Parent Connection
Mt. Horeb Middle School Newsletter
December/January 2015

Jeff Rasmussen, Principal
Melissa Hanson, Assistant Principal

December
12-3  7th Grade Winter
   HS Aud. – 7:00 p.m.
12-8  6th Grade Orchestra Concert
   HS Aud. – 7:00 p.m.
12-9  Geography Bee – 1:30 p.m. Step Room
12-14  EARLY RELEASE – 12:40 p.m.
   Freshman Orientation – HS 4:00-7:30 p.m.
12-23 Winter Break
1-4  BACK TO SCHOOL

January
1-4  First Day Back
1-7  8th Grade Pop’s Concert-MS Gym 7:00 p.m.
1-18  NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-service
1-22  EARLY RELEASE – 12:40 p.m.
1-26  Spelling Bee – 1:30 – Step Room
1-30  Taste of Jazz – MS Gym 6:30 p.m.

Athletics
Wrestling
12-3 at Monroe
12-10 - MS Wrestling Invite
12-12 at Middleton
12-14 at Verona

Boys’ Basketball
12-3 vs McFarland
12-7 vs Monroe
12-10 at Oregon
12-15 vs Stoughton
12-17 at Waunakee

Girls’ Basketball
1-14 vs Oregon
1-19 at Monroe
1-21 at Stoughton
1-26 vs Glacial Drumlin
1-28 at Verona

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Safety a Top Priority
Recently, school administrators were advised by law enforcement of the need to have all student lockers secure at all times. The purpose of enforcing the practice of having the lockers secured is for the safety of the individual student as well as for the safety of the entire building.

Students have been advised through the Mt. Horeb Middle School handbook to keep lockers locked for security reasons and law enforcement is stressing the importance of this practice being followed at all times.

All incoming sixth grade students bought locks through the school district at the start of the school year. Seventh and eighth grade students were instructed to keep their school-issued lock for use during their upcoming middle school years. Students may purchase a replacement lock through the middle school office. The cost of the lock is $5.00. If your child has forgotten their lock combination the school office will be able to assist.
All students need to have a school-issued lock securing their hall locker at all times by Friday, December 4. The school office will contact the students that do not meet this expectation.

Sixth Grade Foreign Language Introductory Sessions
Sixth grade foreign language introductory sessions have taken place at the middle school. Viking Period time was used to provide the introduction of French and Spanish languages. Each sixth grade student received two thirty-five minute sessions on each language. The purpose of these sessions was to give the sixth grader a taste of the language prior to their selection of French or Spanish for their seventh grade year. The students gain instruction in the target language for two years (seventh and eighth grade) and this instruction will meet the requirement for French I or Spanish I at the high school. Sixth grade parents should look for foreign language sign-up information in their child’s Thursday Folder.

National Geographic Bee
The National Geographic Society is holding the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth and the eighth grades in thousands of schools across the United States. The primary rounds have taken place in order to determine the 10 school finalists. The finalists will take part in the final competition slated for Wednesday, December 9 starting at 1:30 p.m. in the middle school step room.

Middle School STRETCH Program
Mt. Horeb Middle School was pleased to learn the school’s grant request has been approved by the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation. The $6,460.00 grant funds will allow the middle school to continue many of the STRETCH (Safe Time for Enrichment and Tutoring for ChiIdren) after-school program for students. The positive experiences provided by the after-school activities are an important investment in the youth and the community of Mt. Horeb.

APPLIED ARTS
ART
Mr. Potts
Art Class Update
The second quarter has started of very well in the art room! The sixth grade students are exploring various perspective drawing techniques that can be used to create the illusion of depth. We are beginning to focus on **linear perspective drawing**, as students apply this technique to create three-dimensional shapes. We are also starting to investigate the **history of American Housing Design**. This includes analyzing various **architectural styles** that have been prevalent during the history of our country. These styles include: Tudor, Neo-Classical (Greek Revival), Queen Anne Victorian, Bungalow, Ranch, Colonial Revival (Dutch Revival, Spanish Revival, Cape Cod, and Saltbox), and Prairie styles. Students will be detecting specific features that serve as identifiable characteristics for each of these unique styles.

