

SAILOR P.R.I.D.E.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

DISCIPLINED

ENGAGEMENT

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December 2017

Mona Shores Middle School

SAILOR P.R.I.D.E.

Middle School Parents,

It's hard to believe that we have finished the first three months of school, and are now looking towards the final three weeks before Christmas break! The first third of the school year has been phenomenal! In classrooms, teaching and learning has been exceptional - high levels of engagement, high expectations, and high focus on learning. Discipline referrals remain low (tardiness having the highest numbers), and students continue to make positive choices. We have intentionally focused on building **ownership**, **integrity**, and **gratitude** with our students. The first three months of school have truly been successful!

As we kickoff a new month, we will begin to focus on **service** with our students. Our challenge to the students of MSMS, will be to think outside of themselves, to do something positive for someone else. We have students with big hearts, who care about others; I believe this is naturally inside of us all. Throughout the month, we will remind our students and challenge them to **serve** others. It is in **serving** others that we reach our fullest potential and can impact the life of someone else. I believe Martin Luther King Jr. says it perfectly, *"Everybody can be great...because anybody can **serve**. You don't have to have a college degree to **serve**. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to **serve**. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."* As we begin a new month, one that lends itself to giving and **service**, we will remind, teach, and inspire this within our students. Please do the same at home, talking about and recognizing **service** within your family, friends, and society.

- **DRESS WARM and LEAVE EARLY** -- With the snow on the way, temperatures dropping, and traffic moving more slowly, please be sure that you and your students are preparing in advance. Encourage students to dress warm (coats, hats, gloves), use caution when walking to school, and to leave earlier in the morning. As parents, plan to leave a little earlier in order to provide plenty of time when arriving at school. Remember that class starts at 7:40, with doors opening at 7:30 (drop off by 7:20 for limited traffic congestion.)
- **MUSKEGON PROMISE** -- Did you know your child can get free college tuition through the Muskegon Promise? Checkout this link to the [Muskegon Promise](#) to learn more. This could play a huge part in the future of your child.

Have a great start to the new month, a month focused on **service**. Please continue to encourage your students, support them and communicate with their teachers when you need help, clarification, or simply an update on their progress towards success.

Doug Ammeraal | Principal
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Facebook: Mona Shores Middle School

News

CALENDAR

BEGINNING OF 2ND TRIMESTER
Dec. 4th (Mon.)

LATE START DATES (9:40am)
Dec. 6th (Wed.)
Dec. 13th (Wed.)
Dec. 20th (Wed.)

TOYS FOR TOTS
Dec. 11th (Mon.) - Dec. 20th (Wed.)

MS & HS ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Dec. 13th (Wed.) 7:00pm - 8:00pm @ H.S.

7TH/8TH GR. BAND CONCERT
Dec. 19th (Tues.) 7:30pm - 8:30pm @ H.S.

7TH/8TH GR. CHOIR CONCERT
Dec. 20th (Wed.) 7:30pm @ H.S.

MSMS COLLAGE CONCERTS
Dec. 22nd (Fri.) 3rd & 5th Hour

WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL
Dec. 25th (Mon.) - Jan. 5th (Fri.)



Sailors have ownership, engagement, gratitude, service, respect, compassion, attitude, disciplined, integrity & success.





BOX TOPS



The science department is collecting Box Tops for Education. Please have your student give their box tops to their science teacher to be entered into a contest.

Rewards are as follows:

10=one ticket into drawing for pizza party.

100=candy bar (+10 tickets into pizza party drawing)

500=\$10 gift card to Cinema Carousel Theater (+5 candy bars and 50 tickets into pizza party drawing).

Tickets accumulate throughout the year so you have until the end of the year to collect 500. If you ask neighbors, grandparents, and other relatives to collect them for you, you will have no trouble collecting 500! CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS and Tyson Chicken Project A Labels are collected in the front office.

8th Grade Washington DC Trip

8th grade Washington DC trip signups will be this month. Look for information to be sent home in the next few weeks.

October Students of the Month - PRIDE

Congratulations to the following students on being honored as our Students of the Month for October:



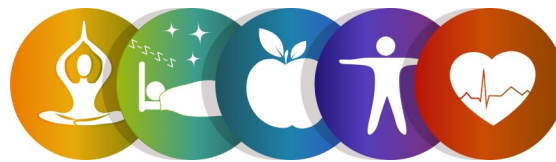
Tristan Strait & Brianna Tisch



Brandon Bankard & Cienna Billingsley



Anabeth Hylland, Noelle Elzinga & Ella Recknagel



Wellness and Leadership students learned about the many benefits of including fruit into their diet and made fruit pizza!



