

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 9 Issue 3

HAMS

December 2014

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

By: Mrs. Venios
Assistant Principal

The holiday season is often a time of reflection. Some like to make resolutions, while others think back on successes of the past year. In my position, I deal with the discipline, but I am happy to report that when I walk around the halls, I see smiling faces, witness teachers hard at work engaging their students, and hear music flowing from the band room. The discipline is a mere shadow to all of the shining moments at our school. I am so fortunate to say that this year I am having trouble keeping track of all the wonderful things happening at HAMS. Here's a snapshot of some of the amazing events in which our students and staff have participated over the past four months.

Teams are celebrating positive behaviors through their team rewards that they set up through the Positive School Wide Behavior System. Some activities being held are relay races, pumpkin painting, watching their favorite movies, creating scarecrows, and participating in a gong show! It is so much fun watching the students create goals and achieve them by making good choices.

The 8 Bears made the local news by holding a Hunger Banquet to help students become more aware of world hunger and how they can help eliminate this problem. Outside agencies came in to explain how even the smallest actions make a big difference. This is a great lesson for all of us to carry with us!

The music students portrayed their talents through an excellent concert, covering many different genres and styles of music. Some of our students even got the amazing opportunity to perform in Florida at Disney World. Music is such a positive outlet, and the students' pride is evident on their faces. We also can't forget to congratulate those behind the music program's success. A huge congratulations goes to Jordan and Emily Canner for receiving the Educator of the Year Award!



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When I was helping serve the Thanksgiving turkey dinner, it was wonderful to hear the pleasantries from the students. They were so polite and thankful, and that adds one more reason why I am so proud to be a part of the HAMS family. The cafeteria staff has a system that is flawless; because of this, they served hundreds of students a delicious, warm meal in minutes without hesitation.

Student Council put together a memorable Activities Night. The students had the opportunity to take their pictures at a festive photo booth, enjoy delicious food, make crafts, play games, and expend energy in the gym. My favorite parts of the evening were learning the newest dance moves with the kids and trying my hand at dodge ball. The kids were very patient and helpful, and we had a great time laughing with one another (even though I think they may have been laughing more *at me than with me!*)

HAMS celebrated writing on November 14. The focus of the day was how we can overcome obstacles rather than dwell on them. We can't control the things that happen to us, but we can control our reactions. Students responded to this prompt by writing a free verse poem. The final copies are being published and will be in our library as a permanent reminder of how we can overcome our tough situations.

Teamwork is so important, especially for middle school students. The 6th grade attended Shavers Creek and participated in challenging stations that required communication and problem solving. As I walked around and observed each station, students were on their best behavior representing their school and were treating each other with the utmost respect. You never would have known it was below freezing because they looked past any negative aspect of the day and focused on the positives.

As the year comes to an end and we ring in 2015, it is easy for me to look past disciplinary actions because it is evident our students are making good choices and are proudly representing HAMS.

Everyone makes mistakes, but as long as we reflect and think about how we can make a tough situation better, tomorrow will always be brighter, just like our kids' future!



Could your child be at risk for Diabetes?

By: Mrs. Felton

School Nurse

Risk for diabetes goes up if you have a family history or if you are overweight. Age is also a risk factor for diabetes as a person's risk increases after age 45. However, the number of teens diagnosed with prediabetes and diabetes is growing. For this age group, being overweight is their number one risk factor.

Children and teens may be able to prevent diabetes or delay its onset for many years. Small changes can make a big difference. Even a small amount of weight loss can help prevent or delay diabetes. Losing weight is hard, especially if you're trying to do it by yourself. Get the whole family involved. After all, a healthy diet for preventing diabetes is a healthy diet for everyone.



Acanthosis Nigricans- The picture above illustrates a skin condition that causes increasingly thicker and darker patches or streaks around body areas (such as neck, armpits, knuckles, elbow , and knees).

If you notice this in your child, you need to consult with your child's physician.

Patriots Pen Winners



Congratulations!

- 1st place—Rachel Ruge
- 2nd place—Allison Goldstone
- 3rd place— Barend Werner



Traditions

By: Mrs. Gibbs

This is the twenty fifth year, the silver anniversary, of the Garden Club's, "Festival of Trees". If my memory serves me, the Huntingdon Area Middle School Life Skills students have been decorating a tree for approximately twenty of those twenty five years. The majority of those years have been spent decorating the tree in the library. Each year, depending on the theme, we try to relate the decorations on the tree to a children's book in the library.

