

Golf Middle School News and Views

December 2007
Volume 3, Issue 4

Mr. Keith Westman, Principal



Contents

Principal's News	1
Team Reports	2
Specials	3
Activities Updates	3
Spring Tryout Info	4
Calendar	4

Golf Backpack!

All documents that are distributed from the GMS office may be found online in the Golf Backpack.

Athletic Calendar

For a list of all upcoming athletic games, please refer to our online athletics calendar.

Available at:

www.golf67.net

From the Principal's Pen

Dear Golf Middle School Community,

Tomorrow, Friday, December 21st is our final day of school before Winter Break begins. While the students are away from school, we hope that you encourage them to set aside some time to enjoy a book. Some strategies for promoting reading in your home can be found below:

1. Read yourself. Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.
2. Make sure your children read every day. Reading - like shooting baskets and playing the piano - is a skill. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun - whether they read books, newspapers, or magazines - develop the skills to be better readers at school.
3. Get the library habit. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library. While you are there, check out a book yourself!
4. Read aloud to the children. In **The Read Aloud Handbook**, Jim Trelease reports on research showing that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers.

(Tips from www.newsforparents.org)

I am looking forward to a wonderful second half of the school year. Have a safe and relaxing Winter Break and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, January 7, **2008!**

Wishing you all things great in 2008!

Mr. Keith Westman

Mr. Keith Westman, *Principal*

Cold Weather Information

Please be sure to send your children to school adequately dressed for the weather; hats, gloves, winter coats, boots, snow pants, etc. It is suggested that in colder weather one dress in layers of clothing (the trapped air between the layers insulates).

The students at Golf Middle School go out for recess everyday as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above 0. We feel it is very important for children to get some fresh air and exercise each day.

5th Grade Team

Mrs. Yabut, Mrs. Hockenberg and Ms. Bitonti

With 2007 coming to an end, we'd like to thank our students and families for all their hard work and dedication to learning. December has been very busy.

Last week, the fifth graders had a successful Ancient Civilization Exchange. They got a chance to be teachers for a morning when they taught the other classes about the Civilization they had studied. Mrs. Hockenberg's class did a wonderful job teaching about Ancient Greece, Mrs. Yabut's class did a marvelous job teaching about Ancient Rome, and Ms. Bitonti's class did a fabulous job teaching about Ancient Egypt. We are very proud of all the hard work our students put into their projects.

In Science, we began our study of Inertia and Gravity using Science Court. Be sure to ask your child about Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Motion.

In Writing, the students are finishing up an expository essay describing their families' holiday traditions. It's been very interesting to learn about all the fun festivities this time of year brings. For most people, this time of year brings happiness. We are very proud of our students for bringing happiness to students from a Chicago Public School who wrote to "Santa" for various gifts. Our students enthusiastically provided holiday gifts for the children.

Finally, please encourage your child to read a chapter book over Winter Break. Second Quarter ends January 18th. By that time, students have Accelerated Reader reading requirements to meet. Be sure to ask your child how many books he/she has read and what his/her teacher's requirements are.

On behalf of the 5th grade team, we wish you a warm, relaxing, and enjoyable Winter Break. We'll see you in 2008!

6th Grade Team

Mr. Brian Carro, Mrs. Hope Nelson, Ms. Lilly Kim

Try these ideas to help keep your child's math skills sharp over break!

PLAN A ROAD TRIP

Children can sharpen their math skills by calculating mileage, determining fuel cost, and finding the expected travel time.

GO OUT TO DINNER

Calculating the tip on a dinner bill is a great way to review fraction and decimal operations.

GO TO THE GROCERY STORE

Going to the grocery store provides a wonderful opportunity to work on estimation skills. Children can estimate the cost of each item and predict the total bill.

Counting back change is another activity that can be done here, or any other store.

KEEPING TRACK OF HIS/HER ALLOWANCE

Have your child treat their allowance as a bank account. Their allowance can be the "deposits" and whatever he/she spends would be a "withdrawal". A running balance can be kept.

MAKE A MEAL TOGETHER

Almost all recipes contain ingredients that are measured in fractions. Cooking can help children become more comfortable working with fractions. Halving or doubling the recipe can increase the challenge.

HELP WITH HOUSEHOLD PROJECTS

Many home improvement projects provide opportunities for children to see math being used everyday. Your child can help measure for new windows, find the area for a new patio, or determine how much carpet will be needed for a room.

