



MONARCH MESSENGER

Bunsold Middle School Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

Parent Night, January 30, 2012

On Monday, January 30 from 4:00-7:30 Bunsold Middle School will hold a parent night. This is an opportunity for parents to learn about young adolescents as well as strategies for working with and supporting the middle level student. The evening will be comprised of sessions filled with relevant, current, specific information for parents in our educational community. A conference style format is being used so that parents can choose the sessions they wish to attend based on individual interests and needs. We will run 6 sessions for each presentation. Each session will be 25 minutes in length. The session schedule is as follows:

Session I: 4:00-4:25 Session IV: 6:00-6:25
Session II: 4:30-4:55 Session V: 6:30-6:55
Session III: 5:00-5:25 Session VI: 7:00-7:25

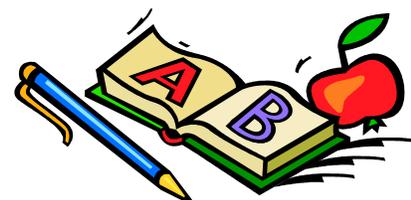
Session topics include:

- Study, Organization and Test-Taking Tips
- Introduction to our Media Center, Bullying,
- The Digitally Connected Kid,
- Opportunities Ahead at High Point
- OAA Tests and Test Preparation
- Adolescent Development/ Issues
- The Changing State Curriculum, Race to The Top, and Navigating the ODE Website
- Dual High School/College Enrollment
- Transition to High School (panel of current MHS students)
- High School 101 : Understanding the Credit System
- Math/ Science course options at the high school
- Language Arts/ Social Studies course options at the high school
- Elective Classes at MHS
- Extra-curricular Options at MHS
- General BMS Resources (web page, homework hotline, Aeries)
- Raising Responsible Students
- Healthy Habits, Healthy Students
- Reading for Adolescents
- Drug and Alcohol Issues
- 8th grade Washington D.C Trip (parents of 7th graders only)

Parents are invited to attend the sessions of their choice. Room assignments for the session will be distributed to parents upon their arrival at the building. This is an evening designed for parents only.

Student-led conferences will be held on March 22 from 4:00-7:30 and more information will follow in March.

We look forward to seeing you on Parent Night!



School delays and closings:



When it becomes necessary to close or delay school due to weather conditions, households will receive a phone call from *School Connects*, our automated notification and communication system. The closing/delay will also be announced over the following radio/TV stations beginning in the early morning: WTVN-610 AM, WNCI-97.9 FM, WBNS-1460AM/97.1 FM, WCOL-1230 AM, WMNI-920 AM, WSNY-94.7 FM, WDIF-94.3 FM (Marion), WCMH-TV 4, WSYX-TV 6, and WBNS-TV 10. School closings and delays are also available on the Marysville Schools Website. **If school is cancelled due to weather, middle school after school and evening athletic events, club activities, and meetings are also cancelled.**

In February there are two days when we are not in session:

Friday, February 17: Teacher Professional Development Day

Monday, February 20: President's Day

Is Your Student Studying for a Test? It's Not as Easy as It May Sound



Often middle grades students are asked to study for a test, but many of them don't really know how. Does "study" mean read the material again? Go over one's notes (if they exist)? Think about the topic? Look up stuff online? Pay more attention the day before the test? Many students are at a loss, because they have not been taught study skills.

If the teacher hasn't given students clear study guidelines for a specific test, here are a few things you can do to help your child prepare.

What kind of test will it be? Multiple choice? Essay? True or false? Short answer? The type of test makes a difference when it comes to studying. Multiple choice means the student must recognize the right answer among others, whereas short answer means they have to know the answer outright. An essay question generally requires the student to make connections among the topics learned or other ideas presented previously in class. The type of test defines the way a student should study.

How many questions? A test with a lot of questions means the teacher expects the student to know the material thoroughly; fewer questions often means the teacher is looking for big, main ideas. See if the teacher will reveal how many questions will be on the test.

Is there a study guide? Many middle grades teachers provide study guides to students before a test, enabling the students to focus on the topics the teacher thinks are essential to the unit. Make sure this study guide gets home to be used before the test day!

Study in "chunks". We are all better at remembering things in chunks, especially when those chunks are connected to something we already know. Help your child break down the information he or she is studying into manageable chunks. Try connecting each chunk to previous learning or a TV show or song lyric that will help your child remember.

Take breaks. Encourage your child to study for 25 to 30 minutes, take a 10-minute break, then study for another 25 to 30 minutes.

Rest up. Sleep solidifies learning and helps students focus during the test.

Clinic Update...



The clinic this year has been pretty busy, as we continue to see many complaints of stomachache, headache, multi-cold symptoms and minor injuries. The clinic also organizes & runs The Pennies for Patients Campaign which is a cancer education and fundraiser, benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year the campaign runs Feb 27th - March 16th. The students have events such Jersey Day & Hat Day with a donation of \$1.00 per event. The winning team will be awarded a pizza party. These fun activities help to support the campaign and bring awareness to the fight against Leukemia & Lymphoma.

Vision screens for 7th graders are planned to begin the first part of February. Encourage your student to always wear their glasses or contacts.

Scoliosis screenings are in process for 8th grade students. Scoliosis screenings are performed during your student's P.E. period. Second Trimester P.E. students will be screened by the end of January. If you wish to decline having your student screened for Scoliosis please complete the Scoliosis Screening Letter in the back of your student's agenda and return it to the clinic.

On March 21st the health teachers and the clinic have joined forces to host a "Kick Butts Day" this is a campaign for tobacco-free kids. We will have plenty of information on hand and some interactive activities as well. It's been a great year in the Bunsold Middle School Clinic with many opportunities to help others!

