



HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 3, Issue 3

November 2008

Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Library	2
6th Grade Team	3
7th Grade Team	4
8th Grade Team	5
Encore	6
Gifted News	8
Snowflake	10

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Library News
- Rainbows/Success Club
- Read to Succeed
- Computer and Scrapbook Clubs

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

We cordially invite you to join us during American Education Week to visit your child's classrooms for the day. **We will hold our Parent Visitation Day on Wednesday, November 19, 2008.** Please join us for a wonderful day of learning! For security purposes, we ask that you sign-in at the Main Office upon entering the building.

Please remember that **SNOWFLAKE 2008 is November 21st at Arbor Park Middle School.** Snowflake is for our 7th and 8th grade students. We team up with Arbor Park and District 228 to provide a great experience for our students.

Our **Veteran's Day** program will be

held on **Tuesday, November 11th.**

Everyone looks forward to this ceremony which honors veterans. A special breakfast will be held for veterans in attendance after the ceremony on the 11th.

As we look to December already, please remember that our **Band concert will be held on December 9th and the Choir concert will be held on December 10th. The winter dance will be held on December 12th.**

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Have a great November!

Mrs. Courtney Orzel, Principal

8th Grade Microcomputer Test

The microcomputer High School Proficiency Test will take place in the Spring for 8th grade students from Hille Middle School (Students from Hille **will not be allowed to take the test in December**). The test will be administered on Saturday, May 9th. Prior to taking the test, students are required to attend 5 after school review sessions. The review will cover skills in Microsoft

Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These sessions are mandatory. It would behoove students interested in taking the Microcomputer test to practice typing. Typing skills are an integral part of all facets of the test. On www.schoolnotes.com, type area code "60452", find Patricia Martin. Listed under "my favorite sites" is a listing of sites for typing practice.



Hille Library News



It's hard to believe that "Thanks" giving is here!

The library is "thank"ful for students who use the media center. So far this school year students have checked out a total of 1862 books!

Hille readers can be "thank"ful for this month's library bulletin board. This month's board informs you of books that you will probably enjoy reading based on books that you have already read.

Those interested in partaking in "Battle of the Books, 2008/09" will be "thank"ful for the upcoming month of December as Mrs. Cook plans to meet with students to discuss *battle* plans.

Read to Succeed

The reading strategy for the month of November is **questioning**. We will be creating a list of questions that a good reader asks themselves while they are reading. We will be discussing the difference between predicting, clarifying inferring and pondering. We will also continue to work on fluency with our Six Minute Solutions. We have a few days planned in the computer lab where we will reinforce what we have learned with an interactive reading program.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!



6th Grade Team News

Math (Regular and Advanced) with Mrs. Reilly, Ms. Leahy, Mrs. Stalla, and Mr. Squibb:

Students sat down and looked at their Math MAP scores to find their strengths and areas of improvement. Most students felt that the test was an accurate representation of their abilities. Fun with fractions continues as we work on all four operations through problem solving. Also, we continue to focus on writing through journaling and extended response.

Science with Mrs. Mamich, Mr. Squibb, and Mrs. Voris:

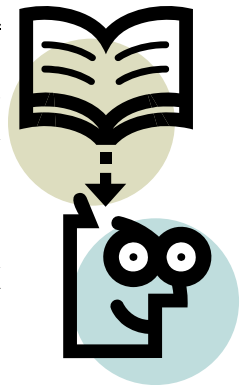
This month in science will be one filled with inquiry and shooting for the stars! We will begin the month reviewing variables and how to differentiate an independent variable from a dependent variable. The students will also be introduced to the scientific method as well as understand that it is not only used in science class, but also in our everyday lives! In the classroom, students will be able to come up with their own experimental designs and test them! Many hands-on experiments will be completed during this unit, which is always a favorite of the students! Upon the completion of the scientific inquiry unit, we will begin to explore the many wonders of outer space and begin our Astronomy unit! This month will definitely be one filled with much excitement! Encourage your child to enlighten you with his/her newfound knowledge!

Social Science with Mr. Clark, Mr. Squibb, Mr. Raleigh, and Ms. Zamora:

This month we will have to say goodbye to Mr. Clark and all the time he has spent with us so far. We all thank Mr. Clark for the time he has put in here at Hille and look forward to seeing him stop by down the road. We are also welcoming back Ms. Zamora into the classroom. We look forward to working with her for the rest of the school year. In November, we will continue to break down the recent election and take a look at the voting process in our Current Events discussions. When we are working in the textbook we are going to begin our look into Ancient Egypt and Kush. Here we will look at the geography and cultures of a very famous civilization, rich in culture that we still see influencing us today.

