DIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

April, 2012

Volume 11-12 Issue 8

You can continue *"to be involved and stay involved in child's education"* by helping Dighton Middle School continue to prepare our students for the next battery of science and mathematics MCAS tests scheduled for May. Please remember that for our children to do their very best, they will need a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast to help them with their battery of learned test taking strategies. Please refer to the Dighton Middle School website for more helpful MCAS preparation tips.

Special thanks go out to Mr. Kevin Gousie and the DMS faculty who coordinated the "Wounded Warrior Project" which will culminate with Mr. Greg Reynolds, a Dighton Middle School and Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School graduate, who will be speaking to our students on April 13, on the topic of "Overcoming Obstacles and Perseverance". Leading up to Mr. Reynold's presentation to the students, Mr. Gousie and the DMS staff coordinated a number of activities to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. These events included a 5th grade social on March 22, push/up sit up challenge on March 23, a pickle ball tournament on March 29 and a spaghetti supper on April 4 with two seatings at 4:30 and 6:30 PM. All funds raised are being donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

A special thank you to all of our DMS parents and friends who shop at Hannaford's Super Market , and who are part of the Hannaford Helps Program that benefit local schools. Because of your help and support Dighton Middle School received a nice donation. Please keep up your support. It is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to the Dighton Lions for all of their efforts each month as well as our generous sponsors and parents who help to keep the food bank supplied with food items for distribution each month at the Dighton Community Food Bank. Please drop off any food donations here at Dighton Middle School or if you would like to make a financial contribution, please make your check payable to the Dighton Lions with a notation of food bank on the check. As always, your help is very much appreciated as we move forward toward celebrating the fourth year of the food banks operation this coming May.

In upcoming events, Ms. Wilusz is again coordinating the annual DMS talent show. Tryouts for the talent show were held on Wednesday and Thursday, March 28-29 2012 afterschool in the cafeteria. Ms. Wilusz reported that a record number of student acts tried out for the competition (over thirty-five) and from

that number a program containing 18 acts were created. The talent show is scheduled for Thursday, April 12 at 7 PM. in the DMS cafeteria.

Plans continue to move forward with DMS students participating in an essay contest with their essay subjects being the town of Dighton. Mr. Connolly has also solicited students from student government to participate in student government day on May 30. Students will be asked to participate as representatives in government for the water district and also town hall.

In other "Pay it Forward" news, special congratulations go out to all of our DMS students who helped in making the recent fun fitness day at Dighton Elementary School a great success. On Saturday, March 24, 2012 the following DMS students arrived at 7:30 AM and stayed until noon and were an integral part of the day's success.

Anna Brodeur, Anna Stone, Austin Wuebker, Camryn Badger, Carissa Steiner, Cody Sanford, Erin Kelley, George Parent, Jade Beausoleil, Jenna Gelzinis, Kelly Levesque, Lillianna Erhard, Madeline McMahon, Matthew Goss and Taylor Brasil. Special thanks to Carissa Steiner for organizing all the volunteers.

On March 29th the Dighton Middle School continued to "Pay it Forward" by hosting Pickeball Palooza, a 32 team single elimination tournament to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. There were many highlights throughout the tournament but in the later stages of play the intensity picked up. In the gold bracket, the two final teams were: Of Various Hair Colors vs. Whimsical Flower Shavers. In the green bracket the final two teams were: Makin Lemonade vs. Jacob and Aiden. Both bracket finals were highly contested and intense. At the conclusion of the round, the winner of the gold bracket was Of Various Hair Colors which included team members Erin Kelly, Ryan Andrade and Patrick Newman. In the Green bracket the team of Makin Lemonade consisting of Joey Rogers and Nick Koneski were the winners. In the finals, Makin Lemonade won two straight games to best Of Various Hair Colors 15 to 10 and 15 to 9 in the best of three games. More importantly the event raised over $300.00 dollars to help the Wounded Warrior Project. The staff of Dighton Middle would like to thank all who participated in this great afternoon.

Congratulations to William Quirk who represented Dighton Middle school at the Regional Geography Bee held at Worcester State College on Friday, March 30, 2012. Although the questions were difficult, and the competition fierce, William made it through the first five preliminary rounds without an error. Although William did not make it to the final round, he represented DMS very well. Congratulations !