7th Grade Team

Ms. Liana Alonistiotis, Mr. Gregg Gilman, Mr. Kevin Atwood, Mrs. Bari Levin, Mrs. Julissa Reyes

The 7th graders have taken to the stage to perform excerpts from the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol in Reading class. They read the play together then acted out various scenes. In Spanish, they have been describing clothing and expressing their likes using the phrase, "Me gusta..." In Math, students have been writing and solving two-step equations.

8th Grade Team

Mr. Ted Carris, Mrs. Lisa Featherstone, Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Mrs. Danielle Maldonado

We hope that you and your eighth-grader enjoy a wonderful winter break! We are looking forward to learning with your children in 2008. Units coming in the new year will be an interdisciplinary study of the Holocaust through Humanities and Literature, the study of the human body and the E.R. experience, Shakespeare, and writing boot camp. Students will also be receiving their EXPLORE test results from the high school and counseling appointments will begin at the end of January through February. Although we are surrounded by snow and cold, the warmth of spring and the thrill of graduation will be here before we know it!

Volunteer Service Club

Mrs. Lisa Featherstone and Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Sponsors

In the spirit of the holidays, the Volunteer Service Club focused their efforts on giving during the months of November and December. We supported the PTA's Letter to Santa program by purchasing gifts for two children at Schiller School in Chicago. The students also helped wrapped many gifts and made beautiful holiday greeting cards to accompany the presents. In addition, the students sponsored our annual Holiday Food Drive. We were excited to have the students and staff at Hynes School join in our efforts this year. On Monday, December 17th, everyone's efforts culminated in a trip to the Niles Township Food Pantry in Skokie, Illinois, with a District 67 bus full of students laden with food, hats, gloves, and good cheer. Students learned that the food pantry services over 2,000 people a month. Mrs. Featherstone and Mrs. Joyner are proud of our VSC students and the Golf community for participating in these worthwhile events.

Congratulations Girls' JV Basketball Team!

Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Coach

Congratulations to the Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball team on an undefeated season! The girls won the Niles Township Conference Tournament, beating Lincoln Hall by three in an exciting championship game. The girls were a true team, using the talents of everyone to proudly represent the Cardinals.

Members of the team are Yetunde O., Giana C., Michelle T., Kristin R., Brittany R., Holly B., Rachel M., Helen Z., Zainab K., Jaclyn L., Maygan B., and Caitlyn W.

Way to Go Girls' Varsity Basketball Team!

Mr. Kevin Atwood, Coach

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team played hard all season long. Congratulations on a wonderful season.

Members of the team are Shana A., Amy A., Amanda C., Brittany E., Berina G., Janine H., Stacey J., Kaitie K., Kasey K., Jenny R., Susie S., and Martyna T.

Student Services Team

Mrs. Jennie Orsello, Ms. Kira Beckering, Ms. Carolyn Ebely, Mrs. Bari Levin, Ms. Debbie Cregier

As educators and parents, we would like to protect our children from the more difficult and unpleasant aspects of life. However, a more proactive approach can help children to develop the necessary coping skills which will assist them in dealing with the inevitable stressors and problems they will experience throughout their lives.

Parents can use these two straightforward models to assist their children in dealing with stress and developing problem solving skills.

Stress Reduction

Let feelings out
Talk about your feelings
Exercise you body
Rest your body and mind

Problem - Solving

Identify the problem
Decide on your goal
Brainstorm possible solutions
Determine potential consequences of each solution
Rate the consequences of each solution
Determine course of action

Upcoming Athletic and Activity Tryouts

Boys' Varsity Basketball (*8th Grade*) Wednesday, January 9th from 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Mr. Gregg Gilman, Coach

Boys' JV Basketball (*7th Grade*) Monday, January 14th from 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Mr. Ted Carris, Coach

6th Grade All-Play Boys' Basketball Practice Schedule to be distributed after break!
Mr. Kevin Atwood and Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Coaches

GMS Cheerleading (*8th Grade*) Thursday, January 10th from 3:30-5:00 P.M.
Mrs. Joann Stavropoulos, Coach

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, December 21 st	Last Day Before Winter Break
Monday, January 7 th	School Resumes
Monday, January 7 th	Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 P.M. at GMS
Tuesday, January 8 th	PTA Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at GMS
Thursday, January 17 th	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 P.M. and GMS

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