



Hille Middle School

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Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

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Special points of interest:

- * Energy Ambassadors
- * Spelling Bee

From the Principal...



Dear Parents,

As spring quickly approaches, we have many events that are right around the corner as well.

- PTA's Family Fun Night will be held on Friday, March 6th at Hille. This is always a fun and exciting evening for our District 142 families.
- On Thursday, March 12th, we are holding a meeting for all 8th grade students (and their parents) who are attending the Washington, D.C. trip this May.
- On Thursday, March 19th, we will hold our 1st Annual Family Reading Night. All Hille students and their families are encouraged to attend.

- On Thursday, March 24th, we will hold our 5th grade parent orientation evening for all of our incoming 6th graders and their parents.
- Finally, our Family Science Night will be held on Monday, March 30th. We look forward to seeing all of our parents and students at these events!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or concerns. Have a great March!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney L. Orzel
JHMS Principal

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the eight members of the Spelling Bee team for their excellent showing at Central Middle School on February 18, 2009.

The eight members are as follows: Francis Edelen, Nick Kunnath, Nora Lipetzky, Jessy Sandoval, Yvonne Munoz, Taylor Stowe, Leandro Bernabe, and Ian Del Rosario.

These students practiced for two months in anticipation of the conference competition.

During that night, three 7th Grade Spelling Team students scored highly in the competition.

Nora Lipetzky placed 10th out of 30 students, Francis Edelen placed 8th out of 30 students, and Jessy Sandoval placed 2nd out of 30 students.

Thanks to the entire team for representing Jack Hille Middle School and District 142 at the spelling bee competition.

Library News

We have several exciting things going on in our library right now. Mrs. Cook has begun her annual Battle of the Books contest. Seventy-two students have joined and are now reading from a selected list of books. Our "battle" will begin the first week in May. Each team of students will be answering questions about the books that they have read, with the final battle held at the end of May.

Also, we have collected a number of older books, which are going to be sold in our upcoming "used book sale". All books are selling for 25 cents apiece and the money will go toward replacing these somewhat outdated items.

We've acquired four new iMac laptops for our media center. Entire classrooms are now able to come down to the library to use the laptops for research or word processing. In addition to classroom accessibility, the laptops are quite often used after school for students who attend Catch-Up Club.

Health Update

Cold and flu season is upon us. We have had cases of colds, influenza, strep throat, gastroenteritis, and one case of chicken pox recently. Please keep your child home from school if he or she has a temperature of 100.0 F or greater. If your child has a fever, please keep him or her home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal.

If you suspect your child has chicken pox, please contact our office. If your child has chickenpox, he or she cannot return to school until all pox are crusted over. A student that is out five consecutive days needs a doctor's note to return to school.

Provide plenty of rest and fluids during an illness and practice good hand washing techniques at home and at school. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the nurse's office.

As a reminder, we have 59 sixth graders not in compliance for dental forms. Please turn them into the Health office as soon as possible.



6th Grade Team News

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

If we put things in proportion, we mean perspective, students did pretty well with ratios, proportions, and percents. Students also got jiggy in geometry, somewhat sassy in statistics, and anything but pessimistic in probability. ISAT is approaching but students are saying with confidence, "I Soar Above Testing!"

In the advanced classes, the students partied like the Pythagoreans when they learned how to apply a very important algebraic formula. In addition, students learned multiple measurement formulas and some strategies for remembering them. It's very probable that students will be successful in probability. ISAT is approaching but students are saying with confidence, "I Soar Above Testing!"

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

This month in science we will be beginning with a brand new textbook entitled Inside Earth. We are ready to return to Earth from our visit to outer space and are excited to explore what lies amongst our planet. Your child will begin with exploring the layers of Earth as well as the theory of plate tectonics. Students will then be assured a shakin' good time when they discover all the wonders of earthquakes. Has anyone in your family ever experienced an earthquake? After that, students will explore the "hot" topic of volcanoes, and we are sure they will be ready to erupt with excitement over their newfound knowledge. We will then conclude our unit with rockin' rocks and minerals. With this topic, students will be able to learn using hands on activities that will allow them to analyze actual rock and mineral specimens. In a few short weeks, you will have your very own geologist living amongst you!