This year our theme is based on The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. The Polar Express is a story about a young boy who travels to the North Pole on a magical train to see Santa. He is then chosen by Santa to receive the first gift of Christmas, and, out of all the gifts he could have, the young boy chooses a single bell from Santa's sleigh. Unfortunately, due to a hole in his pocket, he loses the bell. He is heartbroken, until he awakens on Christmas morning to the most wonderful surprise under the tree. Do you believe? Stop by the library during the Christmas season and take a look at our tree. It will be decorated with hot cocoa, candy trains, train tickets, snowflakes, and, of course, silver bells. While you're there, check out a book!



8 Bears Are Hungry for Change

By: Mr. Buterbaugh

As the whirlwind beginning to the new school year begins to subside, new ideas on the 8 Bears team that stretch beyond the traditional classroom setting continue to fuel student learning. Encouraging students to think outside the box to become agents of change is the common theme. It began with Mr. Quinter spearheading the 8 Bears team in the "Fold the Flock" environmental awareness project and recently continued with the Oxfam America Hunger Banquet.

Continuing with the aforementioned theme of making a change in the world that surrounds each of us, the 8 Bears tackled the issue of world hunger. The Hunger Banquet, held at the Middle School. Introduced students to the inequitable distribution of resources around the globe. Divided into three groups, participants were given either a breakfast buffet with numerous choices, beans and rice with water, or just rice and water. An eye opening experience for many, this event gave students insight into a world that may hitherto been unknown to them.

Following the banquet, students heard from four speakers—Mrs. Pam Grugan, Mrs. Mary Jane Smith, Ms. Alexis Stone, and Dr. Kathy Jones. The speakers familiarized students with ways that they could not only affect global issues with food and energy conservation, but also those issues that are prevalent in Huntingdon County. Involvement is the key to change and with the help of parents, educators, students and community members, the 8 Bears and Huntingdon Area Middle School hope to continue this wave of change in the ever growing sea of issues



Let's Get Creative

By: Mrs. Watkins

Students have been studying various short stories and analyzing their parts in order to understand the bigger meaning behind each one. These stories then served as models for when students began to write their own creative short story. Students learned how to create dynamic characters, an engaging story line, and have properly punctuated dialogue throughout. The students felt a sense of accomplishment and pride as each turned in his own original story! There were stories about hunting, sports, bullying, friendships, aliens, and even ones about fantasy worlds they created. They did a fantastic job!

Waiting Patiently

Does your child expect everything to happen now? If a friend doesn't call back immediately or their teacher hasn't graded a project yet, encourage them to come up with possible explanations. Maybe their friend is at a movie or the teacher has 100 assignments to grade. Thinking reasonably can help them be patient.

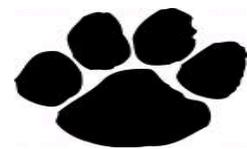
A Huge Success!

By: Mrs. Decker

The HAMS Book Fair went extremely well! Certain books flew off of the shelves; it was a challenge to keep it stocked. What a great problem to have! Our most popular title was the newest Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (37 copies sold!). A few others that were purchased by many were The Maze Runner (27), The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die (20), Girl, Stolen (15), Can't Look Away (15), and Famous Last Words (13). Some students knew exactly what they wanted, while other students found multiple items that caught their eye and had trouble narrowing down their choices. Quite a few came back multiple days to add to their personal reading collection. During the fair, a young man indicated that the Book Fair was his favorite part of the middle school so far. The day after the fair ended, one young lady shared a hug and a great big "Thank you for the Book Fair!" It brings a smile to the face to see so much excitement for books! Keep it up HAMS!

For those who were wondering, our sales totaled \$4,247.68. This means that our school has earned \$2,123.84 in Scholastic Dollars (which requires ordering from the Scholastic Book Fair Catalog) or \$1,061.92 in cash (which allows us to purchase any book from any source) or a combination of both. Within the next two weeks, choices will be made regarding which titles to add to our school Library. Selections will be based on the recommendations students gave during the Book Fair, books that we know are popular, and/or books that would complete a series.

Thank you to everyone for a job well done! Looking forward to the next one!



Some of the GREAT books at our Book Fair.



ATTENDANCE

When a student returns to school after an absence, they must present a properly signed excuse during homeroom. When visiting a doctor please obtain a written excuse from them. Students have 3 days after their return to school to bring in their excuse. Each day that is not covered by a legal excuse will result in an unexcused day on record. Excuses do not have to be accepted after the three day window has passed.