Breakfast Logic from the cafeteria:



Breakfast is a good thing!

When students need to take achievement tests, schools strongly urge them to eat breakfast first on testing days. Why? Because we know that when students eat breakfast, they perform better and are better able to concentrate. Yet on "normal" days, many students fail to eat breakfast: they're too busy, too tired, or just don't know what to eat.

Let's help students to perform better every day, by making sure they eat a healthy breakfast at home or at school.

Guidance News:



The end of the 2nd Quarter is Thursday, Jan. 12th. 2nd Quarter grade cards will be passed out to students on Friday, Jan. 27th. On this grade card you will see 2nd Quarter grades and 1st Trimester Unified Arts grades, which appear on the grade card for the 1st time this year. 2nd Trimester grades (which students are currently in) will show up on the 3rd Quarter grade card (2nd Trimester ends on February 29).

The 3rd Quarter Interim reports can be viewed on Feb. 16(R).

Student Support Groups

This year Bunsold Middle School will be offering support groups for any 7th or 8th grader who sign up to join one of the groups. Students will benefit from the opportunity to work on personal growth and interpersonal skills in an education/support group setting.

Students will meet once a week for four to six weeks starting in February (*one group will start in January).

The sessions will last for approximately 30 minutes and will be held in various rooms throughout the building. The group size will be small to encourage participation and confidentiality. The groups will be facilitated by staff, counselors, and outside of school professionals.

The purpose of these groups is to offer assistance to students with personal issues they may be dealing with in their lives. The group also offers education on the topics, coping skills, and collaboration with other students experiencing similar problems or concerns. Hopefully, students can better understand life's stresses and learn healthy coping techniques through the group discussions.

*On an average, we usually service 80-100 students.



Below are examples of some of the groups we run:

Support Groups:

Study Skills

Peer Relationships

Anger Management

***Sibling Connection**

Depression

Family Relationships

Self Confidence

Student Council will be teaming up with the **Guidance Dept.** again during the month of February. Members will run a Candy Gram Fundraiser during lunch the week of Feb. 6th; run a Dodgeball tournament after school in the main gym on Feb. 15th; and hold the annual Winter Dance after school until 4:00 in the main Gym on Feb. 10th (F). Student Council members will be voting during upcoming meetings as to where the majority of the proceeds from these three events will go.

Bunsold Middle School Summer School Classes: 2012

This summer, BMS will be offering a variety of remedial and enrichment classes. All classes will be taught by BMS staff members. Here are examples of classes that were offered last summer:

1. Music Enrichment class:
2. Math Enrichment class:
3. Math Intervention class:
4. Science Enrichment class:
5. Language arts Intervention/ Remedial:
6. Video Editing Enrichment class:
7. Social Studies Enrichment class:

***Class size - maximum of 15 (12 for the video class)**

Summer school courses can be remedial or enrichment classes that would give students the opportunity to review and practice basic academic skills that were not mastered during the school year, OR, allow students to learn some new skills in the enrichment classes that will be offered this summer.

Cost: \$125.00 per class

Hours: 8-10 or 10-12 (am) *at teacher discretion

Where: Bunsold Middle School

When: July 30-August 10, '12 (Ten total sessions)

Who: Any incoming 7th grade student - current 8th grader

Registration for middle school summer courses begins **May 7th** and ends **July 20th**. Classes with insufficient enrollment by **July 20th** will be cancelled and tuition money will be refunded.

Transportation to and from summer school is the responsibility of the students and parent.

Tuition payment, in full, must be made no later than the last day of registration (July 20th).

Payment must be made in the BMS South or North offices. Office hours are 7-3.

Application/Information forms will be ready by May 1st and can be picked up in both BMS offices, or, can be viewed and printed from the Marysville Schools Web site (Go to BMS site from the main school web site): www.marysville.k12.oh.us

Chris Hoehn

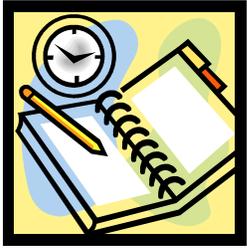
7th Grade Counselor

Summer School Coordinator

Bunsold Middle School

If you have any questions, please contact, 7th grade counselor Chris Hoehn, at 642-1721.

For Parents of 8th Graders - High School is Right Around the Corner



It's hard to believe, but we are ready to begin scheduling for high school courses! During the next several weeks, parents and students will have many opportunities to learn about high school, planning, and the scheduling process. The following are important dates for you to add to your calendar:

- January 23rd-26th - Students Only - Mrs. Carvour will visit classrooms to provide information about the transition to high and setting goals for high school.
- January 30th - Parents Only - From 4:00-7:30 PM at Bunsold Middle School, parents can learn about the transition to high school. Many topics will be explored, including curriculum, dual enrollment, credit flexibility, and the basics of high school scheduling.
- January 30th-31st - Students Only - MHS guidance staff will visit with 8th grade students to share information about high school scheduling.
- February 2nd - Parents Only - Curriculum Night at MHS from 4-7:30 PM. Parents of 8th grade students are invited to attend. Many topics relating to the transition to high school and scheduling will be offered this evening.
- February 6th - Students and Parents - 7:00 PM in the auditorium at MHS - Parent/Student Orientation to high school scheduling hosted by the high school guidance staff. Immediately following will be an informational meeting regarding PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Option).
- February 13th-21st - Students will be able to make course requests for their first year of high school. Mrs. Carvour will visit classrooms to assist students with their scheduling.
- February 28th - Students will receive scheduling verification forms. Students should write in alternative courses and have the form signed by a parent/guardian.
- March 2nd - Verification forms are due to Mrs. Carvour.

Parents do not have to attend all of the above parent meetings but should select at least one to attend.

