

# Golf Middle School News and Views

February 2008  
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Mr. Keith Westman, Principal

## From the Principal's Pen

Dear Golf Middle School Community,

We will be giving students state-required achievement tests from March 5-13. Students in grades five, six, seven, and eight will be tested in reading and mathematics. Students in grades five, six, and eight will also be tested in writing. In addition, students in grade seven will be tested in science. The tests are part of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) program and are being given to all students. The results of the state tests will be reported to you on the School Report Card by the end of October 2008. We will review ISAT state test results along with other information to help us continue a tradition of excellence in our school. In addition, you will receive information about your child's performance on the state tests that he or she took.

You can help your child do his or her best on the test by:

- making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;
- making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
- providing breakfast on the mornings of testing;
- reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand;
- letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best; and
- advising your child not to worry about the test, just do the best he or she can.

Please call your child's teacher if you want additional information or have further questions about these tests.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Keith Westman*

Mr. Keith Westman, *Principal*

## Golf Middle School Spelling Bee

Sixteen students participated in the Golf Middle School Spelling Bee on February 6. These students are: Marissa A., Terrie T., Samar A., Binyamin K., Lyndale B., Chantal D., Anna P., Paula R., Vi-Vien B., Yuliya Y., Maygan B., Mohommed N., Derek H., Brett N., Yiorgos G., and Dale L.

Derek H. won the Bee by spelling the word: terrestrial. Marrison A. was our runner-up.

Congratulations to all of the participants!



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### **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](http://www.golf67.net)**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

*Mrs. Yabut, Mrs. Hockenberg and Ms. Bitonti*

In Science, we are working on the study of the Universe. Fifth graders went on a field trip to the Adler Planetarium to supplement our learning of the universe. Our students are currently working on projects about a specific topic (comets, black holes, etc) in the Universe. They will then have the chance to ask expert scientists from the Adler Planetarium any questions they still have about their topic. The final part of the project will consist of the students becoming the "experts" on their topic, and presenting their projects to their peers and to the Adler scientists via a video conference feed to the Planetarium. The scientists will have questions for the students to answer about their topic. We are all excited about teaming up with the Adler Planetarium for our students' valuable learning experiences!

In Writing, we are continuing to do expository essays. The last essay the students wrote about was their "Dream Job." We will soon be focusing on persuasive writing when we move on to our next Humanities unit, Economics.

What an exciting month! Keep warm and keep reading!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

*Mr. Brian Carro, Mrs. Hope Nelson, Mrs. Peggy Steadman*

The sixth grade humanities students have completed their explorer projects. They are available for viewing in the 5/6 hallway. In science, students are beginning to work on their products. Their initial proposals will be approved during the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was a pleasure seeing so many parents at conferences. Should you have any additional questions, please contact any teacher at school.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

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

In seventh grade language arts, the students have been working on a novel/poetry project. They have been reading a novel and then turning that story into a collection of poems. In seventh grade Pre-Algebra, students are graphing linear equations using slope-intercept form.

The Math 3 students are working on geometry concepts such as angles and angle pairs. In seventh grade Spanish class, students are learning to express ownership by using possessive adjectives.

The annual 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Springfield Trip is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been confirmed for a personal meeting with State Senator Ira Silverstein who will show us around the State Capital Building during our visit. Permission slips will be sent home soon!

## 8th Grade Team

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

Eighth grade transition-to-high-school activities have been in full swing! During the past few weeks, representatives from Niles North have come to GMS to speak with the Class of 2008. Students had the opportunity to learn about the courses in the foreign language, applied sciences, and fine arts departments. Students also received a special visit from Mr. Freeman, the Niles North Principal, and Dr. Cummings, the Niles North Assistant Principal.

