



TPMS March Events

- ▶ MARCH 4-14—GRADE 6,7,8 READING & MATH MSA
- ▶ March 11—PTA Meeting
- ▶ March 28—No School for Students (Teacher Professional Day)
- ▶ March 31—Start of 4th Marking Period



March 2014

TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's

Newsletter

*"Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn." ~ Lewis Grizzard*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Snow days and cold weather haven't stopped the TPMS students and staff from continuing their work! February was an exciting month for many reasons beyond the newsworthy winter weather.

In early February the TPMS Math Counts Team led by Ms. Sarah Manchester received many awards at the Regional Math Counts Competition held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Two of our students, Guang Cui and Dilhan Salgado, won second and third place in the competition. TPMS also had the top four individual scorers at the competition and drew second place as a team. Go TPMS!

Also in February, the Jazz Ensemble directed by Ms. Holly Pasquale performed for a countywide meeting of administrators from MCPS at the Universities at Shady Grove. Their performance was a highlight of the day and I was congratulated multiple times for their talents. Thank you students and Ms. Pasquale!

In late February, eighth graders participated in an exciting trip to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Students had the opportunity to engage in interactive activities at the museum. Mr. Dave Pixler and Ms. Jennifer Powell deserve special thanks for organizing this grade level trip.

During the first weekend in March TPMS students won first and second place at the Maryland Regional Science Bowl. Congratulations to the students and to Ms. Becca Epling and Ms. Jennifer Powell the team sponsors! They will be competing at the National Science Bowl in late April. We look forward to cheering them on at the next competition.

Looking forward to March, students at all grade levels will be taking the Reading and Math MSA from March 4-14. Although the exam is being phased out, we want students to

put forth their best effort. The end of March will also be the end of the third marking period. We encourage students to take advantage of the Takoma Academic Period (TAP) that is offered every Wednesday afternoon. During this period, students are able to go to teachers for help as well as retake assessments. I hope that students take advantage of this time in TAP and finish the third quarter with their best grades.

There have been many questions about how the end of the school year will be affected by the number of snow days we have had this year. This may impact some of our end of year activities but we won't know for sure until later in the year. The following is a statement from Dana Tofig, who is the MCPS Director of Public Information and Web Services: As of now, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has had nine snow days this school year. The 2013-2014 school calendar, as approved by the Board of Education, has four snow days built in, so MCPS is five days over its allotted number of snow days. In order to meet the state-required 180 days of instruction, MCPS will need to add five instructional days to the end of the school year, as outlined in the Board-approved calendar. There are no plans to change spring break at this time. MCPS can apply for a waiver from the state so that we would not have to make up all of the snow days, but the state is not yet accepting these requests. Without a state waiver, the last day of school for students will be June 19, 2014. Parents are asked to plan accordingly. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Please visit the TPMS website (www.tpmsweb.com) for more information on our calendar, events and to view our daily, *Wake Up Takoma* television production.

Sincerely,
Alicia Deeny
Principal



6TH GRADE NEWS

MARCH 2014

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Computer Science

Greetings, TPMS families. I hope everyone has been safe & warm during these winter months. As we wind down our winter season, we will also be finishing up our exploration of the Microsoft Office suite. In Microsoft Excel, we will be introducing a variety of error checking techniques. One way we have already done this is by utilizing the ELSE clause of our IF functions, but we will also soon be exploring the usage of Data Validation in our Excel Workbooks. After that, Computer Science students will learn to use Pivot Tables for analyzing massive data samples in Excel.

```

if ( Boolean expression )
    statement1 ;
else
    statement2 ;

```

Our speeches for the third quarter are already underway. Students are sharing their STEM projects with their peers. They are using Excel Charts to show off their data, and explaining their testable question, procedure, and conclusion to their classmates. It is so cool to watch our students showcase their talent and hard work - they have truly done a wonderful job!

