

The Lions' Den

Goddard Middle School Newsletter

Volume 2: 2nd Quarter 2011 (November - December)

USD 265



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Principally Speaking

Lisa Hogarth - Principal

Thanks to those parents who were able to join us for our first awards assembly in November. We were glad you were able to break away from your busy schedules to see our students be recognized for fall sports as well as academic honors. I also want to thank all of you for your help and support with our annual Pioneer League Food Drive. I am so proud that our students and staff donated items to help local families through the holiday season.

Students enjoyed a unique opportunity in November that I hope they shared with you. We walked over to Goddard High School on November 16 for the matinee performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Goddard High School students. There was no cost to our students for this performance and it couldn't have come at a better time as this story was being read and studied in 8th grade English classes at the time. We are very appreciative of GHS for thinking to include us.

I hope all of you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It hardly seems possible, but the end of the semester is quickly approaching and this is a time students are easily distracted from their academics. It is crucial that students remain focused during this time. Parents, I encourage you to monitor your students progress through Skyward Family Access. We have received a lot of positive feedback from those who are accessing student grades and other information at home through the internet on a regular basis.

When we return from winter break, we will begin a new semester, which means new elective classes for students. New student schedules will be distributed the day students return from break. Second semester also means we will be gearing up for the Kansas State Assessments. This year all seventh and eighth grade students will complete both the reading and math assessments. In addition, the seventh grade students will complete the science assessment, and the eighth grade students will complete the social studies assessment. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is that students do their best on these assessments. Not only do the results allow us to evaluate how effectively students are mastering the state standards embedded in our curriculum, but the results also determine the courses that best meet the needs of students as we begin the enrollment process in the spring. Your assistance in communicating this to students is very much appreciated.

As always, do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your support and commitment to the Goddard School District. Without you, we could not accomplish what we do for the students of this district.

As noted on the district calendar, there will be no classes from December 19 through January 3. Students will resume school on Wednesday, January 4. On behalf of the staff of Goddard Middle School, we wish each of you a relaxing, safe winter break. Happy Holidays to you all and many wishes for a wonderful new year.

Just for Parents

It's not easy to raise a young teen. Many outside influences distract our children and complicate our efforts. But whatever the challenges, we share one aim: to do the best job possible as parents. During the early adolescent years, parents and families can greatly influence the growth and development of their children. We sell our children short if we expect little from them and we sell ourselves short if we believe that we have no influence.

The Kansas Parent Resource Center, federally funded under Title V of No Child Left Behind, is the official Parent

Information Technical Assistance Center for the state of Kansas. The KPIRC works hand-in-hand with the KSDE State and Federal Programs office in providing parents with information and resources on early childhood through high school parent involvement. We hope that you find the articles being reproduced in this newsletter helpful, and we encourage you to explore all the resources available to you as parents at www.kpirc.org.

Lisa Hogarth - Principal

Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen

As parents, we all want our children to grow up to be responsible citizens and good people. We want them to learn to feel, think and act with respect for themselves and for other people. We want them to pursue their own well-being, while also being considerate of the needs and feelings of others. We want them to recognize and honor the democratic principles upon which our country was founded. We want them, in short, to develop strong character.

Research has shown that children who grow up with strong, positive values are happier and do better in school. On the other hand, if children do not learn proper values and behavior when they are very young, problems can develop that can mushroom with serious consequences as children grow older—dropping out of school, drug use, teenage pregnancy, violent crimes—and the list goes on.

The most important thing we can do for our children is to help them acquire values and skills that they can rely on throughout their lives. In doing so, they will have the best chance to lead good lives as individuals and as citizens of their communities and of

America. "Character" is a set of qualities, or values, that shape our thoughts, actions, reactions and feelings.

People with strong character exhibit many of the following qualities:

- Compassion means identifying with and being concerned about other people's feelings and needs. Compassion allows us to be understanding and tolerant of different points of views and beliefs. It provides the emotional root for caring about other people.

- Honesty means being truthful with ourselves and with others. It means caring enough about others not to mislead them for personal benefit. It means facing up to our mistakes, even when we have to admit them to others or when they may get us into trouble.

- Fairness means acting in a just way and making decisions, especially important ones, on the basis of evidence rather than prejudice. It means "playing by the rules" and standing up for the right of everyone to be treated equally and honestly.

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Parents!

Please make sure to remind your child to have all lunch business taken care of in the front office before 9:45 in the morning. Any money dropped off after 9:45 will not be entered into your child's account until the next day.

Call the Kansas School Safety Hotline

The State of Kansas, in cooperation with the Kansas Highway Patrol, has established a statewide "Kansas School Safety Hotline" for reporting any information that might threaten the safety of our school or students. The statewide hotline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to report any potential threat of school violence to the Kansas Highway Patrol. Information received on this hotline will immediately be shared with local law enforcement and school officials. Help keep our schools safe!