Please contact Vicky Carvour with any questions. vlcarvou@marysville.k12.oh.us or 642-1721.

UNIFIED ARTS AT BMS

Family & Consumer Science



In FCS (Family & Consumer Science) students learn about basic childcare. Students learn about the importance of play as well as the different ways young children play, how to read to young children at different ages, and how to evaluate books and toys for different ages.

Students learn these skills so they can help with younger siblings at home if they have any, or to begin babysitting and making money on their own. They learn what they should know from parents they are babysitting for before the parents leave. Students understand the proper way to hold a baby, and what all it could mean when a baby cries.

Students learn the differences between infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. They understand personality, mealtime, safety, bedtime, clothing, and entertaining differences needed at different ages. Students also learn the different types of development and the developmental milestones children go through as they grow (emotional, intellectual, physical, and social).

Career Consumer Science – So you want a Part-Time Job!

All eighth grade students in CCS will have the opportunity to job shadow a person in a career of interest over the course of the trimester class. This is a great time to **try on** a career and see if it really is something they might be interested in. If yes, great! Find out more about that career, job shadow again, maybe another company and for longer a longer period of time. If not, that's okay. See what else is out there that is of interest.

Mrs. Jozefiak and Mrs. Henderson will explain to students exactly what they will need to do in order to job shadow during the school day. **Students must give their teachers one week's notice if they are going to miss a day of school.** They are to have parents and all their teachers sign their application to job shadow and turn it in to their CCS teacher so they will be excused that day. Career Consumer Science students will be excused one day from school to complete the job shadowing experience. This can also be completed outside the school day. On the day of their job shadow experience, students will take with them a verification of attendance form to have signed by their contact person. Questions on the back are to be completed by the student and turned in to the CCS teacher.

This is a great opportunity for students to experience firsthand what the work environment is like. Pamphlets explaining the entire project will be given to students to take home and share with you when they are in CCS.



Health

Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco: Keeping your kids away from them

Most people that get into these drugs tend to start from age 13 - 20 years old. As your child will be in this age group or is already in it, we have put together some things to look for to help your child make it through those years without using. Some of these come from the National Crime Prevention Program.

Create good communication with your children. The better you know your children, the easier it will be to guide them towards positive activities and friendships.

Be involved in your children's lives. Young people are less likely to get involved with drugs when caring adults are a part of their life.

Make clear rules and enforce them consistently. Research shows that when parents set harsh rules or no rules, kids are more likely to try drugs. Set up rules with your kids and be consistent when enforcing the rules.

Be a positive role model. Children imitate adults.

Help your children choose friends wisely. When children have friends who don't engage in risky behaviors, they are likely to resist them too.

Talk to your children about drugs. When parents talk to their kids early and often about substance abuse, kids are less likely to try drugs.

When do you talk to your kids? Any time you spend together is the perfect time for a conversation. Establish an ongoing conversation rather than giving a one-time speech.

What should I say? Explain the effects of drugs on the body and the legal consequences of using drugs. Make it clear that you don't want your kids to use drugs and that you will be disappointed if they do. Discuss why using drugs isn't okay. Explain that it's against the law for a child or teen to use alcohol or cigarettes and that using drugs is always illegal—for good reason. Explain how drug use can hurt people in several ways—for example, the transmission of AIDS through shared needles, slowed growth, impaired coordination, accidents. Discuss the legal issues. A conviction for a drug offense can lead to time in prison or cost someone a job, driver's license, or college loan.



If any of your children have tried drugs, be honest about your disappointment, but emphasize that you still love them. Talk to someone to get some help.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Happy New Year! The rest of this Trimester we will be working on wellness and fitness with the students continuing to work in the fitness room and P-90-X work outs. The students will really enjoy the P-90-X work outs. We will be introducing Pick ball unit for a lifelong wellness activity that will help translate them it racket sports. We will be starting a Dodge ball unit that will help students participate in our annual Spring Dodge Ball tournament for the America Heart Association. If you ever have a question or concern please let us know.

ART

Mr. Andrews



The seventh and eighth grade students in Mr. Andrews's art classes are past half way with the second trimester. After recently completing their ceramic sculpture projects student have begun drawing exercises utilizing the Right side of their brain, by drawing from observation.

Utilizing concepts of positive and negative space students begin by drawing portraits of one another in blind contour drawings, which lead into the drawing of a still life skeleton. The seventh grade students will be completing a shaded drawing of the skeleton whereas the eighth grade students are completing a negative space drawing. Students will be shading and stippling their drawings with pencil and permanent markers.

Following these projects students can expect to begin the graffiti and printmaking units. The student artwork will be on display in the hallways, and we look forward to discover the talents of our 7th and 8th grade artists.

Any student who is interested in enrichment in the Visual Arts is encouraged to join Art Club at anytime throughout the year, Art Club meets every Tuesday after school until 4:00.

Mr. Ritchie's

The Winter Trimester is off to a great start in Mr. Ritchie's Art room. Students have been working extremely hard on all projects, and everyone is showing great improvement on drawing skills.

All seventh and eighth grade Art students began the Trimester by creating an art portfolio. Each student had to design his/her name, create a decorative border, and draw five images that had something to do with each student individually. Students drew everything from favorite foods to iPod apps.

Following this project, all Art classes started a drawing unit. Here, Mr. Ritchie taught Bunsold students the tricks of drawing in order to become a better "observer" of art. All students drew practice and final still life drawings from objects in class. Mr. Ritchie taught four drawing styles to all students. The first style is called a gesture sketch where students "speed" draw for practice. The second is a continuous line drawing where students draw a still life without lifting their pencils from the paper. The third, and student favorite, is the blind contour drawing. Here students draw a still life without looking at their papers. Finally, students took these skills to create a still life drawing using only a pencil, eraser, and a paper towel to smug pencil lead thus adding shadows.

