

Golf Middle School News and Views

April 2007
Volume 2, Issue 8

Mr. Keith Westman, Principal

From the Principal's Pen

Dear Golf Middle School Community Members:

Although the weather has not been very "spring"-like, the events and activities happening at Golf Middle School make it very clear that summer is approaching!

During the month of May, all students will be participating in the final MAP testing season of the year. We look forward to sharing these results with you in the future. As you may already know, students are tested in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and Language Usage.

Our seventh grade students will be heading to Springfield, Illinois on Tuesday, April 24th. The all-day trip will include visits to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Illinois State Capital Building, and both the WWII and Vietnam War Memorials.

The spring also brings two new athletic seasons: Girls' Soccer and Boys' Volleyball. All home soccer games are played at National Park while home volleyball games take place in our Gym. I invite you to attend one of these exciting games!

As was reported by the local media in March, Golf Middle School students performed very well on the 2006 ISAT tests with over 93% of our students meeting or exceeding State standards. I would like to congratulate all of the parents and teachers, who contribute so much support to the education of our students, on these wonderful results.

Your partner in education,

Mr. Keith Westman

Mr. Keith Westman, Principal
kwestman@golf67.net

5th Grade Team: Mrs. Amy Feinstein, Ms. Brooke Iglow and Mrs. Anne Moss

April and May will be filled with many exciting events in 5th grade. Not only did we complete our ISAT testing, but we have dove right into our Voyage of the Mimi unit and will begin our Rainforest research.

We will start the unit off by showing the students a video of Mrs. Feinstein in the Costa Rican Rainforest from four summers ago. We are certain that they will love watching their teacher hike and get all dirty. They are all really excited to learn all about the rainforest!

We have also been really busy on our Invention Fair projects. The actual Invention Fair will take place April 26th at 7:00 p.m. The children have been working really hard on creating interesting and creative inventions. Make sure you come and see them.

In May, we will have our last field trip which is to the Brookfield Zoo. There, we will go through their Rainforest and see the amazing animals. We will also see the dolphin show, which is always a good time.

These last few months seem to fly by so quickly!

Finally, we would like to wish all of our mothers a Happy Mother's Day.



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6th Grade Team: Mr. Brian Carro, Mrs. Hope Nelson, Mrs. Peggy Steadman, Mrs. Kris Vojack

Whether looking for extra practice or help with homework, check out this new resource. Loyola University produces a public television math program designed to help middle and junior high students with their homework. Their website features video tutorials and practice sheets to download which can be searched by topic. Please visit <http://countdown.luc.edu> and explore!

In science happenings, sixth graders are working on their inventions. Please ask your child what they are creating. Remember, the Science Expo is April 26th!

They have created some excellent products designed to help solve everyday problems around the house. The students will be putting their inventions on display at our annual Science Expo that will be held at Golf next Thursday, April 26 at 7:00. Hope to see all of you there!

The Sixth Grade Humanities classes have completed their explorer projects and have created terrific posters on display in the 5th/6th hallway.

Students are also working towards their reading goal. Good Luck!

7th Grade Team: Ms. Liana Alonistiotis, Mrs. Cindy Conejo, Mr. Gregg Gilman, Mr. Kevin Atwood

In 7th grade English, we're going to start a project designed to connect with a possible Chicago Olympics in 2016. Students will design Olympics posters, research Chicago sports sites, and recommend people to light the Olympic cauldron.

On Tuesday, April 24th, all seventh grade students will be visiting Springfield, Illinois for a busy day of touring historic places. The all-day trip will include visits to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Illinois State Capital Building, and both the WWII and Vietnam War Memorials.

8th Grade Team: Mr. Ted Carris, Mrs. Lisa Featherstone, Mrs. Kristine Joyner,
Mrs. Danielle Maldonado, Mrs. Sue Grossman

It's Shakespeare time in English and Reading. Widely regarded as the greatest writer of the English language, the 8th graders will experience the Shakespearean era through many of his masterpieces. In Science, the students have just taken their "board exams" and had the Emergency Room experiences. While in Humanities, we finished the WWII Unit and we are preparing to identify the causes and effects of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The students will also understand the struggles for freedom for minorities, especially the Civil Rights Movement, and learn key figures in those conflicts and movements.

The Class of 2007 has entered the final stretch of their GMS experience. April units included Shakespeare, the Vietnam War, and poetry. Thanks to the PTA's support, we were able to travel to the Museum of Science and Industry to see "BodyWorld," an exhibit on DNA, and an IMAX movie about the human body. Our fabulous field trip served as a perfect precursor to the E.R. experience, where students diagnosed and treated teacher-patients in a wonderfully authentic learning experience. May holds many exciting curriculum activities and graduation celebrations. Stay tuned for a calendar from the main office

Counselor's Corner- Lisa Featherstone

The Counselor's Corner

Spring is finally here, and it's hard to believe that the fourth quarter of the school year is already upon us! Our students are continuing to grow and mature through their experiences and the passage of time. With that in mind, it's helpful for us as both educators and parents to spend some time reflecting on this process of "*growing up*." One of my favorite essays on this subject is written by Erma Bombeck:

GROWING UP PROCESS

I see children as kites, you spend a lifetime
trying to get them off the ground.
You run until you are both breathless. . . .
they crash. . . . they hit rooftops. . . .
you patch and comfort, adjust and teach.
You watch them lifted by the wind and assume that
someday they will fly.
Finally, they are airborne,
they need more string and you keep letting it out.
But with each twist of the twine there is sadness
that goes with the joy.

The kite becomes more distant and you know
that it won't be long before the beautiful creature
will snap the lifeline that binds you together
and will soar as it is meant to soar. . . .free and alone.

Only then do you know that you did your job!

---Erma Bombeck

It is important for us to work together in order for our children to have a "*smooth flight*" in their lives. We also must remember not to "let out too much string," so our children are not growing up too quickly. This "growing up" process is exciting, but also involves a strong commitment between parents and educators to ensure success for our children! Together, we can help our children to "grow up" and become the best they can be!

ECO CLUB - Ms. Danielle Maldonado

Golf Middle School is teaming up with Abitibi Consolidated to recycle paper and make money!

Abitibi is a company that provides us with special dumpsters for our PAPER ONLY recycling. This includes newspapers, magazines, catalogs, mail, office paper, paperback books, and hard cover books (covers removed). No cardboard can be recycled here. So, when you are bringing your child to school, or just passing by, you too can help our school make money!

Drop off your paper at the **BRIGHT GREEN** dumpster just east of the school by the back doors to the gymnasium. It's quite convenient...just drive up and dump your paper. With everyone's participation, we'll be saving the environment and make some money for the school!

Please contact Mrs. Maldonado at extension 304 with any questions

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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| April 19 | Board of Education Meeting: 6:30 P.M. |
| April 20 | Golf OLSAT Testing |
| April 20 | PTA Variety Show: 7:00 P.M. |
| April 24 | 7th Grade Springfield Trip |
| April 24 | NTDSE Board Meeting at Molloy: 7:30 P.M. |
| April 26 | Registration at Golf Middle School: 5:30-9:00 P.M. |
| April 26 | Science Expo/Scientist of the Year/Celebration of Art: 6:30-8:00 P.M. |
| May 4 | PTA Tween Night at Golf Middle School |
| May 9 | District Band and Chorus Concert |

For a list of all upcoming athletic games, please refer to our online athletics calendar which is available through www.golf67.net.



Inspire Lifelong Learners, Create Successful People

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