Congratulations go out to the winners of round 2 of March Multiplication Madness sponsored each year by Ms. Steele. The round two winners are in grade 5~ Mya Beausoleil, in grade 6~Sydney Borrello, Grade 7~ Joel Papp and in Grade 8~Jeremy Yelle and Maddie McMahon.

The next meeting of the Sports and Activity Committee will be on April 25, 2012 at 6:30 PM. in the DMS library. Come join us as we continue planning for this year all school field day in June.

Students of the Month for March:

Kayla Small, Garrett Giroux, Jillian Hughes, Morgan Parent, Samantha Cooke, Brandon DePina, Christopher Estes, Mark Marino, Madison Agresti, Britney Araujo, Hannah Peixoto, Jennifer Medeiros, Mikayla Silva, Grace Harrison, Dominic Berthiaume, Kyle Humphreys, Kailey McConnell, Laura Silvia, Kristopher Munroe, Joseph Rogers, Lacey DeCosta, Amanda Grossi, Christopher Garceau, Isaiah Ferreira, Ryan Andrade, Madeline McMahon, Deven Souza, Patrick Newman, Amelia Enos, Samuel Stone

D.M.S. BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SCHEDULE 2012

Tues.	04/10/12	Rehoboth @ Dighton
Thurs.	04/12/12	Westport @ Dighton
Tues.	04/24/12	Case @ Dighton
Thurs.	04/26/12	Dighton @ Somerset
Thurs.	05/03/12	Dighton @ Raynham
Tues.	05/08/12	Somerset @ Dighton
Thurs.	05/10/12	Dighton @ Rehoboth
Tues.	05/15/12	Dighton @ Seekonk
Thurs.	05/17/12	Dighton @ Middleboro
Tues.	05/22/12	Seekonk @ Dighton
Thurs.	05/24/12	Dighton @ Berkley
Tues.	05/29/12	Dighton @ Case
Thurs.	05/31/12	TCMS @ Dighton
Thurs.	06/07/12	Bridgewater @ Dighton

Special Congratulations go out to the members of this year's 2012 Massasoit Softball and Baseball teams being coached by Ms. Rose and Mr. Gousie.

2012 DMS Softball Team

Danielle Lyle, Erin Kelley, Lauren Cappiello, Kylie Furtado, Mikayla Ramos, Julia Coute, Jillian Henrique, Kylie Fletcher, Grace Harrison, Stephanie Ruta, Alexis Lovell, Megan Alves, Emily Reid, Meghan Kelley, Andrea Lawler, Madison Agresti – Manager

2012 DMS Baseball Team

Joey Rogers, Nick Koneski, Casey Botelho, Cory Farrelly, Noah Chartier, Aaron Ramos, Kyle Moynihan, Korey Gendreau, Tom Roache, Jack McGuirk, Dean Bullock, Nate Cummings, Elijah Brewster, Jacob Rogers, Steven Silvia

Upcoming April Events:

April 3	Drama Club 2:30
	PTO Meeting @ 7:00 PM
April 4	Spaghetti Dinner ~ Wounded Warriors Project
April 5	Art Club 2:30

April 6	No School – Good Friday
April 10	Drama Club 2:30
	Baseball/Softball Game Rehoboth @ Dighton
April 11	Grade 8 to Roger Williams Museum of History
April 12	2:30 Art Club, Friends of Rachel, Go Green
	3:00 – Baseball/Softball Westport @ Dighton
	7:00 Talent Show
April 13	Greg Reynolds presentation to the students at 1:15
April 16-20	Spring Break
April 24	3:00 Baseball/Softball Case @ Dighton
April 25	Sports & Activities Meeting @ 6:30
April 26	Friends of Rachel 2:30, Baseball/Softball 3:00 Dighton @ Somerset
April 27	Massasoit Math Meet at Beckwith Middle School

In The Classroom:

Grade 5:

ELA (Mrs. Patten)

Reading the Whipping Boy, set in the Middle Ages.
Independent reading using pleasure books and continue on writing paragraphs emphasizing sentence structure, supporting details and subject verb agreement.

Social Studies

Students are working on analyzing primary documents regarding the settlement of the 13 colonies and the relationship between Native Americans and colonists. Students are interpreting cause and effect relationships between the past and how it relates to the present. Students will be actively drawing their own conclusions regarding the causes of the Revolutionary War and making decisions on whether or not it could have or should have been avoided.