Stay Safe! Speak Up! Stop School Violence!

1-877-626-8203

This is an anonymous Toll-Free Number. Please report any information that might threaten the safety of our school or students.

Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen

continued from page 2

- Self-discipline is the ability to set a realistic goal or make a plan—then stick with it. It is the ability to resist doing things that can hurt others or ourselves. It involves keeping promises and following through on commitments. It is the foundation of many other qualities of character.

- Respect for others is based on self-respect and is summed up in the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. It is the value that makes the world a more decent and civilized place.

- Self-respect means taking satisfaction in appropriate behavior and hard-won accomplishments. People with self-respect also respect others. They do not need to disparage others or build themselves up by bragging or exaggerating their abilities or talents. They do not need lots of money or power to feel good about themselves.

- Courage is the ability to overcome fear in order to do what is right, even if it is difficult or risky. Courage can mean facing physical danger, but it also can mean standing up for beliefs and making hard decisions on the basis of evidence rather than on what is the easy or popular thing to do. It means being neither reckless nor cowardly but facing up to our duties and responsibilities.

- Responsibility means being dependable, keeping promises and honoring our commitments. It is accepting the consequences for what we say and do. It also means developing our potential. People who are responsible don't make excuses for their actions or blame others when things go wrong. They think things through and use good judgment before they take action. They behave in ways that encourage others to trust them.

As parents, we may need to set aside particular times or create special activities to teach our children certain things. But this is not true when it comes to helping them learn about character. Everyday life is filled with opportunities for helping our children learn about values we prize and want to encourage. Research indicates that children take values seriously only when they see that the adults they respect agree, at least in general, with those values.

Counselor's Connection

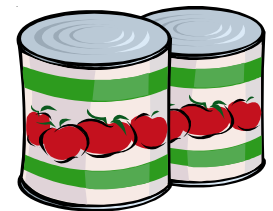
Lisa Tyler - Counselor

After food, shelter, and safety, nothing is more important than good communication with your child. Good communication is not simply a way to build a relationship, it is the relationship. Work at sharing your teen's life by keeping in constant touch with his or her thoughts, feelings, accomplishments, disappointments, and relationships. Good communication comes from constant and regular interaction.

Teens are predisposed to reject you and your values. You wear dreary clothes. You have a dumb job. You listen to geeky music. But good communication can change that impression. Chat about things they find "cool". Leaf through their CD collection and play a few tracks. Get involved with things that they like. Don't let other commitments prevent you from having a conversation with them at least once a day. Keep the lines of communication open and take turns talking. Listen without judging. Talk about whatever is going on in your lives. The most important part of what you say is just sharing with your child. *Taken from How to Say It to Teens, by Richard Heyman, Ed.D.*

The months of October and November are busy months in the counseling office! More than ever before, we have many Goddard families in need of school supplies, food and clothing. As the loss of jobs and financial burdens increase, so do the levels of stress and depression. This directly impacts all of our students.

The annual Goddard food drive was conducted during the week of November 14-18, and we collected over 10,000 items from just our school alone! We hope to win the league award, but even more important is that students learn to help those in need. Also, our Student Council is adopting 12 mittens from the Goddard Area Mitten Tree and buying \$100.00 worth of clothing and toys at Walmart for 12 kids.



As the holidays approach, I would like to encourage all of our Goddard families to do one thing together as a family that will help someone in need.

8th Grade Team

*Ashley Dunham, Cheryl Emerson, Jamie Frost, Terry Gordon,
Peggy Griswold, Chris LeFevre and Kevin Shobe
Team Conference Time 9:55 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. M - T - Th - F*

Be part of the team!
Use "Family Access"
to stay connected.

We enjoyed meeting with many of our 8th grade parents during conferences. Please feel free to call any time if you have questions or concerns. The team will be glad to set up a meeting with you if needed.

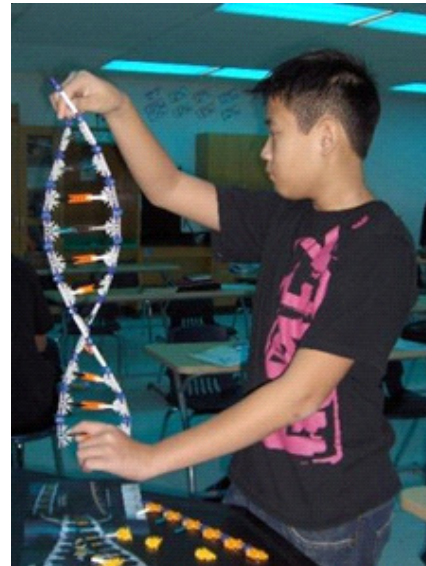
We are halfway through the second quarter. There are many distractions with the holidays coming up so please help your student remain focused on school.