If your son or daughter participates in any extra-curricular activities they must be in school by 9:30 AM to participate in that day's event or practice. If a student is absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, the student will be in jeopardy of losing his/her eligibility until he/she has been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following the 20th day absence.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities must pass at least four (4) of the core subjects to be eligible. Eligibility will be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and will be reported on a weekly basis. A student not meeting this requirement will be ineligible for 15 school days. Extra-curricular activities cannot be an excuse for missing detention. In addition, failure to report to detention will result in an additional detention hall assignment or suspension.

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Shavers Creek

By: Mr. Klinger

On November 18th and 20th the sixth grade class traveled to Shavers Creek Environmental Center for a day of team building activities and exploring wildlife. The students did a great job of battling the freezing cold temperatures while participating in the different outdoor activities.

The day was broken up into two sessions. The morning session focused on team building. Students from Penn State University were the facilitators for each group. The first station was the board walk. The students stood on elevated boards that connected to form a square. The students had to communicate and work together to figure out how to rearrange themselves so that they were in alphabetical order without stepping off of the boards. Station two was don't sink the boat. The students had to balance a large platform and keep it balanced while getting on one at a time. If either side of the platform touched the ground all of the students had to get off and try again. The next outdoor station was the group walk. The entire group had to stand on two 4x4's that were side by side. Each 4x4 had strands of rope connected to it for the students to hold onto. The students had to work together as a team to walk 40 feet. If a student stepped off of the 4x4's and touched the ground, the whole group had to start back at the beginning. The reward for the groups that completed this activity was going inside to warm up!

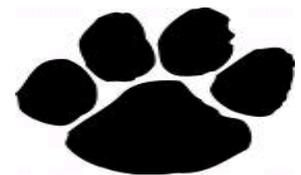
The afternoon session was focused around wildlife. In the first station the students were able to walk around outside and look at the different birds that Shavers Creek has in cages. Some of them were huge! The Bald Eagle seemed to be the most popular among the students. The second station was in the exploration room. The students worked with a partner on a scavenger hunt. The room is filled with different reptiles, facts about Pennsylvania wildlife, and ways to protect the wildlife around us. The students had search the room for the answers to the questions. The last activity for the day was a nature walk. While walking through the forest the students were looking for fluorescent radioactive worms! They were also trying to identify the different sounds of nature.

Despite the freezing cold temperatures the students had a lot of fun. They learned a lot about what it takes to be a team and how to work together to achieve a goal. The students also had the opportunity to look at and learn about wildlife that surrounds us here in Huntingdon.

Trout in the Classroom

By: Mr. Quinter

The 8 Bears are pleased to announce the addition of 519 new students to the classroom. (We like to think of them as students even though they are brook trout fry.) Recently, language arts and science teamed up with Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to introduce students to cold water conservation through a program known as Trout in the Classroom. Huntingdon Middle School is currently the only school in the entire county to house this program, and both the teachers and the students are excited about the new addition. The goal of the program is to educate the youth of this community on the importance of cold water conservation and the ecosystem that lives below our rivers and streams in the hope that they will continue to preserve the natural world that many Huntingdon residents have come to love. Students have been keeping a close eye on the conditions of the tank in the classroom by testing the water quality and recording their findings. Since receiving the eggs November 5th, students have been able to watch them grow to their current status of sac fry, which are approximately three-four centimeters long. Teachers are currently working on developing curriculum materials that encompass the significance of cold water conservation on a whole, but also how it relates to the waterways in Huntingdon and its significant connection to local geology. The excitement of the project can be summed up by one student's comment, "I think it will be really cool to see how the fish grow, and I am really looking forward to releasing the fish into one of our local streams at the end of the project."



EVENTS AT H.A.M.S

- December 1 & 2- Vacation Days
 No School

- December 16- MS Holiday Concert
 High School 7:00 PM

- December 23- Early Dismissal
 12 Noon

- December 24—January 2— Holiday Vacation



Sixth Grade Positive Behavior Rewards

Positive School Wide Behavior Reward For Sixth Grade

By: Mr. Mitchell

From the very first day of school, the students at the Huntingdon Area Middle School have been working on a new Positive School Wide Behavior Program. The sixth grade students have been working hard to collect their Bearcat Buckaroos from teachers for their positive behavior. They are responsible for keeping their Buckaroos safe in a pocket that they created in their assignment notebooks.