The seventh grade students are exploring the **Elements of Art** (Space, Form, Shape, Value, Line, Color, and Texture). They are experimenting with each of these elements by identifying examples in the world around us, and replicating them on paper. We are also testing out various materials, such as charcoal and pastels while we explore the differences between **Realism and Abstract art**. Additionally, students are looking at examples of these forms of art and are analyzing each artist’s use of these elements and the meaning they help to convey. We have drawn still life objects by while
examining the concepts of value and visual contrast. We have also investigated the differences between negative and positive space, and how they are used in pieces of art. We are currently exploring various abstract styles and movements such as Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, and Surrealism, and will be moving into studying non-objective art next.

The eighth grade artists are exploring the Elements of Art and Principles of Design and the ways they are used within contemporary art and design careers. We are not only investigating the careers of professional artists and designers, but also the process they use to create their work. Students are exploring the steps involved in this visual design process, and are applying them as they form solutions to their own contemporary design challenges. We have moved into studying the four major types of Visual Learning: Visual Communication, Visual Culture, Design, and Fine Art. Students are comparing the similarities and differences of these categories, and coming up with examples for each. Next, each student will be choosing one of the categories and investigating it further through individual research and designing and creating a project that falls under that category.

BAND, CHORUS, ORCHESTRA

Mr. Dorner, Mrs. Ingebritsen, Mr. Mesoloras, Ms. Schlafer

7th grade Concert
7th grade band, choir, and orchestra have a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Music Department Fundraiser
Thank you to all the 7th grade music students and their families who participated in our fundraiser in November! We use these funds to help support the annual arts field trips in each grade level. We appreciate your support of the music department and your support of your child being involved in music!

Kalahari Field Trip
The first semester show choir will be taking a field trip to the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, December 5. The show choir will perform there at 11:30 a.m.

8th grade Pops Concert
The 8th grade band, choir, orchestra, and show choir will perform their Pops Concert on Thursday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school gymnasium.

Vocalosity Field Trip
Some members of the 7th grade and 8th grade Chorale will be taking a field trip to the Overture Center on Friday, January 29 to see an all a Capella performance called Vocalosity.

Taste of Jazz
Each of the middle school’s before-school music groups (Chorale, Fiddle Band, and Jazz Band) will perform at our annual Taste of Jazz event. This event takes place on Saturday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. and will also feature high school performers and a performance by professional musicians. Tickets will be available from the music office in January.
NOTES FROM FACE

The sixth grade class is completing their Career Exploration Unit. Dawn Goplin is our JA presenter. Our next unit will be sewing. The week of December 7 a memo will be sent home in the Thursday folders with information relating to the sewing project.

The seventh grade class is completing the Better Breakfast unit. The next unit will be Clothing Care and Repair. A memo will be sent out via the student and Thursday folders the week of December 7. The eighth grade class is working on a Human Growth and Development unit which includes in the Unit 1 Dating Abuse, Alcohol and Sex, STI’s and HID/AIDS.

FRENCH

Ms. Cryer

Seventh Grade French has worked through 40 -er verbs both positive and negative. We are now learning the months and our birthdays. They are really enjoying putting together sentences with time adverbs and negative verbs.

Eight Grade French is starting a unit on their houses and their neighborhoods. They will learn to describe the homes and their neighborhood orally and in writing. They did an excellent job on direct object pronoun placement - but we will review it frequently. Our next big job will be the passé compose.

