have them show their work by writing it out on a piece of paper with your signature and turn it in to me. They may use a calculator. We will be heading into the unit about integers. The students will learn what they are, how to use them and see how they relate to the coordinate plane as well as latitude and longitude. They will also learn some history about the mathematician who is responsible for the Cartesian Plane System. In social studies Mrs. O'Brien's students are continuing to show their map skills. Students have been completing their "BIG MAPS" to highlight the many map skills we've shared. Science classes are also reinforcing map skills. The students are currently working on their map challenge, where they need to create a map of the science classroom exactly to scale. If students are looking for a grade boost, remind them that there is extra credit available every week. It is a great way to get an extra couple of points. In language arts, the students have been exploring various active reading strategies to use when reading different types of literature. They have also been learning about the different elements of fiction and nonfiction, and will read pieces of literature from both genres in the upcoming days. Plus, students have starting answering "The Big Question" for Unit 1 in the literature book: How Do We Decide What Is True?

### 6 SILVER

Wow! We can't believe it's already mid-quarter! We have a great group of inquisitive students this year and are excited to see what they can do. In language arts we have been learning the elements of fiction and nonfiction and comparing the two genres. Social studies has been studying map skills and learning about social studies careers. In science we have been studying different types of maps and next week we will be incorporating them with the use of the compass. Math class has been busy working with exponents, order of operations, and number patterns. Congratulations to our August student of the month, Ryan Hettermann, for showing outstanding character!

### 6 WHITE

Students in Mrs. Christian's science classes have just finished their unit on the scientific method by bringing in supplies to conduct their own experiments. All of the experiments were very well thought out and performed wonderfully. The students had a blast (sometimes it was literally a blast). Now the students will be starting a short unit on Weathering and Erosion. In Mrs. Apostolopoulos's social studies classes the students have completed their Geography Unit. Students learned many skills, such as, how to use a map scale and read lines of longitude and latitude. Students also have an understanding of the 5 Themes of Geography and how they relate to our City of McHenry. Although we have completed this unit, we will always continue to practice Geography skills! Our upcoming units are Archaeology and Culture. Students in Mrs. Comstock's math classes are currently exploring the many forms of graphs that can be used including bar graphs and line graphs. Mrs. Kagan's math classes will begin exploring the basics of algebra. This is a topic that will be revisited throughout the year. Mrs. Evanger's language arts classes are currently working on a unit reading fiction and non-fiction pieces, the students will be writing an Autobiographical Narrative. In Ms. Marks' language arts classes, the students are working on finishing their first unit on fiction and non-fiction stories. The classes will be starting their second unit on short stories soon. Be sure to check out the website ([www.pearsonsuccess.com](http://www.pearsonsuccess.com)) for the book and play around a little. There are some great resources there. Also, don't forget about the reading logs!

### 7 RED

In Mrs. Sheppard's science classes, students are continuing their explorations into cells by studying the processes they do for life. We will be making squishie eggs to study diffusion and osmosis. Remember to turn your homework in when due and don't forget to do corrections if your score is 70% or below. Happy Fall. Mrs. Devine and Mr. Dunham's social studies classes are just beginning Chapter 2 about early explorers to North America. Mrs. Tankiewicz's classes are currently writing their autobiographies. Autobiographies will be due Monday, September 28th. Ms. Martin's Core A & B math classes have begun their study of the language of algebra. We are learning one-step & two-step equations. Students must show their work! This is a foundation of their future study of algebra. Core C & D math classes are studying integers; positive & negative whole numbers. Students have done an excellent job memorizing the rules!

### 7 SILVER

Congratulations to the following students who earned Character Counts! tickets for the month of August: Julie Beyer, Abbey Wojcik, Gabe Ramirez, Monica Kraeplin, Brad Smith, Bailey Sorensen, Austin Krock, and Mandy Galway. Keep up the good work!! We have completed the nonfiction unit in language arts class. Students completed autobiographies as part of the unit. Our next unit is the fiction unit which explores the story elements. The end of the quarter is right around the corner. Keep reading for Accelerated Reader. AR is due on October 14. In social studies we are comparing the three sections of colonies. We will end the unit with the French and Indian War. Last week we took we our Chapter 1 Test to conclude our first unit in math. We are working on Order of Operations currently. The students are working on problems that require them to solve using the correct order of operations. You should be hearing, "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally," when they are working on their homework. This is an easy way for them to remember in what order they are supposed to solve their problems. We recently finished Chapter 1 in our Cells unit. We are currently learning about "The Cell in Action" which covers diffusion and osmosis. In the coming weeks we will be learning about how cells get energy and the cell cycle. We have been playing games, doing projects, and conducting fun experiments to help us with this concept. This past week we did a Squishy Egg Lab which helps the students see what happens during osmosis. Ask them what they learned!

