



# MMSA NEWS



Volume XII, Issue I

October 2006

## *From the Principal*

Dear Parents,

The directions for opening lockers have disappeared from the fifth grade hallway, and the first mid-term progress report has gone home. We're half-way through the soccer season. The 2006-07 school year is well underway.

Thank you for the outstanding attendance that we had for Open House on September 12<sup>th</sup>. We all appreciate your support for the work that goes on in MMS classrooms every day. Some classrooms were standing-room-only during Open House night.

We hope to have a similar turnout to see Dr. Tony Wolf speak on "Parenting Today's Middle School Students" at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, October 11<sup>th</sup> in our auditorium. Dr. Wolf has spoken here several times during the past dozen years, and his talks are insightful and humorous. Past MMS audiences have appreciated his practical advice and painfully familiar anecdotes drawn from his practice as a family psychiatrist and his experiences as a parent. Please join us, and bring friends, whether or not their children attend MMS. There is no charge. Dr. Wolf's books will be available for sale in the lobby.

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Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) score reports for the test administered last March were mailed home a couple of weeks ago. If you did not receive your child's report, please call Mrs. Sherri Sowik at 429-9341 x153, and we will get you a copy.

The CMT report that you received for your child shows the individual student's scores in reading, writing and mathematics, as well as the average score for all students in your child's grade. A summary of each grade's test results appears on the next page.

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## *Upcoming Events*

- Dr. Tony Wolf speaks to parents on October 11th
- Board of Education Meeting October 12th
- School Photo Day October 16th
- Open Gym Night Friday, November 3rd
- MMSA Meeting Tuesday November 7th



### *Dr. Tony Wolf to Speak at MMS*

On Wednesday, October 11th, the MMSA is sponsoring a talk by author and psychologist Dr. Anthony Wolf, who will speak to

parents about ways to communicate with their middle school children. Dr. Wolf is the author of several books, including:

- **"Get Out of My Life, but first could you drive me and Cheryl to the mall?"**, a Parents Guide to the New Teenager;
- **"It's not fair, Jeremy Spencer's parents let him stay up all night"**, A guide to the Tougher Parts of Parenting, and
- **"Mom Jason's Breathing on Me"**, the Solution to Sibling Bickering.

The book titles convey Dr. Wolf's approach as a realist and his descriptions of family situations will be funny and familiar to us all. This will be Dr. Wolf's fourth presentation to parents at MMS.

The program runs from 7pm to 9pm in the MMS Auditorium. Copies of some of Dr. Wolf's books will be offered for sale after the presentation.

Visit our website at: [www.mmsnet.org](http://www.mmsnet.org)

Link: *Mansfield Middle School Association*

### *From the Principal (continued)*

<b>Writing CMT, 2005</b>	<b>% scores at Goal (Level 4 or 5)</b>	<b>% scores at Proficient (Levels 3,4,5)</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	73	86
<b>Grade 6</b>	73	89
<b>Grade 7</b>	78	88
<b>Grade 8</b>	83	95

<b>Math CMT, 2005</b>	<b>% scores at Goal (Level 4 or 5)</b>	<b>% scores at Proficient (Levels 3,4,5)</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	72	90
<b>Grade 6</b>	76	89
<b>Grade 7</b>	76	89
<b>Grade 8</b>	81	95

<b>Reading CMT, 2005</b>	<b>% scores at Goal (Level 4 or 5)</b>	<b>% scores at Proficient (Levels 3,4,5)</b>
<b>Grade 5</b>	75	83
<b>Grade 6</b>	81	87
<b>Grade 7</b>	81	88
<b>Grade 8</b>	88	94

We want every child to be as confident a learner as possible, and the CMT scores help us to identify areas where individual students need further instruction and support.

The CMT's show us how students are progressing on their essential skills, but they do not assess every aspect of a child's learning. We use a variety of assessments to cover the full scope of our curriculum – from short-term quizzes, observations, and assignments to longer projects, essays and performances. The progress report attached to this newsletter provides several snapshots of your child's progress in school so far this year.

Now that teachers have had a few weeks to get to know your child, take a look at how the year has started. **If something on the progress report surprises you, please contact the teacher.** We know that you have several years' experience watching your child's progress in school. Please share your insights about your child, and particularly, the strategies that have helped with organization, memory, behavior or understanding in prior years. We have valuable information to share with each other.

