



HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 3, Issue 8

April 2009

Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

From the Principal...



Dear Parents,

Happy April! We have so many wonderful things happening at Hille. Most recently, our cheerleaders took a Division I rating at Cheerfest and our Choir also took a Division I rating at their competition and will be advancing to State.

If you are an 8th grade parent, please be sure to read our 'upcoming events' information for your student. We have many activities and events planned for our 8th graders in the month of May.

For our 6th and 7th grade parents, please note that April 27th begins our Oak Fest fundraising sign up. Students who are interested in attending Washington, D.C. in their 8th grade year

should consider this excellent fundraising opportunity. Please contact our coordinator, Mrs. Daley, with any questions.

On a final note, **I will be hosting a parent coffee on the morning of April 29th (8:00am at Hille) and in the evening of April 30th at 7:00pm.** I will be sharing school information and will ask for your feedback about Hille happenings. During the evening session on the 30th, you will have the opportunity to meet our new band director for 2009-10, Mr. Steve Nendza. I hope that you will join me in the AM or PM to talk about your child's experiences at Hille!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney L. Orzel

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 8th grade information
- Family Science Night
- Cheerfest
- Choir
- Parent Coffee

8th Grade Information– Upcoming Events

April 27- Sign up for Oak Fest fundraising

Meeting for those attending the Washington, D.C. trip- **TBA**

Washington, D.C. trip- **May 12-15**

May 22- 8th grade class trip to Chicago

May 27- 8th grade awards night at 7:00 P.M.

May 29- 8th grade dance at Gaelic Park

Hille Library News

It's hard to believe that we are getting close to the end of the school year. This month students are quickly trying to finish up reading their selections for the Battle of the Books contest. Our first elimination round will be held May 5th in the library.

We have received quite a few new books for our library. On our professional development shelves, our Lit/LA teachers now have access to many picture books, which they can use as supplemental teaching aids. For our non-fiction section, we've acquired several books to along with our curriculum. Some of these titles are: *Teens in France*, *Almost Astronauts*, *Primary Source Accounts of the Revolutionary War*, *Mr. Lincoln's High Tech War*, *Life on Ellis Island* and *In Defense of Liberty*. In our fiction section, we now have these titles: *Soccer Chick Rules*, *Scat*, *Roar of the Crowd*, *Rats*, *Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, *Last of the High King*, and *Diamond Willow*. Any student looking for a book to read over spring break should stop by the library to check out our "new arrival" shelves.

As a reminder, all students must have their school id to check out a library book.



Join Mrs. Orzel for a Parent Coffee... AND meet our new Band Director for 2009-10

(PM session on April 30th)!

Parents,

Please join Mrs. Orzel during one of two sessions

(April 29th @ 8:00AM and April 30th @ 7:00PM) to discuss your child's experiences at Hille!

Specifically, the AM session on April 29th will include:

SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) information, Catch Up Club information, and other pertinent school topics.

The PM session (April 30th) will include the above information, **PLUS**

you will have an opportunity to meet our new band director for 2009-10, Mr. Steve Nendza!

If you have any questions, or any topics for discussion, please email Mrs. Orzel @ corzel@d142.org

Hope to see you there!

6th Grade Team News

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

Students spent a lot of time learning how to graph data outside of the traditional bar, line, and circle graphs. They completed Stem-and-Leaf charts, Frequency Tables, and Box and Whisker Plots. Next up is for the students to learn the integral part of integers in not only math but in daily life. We will be using current events in the economy to help students understand the concept of negative numbers. This will help us get a good foundation as we prepare to study basic algebraic equations.

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

For the remainder of April, we will be concluding our Earth science unit with rocks. Students will learn how to classify rocks based on their mineral composition, color, and texture. Students will also be expected to group rocks as igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic. Upon completion of the rock unit, we will be moving onto environmental science where we will begin by discussing biotic and abiotic factors as well as the characteristics of living things. Due to spring break, April is a very short month for us; however, do not forget we are hosting our annual Family Science Night on April 22nd from 6:30-8:00. We would love for your child to participate, and for you to bring the rest of your family for a night of science presentations and demonstrations! We hope to see you there!

