



# HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2007

Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,  
Principal

Mr. John Orth,  
Assistant Principal

## From the Principal...

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dental reminder– 6th grade
- Basketball news

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the new year is quickly approaching us. Most recently, you might have read the article in the Southtown Star about our "Mix It Up" Day. All of our students participated in this great event along with majority of our staff members! A special thanks to Mrs. Berry and Ms. LaBerge on planning this event for our students.

Recently, I sent home a reminder about transportation and morning drop off procedures. Please be reminded that students should be dropped off on the north end of the building closest to the door. Students should not be running or walking through the parking lot. As a reminder, dropping students off in a timely fashion is important as well. We want to ensure that all of our students get to school on time, and pulling up as far as possible for drop off will assist.

Students should be ready to come into the building with coats buttoned and backpacks ready as they are dropped off each morning!

Finally, as you may have heard, our Band Director, Mr. Jim Royer, is recovering from surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery!!

As we end 2007 and enter a new year, I would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy holiday and new year. The Hille staff and I look forward to a successful 2008!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Courtney Orzel  
Principal

## 8th grade reminders

Did you know that 8th grade information is posted online at [www.d142.org](http://www.d142.org)?

- 8th Grade Timeline for Oak Forest HS Testings
- Graduation Information– D142 Handbook
- 8th Grade Bulletin Info
- Washington D.C. Information

## Read to Succeed

December's School Wide reading strategy is Inferring. In our Reading to Succeed Class we have been working on asking and answering inference questions. We have been learning about the different kinds of inferences, for example emotion, location, character, action, and time. We just completed an activity using inferring cards in which a few clues were given and the students had to infer where, what or who was being described. As a culminating activity the students wrote their own scenarios and the rest of the class had to infer the answer. Happy Holidays to all!

## Hille Library



As we enter the holiday season one of our students will be lucky enough to win “2” tickets to the Bears vs. Saints game on December 30th. Many of our students have been participating in the Bear’s Tales to Tackle “read a book-a-thon.” Students must have read 9 books and written 9 book reviews to be entered in our contest. The lucky winner will be announced on December 19th. Go Bears!!!

Matching Christmas song titles to their lyrics is this month’s contest. Two lucky students will be chosen this Tuesday and the next to receive some Christmas goodies.

Finally, as we enter the new year we will begin promoting our annual Battle of the Books Contest. Information about the battle will be forthcoming.

Happy Holidays!

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## 6th Grade Team

Hot off the press!



### Classroom Happenings

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

Students are flipping for fractions as we work with all 4 operations. Students are learning the importance of fractions in everyday life as in cooking or baking.



#### **Advanced Math with Mrs. Reilly**

Students have now moved into proportions and percents. We will soon explore more real-life activities involving discounts and sales tax.

#### **Science with Ms. McGoogan and Mrs. Voris:**

We are now in full swing learning all kinds of information about our solar system, including the sun, the planets and everything in between! Students are highly motivated learning about objects in space. Can we blame them? We love space, too! Space is generally a high interest topic for students. They're always in search of finding out interesting pieces of information. We will be working on our Space Unit for a few weeks, most likely through the middle of January.

In the meantime, students are also involved with their Hall of Scientists Wax Museum project. Students should have already completed a timeline, and either a scrapbook/photo album, a set of postcards or a diary for their scientist. We will be working with students to help them figure out how to collect artifacts for their scientist as well as putting together the final leg of the project, which will be their speech presentation.

#### **Social Studies with Ms. Zamora and Mr. Thorsen:**

We are currently studying the wonderful civilization of Ancient Egypt. After looking at the comparisons between the Egyptians and Mesopotamians, we started an in depth analysis at the greatness of Egyptian pharaohs, mummification and pyramid building. The unit will culminate with a pyramid project during the month of December and over break while looking at the many other achievements of the Ancient Egyptian civilization.

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

Currently the students are reading the novel *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. As we read the novel we are examining this quarter's theme of Growth and Change. All students are continuing to work on their writing skills as they tackle persuasive writing.

