

WORTHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 09



Mission: Worthington Middle School prepares adolescents to be responsible citizens and life-long learners by supporting their academic, physical and social development

From the Principal

Congratulations to Jeff Luke. In the fall, he will be principal of Worthington Middle School. Mr. Luke taught fourteen years in Farmington Schools and been with ISD 518 for seven years as an assistant principal at Prairie Elementary and WMS. He has three children is our school district grades 4,6,8.

Dr. Lipetzky will return to retirement. He has enjoyed his work assignment with students, teachers, parents, etc... He is confident the middle school will prosper in the years ahead.

The Board of Education has accepted Mrs. Hageman's retirement. She has been on staff twenty-five years. She is a dedicated and experienced teacher as well as a respected member of our community. We will miss her leadership and knowledge.

Please check your school calendar and locate upcoming test dates. Be sure your student is well rested and receiving motivation from home before testing. We are still finding many of the consequences of "high stakes testing". We want to look our best as we report our students' academic progress.

Do you kids need to burn off some energy? Get them signed up for a spring sport. WMS has lots to offer!

Grades 6,7,8 – Girl's and Boy's Track
Grades 7,8 - Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Golf

At this time we plan on our last day of school for 5-28, Thursday following Memorial Day. Should we have no school due to snow, we will have to plan additional day(s). Let's hope we get a break with the weather and enjoy a good spring for school session and for planting all our important summer projects from corn and beans to cucumbers and flowers!

Dr Lipetzky



Team Notes

Team 6A:

Team 6A has just finished reading the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Along with various activities during reading class, students also participated in some math activities related to holes. Ask your child how to find the circumference and area of a donut hole! After completing the book, students viewed the video "Holes". They completed the unit by comparing and contrasting the book and video.

Each quarter Team 6A recognizes students that they believe are Good Citizens. The criteria is showing kindness to staff, students and property, being on time to class, being prepared for class, and having all assignments done. Our Good Citizens for 3rd quarter were Bianca Alvarez, Deven Bents, Katie Eggers, Tyler Faragher, Brianna Kempema, Allison Kremer, Jamie Le, Anguel Licea, Elizabeth Mendez, Tri Nguyen, Orissa Nitibhon, Brenda Orozco, Karla Resendiz, Laura Schuck, Kyra Schulze, Roque Soto, and Joshua Van Watermeulen. They were treated to ice cream sundaes. Keep up the good work, students!

Team 6A selects four Students of the Month. The criteria for selection is volunteering in class, having assignments done on time and to the best of your ability, getting to class on time, being prepared for class, and being respectful to students and staff. Our Students of the Month for the month of February were Peter Abraham (Reading), Tori Elsing (Geography), Ashley Garibay (Math), and

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Kyle Johnson (Science). Congratulations to these students!

Team 6 B:

We held both a written and an oral spelling bee during the month of February. The winners participated in a spell-down. The overall winner for team 6B is Oliver Wolyniec. The runner-up is Dennis Berger. Oliver will advance to Slayton on Saturday, April 4th. Congratulations and Good Luck in Slayton!!

The sixth grade class has been approved to take an educational field trip on May 27, 2009. We will be traveling to St. Paul to tour the State Capitol building, meet with our representatives, and complete activities at the Minnesota History Center. Information was sent home with your child. If you have not returned the form and the \$10.00 fee, please do so as soon as possible.

Mr. Henkels' advisory class captured the traveling trophy for the "dog" sled race. Great job!

Minnesota Energy Resources sponsored a natural gas safety presentation on March 16th. All sixth graders participated in learning how to use natural gas wisely. Ask your child about the fantastic demonstrations.

Thank you for attending the WMS Showcase Night. It was good to see parents, students, and community members enjoying our school.

Our Students of Excellence for third quarter are:

Reading: Katherine Luke, Jose Funes, and Diana Perez

Communication Arts: Oliver Wolyniec, Andrew Johnson, and Belen Magana

Math: Jasmine Soto, Sara Gebrehiwot, and Kristi Souksavath

Geography: Luis Soto, Jordan Steinle, and Andrea Duarte

Science: Bailey Andersen, Aubrey Anderson, and Hunter Stier

Thanks for striving for excellence!

