



HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 2, Issue 6

April 2008

Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

As May quickly approaches, I wanted to highlight some of the activities that we have completed and will complete within the next few weeks.

Recently, our incoming 5th grade parents joined us for an evening at Hille. During this night, we were able to share pertinent information relative to their student's experience as a 6th grade student. Soon, all 5th grade students will come to Hille for an orientation to the building. We are excited for our new 6th graders to join the Hille team!

Graduation quickly approaches for both parents and students. Please note our "Important Dates" on page 8 for infor-

mation about graduation and end of the year activities.

Please see our information about Social and Emotional Learning. Hille was awarded a grant from the State of Illinois to promote the Social and Emotional Learning Standards. Through our connections program, we hope to foster and instill the necessary skills for students to problem-solve and become life-long learners. Soon, we will be sending a survey home for parents to complete to get feedback on the program.

Have a great April!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney Orzel

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Read to Succeed	2
6th Grade Team	3
7th Grade Team	4
8th Grade Team	5
Encore	6
Important Dates	8
SEL	10

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Bye Bye Birdie
- Career Day
- Social and Emotional Learning

Bye Bye Birdie

On April 17th and 18th at 7pm, the Hille Middle School Music Department is proud to present this year's spring musical, "Bye Bye Birdie."

"Bye Bye Birdie" is a wonderful story about the lives that existed in the music industry of the 1950s, teenage obsession, and the true relationships that survive between lovers, family, and friends.

Come out and support your students' countless hours of work to stage a full Broadway production.

Tickets will be \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and children under 5 get in for free. Tickets will be available at the door prior to the show.

Read to Succeed

In order to welcome the Spring of 2008, the Read to Succeed Class has been reading about March Madness and Spring Training. On opening day for both the Chicago White Sox and the Cubs the students read, interpreted and summarized an article of their choice. While the cross-town rivalry was ever present some students chose to learn more about the Final Four.

We are continuing to use the 6 Minute Solution series to increase fluency and comprehension. We are looking forward to celebrating our continued success with the Spring MAP Test.

Gifted News

8th graders have begun work on their final elective project. As an end-point for their middle school academic career, students choose their own topic of investigation that they would like to study in-depth. Our topics are varied and this year they include construction of a motorized airplane, original songwriting, game design as well as stop-motion animation and video production.



7th graders have been gearing up for their Mars Space Simulation at the Challenger Learning Center on April 9th. Take-off looks to be smooth! One of our team members is making a documentary of the mission and will be posting it on www.hillegifted.wikispaces.com when editing is complete.

Our 7th grade Beowulf Reading group is almost done with the medieval story and has been plotting some new twists for their own version. Auditions for the part of Grendel have been very amusing so far!

6th graders Catapults are fun! Did you know that projectile artillery has been around for thousands of years? We have been looking at the history & the science behind these fascinating devices and have begun construction on our own competition models. Storming the castle should come next month... in the mean time, check out the trebuchet game on www.hillegifted.wikispaces.com for an online version.



The Illiad Book Club kids have been expanding their Iliad experience into a geo-puzzle as they try to find the many towns and cities that sent their warriors into battle three thousand years ago. So far, only a few have eluded us!

6th Grade Team News

Math with Mrs. Reilly, Mrs. Stalla, and Ms. Leahy:

Students are really using the right side of their brain as they look at some abstract geometry concepts. On deck: Algebra and baseball season.

Advanced Math with Mrs. Reilly:

Students are learning where the different area/volume formulas come from by "taking apart" 3-D figures. On deck: Algebra and baseball season.

Science with Ms. McGoogan and Mrs. Voris:

We have come down from space to our own planet Earth. Currently, we are exploring the dynamic forces, which have shaped our planet. We have learned about the inside of Earth as well as the unique physical features of Earth's outmost layer – the crust. Soon, we will be exploring plate boundaries and fault lines, which lead to the forces that cause earthquakes and volcanoes. We will learn about subduction zones, transform, convergent and divergent boundaries. Looking ahead to the future, we will be exploring rocks and minerals.