Science

Students are completing Sound and Light Unit with a culminating assessment on April 5. Students will begin Electricity and Magnetism April 9. When we return from vacation we will begin our Plants and Animals unit and review our writing portfolio folders which contain 15 Open Response pieces. Review and revise any piece(s) and share.

ELA (Ms. Higgins)
March: "The Cricket in Times Square," reading strategy: visualizing, persuasive writing and advertising.
April: Complete "The Cricket in Times Square," assigned individual book reviews, study mood and tone in writing.

Math

March has been the month we put together everything that we have learned all year and apply it to fractions. Fifth grade is all about fractions. Fun, fun, fun!

April will be our Geometry Unit and getting ready for May MCAS. Test taking strategies, lots of problems from previous MCAS tests, and open response practice weekly.

Grade 6:

ELA – Finishing Bud, Not Buddy and incorporating activities and projects. Folk Literature

Math – Geometry and Measurement

Social Studies – Ancient Greece

Science – The Digestive System

Grade 7:

Foreign Language – Telling Time in Spanish and Portuguese

Social Studies – India and five major religions

ELA – Civil Rights project/Interdisciplinary Project egg-speriment with Science and Interdisciplinary Project Cube with Math

Science – Interdisciplinary egg-speriment with ELA/Cell Processes

Math – 3 D geometry/interdisciplinary project with ELA – 3 D cubes and MCAS preparation

Grade 8:

ELA – Research Projects

Social Studies – Composition book writing

Foreign Language – Composition book writing

Science – Open response questions

Math – Open response questions

Unified Arts

Library:

Grade 5 will be finishing up with basic reference materials and moving on to literature awards and appreciation.
Grade 6 is conducting a Big 6 based Ancient Egypt "mini" research project.
Grade 7 will be concluding their reference source unit and then learning about plagiarism.
Grade 8 will be focusing on books vs. movies, comparing and contrasting the two.

General Music:

Mrs. Wilusz's general music classes are concentrating on recording compositions that the students wrote using electronic keyboards.
Miss Roy's general music classes will continue to learn music notation through singing and game playing (grade 5). Eighth grade will complete the unit on composers by doing presentations comparing a composer of yesterday with one of their favorite performers of today. They will present similarities and differences and explain how the past composers' contributions to music lead to what we have today.

Band:

Students are preparing for the spring concert. Selections include patriotic, light jazz and pop hits such as Cold Play's "Viva La Vida".
The upcoming talent show will be held on Thursday April 12th.
Try outs will were held on March 28 & 29.
Also the drama club continues to meet every Tuesday after school in hopes of performing parts of Peter Pan in the spring.
The bands will also be practicing after school preparing to march in the Memorial Day parade.

Chorus: grades 5-8 will be preparing for the spring show which is a salute to the top 40's.
In addition to the spring show, 8th grade chorus members will be preparing the graduation song and will be working on the National Anthem.

Math Enrichment: During the month of March, the students will all be part of March Multiplication Madness. Each class will take a timed multiplication test. The winners of each class will compete with the other winners at their grade level. Then the 4 winners will compete for the best in the school. We will continue to work on MCAS questions until the MCAS test is over. As usual we will continue to work on 20 questions each day that are part of each grade level's curriculum and computer time using math games that reinforce the topics being addressed in their regular math classes.

Technology Education: Grade 5 – 3-D CAD, Presentation skills utilizing PowerPoint, implementation of the Isafe curriculum.

Grade 6 – Construction / Design technology utilizing "Floor planner" architectural software, Presentation skills utilizing PowerPoint, implementation of the isafe curriculum.

Grade 7 and 8 – Engineering Design Project "CO2 Car construction using the Engineering Design Process," Implementation of the isafe curriculum.

Art: In art this spring, we will be covering some 3D sculpture including paper maché and interior and exterior architecture.

Academic Achievements:

Grade 6:

ELA – Class Novel, Bud Not Buddy, Conjugations and Interjections, students wrote a book review on an award winning book of choice. Latin roots and prefixes. MCAS prep focusing on open responses.

Math – Geometry and Measurement

Social Studies – Completed Egypt. Compare and contrast essay: Ancient Egypt and Nubia

Science – Completed the muscular and skeletal system

Grade 7:

Foreign Language – Family Tree projects

Social Studies – International Trade Projects

Science – Onion Lab

Math – Investigations with Geometry/Study Island Practice