Next, all Art classes are currently working on their clay units. Seventh graders are constructing a pinch and coil pot. On the outer surface area of their clay pot, students are tasked with sculpting some sort of monster or alien face. Mr. Ritchie showed all classes a PowerPoint slide show on the "monster" art throughout history. Medieval gargoyes were placed on many buildings throughout Europe, lions were sculpted in entrance ways

in ancient Persia, and the jackal became a popular theme in ancient Egypt. In modern times, middle school students are familiar with many monsters and aliens such as characters from movies like *Monsters Inc*, *Robots*, *Monsters vs. Aliens*, *Transformers*, *Megamind*, and *Star Wars*. Students brainstormed ideas with practice sketches, and are now working on their sculptures.

Eighth graders have also started their clay unit in Mr. Ritchie's classes. These students are using the clay sculpting technique called slab construction to create their pieces. Students will be building a geometric structure with a base, walls, and possibly a lid. These students must meet the objectives of selecting a theme for their sculpture, and decorating it with that selected theme. Students have selected themes like sports, TV shows, cartoons, technology, music, and other personal interests. All students have just finished practice sketches of their slab construction, and are in the process of working with clay to create their masterpieces.

Be on the lookout for Bunsold Artist of the Month work displayed near the downstairs offices. With the new year in full swing the 2012 Bunsold Student Art Calendar fundraiser is still on. These 16-month calendars will feature current 8th grade art for each month, sponsors from local businesses, and will be on sale for only \$5.00! If you are interested in purchasing a calendar in support of young Bunsold artists please feel free to contact Mr. Ritchie at jbritchi@marysville.k12.oh.us.



Computer Technology



There is no question about it. Computers are everywhere, and everyone is expected to know how to use one. That is why our students at BMS take a 12 week Computer Technology and Applications class in both 7th and 8th grade. The curriculum for both grade levels is based upon the National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for students (NETS) developed by the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE). If you would like more information about ISTE and the standards and performance indicators for students you may visit www.iste.org.

Using those NETS, we have formulated 4 essential questions that guide all of our activities and projects. In the last newsletter, we examined the first essential question: What does it mean to be a good digital citizen and how can I be one? In this newsletter, we will address the second essential question: How can I use digital tools to gather, evaluate, store, and use information? The accessibility of information via the Internet has radically transformed how we find and use information. Information that we used to have to go to a library and physically find in print form is now available anywhere within minutes with just a few clicks of the mouse. However, we must remember that there is no "governing body" or "editor" that oversees the content of websites on the Internet. Just because you read it on the Internet, doesn't mean that it's factual. Students must be prepared to look at websites and the information from them critically to determine if the site is a credible source. This essential question encompasses such topics as:

- Using search engines effectively and efficiently
- Evaluating websites for accuracy and bias
- Using credible sources such as www.infohio.org
- Saving, retrieving, and using information

In the next newsletter, we will elaborate upon the third essential question: How can I use digital tools to solve problems, think critically, and manage projects?

CHOIR

BMS CHOIR CONCERT—Monday, March 12th at MHS!

Mark your calendars! The Bunsold Middle School Choral Excellence Concert will be held on **Monday, March 12th at 7:00pm** in the MARYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL Auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the **7th Grade Choir, 8th Grade Choir, and Marysville "Mini Swingers" Show Choir**. The groups will perform a wide variety of songs, including Classical Tunes, American Spirituals and Folk Songs, World music, and Broadway showstoppers! Admission is FREE and doors will open at 6:15pm!



BAND



The BMS bands have had a very busy fall season with the preparation of several special performances. Our 8th graders performed with the MHS Marching Band at a home football game halftime. They also provided special musical encouragement to the athletes during our fall pep rally and volunteers played at the Volleyball game that encompassed Rachel's Challenge activities. Our 7th graders rehearsed for a performance that combined with the 8th grade band at our annual "night game". We finally got the bands together to rehearse prior to the evening performance at the HS stadium. The rain (again this year!) caused our band to be flexible with our performance, but the students met the challenge and gave a great performance. We are very proud of their accomplishments this fall as they prepared for these special sports performances. Our 7th graders also prepared a performance as part of the Veterans Day ceremony here at BMS. It is our honor to be able to share our talents on behalf of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve our country and keep our families safe.

Our Holiday Concert performances were very special and were our way to bring to our audiences a wide variety of styles of music and usher in the season with the sharing of this fun and beautiful music.

As we enter the 2nd semester, all of our band students will have a playing test soon, serving as a "re-audition" of the whole group. Parents should hear the practice time increase at home for this important individual playing test.

The BMS Jazz Band will begin this week. There are concerts in the spring that will showcase the Jazz Band. Solo and Ensemble opportunities will be introduced to the band students soon as well. The new year will also bring new musical topics as we study more in depth

musical topics from our method books and new songs. It won't be too long and we will be preparing our Spring Concerts and Memorial Day performances.

CHARMS! Our Middle School bands are launching the special organizational and communication software program called Charms. By this time, every band student should have completed their assignment to log on, and get registered with basic address, email, and parent contact information. This program will continue to be useful for a variety of organizational and informational tasks throughout middle school and high school.

PRACTICE! We have had a noticeable increase in the practice minutes that students are logging and turning in each week. This parent-signed record is a valuable tool to insure that the students are registering their practice and gaining in their musical progress.

You are encouraged to come to a concert or performance of these fine performance groups! Your support of their musical growth is appreciated.

