

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 6

HAMS

March 2014

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are so glad to be getting back into the routine after Old Man Winter's visit! The Middle School is a buzz and filled with staff and students preparing for a busy spring season! It began with our 7th Grade field trip on February 28th to the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. This was a wonderful trip and a special thank you goes out to all of the parents that helped make this possible! The students really enjoyed the day.

The 8th grade trip is scheduled for May 16th. Also in May the 6th grade students will be participating in stream studies at Detwiler field.

It would not be spring in Pennsylvania without talking about the scheduled state tests. The Reading and Mathematics tests will be given to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade student on March 25, 26, and 27, 2014. The 8th grade writing assessments will be administered on April 1, 2, and 3 and finally 8th grade will take the science assessment on April 29th and 30th. As these dates approach parents may help their children prepare for the assessment by encouraging them to get plenty of sleep the night before and providing them with a good breakfast on the morning of the assessment or purchase a breakfast at school. Also, parents can reassure children that the assessment gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their learning and help teachers plan the best possible instruction for them. One special note with testing is that electronic devices are not permitted during testing and students are encouraged to leave those at home during this time. More information is included in the PSSA letter sent home on March 5th with students.

Mrs. Rieffannacht



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Computer Animation Club

By: Mrs. Miller

On each Monday during the month of March, students are invited to join Computer Animation Club which meets from 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM in Room 221.

Participants have enjoyed this enriching opportunity provided by instructors from Juniata College. Students have created commercials demonstrating mastery of concepts. Next week, adolescents will develop skills to create a short video game. Information Technology represents a new and ever changing field in the world of careers. It is our goal that students who excel and enjoy computer animation will pursue programs in postsecondary studies and find fulfilling careers.

Although space is limited, interested students can still join by having a parent/guardian complete a permission slip located in the office.



Don't Bully a Bearcat News

During the months of February and March, students explored the topic of friendship as it relates to bullying.

Adolescent years are tumultuous as the desire for acceptance is strong. Students engage in much self-exploration as they attempt to establish who they are in terms of academic, social, and career development.

Young people can befriend peers who do not necessarily share the same goals and values. As a result, bully can occur in friendship circles during the middle school years. Adolescents will endure relational aggression just so they can say that they are part of a group. In March, students explored the definition and characteristics of a friend. They learned that true friends aspire their happiness and success.

Students also learned 10 refusal techniques to address peer pressure experienced with others. Techniques were practiced in role-play scenarios that were demonstrated in front of the class.



Sixth Graders Study the Invasion of PA

By: Mrs. Brown

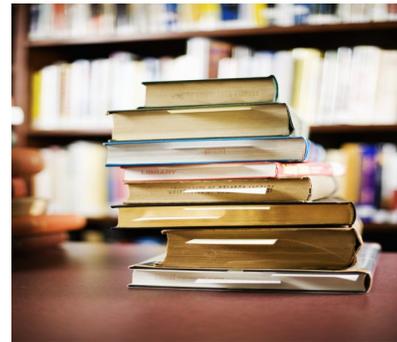
Presently, sixth grade science students are studying “Invaders of the Commonwealth.” In recent years, as international trade and travel increase, so does the probability of more and more invasive species arriving on Pennsylvania soil. To begin our study, students watched the very informative and entertaining video “Bug Mobile vs. The Invasive Species”. While watching the video, students were required to complete guided notes which included topics ranging from the definition of an invasive species to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) pyramid. This video focused specifically on the four invasive species, Plum-Pox virus, Zebra Mussels, Asian Long- Horned Beetle, and Purple Loosestrife. For each invasive species, the video explained what the species does, the vector, and also the various tactics used to control the species. Next students were given a colorful pictures of twenty-six invasive species which are found in PA and asked to identify as many as possible. Keeping in mind the task of identifying invasive species, students then watched the video “Cosmos, Invasive Species”. Again, students were required to complete guided notes. During this short presentation, students were exposed to pictures of more invasive species, the term monoculture, and were asked to answer the general questions “Why are invasive species bad?, and “What are some native species that we should be planting?” After the video, they were referred back to the identification sheet and asked to now identify more of the species. Finally, a Tackle Box video, “Non-Native Invasion” was show which focused on the cost of fighting invasive species and the need to be careful that the solutions don’t cause more problems. Again, following the video, students referred back to the identification sheet to add to their list of identifiable invasive species. By making students aware of invasive species and educating them about how invasive species enter our ecosystems, hopefully they will become an instrument in helping to combat the “Invaders of the Commonwealth.”