English students have been reviewing six-trait writing techniques during class time and have recently completed a writing project. Also, we are about to finish our study of "The Diary of Anne Frank" and have been covering WWII and the Holocaust in conjunction with this novel. We are excited to report that on November 16, students walked to the high school to see the play! Students will continue to work on vocabulary, conventions, and six-trait writing skills as we read.

Math 8 students have learned about square roots, exponents and scientific notation. Ask your student how to use the Pythagorean Theorem. You might remember this as $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. They are working on ratios and proportions, and can find the height of a tree or flag pole without climbing to the top to measure it! Your child will also learn about percent and how to use it to find discounts and the percent of increase or decrease. Math 8+ students are learning three different ways to write linear equations and graph them. After this unit, classes will be presented with several methods to solve systems of equations and inequalities.

In social studies we will soon complete our Lewis and Clark PowerPoint presentations. We will begin studying the Industrial Revolution, the invention of the cotton gin and its affect on slavery, and the continued expansion of our country to the west. Remind your student that he/she can earn fifty extra credit points by doing a community service project.

In science, we have concluded our chemistry unit and are now embarking on biochemistry and genetics with an emphasis on the structure and function



*Victor Tran constructs a model
DNA molecule during science lab.*

of DNA. We will also discover genetic mutations and their impact on DNA in addition to the passing of traits from parent to offspring via Punnett Squares. The students will also partake in a lab activity in which traits will be passed from parents to offspring and a "baby" will be created. Ask your student about heredity, DNA nucleotides, and

genetic disorders to join in on our learning adventure! Please remember that every student has access to the online science textbooks by way of <http://my.hrw.com>. The username/password is *glions3*.



So that we may keep our files current, please be sure to call Mrs. Wyssenbach, school registrar, at 794-4245 or e-mail her at rwysenbach@goddardusd.com with any changes and/or additions to your address, telephone numbers (including cell phones and work numbers), e-mail addresses, extra mailings, and emergency contacts.

Also, please notify the school registrar at 794-4245 if you will be moving out of the Goddard district so that we may update our records. If school is in session, please call at least one day before the student's last day of attendance to complete the check out process.

Use Family Access
to keep up
with the team!

7th Grade Team

*Cassie Banka, Karen Carmichael, Suzanne Cross, Pat Easum, Mike Harms,
Keith Lewandowski and Melissa Rindt*
Team Conference Time 9:05 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. M - T - Th - F

Wow, here we are at the end of November, and science classes are diving into the worlds of Bacteria, Viruses, Protist, and Fungus. Students will look at all of the little things that sneak up to get you when you least expect it, but we will also study all the good things bacteria and fungus do for us each day. For example, do you know that bacteria are in the food you eat every day and help to regulate your digestive system? Please remember that the textbook and many fun activities can be found on the website: <http://mrindt.weebly.com>.

Having read and discussed a number of short stories in our literature book, English classes spent the beginning of this month reading and writing folk tales. As a class, we read selected folk tales and discussed the history and country of origin for each. Students researched an African country and created their own folk tale based on their research. Final copies will be in the form of student created pop-up books. For the remaining days of November we read mysteries from our literature book.

After completing a unit on Africa, social studies classes will begin to focus on the continent of Asia. Various teaching methods will be used to analyze the many different countries located in Asia. The basic concepts of Geography, Economy and Politics will be addressed.

Math 7 classes are starting to work with ratios and rates which will lead to solving proportions. Proportions are a big topic in 7th grade! Students will

need to use proportions to find missing sides of similar figures and to work with scale drawings. In Math 7 Plus, your child is also solving proportions. The topic is made a little more complicated because students are asked to find indirect measurements. Can you find the height of a tree by measuring its shadow? If not, ask your Math 7 Plus student for help! Both types of math classes will start a new chapter over percentages before winter vacation.

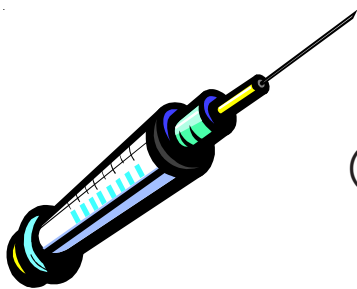


*"Journey to the
Cave of Wonders"
by Madison Smith.*

*"Why there is Burnt
Forest in Sierra Leone"
by Josh Mullins.*



*"Making the Team"
by Logan Dryden.*



The Health Department will continue to be at the Wellness Center, 201 N Walnut in Goddard (the annex next to the Bus Barn) the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30- 11:30 a.m.