### **7 WHITE**

First quarter continues to speed by for the students and teachers of the 7 white team! Mr. Shevchik's science classes continue to work in their second chapter, "The Cell in Action." Mrs. Villacres is focusing on the food pyramid with students in her science class. Meanwhile, soy beans have been on the menu in Mrs. Stanard's math classes. Students have been using math to change a recipe for soy smoothies that serves everyone in their class. They have also been charting the growth of their soy plants with the ISAT ruler, interpreting graphs involving soy products, and exploring the stock market of soy commodities to show how math is used in the world. Everyone enjoyed this learning experience and students will soon be taking their beanie babies home! Math classes are now exploring the world of formulas, order of operations, and solving problems with integers. Both Mrs. Schnurr's and Ms. Mutter's language arts classes have concluded their nonfiction units this week. Students were particularly diligent in creating their autobiographies, and parents should be on the lookout for this assignment in student portfolios at conferences. Next week, students will begin a unit focused on short stories and can look forward to reading many exciting selections in our new textbook series. In social studies, Mr. Phillips' classes continue an intriguing study of the voyages of Columbus while Ms. Mutter's social studies class has moved on to a study of the thirteen colonies.

Finally, the 7 white team would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Flowers who will be taking over Mrs. Schnurr's classes during her maternity leave. If you have any questions or concerns, Ms. Flowers can be reached at [hflowers@d15.org](mailto:hflowers@d15.org).

### **8 RED**

Algebra classes are beginning a unit on Algebraic concepts and simple equations. Math classes are ending a unit on integers and operations using integers. In science, we are studying mixtures, elements, and compounds. Thank you for all the generous contributions to our mixtures lab!! We are focusing on the basic building blocks of materials around us. This is the preliminary work leading up to studying the periodic table. In social studies, students are working on Chapter 18, The Western Frontier. Topics being studied are the Transcontinental Railroad, Cowboys, the Homestead Act and Native Americans. Students are also looking at the reasons people moved westward and the effects it had on the United States. In language arts, students have just completed learning about the different elements of a short story. Students have now been showing/ demonstrating those literary elements. Additionally, we are starting our fiction/ non-fiction unit around our big question. Lastly, students have the opportunity to access ALL classroom resources (i.e. their entire literature and grammar books) AND ADDITIONAL resources online. Your son/ daughter should be able to give you all the information!

### **8 SILVER**

After having finished our unit in graphing the Silver team has been working hard to learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide using positive and negative numbers. Algebra students have been building on their knowledge of functions as they learn to solve one and two-step equations. Language arts students have been reading and discussing fictional and non-fictional narratives as we prepare to write our own narrative essay. In social studies we have just completed the chapter on Reconstruction and are now moving on to the Western Frontier. Students have been completing map activities, writing newspapers articles, and learning note taking strategies throughout the chapters. In science we have been spinning buckets of golf balls to demonstrate centripetal acceleration, rolling bowling balls to show inertia and lifting student in their chairs to demonstrate balanced forces. All of these activities expand our minds and appeal to our kinesthetic tendencies to better understand science. We have also spent a fair amount of time crunching numbers in an effort to apply the concepts we learn in the lab to mathematical equations. I am impressed with the math abilities of our Silver team. Encourage your students to pursue some of these topics in preparation for the science fair.