GUIDANCE

Ms. Weier

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Twenty five student council members traveled to the new UW-Madison Memorial Union South on Nov. 16 to participate along with over 350 other student council middle schoolers in the annual WASC Region V Junior and Middle Level fall conference. A fun time was had by all the students, who participated in workshops, spirit activities, and a dance.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR’ CORNER

Eighth graders- are you ready for high school? On December 11th, students will get to tour high school elective areas during the school day. On December 14th there will be a freshman orientation/open house for the parents and students in the evening at the high school. Look for a letter coming home about this in several weeks. Students will be receiving their course description and registration information handbooks the week of December 14 so parents should be seeing those also. We’ll be starting all 8th graders on a (tentative) 4-year plan of high school courses in science classes on December 15-16; the 4-year plan will be due December 22nd and the school counselors will be meeting with 8th graders on January 7th to review their 9th grade course requests.

LIBRARY

Ms. Baker

EBooks now available

The Middle School library is proud to offer a selection of eBooks through the Follett Shelf. All students can access the Follett Shelf through their Destiny account on the Middle School Library page. Please see Ms. Baker if you need a refresher on how to do this. The eBooks can be read on a
computer, an iPod/iPad, eBook reader such as Nook or Kindle, or on a smartphone. These eBooks are not compatible with 1st generation E-readers that don’t go on the internet. The best news is that you don’t even have to be in the library to check them out!

Some of the titles available include: Artemis Fowl, The Lightning Thief series, The Hunger Games series, Maximum Ride, Dairy Queen, Game Changers, The Giver, Inkheart, Jake Maddox books, and many others, over 100 titles are available! I will keep adding to the collection, so please feel free to pass on requests!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Finley, Mrs. Meyer, Mr. McIntyre

With the change in the weather and the winter months upon us, we have transitioned our PE classes indoors. We just finished our volleyball unit where students learned proper serving, passing, and setting techniques. Students also learned quite a few volleyball rules (some were modified) and terminology to gain some further knowledge of the sport. We used these skills, terms, and rules to play some very fun volleyball games. Next up will be our indoor floor hockey unit. Students will again learn skills such as passing, dribbling and shooting along with rules of the sport (some modified again) and terminology that we will use in a variety of games. We also continue to work on cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength and endurance with our warm-ups. This will help students improve with their fitness testing. We continue to encourage them to work on this outside of school as well. Also, please help us in reminding your son(s)/daughter(s) to bring clothes home to be washed periodically.

READING

Mrs. Parrell

Read 180 and Reading Lab News

The students in Read 180 are completing a chapter about natural disasters. Next, the students are creating a four block cartoon of the “widest” weather they have experienced. Finally, the students will write a personal narrative of the weather event they experienced. The students also continue their weekly spelling packets and test on Friday. The spelling lists may always be found on the website: www.spellingcity.com, do a search for teachers/parents and type in PARRELL.

Students in 7th grade are reading the book, “The Hunted”, as well as, studying literature lessons in their text and workbook. The students did a mini-research project on animal and will soon create posters of some of the scariest animals on the planet. The 7th graders continue their spelling units and the weekly lists may be found at the website listed above.

Reading Lab students in 8th grade continue to read, “Chomp”, a fictional novel by the author Carl Hiaasen. This humorous story is about a family that has several wild animals including an alligator, Alice. A celebrity that films survival stories hires the alligator to be part of his movie. Much adventure follows. These students continue literature studies in their texts and workbooks.

SPANISH

Mr. Austin, Ms. Kuehn, Mr. Wood

Spanish/ la clase de español

6th grade: sixth grade students recently spent two periods learning French and two more learning Spanish. You will receive a letter in your child’s Thursday folder asking you to choose a language to
study in 7th and 8th grades, and beyond. Both languages are good choices and we encourage you to discuss this choice with your child.

7th grade: Get ready to have your grammatical world turned on its head! In English we say “the black cat” but in Spanish it’s “el gato negro” or the cat black. And if there is more than one, it would be “the cats blacks” or “los gatos negros”. Whoa, what about a bunch of black female cats…? Las gatas negras. Yep, all three words can change and all three words have to agree with each other. You can’t have a male “cat” with a female “the” or a female “black”. That’s the kind of Spanish we’re getting into now!