Joe Fasbender

Art Activities

Angie Mitchell

The art classes at GMS have had a productive semester. The 2-D classes are now working on drawings of their shoes using pencil to shade the different values. We have spent a lot of time looking closely at details and drawing what we actually see, not what we think we see. The

3-D classes are completing their third and final clay project. The ceramics unit is always popular with the students, and they look forward to using their functional pieces once they take them home.

I'd like to express my thanks to the parents who took the time during conferences to visit the art room. The students are eager to show off their blossoming art skills and appreciate an audience for their hard work. Also, it's important for parents to see what art class is all about. We don't just make pretty things. Long gone are the days of macramé and Plaster of Paris ash trays. Visual arts classes reinforce skills and concepts taught in other content areas of school as well as nurture critical thinking and problem solving skills. The Kansas State Visual Arts Standards

Inside Industrial Tech

Kelsey Brown

Students taking shop class this semester are currently completing a unit which includes learning drafting and design techniques in the production of a CO₂ race car.

The students began by drawing several possible thumbnail sketches of a car while using the techniques of border, object, center, hidden, extension, and dimension lines. The chosen design was then transferred to a wooden block form, cut out and sanded. Once the cars have been through the final finish and painting process comes the most exciting part – racing the cars! To conclude this unit, students will use the various car times and the distance of the track to compute the speed of the cars.

can be found online at the KSDE website (<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3511#vaStd>).

Also, the Kansas Art Education Association website has links to several articles regarding the importance of arts in the school curriculum. Their website is www.kaea.com. I'll have more information on that in following newsletters.



Jeremy Bartnick



Anna Potter and Trevor Reed



Logan Hamilton



Kendall Gonzalez

Congratulations to October Students of the Month!

Zach Baxley
Abby Bay
Nathan Bell
Jordan Cooke
Alexis Cooper
Emma Darrow
Chance Davidson
Vivian Do

Esmeralda Garcia
Logan Godsey
Kendra Hall
Kyler Hawk
Kaylee Jeffress
Cassidy Locke
Chris Means
Tyler Miller
Justin Moore

Dylan Parry
Rigo Rivas
Sam Runck
Ruben Salcido
Mitchell Sturdivant
Devon Sutton
Sinjin Vu
Landon Whitmore
Maria Zurschmiede



Project: Publications

Jessie Skala - Yearbook Adviser

The publications staff has been very hard at work. The third newspaper had a release date of November 22 and the girls will release a fourth newspaper before the winter break. I can already see the improvements in writing skills and layout designs. This group is very creative and is using all of its resources to produce great work. The staff has also been introduced to some elements of Adobe Photoshop like cobbing an object (producing a cutout) and changing the color of an element. Traces of these abilities will be seen in both the newspaper and the yearbook.

The yearbook is almost one-third complete and much more has been started. Pictures are being taken here, there and everywhere! The staff is doing a great job at compiling the pictures they need and uploading them into the yearbook. I'm looking forward to the future progress of these very hard-working students!

FACS Facts

Jessica Buchanan

In our last unit for the semester in FACS, the students will study clothing: repairing, laundering, and constructing. After a couple weeks of learning how a sewing machine works and practicing our sewing skills, we began our projects in mid-November. Students will construct a drawstring backpack and a pair of pajama shorts following a very simple Simplicity pattern. More information on the projects for class is available at www.goddardusd.com/staff/jbuchanan.

Scholars' Bowl

Lisa Tyler, Sponsor

The Scholars' Bowl team began the season with both the 7th and 8th grade teams winning 1st or 2nd place at the first few meets. The 7th grade Scholars' Bowl team consists of Jeremy Bartnick, Zach Baxley, Logan Devlin, Kim Hansel, Xavier Jimenez, Kale Ramos, Ashley Stanphill, Sinjin Vu, Madison Watkins, and Alyana Yenni. The 8th grade members are Dalton Bailey, Logan Godsey, Jordan Humphrey, Aidan Mannette, Meghan McGehee, Seth Peery, Morgan Spilinek, Julia Tomtschik, and Maria Zurschmiede.

The team had meets on November 9 at Rose Hill, November 14 in Andover, and the final competition was the league meet which was held in Newton on November 17. I am so proud of the 7th grade team for placing first at league! The 8th grade team missed out on first place by losing the final tie-breaker question and took second.

FACS students concentrate on their sewing projects. Clockwise from right: Jenna Todd, David Millington, and Isaac Reel.



Congratulations to November Students of the Month!