Social Studies with Ms. Zamora and Mr. Thorsen:

The month of April will bring further insight into the land of Italy. We are continuing to learn more about the ancient Romans, the Punic Wars, the expansion of the Roman Empire, and the impact Julius Caesar had not only during ancient times but how his life and accomplishments have affected us present day. As we conclude the study of this magnificent civilization, students will learn about the many legacies of Rome including aqueducts and the Colosseum.

Language Arts/Literature with Mrs. Ciesiun, Mrs. Lewandowski, Mr. Myrmingos, and Mrs. Leahy:

As we kick off the fourth quarter the students will start a new unit on the theme, "Making your mark in a wondrous world". Mrs. Ciesiun and Mrs. Lewandowski's classes will explore the medieval time period in preparation for their next novel, *Crispin* by Avi. Mr. Myrmingos' classes will be completing small literature circles using a variety of different novels. All of the students will express themselves with a variety of different creative writing assignments. We are also planning a fieldtrip for May 14th to Medieval Times in Schaumburg!

Well, that wraps up our news for this month; don't forget to check for current class updates on schoolnotes.com!

The 6th Grade Team

7th Grade Team News

Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent

to you. You have to win it. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

7th Grade Language Arts (Mrs. Carney, Mrs. Lewandowski, Mr. Kantor, Mrs. Carlson)

We are all currently working on either novels or short stories. Our writing focus for fourth quarter will be the research paper. This paper will serve as an introduction to the process of writing a research paper. We will take your child through each step involved from choosing a topic through completing a works cited page. We are continuing to incorporate six-trait writing in all of the classes.

Math (Ms. Bonk and Mrs. Stalla)

During the fourth quarter, the students will be solving equations, exploring surface area and volume, and discovering statistical concepts through hands-on experiments. We also will be discovering the Pythagorean Theorem and its applications in real-life situations.

In seventh grade pre-algebra, we have been solving multi-step equations and inequalities, applying concepts like the Distributive Property and inverse operations. We are now transitioning into an exploration of relations and functions. It's time to break out the graph paper! We will be looking at slope and then solving systems of equations by graphing. By the end of the month we should be exploring various concepts in geometry, including surface area, volume, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Good luck to the students who are participating in the Math Bowl and the Math Competition! Thank you for representing our school!

Social Studies (Mr. Thorsen and Mr. Tselepis)

In 7th grade Social Studies, we will begin our study of Illinois and the Illinois Constitution. Throughout the month of April, students will learn the 3 branches of Illinois' government, while we also look at some of the history and tradition that makes Illinois such a great place to live. As we get closer to May, we will announce a date for the test.

Science (Mrs. Voris and Mr. Krol)

Our science classes have recently finished an extensive study of forces and density. This unit provided many opportunities to continue the scientific inquiry process that we have been mastering the entire year. The examination of Newton's Laws and the relationship between mass and volume were of primary focus during our experimental designs. We completed our study of density with the design, construction and testing of aluminum foil boats. Our goal was to design a boat that would hold as much weight as possible before sinking. There were many unique and creative designs. Some of our boats held weights in excess of 900 grams. Mrs. Voris and Mr. Krol want to congratulate all boat designers on a job well done!

8th Grade Team News

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Students returned from spring break jumping right into the study of functions and graphing. They discovered the many ways in which "slope" is a part of everyday life. As we move along through the month of April students will study the relationships between fractions, decimals, and percents. They will study simple probability and use statistics to predict outcomes. Lastly, students will apply their knowledge of percents and percent of change to solving real-life problems.

Algebra

Students began the study of polynomials upon returning from break. Becoming proficient at operations with monomials they progressed to operations with polynomials and special products. These skills will enable students study and apply factoring to complex area problems. The month will culminate in students applying all skills to solve quadratic equations.

Science

Mrs. Ryan's Science class just finished up their study of electricity and magnetism. Part of the culminating activity is to keep track of their family's energy usage and think of ways to save both energy and money!! As we begin the homestretch towards graduation we are beginning our study of chemistry with the properties of matter. Mr. Krol's classes are finishing up their study of matter and beginning to learn about the smallest unit of matter: The atom!