We are working at having a very successful school year for every child we teach.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Cryan

### *From the MMSA President*

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the MMSA I welcome you and hope your school year is off to a great start! It was nice to meet a lot of you at the Open House in September, and I look forward to working with you in the months ahead as the MMSA continues its work to help and support the students and staff here at MMS.

Starting off the year our Grant Committee is already hard at work evaluating the grant proposals submitted by teachers over the summer.

These grants are the main focus of our funding and can only happen because of your support of our fund raising efforts throughout the year.

MMS funds also go towards special programs for parents and students. Coming up on October 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Tony Wolf is coming to speak to parents on communication with teenagers, and on November 3<sup>rd</sup> the MMSA is holding an "Open Gym Night", giving kids and their families the opportunity to get together and play and have fun.

To support these types of programs the MMSA does its own fund raising, and coming up first is the annual *Gift Wrap Sale*. Look for packets to be coming home soon with your students. It's a good opportunity to get a head start on some of your holiday shopping needs!

As events come up throughout the year, please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help out. We're also still looking for a chairperson for *History Day* in March and the *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Closing Ceremony* in June. If you've worked on either of these committees in the past, think about stepping up to help organize and run these events. You'll always have lots of help from the MMSA at large!

If you ever have any questions don't hesitate to give myself or any of the committee chairs a call. Best wishes to you and your student(s) as we go forth towards 2007.

Sincerely,

Mary Sikand  
MMSA President



## The MMSA Hosts Open Gym Night



Mark your calendars for Friday, November 3rd, when the MMSA hosts its first "Open Gym Night" of the year. The gym will be set up with games like badminton and basketball, and refreshments will be offered for sale in the cafeteria. It's a fun time for the whole family! The event starts at 6 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m.

## MMS Partners with Middle School In China



MMS now has a partner school in China, the Middle School at Tai Shan Academy. The school is located in Shandong Province. Principal Jeff Cryan visited the

school back in April. In the photo above, Mr. Cryan is presenting a plaque to Mr. Ren that contains a photograph of MMS and the school's name along with the following inscription:

**"We are proud to be your international partner school"**

**MMS Cares**

**Global Awareness - Personal Kindness**

**Volunteer Opportunities** If you didn't have a chance to sign up at the Open House, the following committees are looking for volunteers for these upcoming events:

**Open Gym Night**—Friday, November 3rd; help set up, monitor the kids, sell refreshments; call Mary Sikand at 423-1127

**MMS Book Fair**—runs Tuesday Nov. 14th through Friday Nov. 17th; volunteers help sell books to the kids—morning or afternoon hours. Call Natalie Miniutti at 429-0595, or Stacey Fulton at 456-2143

## MMSA 2006-2007 Board Members and Committee Chairs

### Executive Board

President	Mary Sikand	423-1127
Vice-President	Sheryl Lambert	429-3088
Secretary	Susanne Davis	429-3638
Treasurer	Lisa Drzewiecki	423-3942

### Committee Chairpersons

Book Fair	Natalie Miniutti	429-0595
	Stacey Fulton	456-2143
8th Grade Closing	<i>Open</i>	
Gift-Wrap Sale	Pam Cheney	450-1900
Grants	Jean Phillips	429-0692
History Day	<i>Open</i>	
Hospitality	Diane Briody	429-1585
Magazine Drive	Stacy Geist	423-0529
Membership	Cari Vincente	429-2497
Newsletter	Lisa Smith	465-9207
Orientation	Mary Sikand	423-1127
Plant Sale	Sondra Boyer	487-5812

### Grade Representatives

Grade 5:	Shamim Patwa	429-4321
	Anne Wiant-Rudd	429-4469
	Sherri Lee	456-9552
	Cari Vincente	429-2497
Grade 6:	Kim O'Keefe	429-6711
	Diane Briody	429-1585
	Jean Phillips	429-0692
	Therese John	429-4220
Grade 7:	Kate Cox	429-3844
	Charlie Dainton	456-2073
	Sue Kaeser	423-7264
	Doreen Simonsen	456-1871
Grade 8:	Jane Moynihan	429-9225
	Sondra Boyer	487-5812
	Susanne Davis	429-3638
	Stacey Fulton	456-2143
	Susan Mostowy	429-1107

### Teacher Representative:

Wayne Trembly 429-9341