Brianna Albers
Jeremy Bartnick
Hannah Buller
Brayden Circle
Jon Cole
Noah Cruse
Ryan Davis
Erick De Leon
TJ Enegren

Kendall Gonzales
Kaytlynn Hansel
Sam Harpenau
Trentin Johnson
Madison Koger
Kyonna Leggins
Josh Purdy
Jenna Putoff
Caleb Rains

Ethan Skidmore
Maddie Smith
Brittany Stewart
Jaeden Tatro
Jayden Titus
Jenna Todd
Jacob Weve
Royana Wilson

Literacy in the Library

Susan Hardesty - Librarian & Media Specialist

Greetings from the very busy GMS library! We hosted our annual fall book fair, and thanks to your support we netted \$600 worth of merchandise. Thank you!

The book club which first met in September has been a success so far with an average of 20 students in attendance per meeting. The group chose a name for themselves at the last meeting and will from here on out be known as "The Geeks." Proud book lovers, one and all! The book club elected eighth grade student Bailey Bange as their president. They also selected two student moderators, Julie Hall, 7th, and Abbey Meng, 8th, to assist with book discussions. The next item on the club's agenda is to decide on a book for the whole group to read. Please encourage your student to join us.

Here are a few books that were acquired during the book fair that your student might enjoy.

13 Gifts by Wendy Mass. After breaking into the school to steal a goat, Tara Brennan is sent to stay with relatives who she hardly knows. This includes

her eleven-year-old cousin Emily, who ate a whole stick of glue the last time they were together. Tara discovers, quickly, that her cousin isn't the only odd character in town.

Darth Paper Strikes Back by Tom Angleberger. A year after Origami Yoda became the guru of McQuarrie Middle School, Dwight has been suspended and may be expelled, which means no more Origami Yoda. Even worse, Darth Paper, a puppet created by Dwight's nemesis, Harvey, has taken Yoda's place. He spews insults and evil, and may be responsible for getting Dwight kicked out of school in the first place. Now the kids of McQuarrie are trying to build a case to save Dwight.

Wild Things by Clay Carmichael. Eleven-year-old Zoe trusts no one. Her father has been gone since before she was born. Her irresponsible mother, who left her alone most of the time, has died, and Zoe is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, former surgeon Henry Royster. Sure that her uncle will also let her down, Zoe has trouble adjusting.

Food Drive a Huge Success!

The results are in! Our official 2011 Food Drive total is 10,536 items, which is almost 2000 items more than last year. That is an average of 26.5 items per student. What an awesome job! I am so proud of the GMS students and staff for all the effort (and FUN) that went into this year's collection. The total percentage of students and staff who contributed items was an amazing 80.2%! Three of our Pride Times were treated to a McDonald's breakfast because they had such high averages. They were: Mrs. Rindt – 37.6 items per student; Mrs. Hardesty and Mrs. Tyler – 35.8 items; and Mrs. Skala – 29.4 items. Again, thanks to our parents for their support of our annual food drive. We will let you know when we have the results from the entire Pioneer League.

Stuco members helped to sort and box the donated food. Back row: Jenna Puthoff, Logan Devlin, Madison Watkins, Ethan Wright, Pell Okeowo, Madison May. Middle row: Tate Vang, Cassie Breit, Ashlyn Arnold, Matt Forbus. Front row: Miranda Rohleder, Corbin Pospisil.



Logan Devlin and Matt Forbus help to sort cans for the food drive.

Reading the Right Way

8th Grade

Bobbi Cole

As a parent of a middle school child, it tends to become more difficult to connect with your child in the area of reading because they don't "need" us to get through the readings like they did in the lower grades. Here are a few tips to better connect with your child through reading and in some instances create some bonding time!

- Plan a time for family members to read together.
- Share reading aloud. Alternate reading favorite passages and discussing them.
- Link movies and TV shows to books.
- Give your child a magazine subscription as a gift.
- Let your children see you read for work and for pleasure.
- Read in an unusual place.
- Turn off the TV, make a bowl of popcorn, and read with your child.
- Reward reading. If your child finishes a book, set up a time to go out to dinner and talk about it. Visit the local library or bookstore together afterwards to buy a new book!

The 8th grade reading classes have started their novel units. The students will read "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. Throughout this novel we will focus on various literary elements such as summarizing, predicting, making inferences, theme, distinguishing between fact and opinion, using context clues, understanding plot, conflict, and other valuable reading skills.

At school we spend time learning and honing various reading skills, and there is time incorporated into each reading class for silent reading, but not nearly enough. It would help tremendously if you would provide a time and place for your child to read at home a minimum of 15 minutes each night. Reading outside of class counts for part of each student's daily reading grade also.

New AR (Accelerated Reading) goals have been distributed and the students will work on these goals both in class and out of class throughout this nine-week period. Please check with your child and help monitor his or her silent reading time as well as goals. The goals will be due **Wednesday, December 14!!**

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone or e-mail.

