

MMS NEWSLETTER

Mystic Middle School

204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355

January 2008



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the staff and students will be holding Mystic Middle School's 7th annual American Cancer Society fundraiser. The theme this year is Mardi Gras!

Students may purchase purple, green, and gold Mardi Gras beads for \$1 each from Student Council members before school and during all lunch blocks. Last year, Mystic Middle School raised \$523, with a 6 year total of \$1841! The money we donate to the American Cancer Society is used to support cancer research, education, and patient service programs in our local community. More information on this event will be forthcoming.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Since my last entry we have begun a new year and with that arrives the need to declare a New Year's Resolution. For

this year my resolution is..... to continue to provide for new experiences and opportunities for our students. So far we are off to a flying start. As many of you experienced, we had a tremendous Winter Chorus Concert this past week. Judging by the attendance you have also noticed that both our Boys and Girls Basketball teams are off to flying starts. There is still time to take in a game before the season ends so please check the website for upcoming home and away games. Let's keep that support coming!

On New Hampshire Primary Tuesday, we welcomed, accompanied by our Jazz Band, Congressman Joseph Courtney to MMS to address all of our students on topics ranging from how the political system functions to the coolest part of being a US Senator. Students were able to ask questions and listen to an insider's view of what

these elections mean for us. You can check the New London Day, Mystic River Press and Westerly Sun for articles detailing his visit.

Finally, our CRICKETS team is currently being featured on msn.com's Money section which stresses the importance of engineering programs (our First LEGO League team program) in the public school system entitled "The Crunch in the Middle." Check this month's newsletter and the website for upcoming events in February. As always, your support is always welcome and we are listening for new ideas and possibilities. The website is also the place to catch our Jazz Band's performance at Governor Rell's mansion via YouTube!

The objective of this entry is to give you a snapshot of what we are doing at MMS and to ask that you check the website to keep up with the bevy of events taking place. Thanks to your continued support. Along with the guidance and planning of our tremendous faculty and staff we will strive to make this year the best yet at MMS!
-Stafford W. Thomas Jr.

NEXT SCHOOL STORE ON THURSDAY 2/7

We will be having the school store during lunch on Thursday next week instead of on Tuesday! Please remember to bring your extra money in then! Lots of great school stuff! It can definitely save you a trip to Staples. Next dates: **Thursday, February 7th** and Tuesday, Feb. 26th. If you would like to help out with the school store, please call Marion Dodd at 535-0322.

FINAL CHANCE FOR MMS DIRECTORY

If you would like to order a student directory, there is still a little time! Please send in \$5 for a copy (\$10 if you would like your business listed.) Please put the money in an envelope marked "MMS PTO Directory" and include your student's name and homeroom teacher. Have your child hand it in to his/her homeroom teacher or to the office. **Deadline: Monday, January 28!**



MUSIC NOTES

From: Mr. Hilbie Mystic Aquarium and StoneRidge Concerts

On Friday, December 7, 2008, the members of the *Mystic Middle School Jazz Band* shared their musical talents with the Stonington community at the Mystic Aquarium's Festival of Lights and with the folks living at the StoneRidge Retirement Community on Tuesday, December 11, 2008. Thank you for bringing holiday cheer to our neighbors, friends and family.

Thank You MMS PTO

Thank you to the members of the generous MMS PTO for funding the buses for our fifth grade to see an hour-long performance of the Nutcracker Ballet presented by the Eastern CT Ballet at the Garde Arts Center on Friday, December 14, 2007. It was a wonderful way to finish our interdisciplinary unit on the Nutcracker. We especially enjoyed seeing Heather Brustolon, a Stonington High School senior and a former graduate of Mystic Middle, as one of the principal dancers.

Strolling Musicians

A tradition at MMS is to have strolling musicians perform holiday carols two days before winter break in the hallways from 7:45 – 8:15 AM. A special thank you goes out to the following trios for bringing holiday cheer to our Mystic Middle School community: Sara S., Nisah F. and Dana S.; Erika T., Eddie R. and Tad S.; John S., Nick S. and Aaron W.; Melanie C., Amy D. and Lucy S.; Emily C., Tyler B. and Eric F.; Howey Q., David S. and Eric Z.; Kelsey H., Doug S. and Frank S.; Rachael B., Matthew F. and Michelle G..

Six Flags

On Friday, May 16, 2008, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands will travel to Agawam, MA to participate in the Great East Music Festival. We will perform for and be adjudicated by highly qualified musicians and then spend the rest of the day at Six Flags New England. The information

letter/permission slip was sent home the week of January 7, 2008 and the letter of intent along with a first payment of \$40 is due by Friday, February 1, 2008.