Check out the website for the list of Students of Exceptional Behaviors.

Team 7A:

March is well underway and as always we are working hard in the middle school. Students have taken the NWEA, better known as the MAP, tests this month. These scores are a good indicator as to how your child will do on the MCA's April 20-24. Please make sure your child knows the importance of these tests. They need to have plenty of sleep the day before and a good nutritious breakfast to get the brain cells thinking.

We also are sending a friendly reminder that our field trip is May 20th. If you have not signed and returned the permission slip along with the \$10 fee, please do so ASAP. Failure to return the permission slip with the fee will result in your child being unable to attend the field trip. This is not an opportunity to miss! If you have concerns or problems, please contact one of the team teachers. There will be a minimum of 18 chaperones attending, and each chaperone will have anywhere from 10-12 students to accompany.

ASAP is continuously underway. It is a program designated for students who struggle and have low test scores to get extra help with homework and enjoy some enrichment. Students are usually recommended by teachers and parents need to sign permission forms for their child to attend. It is held three nights a week with one hour of homework time and one hour of enrichment. Please be aware that if your child attends ASAP that it does not guarantee all homework will be completed during that hour. Check your child's planner along with the team's web page to make sure all work is completed. If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail any teacher on the team.

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6th grade Math Masters of Minnesota

Congratulations to the four teams of 6th graders that represented Worthington Middle School on Saturday, March 14th.

The teams participated in a Facts/Order of Operations Drill, Four Individual Rounds and Three Team Rounds.

Team members; Brenda Orozco, Ivan Parga, Kaine Hanson, Jordan Stienle and Laura Schuck took 2nd place honors out of the 11 teams participating from 5 different school systems.

The Worthington Team of Vince Nguyen, Mikey Vongsynha, Nicholas Demuth, Oliver Wolyniec, and Orissa Nitibhon placed 3rd and the Worthington team of D.J. Berger, Jaron Sterneke, Nick Newman, Tri Ngyun, and Levi Blanchard came in fourth.

Team members; Adrian Manzo, Anthony Hartman, Troy Ektnitphong, Hunter Stier, and Kyle DeBates were awarded 7th place.

Individual Awards went to Kyle, Orissa, Oliver, Laura, Levi, and Jordan for individual excellence....3rd,4th,5th, 6th, 8th and 11th place respectively. . .

Facts Awards went to Oliver for 6th place, Vince for 7th, Orissa for 8th, and Kyle for 11th place.

This was a great showing for Worthington students, placing well in competition with fifty-five, Math-strong 6th graders from the area.

Thank you kids for representing your school with pride! 6th grade Math Masters is coached by Mr. Rich Besel.

Penny Wars

As many of you know there was Penny Wars going on the week of March 16th – 20th. This is a competition between grade levels where pennies are positive points and all other money is negative points. The money raised during Pennies for

Patients goes to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which helps patients and their families along with funding blood cancer research at the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic.

There was a close competition between 6th grade and 8th grade but the 8th grade class managed to pull ahead. They were the only grade with positive points! Thanks to the generosity from WMS faculty and students we are able to donate \$1,193.00 to Pennies for Patients



Counselor's Corner – Mrs. Johnson

In April all middle school students will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments – Series II (MCA-IIs) in reading and math. These are state tests that meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. These tests are given every year to measure student performance on the Minnesota Academic Standards, which define what our students should know and do in a particular grade. The test dates are:

April 20th and 21st – 6th and 7th grade reading and 8th grade math

April 23rd and 24th – 6th and 7th grade math and 8th grade reading.

The week of May 11th – 15th all 8th grade students will be taking the MCA II science test. This is a computerized test.

For more information on these tests and to help your child prepare for the tests please see the Minnesota Department of Education website at www.education.state.mn.us.

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The following suggestions for teachers and parents will help students get ready for a statewide assessment:

General Preparation

- Students should take courses that address Minnesota's academic standards. Most schools also make appropriate educational opportunities available to students who are at risk for not succeeding on these tests.
- Familiarize students with the test directions and format. For most Minnesota Assessments, you can download Item Samplers from the Website. (<http://education.state.mn.us> – under Accountability Programs: Assessment and testing: assessment).
- Encourage students to answer all test questions.
- Encourage students to participate in practice sessions at school and home.
- Have students get a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before taking a test.
- Provide students with a study area.
- Encourage students to practice good study habits. Students should set aside time every day for homework.

