Meridian Middle School
We Are Meridian
Newsletter
March 8, 2018

**Middle School Drama Club**
**Presents**
**The Lion King Jr.**

The Meridian Middle School Drama Club will present *The Lion King Jr.* tomorrow night (Friday March 9) and Saturday March 10 at 7:00 pm both nights. The production will take place in the Auditorium and cost for admission includes:

- **Adults:** $5.00
- **Students:** $4.00 (non Meridian MS/HS student)
- **Seniors:** $2.00

* Meridian Student Activity passes are permitted but students must see Mr. Pekovitch or Ms. Dowd to receive a ticket before the show dates.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.meridianhawks.net/middleschool. This link will allow for the reservation of floor seating versus the retractable seating to the rear of the auditorium. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

The musical, designed for middle school aged performers, is based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor and the 1994 Disney film. The cast is made up of primarily Middle School students and a few Elementary students in select roles (approximately 50 total student cast members). The production is led by Mr. Pekovitch, Ms. Dowd and High School student director, Sadie Scott.

Make your plans to attend the play!!

**PARCC Testing**

PARCC Testing (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) will take place during the next 2 weeks (March 12-23). Attached to this Newsletter is a schedule for testing. We will only take 1 test per day and testing will take place in the morning. Students will have assigned testing rooms to report to for the time indicated on the schedule. The only items permitted in the testing room will be the student’s Chromebook (charged and ready to go), earbuds or headphones and a Reading book (preferably an AR book).

All students are required to participate in PARCC testing in Illinois and the Illinois State Board of Education does not permit students to “opt out” of testing (see attached letter from our District Superintendent).

To maximize student achievement and the ability for everyone to do their best possible job, we have a daily incentive program for students that will also culminate in an overall grade level/school incentive. Each student will have a daily score card with a point rubric for Attendance, Effort & Attitude.

- **Attendance:** present, on time for testing and Chromebook charged & ready
- **Effort:** Student used at least 40 minutes for testing & answered every question to the best of their ability
- **Attitude:** Student was quiet for the entire testing period, was productive & did not distract other students

Students will self score the rubric along with the testing room teacher. The score card will be turned into the office daily by the lunch period and during 8th period Study Hall, qualifying students (6 total points) will receive the daily incentive. These include:

- Choice Variety of Full Size Candy Bar
- Choice Variety of Bag Snack Item
- Choice Variety of Pepsi (can) Drink selection
- Choice Variety of Fresh Cookies

These items will be randomly implemented depending on availability.

Students that accumulate 33 of the 36 total points on the scoring rubric for all of the PARCC tests will be able to participate in the Class to Class Challenge Activity games that will take place on Thursday March 29. These Minute to Win It style games will have the grade levels compete against each other for an ultimate, to be determined, grand prize.

**Box Tops for Education Winners!**

The latest competition among the Reading classes to collect the most Box Tops for Education coupons ended in mid-February. Congratulations to the top 3 Reading classes:

- **Ms. Deckard’s class**
- **Mrs. McGuire’s class**
- **Mrs. Coady’s class**

These students will receive an Ice Cream Treat party during their Reading class on Friday March 9. KEEP COLLECTING BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION COUPONS!!
**Art News**  
**New Berlin Art Fair**  

During the weekend of March 3rd, a total of 29 Meridian Middle School students had their artwork on display at The New Berlin Art Fair. The students competed in a variety of drawing and painting categories such as portrait/figure, animal, landscape and abstract. The following students placed or received honorable mention.

**6th grade:** 12 students had work on display  
- **Connor Ryan** – 2nd place  
- **Maggie Pritts** – 3rd place  
- **Landon Francisco** – Honorable Mention

**7th grade:** 9 students had work on display  
- **Mallorie Burkhart** – 3rd place  
- **Katelyn Martin** – 4th place & Honorable Mention  
- **Hailey Wilson** – Honorable Mention

**8th grade:** 8 students had work on display  
- **Kelsea Finklea** – 3rd & 4th place  
- **Paige Patient** – Honorable Mention  
- **Tyler Wilson** – Honorable Mention  
- **Alex Boehm** – Honorable Mention

Congratulations & keep up the good work!

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**Skating in PE Class**  
**Skate Rental Information**  

Beginning on Monday March 26, the PE classes will be participating in a Skating unit. Skatetime will provide the skates and each student is required to pay $9.00 for rentals. Skating is a “lifetime activity” and provides a variety of benefits which include: balance, coordination, motor skills and cardio-respiratory endurance. Students will learn basic skating skills and play skating games. Skating is a highly anticipated unit and our students really enjoy it! Skating will end on Tuesday April 10. Please send in the $9.00 for skate rental by Friday March 23.

If you have any questions about the skating unit and your student’s participation, please contact the school at 764-3367 to leave a message for Mr. Scales or Miss Hayes and/or to talk to Mr. Pygott about this activity.