The students are able to “spend” their “money” at the BuckarooMart on Thursday mornings. They are able to purchase pencils, erasers, clocks, stress balls, pop tarts, and many other items. The collected Buckaroos are then placed in a 6th grade container to be counted by Mrs. Dickson. After they are counted on a weekly bass, the total is added to a goal chart located in the hallway. When they reach their goal, a reward is given to the entire 6th grade.

The 6th grade was the first team to be achieve a team reward in the school. The reward was a team fall fun afternoon. The students had the opportunity to rotate through five stations. Mrs. Mykut had tables set up for students to paint their own pumpkins. Students in Mr. Mitchell’s station created three scarecrows that are proudly sitting in front of the school. Scarecrow dress up relays were happening with Mrs. Brown. Mr. Klinger and Mrs. Sellers had fall relays moving at a fast pace in the lawn. Mrs. Venios was even spotted in the bear crawl relay. The most popular event may have been the miniature “pumpkin chunkin” by Mrs. Dickson on Gobbler’s Knob. It was a wonderful afternoon and the students have been busy earning, spending, and counting their Bearcat Buckaroos trying to earn their next team reward.



Tasty Tidbits

By: Mrs. McNitt,

Food Service Director

Seven Simple Ways to Save Over 500,000 Calories Per Year

1. Make a Healthful Plate 109,500 calories per year

Follow MyPlate and fill half your plate with fruits and veggies at each meal.

2. Choose Fruit 21,900 calories per year

Replace a daily snack of chips with a medium apple or one cup of fruit.

3. Drink Calorie-Free 54,750 calories per year

Replace one soda with a calorie-free drink (water or unsweetened tea) every day.

4. Downsize Dessert 127,750 calories per year

A baked good the size of your hand contains 500+ calories.

Downsize to a finger-sized portion and save calories.

5. Eat a Balanced Breakfast 65,700 calories per year

Get rid of a fast food sandwich or pastry and enjoy oatmeal instead.

6. Stick to Skim 51,965 calories per year

Switching to skim milk will save you 47 calories per cup.

7. Exercise 73,000 calories per year

Get 30 minutes of exercise per day. A two mile walk burns 200 calories.



Counselors Corner

By: Mrs. Miller

Classroom Visit by Dan Wray

Mr. Dan Wray from Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency will be visiting with seventh and eighth grade students during December and January. Mr. Wray will provide inspiring words regarding careers and post secondary studies. Mr. Wray's biographical information is fascinating.

Dan spent his youth laboring on construction sites, mounting tires, pumping gas, mowing lawns, and doing a whole lot of other things that convinced him to go on to higher education. He received a Bachelor of Science degree and commission as an Ensign from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, way back "when ships were wood and men were iron". OK, maybe not quite that long ago. During eleven years with the Coast Guard, Dan did a whole lot of the things you see in the movie "The Guardian" with Ashton Kutcher and Kevin Costner, as well as a ton of things Ashton Kutcher and Kevin Costner were afraid to do. He spent many months north of the Arctic Circle on the polar icebreaker Northwind; played wing on the Coast Guard Academy's rugby team; sailed on the square-rigger Eagle; and in the process traveled to 48 states, 2 US territories, and 35 foreign countries.

Since his Coast Guard days, Dan has worked for Penn State and several financial assistance organizations, helping students (including his own five children) maximize their gifts, achieve a

higher education, and find their dream career.



HAMS 2014 Writing Day

By: Mrs. Decker

The Middle School had a whirlwind of a day as they celebrated writing on Friday, November 14, 2014. There were visits from the Bearcat, trivia questions with prizes, inspirational songs and videos, discussions, prompts, reading, writing, speaking, listening, and an action-packed Pep Assembly to conclude the day. The main focus of the festivities revolved around overcoming obstacles.

The song, "Brave," by Sara Bareilles, an interview with Taylor Swift, and a Pep Talk from Kid President sparked ideas about the topic at hand. Writing activities, including a Graffiti Wall, journaling, and a Graphic Organizer, helped students begin to place their ideas on paper. As the day continued, students used their prewriting to draft, revise, edit, and then publish a free verse poem related to dealing successfully with a difficult situation. As time and courage permitted, the final activity before the Pep Assembly was a Poetry Slam.

A lot could be said about the Pep Assembly as it was an action-packed hour. There was Tug-of-War, a Dizzy Bat Race, a Wheelbarrow Race, and a Toilet Paper Race. It was an intense competition as the teams vied for the Traveling Trophy. The 7/8 Cats walked away the winners this year.

