

NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents:

The leaves have been lovely throughout the month of October, while we have been transitioning into the fall season. Parent conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23rd, and Tuesday, November 24th. Please contact the Middle School Office at 654-2145 or 686-5199, ext. 4003, if you wish to schedule a conference and have not yet done so. There will be no school for students during the week of parent conferences and Thanksgiving vacation (November 23rd – November 27th). There is no school on Wednesday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans' Day.

Our reading theme for 2009/10 is *Express Yourself: Celebrate . . . Grow . . . Dream*. Students have created posters in celebration of their own individual interests, personal growth, and dreams. Each student will be encouraged to select one or more books this year to expand their horizons in an area that is of interest to them. Please remember that our goal for each of our middle school students is to read a minimum of 25 books during the 2009/10 school year!

Due to the change in our New York State testing schedule students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will now take New York State assessments in English Language Arts from April 26th through April 28th, 2010. State assessments in Math will be administered at each of these grade levels on May 5th and 6th. Please do not hesitate to contact our School Counselor, Mrs. Bartlett (ext. 4400) or me (ext. 4000) should you have any questions about these exams.

Our first Activity Night is scheduled for Friday, November 13th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please contact the Middle School Office if you are interested in chaperoning for this event. We would love to have you join us for this evening of fun-filled activities.

The Middle School PTO will meet on Monday, January 25th, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Conference Room.

Please enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We look forward to meeting with you during parent conferences.

Sincerely,

Debra S. Percy



Thousand Islands Middle School Character Theme for November:

Charity and Volunteerism

To be kind or lenient in judging others. An act of good will or affection. Giving help to those in need.

Thanksgiving Recess



There will be no school for middle school students Monday, November 23rd, through Friday, November 27th. This is due to Parent/Teacher Conferences and Thanksgiving recess.

PARENT CONFERENCES – November 23 & 24, 2009

Parent teacher conferences will be held on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. If you have not signed up for a conference please call Mrs. Ivey at 686-5199 or 654-2145, ext. 4003.



Lost and Found



Several articles of clothing have been turned in to the Middle School Office. All items will be set out during Parent-Teacher conferences to be held November 23rd and 24th. Please stop by to see if any of the “found” items belong to your child. Items that remain in the office after December 23rd will be donated to a charity organization.

Picture Retakes



Middle School picture re-take day will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Any student who did not have their picture taken in September needs to have their picture taken for the yearbook, even if you do not wish to purchase a package.

Student Recognition For the Month of September



Christopher Abraham, Deven Alberry, Skylar Allen, Quincy Aubertine, Lindsay Barton, Tyler Bidwell, Joe Brennan, Courtney Calhoun, Taylor Campbell, Alexi Cassidy, Kyala Clegg, Autumn Clement, Emily Cooper, Aliceson Cornaire, Lottie Costantino, Katelyn Docteur, Abigail Duffy, Hannah Fulmer, Olivia Fulmer, Taylin Fulmer, Lucero Gamez, Tyler Gilfus, Darian Hill, Noelle Howard, Hunter Matthews, Sabrina Matthews, Nicholas Nevala, Chris Newhook, Michaela O’Brien, Jordan Patchen, Katherine Pritt, Symphony Quencer, Alyxander Robinson, Alex Rodriguez, Emily Rose, Megan Rupp, Maura Warren, and Nicholas Withey

Special Educators Corner By Tim Lauraine



I find that some students entering 6th grade don’t know **how** to study. A simple strategy to keep materials fresh is nightly review. This review should take no longer than 10 minutes. Your student should review any class notes/material from the day (including key vocabulary and/or any math problems). He or she could also read the notes/material to themselves. They could also rewrite the notes or practice a math problem – perhaps neater than the first time. This simple strategy will have students seeing the material again, saying the material again and also copying the material again. Repetition is a good way to commit facts to memory.

Book Fair



Friday, 11/13/09 – Friday, 11/20/09
during periods 1-10 in the library

Teacher Preview on Thursday, 11/12

also open during parent conferences
on
Monday, 11/23/09 & Tuesday, 11/24/09

Math 6 News Mrs. Pavlot



Our year is moving along quickly! We have so much curriculum to cover that math class usually flies by for everyone! We stay so busy that before we know it, the period is over!

I continue to hand out grade printouts every week or two. Please ask your child to show you their reports. The reports show exactly how your child is doing and if they owe me any work.

If your child is in my homeroom and you didn't sign up for a parent conference time for Thanksgiving week, please call the Middle School Office and Mrs. Ivey can schedule you into one of my open time slots.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

7th Grade Science Mrs. Bowman



To date we have concentrated on learning to be safe in the laboratory, explored scientific design, and demonstrated how to properly use lab equipment. Specifically, students learned to measure time, temperature, mass, volume, length, and density.