Book Donations by Miss Sarah Varner

Have any extra books that are in good shape, but you just don’t want them anymore? One solution could be to donate them to the library. Throughout the school year, some students and teachers have donated books to the library for our students to enjoy. Students should have prior permission from their parents/guardians before donating books. If you would like to donate a book, please let the librarian or library aide know that you would like to donate a book.

Once the donation request has been made, I will then add a copy of that book into our computerized system. The book will then have a specific code and is ready for a barcode label. If I know who donated the book, I will put a label in the book stating who donated the book and the school year it was donated. Then, the book is ready to be enjoyed by other students. In the past we have had students comment that they would like to donate their books, because they enjoyed the book so much, they want other students to enjoy it as well.

If you are tired of having books just collecting dust, please consider donating them to either a school library or your local library for other people to enjoy.



Middle School
“Working together so all students can learn.”



7/8 CATS

By: Mr. Smith

The seventh and eighth Cats continue to improve their technological skills in Mr. Smith's classroom. Students continue to use Chromebooks to complete assignments that in the past would have been completed using pencil and paper. The primary feature of the Chromebook is Google Docs, which allows users to create and share documents digitally with their peers and the teacher. Recently, both seventh and eighth grade students completed a test using Google Docs. Students accessed the test from Mr. Smith's class website and copied and pasted the test into a Google Doc. After students completed their test, they shared their test digitally with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith will grade students' tests using the "comment" feature on Google Docs. Due to the success of using Google Docs for test taking, all future tests in Mr. Smith's classroom will be completed digitally. This success means, the days of pencil and paper tests are a thing of the past in Mr. Smith's classroom.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, Mr. Smith plans to integrate a discussion board forum into his classroom before the end of the school year. The discussion board forum will allow students to interact with their peers digitally and take part in meaningful discussions. Mr. Smith believes the discussion board forum will prepare students for college or a career.



Breakfast@School What Breakfast Again?

By: Mrs. McNitt

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is March 3-7, 2014. The NSBW 2014 theme is "Take Time for School Breakfast". School breakfast can be a real timesaver for families during those busy weekday mornings.

The first and best tool that we can use to make sure all of our students are successful in school is to guarantee that each child begins the day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast at home or at school. Starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps students stay alert and perform better in school.

Studies have shown that children who eat a nutritious breakfast have better behavior, better attendance, and improved test scores. School Breakfast is an ideal solution on busy mornings when kids are running late or parents have early work schedules.

Oftentimes, kids are not hungry when they first wake up but are ready to eat when school begins. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast here at school.

The School Breakfast Program is available to all students in the Middle School every school day from 7:20 AM until 7:45 AM. The price of a full price school breakfast is \$1.00, while students who qualify for reduced price meals pay \$.30. Students who qualify for a free lunch can also get a free breakfast.

Beginning on Friday, March 7, 2014, students will be able to take advantage of expanded breakfast choices including hot breakfast entrees and Grab N' Go Breakfast Bags.

Also on Friday, March 7, 2014, the Middle School will be offering 'Free Breakfast Friday' for all students at no charge. Please join us for National School Breakfast Week, a great time to try Breakfast@School.



7/8 CATS

By: Ms Goodman

Our 7/8 Cats team has been very busy! Eighth graders recently spent a day learning about opportunities available at the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center. Groups of students could be found learning to braid hair, slice cucumbers into crabs for a display, or loading a syringe to give an injection. Students were shown around plumbing, welding, electrical, and auto body shops, as well as computer technology/repair and building construction. Everyone got to enjoy a yummy lunch and meet many new people.

Seventh grade students started a unit on plants in science class and, while learning about photosynthesis and material transport within the plant, decided to test it by placing some white flowers in food colored water. After just one day, the white carnations were becoming slightly tinted at the edge of the petals.

In order to initially be given their flower, pairs of students had to write out a testable question, a hypothesis, and a good procedure to follow. As the activity wraps up, students will add the results found as they made daily observations and draw conclusions about material moment in plants. Though it was a very simple activity, it definitely reinforced our unit on the scientific method, in addition to answering our question on transport.