### **8 WHITE**

In the math classes, students will be solving many types of algebraic equations in the upcoming week. Check out Mrs. Peter's link page on the district website for interactive links to practice these skills. In the coming weeks social studies classes will shift our attention to the "Westward Expansion of the United States. Students will learn about the settlement of the Great Plains and how the area came along with the development of machines for plowing, planting, and harvesting. This combination still makes the Midwestern United States a leader in supplying meat and grain to the world. During class students will be exposed to a number structured discussions, primary documents, and group activities. All of which will center on how the Transcontinental Railroad opened the Western United States for white settlers, forever changing the Native American way of life. I will also be showing portions of the film "Dances with Wolves" in order to help the students understand Native American culture, and the necessity of nomadic traditions. Language arts students continue to learn about our fiction and nonfiction unit currently concentrating on author Mark Twain, aka Samuel Langhorne Clemens. We are reading "Cub Pilot on the Mississippi" and students are working with vocabulary activities, grammar, and writing assignments that are tied to that selection from our new literature, writing and grammar curriculum. Ms. Lombardo's L.A. class is practicing their syllable types and reading a short novel on the old west entitled "Lone Star". Mrs. Liput's math class is finishing a unit on Integers and will be starting measures of central tendencies. Mrs. Liput's S.S. class is learning about Ch. 18 Western Expansion. They will be learning about miners, farmers, cowboys, and Native American life during the late 1800's. Ms. Lombardo's science class is studying Ch. 2 Properties of Matter (mass, weight, volume, etc...) In physical science the students have been learning about Newton's Laws of Motion and will be finishing up a project relating Newton's 3 Laws to car crashes. Students were able to choose from a variety of projects to demonstrate their understanding.

***Please check out the district website [www.d15.org](http://www.d15.org) for information, newsletters, school calendar, district information and much more.***

## **UNIFIED ARTS**

### **Health!**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade:** We have started discussing the muscular system and have completed activities practicing to use these muscles! We will soon be discussing Nutrition and reading food labels, including analyzing our own diets!

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** We have started our discussion on bullying and self-esteem. Students have completed a survey about bullying at school and have participated in an activity so they can feel what it's like to be bullied verbally/ignored. Students will soon start their ME Collage to culminate our learning of self-esteem.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Students are working on their female reproductive system choice assignment. These are a creative way for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the parts of the reproductive system. We will end the term with learning about the male reproductive system, STD's, and drugs.

### **Music Appreciation**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 weeks!

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – After our world travels and study of music history, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have completed their composition projects. Presentations will begin next week. 7<sup>th</sup> graders will end the term with a study/comparison of opera (The Barber of Seville) and musicals (Newsies)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are studying modern trends in music, including movie music (Star Wars, Lord of the Rings), TV theme songs, commercials, copyright and the internet's involvement in music sales/distribution. All band groups are also completing their tour information and band albums.

**TECHNOLOGY** –Students are continuing their on-going Food & Meals Oral History project. They are maintaining records of their food intake, screen time, and exercise daily in Microsoft Office Excel.

Students are taking digital photos demonstrating the Six Pillars of Character. They upload their images, edit them changing them to black and white, and finally share their images with the class. One from each class will be displayed in MMS. Thanks, PTO!

Students are photographing hands for West High School's "All Hands on Deck" Photography Exhibit. Students work daily on MicroType Pro keyboarding to improve their speed and accuracy.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY WALK FOR BREAST CANCER**

Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed. Every 14 minutes, someone loses their life. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, YOU can help make a difference!! In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, McHenry parent Ange Powell is organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Walk for Breast Cancer. This all ages Walk will take place on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Walk will begin and end at Fort McHenry Park, located at the corner of Rt. 120 and Front Royal Drive. Registration takes place between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. with the Walk beginning at 10:00. The route is approximately three miles.

There is no entry fee to participate, but walkers are encouraged to obtain pledges from family and friends. The first 50 walkers with \$50 or more in pledges will receive an event t-shirt. All proceeds will benefit the Avon Crusade for Breast Cancer, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation which gives grants for research and treatment programs. Over the past few years, the Avon Foundation has awarded more than \$10 million dollars to facilities throughout the Chicago area. Refreshments will be served after the Walk. For more information or to print a pledge sheet, please visit the event website at [www.communitywalkforbreastcancer.org](http://www.communitywalkforbreastcancer.org) or call Ange Powell at (815)245-2561.



*MMS PTO BOOK FAIR  
October 28 – November 3*

New This Year: Book Fair Open during  
Conferences  
Stop by and find quality books at great prices!

*Library News:* Just a reminder for parents ~ every student is allowed to check out two books from the LC at one time as long as there are no overdue books and/or outstanding book fines. Students are financially responsible for any late fees as well as any lost or damaged book. Check out this Rebecca Caudill Award Winning List at [www.rebeccacaudill.org](http://www.rebeccacaudill.org) for good middle school books!

*FYI* – Public library cards are FREE! Students can check out books from the school library without a public library card, but public library cards are a life-saver when doing research, at school and at home. Students can just write down their library card number in their agenda and leave their card at home!