Plan Time: 10:50 – 11:45
794-4230 Ext. 42205
bcole@goddardusd.com

7th Grade

Sarah Shobe

By the time you read this we will be taking our final exam over our class novel, "The Outsiders," by S.E. Hinton. Even though this book was published back in the 1960's, the themes of family, prejudice, and social relationships will be forever timely. While reading this classic tale we worked with several literary elements including predicting, inferencing, figurative language, cause/effect, problem/solution, point of view, character and setting traits, theme, and plot. We also tested the relativity of the novel by comparing events and characters in the text with our own lives and the world around us.

During the last two weeks of this first semester we are splitting up into smaller groups and doing Literature Circles. This is like a book club where three or four students in the same class are reading the same novel at the same time. Students will be responsible for reading the assignment each day and working together in revisiting their assignment using different literary elements—many are mentioned above.

Seventh grade reading students are still required to bring an AR (Accelerated Reader) book to class that they have chosen to read during our daily silent reading time. Homework each day consists of another reading time of at least 15 minutes. Students can work on finishing books and taking AR tests for their AR goals this second quarter until the last day of school before Christmas break, December 16, 2011.

I love seeing books being read from our classroom library, and this semester has been the busiest that I can remember in the last five years! It's been a good semester! Thank you for sharing your seventh grader with me and have a wonderful holiday break! Contact me if you have any questions or concerns with Reading 7. Log on to <http://reading7gms.blogspot.com/> to check my lesson plans for the current week.

Go Lions!

794-4230 Ext. 42214
sshobe@goddardusd.com
Plan Time: 3rd hour, 9:55 a.m.-10:43 a.m.

Health Hints

Deb McClanahan, R.N.



It's time to think about getting your flu shot! Every year, the flu strain is just a little different and requires a different formula. This year, the flu shot includes resistance to three different strains! As usual, you can get your flu shots through the Health Department, Walgreen's, Dillon's or your personal physician. There are usually many other advertised locations offering shots throughout the flu season.

Simple things that you can do at home to prevent the spread of flu and other diseases include:

- * Cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing – use the crook of your arm or upper arm to cover your mouth so that your hands stay clean!
- * Wash your hands often – especially after a sneeze or cough, or taking care of someone who is sick.
- * Try to get eight hours of sleep every night.
- * Follow a healthy diet.

These things help cut down on the spread of germs and keep your body healthy so it has a better chance of fighting off any infections. Take care of yourself!

Parents, please remember: If your student has a fever (99.6 or higher), he/she MUST stay home for 24 hours after the fever breaks WITHOUT the use of fever reducing medications.

In upcoming news, I will perform vision screenings on all 8th graders in January during science classes. If applicable, please make sure that your child's glasses/contacts are in good working order for this screening! I will send a letter to the guardian of any child who does not pass this state mandated screening.

Have a great Holiday Season!



Nurse Deb performs a vision screening on Jordan Humphrey.

Comparison of Symptoms Between a Cold and the Flu

<u>SYMPTOMS</u>	<u>FOR A COLD</u>	<u>FOR INFLUENZA</u>
fever	rare	characteristic, high (102-104 F); lasts 3-4 days
headache	rare	prominent
general aches, pains	slight	usual; often severe
fatigue, weakness	quite mild	can last up to 2-3 weeks
extreme exhaustion	never	early and prominent
stuffy nose	common	sometimes
sneezing	usual	sometimes
sore throat	common	sometimes
chest discomfort, cough	mild to moderate; hacking cough	common; can become severe

GODDARD MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO DANCE

PTO will host its annual dance on Friday, February 10.

Last year PTO raised \$2500 from the dance, gave away over 200 prizes, and students had a great time!

The reason the dance was such a success is that many parents and businesses donated the prizes. As you shop this holiday season (as well as the after-Christmas sales), please keep PTO in mind if you come across a great bargain that will appeal to a middle school student. We'll send an email in January asking for your help.

If you own a business or work for a business that is willing to donate items/money towards the dance, please contact Principal Lisa Hogarth at lhogarth@goddardusd.com or 794-4230.



Band & Orchestra Notes

Brett Morrison - Director

Hello from the instrumental music room! We had one major event during the month of November for our band and orchestra students. Prairie Hills Middle School hosted the Pioneer League Honor Band, Choir and Orchestra Festival on November 12. The band clinician was Dr. Jeff Jordan of Fort Hays State University, while the orchestra clinician for this year was Dr. Mark Laycock, Director of Orchestras at Wichita State University. Students who attended this workshop were announced in the October issue of this newsletter. Everyone learned a lot, and we appreciate all those parents who were able to attend and support us.