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8th Grade ELA: 8th graders will be wrapping up *The Outsiders* unit with an argumentative essay and newspaper project. Students will also be taking the high school placement testing after Thanksgiving break. As a reminder, students should be reading for an average of twenty minutes a night so that they finish ten books this school year!



December- counseling

It's been a busy month in the counseling office. Here are a couple highlights...

- The first group of 7th grade students have just finished career cruising. If your child is in 7th grade Tech Ventures, ask them about careers. They've recently done some exploring.
- All students learned about a digital detox and were challenged to put down their technology and engage with their families and peers.
- Mrs. Opiela and Mrs. Butterfield have been busy sifting through the results of the counseling survey, learning how to best support each student.

As a reminder, Mrs. Opiela works with students last names A-K, and Mrs. Butterfield sees students with last names L-Z. Stop in and say "hi!" They look forward to seeing you!

December - MMLI

Our MMLI students recently returned from leadership camp with another awesome project for the 2017-2018 school year. Students are challenged to change the world while at camp, and our middle schoolers will do just that. They are challenging their peers to support each other in an interesting way. They plan to create an advice/support website to promote peers supporting peers at MSMS. It is going to be another great year for MMLI, and there is no doubt that they will make a positive impact on their world.



The MSMS Performing Arts team has multiple Holiday performances coming up including: Orchestra on Dec. 13th, at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium); 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert on Dec. 19th, at 7:30 pm (High School Auditorium); 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert on Dec. 20th, at 7:30 pm (High School Auditorium); and 2 Holiday Collages featuring the Band, Orchestra and 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert on Dec. 22nd, at 9:50 am & 12:35 pm (Middle School Auditorium). Mr. Whalen's students are using spreadsheets, to analyze how education level is related to income level, based on a variety of career preparation decisions and choices. Mr. Samson's STEM classes are piloting some 3D design and printing, and also designing their own mousetrap cars. And, in addition to all of the other wonderful things happening in our Elective classes, Señora Schiller's Spanish 1 students will be creating and presenting their fashion shows soon!



SOCIAL STUDIES

8th Grade Social Studies: Hello! 8th Grade Social Studies has been busy with wrapping up our 2nd unit. While we are excited for the holiday season, we are happy to report that our grade level has applied for and received a grant for classroom sets of meaningful books that relate to our content. We now will have classroom sets of *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and *12 Years A Slave*. We are looking forward to using these a bit later this year. Thank you Youth Advisory Council! --> *This program is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County's Youth Advisory Council.*



7th Grade Science: During the first part of the second trimester, our focus will be on Waves and Energy. Through a variety of hands on lab activities, students will learn how to identify different types of waves and discover how sound and waves are produced.



Toys for Tots will be held from December 11th- 20th. Students can bring a new, unwrapped toy to their first hour teacher. For every toy they bring in, they will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into a drawing for a pizza/movie party. Please consider donating to a great cause.



Do you have 6th thru 8th grade aged girls and boys who are curious about what makes things work? Do they like to build things? Are they into technology? Do they like to create art? Are they willing to try new things? Then the 4-H Tech Wizards program is the right after-school program for them! Your child can come and explore science, technology, engineering, arts and architecture and math, (or STEAM as we call it) after school for one day a week.

We recruit and train caring adults, or high school students, from the community to work with the youth in a group mentoring setting. Your child, along with a couple other children, will be matched with a mentor and they will meet to work on STEAM-based projects. The mentor offers support as their group works on their project.

If this sounds like a program your child may want to join, you can learn more by contacting Lara Cummings, the program coordinator, at 231-724-6098. There is a \$20 participation fee for the year, and the program year will start on Thursday, Feb. 8th, 2018, and end in January 2019. There are a limited number of spots available, so we look forward to hearing from you soon!



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LMC News

We are so excited about all the NEW BOOKS in the LMC!! We have a variety of titles with current topics that are interesting and relevant to our middle school students. Our new books are attracting attention -- and they are flying off the shelves!



5 NEW Questions to Ask Kids About Books

What you should ask kids instead of "Did you like it?"

Often, when our kids finish a new book, our first question is "Did you like it?" or "Was it a good book?" And our kids either answer "yep" or "nope" and that's it. We call it a day. Books are a great way to open the door to conversation with our kids, and often as parents we don't capitalize on them quite enough.



Here are five questions to ask your child the next time he or she finishes a book:

1. If you could give the book another title, what would it be?
2. Which characters would you like to meet in real life?
3. What do you wish was different about the ending?
4. Would the book make a cool movie? Video game? TV show?
5. What is one thing you could ask the author if you could talk to him or her?

Mascott, Amy. "5 NEW Questions to Ask Kids About Books." *Scholastic.com*, 27 Oct. 2014,

www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-raise-reader/5-new-questions-to-ask-kids-about-books.