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

This month we will be wrapping up Greek mythology and Literature. Students have displayed their understanding of the times through "Wanted" posters in Ms. Zamora's class and Greek Gods/Goddess trading cards in Mr. Raleigh's class. As we move on into chapter 11, we will look into the wars and battles that helped to separate and form new civilizations. Our first look will be at the Greek and Persian War followed by the Peloponnesian War with Athens and Sparta. We will take a look at the leadership skills of Alexander the Great as he conquered most of the Ancient World. We will finish off with by studying about the achievements of the Greeks and the impact they still have on our lives today.

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

The students had fun with figurative language when they made flipbooks to review six different types of figurative language that are seen in most literature. They have also started to include figurative language in their very own writing. On the reading front, the students spent time reading poetry in addition to short reading passages to reinforce reading comprehension skills before ISAT testing. After ISAT testing is complete, the students will be reading their third novel of the year, *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli. The advanced classes will be taking on the reading of *MacBeth* upon the completion of ISAT testing.

In the area of writing the students reviewed the traits of narrative and persuasive writing, and they will move on to some expository and creative writing next! The students continue to incorporate all of the 6+1 traits of writing in their work and are developing into some very skilled young authors! We are also looking forward to a good turn out on March 19th at Family Reading Night from 7-8 p.m. At Family Reading Night there will be a book talk on the novel *The Outsiders*, and some of the students will be showcasing their very own writing to share with you! If you have little ones feel free to bring them along we will have student volunteers available to read to them while you participate in Family Reading Night. We hope to see you there!

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

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth. - Diogenes Laertius

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

The 7th graders have completed their study of cell anatomy, cellular function and cell division. We have utilized microscopes, which have allowed us to examine various types of cells in great detail. We participated in a variety of projects that gave us a complete insight into the workings of the cell and how cells contribute to tissue and organ development. Our study of genetics and species populations will continue after we finish the ISAT. We will also begin preparing our projects that will be presented at Family Science Night; stay tuned for more details. Think Spring!

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

This month is the big month for the U. S. Constitution test. We have been studying very hard for the past month, focusing mainly on the first three Articles of the Constitution. These are the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of our Government. We have taken a look at some major cases taking place in our government and some of the interesting laws and interpretations of law from state to state. Our test is scheduled for March 18th and we will be reviewing in class until then. We have a mock trial in the works for down the road. After our U.S. Constitution test, we will focus on the Illinois Constitution and the busy past few months our state government has seen.

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

The 7th grade students will soon begin reading the novel Animal Farm by George Orwell. George Orwell wrote this novel to display his displeasure for Stalin and the communist government. It is about a group of farm animals who decide to run the humans off the land and run the farm themselves as long as the animals agreed to certain rules and regulations set by the pigs. The teachers have sent home a letter informing you about the last two books that need to be purchased. Also there will be a field trip on March 24th to see the play Romeo and Juliet as a way to introduce the student to the play before we read it in class.

We are still working on our writing- our focus for the month will be on expository and narrative writing. As in all of our writing assignments we will be incorporating the 6 + 1 writing traits that the classes have been working on all year.

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

Our math classes have been reviewing geometry concepts such as classification of triangles and quadrilaterals by sides and angles; complementary and supplementary angles; reflections; and lines of symmetry. We have also been integrating Algebra by finding the value of "x" in pairs of similar polygons.

Pre-algebra students have been exploring surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. We will then be reviewing the concepts of proportions and percents. These concepts will be applied in problem-solving of two- and three-dimensional figures through exploration of congruence and similarity.

8th Grade Team News

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

The 8th graders are now studying the Great Depression. This ten year time span prior to World War II was a testing time not only for the government, but for all American citizens. We will also compare and contrast our current economic recession with the Great Depression. Students will learn that sometimes history may repeat itself, but that hopefully we learn from the past so that we do not make future mistakes. Most students are very eager to move on to WWII, but it will take some time to understand all that led up to one of the most important Wars our country has ever seen.