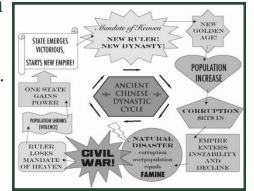
Social Studies



In March, students will begin studying Economics and Ancient China. We will study economic concepts as capital, human and natural resources, currency, market economy, supply and demand. There will be another simulation in which the students will buy and sell tea to

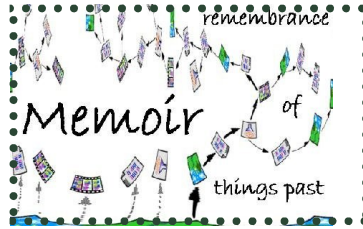
learn the ideas associated with market and command economies. We will also study topics in

Ancient China, such as the Silk Road trade, the Great Wall of China and the Dynastic Cycle.



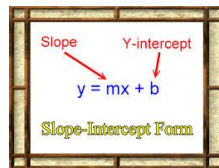
English

The sixth graders have been quite busy this marking period! We are continuing to find cause/effect relationships in our novels. We have written and presented our controversial school issue. We are currently interviewing or have written a memoir about a challenge someone has encountered, or one we have faced in the past. We have studied how an author's use of language creates tone. We have studied commonly confused words and how to use them appropriately in text. We are currently completing the formative assessment for Unit 3.



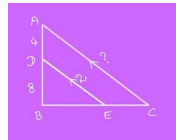
Mathematics

Magnet Math 6: Students will continue with Unit 4 (Patterns, Relations and Functions). This is a very short unit with only one quiz. The unit test is scheduled for after MSA testing is finished. Toward the end of March students will start Unit 5 (Language of Algebra). Much of this unit will focus on linear functions. Please check Edline regularly for updates on student grades and dates & topics for assessments.



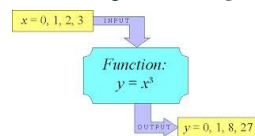
Math 7 (6 grade)

In Math 7, we will begin unit 4 which focuses on proportional reasoning. Students will be applying the concepts of ratios, rates and proportions to algebraic problems, geometry problems, and consumer problems. They will have a project this quarter as part of their summative assessment.



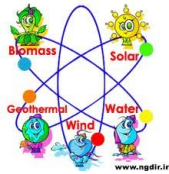
Math 6

During the month of April, math 6 students will begin the month by beginning Unit 4, functional relationships. This part of our study will focus on orders of operations, powers and exponents, the distributive property, and solving and manipulating equations.



Science

Sixth grade science 6th graders are hard at work in science. We are working on our Going Green and our Alternative Energy units. Students should be finishing up STEM projects and putting their boards together for final presentation.



6th Grade Magnet Science students are wrapping up Chemistry unit (finally!). We are also finishing STEM projects – display boards and finalized journal articles will be completed this month. We will be starting our Physics and Engineering unit in a week or two, and we will be building things like catapults and balloon-powered cars, and incorporating learning about Newtonian physics. We will also need to start collecting materials – please look for a message coming soon requesting old toys (especially marble sets, dominoes, car tracks, and blocks) that can be donated or lent to our class for our last few activities!



Some Words from the Team

Please make sure your child has a 3 inch binder with working dividers. He or she should only have one binder, not an even day and odd day binder. Please also make sure that school supplies have been replenished. It is important that students come to classes daily with paper, pencils, pens as well as other necessary supplies.



Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

March 5, 2014
Volume 8, Issue 7

Grade 7 March Newsletter

What's Happening in Class?

World Studies

In **World Studies**, students are learning about the ways in which humans interact with their environment by looking at examples of adaptation and modification from today and from the past. We will specifically look at how the Incas and Aztecs created large empires in places that had significant geographic challenges (mountains and swamps) to overcome. We will also discover how geography shaped the Incan and Aztec cultures (traditions, religion, farming methods, and homes).

Science

In **Science class** students are receiving their pre-ordered STEM Expo backboards. We are now focusing on our *Genetics/Diseases* unit by creating DNA in a test tube, determining the probability of genetic traits and conducting mock *Geneticist/Client* scenarios.