Important Band Dates:

Sat 4/14/12 OMEA District XV Jr.High Solo & Ensemble Contest (Conflict Date)
All Day - Open to volunteer 7th & 8th graders. Dublin Jerome HS

Mon 4/30/12 BMS/MHS Jazz Bands "Cabaret Style" Dinner & Concert - MHS
Bandroom - 7:00 PM

Fr or Sat - 5/11 or 5/12/12 OMEA JH Large Group Band, Choir, Orch Contest -
(If Fri - Evening. If Sat - btwn 8a-5p) - Worthington Kilbourne HS

Tues 5/15/12 7th & 8th Grade Bands Spring Concerts -
7:00 p.m.(7th) & 8:00p.m.(8th) - BMS Auditorium.

Sat 5/19/12 8th Band to Cedar Point - All Day

Wed 5/23/12 Jazz Band performance at BMS Awards ceremony - 6:10 - 6:30 PM
- BMS

Mon 5/28/12 8th Band performance at Marysville Memorial Day ceremony - AM
only.



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



In **language arts**, students spent weeks researching topics based on their prejudice book. They then developed a newspaper page based on that information. Students are now reading their prejudiced books and will do projects over how the theme of prejudiced was carried out in their book. Students will also be writing business letters **to area businesses asking for donations for our local personal needs pantry.**

In math, as we end the second and begin our third grading period I want to remind all students and parents of the importance in having an organized binder and keeping it organized for the entire school year. Organization is an important tool for all students to possess and it helps them prepare for the upcoming years in school. In our math classes we are working on perimeter, area, and circumference. In this grading period we will dig deeper into geometry by working on angles, lines, line segments, surface area and volume. We will also be looking into different types of graphing, translations and reflections before the end of the third grading period. Make sure you are completing all of your study island assignments and don't forget to take advantage of the homework hotline.

Science classes have recently finished a unit all about matter and energy. Throughout the unit, the students explored physical and chemical changes, the law of conservation of mass and energy, described the movement and attraction of particles that make up matter and traced energy transformations through everyday machines. Since the winter break, the class has been in the computer lab, working on brochures to "wrap-up" the semester. The brochures include information about seventh grade science that would be helpful to explain what our class is all about to an incoming seventh grader. Next on the agenda is biogeochemical cycles in which the students will be looking at how matter and energy cycles through our world.

Social Studies students ended their study of the Roman Empire. Students examined reasons for the fall of Rome and compared them to current events. The Middle Ages is the next unit of study. Students will learn about the political and economic system of feudalism, and then learn about

the Byzantine Empire. Ask your student about the fun games we played in class to learn about these topics.



In **language arts**, students spent the majority of December researching various topics that tie in with books the students will read in January. The students researched, studied and presented their findings in the form of a newsletter. I am very proud of the students for their hard work and their determination to become experts on their given topics. Recently, students began reading one of three historical fiction novels. All of the novels deal with some form of prejudice. The students will study and analyze how the theme of prejudice is developed in each of their books. In the near future, students will begin writing business letters to various local, state, and national businesses to help raise awareness for our class community service project. In the business letters, students are requesting items to be donated to the Marysville Personal Needs Pantry. This project not only teaches students how to write a proper business letter, but it also shows students the importance of helping others. We are all hoping our class community service project will be a great success! Before winter break, **math classes** wrapped up a unit on rates, ratios, and proportions. After returning from break, classes began a short unit on measurement, and will continue their math studies by learning about geometry. In the geometry unit, students will learn about properties of plane figures, perimeter, circumference, and area. We will continue our study of geometry into the 3rd nine weeks by learning about similar figures, the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume. Just a reminder... homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every day, with the exception of checkpoint quiz and test days. Before winter break, **pre-algebra classes** began a unit on measurement. After returning from break, classes completed the measurement unit, and will continue their pre-algebra studies by learning about geometry. In the geometry unit, students will learn about properties of plane figures, perimeter, circumference, and area. We will continue our study of geometry into the 3rd nine weeks by



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

learning about similar figures, the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume. Pre-algebra students will also learn about angles, including identifying different types of angles, as well as working with interior and exterior angles of regular polygons. Just a reminder... homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every day, with the exception of checkpoint quiz and test days.

In science we have just finished the unit on Physical science. We finished with the unit test and are now moving into Geobiochemical cycles. This includes things like the water, carbon and nitrogen cycle. We also will be looking at the different roles that organisms have in energy chains such as producer, consumers and decomposers. There is also an opportunity coming up in the third nine weeks to take part in the annual BMS science fair. This is not required but it can be a chance for them to earn extra credit points. This will take place on February 15th.

During the 2nd nine weeks **social studies** classes studied Ancient Rome. Students learned about the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire, and daily life in Ancient Rome. We talked about many ideas that Ancient Rome gave to us!

In preparation for Veteran's Day each student wrote an essay explaining what a hero was to them. One student from each team was chosen to read their work during our 7th grade Veteran's Day assembly on Friday, November 11, 2011. The assembly honored our local Veterans. Thank you to all the family and friends of students who participated in the event.

Our 2nd 9 weeks community service project was due Friday, January 6, 2012. I am looking forward to reading about the students' volunteer experiences. Thank you in advance for helping your child with their community service projects! There will be a Community Service Project for the 3rd nine weeks as well, which will be given to students in the next couple of weeks.

During the 3rd nine weeks students will learn about the Middle Ages, Feudalism, and the decline of Feudalism. We will act out the 3 big reasons that this type of government did not work.