They have learned to properly use meter sticks, stopwatches, thermometers, triple beam balances, and graduated cylinders, all using the SI system of measurement (metric system). Later during our cell unit, they will learn to properly use microscopes under both low and high power and will even be able to measure using a microscope.

In November, we will begin our unit on Living Things and Classification. As part of this unit 7th grade students will be learning about invasive species affecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. This is part of a project developed this summer in cooperation with Save the River. Students will conduct a web quest which will help them to learn about Save the River and will also help them become an expert on one local invasive species. They will then be sharing their newly discovered information with their classmates later this fall. As part of the project, Sarah Walsh, Program Manager from Save the River will be spending a day with us explaining the role of the organization and answering specific questions students have about their particular invasive species. Be sure to ask them later this month about the organism they researched!

Student Council News Mrs. Hall & Ms. Ruperd



The following students were selected to be members of the 2009-10 TIMS Student Council:

- 6th Grade: Ashlee Bourquin, Abigail Duffy, Ellen Oliver, McKenna Schnauber, Nicholas St. Onge, Maura Warren, and Schuyler Withington
- 7th Grade: Hailey Babcock, Kelsey Bedore, Lottie Costantino, Tanner Docteur, Chris Newhook, Dan Swartz, and Casey Webb
- 8th Grade: Joanne Bechaz, Stephanie Boon, Ruth Briggs, Darien Frederick, Kim Korcz, Erick Lange, and Megan Rajner

The Student Council advisors, Mrs. Hall and Ms. Ruperd, would like to thank all student council members for helping to make the Halloween Party a success. We would also like to thank our parent volunteers and the PTO for donating candy, fruit, vegetables, and drinks. We hope that everyone who attended had a great time.

Upcoming events include our first Activity Night of the year on Friday, November 13th, from 7 pm – 9 pm. In case of inclement weather the back-up date is Friday, November 20th. All middle school students are encouraged to attend the Activity Night and have some fun. Also coming November 9th – 19th is our middle school food drive to support the local food pantries. Please give generously.

Counselor's Corner Mrs. Bartlett



8th Grade Field Trip to Jeff-Tech Center
November 19th – The eighth grade students will be taking a trip to visit the Jeff-Tech Center. Students will tour the facility and visit several classrooms. Students are eligible their junior year of high school to actually select one of the programs at the Tech Center to attend if they choose to learn a trade while in high school.

Parent Conferences – November 23rd and 24th
Please call the school office to set up an appointment to see your child's teacher.

7th Grade Career Interest Inventory
The Career Interest Inventory will be given sometime during the first week in December. It is only a 30 minute test and will be given during 7th grade art classes. Students will complete a Career Interest Inventory on this day, and the results will be reviewed with students in the spring at the time of 8th grade course sign-ups.

6th Grade Anti-Bullying Program
Definition of Bullying – Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt and/or psychological distress on one or more students.

The sixth grade students just completed five sessions of the Anti-Bullying Program in October. Please encourage your child to let a staff member know if they are being bullied in school, so that we may address the issue.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

“Parent-Teacher Conference discussion topics and questions”

- Homework – Is my child completing their homework on time and accurately?

- Participation – Does my child ask questions and volunteer answers during class?
- Organization – Does my child seem prepared/organized?
- Academic Grades – How is my child doing?
- Time Management – Does my child use time wisely?
- Focus – Is my child paying attention in class?
- Social – Is my child getting along with his/her peers during class?
- Strength & Weaknesses – What are my child's strengths? What skills need more work?



Math 7 Ms. Roux

As we ended October, the AA's have worked with all operations using integers, and are able to solve, check, and graph equations and inequalities. Both groups have identified all the different sets of numbers that are out there. Who knew that one number could belong to four sets? The kids are working hard, and there is a lot of material to cover this year. They are all solving two-step equations now and can even write really big numbers in scientific notation. In science, they have also used the metric conversions that they know from math class. It's all relative!

Parent Conferences are coming up November 23rd and 24th. If you were not able to make an appointment before, please call the Middle School Office to make an appointment. We enjoy having this time to share information about your child and the success that is in progress. If you are unable to meet on one of the conference days, we are available at other times. We are coming into a busy time of year, and conferences are a great way to touch base.

**FCCLA (Family,
Career, and Community
Leaders of America)**
Mrs. Curtis



The FCCLA Club has begun the year with a large group of student interest. On October 8th the officers were elected. They are as follows: President – Courtney Calhoun; Vice President – Tori Travers; Treasurer – Michael Campany; Co-Social Chairmen – Ellen Oliver and Katey Stedman. Congratulations to these fine leaders.