In **Magnet Science class** students just completed their genetics unit a great debate about cloning. It was incredibly intense at times but the students handled themselves well. Many students really like to argue their points of view. It was truly a memorable experience. Students are beginning their study of Human Anatomy and Physiology. Students will learn how the organ systems function together to sustain life. The unit will culminate with a comprehensive project with respect to human body systems. STEM projects are due March 11. Our annual STEM Night is scheduled for April 4.



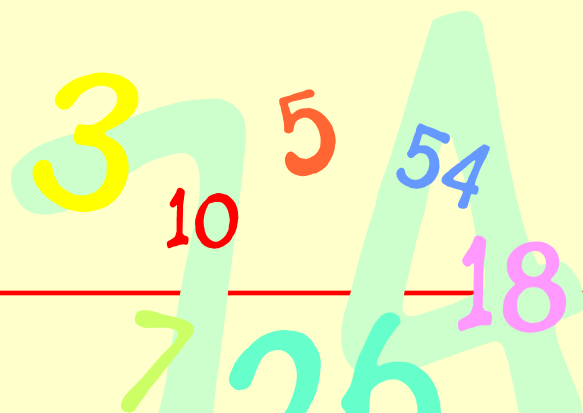
Math

In **Algebra 2.0** students will be finishing Unit 3, Descriptive Statistics, which builds upon student's prior experiences with center, variability, scatterplots, and linear trends in data, by providing more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students will use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities and look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit. Then it's on to Unit 4, Quadratic Relationships, which delves into quadratic functions, the structure of quadratic relationships, and solving quadratic equations.

In **Math 7 students** will be using proportional reasoning for the month of March. The topic will cover scale drawings and models, using proportions to solve real world problems like taxes and tips, and much more!

In **Magnet Algebra** students will complete a unit on Statistics and Data Analysis. We will then begin Unit 7: Polynomials and continue to prepare for the High School Assessment. A Polynomials test can be expected prior to Spring Break.

In **IM** students will spend time during the beginning of March to review for the Mathematics MSA. We will begin our 5th unit of the year, the Language of Algebra, where we will be exploring solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities.



What's Happening in Class?

English

In English 7 students are currently immersed in Unit 3 - **Perspectives** - which involves reading fiction and non-fiction books and other literature, related to the 1940's. Students are reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and other related texts as the core books for this unit. By the end of March, students should be completing research that investigates various perspectives on an issue that they are interested in. Students will finish out this unit with an "Acts of Kindness" project that will satisfy their service learning hours through English this year.

READ EVERY DAY!!!



THINGS YOU CAN DO ABOUT TEST ANXIETY

1. Use good study techniques to gain cognitive mastery of the material that will be covered on the test. This mastery will help you to approach the test with confidence rather than have excessive anxiety.
2. Maintain a positive attitude as you study. Think about doing well, not failing. Think of the test as an opportunity to show how much you have learned.
3. Go into the test well rested and well fed. Get enough sleep the night before the test. Eat a light and nutritious meal before the test. Stay away from junk foods.
4. Stay relaxed during the test. Taking slow, deep breaths can help. Focus on positive self-statements such as "I can do this."
5. Follow a plan for taking the test such as the DETER strategy described in the last newsletter. Don't panic even if you find the test difficult. Stay with your plan!
6. Don't worry about other students finishing the test before you do. Take the time that you need to do your best.
7. Once you finish the test and hand it in, forget about it temporarily. There is nothing more you can do until the graded test is returned to you. Turn your attention and effort to new assignments and tests.
8. When the graded test is returned to you, analyze it to see how you could have done better. Learn from your mistakes and from what you did well. Apply this knowledge when you take the next test.

Check out <http://www.how-to-study.com/> for more study skill tips.