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Well, that wraps up our news for this month; don't forget to check for current class updates on [schoolnotes.com](http://schoolnotes.com). We wish all of our students and their families a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team



## 7th Grade Team

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Lit/LA (Mr. Kantor, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Lewandowski, Mrs. Carney)

We are diligently working on reading our novel, My Brother Sam Is Dead, as well as incorporating enrichment and vocabulary activities. Our advanced classes are currently reading Watership Down. All classes have completed personal narratives. We continue to work on grammar through the use of mini-lessons. Currently, we see the need for further work on paragraphing and dialogue. We hope you have a happy and restful holiday! Please remind your students to continue reading their independent reading book for the third book project, which is due in January.

### Social Science (Mr. Thorsen and Mr. Tselepis)

We are just finishing up our study of Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. Students learned about the history of all three countries and America's influences in WWII and The Korean War. We also discussed the many cars and electronics we get from the countries of South Korea and Japan and why trade with those countries is so important to the U.S. We then studied the vast contrast between them and North Korea, and why America is cautious of North Korea's world presence. Up until break, students will get a brief overview of the Middle East and why it is such an important topic in the news. That will end our World Geography portion and lead us into Civics when we get back from break.

### Math (Ms. Bonk and Mrs. Stalla)

In the pre-algebra classes, we have finished a chapter involving number sense: finding the greatest common factor, least common multiple, factorizations, and negative exponents. We are doing a brief review of decimal and fraction computations before we begin solving equations using decimals and fractions. We will finish with this before the winter break, and we then will be moving into applications of ratios and proportions.

Our regular math classes have been working diligently to master fractions. We have been practicing adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers to include whole numbers as well. In addition, they have practiced reducing fractions into simplest form and converting improper to mixed numbers. We will continue to use our fraction knowledge while we move forward into proportional reasoning and applying percents

### Science (Mr. Krol and Mrs. Voris)

Our science classes have been very busy studying both the cell as well as speed and acceleration. Students have had the opportunity to design a mock-up of a cellular anatomy web-page and have started creating a children's book dealing with cellular anatomy. We have also started taking an in-depth look at the relationship between distance, speed, and acceleration. We have completed a few experiential activities in order to link the concepts of speed and acceleration to one another. We want to wish a fond farewell to both of our 7th grade student-teachers, Ms. Mamich and Mrs. Allott, who will be leaving us at the end of the month. It has been a pleasure having you here with us at Hille! Mr. Krol and Mrs. Voris want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

## 8th Grade Team

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

Ms. Angone, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Morgan continue to work with the students on improving their reading comprehension and writing skills. Learning how to write and answer extended response questions based on Bloom's Taxonomy has been a focus as students read and analyze the novels NUMBERING ALL THE BONES, LORD OF THE FLIES, or THE OUTSIDERS. Narratives have been a writing focus for students as they continue to learn about and improve upon their use of the 6+1 Traits of Writing. Students continue to independently read Accelerated Reader novels and work through various final projects.

### **Math with Ms. Bonk and Mrs. Trojan :**

Eighth grade pre-algebra students have been working diligently at adding concepts to their problem-solving toolbox. After exploring patterns within factors and fractions the students are now applying those patterns to improve their computational and procedural skills when doing operations with rational numbers.

Having just finished up their exploration of relations, functions, and graphing, the algebra students are well on their way to analyzing linear equations, better known to students as "slope". All algebra students will take the algebra test at Oak Forest High School on Saturday January 12th. Further information to follow.

### **Social Science with Mr. Tselepis and Mr. Tsoukalas:**

The 8th grade Social Science classes have begun studying World War I. Some of the activities that they have been doing are learning about different world leaders, and some of the odd laws of the world. A bulletin board will be up soon in the 8th grade hallway. Some of the upcoming topic that are going to be discussed are: The Jazz Age, The Great Depression, and World War II, where the students will be reading the novel UNDER THE BLOOD RED SUN by Graham Salisbury.

