

Middle School Parents' Association March 2010 Newsletter

Dear Middle School Parents,

March is a short month but there is still plenty going on. Be sure to Spring into Reading beginning on March 12 by joining in the fun of the Third Annual Spring Literacy Program/READ-A-THON (information below). We hope everyone has a restful Spring Break and comes back ready for spring!

Sincerely,

Catherine Mandile, Lucia Marshall, Peggy Fitzgerald, and Maria Toffoloni

WHAT'S GOING ON THIS MONTH?

Monday, March 1 - Friday, March 5 - Mud Week
No Sports - 2:15 pm Dismissal from MS/Study Hall to Regular Dismissal

Tuesday, March 2 - Spring Athletics Parents Information/Meet the Coaches Night - 6:30 pm - Nicholas Athletics Center

Everyone is encouraged to attend this informative session in which you can meet all of the spring coaches, get your questions answered and concerns addressed, and begin the process of transitioning to the US athletic program.

Thursday, March 4 - 7th Grade Freedom from Chemical Dependency Parent Evening - 7 pm

As part of our health education program Stephanie Haines of FCD (Freedom From Chemical Dependency) Education Services joins our 7th grade community for four days.

Ms. Haines is a Prevention Specialist for FCD and holds a BS in Behavioral Science. During the first week of March, students in Grade 7 will meet in small groups. They will be presented with the most up to date information on the effects of drugs and will participate in discussion of social, cultural, and personal issues that relate to the choices people make. Students are not told what to do but rather guided to make an educated choice.

On Thursday evening, March 4th there will be a Grade 7 Parent Workshop facilitated by Ms. Haines in the Big Room to offer parents support and guidance with this issue. This meeting is for parents only and will run from 7pm to 8:15pm. We ask that at least one parent attend.

Among the topics will be:

- Effective ways to communicate with your child about drug use;
- Up to date facts about current drug use and trends;
- What to say about your own experiences with alcohol and/or drug experimentation;
- How to identify early warning signs of trouble and effective ways to respond;
- Most students find this first session extremely informative and thought provoking. Parental involvement is crucial to our efforts to reduce the risks teenagers face. We want our students to hear both from school and from home that we are concerned about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by adolescents, and that we are committed to keeping our children safe. We continue the session next year for Grade 8 students and another evening for parents, this time joined by students. PLEASE JOIN US!

Monday, March 8 - Spring Sports Begins

Friday, March 12 - MS Arts Festival - 11:50 am - 2:05 pm

The BB&N Middle School Arts Department is having a special Arts event this year. The department is very excited about the diverse activities and workshops. They will feature a wide range of artistic disciplines led by faculty members and guest artists. The activities include African Drumming, Film Making, Animation, Photography, Caricature Drawing, Salsa Dancing, Poetry Collage, Motown Music, Zulu Beading, Music Jam and more! All seventh and eighth grade students will take part in an eighty minute session with adult leaders and share the results at the end of the day. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting day! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Dwyer or any Arts teacher.

christopher_dwyer@bbns.org

Friday, March 12 - Sunday, April 11 - MS 3rd Annual Spring Literacy Program/READ-A-THON. Save the dates!

Spring into Reading! This year, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton has been selected as the community read and the kick off for the READ-A-THON. Please join in the fun! More details will be arriving soon!

Friday, March 12 - Spring Break Begins - 2:05 pm Dismissal from MS

Monday, March 29 - Classes Resume

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty Appreciation Luncheon - Friday, April 16

Each month the MS Faculty Appreciation Committee hosts a special lunch for faculty and staff at which parents provide the food, drinks, decorations, set-up and clean-up. You can help by contributing a dish and/or coming to help set-up or clean-up. Please help us show our appreciation by volunteering to help with our next MS Faculty Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 16.

Contact Kevyn Fusco at kevnyfusco@verizon.net or Shannon Hayden at shannon_hayden@verizon.net if you are interested in helping.

8th Grade Graduation Party - Wednesday, June 9

Believe it or not, the June 9 Eighth Grade Graduation party is closer than you think. It's time to start planning! Kay Kane has graciously agreed to chair the committee and is looking for volunteers to help plan a memorable party for our 8th Graders. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kay Kane at kay.kane@gmail.com.

SPECIAL THANK YOUs

Thank you to Ellie Loughlin, Cindy Savage, Susan Tinagero, and Joan Rosenberg for their efforts in getting pizza delivered and served each Wednesday.

Thank you to Ellie Loughlin and Peggy Fitzgerald for running the Student Mix. The kids truly enjoyed themselves. We also would like to thank all those parents and teachers who volunteered to help with this event. We appreciate your energy and efforts.

As always, a huge thank you to Shannon Hayden and Kevyn Fusco and their cast of parent volunteers for organizing the wonderful Faculty Luncheons.