Upcoming Events

March 5 - 14: MSA

April 4 - STEM Night

April 12 - April 21 - Spring Break



English

In English, students will be engaging in a variety of tasks that focus on the context of literature. Writing assignments will focus on comparing and contrasting events in a novel and the events in history. Reading assignments will vary in classes, but students might read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse, *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry or *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass. Students will also be preparing for The Dramatic Arts Festival with the theme of “Relationships”. For the festival, students must prepare to memorize a short speech, poem or story excerpt to present on the given theme.



U.S. History



We will continue our study of Unit 3 on Westward Expansion. In this unit we focus on the concept of manifest destiny and its impact on various groups in the United States. Along with manifest destiny, the unit focuses on the presidency of Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears. The unit ends with a study of the Industrial Revolution and immigration. The skill focus for this unit is working with primary source documents. Students have created their own political cartoon for the Jackson presidency and will also write a document based essay where they make a judgment on the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

Algebra-Prep

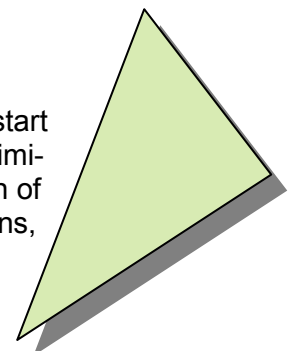
We will continue our second part of Unit 3 (Linear Functions and Relationships) which covers – identifying and describing patterns, sequences, and functions, determining whether functions are discrete or continuous, solving problems involving direct and inverse variation, determining the rate of change (slope) of a linear function when represented graphically, verify points that lie on a line, given an equation of the line. Teachers are available for Lunch Help (any day of the week), and TAP. Please ask for afterschool help which is available by each teachers schedule.

Algebra 2.0

During March, students will be finishing Unit 3, Descriptive Statistics, which builds upon student’s prior experiences with center, variability, scatterplots, and linear trends in data, by providing more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students will use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities and look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit. Then it’s on to Unit 4, Quadratic Relationships, which delves into quadratic functions, the structure of quadratic relationships, and solving quadratic equations.

Magnet Geometry

In March, we will be completing the unit Similarity & Right Triangles. We start with a thorough examination of similar figures, including proofs involving similarity and theorems derived from similar figures. The right triangles portion of the unit includes a study of the Pythagorean Theorem – history, applications, and proofs, as well as the special right triangles.



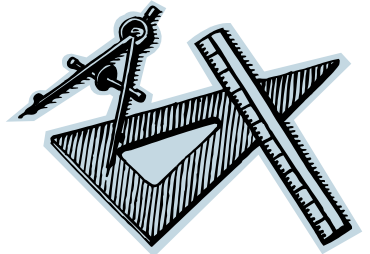
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Magnet Algebra II

Our current unit of study is Exponential & Logarithmic Functions. We are studying the properties, graphs, & applications of these useful and interesting functions. Students will be creating a poster to present one of the many applications of logs.

Honors Geometry

The Honors Geometry class is currently studying Unit 5: "Indirect Measurement." The remaining topics include: Special Triangles, Applying the Special Triangles in finding the Area of Regular Hexagons and Octagons, Distance Formula, Coordinate Proofs and Geometric Probability. The Unit 5B Exam is scheduled for March 7th. Unit 6: "Three Dimensional Geometry & Measurement" is next on the agenda, which involves volume and surface area of three dimensional objects. The Honors Geometry class is a fast-paced class and the students need to come to class prepared and focused to learn the material and should not be afraid to ask questions when not understanding the concepts and material. Remember for retakes of Mini Quizzes, corrections must be done prior to the retake. I will be available during lunch this month to answer any questions and provide additional support as needed.



Magnet Science

We will be completing our astronomy unit with the design and building of a 3D model of a constellation and unit exam. Capstone experiments are completing in March (Backboards are due 27 of March). STEM night at TPMS is April 4 and all are welcome. The next unit we will investigate is the Restless Earth where we will study plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes and then progress through the rock cycle. Information of the upcoming field trip to NIST will be distributed once the schedule dates are finalized. We will be asking for a few parent chaperones to help with this trip to NIST.