### **Science with Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Krol:**

Some "hair raising" experiments are going on in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science classes. We have begun our study of electricity by looking at static electricity. In the upcoming weeks we will be learning about voltage, current, and how to build different types of circuits. As a culminating activity the students will be designing and constructing electronic games.

Also happening in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students in Mr. Krol's classes have been swabbing everything in the school in order to grow and analyze various types of bacteria.

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# Encore Team News

## Foreign Language Survey

These students have had an indulgence of French vocabulary, geography, and a little bit of grammar lately. After mid-term, our focus will shift to Spanish as we finish up the semester.

### **French 7:**

Now that their vocabularies are expanding, the seventh graders have been busy writing scripts. They are creating restaurant scenarios to act out in front of the class.

Parents are always welcome to visit their petits cafes!

### **French 8:**

Always busy with grammar! Soon the annual fashion show will take place as students learn about articles of clothing and dress up to walk and talk the runway!

Watch for an upcoming date for the foreign language placement test at Oak Forest High School.

We had the opportunity to meet twice during the month of November. Our focus was to talk about French and Spanish holiday customs, make ornaments, and discuss our holiday festival that is coming soon.

In December, we will impress the staff with our culinary skills as we create French and Spanish dishes to share. Bon appetit! Next meeting dates: December 11th and 18th.

## **Band**

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN on December 11, during the Christmas concert.

For Intermediate Band, Jazz Band, and Advanced Band, the concert will begin in the Gymnasium at Jack Hille Middle School at 7:00 PM. Our newly formed Jack Hille Flute Quintet which will present an arrangement of Silent Night.

The Members of the quintet include:

MIRANDA DEUTER, VALERIE BRYCE, HEIDI TRIEZENBERG, HOLLY SCHWERTFEGER, MAKAYLA DYE

Three selections will also be played by the Jazz Band.

SOLOISTS INCLUDE:            JOHN BUSCH-TENOR SAX            ALEX HANSEN-ALTO SAX

   KEITH McABEE-TRUMPET            NICK PEREZ-TRUMPET            KEVIN STAEHLIN-ALTO SAX

***PLEASE COME AND SEE US PERFORM AND REMEMBER: SANTA CLAUS IS REALLY COMING TO TOWN!***

## **FACS**

6th grade students were happy to complete their first quarter projects and finally take them home. Hopefully, they will continue to practice their sewing skills! We recently completed our unit on place settings, etiquette, and restaurant tipping. Their next stop will be in the kitchen to test their creative cooking skills.



## **Industrial Arts**

Students are completing their iMovie Projects in class before Christmas Break. We all have had a good time working with them and learned so much! Watch for more information about when electronic portfolios will be posted! After break we will be getting into hands-on architecture and drafting as we move to AutoCAD.

# Encore Team News

## Seventh grade Spanish-

We just completed a study of Hispanic artists. Stop by and check out the bulletin board in the E hall. The commemorative postage stamps the students designed to honor their artists are phenomenal! We are beginning our unit on adjectives and agreement. You should hear your student speaking Spanish every day at home. Keep studying 15 minutes a day!

## Eighth grade Spanish-

Pairs of students just finished presenting the CD covers they designed to honor a Hispanic musician. Come and check out our display in room E16. Their presentations were highly creative and informative. Our next unit is on travel. We will be learning to ask for directions and give commands. Keep studying every night, as the material is really beginning to get difficult!

## Physical Education

With 3 weeks to go before Christmas break, our PE classes are hitting their stride in basketball. They are in the middle of playing games which will lead up to a tournament. May the best team win!

The last 2 weeks before break will be fun and dancing. The students will be line dancing their way to Christmas break. The teachers are excited and I'm sure the students are looking forward to showing their dancing skills.