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

We will depart from the Greek civilization and journey westward into Rome, Italy. The students will begin their journey by studying the geography of Italy, its landforms, crops, and bodies of water that make up the Italian Peninsula. We will continue our learning with the Roman government and their society.

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

All of the regular Literature/Language Arts classes have finished up the novel *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli while the advance classes are preparing for their production of Macbeth. To close out the school year, we will be off to see the wizard as we read L. Frank Baum's classic, *The Wizard of OZ*. All classes will also continue to reinforce the six traits of writing in their daily writing assignments.

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

Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it. --Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

The 7th grade students enjoyed a field trip downtown to see the play Romeo and Juliet before we began reading the play in class. We are now reading the play in all of our classes, and the reception from our students is excellent. They really have been enjoying the play. Even though it is difficult at times to understand the old English language, the modern version that is included in their books helps them comprehend what it is happening between the characters.

In writing we are working on the research reports. Each student will receive information to help them assist in the process. The students will be expected to do research, and we will take them through the steps to write a good paper. We also expect that all 6 writing traits are incorporated into the paper.

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

Students have been working feverishly on many different projects to prepare for our annual Family Science Night coming up April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. We have completed our genetics and ecology units. Our students have learned about how certain traits can appear in an organism based on its genetic make-up and how those traits influence the competition that species encounter for food, shelter, and other necessary resources for survival. After spring break, we will begin our last unit in physics. We will be exploring the concepts of motion, forces, energy and density. This unit will be mostly a hands-on experience for the students. Students will take part in labs and projects that will lead them to a more complete understanding of the basic concepts of physics. Have a great spring break and we hope to see everyone at Family Science Night!

Math (Ms. Bonk and Mrs. Stalla)

The 7th grade math students have been exploring the features of similar figures. We looked at how we can use these properties to find measurements that might have been difficult to obtain otherwise. They have also been working on transformations, such as translations and dilations, in the coordinate plane. We will be moving into the Pythagorean Theorem soon!

The 7th grade pre-algebra students have been working on percent concepts including discounts, taxes, and percent change in unit rates. We just got done with a proportion unit, so feel free to ask your student to scale recipes up or down depending on how many servings you want! We will be moving into geometry, focusing on concepts such as the angles created by a transversal, and we move into applying the Pythagorean Theorem in problem-solving.

Social Studies (Mr. Raleigh and Mr. Tselepis)

Congratulations to all the 7th graders for passing the U.S. Constitution test! Everyone worked very hard and it all paid off. This month, we have started out with a current events project that took a look at a wide variety of issues in the nation. These things not only affect people across the country, but also affect us as teachers, and students. We are moving on to studying the State of Illinois this month. We have a wide variety of projects set up for Illinois including a Geo-Sphere on our state symbols and landmarks. We will look into the government of Illinois as well and the history of our politics. This will culminate in the students taking the required Illinois state constitution test on May 19th. Good luck to everyone, you will definitely be ready by May!

8th Grade Team News

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

The 8th graders are continuing to study WWII, and the Allied efforts in the Pacific. They have just completed a WWII timeline starting at 1938-1945. They will continue to analyze this great period of history that was not only life changing for the United States, but the rest of the world. Mr. Tsoukalas' class was fortunate enough to have Mr. Charles Synowiec who happens to be a WWII veteran, speak to his 4th period class about experiences as a gunner in war. The class was delighted to have him come in, and would like to thank him for taking the time to come to speak to us.

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

The Pre-algebra students have been exploring ratios and percents. We will be moving into the Pythagorean Theorem as well as similarity and congruence relationships.

The algebra students are finishing up factoring and heading into quadratic and exponential functions.