As January begins, students in Mrs. Sommerfield's **language arts** class will begin

reading the prejudice book they chose back in November, before doing research on some aspect of that book to present in a Power Point presentation to the other students. The books are Freak the Mighty, Under the Bloodred Sun, and Island on Bird Street. Each week they will have a certain amount of chapters to read, and will have a response guide to fill in about their book to share each week in a response group. Along with this, the students will be preparing for SUV (Spelling, Usage, and Vocabulary) quizzes, and will have weekly IRT's. Mrs. Tucker's class is excitedly awaiting Mrs. Tucker's return in late January. Mrs. Tucker keeps in constant contact with Mrs. Irwin and was delighted to receive such thoughtful gifts and well-wishes from her students and colleagues. She extends her thanks to everyone who has been so thoughtful during her absence to get well. **Pre-Algebra classes** are currently working on finishing up Unit 5 on measurement. They will be taking the final unit test on Wednesday, Jan. 11th. They have learned how to convert measurements within and between the U.S. Customary and metric systems. Additionally they will be studying precision of measurements next week. In regular **Math classes**, students are ringing in the new year with unit 5 on Measurement. So far they have learned about the U.S. customary system, the metric system, and each of their components. They are learning how to convert from one unit of measure to the other (such as from feet to miles) within each system. They rounded out 2011 by finishing up Unit 4 on ratios, rates, and proportions.

During the 2nd nine weeks **social studies** classes studied Ancient Rome. Students learned the key geographic features, territories, and boundaries of the Roman Empire. Social studies classes learned about the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire, and daily life in Ancient Rome.

In preparation for Veteran's Day each student wrote an essay explaining what a hero was to them. One student from each team was chosen to read their work during our 7th grade Veteran's Day assembly on Friday, November 11, 2011. The assembly honored our local Veterans. The students did a great job at the assembly and I was very proud of them. Thank you to all the family and friends of students who participated in the event.



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

Our 2nd 9 weeks community service project was due Thursday, January 5, 2012. I am looking forward to reading about the students' volunteer experiences. Thank you in advance for helping your child with their community service projects!

During the 3rd nine weeks students will learn about the Middle Ages, feudalism, and the decline of feudalism. I look forward to working with your student as we begin this new unit!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at kdschnei@marysville.k12.oh.us. Thanks!
Happy New Year.



In **language arts**, students got to use their creative writing skills to write a mini-movie based on a positive theme or message. They had the opportunity to film their movies. After break, we had an Oscar's ceremony where we watched the movie compilation and awarded Oscar's! Students chose one of three books that all deal with different types of prejudice: Under the Blood Red Sun, Island on Bird Street, or Watsons go to Birmingham. Then they chose research topics from these books. After presenting their research projects, students have been reading their books and meeting in book groups each week.

In Mr. Mylander's **Math/Pre-Algebra Class**, I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the "Hop Like A Frog" books, raps, and websites. In the beginning kids were hopping around my class trying to calculate their distance. It was so nice to see them apply what we learned about proportions to themselves to get the real answer. I hope you had a chance to see what was created. Well, winter break is over and we've got into the math groove. We're moving through measurement with lots of hands-on labs. We measured liquids in different containers using the metric and customary system. And luckily only a little water was spilled. If you haven't been keeping track of tests and quizzes this is great time to start. I'm always posting information about our next quiz or test on our website or in the classroom. All you have to do is ask or check out the team website. Our next test is Thursday the 12th, it's over measurement. Looking at quizzes and tests are a great way to how your child is

progressing. After this unit we're starting our Geometry portion for the next three units. Students who struggled with the algebra may find it much easier with the visuals of shapes, areas, and perimeters. That was me in middle school. It has been a great first half of the year and I'm hoping for an even better second half. Thanks so much for all the support you give.

Students recently completed their **Physical Science** unit. Since everything in the universe is either classified as matter or energy, students have focused on their importance. Highlights included reviewing the states of matter as well as proving the Law of Conservation of Mass for both physical and chemical changes. Students also studied the types, forms, and energy transformations that take place around us. The Law of Conservation of Energy was also explained.

Students are currently learning about "Cycles In Nature". When completed, students will focus on pollution and its effects on the environment. Students will also study the availability of freshwater and its impact on agriculture and industry. We will also welcome guest speaker Kaylee Port from Union Water and Soil Conservation District as she plans to demonstrate a groundwater simulator and share the effects of pollution with the Enviroscape.

The BMS Science Fair will be held Feb 15, 2012. Those interested in participating in the Science Fair have already completed their Research Plans and should be working on their projects. We look forward to those students presenting their projects in February!

In **social studies**, during the 2nd 9 weeks we learned about the mighty Roman Empire! The daily life of the Romans seemed to be a favorite aspect of the unit for the students! We took a break from ancient history on November 11th and paid tribute to our wonderful veterans on Veterans Day! We had an amazing assembly and met a lot of very influential people who have an abundance of wartime stories to tell!! We now have made our way to the Middle Ages. Feudalism, Knights, and Lords await us on our historical journey!



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



Mr. Cunningham's **Language Arts** classes are now working with their third nine weeks unit *We Shall Overcome: American Struggles and Dreams*. Stories and themes in this unit center on different individuals and groups overcoming various obstacles to obtain a better life. Students will study a pictorial reading selection based on various immigrant groups that settled here in the United States. Public speaking is also a part of this unit, and students will listen and evaluate several different speakers and speeches from history, movies, and various parts of literature. Students will also be giving speeches, with several different focuses. Students will give an informational speech, give several impromptu speeches, and have to memorize a famous speech and recite it. Lastly, students will be focusing on persuasive writing this third nine weeks, taking a stance on a subject and using their supportive details to support their argument.