Language Arts/Literature with Ms. Beirich, Mrs. Ciesiun, Ms. Leahy, Mr. Myrmingos, and Mr. Squibb:

All students had the opportunity to review their MAP test data and make goals for themselves in order to see an increase in their scores this spring. The students also finished their first classroom novel. All of the regular classes concluded the novel *Freak the Mighty*, while the advanced classes finished *The Adventures of Ulysses*. The next genre all of the students will be studying is nonfiction. Students will be able to identify the differences between fiction and nonfiction, and they will develop strategies to help read and understand nonfiction text. In the area of writing, the students are still working on their narrative essay writing and will move on to the persuasive mode of writing next.



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

The 6th Grade Team

7th Grade Team News

Literature/Language Arts (Miss Beirich, Mrs. Carney, Mr. Kantor, Mrs. Lewandowski, and Mrs. Moisan)

We are continuing to work on the persuasive papers. The focus on this paper is organization, and each teacher is using an outline format to assist the students in their writing.

All teachers are beginning to wrap up our first novel of the year- Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie. Our next novel will be Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. A letter will be sent home with information about purchasing the book.

Our next focus for the 6+1 traits will be on word choice and will continue to work on reinforcing the traits we have already covered.

Math (Mrs. Stalla, Mrs. Moisan, and Ms. Bonk)

Seventh grade mathematics is currently exploring fractions, decimals, and percents. We are reviewing fraction operations (do you remember how to find a common denominator and simplify fractions by using a common factor?) Then we will be looking at the relationship between fractions and decimals: how do you write a fraction as a decimal? A decimal as a fraction? After discussing concepts like repeating decimals and improper fractions, we will be connecting these ideas to percents.

The seventh grade advanced class recently completed using inverse operations on one-step equations. The stress on this unit is the notation and solution methods that form the basis for algebra. We are currently focused on number sense, and the students are finding the GCF and LCM of monomials as well as working with positive and negative exponents. The next unit will involve working with fractions and decimals in one step-equations

Social Science (Mr. Tselepis, Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Raleigh)

Now that the elections are over, students will continue their study of Japan and the Koreas. As always, we will start with the physical geography of this part of Asia and then focus on human geography. This will take us through the month of December. Time permitting, a current event project is planned where the 7th graders research and summarize the latest news at the local, national, and international levels

Science (Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Krol)

This month, we are finishing up our unit on our basic science skills. Students now have a better understanding of what it means to observe, infer, predict, hypothesize, etc. We learned about variables and their uniqueness to experiments. Students can identify independent and dependent variables within an experiment. They were able to put all of their skills to the test with some of the labs we performed in class.

The 7th graders will be covering several different units over the coming months. One of the units will be Motion and Forces. Students will be able to calculate speed, velocity and acceleration. We will be learning about balanced and unbalanced forces, about Newton's laws, gravity, friction and lots of other topics. This is a great unit to expose students to a variety of hands-on projects.

We will also be taking a look at Cells and the Microscopic World. We will be focusing on cell anatomy and theory during the course of this unit. A variety of projects and lab activities will coincide with our journey inside the cell.

Have a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving!!

8th Grade Team News

8th Grade Social Science with Mr. Tsoukalas, Mr. Tselepis and Mrs. Bruce

Now that we are finished with the Civil War, the 8th graders will move on to the topic of Reconstruction. The students will understand that once the Civil War was over, the South was left in ruins. Reconstruction not only dealt with rebuilding the South, but also rebuilding the relationships between rival States. Many southerners still needed convincing that our nation was much stronger being united instead of divided. This very interesting time in U.S. history will take us through the month of November.

8th Grade Math with Mrs. Trojan, Ms. Angone, Ms. Bonk and Mrs. Hoffman

The pre-algebra students have recently completed solving single-step equations and inequalities. The focus on details when showing work to solve equations and inequalities will allow students to develop basic algebraic skills that will be the foundation for solving more complex problems. Students are beginning to strengthen their number sense through an exploration of factors and fractions. They are working hard on finding the GCF and LCM of monomials as well as working with positive and negative exponents.

Algebra I students have been developing their proportional reasoning. They have studied weighted averages, solved algebraic proportions, and found percent of increase and decrease. They also found missing measurements on similar triangles, used the trigonometric ratios sine cosine and tangent, and worked diligently on solving complex mixture and uniform motion problems. Next up, functions and graphing!

8th Grade Lit/LA with Mrs. Carlson, Ms. Angone, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Lewandowski and Mrs. Hoffman

We have recently completed individual goal setting activities with our students in response to their MAP scores. Our eighth graders are familiar with their strengths and weaknesses as far as reading and language usage skills, and we have been working with each of them to create ways in which they can improve upon their weaknesses while reinforcing their strengths. In addition, we have been working in conjunction with the history teachers to create a Student's Emancipation Proclamation. While studying the Civil War with their history teachers, students outlined their own Emancipation Proclamations. They then wrote and finalized them in their English classes. Finally, we have all begun our study of the Holocaust and have begun or will shortly begin Elie Wiesel's excellent autobiography Night. We are incorporating webquests, art work, and writing projects into our study of this most tragic of historical events.