Reading Tests

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you.
- Have students try crossword puzzles and news quizzes in your local newspaper.
- Encourage students to read the daily newspaper and general interest magazines.
- Discuss the events and stories you read about in the newspaper.

Math Tests

- Encourage students to use mathematics every day. They can practice by creating a grocery budget, explaining charts and graphs from newspaper and magazine articles,

dividing food portions, using rulers to measure objects, measuring a recipe or adding prices on a shopping trip.

- Play games that involve numbers or computation.
- Encourage students to connect what they are learning in math class to their hobbies, other classes and everyday life.

Science Tests

- Share your enthusiasm and interest in science with your children.
- Use science articles from news publications to show that science is an ongoing, active process.
- Have students use inquiry skills by participating in science competitions, fairs and other activities.
- Explore science outside the classroom – nature centers, zoos, and science museums.

Using a Calculator

Talk to your child's classroom teacher to find out how calculators are typically used in the classroom. Students can't share calculators with others students during the Minnesota assessments or use any calculator manuals. You can get more information on using a calculator for testing from your school.

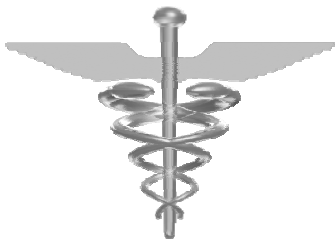
Media Center News Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair was switched around some this year and held only on Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 and Friday from 8:00 to 2:00. The results were \$1,000 in sales which earned the school \$400.00 in book profit. Media staff was able to obtain 31 new titles for the library. Thank you for your help in making this possible. A special thank you to all the volunteers who manned the fair.

Did you know you have access to World Book Online? If you have internet service at home, you can access the entire 22 volume set plus much more.

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Come and learn more about World Book Online and the other subscription databases available to your child at school and home. Some of the other databases are Culture Grams, QuizList Interactive, and EBSCO.



Notes from the Nurse

Attention 6th Grade Parents/Guardians,

It's not too early to start thinking about next year and getting your 6th grader, soon to be 7th grader, into the doctor to get their immunizations up to date and their athletic physicals. The Minnesota School Immunization Law requires students entering 7th grade to have documentation of certain immunizations before school starts. Starting now will help your health providers, so they will have more available times and be able to be more accommodating to your needs. This way, when the 2009-2010 school year rolls around you are not rushing trying to get your child into the doctor so that they are compliant with school laws and can play their favorite sport.

Thank you,
Joni Reitmeier RN for District #518

LUNCH MONEY

This time of year I usually get a lot of phone calls from parents wondering how much money they have left in their child's lunch account. I'm hoping to reduce calls but still collect the money for our food service. If you have a computer at home and you need your family and pin number, call or email me and I'll help you. You can look up your own information.

Shauna 727-1190 or shauna.brignac@isd518.net.

TO USE

Go to the school web page www.isd518.net and select **parents**, (not parent portal). Click on **menu**, then on **family lunch account information**. Enter in your family and pin number, and you will be into your account information. This will give you balances and dates of deposits, etc. Down in the corner, click on **more detailed information**. This will give you a day by day, meal by meal, look at when your kids are eating, if they're eating twice, extra milks, or not eating at all.

If you **do not** have a computer, **you can figure how much money you'll need** to finish the year using the information below.

Prairie Elementary

Grades KD – 5

Breakfast

Per Meal - .70

Weekly - \$3.50

Monthly- \$14.00

Lunch

Per Meal - \$1.40

Weekly - \$7.00

Monthly - \$28.00

Based on 20 Days a month

Middle and High Schools

Grades 6-12

Breakfast

Per Meal - \$1.00

Weekly - \$5.00

Monthly - \$20.00

Lunch

Per Meal - \$1.55

Weekly - \$7.75

Monthly - \$31.00

Any money left in your account will carry over to the next year. Any outstanding bills will also carry over.

My phone and email numbers are listed above.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Shauna Brignac