Making Reading Fun

By: Mrs. Mykut

In order for children to enjoy reading and make it a significant part of their lives, they must be motivated to explore new books and stories. We know that children are motivated to read when they are provided with opportunities to become more involved in the reading process. This is what we have strived to do this year in 6th grade with guided reading. When children feel that they are a part of the action or can relate the action to their own personal experiences, they will develop a very positive attitude toward reading development. At home you may want to try these motivators to help make reading fun:

1. Be sure your child has plenty of opportunities to see you reading (and enjoying it). Take time to tell your child about some of the things you are reading.
2. Help your child set up his or her own home library system. Have your child sort their books into different categories (i.e. scary books, fun books, action, etc.) Make signs to go along with each category.
3. Have your child make up "reviews" for some of his or her own books.
4. Have your child write letters to some prominent people in our community. Ask them about their favorite books and why they enjoy them. This may be a stimulus for your child to read them, too.
5. After they are done reading a book have them create an art project that depicts the book or characters in the book.
6. Finally, give your child lots of praise as he or she is reading. A little praise each day can go a long way toward building successful students and readers.

Helping your child develop the skills necessary to become a successful reader can be one of the most important jobs you do. Setting a good example involves more than giving you child lots of books. It also involves motivating them to read and explore new books and stories. In addition it involves a measure of encouragement and respect for your child as they are becoming young adults.

Happy reading!



Celebrating Learning

By: Mrs. Bottiecher

Eusocial insects, War of the Currents, tectonic plates, classified military operations, mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome, Muhatma Ghandi, the formation of western civilization, ancient Greece, Helen Keller, genetics, Edgar Alan Poe, renewable resources, propeller-driven airplanes, the *Titanic*, parasites, Ernest Shackleton, planets, Shakespeare, and Pennsylvania's role in the founding of our nation ... What do these topics and many others have in common? They represent the vast spectrum of research that has been conducted by middle school students in Room 111 during the month of February.

After choosing their topics, students have located sources of information, taken notes, created outlines, written reports that included MLA documentation, and created visuals. In early March, they are presenting their projects to the class to share their learning.

As the state of Pennsylvania transitions to the Common Core Standards for academic excellence, skills in interpreting and analyzing non-fiction, research, informative writing, speaking and listening, and technology are at the forefront; and these students are demonstrating strengths in all of these areas by the completion of their projects.

The researchers will celebrate their accomplishments with a party, but the real benefit will be the sense of accomplishment and the knowledge gained.

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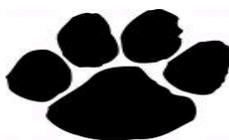
8 BEARS

By: Mr. Uhrich

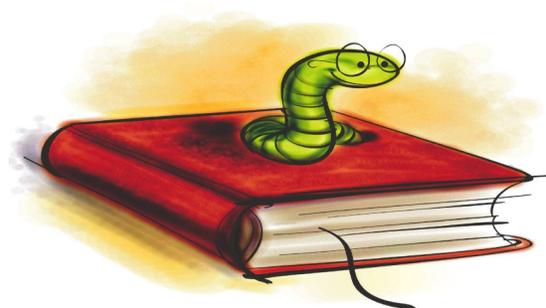
“The power of print is amazing!” “The art of storytelling is leaving our society today.” “Everything you do in life is related to reading.” These are a few of the many powerful words of wisdom offered to the 8 Bears students by some local authors, educators and high school students during a Reading and Writing Forum on Thursday, February 27. Our team was honored to have six special presenters come and share very insightful information about the importance and value of reading and writing. Matthew Swayne, a research writer and journalism teacher at Penn State, and author of *America's Haunted Ghost Universities* and *Haunted Rock and Roll* spoke about his passion for ghosts, spirits and ghostlore. He even shared several examples of ghost legends from Juniata College. Eric Shoup, a fly fishing writer, guide and videographer from Tyrone, shared just how important and crucial the writing process is. After owning a local fly fishing business, he was asked to write an article for a local newspaper about his trade and passion. Much to his surprise, it was an immediate hit. From this point on, his success as a writer took off, having articles published in popular fishing magazines all across the world and even publishing a few books. His advice: “Find something you are passionate about and write about it – then get it published.” Sylvia Kurtz, an AP English teacher at the high school, along with 11th grader, John Roth, brilliantly acted out several book talks about classical literature pieces, highlighting to our students how important and exciting classical literature is and how they all offer themes relating to many modern-day issues. Example: *Moby Dick*, a story of conflict, danger and the question of gains through revenge and *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, two Greek mythologies offering themes of war, jealousy, greed, temptation and perseverance. Finally, seniors Sam Mansberger and Jenna Connor shared the many benefits and lifelong values of reading, including improving overall intelligence and as a means of stress relief. After explaining how reading relates to all subject areas, the two young ladies ended by saying, “Make reading fun - read what interests you, read at your own skill level, and read regularly. It sure has helped us prepare for our futures as upcoming college students.” Our students all agreed this was an extremely valuable experience and we hope we can continue this in the future.