Science

This month in Science, we will be starting our new unit Earth Materials and Surface Processes. Students will be identifying minerals and igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. They will also be applying that information to understand the rock cycle. STEM night is April 4th and the deadline to turn in all STEM work is 3/27/14. Students should currently be working on their display boards.

Come to 8th Grade Homework Club!

After School

Thursdays with Ms. Guevara in room 302



Arts Department March Newsletter

Art—Mrs. Spera



In March, the sixth graders will be creating a three dimensional mask. They will be considering the choice of colors to create a sense of an emotion. They will also be working with a variety of materials to complete the design.

The seventh graders have just started their torn paper self-portraits. They painted seven pieces of paper...ranging from white to black, as well as one textured piece. They will use these different values to recreate their facial features. The pieces of paper will be glued to a sheet of plastic to construct a very original portrait.



The eighth graders are working on a radial design. We saw a movie on M.C. Escher to inspire their creative ideas. They will be creating three different designs to choose from, and then color the chosen one in two different ways. I am hoping this will give them many options to work with for the final design.

Introduction to Dance - Ms. Olsen

This month, students will be exploring the Latin explosion in today's music and culture. Students will be learning the history of Latin dance as well as the basic skills and moves associated with various types of Latin dance. Salsa, Merengue, and Bachata will be introduced to students. Students will learn the footwork, lead and follow techniques, timing, styling, and movement patterns. This technique will be incorporated into a spicy Latin routine!



Computer Applications

Ms. Price

Ms. Price's six and seventh grade Computer Applications classes are learning to program using MIT's Scratch. Sixth graders will make the 1980's arcade game Frogger and seventh graders will make their own version of the original Donkey Kong.

We are also wrapping up our unit on word processing. Next, we'll learn to make attractive and effective presentations using PowerPoint. Students will learn to create organized presentations using text, color, images, hyperlinks, and sounds, and will develop the important habit of crediting internet sources whenever they are used in schoolwork.



Eighth graders will be exploring Sketchup 2013. It's a program that lets users draw three-D models and plans. This unit's real emphasis will be on the skills and resources for learning any new application – not just three-D design.

When these projects are complete, students in all grades will begin editing digital photographs, not just to create new images, but also to learn to spot unreliable photographs so that they aren't deceived by online misinformation.

Dr. Taliff

We have completed presenting the Creative and Enrichment Programming [CEP] projects and the students, again, rose to the challenge and created fantastic and original programs. The LISTS unit has been completed as has the TUPLES and user-defined FUNCTIONS units. DICTIONARIES will begin on March 3 followed by recursive functions, module variables, and functions as first-class data objects. As a reminder, regardless of whether there is an assignment pending or not, students should spend a minimum of 20 minutes 4 times per week reading and reviewing past and present class topics.

Ms. Wu

8th grade Computer Science classes will continue working on ACSL topics, Digital Electronics, Data Structure, and participate in the 3rd ACSL contest.

Students will learn syntax and structure of JavaScript, and apply it to enhance their HTML webpage design. They will continue working on their Final Project at home. The next milestone is to turn-in their draft/beta version product on 3/14 for peer-evaluation on 3/20-21.

Contemporary Communications and TV Studio - Mr. Wilson



In 6th grade Contemporary Communications, students have been reading, writing, and talking about media. Now it's time to make some! We are moving into our "production" phase of the class, in which students will create their own short videos and learn the basics of video production.

In 7th grade Intro to TV Studio, students are in various stages of preproduction. Some groups have already started shooting and editing, while others are still developing their scripts and storyboards. Next, we will learn how to make a "news package" for Wake Up Takoma.

In 8th grade TV studio, students should be done with their scripted production and working on their "news piece". They are also working on their "Music Video", which is an individual production with an option to work in pairs, or their "Spotlight", which is an individual production about them. In addition, they are working on their class blogs. These students are really creating a ton of media!