In **Algebra**, students recently finished chapter 6. In chapter 6 students solved and graphed linear inequalities, including absolute value equations and inequalities. After students finish chapter 6 and the first half of the school year they will take a semester assessment over the first six chapters of the textbook. Following the semester assessment students will study systems of equations and inequalities in chapter 7 of the textbook. Systems of equations will be solved by graphing, substitution and elimination. Systems of inequalities will be solved by graphing. After chapter 7, the course will skip to the last chapter in the textbook and then return back to chapter 8. This shift will allow for students to focus on material that reviews and expands the 8th grade math standards they learned last year in Pre-Algebra. This will help students better prepare for the Ohio Achievement Assessment that they will take in early May. Chapter 13 will focus on probability and data analysis. This includes using permutation and combinations, analyzing surveys and samples, measures of central tendency and interpreting different types of graphs.

In **Pre-Algebra**, students are just finishing unit 7. In unit 7, students are graphing linear equations and inequalities. In unit 8 students will graph non-linear equations. In unit 9, students will find the distance and midpoint of a line as well as review slope of a

line. Also in unit 9, students will complete geometric transformations including translations, reflections, dilations and rotations. The geometric theme continues in unit 10 with the study of polygons. Students will classify polygons by sides and angles as well as find angle measures using properties of polygons. The study of similar figures will also be part of unit 10.

In addition to the traditional lessons in math, students in both classes are currently working on Study Island lessons. Study Island is an internet site that helps students practice math skills they have learned. This additional review will provide students with additional practice on concepts they are learning and may have forgotten. This program will help to better prepare them for the Ohio 8th Grade Mathematics Achievement Assessment they will take in the spring.

In **science**, students are finishing up the Earth unit. Last week they created examples of plate boundaries using graham crackers and icing! We will be spending the next nine weeks on the Astronomy unit studying the Earth system, Moon system, stars, galaxies and more! Students will also be working hard to prepare for the OAA test in the spring.

The beginning of the 3rd nine weeks of **Social Studies** will be a busy time. Students will be completing and presenting group projects based on the prompt... "What would happen if the Constitution disappeared?" Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the important governmental structures put in place by our Constitution. This project is a major grade in Social Studies. This project will be followed up with units about the Bill of Rights, the First Presidents, and Westward Expansion. Please encourage your student to study at home if they are struggling, do test corrections, and ask questions. Thank you for your support in preparing the kids for what lies ahead in high school.



In **Language Arts** we have been wrapping up our unit: Tales of the Strange and Mysterious. All students wrote dark parodies of "The Monkey's Paw" where they either constructed a prequel to the original story or created their own wishing object that grants wishes with ominous consequences. The stories were fun and definitely creepy... a fitting end



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

to this entertaining unit. We were also able to celebrate Edgar Allan Poe's birthday with a dramatic presentation of some of his tales and of course, birthday cake. Poe, the father of the modern mystery, has certainly entertained our readers in the last two months and created a lasting impression for their literary futures.

In **pre-algebra** we have worked our way through various Algebra 1 topics. We have been working on equations in two variables and studying their graphs. We have started to work and review Geometry. These topics are required for the OAT test that all the students will take in the spring. Algebra class we have just completed chapter 6 from the text. (I love that they now have a text book to use daily.) The students also took a test on chapters 1-6. This was counted as a quiz grade but the 8th grade Algebra teachers felt it was important to expose them to a test similar to a semester exam that they will have to take next year.

In **Geometry** the students have been working on logical reasoning skills. We have been doing formal proofs. This teaches thinking in step by step format as well as the Geometry involved in triangular congruence's.

All students are also doing some reviewing for the 8th Grade Math Achievement tests that are coming up in the spring. To do this the student are using "Study Island". This is an internet program where the students have an assigned lesson due each week. Students on team 8-2 have been investigating the earth in **science** class. They can tell you all about the layers of the earth and how the plates on top move. Have them show you their "dances" for the plate boundaries or sing the song "Plates Move Slow" to you! Coming up soon is the science fair on February 15. If your student is interested in participating, they should have brought home some information and a planning sheet. Thank you for your support of this!

In **social studies**, students recently learned how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation created instability in the United States and the resulting difficulties this imposed upon the new United States. Students discussed the New Jersey Plan, Virginia Plan, Three-Fifth's Compromise and the Great Compromise.

Mrs. Follmer's students will be using Project Based Learning to study the basic ideas of Representative Democracy, Federal System of Government, Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances. Students will create group projects to show their understanding of learned and researched ideas dealing with the basic ideals of the Constitution. Students will be performing or taping newscast and radio broadcast to present to their peers as the culminating group activity. Upon completion of their projects students will explore the Constitution articles and the Bill of Rights and 17 amendments that follow the Bill of Rights. Through lessons and mock government activities students will have a clearer understanding of the United States government and the rights of citizens.



In **language arts**, the second quarter was devoted to a unit on mystery and suspense. Students studied the amazing Edgar Allan Poe by reading several of his stories and completing projects. They created a comic strip, including illustrations and captions that served as a summary of the story that was chosen. Probably the activity that was most fun was conducting a trial for the narrator of "The Tell-Tale Heart." Students were assigned to be part of the defense, prosecution, jury or news crew, and completely created the trial from scratch. Everyone took this very seriously, and did a phenomenal job! Showing off their writing skills was the other important assignment this quarter. Based on a story that was read, students wrote narratives based on a character who found an object that granted wishes. These suspenseful stories were fantastic. Upcoming units will be focused on the immigrant movement in the United States and folk tales. Weekly vocabulary units will continue, and hopefully they will continue to incorporate new words into their verbal and written vocabularies. In **advanced language arts**, the mystery and suspense unit began with a study of Edgar Allan Poe. After reading "The Tell-Tale Heart" students wrote about then debated the sanity of the narrator. After completing the Poe study, all students read And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie. Students analyzed the book as they read, looking for clues that would show which character was the culprit. Students in the advanced class will also write suspenseful, three wishes narratives. The next unit will feature great speeches, including an



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

opportunity for students to recite the words of a great speech of their choice. Weekly vocabulary units will continue, and hopefully they will continue to incorporate new words into their verbal and written vocabularies.