What an exciting time to be a student at Hille. We are in the process of getting a fitness room which will continue the progression of our students being physically fit. Life Time Fitness Foundation in Orland Park was generous enough to donate over 20 pieces of fitness equipment from the Orland Park location to start the process of putting this awesome room together. We are hoping that it will be completed soon after Christmas. Remember to continue to raise money for your Free throw shoot-a-thon which will be Friday December 7th it will help in the process of funding the rest of our fitness center. Once again thank you Life Time Fitness Foundation of Orland Park. 11/30

## DRUGS AND GUIDANCE

Snowflake 2008 is January 11, 2008. Hille Middle School is joining with Arbor Middle School to present an educational yet fun event for the seventh and eighth grades students of our district. We will have small groups, games, discussions, large groups, speakers, pizza, a DJ, and a dance. It is a program that is designed to enable our students to make positive life choices.

## Computer

In Microsoft Word the sixth grade students have completed a very extensive newspaper about themselves. Students have been given a number of word processing assignments and have been experimenting with various formatting techniques. Also, throughout this month, students have been using Internet Explorer. Various search engines and have been examined. Students have practiced narrowing down topics and have spent time browsing the internet for research purposes.

## 7th Grade Art

Classes are working on a unit using Color. Currently, they have completed some working definition sheets, a colored tessellation, and are working on stained-glass recycled jars.

Students are also reviewing line and shading through real-life famous people portrait drawings.

During the weeks proceeding Winter Break, the art classes will be in the computer lab researching artists. They will present their artists to the class when completed. Please ask your child to share their report with you during the break. I'm sure they will be excellent.

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## Gifted News

Thank you to all the students who came out to the Orland Mall Apple store to present their imovie projects. The staff and others in attendance really were impressed by our students' level of work. Multimedia gives our students an outlet for many areas of our curriculum, including foreign language, Literature, Science and critical thinking. Great job!



Also, our Veteran's Day imovie presentation was fabulous. Thank you to all the students who contributed their creativity to honor those of our community who sacrificed for our country. Putting together images, documentary film footage and interviews, the students got a closeup perspective of this important holiday.

**6th graders** We've just begun working on a great astronomy project that will tie into the students' science, math & social studies curriculum. We've written our own constellation myths and we're also going to try to assemble a scale model of the solar system in the 6th grade hallway. How far do you think we'll have to go? Stay tuned!

**7th graders** have been studying the anatomy of Rana pipiens, the local leopard frog. The students have learned quite a bit about amphibian adaptation as well as the many organs that they have in common with us Homo sapiens. Coming up: We will be deciding on how we want to participate in Family Science Night. Any ideas?

**8th graders** have just begun working with programmable Lego robots to build some one-of-a-kind electronic military vehicles. "The Robot Wars of Mars" is the name of our scenario and involves a race to deliver munitions and an attack on a "robot king." Drawing the schematic drawing for the circuits inside will be a challenge but luckily all the hard work will count towards Mrs. Ryan's electronic game project. We plan to reenact our alien warfare on family science night so come join the fun!

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## Student Council

Holiday Greetings from Hille Middle School Student Council!

This holiday season, the student council has had a great focus on community service. Starting with the food drive in November, Hille students donated many boxes of food to the organization *Together We Cope*. This organization is locally owned and provides resources to Hille families as part of their mission to offer support to families in need. Congratulations to Mrs. Reilly's Connections class on collecting the most food!

With the outpouring of donations we received through the food drive, the student council is looking forward to our December 3-7 **Toy Drive** as well. Students are encouraged bring new toys to their Connections groups throughout the week. Proceeds benefit *The Treasure Chest Foundation*, which is a program inspired by a former Hille student and his struggle with cancer. With the new toys, this organization provides motivation for kids to complete difficult medical procedures they must undergo throughout the treatment process. We are confident that Hille students' donations will make the holiday season brighter for many of these brave children. Please encourage your student to participate in this drive by helping them to shop for a gift to donate. Hille students make a **BIG** difference!

Finally, on December 13-14, student council will have a **Candy Gram Sale** for students. Students will be able to purchase candy for \$1 to be delivered to the recipient of their choice at the end of the school day on Friday. Funds raised will go towards the upcoming activities sponsored by student council. Stay tuned to this newsletter for information on events as the school year continues.

Happy Holidays!