Fifth Grade Jazz Lab Band

The Mystic Middle School Fifth Grade Jazz Lab Band is an ensemble which invites all fifth grade students who play any instrument to participate in a jazz band setting. We will rehearse every Tuesday morning before school beginning January 29, 2008 from 7:30 - 8:00 AM. The Fifth Grade Jazz Lab Band notice/permission slip was distributed the week of January 7, 2008 and is due Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

Jazz Lab Band

The Mystic Middle School Jazz Lab Band is an ensemble which invites sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who play any instrument to participate in a jazz band setting. We will rehearse every Wednesday morning before school beginning January 30, 2008 from 7:30 - 8:00 AM. The Jazz Lab Band notice/permission slip was distributed the week of January 7, 2008 and is due Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
April 5, 2008, 6:30PM
Stonington Education Fund
Dinner Dance & Silent Auction
at the Mystic Marriott!
Music by The Cartells.
Honoring Distinguished SHS
Alumnus
Police Chief, David P. Erskine,
'62

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION COMING SOON!



1st date - Sunday February 3, 2008
12:00 - 3:00 pm at the Pawcatuck
Middle School Cafeteria

2nd date - Sunday March 2, 2008
12:00 – 3:00 pm at the Pawcatuck
Middle School Cafeteria

The fees are as follows:

\$60.00 for T-Ball (Ages 5-6)
\$65.00 for Minor and Major Leagues (Ages 7-12)
\$125.00 for Senior Leagues (includes fee for umpires) (Ages 13-16)

*There will be a cap of \$150.00 per family

LIBRARY NOTES & QUOTES



Winter is never dull in the library. We are in the midst of the 8th grade African unit which is very interesting. The CIA Fact Book is a great resource for that information, as is Clusty.com. This site is an excellent site for students, as items are put in clusters by topics much easier for students to use.

7th grade is doing a mixed bag of interesting topics.

5th & 6th graders are using the Almanac to review topics and subtopics. They are looking at questions to see what is really being asked; what information do they truly need. This skill will carry them far in life.

The big event for this month is the Nutmeg Games/Activities revolving around the 10 books that are nominated for the award. This will occur on Friday the 25th. Many of you volunteered to bake or help. Please check with your student. Letters were sent home. I need a head count on both so I know how many people are coming and how many desserts to expect. The Leslie Buck Foundation will be paying for lunch on that day for those students who are participating. We will also have a snack that revolves around one of the books. We begin at 9:45 and end at 1:15. Those students doing it seem very excited about the entire process.

New site to view visual.meriam-webster.com It has some interesting items in the visual aspect to explain ideas to students. -Karen Chapman



ATTENTION FUTURE COMMUNICATORS

Beginning Feb. 4th the Broadcasting and Communications Club will begin. If you are interested in becoming part of the Morning News Broadcast, please join us to help plan future shows. The club will meet on Mondays after school. If you have any questions see Ms. Weaver.



FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT!

There is now a Debate Club at MMS! Meetings are after school on Thursdays. For more information, go to the MMS

site to faculty pages and then Ms. Hartnett. Click on the Debate Club page.

SHS POT ROAST DINNER

On Friday, February 15th, the SHS graduating class of 2008 will be holding a pot roast dinner from 5:00 - 8:00PM in the SHS cafeteria. All proceeds will benefit the graduation party at the end of the year. Tickets will be on sale at the door or you may purchase tickets from any graduating senior. Tickets will be \$ 10.00/adults, \$5.00/ages 6 -12, under 5 free. The meal will include pot roast, mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter, drinks and dessert. This night is the boys last home game for basketball, so come in and enjoy a nice meal in between games. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Bovino 535-0315.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE PTO!

The MMS PTO will be having a meeting the second Tuesday in March (3/11) so mark your calendars. At this meeting (in the MMS library) we will be discussing chair positions for next year as well as discussing fundraisers for next year-what should go and what should stay. We will also be looking for new ideas for the PTO, so that we can be up and running next year right from the start. Please try to come and provide your insight!

MYSTIC MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL: TRIMESTER I 2007-2008

Grade 6 High Honors: Haley B., Rebecca B., Katherine B., Rachael B., Charles D., John D., Conor F., Matthew F., Laura G., Michelle G., Kyle G., Emily G., Elizabeth H., Ronald H., Kelsey H., Heather J., Rachyl J., Alessandra J., Henry K., Annie K., Joseph L., Paige M., Brianna N., Alexander O., Jachary P., Emily P., Douglas S., Quinn S., Bradley T., Avery W., Seven Z., Eric Z..

