DIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

MAY, 2012

Volume 11-12 Issue 9

April has now passed, the warm weather has finally arrived and the end of another school year is quickly approaching. Please do your best to encourage your child to finish the school year with the same dedication and enthusiasm they began the year with in September. Remember to "be involved and stay involved" in your child's education throughout the year, and you will see the benefits in your child's performance.

The final battery of MCAS tests in mathematics and science is also occurring during the weeks of May 8-18. Please refer to the school's website at www.drregional.org for the specific schedule of testing dates and times for grade levels. Also available on our website are helpful suggestions for test taking and helping our students be prepared for this final challenge for the school year. Please make sure your child eats a hearty breakfast and gets enough sleep to help ensure their test taking success.

Special congratulations go out to this year's New England League of Middle School Scholar/ Leader award winners. This year's recipients of this honor are eighth graders Christina Abers and Joseph Rogers. Both students will be honored at the annual Scholar Leader Awards Banquet held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, Massachusetts on May 23, 2012. The winners of this award have demonstrated academic achievement, service to their classmates and the school, are positive role models, and demonstrate integrity, honesty, self-discipline and courage.

On Thursday, April 12, 2012, nineteen acts performed at Dighton Middle Schools 18th annual talent show. Ms. Wilusz, with a great deal of student and faculty help, coordinated the show. The evening's acts were hosted by Carissa Steiner and Kevin Clifford. A wide variety of acts, ranging from singing, guitar performances, piano and singing performances, comedy, gymnastics, tap dancing , Acro-Sport, and creative dance were just a few of the acts that performed in front of a capacity crowd in the school cafetorium.

The highlight of the evening was a performance by Mr. Jesse Perry who sang "You Raise Me Up" which was then followed by the DMS faculty and all the students who performed during the evening performing a dance routine with Mr. Perry as the center of attention to thank him for his years of service at DMS as he prepares to retire this year.

On Friday, April 13, 2012, DMS fundraiser for the "Wounded Warrior" program culminated with Mr. Greg Reynolds, former DMS and DRRHS student and now a member of the wounded warrior softball team, speaking to the students at an assembly on overcoming obstacles and perseverance. At the conclusion of Mr. Reynolds speech, Mr. Gousie who coordinated the entire Wounded Warrior fundraiser at DMS presented a check to Greg for the Wounded Warrior program in the amount of $6,056.00 which were the proceeds raised from a number of fundraising activities conducted at Dighton Middle School for the Wounded Warrior Program.

DMS final food drive of the year to benefit the Dighton Community Food Bank continues through May 4, 2012. This year, the grade level that collects the most food items will win a pizza party sponsored by the P.T.O. We are collecting the following food items in each grade level:

Grade 5 – Mac and Cheese, instant mashed potatoes, mustard

Grade 6 – Rice, canned fruit, baked beans

Grade 7 – Tuna, Spam, Ketchup

Grade 8 – Cereal, peanut butter, cake mixes, brownie mixes or cookie mixes

Faculty – Pasta items

A special thank you goes out to our dedicated Chartwell's kitchen staff on April 13, 2012 helped to celebrate Red Sox Opening Day at DMS. Under the direction of Ms. Joanne Bonanca, Joanne Oliveira, Deb Zejnullahu, and Sue Fleming, they prepared a lunch menu consisting of hot dogs, corn dogs, pizza, Italian sausage subs, cheeseburgers and funnel cakes.

Sports and Activity Committee:

The next meeting to finalize plans for the upcoming DMS school-wide field day will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 6:30 PM. in the DMS library. We still need parent volunteers to make this school wide event possible. Any help that you could offer us would be greatly appreciated. We hope to see you at the meeting.

School Attendance:

School Handbook on School Attendance for 2012-2013

School attendance and punctuality are closely correlated with success at school. Please note that any absence, including an absence with a doctor's note provided, is legally considered an absence towards the maximum number of seven absences in any six (6) month period.

The responsibilities of parents/guardians are quoted in the Mass. Law Chapter 76: Section 2 as follows:

"Every person in control of a child described in section one shall cause him to attend school as therein required, and, if he fails so to do for seven (7) day sessions or fourteen (14) half day sessions within any period of six (6) months, he shall, on complaint by a supervisor of attendance, be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars."

The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District will uniformly comply with the state school attendance laws by corresponding with those parents whose child(ren) are chronically absent or tardy/dismissed through letter, conference, or phone call. When necessary, the attendance office may take legal action.