8th Grade Science with Mr. Krol, Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Hoffman

The 8th grade science classes are learning to think and act like scientists. We are developing hypothesis, planning experiments, analyzing our results, and forming conclusions based on the data. We are also learning the elements that are necessary for valid experiments. As we move through our unit on Experimental Design we will also be analyzing the experiments of other scientists and proposing strategies to improve the experiments.

Encore Team News

SNOWFLAKE 2008

Snowflake 2008 is a program for seventh and eighth grade students. Friday, November 21st, from 2:30pm - 9:00pm, Arbor Middle School will host this event, and Hille students will be transported by bus to Arbor after classes. Snowflake is a drug prevention program that focuses on leadership development, healthy decision-making, and having fun drug free. We will have speakers, small group activities, large group activities, food, a dance, and a terrific time. In addition, mixing with Arbor for this uplifting program provides our students with an opportunity to meet and interact with some of the students that they will be seeing in high school.

Spanish

The seventh and eighth grade Spanish students have been busy honing their research and presentation skills. The seventh graders have been learning about Hispanic artists, while the eighth graders have been researching Hispanic musicians. Please stop by to see the commemorative postage stamps and CD covers they have designed. We are also continuing to explore verb conjugations at both grade levels. Please remind your student to practice Spanish at least 15 minutes a day!

FACS

We are continuing our focus on independent living skills while applying class work at home. Students completed a Laundry/Ironing unit with a homework assignment to do laundry or ironing for their family.

We are now focusing on proper mealtime behavior and restaurant etiquette. Let's see if improvement is shown in the lunchroom at school or during dinners at home!

Visual Art

Students in art have started color theory. We are working on several projects relating to color, specifically. We will be creating projects in the areas of interactive color definitions, stained glass jars, contemporary plaster cast sculptures, and scratch art. Students will conclude this unit with a painting project of their choice. Within the scope of the color unit, we will touch on perspective drawing, complete some creative problem solving activities, and focus on the color and style techniques of artist, Peter Max. Peter Max juxtaposes psychedelic patterns and shapes with neon colors. His paintings are saturated with high intensity colors. They have a 60's look and students seem to enjoy his works of art.

BAND

The Jack Hille Middle School performed at the Awareness Fair on Saturday, October 18 at the Oak Forest High School. The Awareness Fair is an annual event that promotes city services and private businesses for the community. Our school was glad to be asked again to perform for this event representing Forest Ridge School District #142. Jack Hille Middle School would like to congratulate Josh Wall, Zach Kirkilas, Jake Toppen and Jason Marvin for their solo work with the band. The band did a great job!

Industrial Arts

The seventh grade Industrial Arts classes are working on their final animation project. Students were able to select stop animation or claymation to complete a two minute movie. Most of the groups are already filming and will be going to editing within the next week or so. We will be posting completed movies on the web at <http://makingitreal.wikispaces.com/>

Encore Team News

.Computer Class

Students have been working diligently in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, expanding on their knowledge of computer productivity tools. Class lessons have included creating brochures, designing and presenting slide shows, typing functions and formulas in spreadsheets, and designing and organizing records in a database. Students have created charts reflective of life situations (i.e. chart created from typing scores).

Internet safety has been discussed extensively and students have visited various websites learning about staying safe while browsing the web. Students should be aware of the risks of being online and the possible consequences of poor choices. The internet can be a great tool for learning when used appropriately.

Computer Club

Computer Club has been meeting on Wednesday after school. If you would like to join, stop by the computer lab, room E9 for a permission slip. Computer Club will meet on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3:30. All are welcome!!!

Girls Basketball

The Girls' basketball teams are starting the year off on the right foot. Both teams are in first place in the South division and they show no signs of slowing down. The 7th grade team is led by Maddie Baxa and Amber Pearson. While Emily Larsen, MaryAnn Crosetto, and Kelly McEathron are leading the 8th graders to a 5-0 start. Look for the Lady Huskies to continue doing well.

PE

This month in PE we are in Basketball until Thanksgiving. The students have been sharpening their skills as they are getting ready for game play. We have been getting better at our dribbling, passing, lay-ups, and shooting skills. Our games should be very competitive as we get started.

