



Hille Middle School

Volume 3, Issue 5

January 2009

Hille Middle School
Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

From the Principal...

Dear Hille Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that your winter break and New Year was restful.

Specifically, please join us for our Hille Musical, The Sound of Music, which will be held on Friday, January 23rd and Saturday, January 24th @ 7:00pm in the gymnasium.

Congratulations in advance to Mr. Grace, Mr. Squibb, and all of the students who are working diligently to ensure a fabulous performance!

Again, Happy New Year and best wishes to you and your family in 2009!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Orzel, Mr. Orth & Mrs. Stalla

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As you know, Mrs. Orzel is currently on maternity leave. Mr. Orth and Mrs. Stalla are working collaboratively in the office during her leave.

As we ring in the New Year, January brings many activities and events for you to enjoy.

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.

Special points of interest:

- * Rainbows/Success Club
- * Read to Succeed
- * Microcomputer test



6th Grade Team News

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

Students are getting down with decimals this month. We continue to work in the Jamestown Reading Series, write in our journals, and complete extended response problems.

In advanced math the students are learning what it is like to be an adult as we discuss percent increase/decrease, discounts, sales tax, and interest. Maybe they'll want to stay kids just a little while longer! We are also working with Jamestown, journaling, and completing extended response problems.

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

This month will begin with us wrapping up our astronomy unit learning about comets, asteroids, meteoroids, and the life cycle of stars. We will then begin to travel from “outer space” to our own planet Earth where we will focus on seasons and why they occur. Towards the end of the month, your child will be introduced to their 3rd quarter “scientist” project. This project will mainly be worked on individually at home. Be on the look out for information regarding this project. Your child should share the requirements and due dates with you! These projects will eventually be presented at our annual Science Night on April 22nd!

Social Science with Mrs. Zamora, Mr. Raleigh, and Mr. Squibb:

Welcome back from break! This month, we are continuing our studies of Ancient Egypt. Students have been learning about the various kingdoms and rulers that existed during the time period of 2700 BC through 1050 BC. We will be discussing the effects invaders had on both the government and the people of this time. We will conclude Ancient Egypt by discussing the achievements of the people and how they continue to influence us presently today.

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

The students are still reading the novel *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. As they read the students are working on coding the text to make a habit of actively reading and thinking about the events in the novel. Students will also interpret the various themes found in the novel. To find out more about the plot of *Where the Red Fern Grows* ask your child to update you on the events of the novel. In the area of writing the students are practicing their power of persuasion as they compose persuasive essays. So the next time your child asks for something tell them to write you a persuasive essay explaining why they deserve it!

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

We all must try to be the best person we can; by making the best choices, by making the most of the talents we've been given.

-Mary Lou Retton

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

Now that we are back from Winter Break, it is the time to start thinking about the U.S. Constitution Test. In preparation for this important test in March, students will gain a basic understanding of the operations of Government and Civics as well as economic and political systems. Also, this month will be devoted to understanding the inaugural procedure for President Elect Obama. We will also take time to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

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

We hope everyone had a wonderful break! Now it's back to school, continuing to work on the number sense and algebraic topics we introduced in December. Our students will be solving percent and proportion problems, and they will also be utilizing inverse operations in solving one- and two-step equations. Next month we will be focusing on Geometry.

In the seventh grade advanced classes, we have solved one-step equations and inequalities involving integers, fractions, and decimals. We will be summarizing the algebraic concepts and procedures we have covered this year during the extension into two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities. Then we head for functions and slope!

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

Happy New Year!

Over the past few weeks, we've taken a look at how human events have impacted our ecosystems and the environment itself. We discussed ways to "be green" and environmentally friendly to our planet. Hopefully, students have come away with some good ideas they can try themselves or persuade others to consider being more "green." We have begun our new unit studying biology and learning about cells and genetics. We are taking a look at our past, studying scientists who helped create the cell theory and the study of heredity, and then learning about important cell parts and their functions. We are also studying the technological advances, like the microscope, that have led us to better understand cells and how they impact the way we live.

7th Grade Literature/Language Arts (Ms. Beirich, Mrs. Carney, Mr. Kantor, Mrs. Lewandowski, Mrs. Moisan)

The 7th grade students are enjoying the novel Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. We are looking at and discussing in detail how racial and economic influences affect the Logan family in the state of Mississippi during the 1930s.

We will be completing the persuasive essays and will turn our focus to writing a personal, of which the main focus will be word choice and voice from the 6 + 1 traits.

8th Grade Team News

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

As we wrap up the final loose ends of World War I, students will be moving on to the Roaring 20's and the Jazz Age. This was an exciting time in U.S. History because it was not only a time of prosperity, but a time when people really appreciated new music. Then, toward the end of January, we will be looking at a low time in economic history which was the Great Depression.

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

Welcome back to eighth grade math! As we embark on a new year the students are coming to the end of the second quarter. Pre-Algebra classes have begun their study of rational numbers involving multiplication and division. Algebra students are reviewing the first six chapters of our text in preparation for the Algebra exam at Oak Forest High School. In the next few days we will begin analyzing linear inequalities.

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

Eighth graders continue to work intensively on novels. Students are either reading LORD OF THE FLIES or WHITE FANG, along with accompanying projects. We are working on a poetry unit - both so students can interpret poetry as well as write it. In addition, we are writing in many different genres - from responding to news articles to writing obituaries for novel characters to writing persuasively.

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

The 8th grade science classes are continuing their study of electricity. We are learning about circuits and the factors necessary to get electricity to flow. We have also learned about the different types of circuits. Ask your student what kind of circuit those pesky Christmas lights have and why if one bulb goes out they all go out. Students should also be working on their electronic games or toys. The project is due January 22. Who knows maybe the next famous toy designer is a member of our class!!

