

MMSA NEWS

Volume XIII Issue III

December 2007

From the Principal



Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure to see such a large number of MMS students on stage during the November performances of *The Brave Little Tailor*. We are very grateful to Mrs. Laura Toffenetti for sharing her playwrighting and directing talents with all of the students who participated. Thanks, too, to Mrs. Janet Jungden for arranging the music and collaborating with Mrs. Toffenetti on some new songs for this production.

As the vacation approaches, there are daily preparations for our December concerts on the 12th and 19th. You are welcome to attend the concerts, even if you don't have a child in an ensemble. They are consistently memorable.

MMS Basketball Season Starts on December 11th

Parents, students (see next paragraph), and members of the community are invited to the boys' first home game on Tuesday, December 11th and the girls' first home game on Friday, December 14th. Games start at 3:30 PM in the gym. A complete season schedule is posted in the school office. There is no cost for admission, and it promises to be an exciting year for both teams.

To ensure proper supervision, an adult must accompany students attending after-school activities, including athletic events. Students need to make arrangements with a teacher or other staff member before the end of X-Block on the day of the game, or attend with an adult who supervises the child. All students who have not made arrangements for after-school adult supervision must go home at 2:45.

Upcoming Events

- Orchestra/Chorus Winter Concert: Wednesday, December 19th, 6:30 p.m.
- Orchestra/Chorus Winter Assembly: Thursday, December 20th, 1:00 p.m.
- Winter Vacation: December 24th-January 1st, 2008; No school
- MMSA Meeting: Tuesday, January 8th, 7pm, Rm 99
- Mansfield K-12 String Fling, Wednesday, January 9th, 6:30 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 21st; No school
- Report Cards Issued: Friday, January 25th



Visit our website at: www.mmsnet.org

Link: *Mansfield Middle School Association*

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Here are some other related procedures that are worth reviewing:

Develop a family plan for early dismissals

At this time of year, students might be dismissed early due to predicted or actual bad road conditions. We encourage students to call a parent when there is an early dismissal. Please be sure that your child knows what to do in the event that you are not home when there is an early dismissal. It is much more reliable to have a plan in place so that the child can get into the house or know whom to contact in case a parent cannot be reached.

Reminder of MMS Dismissal Procedures

During the day at the middle school, we only release a child to a parent – or to an adult or family member who has been designated by a parent. If we aren't familiar with the person picking up the child, we will ask to make a copy of the person's driver's license and make a verifying phone call to the parent. We also pay attention to the child's apparent comfort with the person providing the ride. Anyone (including parents) who picks up a child during the day must come into the office and sign out the child in the book at Mrs. Young's desk.

At the end of the school day, most of our students take a bus home. Many others go out the front door to meet their rides on the front circle. If you have any concerns about your child going with an unapproved adult at the end of the day, please call one of us so we can develop a plan.

Permission to ride another bus

We need a note from both households involved, and we request that these notes arrive no later than the start of the school day. (We need to be sure that there is adequate room on the bus for additional passengers, and that students are going to arrive at a supervised destination.) Sometimes in the course of the school day, students get the idea for a get-together in the afternoon. When this happens, we encourage them to go home first, and then make arrangements from there. We want to be certain that all parents involved are aware of all of the details.

MMSA 2007-2008 **Board Members**

Executive Board

President	Sheryl Lambert	429-3088
Vice-President	Lynne McPhee	456-2450
Secretary	Kathy Ward	456-8258
Treasurer	Lisa Drzewiecki	423-3942

Grade Representatives

Grade 5:	Linda Sydie Joan Pinney Jennifer Snyder	
Grade 6:	Shamim Patwa Anne Wiant-Rudd Sherri Lee Cari Vincente Kim O'Keefe	429-4321 429-4469 456-9552 429-2497 429-6711
Grade 7:	Diane Briody Jean Phillips Therese John Kate Cox	429-1585 429-0692 429-4220 429-3844
Grade 8:	Charlie Dainton Sue Kaeser Doreen Simonsen Jane Moynihan	456-2073 423-7264 456-1871 429-9225

Teacher Representative:

Wayne Trembly

Administrative Representatives:

Jeff Cryan

Candace Morell



**Join us
for our next
meeting on
January 8, 2008
at 7:00 p.m.
in Room 99.**

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Permission to ride the bus to the Community Center

We need a note from parents giving a student permission to be transported to the Community Center at the end of the day. We have found that most children reliably check-in at the Community Center when the bus drops them off there, but that some students have not. Parents should understand the Community Center’s policies on supervision before giving permission for students to be dropped off there.

Our last day of school this month will be Friday, December 21, which will be a full day of school. We will return from vacation on Wednesday, January 2.

If you would like more information about any of the items above, please contact us by phone or email. Best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year!

Sincerely,

Jeff Cryan
Principal
cryanj@mansfieldct.org
429-9341 x151

Candace Morell
Assistant Principal
morellcv@mansfieldct.org
429-9341 x151

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***As we roll the white snowballs,
One by one,
The snow falls on my face.
We put them together,
taller than me.
Then we get my fathers’ old cap,
a carrot and coal.
That makes our new best
friend.***



Katie, 5th Grade

Greetings,

As we enter this busy holiday season, it is nice to look back and reflect on what you have experienced this year. The child or children that you are responsible for have spent this past calendar year in two grade levels. Some of us may be experiencing the middle school for the first time as 2007 comes to a close. Others are experiencing the end of these middle years and getting ready to move forward to high school, and then there are those of us who are in the middle. No matter where you fall in the aforementioned categories; one thing is certain - “we are all in this together” (Can you hear the music?) as 2007 comes to a close and 2008 begins.

MMS students are settled into well established routines at this juncture in the school year. We have seen a humorous rendition of “The Brave Little Tailor” and we thank Laura Toffinetti for sharing her work with us AND for courageously undertaking the challenge of directing the play too. A gigantic thank you goes out to Lynne Mc Phee for her most generous donation of refreshments that the MMSA sold during intermission. Thank you to the members of the hospitality committee for all those yummy muffins that were donated too. We also thank the folks who supported the table by working during intermission and of course a big thanks to the patrons who supported us.

The MMSA will be having a meeting on the 8th of January at 7:00pm in room 99. This meeting is not on the MMS calendar. We felt that we needed a meeting which focused on the students and what they might ask for to enrich their educational experiences this year. We will invite members of the Student Council and the Ambassador’s Club and explore how MMSA could contribute to their goals.

We are also scheduled to speak in depth about the topic of raising money because we are facing budget challenges this year.

We encourage you to make this meeting and share your ideas with us and the students. Let’s see what our kids are interested in doing and work hard to enrich their education in ways that would not be possible with out MMSA funding.

Thank you for your attention and I will look for you at the January 8th meeting at 7pm in room 099.

Sheryl, MMSA President