Upcoming May Events

Tuesday, May 1, 2012……..PTO Meeting , DES Library, 7 PM.
Wednesday, May 2, 2012……..Fine Arts Night, 7 PM, Gymnasium and Library
Thursday, May 3, 2012……..Go Green Club Meeting, DMS Baseball/Softball @ Raynham, 3 PM
Tuesday, May 8, 2012……..First Congregational Church Soup Kitchen sponsored by student government, Fall River 4 PM.
May 8 – May 18, 2012……..MCAS Mathematics and Science testing
Tuesday, May 8, 2012……DMS Baseball/Softball v. Somerset, 3 PM
Thursday, May 10, 2012……..DMS Baseball/Softball @ Rehoboth, 3 PM

Tuesday, May 15, 2012……DMS Baseball/Softball @ Seekonk, 3 PM
Thursday, May 17, 2012……..Go Green Club, 2:30
DMS Baseball/Softball @ Middleboro, 3 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012……DMS Baseball/Softball v. Seekonk, 3 PM
Thursday, May 24, 2012……DMS Baseball/Softball @ Berkley, 3 PM
Monday, May 28, 2012……..Memorial Day, no school
Tuesday, May 29, 2012……..DMS Baseball/Softball @ Case, 3 PM
PTO Meeting, 7 PM, DES Library
Thursday, May 31, 2012…….. Go Green Club meeting, 2:30 PM

In the Classroom:

Grade 5:

Math – MCAS Prep and final project (authentic assessment).

Science – MCAS Prep and final animal project.

ELA – Fighting Ground (cross curricular activities with social studies. Common Core assessment.

Social Studies – Revolutionary War (cross curricular activities with ELA)

May 1-May 4: Math enrichment to take place in science and social studies classes. On Friday, each class will participate in a math practice test.

Grade 6:

ELA – Folk Literature

Math – Integers

Social Studies - Completing ancient Greece, Rome

Science - Circulatory System

Grade 7:

Science – Continue to look at cell processes focusing on the cell cycle and how cancer relates to the cell cycle. Students will be utilizing the science skills they have learned all year and will apply them to an independent science investigation (ISI Project) to be presented in June.

Foreign Language – Students will learn vocabulary on clothing articles and accessories. They will learn how to order and purchase clothing in their target language. Students will also be learning the conjugations of the verbs to wear, to try on and to buy. There will be a mini-project in which they will create a brochure with the pictures of clothes and their prices in the target language.

Math – Students worked diligently on geometry, measurement and probability standards during the month of April.

ELA – Students will be focusing on a research project on civil rights.

Grade 8:

Cross Curricular projects in all classes during the month of May.

MCAS preparation for math and science – Open Response questions and strategies for success.

Unified Arts May, 2012 Happenings

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.

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 "Floorplanner" 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.

Physical Education: All grades are finishing up the spring fitness testing. We will be doing team handball, basketball, ultimate and softball in the next two months.

Academic Achievement:

Grade 5

Math – MCAS Prep and final project (authentic assessment).

Science – MCAS Prep and final animal project.

ELA – Fighting Ground (cross curricular activities with social studies. Common Core assessment.

Social Studies – Revolutionary War (cross curricular activities with ELA)

May 1-May 4: Math enrichment to take place in science and social studies classes. On Friday, each class will participate in a math practice test.

Grade 6:

ELA – Finished the class novel, Bud Not Buddy
Research project for class novel: Comparing/Contrasting the 1930's to Today (power point or poster board)
Adjectives

Math – Geometry and Measurement

Social Studies – Ancient Greece

Science – Digestive System

Grade 7:

Science - Seventh graders very creatively expressed what they learned about cell organelles by creating outstanding models, unique games, enchanting books and well crafted posters.

Foreign Language - In April, students worked on telling time in the target language and learned vocabulary dealing with the house and furniture. They will be working on a project in which they will design or build their dream home using the vocabulary.

Math – Students will be preparing for MCAS. Students will be working on review lessons for all the math standards. They will use strategies and problem solving templates to breakdown and answer open response questions. Students will also complete readiness tests and a practice MCAS test so they are familiar with its format and math vocabulary used on the test.

Grade 8:

Foreign Language – Oral presentations

Science – Lab Investigations

Social Studies – Read and Recalls

Math and ELA – Combined research project.

MCAS SCHEDULE

GRADE	TEST	SESSION	DAY	DATE	TIME
8	MATH	1	Wed.	May 9	8:30 – 10:30
		2	Fri	May 11	8:30 – 10:30
	SCIENCE	1	Wed.	May 16	8:30 – 10:30
		2	Fri.	May 18	8:30 – 10:30
7	**MATH**	**1**	**Tues.**	**May 15**	**9:15 – 11:15**
		2	**Thurs.**	**May 17**	**9:15 – 11:15**
6	MATH	1	Wed.	May 16	9:15 – 11:15
		2	Fri.	May 18	9:15 – 11:15
5	MATH	1	Tues.	May 8	8:30 – 10:30
		2	Thurs	May 10	8:30 – 10:30
	SCIENCE	1	Tues.	May 15	8:30 – 10:30
		2	Thurs.	May 17	8:30 – 10:30

MATH – Grade 7 Tuesday and Thursday – switch specials with grade 6

The PTO will be providing breakfast to all students before MCAS testing.

BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

GRADE 5 – 8:05 - 8:25

GRADE 6 – 8:30 – 9:00

GRADE 7 - 8:05 – 8:25

GRADE 8 – 8:05 – 8:25