News from Mrs. Barron

FLS – The sixth graders have been busy working in cooperative groups. Their objective is to teach the class about a French or Spanish speaking country. I suggested that the students create a clever way to communicate what they have learned. For example, one group is presenting a news report, while the other is retelling their experiences as if they had just returned from Spain. Perhaps your child has shared the development of his/her project. I am anxious to see the results!

French 7 – Both French classes are progressing at a comfortable pace as they continue to develop their vocabulary, strengthen grammar skills, and practice pronunciation. Soon they will be working in groups as they reproduce restaurant scenes, speaking only in French, but of course!

French 8 – This class recently completed oral presentations as they designed and explained the floor plans of their dream homes or neighborhoods. Pronunciation was smooth, and students designed clever ways to display their projects. The foreign language placement test at OFHS is scheduled for January 10th. Please mark your calendars.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

In addition to continuing their work with Homework Helpers, our students are preparing to shop for less fortunate students in our district in our annual Light Up the Holidays program. Connections classes will compete with each other in a "Penny War" to raise money for this project. Our NJHS students will then purchase gifts for children in our district so that their holiday celebrations will be a little brighter.



Gifted News



Museum of Science & Industry field trip: We had a great time building hydrogen-electric cars and enjoyed the visit to the new Smart Home that has been built on-site. What a vision for the future! In our hands-on lab, all of our student teams were able to split water into Hydrogen and Oxygen gas and most of the teams were able to power their model cars for a short trip across the room. Hopefully, they will be able to see real hydrogen-electric cars by the time they are drivers themselves. Won't it be wonderful for them to understand the technology behind this new innovation when it becomes an everyday reality?

6th graders: Our sixth graders have just begun reading the Iliad, the epic poem written by Homer almost 3000 years ago. Sharpen your pencil... we will soon be choosing characters to illustrate so we can act out some of the scenes. In our other interdisciplinary pullout, we've been doing some "math without numbers." Ask your students to show you a few magic tricks that rely on the mathematical principal of topology for their solutions.

7th graders: Thanks, students, for helping Mrs. Law and Mr. Squibb produce a great music video for the e-instruction contest. Unfortunately, we did not make it into the top 5 list but we did learn quite a bit about parodies, technology & logical sequencing while we were in the middle of production. Check it out at <http://eimakeover.shycast.com/contestant/451/> (or go to my hillegifted.wikispaces.com page and click on the link I've provided there.)

8th graders: Now that we've finished our Jack London story "To Build a Fire," we are ready to make our way around the periodic table of elements and practice balancing chemical equations, the last stop before our culminating project. Hint: it involves "smores" so it should be fun.

Student Council

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, the student council will focus their attention more firmly on the mission of providing for others. We are still looking towards our CFL bulb fundraiser, which students will be getting information about soon. The fundraiser was approved by our Board of Education at the last board meeting.

Since that can be an ongoing fundraiser, we will be more directed at this point on easing the holiday burden for local families. In order to do this, we would like to do another food/toy drive this holiday season, which we will combine in order to give families a convenient opportunity to give this holiday season. Students can bring either non-perishable food items and/or unopened/unwrapped toys to their Connections teachers from the week of November 17-21.

We will also be sponsoring families for the Hille “Light Up the Holidays” program that is sponsored by our National Junior Honor Society students. We have a very giving and thoughtful bunch of students this year that thrive on the spirit of service. As a school, we couldn’t be more proud of their selfless nature and drive to give. We hope they inspire you to do the same. What a great opportunity to provide a lifelong lesson to children by making annual gifts to those in need a family tradition!

Success Club and Rainbows

SUCCESS CLUB

Hille Middle School, in partnership with Aunt Martha's Youth Services, is offering an opportunity to participate in Success Club.

Success Club is a group that meets weekly during lunchtime and assists students in developing the social and emotional skills that are necessary to be a successful student. Students will have opportunities to increase their social and problem solving skills as well as participate in supervised recreational activities.

Please contact Deb Berry, social worker, if you would like your child to participate or would like further information.

RAINBOWS

If your child is part of a single-parent or a step or blended family, or has experienced the death of a parent, Rainbows is an opportunity for your child to share their feelings and concerns with a trained volunteer in the school setting. Your child will have an opportunity to put their feelings into words and begin to accept what has happened to their family.

The program is a structured twelve-week program that will meet during the school day beginning the week of November 17th.

Please contact Deb Berry, social worker, if you would like your child to participate or need further information.

HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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“CHILDREN ALWAYS
COME FIRST!”

We're on the web!

www.d142.org

Hille Middle School

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

Is your child going to Washington, D.C.?
Remember that your deposit is due this
month...Please turn it into the Main Office
ASAP! See our website for details.

Also, the 1st installment of graduation fees
(\$75.00) is due by November 20th!
Please turn in the money to Mrs. Baker in
our Main Office.

SNOWFLAKE 2008-09

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