Encore Team News

News from Mrs. Barron

FLS:

Soon it will be time for the FLS students to move on to another Satellite course. I hope they have enjoyed their time learning some French and Spanish vocabulary, customs, and geography. Next year they may have the opportunity to study a language in more depth.

French 7:

In December, the seventh grade classes had the opportunity to sample some French crepes and croissants. A big thank you to Mrs. Pinto, Mrs. Wanatowicz, Mrs. Schwenkel, and Mr. Bird for sharing their culinary skills and helping in the classroom. I could not have done it without you! Soon the students will be putting on their own restaurant skits and sharing their knowledge of French vocabulary.

French 8:

As you know, the OFHS placement test took place on Saturday, January 10. Soon your child will be receiving his/her scores and schedules for the upcoming year.

In class, students will continue to expand their vocabulary and grammar skills as they learn about ordinal numbers, make comparisons, and prepare a tourist brochure.

Computer Class

Sixth

Sixth grade students in Computer Science will be completing the course at the end of the semester. At this time, students are working in Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, and, as always, continuing work on typing skills. The students have worked independently in the Roller Typing program and have progressed at their individual skill level. A perfect score for typing is level 12. Students try to attain this goal by working independently when computer assignments have been completed.

Students have worked on creating a PowerPoint on a selected invention before Christmas. The sixth graders added voice recordings, animations and slide transitions to their slide shows. Next week, students will be presenting their work to their classmates.

Seventh

Second semester will be the onset of new schedules. Seventh graders enrolled in Computer Science will need to bring a pencil to class. Pens are not allowed in the computer lab.

Encore Team News

Computer Club

Computer Club will begin meeting again on Wednesdays. Our first meeting is set for Wednesday, January 21st.

Physical Education News

The PE department is excited about bringing in the New Year and the new quarter. We have finished our 1st semester with the fitness room and the students have been putting it to good use. The students are finishing up their dance unit and will be ready to start Volleyball. Health classes will be switching as we prepare for our last quarter of Health.

The boy's basketball teams open their conference season and are looking forward to good things. Both, the 7th and 8th grade teams are competing in a tournament at Oak Forest High School. The dates are January 17th and January 24th. Go Huskies!

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

We are bringing first semester to a close with drafting and hand drafting skills. Students are using workplace skills in not only working independently, but also incorporating problem solving and following written directions to achieve the desired outcome. They are working hard and I wish them the best as they move on to their next Encore class.

Eighth grade Industrial Arts students will need to make sure to bring their ID to class each day as they will “clock-in” and out for “work” each day. We will treat our class like a job place setting as we explore the concepts used in drafting, Auto CAD, and basic woodshop. I look forward to a great semester!

Visual Arts

Seventh Grade will be finishing up their semester in visual art next week. We are culminating the quarter with some mini-activities. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and creative art experience. I want to also welcome the eighth graders to art. It will be exciting to see their creative expressions this coming semester. I look forward to offering them some challenging, and rewarding projects and activities.

FACS

It's time to say goodbye to 6th grade FACS students. I hope they leave feeling a sense of accomplishment & independence after learning so many skills that they are able to use at home and in their future lives. It has been a pleasure working with the 6th graders & I hope to have many of them next year for 7th grade FACS.

FACS club meets Wednesday, January 14th.

Spanish with Sra. Daley

The Eighth grade Spanish students have been preparing for the Oak Forest High School placement test. The test will be held on Saturday, January 10th at 10:45 A.M. A make-up test will be offered on Wednesday, January 14th at 4:00 P.M. The tests will be held at Oak Forest High School. Good luck!

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

NJHS News

With the end of the second quarter, Mrs. Berry and I are grateful to our NJHS students who shopped and wrapped gifts for some 31 students in our school district who would not have had a very Merry Christmas. We now turn ahead. Once grades go home on January 23, invitations to apply for National Junior Honor Society will go out about two to three weeks later. Eligible students are 7th and 8th graders who have maintained a 3.6 grade point average for the first two quarters of this year. Students who choose to fill out the application should be very careful to follow all instructions, including returning it to me in a timely fashion. Our next National Junior Honor Society induction is scheduled for March 24, 2009. Mayor Joanne Kelly will be our guest speaker.

Gifted News

6th graders We've been researching constellations from other cultures during our Thursday pullout group and have been learning fascinating things about ancient Egyptian, African, Chinese, Japanese, Native American & Hawaiian star myths. When the Power Point presentations are complete, we will share them with their science classmates & try to post them on Mrs. Law's wiki at "hillegifted.wikispaces.com"

7th graders The students in our Wednesday group produced some beautiful origami reindeer for a Christmas display in our room so be sure to ask them to show you how it's done. Also watch for a DVD to be sent home soon with the final musical parody projects that the students have been hard at work finishing the last few weeks.

8th graders Our new "Robot War of Mars" project has inspired our students to produce some interesting machines so far. Wait until you see them! Currently we are working on programming their robots in order to complete a scenario 50 years in the future where battle-bots challenge each other to determine who reigns supreme over the Red Planet.

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
Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

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**"Children ALWAYS
Come First!"**

We're on the
web!



Hille Middle School

**JOIN US FOR THE
SOUND OF MUSIC
ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009**

&

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009

7:00PM

HILLE GYMNASIUM

Drugs & Guidance

Our sixth grade Drug and Guidance program is soon beginning.

The curriculum is designed to enhance self-esteem, self-control, problem solving skills, and empower students with the skills necessary to make positive

life choices.

In addition, students will be made aware of the fact that drug abuse is harmful socially, emotionally, psychologically, economically, and intellectually.

Drug use affects not only the individual using, but also their

family, their friends, and society.

Please contact Mrs. Valentino with any questions.