John Rickard plays the baritone in 8th grade band.



Vocal Views

Mindy Barr - Choir Director

Congratulations to all who were selected for participation in the Pioneer League Honor Choir this year! The concert on Saturday, November 12 featured league choir, band, and orchestra students and was excellent! Thank you to all the parents who attended and helped your child in preparation for such a great event!



Casey Gingerich practices for the concert.

Please note that our Holiday Extravaganza will be December 1 at 6:15 p.m. in the GMS main gymnasium. This concert will feature the 7th and 8th grade bands, orchestra, and choir. It promises to be a very exciting event, as this concert will feature several holiday selections and fun pieces. Seating will be limited so make sure you get there early!

The choir is hard at work in preparation for our Winter Concert on **Thursday, December 1**. The concert will be held in the main gym at **Goddard Middle School**. The concert begins at **6:15 p.m.** and all students are expected to be in the choir room no later than **6:00 p.m.** in order to warm up. Students need to wear their blue shirts and khaki/tan slacks (or skirts) for this performance. This concert will feature our school band, orchestra, and choir so those who attend are in for a real treat!

See you on December 1st!

In news specific for orchestra, we are preparing for our performance at the annual "Breakfast with Santa" at 10:00 a.m. on December 10 at Goddard High School. Refreshments will be available, and there will be an opportunity to take a picture with Santa. Plan on bringing the whole family and enjoy a fun morning!



All dressed up and ready to perform at the Pioneer League Honor Choir Festival!

Technology Topics

Carrie Schrader, Technology

Amazing New School Record Set! Go...Sinjin!

Synergistic Modules in **Tech 8** have been so interesting. Our Tech 8 Lab consists of 18 modules. Students will be able to complete eight to nine modules in a semester. Students are trying to earn a space on the Wall of Fame by earning all 420 points in a module. Several students have come close but only a few have actually made it – and a few of those have made it twice! These 8th grade Wall of Famers include: Abby Bay (two times), Jarett Erdman, Katie Joslyn, Cailyn Kerschen, Mickey Purnell, Jenna Puthoff (two times), Ruben Salcido (two times), Ryan Thomas, Jayden Titus, Tate Vang (two times), Jordyn Walock, and Maria Zurschmiede (two times).

We are continuing with Mavis Beacon Typing in **Tech 7**. Several more students have now mastered different levels with **80%** or more accuracy and have earned a place on the **Wall of Fame**. These students include:

40 words per minute: Tatum Grote, Kyler Hawk, Trenton Valentine, Brooke Wentz, Joshua Girrens, BriLea Winkle, Daniel Gomm, Talli Shepherd, Jaden Damon, Jacob Grossman, Adam Allen, Haley Dumcum, Paige Hutson, Caylee Kirby, Tyler Wallace, Nick Lund, Dayton Driskill, Angel Garcia, Daniel Tyndall, Brayden Circle, and Kale Ramos.

50 words per minute: Will Spexarth, Ashley Stanphill, Reed Schroeder, Thomas Parks, Jordan Cooke, Ryan Fross, Zachery Baxley, Armando Espinosa, Jesse Fronning, Natilee Stephen, Logan Hamilton, Marshall Fief, Jeremy Bartnick, and Daryan Freeman.

60 words per minute: Kendall Frame, Karlee Lowen, Matt Forbus, Devon Sutton, and Alyssa Prytherch.

100 words per minute with 97% accuracy: Ashley Peery. Way to go, Ashley!

We have one extra speedy student who has set a new school record three times. Sinjin Vu has keyed **147 words per minute** with 99% accuracy. Amazing!

Our goal in 7th grade is to key 40 words per minute with an average of 80% accuracy.



Sinjin Vu demonstrates his typing technique.

Spotlight on Spanish

Profesora Skala

Thanks to all the parents that stopped by to visit with me during conferences! I always enjoy sharing student work and progress.



Exploratory Spanish students can now say the date, the day of the week, and their birthdays using the Spanish language. After a short break with a week-long interactive mini-series, the students began the chapter on explaining their likes and dislikes. Exploratory Spanish will complete the semester with one more chapter about describing a classroom and a final project about a famous Spanish-speaking individual. It has been a pleasure working with these students, and I hope that

the seventh-graders consider taking the year-long Spanish I class next year as eighth-graders, and that the current eighth-graders consider taking the class as a freshman.

Spanish I classes have been just as busy! Students can now describe one another and will move on to their likes and dislikes. Towards the end of the semester students will learn that each verb in Spanish has many forms and will learn about one specific type of regular verb. Essays on tests are becoming longer and more advanced and I love it! I can't wait to see what the next semester brings! I hope students keep up the great work and continue to practice their Spanish outside of class.



