

Golf Middle School News and Views

January 2007
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Mr. Keith Westman, Principal

From the Principal's Pen



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The relationship between a child's home and middle school is an important one. The way that parents become involved in the middle school can be somewhat different from what they were accustomed to in the elementary school. Generally, the building is larger, and it could be located farther from home. A middle school student may have several teachers, not just one as in the elementary school. *The Middle School Years: A Parents' Handbook* recommends the following practices:

- * Get to know several teachers, not just one. Don't wait for a problem to talk to them.
- * **Keep in touch** with the guidance counselors. They generally know all of the students in the school, and they can keep you informed regarding the progress and behavior of your child.
- * **Read all information** on school policies and curriculum carefully. The items are always posted on our District website.
- * **Keep informed** about your child's grades and test results through PowerSchool, especially in any subjects in which he or she has problems. Ask for help if it is needed.

It is our goal to meet the needs of all learners, each day. Together, we will work to ensure the success of each and every student at Golf Middle School.

Your partner in education,

Mr. Keith Westman, Principal
kwestman@golf67.net

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

We hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing winter break. Now that we are back, it is time to begin our ISAT preparation. We are working really hard on our writing, reading and math in order to feel prepared for the test. This year, in writing, students will be tested on expository writing. So far what we are seeing is impressive; their previous teachers did a great job preparing them.

- In Humanities, we are taking a trip around the world with International Inspirer. Last year they did this program, but only within the United States. Now, we are traveling to Europe, Asia and Africa. The children work in groups to find routes of countries that have their highest resource that they are looking for. It's really fun and competitive, but the children love it.
- In Science, we are working on Science Court to learn all about inertia and gravity. Be sure to ask your child all about Sir Isaac Newton's First Law of Motion.
- We will be taking our second field trip February 2nd to Centre East Theatre. There we will watch the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats! It is really exciting and a good time guaranteed by all.

Try and stay warm this winter season! Spring is coming soon, we hope!

Eco Club: Mrs. Danielle Maldonado, Sponsor

Ecology club has set forth a new charge to help save our planet. This month we will dedicate our time to finding ways to save our precious natural resources in and around our school. Your family can help us at home too! Just look around for the following things you can do to make a difference. (It will save your family \$\$\$ too!!!)

- Fixing leaking faucets
- Repair leaking toilet
- Seal drafty windows and doors
- Turn off lights and T.V. when you leave a room
- Replace your burnt out light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Recycle junk mail, bottles, cans, newspaper and plastic!

One would be amazed at how many opportunities we don't take advantage of to help protect and conserve our natural resources. Let's all be part of the solution, not the problem!

6th Grade Team: Mr. Brian Carro, Mrs. Hope Nelson, Ms. Peggy Steadman**The Thrills of Reading**

Students are reading 360 minutes to win a free ticket to Great America. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. Good luck 6th Graders!

Science Spotlight

The students have been hard at work examining the principles of potential, kinetic, and thermal energy. Ask your child to explain how these ideas relate to the physical phenomena happening all around them.

Invention Fair News

The Invention Fair is not until the end of April, but the sixth graders will begin working on their ideas in February. Help students come up with great ideas by devising practical solution to common household problems. These always make the best inventions.

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

The 7th grade mathematics classes recently mastered one and two step equations. We are now working on prime factorization and the greatest common factor of numbers and monomials.

The 8th grade algebra classes are applying their expertise of solving equations to our current unit on slope-intercept form. Next, we will learn to graph linear equations by hand as well as on the graphing calculator.

After perfecting their understanding of matrices and Cramer's Rule, the 7th and 8th grade algebra II students are exploring the various forms of quadratic functions.

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

We are excited to welcome back our Eighth graders as we turn the corner and head toward Quarter Three. We can't believe it ourselves as we are planning for graduation and high school already!

However, just to keep us focused, the 8th grade team would like to share with you the topics that we'll be covering as we begin the next quarter.

- Mr. Carris' Humanities class and Mrs. Joyner's Reading class will be discussing WWII. Mr. Carris will start with the Pacific Theater and Pearl Harbor, while Mrs. Joyner's class will begin reading Daniel's Story which takes place during the Holocaust.
- Mrs. Maldonado's class is beginning the Human Body Unit which will take us all the way into spring and the "E.R."

During the coming weeks, there will be communications directly from the High School and we encourage all our parents to attend the meetings. Please also keep your eyes open for the registration forms to be coming home.