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**Fannie May Candy Sales**  
**Delivery Notice**  

Thank you for the support of the annual Fannie May Candy Sale. All orders were recently mailed in and we anticipate the delivery of the Fannie May Candy to take place during the week of March 26th (mid to late week delivery).

When the candy arrives, students should deliver to customers and collect payment. When the entire amount is returned to the office for a student’s order, the individual prize incentives will be provided. This includes the free boxes of candy and then scheduling the various prize envelope drawings, the top prize dollar reward, and the Grab for Cash in the Cash Cube.

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**Cardinals vs Cubs Tickets**  
**On Sale- Music Boosters**  

The Meridian Middle School Band and Chorus will be performing at Busch Stadium on Sunday May 6. Game time is 7:05 pm. Tickets are now on sale through the Meridian Music Boosters and are $40.00 each. The seats are located in the Left Field Pavilion. All proceeds benefit the various Meridian Music programs.

If you would like to place an order for tickets, please contact Mr. Hicks at hickst@meridianhawks.net. At this time, there are still approximately 200 tickets left to sell.

Make your plans to attend this rivalry game and to see the Middle School Band & Chorus perform.

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**PAJAMA DAY**  
**Friday March 9**  
A Student Council Sponsored Spirit Day!
**Award Nights!**

*End of the School Year Events*

Mark your calendars for the end of the school year Award Nights at MMS.

**Thursday May 17: 6th & 7th gr. Awards Night**
7:00 pm. Auditorium

**Students/parents notified by mail & posted listing in the school if receiving an Academic Award**

**Monday May 21:**
8th gr. Awards & Reception Night. 7:00 pm. Auditorium

All 8th grade students/parents are invited to attend this event of recognition for all 8th graders.

Meridian Middle School does not have an 8th grade “graduation” ceremony for students. That practice ended many years ago and most area Jr. High/Middle schools eliminated these types of ceremonies in favor of the Awards & Recognition Nights.

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**Pennies For Patients**

*Spare Change Requested!*

From Monday, March 5 until Friday, March 23, our school will participate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s annual Pennies for Patients program. This gives students the opportunity to contribute their change to the collection bins that will be located either in the cafeteria commons area or the Social Studies classrooms. The containers will rotate among the Social Studies classes as a reminder for students to contribute and note where their contributions rank in comparison to the other grade levels. Funds raised help support blood cancer research and services for patients. This cause has special relevance for children and their families as leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children under the age of 20.

Throughout the school, students may view the various postings that highlight student heroes that have fought cancer and won with the help of the continued monetary support for treatment and research. It is a sincere opportunity for students to help other students when they are faced with the struggle of battling blood related cancers such as leukemia.

With our collections and donations, every little bit helps...and that is why this annual drive is truly a daily spare change drive. *Last year our school raised $1,065.00 & the year before we raised $1691.07 through the Pennies for Patients collection!*  

The grade level that collects the most change during this time period will receive a class/grade level movie reward day in the auditorium with a snack choice and a bottle of water.

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**Got Hawk Bucks??**

*These Students Did & Enjoyed Casey’s Pizza!*

The 3rd Quarter Hawk Bucks Casey’s Pizza Lunch took place on Wednesday March 7. Over 100 students signed up in the Reading class raffle boxes for the chance to have their name selected to participate in the luncheon. If selected, students paid 40 Hawk Bucks for 2 oversized pieces of Casey’s Cheese Pizza and a Pepsi drink product.

Congratulations to the following students:

**6th grade:** Jacob Atwood, LeRoy Brown, Kynzie Damery, Arianna Gessaman, Cooper Greenwood, Kyndall Hamilton, Kylie Hutton, Aden McKenzie, Marley Wells, Dylan Wilson

**7th grade:** Robert Baker Jr., Hayley Clevenger, Brett Brown, Gregory Gallup, Sydney Haddock, Audrey Jackson, Matthew Mathias, Roy Ralston, Emmy Renfro, Jeremy Walker, Landen Wilson

**8th grade:** Zoey Alexander, Riley Day, Travis Fuller, Abbi Hackert, Aleita Hale, Kayden MASHburn, Mason Pfeifer, Maria Steiling, Zach Summers, Sieara Taylor

**Earn Hawk Bucks!**

**Spend Hawk Bucks!!**

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**Yearbook Orders**

*Final Pre-Order Date!*

Attention Students: if you have not pre-ordered your copy of the 2017-2018 Meridian Middle School Yearbook, time is running out! The last day to make a pre-order will be **Friday March 16**. Only pre-orders are taken for Yearbooks and students should not expect extra copies to be available when they are delivered in May.

Not sure if you pre-ordered your copy? See the various postings in the grade level areas or common areas to see if your name is on the list.

**Don’t be left out in May…**

**Order YOUR copy today!!**

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**3rd Quarter Ends on Friday March 9**

**Student Report Cards– 3rd Quarter**

On Wednesday March 14

All office fees, library fines and meal account balances must be taken care of to receive the quarter report card.