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

As we begin to wind down our year, our students are busy writing two essays, both of which are part of the contest for eighth graders. The Contribution to Society essay will be read by the student with the winning essay at our 8th grade Awards Night in May. The Patriotism essay winner will remain a surprise until graduation when the winning student's name will be announced. In addition, we continue to read novels that our students enjoy but that will also challenge them. Among them are White Fang, A Raisin in the Sun, and The Crucible

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

The 8th grade students have completed their study of Electricity and Magnetism. We concluded our study with a project that looks at the students' energy usage and consumption. The students read their electric meters at home, graphed the daily usage and then they explained how daily usage can increase or decrease. We also looked at the energy used by specific household appliances and determined how much it cost to run each of these appliances. The students can now look at ways to reduce their energy consumption and save money too!

We are now beginning our study of chemistry. We have looked at ways to describe matter and ways to identify specific types of matter. Next we will look at the smallest bit of matter: the atom. We will look at how the atomic models have evolved throughout history, how improved technology has helped to define the atom, and then we will look at the most current model of the atom.

Encore Team News

7th Grade Spanish

The seventh graders have been busy learning how to conjugate verbs. Hopefully, you have seen an explosion in your child's vocabulary. Please ask your child to share his knowledge with you as he studies 15 minutes a day. Our next unit will focus on telling time and school schedules. Look for an upcoming project on Mexican tourism.

8th Grade Spanish

The eighth graders have been studying the complex topics of direct and indirect objects and pronouns. The material is tricky, but the students done well with it. Next, we will be studying order food in restaurants. Look for an upcoming project on South American tourism.

Foreign Language Survey – We have transitioned to studying Spanish. In addition to learning new vocabulary, the students have also been studying the Maya civilization. They seem to enjoy learning about the various gods, hieroglyphics, and the use of human sacrifice. We will continue our study of Central America as we take a closer look at the Aztecs.

French 7 – Our time has been split between learning interrogative expressions and conjugating new verbs. These students have come along way since the school year started. Perhaps you've heard them trying their French at home. I am pleased with their progress and their ability to comprehend spoken French.

French 8 – Currently the eighth graders are creating travel brochures. These brochures are centering on the Francophone. They are required to submit a bibliography MLA style to complete their assignment.

PE

Welcome to April! The 8th grade basketball team had a nice finish to the season finishing 4th in the conference tournament. The huskies beat Worth 47-37 in order to give them a chance in the semi finals against Arbor Park. Although the huskies fell short they played well. The huskies were led all year by Tom Zale. Tom set five school records; points in a game (27pts), assists in a game (6), free-throws made in a season (37), free-throws made in a tournament, and free-throws attempted in a tournament. Tom was the leader on and off the floor for the huskies. Way to go Tom! The huskie family would like to wish all of the basketball players good luck the rest of the way.

In class we are continuing golf, pickle ball, and weight room activities. Mr. Henninger's and Mr. Becker's class are competing in a miles competition. The 1st one to Miami. Both classes are doing awesome as they have just passed through Georgia. We will continue these activities up until spring break. After spring break we will be in track and softball. The Presidential fitness testing will wide down the year. We will be looking at the improvements the students have made throughout the year.

Computer

Students in 7th grade computer class have been working in Microsoft Access. Students have created a database of animals. The database consisted of information on the animal's type (mammal, bird, amphibian, fish, bug), diet (omnivore, carnivore herbivore), size, weight and interesting facts. Students sorted animals by type and diet and created a query. Students also created forms for each animal. Each form consisted of a picture of the animal and a complete bibliography. This was great practice for citing work! Students created labels of the animals and later will be instructed in how to complete a mail merge using data from the Microsoft Access animal database.

FACS

7th graders have started the Junior Achievement program once per week with a volunteer from the banking industry. The focus of this program is on financial literacy, economic concepts, decision making skills and critical thinking. Students are learning the importance of responsible decisions and the implications of poor choices. Future topics for Junior Achievement will include career choices, job interviews, credit, & insurance.

