

Golf Middle School News and Views

December 2006
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Mr. Keith Westman, Principal



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From the Principal's Pen

Dear Golf Middle School Community:

"I can't believe it's already Winter Break!" This statement, although somewhat cliché, certainly rings true this year. Although we still have over five months left in the current school year, I am amazed by the wonderful accomplishments that our students and faculty have already achieved.

I hope that you join me in celebrating a few of our successes:

- Our 5/6 Grade Battle-of-the-Books team, coached by Ms. Peggy Steadman, clinched their first 1st Place title in 18 years on Tuesday, December 19th.
- Mr. Kevin Atwood and Mrs. Kris Vojack were granted \$2300.00 from the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to fund a new after-school fitness and nutrition club.
- The Golf School District 67 Music Boosters Club, comprised of both parents and faculty, has established a formal way to support and enhance our music department.

On behalf of everyone at Golf Middle School, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the entire Golf Middle School community for all of your support this fall. We look forward to our continued partnership in the New Year and wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season

I'll see you in 2007!

Mr. Keith Westman, *Principal*

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

We had a snowy start to December! Thankfully that didn't stop our wonderful fifth graders from learning!

Some of the highlights from this past month are:

- Students finished their units on Ancient Civilizations in Humanities. Mrs. Moss's class concentrated on Ancient Greece, Ms. Iglow's class concentrated on Ancient Rome and Mrs. Feinstein's class concentrated on Ancient Egypt. To make sure that all fifth graders had an opportunity to learn all three civilizations, we studied an overview of the two units that was not covered in our homeroom class.
- Students are working on persuasive writing. This has been a wonderful experience because persuasive writing is very similar to expository writing which was taught last month. We learned this past month that students will be tested on expository writing for the 2007 ISATs. Students will continue to practice expository as well as persuasive & narrative throughout the year.
- In reading, students finished the tall tales unit. Johnny Appleseed, John Henry, Paul Bunyan, and Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind are some of the exciting stories that we read and discussed. Throughout these stories, students learned about exaggeration as well as worked on reading skills.
- Students are expected to read at least 2 chapter books before the end of second quarter (January 18th). Please continue to check in with your child about their reading.

Thank you for all your support and sharing your children with us each day! They continue to grow into wonderful, intelligent people!

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

Tips for Keeping Your Math Skills Sharp During 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, Mrs. Cindy Conejo, Mr. Gregg Gilman, Mr. Kevin Atwood

In literature classes, the 7th grade students have been preparing scenes from Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol". The performance theme continues into Spanish, where they will be creating fashion show videos based on the clothes, colors, and adjectives lessons recently learned. In the 7th grade mathematics classes, students are solving algebraic equations and inequalities.

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

In the spirit of the holidays, the 8th-grade team is extremely thankful for your children and their enthusiasm to be able to learn and study:

- * Transcription and translation of the blueprint of life (DNA)
- * Spanish speaking skills while taking a trip to Latin America to practice those learned skills
- * Listening and discussing "Inside Out" - a novel about a boy with adolescent schizophrenia
- * Discussing and learning about the build-up to WWII...both in America and throughout Europe and Asia
- * Providing gift certificates for books, books, and more books
- * Watching a video of the famous Annual Student-Faculty Basketball Game

We would also like to wish our students, parents, families and friends a great holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Band: Mrs. Traci Bowering

Congratulations to all band and chorus members for their performance at the Winter Concert. You did a wonderful job.

Many students have opted to participate in Solo Contest this year. Please remember that the preparation is to be done individually at home!

Upcoming dates of interest:

Monday, January 8 - First day back after vacation. No morning or after school rehearsal. There will be regular band lessons. Jazz band will rehearse.

Saturday, February 10 - IGsMA Solo Contest (optional)

Saturday, March 17 - Northwestern Solo Contest (optional)

Tuesday, April 17 - Vandercook College Music Festival (Concert Band and Golf Chorus only)

Wednesday, May 9 - District Spring Concert

Thursday, May 31 - Graduation (Graduation Band TBA)

Chorus: Mrs. Holly Hesse

The New Year is a great time to join Chorus! Any student who loves to sing and wants to join chorus should see Mrs. Hesse as soon as we return from Winter Break. The first Chorus rehearsal after break is Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30 AM. Chorus meets every Tuesday and Friday morning in the music room. I hope to see you there!