A list of important upcoming dates for our graduates is listed below:

<b>February 26, 2008:</b>	8th Grade Graduation Picture Retake Day	9:00 A.M. at GMS
<b>March 1-3, 2008:</b>	Washington, D.C. Trip	
<b>April 28, 2008:</b>	Incoming Freshman Shadow Day	9:30 A.M. at Niles North
<b>May 27-28, 2008:</b>	C.H.O.I.C.E.S.	Camp MacLean, Wisconsin
<b>May 29, 2008:</b>	PTA 8th Grade Celebration	American Legion Hall, MG
<b>May 30, 2008:</b>	8th Grade Awards Ceremony	9:00 A.M. at GMS
<b>June 5, 2008:</b>	8th Grade Graduation Ceremony	6:45 P.M. at Niles North

## Volunteer Service Club

*Mrs. Lisa Featherstone, Mrs. Kristine Joyner, and Ms. Elizabeth Jones (Guidance Counseling Intern), Co-Sponsors*

The wonderful Volunteer Service Club members at Golf Middle School have been keeping busy helping others during the last month! VSC members have devoted their time and effort to projects that benefit both the local community and Children's Memorial Hospital.

First, students designed and created colorful and cheerful Valentine cards for the residents at Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre in Morton Grove. A special thank-you goes to Christina C., one of our Volunteer Service Club members, who had the wonderful idea for this community service project! Christina (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and her brother Matthew (8<sup>th</sup> grade), personally delivered these Valentines to the residents at Bethany Terrace in our behalf. The recipients of these holiday wishes were very happy with their handmade cards and the VSC members were glad to have helped brighten their day by making them!

The second project that the VSC has devoted time to is helping with the Young Associate Board's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Challenge for Hope which benefits the Children's Memorial Hospital on Friday, February 29, 2008. To help in the planning of this special event, the VSC has already decorated ten spectacular tablecloths to be used for the décor of the venue. In addition, the VSC will be selling 20oz. bottles of Gatorade for \$1.50 each to raise the money needed to purchase baseball caps for the patients being honored at the Corporate Challenge for Hope.

Participation in these worthwhile projects demonstrates that students at Golf Middle School truly have a heart for others. Way to go VSC, we are certainly proud of all that you have accomplished!

## Word Power Olympics

*Mrs. Hope Nelson, Sponsor*

The students at Golf Middle School have been studying their Word Power words for the second test. The grade level winner for the Second Word Power Test was the fifth grade with an average of 92%.

Congratulations to all of our Word Power participants.

## Music Department

*Mrs. Traci Bowering, Instrumental Music*

*Mrs. Laura Blanchard, General and Vocal Music Teacher*

On Saturday, February 16, 2008, Golf Middle School had the honor of hosting Illinois Grade School Music Association's Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest. This day-long event provided participating students the opportunity to perform in front of a judge and a small audience so that they could be rated and evaluated. Over six hundred students from twelve schools in our area participated!

Many thanks for the efforts amazing volunteers that helped to prepare for the contest last Friday and to execute the jobs needed for the contest on Saturday to run smoothly. Without the dedication and assistance of the parents and students, it would not have been possible.

Congratulations to the following Golf **band** students who performed a solo and/or ensemble:

Kristiene A.  
Daniel A.  
Maygan B.  
Giana C.  
Christina C.  
Marko D.  
Kayleen E.  
Komal F.  
Derek H.  
Janine H.  
Ayana J.  
Zainab K.  
Edward K.  
Snehith M.  
Brett N.  
Michelle S.  
Matthew S.  
Dominique W.  
Hailee W.  
Megan W.  
Yuliya Y.

Congratulations to the Golf **chorus** students who performed a solo:

Maygan B.  
Komal F.  
Jack F.  
Scott H.  
Ashley J.  
Eliza M.  
Joey O.

**Upcoming District 67 Events**

**February 21, 2008**

Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

**March 1-3, 2008**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C. Trip

**March 4, 2008**

Market Day Pick-Up at Hynes, 4:00 P.M.

**March 5-14, 2008**

ISAT Testing

**March 11, 2008**

PTA Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

*For a list of all upcoming athletic games, please refer to our online athletics calendar which is available through [www.golf67.net](http://www.golf67.net).*