Choir

Congratulations to the Hille Middle School 8th Grade Choir who qualified for the IGSMA State Choral Competition with a wonderful Division I rating at the IGSMA District IV Choral Competition on Friday, March 13, 2009. The 8th Grade Choir will present three selections for the choral competition that include three different languages, four part vocal arrangements, and a high level of musicianship and expression. Lead by soloists Ian del Rosario, Sophie Mucha, Salena Sparrey, and Alec Brown the choir is sure to have another excellent rating at the State Choral Competition on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Troy Middle School in Plainfield, IL.

Encore Team News

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
 Wednesday, April 29th
 Thursday, May 7th.

Monday, April 27th
 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.

Drugs and Guidance

Sixth grade Drug and Guidance is looking at the enormous cost of being a tobacco user. One out of three smokers will die because of using tobacco and half of all smokers will suffer some health problems. Students had an adult smoker perform a tar test that provided physical proof to the fact that tar, which is a carcinogen, enters a person's body with every puff of a cigarette. Also students saw evidence of how tobacco use reduces the body's ability to warm up after being cold and also increase the aging process. Students also participated in a demonstration of what emphysema feels like. They also learned why tobacco use puts anyone at a disadvantage that is involved in sports. Currently, students are calculating the cost of smoking for one year by cutting out items from catalogues and ads that equal the money spent on a one to two pack a day habit. A one pack a day habit equals about \$2,555 and a two pack a day habit equals about \$5,110 – money up in smoke with nothing to show for it.

Band

Band News: The Advanced Band received an Excellent rating at the Illinois Grade School Music Association and at the District #104 Jazz Festival in Summit, Illinois. Jake Toppen was recognized as the best Jazz band student in the Jack Hille Jazz Band by the judges of the District #104 judges.

The Advanced Band received much praise for their performance at the Bandfest hosted by the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. Our clinician praised the band for its precise playing and was amazed that the children could play so well together, while seldom meeting as a full ensemble. That comment is a testament to the talent we have in our District.

Three concerts were presented on April 8 featuring the 5th grade band. There were two concerts given at the lower grade building, one for Foster and one for Kerkstra, and then one for the parents at 7:00 P.M. that night. Casey Wolf and Marley Majetic were featured as soloists and the entire alto saxophone section was also featured. Much thanks go to Mr. Cheney for his great assistance all year.

*Watch for information on the Spring Concert. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

FACS Club

The Bowling & Pizza party for school clubs is on Wednesday, April 29th. Be sure to turn in your money & permission slip to your club sponsor by April 24th.

Art

8th Graders are currently completing a Word Design on Wordle.net. I would encourage parents and guardians to also check out this great site and complete a Wordle of your own. We have finished a unit on color in design and students are expected to use this knowledge while planning color when deciding on color choices.



We have been also learning about randomly selected artists and their individualized styles and recently completed an Expressionist Postcard. For this assignment, students chose a special memory, illustrated it, and created a reflective narrative.

After spring break, classes will be working individually and on teams to create two unique sculptures. Art students will need to bring in a shoe for one of the sculpture.



National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

We are pleased to introduce our new NJHS inductees for the 2009-2010 school year.

Our 8th graders are: Tyler Burnham, Benjamin Cheng, MaryAnn Crosetto, Ian Del Rosario, Derek Deske, Brooke Eperjesi, Alyssa Johnson, Kimberly Kuspa, Grace Pedley, Juan Ramirez, and Joshua Wall.

Our new 7th grade inductees are as follows: Lacey Alleruzzo, Erika Arias, Ian Armstrong, Melanie Babcock, Stephanie Bird, Scott Borden, Peter Boyajian, Alyssa Cabrera, Caitlin Chismark, Amy Crawford, Michelle Denis, Jack Deno, Teagan Doyle, Jamie Gustafson, Brittany Gibbs, Alena Harm, Akash Jani, Austin Jester, Wyatt Kurtz, Michelle LaBuda, Elaina Larsen, Briana Maher, Mary Moore, Yvonne Munoz, Molly Owens, Sara Papiez, Jake Rickord, Sylvia Rodriguez, Austin Roeske, Antoinette Samoska, Amanda Schmitz, Brittany Schramm, Courtney Schwenkel, Brett Staehlin, Brandi Taylor, Nicole Tavis, Sydney Velez, Lee Wanatowicz, Haley Widel, and Matthew Zubek.