Speech Corner: Mrs. Kate Eichstadt
Listen To Your Buds

If your child doesn't already have a portable music player or something similar, chances are that he or she wants one, or listens to a friend's device. It's great that kids can enjoy music through advances in audio technology, but at what price? With the increasing popularity of MP3 players, millions of adults and children across the U.S. are at a newfound risk of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss. Listening to headphones at high volumes for extended periods of time can directly result in lifelong hearing loss. The loss may occur painlessly and gradually over time and - this is important! - Noise-Induced Hearing Loss often goes unnoticed until it's too late.

More than half of high school students in the U.S. report having at least one symptom of hearing loss according to a [2006 poll commissioned by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association](#). But it's not too late to curtail further hearing loss entirely in younger kids who are just starting to use portable music players and similar devices. It's critical that children learn good listening habits, and that parents set guidelines for headphone usage, monitor noise levels, and watch for warning signs of hearing loss. Here are three simple steps you can take to protect your children's - and your own - hearing.

1. Keep the volume down. A good guide is half volume.
2. Limit listening time. Give your hearing "quiet breaks."
3. [Upgrade your earbuds](#), which sit inside the ear, and frequently come with the purchase of a portable music player, to earphones that fit outside the ear and block out unwanted sound. You can also upgrade to earphones that fit snugly into the ear canal and do the same thing.

For more information about Noise-Induced Hearing Loss, including warning signs and further prevention steps, check out the website www.listentoyourbuds.org. The website includes more information for you and your children. To encourage your children to get engaged in this issue, play a game of [Turn Down the Volume](#) together found on the website. It's a fun and educational online video game for adults of all ages and kids 6 years and up. And it's a great way for families to play and learn together.

Listen To Your Buds is a consumer awareness [campaign by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#) about the potential risk of hearing loss from unsafe usage of personal audio technology.

Volunteer Service Club at GMS has a Heart for Others!



Golf Middle School's Volunteer Service Club sponsored their 5th food drive to benefit needy families in our community. Mrs. Featherstone, Mrs. Joyner and the VSC members would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to every person who made a donation to help those who are less fortunate than us. Many items of food and gently-used toys were generously given and personally delivered to the Niles Township Food Pantry on Friday, December 15, 2006. A *special* thank-you goes to the classes who contributed the most items—the 8th & 5th graders! Way to go! Also, congratulations to the students who donated and won raffle prizes in our VSC Food Drive Raffle! If you did NOT win--you will have another chance during our Spring Food Drive in 2007. For this project, we will also be collecting toiletry items, such as toothpaste, shampoo and soap, so start saving these items now to donate to needy families in our community!

How wonderful you all are to give to others so freely! This is truly the spirit of the holiday season! ☺ Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Lisa Featherstone & Mrs. Kristine Joyner-VSC Club Sponsors

Eco-Club: Mrs. Danielle Maldonado

The Eco-Club has been working to serve the planet again by distributing boxes to reuse THEN recycle paper. Every tree counts! ☺

Nurse's Station: Mrs. Joyce Vazzano, R.N.

Dear Parents of 6th graders,

Please continue to get the mandated Illinois DENTAL EXAMS in before the deadline. I appreciate your consideration to this matter.

Joyce Vazzano, R.N.

7th Grade Boy's Basketball: Mr. Ted Carris

Seventh Grade Boy's Basketball tryouts will be after the Holiday Break and will take place on January 9th. Sixth graders hoping to make the team will tryout on the 10th of January. If you have any questions please see Mr. Carris.

6th Grade Girl's Basketball: Mr. Ted Carris

The 6th Grade Girl's Basketball Team finished the season with a record of 1-3. Although the record doesn't show their efforts, the girls learned how to play together and work as a team.



Inspire Lifelong Learners, Create Successful People

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 21	NTDSE Board Meeting
December 22	Last Day Before Winter Break
January 8	School Resumes
January 9-10	Boys' Basketball Tryouts
January 15	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King's Birthday
January 16	PTA Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
January 18	2nd Quarter Ends
January 18	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 P.M
January 19	NO SCHOOL

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