Throughout the second quarter, students in **Pre-Algebra** learned about equations and inequalities, fractions, decimals, and integers, scientific notation, estimation and rounding among other things. Just recently students have started our unit on graphing lines and will soon be not only graphing lines but inequalities. We will then move into geometry concepts in the third nine weeks. Algebra students throughout the second quarter learned about graphing lines in all different forms and with different slopes. Students are just finishing up graphing lines and moving towards inequalities and absolute values.

In **science**, students spent December and the first part of January exploring Earth Science to understand what is happening deep inside Earth that explains the geological events we observe on the surface. Next, we are taking a closer look at waves and wave energy, such as seismic, sound and electromagnetic waves, to understand how they move and transfer energy and, in some cases, matter. From there we will learn about tools used to study space, motions and forces acting on our universe.

In **social studies**, students are currently studying the U.S. Constitution, the first Ten Amendments (Bill of Rights) and Amendments 11-27. Students will apply the Constitution unit to Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship. Students will have some fun using their knowledge of the Constitution in a variety of demonstrations. What would happen if the Constitution disappeared? Well that is the investigative group project that classes are working on which hopes to be fun and yet worthwhile in learning. Following this detailed study of the most important document defining our country, students will learn about the first Presidency and the issues facing our new leaders. Next, the class will move through the next set of Presidents and key events of history including Louisiana Purchase; Lewis and Clark; War of 1812; Era of Good Feeling; Political parties; Manifest

Destiny; and the overall growth of our country from 1800- 1850.

Students will begin to see that with the growing of our country comes “growing pains” in the form of Sectionalism, Treatment of Native Americans, Slavery compromises between northern and southern states and conflicts between the U.S. and other countries over lands out west..

Congratulations to Kirby Brennan, Christian Slee, Sydney Slee, Alex Shaner, Jacob Peterson and Eli Walker who represented 8-4 in the Geography Bee in round 2. Best of luck to Kirby and Christian as they continue with round 3.



In **Language Arts**, Mrs. Grose’s students are in the midst of a mystery and suspense unit. Earlier in the quarter, the students read numerous stories by Edgar Allan Poe. They enjoyed researching his life story which they found just as interesting and macabre as his writing. Students also read an play adaption of W. W. Jacobs’ classic short story “The Monkey’s Paw”. The story provided students with the springboard for their major writing assignment of the quarter. Students are in the final revisions stages of their Three Wishes Narrative. Next, students will be reading a mystery called *The Name of the Game Was Murder* by Joan Lowery Nixon. The advanced LA students also delved into the complex world of Poe. They read Agatha Christie’s gripping mystery *And Then There Were None*. The students are in the early drafting stages of their Three Wishes Narrative now. Upcoming events include a Poe performance by the talented performers from Random Acts and a 203rd birthday party of Edgar Allan Poe on Thursday, January 19th.

In **Pre-Algebra** we have been working with a variety of math concepts. Students are studying how to graph linear equations, inequalities, and will apply this learning to solving systems of equations. Students are also applying their knowledge to solve real life application problems. As we continue into the 3rd nine weeks, we will begin our study of topics such as Algebraic relationships, Arithmetic and Geometric Sequences, and geometry. Graphing calculators and technology will be utilized throughout these units.

In **Algebra** we are currently working on calculating slope of a line and will demonstrate understanding through graphing linear equations. In the next unit we will discover the effects exponents have on



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS

equations and their graphs. To finish out this nine weeks students will concentrate on solving Quadratic Equation and graphing parabolas. Graphing calculators and technology will be utilized throughout these units.

In **science**, students have recently been studying earth science. We have spent a great deal of time learning about earth's interior, tectonic plate movement, as well as some introduction to earthquakes and volcanoes. We also have tried to step outside of the box a little and use our cell phones in the classroom for educational purposes, while we have only done it once so far the students seem to really enjoy incorporating their own technology in to learning. As we start the third

nine weeks we will move into wave energy and astronomy before we make a final push to the OAA testing in May. The year is going by quickly and it is hard to believe that the 8th graders will soon be scheduling their High School classes.

In **social studies**, Mrs. Danals was happy and excited to be returning to her students upon completion of winter break. She was on medical leave since Thanksgiving. In her absence, Mr. Rayburn instructed the students over Causes of the Revolutionary War and Articles of Confederation. 2012 begins with Project Based Learning in social studies. Students will work in groups to develop and produce either a radio or TV broadcast about the disappearance of the Constitution.



February Dance Student Pickup directions:

Our 2nd dance of the year is Friday, Feb. 10th. It will be held after school until 4:00. We are asking parents to only enter the school grounds through the **SOUTH ENTRANCE** (2nd driveway if you are driving west on Rt. 4). Pull all the way around to the front of the North office doors (this route will be different for parents because this is the opposite of how we have you pick up students on a normal school day). If your child is not outside when you pull up, please pull into the north parking lot and wait for your child there. When traffic backs up to the south side, we will be asking parents to start a 2nd line of traffic. Our goal is to try to keep traffic from backing out onto Rt. 4. We recognize this as an unsafe situation, and we have tried many different ways to pick up students which have resulted in traffic jams on Rt. 4 (our last dance, close to 600 students attended the dance which equals many parents involved in picking up their child). **We strongly suggest carpooling.** Staff and police officers will be outside assisting with traffic. With your assistance and patience, we are hoping these pickup directions will resolve traffic jams and allow students to be picked up safely and in a timely manner.