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

All 8th grade math students have been busy finding missing angle measures of triangles and quadrilaterals. They just completed a unit on finding surface area and volume of cubes, prisms pyramids, cylinders and cones. Students will be taking the ISAT test this week. Good luck to all.

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

Family Reading Night, sponsored by the Literature/Language Arts Department, is rapidly approaching. On March 19, we will be conducting a book discussion surrounding many of our students' favorite novel, *The Outsiders*. In addition, we will be showcasing student work as well as engaging your children in reading to younger children. Finally, many students will be sharing their own favorites by giving book talks. Refreshments will be served. Save the date, March 19, for an evening dedicated to reading at our First Annual Hille Family Reading Night!

You will soon be receiving a permission slip. We have a talented troupe of actors coming to our school on May 6 to present a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Eighth graders have already read this comedy, and they should enjoy seeing it performed in our own building.

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

The 8th grade students are continuing with the study of Magnetism. We are learning how different our world would be without magnets. We are currently learning how closely tied electricity and magnetism are, through our study of motors and generators. Once we know how our electricity is generated we will be learning how it is transmitted to our homes. The students will then learn how to track their own electricity usage and ways that they can conserve energy.

Encore Team News

News from Mrs. Barron

FLS - In this class, students have begun researching either a French or a Spanish-speaking area. Your child has been working in groups of three or four to gather information and prepare a presentation to share with the class. Perhaps he/ she has chosen to make a Power Point, create a model, or write a skit explaining what his/ her group has learned. I am anxious to see the final presentations!

French 7 - The seventh grade French students have been working hard to understand the concept of verb conjugation. This is an important foundation for the study of a foreign language. In order to lighten up the heavy emphasis on grammar, students have also been busy researching an area of French culture which interests them.

French 8 - This class has been focusing their time on vocabulary related to clothing. To reinforce the concepts, students have been working in groups to write scripts and present a fashion show to the class. There are always some interesting styles that pop down the runway!

PE

Another month has passed and the students are about to wrap up hockey. Hockey is one of our most liked activities because everyone gets involved. It is really fun to watch the students during this activity. Mr. Becker's 5th period PE class just finish two weeks in the fitness room and they were able to accomplish a goal that was set out for them. The students had to travel to the Wisconsin Dells in a certain time frame and they were able to do so. They worked really hard and I know they had fun going all 210 miles. Way to go!!

The boys basketball season has come to an end. The 7th grade team finished in second place in the division while the 8th grade team finished 3rd. The 8th grade team will start their run for the championship on Thursday, March 5th, in hopes of a title. Good luck boys.

Computers

Seventh

Seventh grade students in Computer Science have been working in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Internet Explorer. In Microsoft Excel, students learned to type formulas in a Fast Food spreadsheet to discover the average, maximum, minimum, mode and median of various fast food breakfast items. Exact formula input is required to find answers. Students also learned to format cells to currency, date, number and fraction. Students created a modern day fable in Microsoft PowerPoint. Special effects were used to enhance individual work. Word Art, background design and voice recordings were added to presentation. Using Internet Explorer, Boolean mathematical search tactics were addressed, as well as key words (significant) and stop words (unnecessary). Students were given a list of questions and required to find answers using Google. In addition, students were required to demonstrate what was typed in the search engine box to find the answers.

Computer Club

Computer Club is meeting on Wednesdays after school. Anyone interested in joining may stop by room E9 for a permission form.

High School Microcomputer Test

Eighth Grade students who would like to take the Microcomputer proficiency test on Saturday, May 9th, are required to take an after school prep class. The following dates have been set for the after school class:

Wednesday, April 22nd
Thursday, May 7th

Monday, April 27th

Wednesday, April 29th

Monday, May 4th

A recommendation from Hille needs to be given to the High School before students can take the Microcomputer test. The classes listed above are mandatory. If interested, please practice typing on a regular basis as typing speed is an integral segment of the test. More information will be forthcoming.