8th grade: After spending much of the 1st Quarter reviewing, we’re going into some difficult new material. Look forward to our first class presentations in mid-December. Over the last couple years, we’ve worked to move away from paper and pencil tests and to include more evaluations based on actually speaking Spanish. We’re working on the two forms of “to be” and students will be assessed based on both written testing and on a spoken presentation. Look for more presentations, individual, partner, and small group speaking tasks as we move forward.

Puntos de la practica: All Spanish students should look for opportunities to work on Puntos. Reading books, watching movies, chatting with Native Speakers are all good options. Second quarter Puntos are due 12/2/15 and after Winter Break on 1/13/15. As always, there are many good links and ideas on our website. 

Middle School Trip to Spain, Spring Break 2106 There is still a small window of time left to sign up for our trip Spain. Trip itinerary is here http://www.eftours.com/educational-tour/adventure-in-spain
Please contact Sr. Wood if you are interested. woodphilip@mhasd.k12.wi.us

TAG

Chris Parmley
K-12 Talented and Gifted Coordinator/Instructional Coach
437-2400 ext. 4142

GIFT GIVING IDEAS from HOAGIES GIFTED
Are you looking for some creative gift ideas for gifted kids? The following link
http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/shopping_guide.htm can offer ideas from music, books, games,
clothing,
toys….to humanitarian gift giving ideas. Check it out!

The Hoagies Gifted website http://www.hoagiesgifted.org offers a wealth of information for parents
of gifted children…it is the “all things-gifted” resource!

WORD MASTERS
WordMasters tests will be next Tuesday and Thursday morning! Extra time reviewing words and
studying will be helpful.

FPS- Future Problem Solvers
Our first set of evaluations for practice problem 1 were returned in November and our teams had a
great job! FPS teams are working on learning about Disappearing Languages for our current problem.
We will be working on our 2nd practice problem mid-December.
YAHARA RIVER WRITERS
All 5th-8th graders have the opportunity to participate in the Yahara River Writing Contest this year. They can choose to enter in one of 4 categories: Cartoon, Editorial, Poetry, or Short Story. This is an annual contest that encourages our students to explore their creativity in writing. The top 5 entries in each category will be selected and sent to the regional competition, at which point, the writing is judged and the winners are published in the 201 Yahara River Writers Anthology. All entries are due to Mrs. Parmley by Friday January 15. If you have any questions please contact your child's language arts teacher, or Mrs. Parmley. The following link will take you to additional information (requirements and rubrics) about Yahara: http://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/Page/177.

MATH 24 NEWS
Math 24 practices will begin in January. The regional competitions for 6th-8th grade will all take place on March 4th. Students that are interested should listen for announcements in January regarding practice dates and times. The 6th grade deck is integers, the 7th grade deck is fraction and decimals, and the 8th grade deck is algebra and exponents.

TECH ED
From the desk of Mr. Biddick
7th Grade: Students have finished their designs of the spaghetti bridges and have begun construction. Students developed front views, top views and bottom views of their bridges. They will use these views to help construct their spaghetti bridges.

6th Grade: Students in the 6th grade T&E have finished their pre-engineering unit. They learned about orthographic projection and got a quick introduction to 3d design software. They are transitioning to woodshop safety and wood shop projects.

8th Grade Building Construction: Students are finishing their checkerboards. 8th grade BC will transition to completing cutting boards and other individual projects.

8th Grade Future Engineers: Future Engineer students are finishing their roller coaster projects. The students are building a roller coaster that must keep a marble in motion for 30 seconds. The roller coasters must have a loop, two funnels and use no outside forces to help move the marble. After the roller coaster project the students will begin starting their design on the Co2 dragster.