Band: Mrs. Traci Bowering

Many of the band students are opting to participate in the IGSMMA and/or the Northwestern Solo and Ensemble contests that will be held respectively on Saturday, February 10 and Saturday, March 17. All of them should have received a CD of their solo so that they may practice with the piano accompaniment at home. Each student will have one rehearsal with the accompanist before each solo contest. The accompanist will be coming to Golf on Monday, February 5 and on Monday, March 12. Schedules for the rehearsals will be posted as soon as they are set. Congratulations ahead of time and good luck to all!

Counselor's Corner: Ms. Kira Beckering

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (NIMH) QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

For more information please refer to the NIMH website @: www.nimh.nih.gov/

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) website provides information from the Federal agency that conducts and supports research on mental illnesses.

Q: How do I know if my child's problems are serious?

A: Many everyday stresses cause changes in behavior. The birth of a sibling may cause a child to temporarily act much younger. It is important to recognize such behavior changes, but also to differentiate them from signs of more serious problems. Problems deserve attention when they are severe, persistent, and impact on daily activities. Seek help for your child if you observe problems such as changes in appetite or sleep, social withdrawal, or fearfulness; behavior that seems to slip back to an earlier phase such as bed-wetting; signs of distress such as sadness or tearfulness; self-destructive behavior such as head banging; or a tendency to have frequent injuries. In addition, it is essential to review the development of your child, any important medical problem he/she might have had, family history of mental disorders, as well as physical and psychological traumas or situations that may cause stress.

Q: Whom should I consult to help my child?

A: First, consult your child's doctor. Ask for a complete health examination of your child. Describe the behaviors that worry you. Ask whether your child needs further evaluation by a specialist in child behavioral problems. Such specialists may include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and behavioral therapists. Educators may also be needed to help your child.

Q: How are mental disorders diagnosed in young children?

A: Similar to adults, disorders are diagnosed by observing signs and symptoms. A skilled professional will consider these signs and symptoms in the context of the child's developmental level, social and physical environment, and reports from parents and other caretakers or teachers, and an assessment will be made according to criteria established by experts. Very young children often cannot express their thoughts and feelings, which makes diagnosis a challenging task. The signs of a mental disorder in a young child may be quite different from those of an older child or an adult.

Q: Won't my child get better with time?

A: Sometimes yes, but in other cases children need professional help. Problems that are severe, persistent, and impact on daily activities should be brought to the attention of the child's doctor. Great care should be taken to help a child who is suffering, because mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders can affect the way the child grows up.

Cheerleading: Mrs. Maldonado and Ms. Stavropoulos, Coaches

Congratulations to the 2007 Cheerleaders they are:

Julia C.
Tiffany E.
Rebecca G.
Alison G.
Nicole K.
Stephanie K.
Michele M.
Janet P.
Joselyn R.
Tishauna S.
Deeside S.
Elizabeth U.
Gardenia Z.

PE: Mr. Kevin Atwood and Mrs. Kris Vojack

Welcome back to school and the new year! All students completed fitness testing before break and should have the results in hand. Please take time to review the results and if you have any questions call either Mrs. Vojack or Mr. Atwood. Basketball, climbing, fitness workouts, wrestling, badminton, and health will be taught this quarter. We are staying active and having fun. Remember to try and stay active each day for 30-60 minutes.

Volunteer Service Club: Mrs. Lisa Featherstone and Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Faculty Sponsors

Volunteer Service Club will be presenting an 8th grade award this year for a student that is in VSC club and is always willing to help. Share the Love is the fundraiser that VSC will use to raise money for this award. We are selling a variety of candies for students and others to buy. Please help support this project for a great student award! More details to come!

Mrs. Danielle Maldonado's Advisory

We have been busy acting as guardian angels again for homeless pets. Our advisory is collecting newspapers, toys, cat and dog food, and old blankets for Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated. Items should be brought to Mrs. Maldonado's room.

8th Grade Boys, Basketball: Mr. Gregg Gilman, Coach

The 8th grade boys' varsity basketball team is:

Rafael A.
Neal A.
Hammad A.
David B.
Joey B.
Jeremy C.
Fred D.
Cal F.
Carl F.
Artur F.
Zach H.
Michael L.
Zaid P.
Jovan W.

We will continue to have open gyms for all interested 8th grade boys on Thursdays, from 5-6:30 PM.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 26	PTA Bingo Night, 7:00
January 30	NTDSE Board Meeting at Molloy
February 2	5 th grade trip to Centre East
February 8	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 P.M
February 13	PTA meeting, 7:00 P.M.
February 15	Evening P/T Conferences
February 16	Day P/T Conferences No School for Students

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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