World Beat Music and Chorus—Mr. Liddle

Along with performing in small groups for the class their own a cappella arrangements of modern songs, students in chorus have been starting to work on new music for Spring. The 7th and 8th grader choruses have been introduced to the music that they will sing at their upcoming MCPS music festival. On April 3rd, students will join other middle schools from around the county to perform for each other and for a panel of judges at Richard Montgomery High School. The students will receive immediate feedback about their performance of the 3 songs in clinic with one of the judges and also written feedback and a score from the other 3. This should be a fun and educational field trip where The Blue Devil Singers will be able to put their best voices forward. Look for permission slips in the coming weeks. General music classes have dug into new materials and are just starting to take their new acquired skills and apply them to playing in small bands. Funds collected from donations at the Winter Concert and through a generous grant from the PTA have allowed for the purchase of a number of new instruments and the students have been enjoying using them. Thanks for all your support!

Orchestra & Band - Ms. Pasquale

Congratulations to our Jazz Ensemble for doing such an outstanding job at the Dr. Starr's Superintendent Advisory and Supervisory Meeting. The students played for all the principals of Montgomery County and received a standing ovation. March is a big month for music students at TPMS. March is officially "Music in Our Schools" month all over the United States. Takoma instrumental music students have several important performances during March and early April.

Many students are participating in the Montgomery County Solo and Ensemble Festival the first weekend in March. Individual 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and small ensembles play for professional adjudicators. I am especially proud of students who participate in this festival. They have formed ensembles that are not guided by which band or orchestra they are in or by grade level. They benefit from the preparing the music and develop excellent social, leadership, and process skills as they prepare together. These students all perform in the TPMS Solo and Ensemble Recital at the end of February.

TPMS Intermediate and Advanced orchestras are preparing for Montgomery County District Orchestra festival in April. Each Orchestra is preparing 2 pieces and a warm-up piece that they will play for 4 adjudicators. Each orchestra will receive written comments, live taped comments, and a score from each judge. The orchestras will also be professionally recorded. This one of the most important performances of the year since students will play for and hear their orchestra peers from other schools and receive a score from an objective judge. The judges will be listening for clear tone, perfect intonation, precise technical and rhythmic details as well as a performance that shows how fluidly they work as an ensemble in concert with their director. The average of the judges' scores will determine whether we will move on to the Maryland State Festival. These scores will also be published to the all Montgomery County Schools. We are working very hard to perfect the details of our music so careful rehearsal and home practice are essential.

Advanced Band is also preparing for their festival in April. Band competition is a challenge because the bands have more parts than the orchestras and the judges are usually wind and percussion specialists. They set high standards for the wind band sound so we are preparing to impress these adjudicators. We are working very hard on tone and intonation and look forward to the results.

All of the students who receive a Superior rating (1) at the District Festivals are eligible to play at the state festivals in May.





March News from the Counselors!

- Parents of 6th and 7th graders – you should have received your child’s registration form for next year. If you have not already returned it, please do so ASAP! We would love to have all students’ forms so we can schedule them accurately. Besides, we truly believe your child will be happiest if s/he gets to choose his/her electives...strangely enough random assignment doesn’t always fare well with students.
- This is also the best time for 7th grade parents to start preparing themselves (& their child) for what’s ahead in the months to come. We strongly encourage you to conduct your DCC research from now and through the summer to avoid the hysteria next fall. The high schools will all have evening open houses in Sept./Oct.; but it’s a lot of information to process in a very short period of time. Below is a link that will help get you all started; you can also check out our TPMS web page to follow the process along with our current 8th graders.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/schools/downcounty/>

- Parents of 8th graders: If you have questions about anything to do with your child’s eighth grade year, you should still contact Ms. Hankins or Ms. Levine. However, if you have questions about next year’s courses or credits, please contact the high school your child will be attending. They will have up-to-date information about their school and your child. Also, if your child has been accepted to an application program (& has decided to accept the invitation) please remember to inform the assigned school (if it is different than the school you have accepted).