Social Science

The 8th Social Science classes are continuing their reading of the novel Under the Blood Red Sun. They will be creating a geoscope that will be displayed in the classroom. After finishing the unit on World War II the 8th grade will be learning about The Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Lit/LA

Language Arts and Literature with Ms. Angone, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Morgan:

Students are busy working on the first of two graduation essays. The theme of the first essay contest is Contributing to Society. Students will focus on perfecting the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing and varied sentence structures that they have learned throughout the year. The winner of this essay contest will present his/her essay as a speech during the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony.

We are not only busy writing! Ms. Angone's class is finding out that "things are rough all over" and that stereotyping is unfair as they read the *The Outsiders*. Mrs. Hoffman's class is integrating *Under the Blood Red Sun* with the social science curriculum. Mrs. Bruce's class is tackling various short stories. With winter still lingering, Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. Morgan's classes are beginning to read and analyze Jack London's novel *The Call of the Wild*, while Mrs. McCormick's class is reading *White Fang*. The advanced classes are staying chilly with spine-tingling *Frankenstein*.

Encore Team News

News from Mrs. Barron:

Foreign Language Survey – The sixth graders have completed their focus on the French –speaking world. As we make our transition towards Spanish, the classes are working in groups to create presentations. They have spent several days in the computer lab and have worked in class to prepare their oral presentations. Extra credit is available for this project, so you may want to ask your child what his/her group has discussed contributing.

French 7- This class too has recently created a presentation they are still sharing with the class. Students were given the opportunity to choose an area of French society that interests them, and share their knowledge with the class. I have had the privilege of hearing reports on fashion, education and the guillotine to name a few. Keep up the great work!

French 8 – The eighth graders recently completed a chapter that had a strong emphasis on grammar. While they were studying irregular adjectives and making comparisons, they created travel brochures on various French-speaking cities around the world. Next they will learn about imperatives, and this is a great time to have students make a commercial of their own. These are commercials worth staying tuned in for!

International Club – Our last meeting found student sharing family holiday traditions. Señora Daley and I learned some interesting trivia about your families! Our next meeting will focus on Cinco de Mayo as we explore its history and purpose.

Industrial Arts

Eighth grade students are just completing the AutoCAD portion of the curriculum and will be learning about tool safety as we switch gears into the woodworking portion of our class. Basic hand tools will be introduced as we move to apply the skills learned over the last few weeks and begin building activities.

7th grade Spanish

After finishing the family vocabulary unit, we are plunging right into verb conjugation and school vocabulary. Remember to study 15 minutes a night, as the material is becoming increasingly difficult.

8th grade Spanish

The students have mastered the correct usage of direct and indirect object pronouns, a very difficult task. We are moving on to a very fun unit- food! Look for student menus on display soon.

Share Your Soles - Children Caring - Children Sharing

Ms. Lynch's Connections Group is sponsoring a shoe collection for an organization called "Share Your Soles" For nine years, this organization has been collecting gently worn or new shoes of all sorts for children in 30 locations in the US and worldwide who do not have shoes to wear. Although the emphasis is on children's and teen shoes, all types and sizes of shoes are accepted. Examples being canvas or leather athletic shoes, sandals, school shoes, dress shoes, work shoes, snow boots, walking shoes, and slippers.

In many of these locations, these shoes prevent infections, amputation as a result of foot infections, and even allow children to get an education where in some places they cannot attend school without wearing shoes. Getting a pair of shoes also often raises the child's self-esteem.

We'll kick off our shoe collection within the next couple of weeks. Please consider sending your child's gently worn shoes that may no longer fit or those pairs of shoes you no longer want to keep to this worthy cause.

Thanks for your generosity and support.

Ms. Lynch & 8th Grade Connections Group - The Projects

Encore Team News

Drugs & Guidance

Drugs and Guidance has started working on the tobacco unit. The students will learn the enormous risks posed by this product to the users, as well as to people sharing their environment. Many visuals are used to verify data and students will also be actively involved in accumulating information.

Physical Education

The PE classes are in the middle of Volleyball and have just picked teams as the students are ready to battle in head to head competition for the right to call themselves the head of the class. The students are doing a great job especially after a week and a half of training to prepare for the games.