Encore Team News

BAND NEWS-

On February 20, the Jazz Band participated in the Prairie State Jazz Festival, receiving an "Outstanding Performance Award" from clinicians Orbet Davis and Valerie Nicholson. Jazz Band members were able to observe a jazz concert in the middle of the day presented by world class musicians Orbet Davis, Doug Stone, Joel Spencer, Larry Gray, and Valerie Nicholson.

The Advanced Band received a Superior rating, Division I at the South Suburban Junior High School Conference Contest hosted by Arbor Park Middle School. Members of the SSJHSC All-Star Band are Valerie Bryce-flute, Tim Gehant-clarinet, Josh Wall-alto saxophone, Zach Kirkilas, Ryan Pinkowski-trumpet, Mat Gorecki-trombone, Aaron Koranda-Baritone, Jake Toppen-tuba, Heidi Triesenberg-baritone saxophone, Mike Sucharzewski-percussion

9 students participated in the IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest at the Dauben Middle School in Plainfield, Ill. The results were as follows:

Flute Duet- Heidi Triesenberg & Holly Schwertfeger-Division I Clarinet Duet-Mary Ann Crosetto Kelly McEathron-Division I Clarinet Duet-Bret Staehlin & Annie Samoska-Division I Erika Arias-Oboe Solo-Division I Haley Widel-Flute Solo-Division I Jake Toppen-Trombone Solo-Division II

All should be congratulated for their fine showing.

The Band was also active this month in two other activities for the school district. The Jazz band played for the monthly PTA meeting and the Pep Band played for the basketball game against Arbor Park. It has been a busy month!

Thanks for your support,

Mr. Royer, Band Director, Forest Ridge School District #142

Drugs and Guidance

Sixth grade Drugs and Guidance classes have been studying how achieving goals can raise self-confidence and self-esteem. Students individually selected a difficult goal that needed to be completed and was achievable within a reasonable amount of time. Careful step by step planning then allowed each student to have a set plan of attack to successfully complete their chosen difficult task. Our next unit will be on identifying stressors and specific ways to change them or to deal with them.

FACS

Seventh grade students have been exploring ways to make good consumer choices while learning practical techniques for managing money. They have worked on budgeting, comparison shopping, reconciling a checking account, and learned the Consumer Bill of Rights. With this knowledge, they will be able to get the most from their purchases and be responsible consumers.

FACS Club meets March 11th.

Art

Eighth grade art students are currently working in the medium of paper-maché. As we are in the beginning stages, we are just covering balloons with paper strips using paper-maché adhesive. Today, as I looked around the room at 100 paper-maché balloons hanging from the ceiling while they dry, and a student asked, "Why are we doing this project anyway?" - My first reaction was to say, "I have absolutely no idea!" In retrospect, we are working on this project for many reasons. For one, the students are learning to work with a new art medium. Secondly, they have certainly learned teamwork as they have had to maneuver around the class, 100 paper-maché balloons, get materials, and clean-up as a cohesive group all within 39 minutes. But most importantly, they are going to apply color theory and assemblage techniques to finish their projects.

Although due to testing we will have to delay completing this project, I believe I will begin hearing students ask the question, "When are we going to work with our paper-maché?" As a result, I am hoping they will realize why they worked within the medium of paper-maché to create this three-dimensional artform.

PTA Reflections

Industrial Arts

We would like to acknowledge the students who have advanced in the PTA Reflections contest. There were 8 projects submitted that advanced to the state level of judging and 6 projects that received honorable mention. The 8 students who advanced to state will be honored at a special banquet on April 1st at the Orland Chalet. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding efforts!