Several ideas for community outreach and school awareness were chosen by the students who wish to “make a difference” in the school, in the local community, and around the world. Committees have been formed so that the planning can take place.

The students have already started to sell VIKINGS sport socks and wristbands. The white socks, which are made of high quality yarns, are durable and long-lasting. The really cool thing is that they have the VIKING name (in blue and gold) printed on the cuff. They come in a low-cut style and in two different sizes, medium and large. Each pair is on sale for \$3.00 (regularly \$4.00). VIKING wristbands are also available for \$2.00. Get yours from any FCCLA member or in Room 115. They will be selling the socks and wristbands until the end of November so get them while the supply lasts.

A Quilting Club was started two years ago and this year there are close to 30 students who have shown interest. Several 6th grade middle school students have been staying after school to practice their sewing skills. They are learning some specific quilting techniques. They will soon be creating their own quilt blocks that will be sewn together to make “Sampler Quilts” for Children’s Miracle Network or sent overseas for the soldiers to give to those in need.



**FACS (Family &
Consumer Science)**
6th Grade
Mrs. Curtis



As part of the Health and Wellness Unit, Mrs. Bartlett and Trooper Pietroski teamed up to share some expert advice about how to handle a bullying situation. Through the use of videos, power point presentations, and discussions, the students now have some strategies to choose from if ever in the presence of a bully. Another important aspect of health is avoidance of very harmful substances, such as alcohol, inhalants, and tobacco. Representatives from the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County came to the school and shared alarming statistics as well as truths regarding those dangerous substances.

**The Quilted
Kindness
Mural**



If you take a walk down the hall toward the Middle School Office you are sure to notice the wall hanging that was created by students and faculty during last school year. There are messages of kindness and compassion that were inspired by one young girl named Rachel Scott, and the school assembly program that has been designed in her memory. The program came to us last year at about this time. Our school was challenged to come up with a method of creating an “atmosphere of kindness” in our school. All students and faculty members were encouraged to create a fabric square which was then stitched into a 15’ x 4’ wall hanging. The quilt top was stitched together by members of the Quilting Club, and then over the summer, Mr. Ken Alberry, owner of KAP Quilting, was gracious enough to complete the project. Take a look.



Sixth Grade Band with Mrs. Wiley



During Sixth Grade Band we have been learning and practicing correct **concert etiquette**. There are many ‘little things’ besides simply playing our instruments musicians must know in order to play in a successful band.

During rehearsals we practice “watching the conductor”, correct posture, proper breathing techniques, and tonguing. We have been playing lessons and duets from the *International Method for Band*. We have also discussed the balance pyramid and know where each instrument lies on this pyramid. Ask your instrumentalist where their instrument can be found on the balance pyramid.

We have also discussed ‘concert pitch’. Ask your sixth grade band member what a ‘Concert F’ is called on *their* instrument. They may also tell you that we call this ‘*Sol*’ in our scale.

We have heard what a “balanced ensemble” sounds like and continue to strive for that wonderful, balanced sound every rehearsal. We’re really starting to make some great music! Keep up the good practice.

The sixth grade band would like to congratulate our **Outstanding Musician**, Schuyler Withington, on the alto saxophone.

7th/8th Band with Mrs. Wiley



The 7/8 band now has all four of their holiday concert (December 15th) pieces. Listen for “Sleigh Ride”, “Christmas Proclamation”, “Feliz Navidad” and our chorus/band sing-a-long; “Holiday Sing-Along”. The pieces are challenging and require a great deal of individual work. Please encourage your student to play their instruments at home. We had four band members chosen to represent our school at this year’s Fall Bi-County Festival at Carthage High School and Thousand Islands High School. Congratulations to Darien Frederick and Joanne Bechaz on the French Horn, Eos Chase on the oboe, and Julia Bashaw on the clarinet.

The seventh and eighth grade band congratulates **Outstanding Musician**, Maris Withington on the flute.

Sixth Grade General Music with Mr. Goloski



The sixth graders are starting many new projects this month! They are starting to dive into the world of piano by learning the names of all the keys and learning to play basic scales and rhythmic patterns! They are already able to decode and play music on the musical staff and are working on complex finger patterns.

Additionally they have been listening to music from the seven Western Music Classical eras. They are responding to the music critically and are finding classical music to be interesting and entertaining.

The **Outstanding Musician** for Sixth Grade General Music is Maura Warren!

Congratulations!

Choir News with Mrs. Ingerson



All groups have been very busy preparing for our holiday program! Please put **December 15th** on your calendar for our holiday concert. Music for this program will include holiday music from all cultures; some well-known and best-loved popular holiday selections. You will hear student vocal and instrumental soloists on the program as well.