Congratulations! To add to the excitement, there were also names

drawn for fantastic prizes, cheers provided by the Jr. High Cheerleaders, a teacher-led dance called the Cha Cha Slide, and a slideshow of pictures from the day. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way!

It was a fun-filled day that focused on writing for a meaningful purpose! Thank you to the teachers for making the day happen! Thank you to the students for all of their hard work! Writing Day was a great success!

“We all have problems; they are a part of life. But we must move beyond focusing on the problem and work towards a solution - that is the only way to better ourselves, others, and the world.”

Quote from Mrs. Venios - Inspiration for Writing Day



SIXTH GRADE HONOR ROLL

SEVENTH GRADE HONOR ROLL

GRACE DONNELLY KATHRYN EINODSHOFER
 BRADY A. HANDY SHAYNA G. HAWTHORNE
 KYRA M. HELSEL ALENA LESKOWSKY
 NATHAN MCDERMOTT SAMANTHA MONTORO
 SHAMON K. EASTER ELIZABETH ESCUADRO
 LYNDZI M. FISHER HANNAH N. GARMAN
 OLIVIA LANGENBACH SYDNEY J. SELLERS
 HAILEY WEYANDT MAXWELL BRENNEMAN
 LYDIA E. BROWN ANDREA N. BUSKO
 KAYLA C. CIANCI BRIAR L. DELINE
 AIGEN D. HOOD SYDNEY HOUCK
 ALIYAH A. KINDER ZACHARY M. LONG
 ALLISON E. RUX IRIS E. SEGUIN
 SHERRY P. SHEEDER MYLES L. BANEY
 BRUCE A. BANKS KATRINA GLADFELTER
 DARIN J. HARMAN ABIGAIL S. HENNEY
 COLTON HETRICK ALEXIA ROBBINS
 JACOB SMITHMYER BROOKE A. BANKS
 KODY BUMBARGER ANDREW CUNNINGHAM
 DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM
 MONAKA GIORDANO NICHOLAS GOODMAN
 MARISSA LOW DELAINEY A. MARK
 JEREMIAH SAFKO ALYSHA YINGLING
 HAIDYN B. CARLIN AMANDA N. GWINN
 CARLEE A. HESS ERIC D. ITINGER
 ELIZABETH K. KYLE MERRITT E. LEIDY
 MEGAN A. LYNN NATHANIEL MCCLAIN
 ETHAN MCKELLOP TARAN PELKEY
 AUTUMN N. SWOPE ETHAN T. VARNER
 JESSICA M. WEKO

ALICYN L. ALBAUGH KELLY V. ARDREY
 NICHOLAS BUCKLEY DANIEL T. BUKOWSKI
 ANDREW BUONACCORSI KENDEL CROTSLEY
 ARON E. DUNWOODY CODY R. DYSARD
 ANGELINE GROVE JACK D. HOSLER
 NATHANIEL KRAMER ISABEL M. KRUSE
 NICHOLAS H. NAZARI JACKSON M. PAVLIK
 RECE C. RITCHEY CAROLINE SLIVER
 ELIZABETH SPECK NICHOLAS TROHA
 DUNCAN C. WENTZEL BAREND M. WERNER
 MALLORY WOODWARD ROSEANNE ZOERNER
 RILEY M. CONFER ALEXIA N. FAGAN
 AMBER L. NEWELL KENNETH NGUYEN
 DYLAN PAINTER REED J. PECK
 ZACHARY A. PECK GAGE PETERS
 CADEN J. REAMER CORINNE L. REAMER
 MIKAELA C. REED AVALON R. RITCH
 CAYLA BILGER SVEN M. GILLAM
 FRANK D. HAWBAKER ALEX HEATON
 JOSHUA L. HEFFNER ISAIAH M. HOUSE
 JENICKA HUNTSMAN-VARNER PHILLIP KELLER
 IRA B. BAILEY PEIGHTON GUTSHALL
 ROBERT P. RHODES GIOVAN B. SCACCIA
 ALEX SHULTZ JAKE R. TANNER
 OLIVIA L. VLASAK EMILY J. WRIGHT
 SAMANTHA A. YOCUM ALLY KYLE
 DESTINY BIEMESDERFER PAIGE LONG
 DERRICK A. FULTZ CHANDLER A. LAUER
 HARPER LEWIS KAITLYN R. MCELROY
 JUSTIN T. SHETROM ABIGAIL G. BILGER
 CAMERON G. BOWSER JACEE K. DELINE
 ANDREW GARNER DAKOTA GRAHAM
 COLBY GRUBB RACHEL E. KYLE
 KYNNEDY R. MILLER SARA M. MILLER