PE Pointers

Barb Letts and Matt Busby

We are already racing into the second half of our allotted time with the 1st semester group of students, and we are packing in as many activities as we can! It is really fun to introduce our students to all the new and exciting ways they can be physically active.

Both Mr. Busby's and Ms. Letts' classes have moved mostly to indoor activities now. We ask that ALL students keep their sweatshirts and sweatpants here though, because there may still be an occasional really nice day that we do go outside for some fresh air. As long as the students are dressed properly, it isn't a problem.

As the cold and flu season arrives, we also want to take this opportunity to remind parents that plenty of rest, lots of fluids, and eating lots of fruits and vegetables with Vitamin C help our bodies ward off viruses and infections. If your child is experiencing symptoms and does not feel well, keeping him home will reduce the spread of germs and viruses. If a student is present at school, we assume that he or she is capable of meeting our high expectations for suiting up and participating in physical activity.

The indoor winter activities which we will be playing over the next two months include handball, Speedway, basketball, Pickleball, badminton, hockey, line dancing, and aerobic activities. One of the

highlights of this season is a visit on December 2 from Kim's Academy of TaeKwanDo. Several of the black belt instructors spend the day with our students to demonstrate kicks, punches, and various means of self-defense. Another upcoming highlight will be competing in the Iron Man/Woman Challenge. This is an exciting time for the students to show what they can accomplish with some hard work in class.

During the last few weeks of the semester, our students will be completing the "post" fitness tests, hoping to be able to show an improvement in all the components of fitness: cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. They have graphed their "pre" tests results and the goals they set. When they graph their "post" test results, it should be evident that all their hard work this semester has paid off. It is our goal that they will develop the realization that to stay healthy requires conscientious effort to eat healthy and always be physically active.

Once again we would like to thank you parents for your support throughout the semester by getting those clothes washed and back to school each week, signing activity logs, and encouraging your child/children to get outside and play rather than sit in front of the TV or computer. Please remember that modeling (demonstrating) good health behavior is one of the best ways to help your child.

Follow the Link to . . .

Calendar of Events for any school



<http://www.goddardusd.com/webevent/scripts/webevent.plx>

Skyward Family Access



<https://skyward.goddardusd.com/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=wsFam/fwemnu01.w>



*Goddard Middle School
sports schedule*

http://www.goddardusd.com/GMS/Documents/2011-2012_SportsSchedule.pdf



*Breakfast & Lunch Menus
Menus for any school*

<http://www.goddardusd.com/District/Depts/NutritionServices/index.html>

Assistant's Advice

Sean Hollas - Assistant Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to bring several items to the attention of our parents and ask for your help discussing these items with your student. As always, if you have any questions regarding policies, discipline, or attendance, feel free to call or e-mail me at the school. Thank you for your support.

Transportation: Students are required to ride their assigned bus to and from GMS at all times. This rule also applies to students who stay after school and ride the 3:30 late route. Students are NOT allowed to ride a different bus even for those situations in which one student is spending the night at a friend's house or going to a friend's house after school.

Staying after school: Students may stay after school for a variety of reasons but they may only stay if they are under the supervision of a GMS staff member. Students may not stay at the school unsupervised in order to wait for athletic events which start at 5:00, or to wait for a friend or sibling who is staying late.

After school activities: Goddard students are encouraged to support our school's athletic teams and other activity programs and we encourage our students to attend activities whenever possible. Although these programs are normally held after regular school hours, I would like to remind parents and students that all school rules for behavior and dress code apply at all activities. As stated in our student handbook, *"Attending activities is considered a privilege. Students who are asked to leave a school-sponsored activity for violations of the behavior code may not be allowed to attend future activities."*

Dress code: The dress code applies not only during the school day but also to student activities under the direction of the school such as dances, concerts, and sporting events. Our dress code states

that, *"At GMS attempts are made to accommodate current fashion trends and individuality regarding attire while still maintaining a safe, orderly setting that promotes learning. All rulings on appropriate dress will be made by the administration and will be final."* The entire dress code guidelines are located on page eight of the student agenda book and are also posted on the school's website at <http://www.goddardusd.com/GMS/Documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>. If you have any questions concerning the dress code or would like a copy, please contact me at the school.

With colder weather coming, I would also like to address students wearing jackets and coats at school. Students are permitted to wear sweatshirts and jackets during the day, but we ask that students store heavy coats and book bags in their lockers. There may be temporary exceptions made to this rule if we experience problems with the school's heating system. The temperature in the building varies during the winter months, so please encourage your son or daughter to bring a sweatshirt and keep it in a locker so that your child can be prepared for the climate changes.