Organization Group!

If your 6th grade student is struggling with organization, Mr. Skillings has a “Let’s Get Organized” group that meets Wednesday’s during the school day. In organization group students have an opportunity to get all of their loose papers correctly filed in their binders, write down important upcoming dates for projects, tests, and quizzes, and have their agenda books checked for writing down assignments. Organization is a learned skill and can be improved with effort and practice. Please contact Mr. Skillings if you are interested in this group for your child, space is limited!

What's new in the Media Center?



Takoma Park Middle School
Media Center News
March 2014

Black-Eyed Susan Reading Incentive Program and Voting Party

What is the Black-Eyed Susan reading incentive program? Each year, librarians across the state of Maryland nominate the best new children's and young adults' books for the Black-Eyed Susan award. In the spring, Maryland students vote for their favorite nominees. To encourage TPMS students to participate, the Media Center holds a Black-Eyed Susan voting party. Any student wishing to be invited to the 2014 Black-Eyed Susan voting party must read at least 3 nominated books and submit one summary project to Ms. Phelan by **April 4**. The party will take place on **Wednesday, April 9**. See the TPMS Media Center webpage or Ms. Phelan in the Media Center for a full list of nominees and summary project directions.



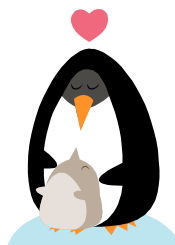
Current Media Center News

6th Grade English

6th grade English classes researched various school based issues such as bullying, homework, and school uniforms. Students used online databases to find articles from multiple points of view, and learned to cite facts from the articles in order to persuade an audience.

7th Grade English

7th grade English classes researched multiple current issues, with some classes focusing instead on propaganda and life during WWII.



6th—8th Grade English

All students will select poems, speeches, or song lyrics, or write original works to recite at the 2014 Dramatic Arts Festival. This year's theme is "Relationships."

Project Website:

[http://
msphelan.edu.glogster.com/
poetry/](http://msphelan.edu.glogster.com/poetry/)

6th—9th Grade

Black-Eyed Susan

Nominees

The One and Only Ivan

Almost Home

Chomp

See You at Harry's

The Limit

The Lions of Little Rock

The False Princess

Wonder

The Grimm Legacy

Curveball: The Year I

Lost My Grip

Important Dates:

March 3—10:
MSA

March 13:
Math Olympiad

March 28:
No School
Professional Day

April 4:
STEM Night
BES Projects Due

April 9:
BES Voting Party

Student Service Learning Hours

From Mrs. Goldstein, the Student Service Learning (SSL) Coordinator



The Superintendent's Student Service Learning Award

Each year, MCPS recognizes those middle school students who have earned the 75 student service learning hours required for high school graduation. Students may only win the award once, so students who received the award in previous years are not eligible to receive it a second or third time. In order to have SSL hours count toward the award, students must turn in SSL verification forms by **April 4, 2014**. No exceptions can be made to this deadline. Forms should be placed in the basket at the front desk in the main office. This deadline is **ONLY** to qualify for the award; the deadline for hours to show up on the final report card is June 6, 2014.



SSL Hours Earned over Spring Break

Is your child planning to volunteer during spring break? Remember that SSL hours can only be earned at approved organizations. Preapproved organizations are indicated with the graduation cap icon on the SSL website (www.mcpsssl.org). If the organization is not listed, please make sure your child submits a pre-approval form (560-50) to me in advance of the service in order to get credit for donating so generously of his or her time.



Keep Copies, and Don't Wait!