Congratulations to all participants of the Fall Festival Bi-County Chorus that will be held at Carthage Central School on November 3rd and here at Thousand Islands High School on Saturday, November 7th. Bus transportation information has been given to all students and will be provided by the district on both days. Please remember that both the rehearsals are mandatory for all selected participants. The festival chorus members from our 6th grade are: Ashley Dine, Abigail Duffy, Kristina Gould, Anna Quencer, Victoria Travers, Maura Warren, Paige Durdon, Nichole Farmer, Alleigh Robbins, Katey Stedman, McKenna Schnauber, and Schuyler Withington. Congratulations on your selection to this elite group of singers! We are

proud to have you represent our school at this festival!

7th and 8th Grade Music - Guitar
With Mrs. Ingerson
& Mr. Goloski



Students have successfully learned a warm-up (diatonic) scale on the first three (3) strings and a respectable repertoire of music that consist of notes on the first two strings: B-C-D-E-F-G. We have learned our first chords: C, G7, G, D7, and em. During the month of November we will be expanding our knowledge of strumming and chords to include the 12-bar blues in the key of G Major. We will be learning to read and play third string notes G and A.

Congratulations to these Outstanding Musicians of the Month:

6th Grade Choir: Alleigh Robbins
7th/8th Grade Choir: Ruth Briggs
7th/8th Grade Guitar: Tyler Russell



Concert Finale!!!

Back by popular demand, the middle school students will present a finale of the popular holiday favorites at the December 15th concert. This includes ALL performers from the ENTIRE program. The 7th/8th Grade Band will accompany the chorus made up of 6th, 7th and 8th graders as they present a medley of holiday favorites. The audience is invited to sing along. This also means that ALL performers are expected to stay for the ENTIRE program so that they may participate in the finale. Please make plans accordingly!

Yearbook News
Mrs. Ivey



You are now able to order a YEARBOOK on-line with uploading pictures/sports pictures/candid photos your child might like to have in the yearbook. Just go to the Middle School home page and follow the “Yearbook” link.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
FACULTY AND
THEIR EXTENSION NUMBERS





Mr. Augliano	4354
Ms. Aznoe	5088
Mrs. Balk (Library)	5177
Mrs. Bartlett	4400
Mrs. Bechaz	4353
Mr. Bennett	4356
Mrs. Bowman	4309
Mr. Bowman	4647
Mrs. Buker (Office)	4007
Bus Garage (Cape Vincent)	2500
Bus Garage (Clayton)	3500
Mrs. Cantwell	4302
Mrs. Curtis	4115
Miss Dee	4355
Mrs. Driffill (Office)	4001
Mr. Frank	4358
Mr. Goloski	5730
Ms. Grover	5641
Mrs. Hall	4308
Mr. Hughes (Dean of Students)	5002
Mrs. Hutchinson	4300
Mrs. Ingerson	5619
Mrs. Ivey (Attendance Officer)	4003
Ms. Knight	4351
Mr. Lauraine	4310
Miss Lavarney	4301
Ms. Leavery (nurse)	5088
Mrs. LeConey	4299
Mrs. Lindsey	4359
Mr. Lonsbery	4307
Mr. Maphey	4117
Mrs. Martin	4350
Ms. McGregor	4352
Mrs. Morgia	4354
Mrs. Natali (Office)	4004
Mrs. Pavlot	4303
Mrs. Percy (Principal)	4000
Mr. Roesch	4357
Ms. Roux	4305
Ms. Ruperd	4304
Mrs. Wiley	5630
Mrs. Youngs	4616
Ms Zeigler	4306



NOVEMBER 2009 MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1.	2. Day 3 *BPT Mtg. 2:40 pm – Room 310	3. Day 4 *Bi-County Festival Rehearsal 1-5 pm – Carthage *MS Picture Retakes	4. Day 5 *LOTE Mtg. – 2:40 pm	5. Day 6	6. Day 1	7. *Fall Bi- County Fest. 9 am -1 pm TIHS, Concert 2 pm
8.	9. Day 2 *Faculty Mtg. – 2:40 pm *MS Food Drive Begins	10. Day 3	11.  No School	12. Day 4	13. Day 5 *Locker Clean-out 7:25 am *Activity Night – 7-9 pm	14.
15.	16. Day 6 *ELA Mtg. – 2:40 pm	17. Day 1 *BOE Mtg. – 7 pm *1 st Quarter Grades Due – 8 am	18. Day 2	19. Day 3 *Report Cards Issued *MS Food Drive Ends	20. Day 4 *Snow Date for MS Activity Night	21.
22.	23. No School for MS Students Parent/Teacher Conferences	24. No School for MS Students Parent/Teacher Conferences	25.	26.  <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	27.	28.
29.	30. Day 5					