Grade 6 Honors: Andrew A., Sydney B., Haley B., Erica B., Emanuel C., Isaac C., Cole C., Daniel D., Jackson D., Jefferson D., Collin E., Gabrielle F., Wyatt F., Connor G., Mikaella G., Samuel G., Emily G., Roderick G., Jamie H., Mia H., Alexander H., Martin H., Sonia K., Nicholas L., Alissa M., Christian M., Morgan M., Elizabeth M., Drew M., Zack M., Claire N., Meg O., Patel

P., Howey Q., Mary R., Thomas S., Max S., Francis S., David S., Amanda T., Huntington W..

Grade 7 High Honors: Jordan A., Tyler B., Claire B., Christopher C., Alice C., Jake C., John D., Eric F., Daniel F., Lise F., Zachary G., Sarah G., Ian G., Mollie K., Sophie K., Joni M., Sophie M., Kaitlyn M., Allison M., Carly P., Amanda R., Renee S., Lucy S., Connor S., Sarah S., John S., Chloe S.

Grade 7 Honors: Jeremy A., Kimberly A., Cody A., Reanna B., Ryan B., Christopher B., Megan B., Monica B., Samuel B., Annika B., Felicia C., Emily C., Cory C., Ian C., Joseph C., Christopher C., Patrick C., Melanie C., Mackensie C., Adam D., Avery D., Sarah D., Amy D., Colton F., Brenden G., Keegan G., Nicholas H., Lucas H., Jesse H., Eric H., Angelica J., Gustaf J., Tyler K., Mitchell K., John K., Jennifer L., Whitney L., Cameron L., Tristan M., Joshua M., Hunter M., Nicole M., Jay N., Amelia P., Kiara P., Mary P., Dan R., Lilly S., Anna S., Clifford S., Stephanie S., Zane S., Madison S., Marc T., Haley T., Adam T., Jonah W., Aaron W., Chase Y.

Grade 8 High Honors: Victoria C., Alexandra K., Jessica M., Katharine M., Erika T., Devin W., Gabrielle Z..

Grade 8 Honors: Morgan A., Alexis B., Jamie B., Brittany B., Dominic B., Connor B., Jordan B., Michael C., Morgan C., Jennifer C., Jared D., Samuel D., Morgan E., Marcus E., Ryan F., Thomas F., Emily F., Melanie F., Luke F., Nisah F., Jessica G., Victoria G., Ross G., Peter G., Emma H., Tyler H., Peter H., Jacqueline J., Jennifer L., Warren L., Robert L., Brendan M., Uma M., Jacob N., Ryanne P., Alexandra P., Joseph R., Kyle R., Casey S., Dana S., Thaddeus S., Tyler S., Kelsey T., Lindsey T., Madisen V., Abigail V..

GOOD WORK EVERYONE!

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER...

To all: Send in awards received, pictures, notices, game results, educational material or anything you feel is important for the MMS student and parent population. **I will respond to your email to let you know that I received it.** If you do not hear

from me in a day or so, call 535-0322 or resend it if there's time. Sometimes things get lost in cyberspace.

If you would like to submit something please either put it in the newsletter mail slot in the MMS office or email it to me at mkyffdodd@hotmail.com. Please only attach Microsoft Word documents. Otherwise copy your submission and paste it into the text of your email.

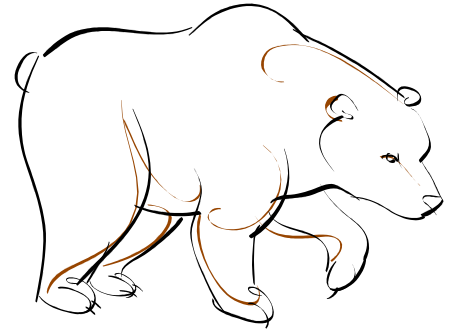
These are the upcoming newsletter deadlines for the 2007-2008 school year: February 29, April 25, and May 30. This newsletter is for you! I hope you enjoy it and please submit! -Marion Dodd, Editor

LOST AND FOUND

Large tupperware container left from the 5th & 6th grade Sports/Dance on Friday December 14. Please call Paula Reid 535-0536.

Note: The lost and found bin at MMS is overflowing. Please come in to look through it or have your student look to find misplaced items before they are donated to charity.

January 2008



COMING EVENTS

February 15 SHS Pot Roast Dinner
March 11 PTO meeting MMS Library
April 5 SEF Dinner Dance
May 16 Band & Chorus Six Flags Trip

'Out of the questions of students come most of the creative ideas and discoveries'.
Ellen Langer

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