The fitness room is up and running and the students are excited. The treadmills and elliptical are and full steam as the students are learning how to use everything. This is a great addition to the Physical education program here at Hille.

The 8th grade basketball team ended the season in second place in the South Division. The team worked hard and was happy to have Tim Loeding, Nick Bukowski, and Tevin Coleman represent Hille in the All-Star game. Mike Leslie will compete in the 3-point shoot out.

The 7th grade team finished 1st in the South division and brought home a Conference Championship.

Band

Band students will be competing in the VanderCook Bandfest on April 8, 2008

8th Grade Art

As a class, we are discussing cultural artistic adornment, decorative and functional art. Art students are currently making shoe sculptures. They are choosing collage images that personalize their projects.

We will alternate past conceptual ideas into projects and activities from now through the end of the school year with some that address a thematic and/or individual focus. Students will participate in jewelry making and clay technique and form following our current activity.

Computer

Students in 7th grade have been working in Microsoft Excel. Students have practiced writing formulas to find the average, maximum, minimum, count, and mode of list of numbers. Students have also worked on changing the formatting of cells to the least common fraction and percentage value. Various print layouts and formula auditing mode have also been reviewed.

Students have searched for information on the Internet answering questions by "restating the question". Internet ethics has been discussed and students have responded to scenarios where computer moral code is addressed. Students will soon be reviewing more Internet search techniques.

Computer Club

Computer Club will continue to meet on Tuesdays, but will not meet on April 22nd, 29th and May 6th due to the high school computer proficiency exam classes.

High School Microcomputer Proficiency Test

The Microcomputer High School Proficiency Test will take place on May 10th this year. Students in eighth grade adept at typing and computer skills are advised to take **five after-school/one hour** review sessions. Students taking the high school exam must attend the sessions offered by Hille. Teacher/principal recommendation is required. A letter regarding this information has been sent home.

Important Dates and Information

Important upcoming dates:

4/16	Student of the Month Breakfast
4/16	Scholastic Bowl Competition 11:45 @ Prairie Jr. High
4/17 & 18	Spring Musical
4/23	Half Day Teacher In-service
4/24 & 25	Band/Choir Wisconsin Trip
4/28	Progress Reports
4/29	Math Contest 3:30 @ Finely Jr. High
4/30	Club Bowling Party
5/2	Fundraising Limousine Ride
5/7	Band Concert
5/8	Choir Concert
5/9	Graduation Dance 6:00-9:00 @ Gaelic Park
5/10	OFHS Microprocessing Proficiency Test <u>for registered students only</u>
5/13-5/16	Washington, D.C. Trip
5/21	Band /Choir Great America Trip
5/22	Student of the Month Breakfast
5/22	Caps, gowns, & 4 tickets distributed at graduation practice
5/23	8th Grade Trip 8:00-6:00
5/28	8th Grade Awards Night by Invitation Only 7:00
5/29	Graduation 6:00pm @ Jack Hille Middle School

Career Day a Success!

On March 20th J. Hille Middle School hosted a Career Day featuring an array of professionals from around the district. Sessions will began at 8:00am and went through 11:00am. Parents from three of our four buildings, Village officials and employees, HS students, as well as friends and family took time out of their busy schedule to come in and talk to our 7th and 8th grade students about their career futures.

Our 6th grade students worked with the Junior Achievement program "Economics for Success" during the morning schedule. Participation in this program, while career based, also makes students eligible to apply for a wide variety of grants and scholarships during their Senior year of high school.

Social Work and Counseling

Students are experiencing a vast array of emotions as 4th quarter begins. With ISAT tests behind them and a new quarter beginning, many are looking forward to the freshness of spring. The 2nd round of counseling groups came to a close with the celebration of goals accomplished and the hope that those goals can continue throughout the remainder of the school year.

Our Rainbows groups participated in the first all-group activity, when both groups met together and enjoyed a pizza party. It was a great way for students from each grade level to meet the other Hille students participating in the Rainbows program. We look forward to our next celebration at the conclusion of the program this year.

Please feel free to contact Ms. LaBerge or Mrs. Berry with questions or concerns as we move through the final chapter of the school year. Happy Spring!