Congratulations to these fine students who not only maintain a 3.6 grade point average, but who also exemplify the qualities of leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Our induction is Tuesday, April 21, with current Mayor JoAnn Kelly as our guest speaker.

Gifted News



Our 6th grade students have been working on math from other cultures this month. Did you know that the Mayans used a base-20 number system? (Maybe it's a good idea to use fingers AND toes for counting!) Taking time out for paper airplane experiments and energy videos, we had plenty of opportunities for problem-solving & creativity.

If you've seen some curious monsters around school, don't worry. It was probably our 7th grade Beowulf reading groups who have been taking "stop action" photos telling the ancient story in a new way. If you've seen Mrs. Law wearing a cool blue jumpsuit you got a sneak peek at our special field trip at the Challenger Space Center in Hammond, Indiana. On April 9th, our students took on the role of NASA mission specialists on a Mars exploration mission. It was out of this world!



This month, the 8th graders have begun studies into the anatomy of sharks & their relatives, the skates. So far we have created "Shark sandwiches" that show what we've learned about external & internal structures in preparation for two dissections. The first, a small skate, was fascinating and we are looking forward to making comparisons to the shark specimens coming up at the end of the month.

Student Council

Spring has finally arrived! The student council has some events coming up that are sure to compliment the season, both fun and earth-friendly. We were happy to contribute to the planning of the ISAT dance in March. Students were all “aglow” as they celebrated the close of ISAT testing with dancing, hula-hooping and just plain letting loose. Each student in attendance was given a free glow necklace, compliments of the student council. It was quite a sight! Also in March, St. Patrick’s Dress-Up Day was a hit! Students wore all shades of green as they saluted the only day of the year when we all feel lucky.

For our previous dance in February, students had decided to donate a portion of the proceeds to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. We are proud to announce that we recently sent the foundation \$250 to put towards the upcoming overnight walking event to benefit the cause of suicide prevention. The students were proud to contribute to such an important organization.

In the month of April we are gearing-up for our largest fundraiser of the year. In coordination with Earth Day, students at each grade level will see a presentation informing them about “Lights for Learning”. *Lights for Learning* is a statewide program in which families can purchase CFL bulbs at reduced rates. Students will learn about the environmental and budget-friendly incentives to using less energy. Each student will receive an order form during Connections on April 21st, and from there the saving can begin. Be sure to get all order forms in my May 15th! As always, your support is appreciated as we help students to develop a lifelong habit of energy conservation.

Just before Spring Break, we will host another dress-up day at Hille. Students have responded so positively to these days that we wanted to give one more opportunity to show their Hille spirit. Thursday, April 9th will be Opposite Day. Students can take this concept in many directions by dressing as the opposite of themselves, choosing a friend to be “opposite” with or just choosing opposite colors for the day. We look forward to seeing the creativity bloom! Please remember that the dress-code expectations are the same on all dress-up days. Happy Spring!

Math-A-Thon

We are proud to report that our Hille Huskies
raised \$1,700.00
for St. Jude Children's Hospital!

**HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MRS. COURTNEY
ORZEL,
PRINCIPAL**

5800 W. 151st St.

Phone: 708-687-5550

E-mail: corzel@d142.org

**"CHILDREN ALWAYS
COME FIRST!"**

We're on the web!

www.d142.org



Hille Middle School

**Join us for
FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT
on Wednesday, April 22nd
from 6:30-8:00pm
at Hille!**

See you there!

CHEERLEADING

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Hille Huskie Cheerleading squad on their earning a 1st Division at Cheerfest this year!

The girls really put in a tremendous amount of time and effort and should be very proud of themselves.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the girls for

all of their support this year.

I could not have survived my first year as coach without you!

I look forward to another successful year next year!

As for the eighth grade girls; you will be missed.

Good luck in all of your endeavors next year at high school!

Mrs. Mamich