FILM ADVANCED to State

Matthew Zubek Joshua Cusic Jonathan Weber

LITERATURE ADVANCED to State

James Newman

MUSIC ADVANCED to State

Tim Higgins

PHOTOGRAPHY ADVANCED to State

Ryan Hanrahan Joe Peloquin

VISUAL ARTS ADVANCED to State

David Kawulia

Literature Honorable Mention

Ian Deuser Andrew Mezera Sylvia Rodriguez

Photography Honorable Mention

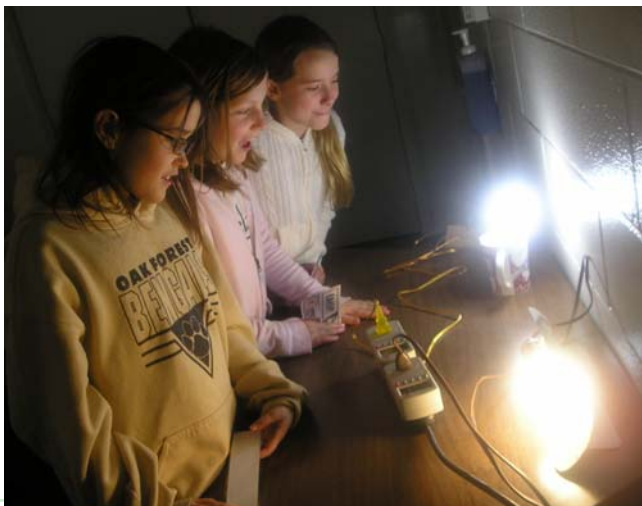
Akash Jani Jacob Johnson

Visual Arts Honorable Mention

David Tegelaar

Energy Ambassadors

On February 27th, six of our Energy Ambassadors went to Kerkstra Elementary School to give the little guys a student-to-student presentation on energy conservation. The 7th and 8th graders shared energy tips with them and screened two of the original energy videos that they've been creating over the last few months. Judging by the younger students' smiles and applause, all the hard work was worth the effort. Students and teachers at Kerkstra will be following up with energy lessons of their own and hopefully learning to be more energy conscious citizens. We'll be visiting Foster next month so look for more great energy ideas in the future.



Student Council

Spring is in the air! The Student Council would like to thank all those that participated in February events. The dance was well-attended and many students participated in the raffle to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. A portion of the proceeds from the dance will be donated to AFSP. Thank you, also, to the parents that brought our attention to this very important cause.

"Twin Day" was a hit as well! In fact, students have been so excited about showing their school spirit in this way that we have scheduled another dress-up day for March. Monday, March 16th will be "St. Patrick's Dress-Up Day". Students are welcome to dress-up in fashions befitting the season. All outfits must adhere to the regular school dress code, as always.

Our other event in March is the ISAT Dance. Hille Middle School would like to honor students for their best efforts in completing ISAT from March 3-13th. On the 13th, a dance will be held after school from 2:30-4 in the cafeteria. The Student Council will be participating in this event by providing special "accessories" to each student in attendance. Hint: these accessories will make us "glow" with pride for our students. Music and refreshments will be provided. The best part? The dance is FREE for students that have completed the ISAT tests.

Please help to encourage your student(s) to join in the fun for the March Student Council activities. Your participation and support is much appreciated!

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

5800 W. 151st St.
Oak Forest, IL 60452
Phone: 708-687-5550
E-mail: corzel@d142.org

**"Children ALWAYS
Come First!"**

We're on the
web!

Hille Middle School

Attention 6th Grade Parents!

We still have 59 six graders who have not re-
turned their completed
dental form. Please turn
in your forms ASAP.
Thank you in advance!



IMPROV Evening

DRAMA NEWS-

The Jack Hille Middle School Improvisational Drama Club performed an excellent program on February 20 in the Library.

Theater Games such as "Conducted Gripes", "Party Quirks", "Ask an Expert", and an original game conceived by the Drama Club itself entitled "Ask Your Ex".

This year we were lucky to have the addition Mr. Myrmingos as our Master of Ceremonies, whose enthusiasm set the pace for the entire evening.

Members of the Improvisational Drama Club includes Brooke Adams, Rina Briz, Valerie Bryce, Karalyn Collazo, Kayla Lille, Andy Mezera, Amanda Schmitz, Brandi Taylor, and David Teggeler!

The Jazz Band also played at the performance making it a perfect Improvisational evening.

GREAT JOB!
MR. ROYER
DRAMA CLUB SPONSOR