Student Council

The Student Council has been busy packing this school year full of fun events. In March, we sponsored the "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society from March 4-14th. Students did an incredible job of donating spare change at every opportunity, especially since they were competing boys against girls. Many students donated paper money as well. We were pleasantly surprised when our families became involved in this worthy cause as well.

A HUGE thanks to all who donated! Our grand total was over \$1000, which means the fundraiser was a smashing success. The winners were; Ms. McGoogan's 6th grade girls, Mr. Grace's 6th grade girls, Mrs. Carney's 7th grade boys, Mrs. Trojan's 8th grade girls, and Mrs. Daley's 8th grade girls.

As you may or may not know, there will be an assembly in the month of April, during which the winners of this fundraiser will be celebrated. The five Connections groups with the largest totals will be randomly choosing representatives to take a chance at throwing a pie in the face of a teacher. Keep an eye out for the date of that assembly.

On March 17, we were all "seeing green" at Hille. The students and staff were dressed in St. Patrick's Day attire to celebrate the big day. Students were encouraged to bring out the green clothing, paint faces or dress like their favorite leprechaun for the day.

Coming up, the Student Council will be working hard to coordinate a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Students will be planning, decorating, and baking in order to show teachers how much we appreciate their role here at Hille.

NJHS NEWS FROM MRS. CARLSON

On Tuesday evening, April 1, 37 new members were inducted into the Laramie Chapter of the Jack Hille Middle School National Junior Honor Society. The highlight of the evening was the remarks made by our speaker, Dr. David Wilson, Principal at Oak Forest High School. Congratulations to the following new members:

Eighth graders Janine Adams, John Busch, Michael Fortuna, Sarah Henery, Nicole Heniff, George Jester, Courtney Kachlik, Jill Krygowski, Kerry Strzyzewski, Katie Swanson and Kalie Tokarczyk.

Also inducted were seventh graders Summer Abdallah, Brooke Adams, Brita Beardsley, Alec Brown, Jack Cramer, Gina D'Angelo, Taylor Dazzo, Julianna Dizonno, Danielle Dougherty, AnnMarie Huet, Zach Kirkilas, Emily Larsen, Lizzy Madej, Carolyn Mazzuca, Kelly McEathron, Mamon Misheck, April Parker, Nina Rossi, Holly Schwertfeger, Bradley Smith, Dina Synowiec, Jacob Toppen, Heidi Triezenberg, Elisabeth Walker, Kayli Weber, and Thomas Zale.

Congratulations to our new members. I look forward to working with you.

HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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PRINCIPAL

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“CHILDREN ALWAYS
COME FIRST!”

We're on the web!

www.d142.org



Hille Middle School

8th Grade Graduation
will be held
at JACK HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
on Thursday, May 29th @ 6:00pm.

More information to follow...

Social and Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning, Spring 2008

Signs of Social and Emotional learning are popping-up all over Hille. As a committee, we have been working to determine how to best inform everyone involved with the SEL goals about what they mean. This means that students, parents and staff will all play an integral role in the accomplishment of these goals for every student at Hille. In order to do this, we are going to have a booth at the 5th grade curriculum night with information and take-home gifts for parents. We are also sending home a brochure of information about SEL to every Hille family. This information will again be available during registration for the upcoming school year.

The staff has been learning about how to incorporate these goals into everyday life here at Hille, starting with our Connections program and, hopefully, ending up in every classroom. We have been utilizing staff meeting time to explore what SEL will look like at Hille in the hallways, in the classrooms and at any school event. Our hope is to create an atmosphere that feels warm, welcoming, safe and positive for all who enter our school.

In addition to the continuation of our Connections program, our students will get to participate in two assemblies in the month of April that will help to promote the SEL themes and goals.

On April 10, Imagination Theater will be performing. Their show will focus on treating others with respect. It is entitled "Ease the Tease". On April 23rd, James Lilly will be presenting to students. His message is about making positive choices in life. He uses his own experiences as an example of how walking down the wrong road can lead to unimaginable consequences. Our hope is to bring Mr. Lilly back in the fall to speak to parents, also.

We look forward to both of these assemblies to provide powerful examples for students as to how to become their best selves.