Please remember to always keep copies of your child's SSL-related forms and correspondence! And please instruct your child to turn in forms as early as possible. It is difficult for students to correct omissions and errors on forms turned in at the last minute.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at

Leslie_M_Goldstein@mcpsmd.org

World Languages Department March Newsletter

Spanish

Spanish 1AB—Ms. Carroll and Ms. Heelan

Students have finished a Unit on Pastimes focused on where we go and what we do for leisure time. Students are beginning a unit on La Familia. Vocabulary and grammar concepts center around family members and relationships to each other. Students will learn the various ways to show possession in Spanish, how to talk about what family members like and don't like to do and how to tell names and ages of family members. Students will also learn basic conversation for a trip to a restaurant, including table settings and how to ask the waiter for different items. Students will present a project which may include a Family Photo Album or Family Tree Poster. Parents are encouraged to check Edline frequently for student progress and homework completion. Students should be writing HW in their agenda books so parents should check that as well. This is a great time for students to talk at home about how they are related to someone else in the house or other family members. Sra. Carroll's students should check Edline frequently as she keeps her grade book updated so you have an accurate picture of your progress.



Spanish 1A full year—Ms. Carroll

Students are in the middle of the school unit. We have learned to talk about school schedules, how to describe our classes and to tell what we like and don't like about our classes. Students have learned how to use verbs that end in -AR in order to talk about what they do in school. We will conclude this half of the unit with a skit performed in groups. The month of March will focus on school supplies and what we need for various classes. We will learn how to talk about the location of items in a classroom and how schools in Spanish-speaking countries are different than Takoma Park. Students will also review gender and number agreement. This unit includes a lot of vocabulary so students should study vocabulary outside of the classroom on a regular basis. Parents should encourage students to practice their words out loud and to name school supplies that might be lying around at home!! Parents are encouraged to check EdLine and agenda books to monitor homework assignments and academic progress. Sra. Carroll updates her grade book frequently so parents can have an accurate picture of their student's progress.

Spanish 1B full year—Ms. Carroll

Spanish 1B students have finished the Family Unit and are in the first half of a Unit on The Home. Vocabulary and grammar structures in this unit of study will revolve around rooms in the home, types of housing, furniture and chores around the house. Students will work with the verbs SER and ESTAR to distinguish two ways of "being". Students will also work with new verbs to express what chores people can do, what they are going to do and what they have to do around the house. Parents, now is the time for your students to practice talking about all the chores they have to do in your house! Culture will center on the architectural design of Spanish homes and how it compares to that of the typical home in our area. Parents are encouraged to check Edline frequently for student progress and homework completion, and to check agenda books regularly for homework. Sra. Carroll updates her grade book frequently so parents can have an accurate picture of their student's progress.

Spanish 2—Ms. Guevara

In March, students will be working on a unit about natural disasters and medical emergencies. In this unit, students will continue to discuss the difference between the two past tenses in Spanish: the imperfect tense and the preterit tense. Students will focus on using these tenses when reporting information about a past event. Keep your eyes out for permission slips to La Casita for our field trip in April which will align with our next unit about cooking. The pace of the class moves quickly and students are encouraged to establish a routine of studying every week night for 10-15 minutes in order to help build vocabulary and ease with structures. There are many resources on Edline for them to practice such as Quizlet, an online flashcard website which allows students to make flashcards for vocabulary but also verb conjugations as well. Students may also complete the monthly optional formative assignment, *¿Dónde está Sra. Guevara?* which students can find on Edline or posted on the board in the classroom.

Spanish 3—Ms. Guevara

In March, students will be working on a unit about work situations such as applying and interviewing for a job as well as discussing volunteering. They will be using Spanish to recruit and hire employees as well as apply for a job and interview for a position.

French—Mme Finklea

French 1

French 1 students will be working on our food unit. We will be communicating about food preferences and also eating habits in Francophone countries. This unit has lots of verbs and vocabulary, so students will need to keep on top of their work DAILY!

French 2

In French 2 we wax nostalgic as we talk about how things were when we were little. Students will be learning to distinguish between the 2 main past tenses in French: the *passé composé* and the *imparfait*.

French 3

French 3 students will be learning how to navigate in a Francophone hotel. This could come in handy during vacations abroad!