6th Grade Honor Roll

Kelly Ardrey	Luke Atherton
Abigail Bilger	Cayla Bilger
Levi Briggs	Nicholas Buckley
Daniel Bukowski	Andrew Buonaccorsi
Adam Campbell	Casey Conner
Conner Clark	Andrew Cooper
Kendel Crotsley	Cole Cutshall
Jacee Deline	Maci Didyk
Sofia Dinardi	Aron Dunwoody
Cody Dusard	Andrew Garner
Nicholas Gearhart	Dakota Graham
Eric Grose	Angeline Grove
Ryan Grove	Colby Grubb
Peighton Gutshall	Lillian Guyer-Wright
Frank Hawbaker	Brady Hawkings
Alex Heaton	Adisen Herncane
Harlee Hoffman	Jack Hosler
Jenicka Huntsman-Varner	Phillip Keller
Jacob Kelly	Nathaniel Kramer
Isabel Kruse	Rachel Kyle
Magdeline Lashlee	Harper Lewis
Paige Long	Madison Lowe-DeForrest
Hannah Fuller	Katilyn McElory
Andrew Miller	Kynneddy Miller
Sara Miller	Emily Mitchell
Nicholas Nazari	Amber Newell
Kenneth Nguyen	Dylan Painter
Reed Peck	Bruce Perow
Caned Reamer	Corinne Reamer
Isaiah Reed	Mikaela Reed
Haylee Riley	Avalon Ritchey
Jackson Ritchey	Rece Ritchey
Giovan Scaccia	Justin Shetrom
Rachel Shope	Caroline Sliver
Elizabeth Speck	Marcus Stratton
Savannah Swartz	Jake Tanner
Victoria Thompson	Nicholas Troha
Allison Troup	Olivia Vlasak
Duncan Wentzel	Mallory Woodward
Emily Wright	Caitlin Yocum
Roseanne Zoerner	

7th Grade Honor Roll

Logan Allen	Benjamin Atherton
Jacob Atherton	Morgan Banks
Makenzie Bennett	Gabrielle Brown
Jayde Brumbaugh	Atticus Clark
Victoria Conrad	Halina Dingo
Brianna Edwards	Kierra Evans
Brianna Fagan	Andrew Finkle
Katie Freeberg	Skyla Funk
Jacklyn Gaugler	Rebeka Gearhart
Natalyn Gladfelter	Kylie Glorioso
Allison Goldstone	Rachael Gwinn
Sierra Hanlon	Lauren Harris
Connor Heath	Lauren Itinger
Zane Kazmarski	Allyssabeth Kinder
Ned Kough	Emily Kurtz
Alyson Kyper	Madison Langenbach
Andrew Lewis	Marshall Lowe
Natalie Lucas	Aaliyah Mateo
Catherine McCarthy	Ethan Fuller
Cheyenne McgGinnis	Sean McLaughlin
Kylie-Jo Miller	Jaelyn Mitchell
Amanda Norris	Austin Norris
Hayden Norvell	Chrislyn Patick
Regan Querry	Ryan Querry
Nicholas Rigby	Nellie Romecki
Lindsey Sciallabba	Hayleigh Scott
Mallory Sellers	Seth Sheeder
Lindsea Sherlock	Jordyn Shultz
Olivia Simpson	Kaden Smis-Basil
Bryant Speck	Erin States
Lucas Stephens	Olivia Stinson
Amanda Stone	Monica Stromer
Rachel Stuber	Ashlynn Suchan
William Sulesky	Patrick Sweet
Kasey Trexler	Jacob Wagner
Emily Walters	Dakota Weglarz
Isabella Welsch	Richard Widman
Luke Wilson	Robert Wilson
Victoria Wisser	Kieara Worthy
Camden Yablonski	Camryn Yocum
Seth Yocum	Joshua Zimmerman



