



Jackson Hole Middle School Newsletter

Oct. 2008

We are delighted with the smooth start to the school year, and how the students are focused on learning. Thank you for your support in getting your child to school on time, well fed and after a good night's sleep. We hope you are finding the communication from your child's core academic teachers through regular emails OR through their blog set up on the JHMS web site helpful in terms of planning your family activities as well as helping your child stay on top of their homework and studying for tests. And of course, PowerSchool will also help you monitor your child's progress. (If you do not have internet access or your PowerSchool password, please let your child's homebase teacher know.

Teacher's In-service Day, Oct 13th:

While your children were enjoying a three day weekend, teachers were busy at the Middle School working on several school initiatives. We continue to work on our new "Vision" statement, which we want to be our guiding focus for the next several years. We appreciate parent input on this, please call the JHMS if you are interested in contributing to this, and we'll be talking about it at the next PIE meeting on Nov. 5, 2008. We also are working on two school improvement goals; increasing the integration of technology into teaching and learning, as well as increasing the number of students scoring proficient in reading on our state standards test, PAWS. Realizing that the majority of our students are proficient in all content areas, we also focus on how we can challenge all students!

Highlight on Student Learning:

One example of how we are engaging and challenging all students centers around an 8th grade focus where students are participating in a compelling, collaborative, cross-curricular project that explores the impact of oil in our everyday lives. Students are currently listening to excerpts of *The Legend of Colton Bryant* by Alex Fuller in their enrichment, 6th period class. As well as exploring the human side of oil rigs, this fictional narrative brings to life the gripping story of a Wyoming boy. Alex Fuller presented a reading to all 8th graders on October 6th. Students are discussing the art of crafting fiction and the power of imagery and characterization. Later in the year, science classes will study the forces and impact of energy extraction and enact an energy debate. History classes will examine the cyclical nature of economics.

"After School Matters"

There are several after school activities in which students can participate. We had many students participating in Cross Country, Volleyball and Football, and we are gearing up for boys and then girls' basketball. A few clubs are already under way or starting up. Lego Robotics is full, and

the Digital Arts club, offered in conjunction with the Wild Life Film Festival, still has a few openings, and the 8th grade Youth **PHILANTHROPY CLUB WILL BE STARTING UP**. The Media Center is open until 4:00 Mondays – Thursdays for students to work on homework or just read!

For those students who need a boost in reading, writing or math, the MS teachers are busy preparing “After School Matters” units focused in these areas. These units of study are being designed based on best practice research on what engages students in after school programs. Parents and students who we feel would benefit from participating in these programs will be contacted at the end of the quarter.

Coming Events:

Oct. 16 – Stream Analysis: 7th grade field trip

Oct. 23 – Shakespeare Play – Midsummer Night’s Dream 7th grade (Off Square Theater)

Oct. 24 – Shakespeare Play– Midsummer Night’s Dream 8th grade (Off Square Theater)

Oct. 24 - Dance 7:00 – 9:00 – “NEON” theme (No masks, or fake weapons)

Oct. 31 – End of Quarter and Quarterly Recognition Event

Nov 5/6 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (more information to come)

Nov. 7- no school

Parents: We are looking for 2008-09 pictures in this year’s yearbook. Please e-mail your 08-09 pictures to Wendy Rominger at Wrominger@teton1.k12.wy.us