Hello, Memorial Readers!

Happy Valentine’s Day, Mustangs! For the remainder of the school year the dedicated staff writers of The Mustang Memo will be providing you with news, sports stories and scores, movie, book and TV reviews, photos and interviews for you to read and learn from. It is my hope that you read with an open mind and commend the staff writers on their creativity and willingness to share their thoughts with others.

The current staff writers have been working very hard on the Valentine’s Day edition, and we all hope you enjoy it!

Stay tuned for the next Mustang Memo, it will be released in March.

-Ms. Miller

Have you Forgotten?
By: Staff

Mother Nature has not been kind to the Midwest this year. With multiple days of well below-freezing temperatures, ice and snow all D158 schools have gotten their fair share of days off. We are here to give a refresher on school expectations and rules to keep everyone respectful, responsible and safe.

1) Arrive on time to school in the morning and go straight to your locker.
2) Be sure to walk, facing forward, in the halls instead of running or jumping.
3) Keep your voices at an appropriate volume in classrooms, halls, the LRC and cafeteria.
4) Raise your hand in class instead of shouting out.
5) Follow the school dress code.

Important Dates:
2/18: President’s Day
2/19: Mustangs GOT TALENT @ 5:30
Beginning Band Concert: 2/25 @ 6:00
2/26: 12:00 Dismissal
2/28: Black History play @ 5:30
3/4: Casimir Pulaski Day – No School
3/15: Quarter 3 Ends
3/20: 2:00 Dismissal

PBIS: “Be a PBIS Ninja” campaign begins 3rd quarter.

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Memorial Staff Members

By: Staff

If you have been an avid Memo reader, you likely knew that a new teacher would be featured in this month’s paper. We’d hate to let you down!

Ms. Anthony, a 7th grade teacher, was asked the following questions: Why did you become an educator? How has it been adapting to a new school and new students? What goals do you have for your students?

I became an educator because school was the place where my teachers and coaches pushed me towards my destiny. I never realized that I could attend college and my teachers saw potential in me. I am a first-generation graduate in my family. Even with that push and the degree, I still doubted and opted out of teaching for many years. I worked in the corporate world to avoid teaching because I was not confident that I really could make a difference. Eventually, I made it back to the profession.

Now, I want to influence students who may be overlooked, have doubts or who feel they have been counted out of the game. Even if I am not the best teacher/educator, I give my all to these kiddos. I not only push my students to do better, I am the same way with my family and my friends who want to pursue their dreams. I try to be who I needed when I was younger to my students.

In the beginning, I wanted to fit in with the school culture and I stressed myself out. Now, I have allowed myself to do as best as I can to adjust and proceed. I ask questions and for suggestions as needed, but I am adjusting to the climate of the workplace by staying in my lane and staying clear of things that do not pertain to me. It is still an adjustment daily for me. As far as adapting to the students goes, I do my best to establish personal relationships with them. I make myself available to be a listening ear if needed. I believe I have adjusted to the students more easily and better than I expected. When they know you care then they will be more receptive to learning. I follow a quote that says, “Students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Some of my goals are for my students to become a better version of who they were before they started the school year. My goal is ultimately for them all to become more responsible and take pride in what they are doing well in. Yes, learning will come, but I want them to believe that they can actually do it. When I notice a student is believing that they are always going to fail, which I have run into more recently, I challenge those students. I ask them what happens if they succeed? I know I’m an educator for academic learning, but I try as often as I can to provide life lessons too.

Next edition we will hear from Mr. Parades, Mrs. McSweeney and Mrs. Maddox.

Celebrating Black History Month

By: Staff, Pictures taken by Briana Ferrer

February is Black History Month, which is celebrated to honor the achievements of African Americans as well as to celebrate important figures and events in history. What started as a week of celebration and honor in 1926 has since evolved, and Memorial Junior High is taking part in its growth.

Later this month, the newly formed Black History Program, led by Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Harlston, will be putting on a performance with dancing and speeches. Students will be able to see this performance on February 28 at 5:30. In front of Mrs. Martinez’ art room is a number of pictures and readings about important figures and events in black history. With the help of Mrs. Davis and Mr. Miller, Memorial students can observe the ‘This is Us’ display of influential African Americans in our history.
For those who do not know what PBIS stands for it means Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. PBIS is a model for creating positive school environments which support the needs for all students and staff. For some schools, PBIS will enhance their current systems and student practices.

The History of P.B.I.S

PBIS started in the 1980's. It has been in schools all over the world, from the frosty lands of Antarctica to the hot safaris of Africa. P.B.I.S is a treasure to all children and schools.

Opposing viewpoints:
1. Anonymous A, says that PBIS has a negative effect on the development of intrinsic motivation.
2. Anonymous B says that at PBIS’ “heart” it teaches kids about behavior, just like teaching any subject such as reading or math.

Leaders in P.B.I.S.

Some leaders in PBIS points this year are sixth graders Tacory, Antonia, Mikhali, Tayler. Congratulations you four, you have gotten the highest points out of most of your classmates.

Some of you might not know this but your teachers give you PBIS points for good deeds or behavior. Some of you have gotten at least 2 or 3 points. However, some of you need to rack up your points to get some prizes.

Good Deeds:
Here are some good deeds for those who are struggling with how to get PBIS points.
1. Hold a door open for someone
2. Help clean up the classroom
3. Leave a nice letter in a library book
4. Give a compliment to another student
5. Help someone carry their books

I hope out of these five things you can come up with something you can do to earn your PBIS points to be a PBIS Ninja.
Valentine’s Day Gift Ideas

By: Azuri Akbar

Last holiday season I gave you some ideas about what Christmas gifts you can buy for your family. Here are some ideas about gifts to buy for the important people in your life.

1. Mom= Jewelry
2. Dad= Favorite candy
3. Sister=Makeup
4. Brother=Dating advice
5. Grandma=Card and a hug
6. Grandpa= Go to the movies
7. Friends=Roses at school
8. Boyfriend or Girlfriend= a nice dinner

It is not too late to get a Valentine’s Day gift for someone special. You can even buy them a rose here at school for a dollar!

IAR Standardized Testing

By: Staff

“The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public-school district.” IAR Language Arts and Mathematics assessments are given to all students in grades 3-8. Memorial students will be taking this test in the Spring.

To prepare for the IAR ELA and Math tests, students should do the following:
1) Get a good night of sleep the night before testing
2) Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of testing
3) Know the concepts that will be covered and study those ahead of time
4) Set a goal for yourself and create a plan about how you will reach it
5) Show up on time the day of the test
6) During the test, have paper and pencils for any scratch work you need to do
7) Do your best to stay awake and alert during the test by stretching, sitting up straight and taking advantage of any break times

Good luck to all the students taking the IAR test at Memorial this Spring!

Information from: www.isbe.net

Pennies for Patients kicked off this week. Every student was given an informational flyer and a collection box. Any donations made will support children with Leukemia and Lymphoma. Last year $1,800 was raised. Can we beat that this year?

Missing Mustang

Photo by: Kimberly Jabaay & Emma Worries

The missing Mustang has been hiding from his Valentine; he must be a little nervous! Can you find him? Send your location to Ms. Miller in room 701 to win a prize!