SEVENTH GRADE HONOR ROLL

ADDISYN M. BRACCO LEVI BRIGGS
 ANDREW S. COOPER SOFIA DINARDI
 NICHOLAS GEARHART RYAN GROVE
 BRADY C. HAWKINS JACOB KELLY
 CARLY L. KYPER ANDREW MILLER
 ROLAND Z. MILLS EMILY MITCHELL
 SAVANNAH MUCKLE BRUCE PEROW
 ISAIAH D. REED HAYLEE RILEY
 MARCUS STRATTON ALLISON TROUP
 VICTORIA THOMPSON KIERAN WRIGHT



EIGHT GRADE HONOR ROLL

LOGAN ALLEN OLIVIA STINSON
 KASEY TREXLER MORGAN BANKS
 VICTORIA CONRAD BRYANT SPECK
 MIKAYLA CUMMINGS
 ANDREW FINKLE MARSHALL LOWE
 MADISON LANGENBACH
 NICHOLAS RIGBY HAYLEIGH SCOTT
 LUCAS STEPHENS RACHEL STUBER
 EMILY WALTERS KIEARA WORTHY

EIGHT GRADE HONOR ROLL

GABRIELLE BROWN SKYLA R. FUNK
 JACKLYN GAUGLER NATALIE LUCAS
 NATALYN GLADFELTER GRACE MILLER
 KYLIE GLORIOSO LAUREN ITINGER
 ZANE KAZMARSKI AALIYAH MATEO
 KYLIE-JO MILLER AMANDA NORRIS
 THOMAS AREIHART KADEN SIMS-BASIL
 CAMRYN YOCU M ALLISON GOLDSTONE
 HALEY GOLDSTONE RACHAEL GWINN
 CONNOR J. HEATH TYLER A. HESS
 CATHERINE MCCARTHY JACOB WAGNER
 SEAN MCLAUGHLIN CHRISLYN PATRICK
 MALLORY . SELLERS DAKOTA WEGLARZ
 ISABELLA WELSCH RICHARD EWIDMAN
 ROBERT WILSON VICTORIA WISER
 MAKENZIE BENNETT ANDREW LEWIS
 IAN NEGRI AUSTIN NORRIS
 AMANDA STONE NED D. KOUGH
 ARONLEY MILLER REAGAN QUERRY
 CAMDEN YABLONSKI JOSHUA ZIMMERMAN
 JAYDE BRUMBAUGH DYSTINY N. LEAR
 NELLIE F. ROMECKI LINDSEA SHERLOCK
 JOSHUA GORDON LINDSEY SCIALABBA
 OLIVIA SIMPSON ERIN K. STATES
 JASMINE M. WHITE

What's Happening In Art.
By: Mrs. Woomwe

Still Life Drawing

In the world of middle school art, our sixth graders have been working on an extended still life project. They have practiced setting up, photographing and drawing their own fruit still life compositions. We are nearing the final stages of applying chalk pastel to the drawing on black construction paper. Students will showcase their blending skills and creating objects to appear three-dimensional with the use of applied shadows, mid-tones, and highlights.



Lydia Brown



Abbi Henney

Nature Relief

The 7 Bears have been working on a nature relief using found leaves from Gobbler's Knob. We have covered the leaves in foil, painted over the foil, and scratched away some paint using steel wool to reveal the leaves' texture underneath. They have used their own self-expressive painting techniques on a canvas board background. The art terms we have discussed include positive and negative space, texture, unity and variety.



Clayton "Chip" Reihart
 Reed Peck

Contemporary Self-Portraits

7/8 Cats and 8 Bears have been recently studying the art of self-portraiture. We had discussions about the history of self-portraits, and questioning, "What really is a self-portrait?" The modern technology of smart phones, tablets, and digital cameras has made it very easy to create the contemporary self-portrait, often called "the selfie". We discussed the importance of thinking about how you want to portray yourself in the digital world.

Students were asked to create a meaningful representation of the self, through the use of this modern technology and mixed media. They were given complete freedom in their self-expressive choices in representing personal characteristics or a social message through their artwork. I must commend all students involved in this project, as I have seen some very personal, and truly excellent examples of self-portraits.

Angeline Grove
 Anna Snook