8th Grade Honor Roll

Hailey Banks
 Tyler Batzel
 Laura Bilger
 Katelin Brenneman
 Madison Buckley
 Abigail Casner
 Patrick Clapper
 Madeline Corbin
 Sydney Cressman
 Abigail Cunningham
 Tatiana Dittus
 Sabin Fisher
 Tiara Garlock
 Julian Groenendaal
 Dylan Grove
 Zachary Grose
 Jordan Hawkins
 Jenna Herncane
 Nicholas Holesa
 Brook Hollibaugh
 Pierce Hunter-Kysor
 Katelyn Kelsey
 Rickayla Lane
 Audrey Marker
 Regan McKim
 Fox Miller
 Hunter Mitchell
 Alex Mykut
 Jenna Powell
 Jaylen Price
 Alexis Ritchey
 Jacob Saffo
 Natalee Shingler
 Jared Showalater
 Brandt Sliver
 Christine Stone
 Thomas Tuten
 Drew Weglarz
 Meghan Wright
 Nicholas Zanic

Jonathan Basom
 Cody Bilger
 Ryan Brechbiel,
 Benjamin Briggs
 David Bukowski
 Arielle Chilcote
 Grace Cook-Huffman
 Cecilia Crayosky
 Aubree Cresswell
 Jacob Dillon
 Katherine Emel
 Nathan Fleming
 Naddison Gearhart
 Zachary Grose
 Heather Gutshall
 Joshua Hawbaker
 Charles Hawn
 Natalie Holesa
 Abigayle Hollibaugh
 Maxwell Hosler
 Tessa Keller
 Peter Kruse
 Jaselyn Lillibridge
 Paige MCabe
 Catherine Miller
 Jadelyn Miller
 Kaleb Mondo
 Bailey Norris
 Hayden Price
 Leah Reed
 Alexander Rothstein
 Jennifer Shaffer
 Warren Shope
 Katie Shultz
 Megan Smithmyer
 Jenna Swan
 Betty Walters
 Jairus Warner
 Paisley Yablonski
 Rebekah Zorner



TELEPHONES

A telephone, located in the main office, is provided for students' use. A student **MUST** first have permission from the teacher to come to the office to use the phone. The student will then gain permission from the office staff. The student is then required to fill out the phone log located by the telephone. **Student phone calls are limited to forgotten school work, lunch or an item needed for class. Students will not be given permission to call regarding after school arrangement of other non-school related questions.** Phones privileges may also be suspended if a student is not forthcoming with their reason to call .
 (Page 17 of the Student Handbook)

ALTERNATE BUS ASSIGNMENT

Alternate bus assignments will NOT be granted for social reasons. Parents **MUST** contact Central Office, transportation 643-4140 ext. 2126 to have this approved.

SNOW MAKE-UP DATES

April 17 –1/2 day
April 21 & 22
June 9, 10, 11 & 12.



EVENTS

March 25-27	Math and Reading PSSA
April 2-4	Writing PSSA (8th grade only)
April 7	End of the Marking Period
April 14	Jr. High County Band
April 17	Act 80 day— 1/2 day for students
April 18	No School –Vacation Day
April 25	6th Grade Band Fest
May 1 & 2	Science PSSA(8th Grade only)

Mission

Our community engages all students to maximize their learning and leadership potential as global contributors.

Vision

Our students achieve their full potential and experience success, leaving school inspired to continue learning every day.

Values

Safety, Excellence, Respect, Integrity, Lifelong Learning.

Homework Help

Monday through Thursday of each week, help for students will be available. Our homework Help tutoring program is available to all students that need more time to develop academic skills and time to complete homework. Hours for help are 2:45 – 4:00 PM and transportation will be the responsibility of the parents. Please contact the school if you are interested in the program.

BOX TOP FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops class room competition be held April 7 until April 25. You are welcome to start collecting now. Currently, Mrs. Rieffannacht has agreed to certain humorous antics if we reach certain goals.

Good Luck Mr. Pelka