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## National Junior Honor Society

December is always our busiest month. This month our industrious NJHS students shopped and wrapped gifts for almost 40 children in our District for our annual Light Up the Holidays program. Through our Super Sucker sales and also through the generous donations of staff members in District 142, we raise money to purchase gifts for students in our district who would not otherwise have a very happy holiday season. My very heartfelt thanks to all those who donated and helped our Honor Society students help others to have a very Merry Christmas.

## International Club

We had the opportunity to meet twice during the month of November. Our focus was to talk about French and Spanish holiday customs, make ornaments, and discuss our holiday festival that is coming soon.

In December, we will impress the staff with our culinary skills as we create French and Spanish dishes to share. Bon appetit! Next meeting dates: December 11th and 18th.

## Computer Club

Computer Club will not meet again until some time after winter break.

Stay tuned!



## Cheerleading

The cheerleaders have been working hard in preparation for the first boys' basketball game in January. Soon they will begin learning their Cheerfest competition routine. This year Hille is hosting all of the conference schools for Cheerfest.

Keep up the good work girls!



## Basketball

The girls' basketball season is wrapping up as both the 7th and 8th grade teams continue to dominate the conference with a combined record of 20 and 3. **Katie Swanson, Emily Naegele, and Nicole Price** continue to pace the 8th graders while **Emily Larson and Heidi Trizenberg** lead the 7th graders.

Boys' basketball practice has gotten underway for both the 7th and 8th grade teams. Both teams hope to build on the success of last years teams with the 8th grade winning the conference tournament, and the 7th grade team finishing 2nd in conference. Mr. Becker and Mr. Tsoukalas are excited that the season is about to begin. There will be schedules handed out for the January practices and games before the holiday break.

## From the Desks of Mrs. Berry & Ms. LaBerge

Hille Middle School has been bustling with students eager to make positive changes. Following 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report cards and conferences just prior to Thanksgiving break, we have seen more students seeking help to become better organized and transform old homework habits into new habits that result in better grades, increased classroom participation and improved communication skills with teachers. This month, we thought that a reminder of current resources available to students might be helpful as we set goals and resolutions for the New Year.

1. Schoolnotes.com Parents can log on to this website in order to follow assignments and prepare for tests and projects. Using this resource as a guide will foster more effective communication with teachers and model a great tool for students to stay current with class work. For questions about specific assignments or your child's progress, emailing teachers is usually a great way to connect.
2. Homework Helpers, sponsored by NJHS, is held in the library on Tuesday and Thursday each week after school. Students participating in this program can come as often as is needed. NJHS members volunteer to be present to help students with assignments if help is requested.
3. Student Groups Round one organization, social skills and lunch groups are wrapping-up just prior to the holiday break. Round two is set to begin in January. Please contact Ms. LaBerge if you feel your student would benefit from group.
4. Success Club This group, facilitated by staff from Aunt Martha's, is an ongoing resource for students to address needs in a group setting during lunch one time per week. This group accepts new referrals throughout the year. Group members are also offered opportunities to participate in community field trips on ½ days.
5. Individual Planning Students, parents and teachers can recommend students to Ms. LaBerge to set-up an individual success plan as needs arise. If a student is at risk in any way, interventions can be put into place to help students get on track.
6. Get involved! Sports, clubs, newspaper, yearbook, scrapbooking, student council, NJHS, bowling club, ANY form of involvement is crucial to giving students great motivation for school. Encourage students to participate in activities, try new things and explore interests through the variety of offerings we have at Hille.

Hille Middle School will be offering "Rainbows for All Children" beginning the week of January 21st. If your child is part of a single-parent or step/blended family, or has experienced the death of a parent, this will be an opportunity for your child to put their feelings into words and begin to develop an acceptance of what has happened. Please contact Mrs. Berry if you would like your child to participate or if you have any questions about the program.

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**HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**MRS. COURTNEY ORZEL,  
PRINCIPAL**

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**“CHILDREN ALWAYS  
COME FIRST!”**

Winter break may be a great time to see  
the dentist!!

We are still waiting on approxi-  
mately 50 sixth grade dental  
forms.

