



## **December 2019 ECP Middle School Newsletter**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at ECPMS. As 2019 draws to a close, I've been reflecting on many of the blessings this year held. Thanks to the voters of ECP, our current middle school students will have the opportunity to attend a safe and up-to-date high school. Many times, I have felt true joy as I watched students excited for unique learning opportunities and observed strong student/teacher relationships form. While every moment of the semester wasn't perfect, good things were always there when I looked for them. I have witnessed students performing random acts of kindness on a daily basis that show emotional intelligence far beyond their years. Even if our kids don't have the highest test scores in the state or take state in competitive athletics, I am so very proud of our Badgers! They are growing into fine young ladies and gentlemen. Growing kids with a good heart, good manners, and developing resilient social/emotional skills is just as important as improving academic achievement and will do even more to help them mature into productive American citizens. ECP is a great place to be! I hope you make wonderful memories with your children this Holiday Season. May you find blessings all around.

-Angela Doss, principal

### **Student Accomplishments, Honors or Events**

#### **December Students of the Month**

6th Grader - Shyloe Byrd

7th Grader - Taryn McCaa

8th Grader - Maci Cornforth

#### **Semester Tests at the Middle School will be by subject as follows:**

Monday, Dec. 16 - Language Arts & Science

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - Math & Social Studies

**Students will be exempt from a semester test if they have a(n):**

A and only 3 excused absences during the semester

B and only 2 excused absences during the semester

C and only 1 excused absence during the semester

***\*Students must test if they have any unexcused absences in the class or more than the allowed excused absences listed above. Please note that 3 unexcused tardies in a class counts as one unexcused absence.***

\*Report cards will go out Jan. 9, 2020 for the 1st Semester.

\* **Late Start Wednesdays** are going well. Our staff appreciates this time to collaborate and work to make your child's educational experience the best it can be. Our next late start will be Wed., Dec. 18 and then Jan. 15th after the beginning of the new year.

## **Good Things are Happening at the Middle School**

**Angela Sawyer's Classes** - STEAM classes are building their clawbot machines and learning about the world of robotics. 6th grade Math just wrapped up a chapter over multiplying and dividing fractions. 7th grade Math is reviewing orders of operations. 8th grade Math is finishing a chapter over ratios, proportions, and similar figures. Students are working to meet their target objectives.

**Ann Harrel's Classes** - 6th grade Math is finishing up a chapter on multiplying and dividing fractions. 7th grade Math is finishing up an expression chapter with combining like terms. 8th grade Math is working with percents, and all 3 grades are preparing for our semester tests. Computer classes are continuing to work on coding projects and programmed a game within the last project.

**Jennifer Earp's Classes** - Eighth grade ELA classes recently finished an essay for REC. Students specifically learned to write thesis statements for their essays. They will compete for a chance to attend REC camp in the summer of 2020. Seventh and eighth-grade ELA classes are currently working on essays for the Elks Lodge. The topic is "What does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?" Eighth grade has benefitted from teaching collaboration with Coach Harrell who is also teaching about the Bill of Rights. They are getting information about the first amendment in his class and applying it to their essays in ELA. Students are learning outline techniques as well as how to write thesis statements.

**Jerrie Doss's Classes** - Health/Archery classes are in the Ag Barn working on their 11 steps to archery success. They have been going through the steps to help them learn to control their bow and how the arrow flies. They are shooting from the 7 yard area at this time and are getting more confident and skilled each day. They will be moving back to the 15 yard area soon.

Life Skills students have been working on skills to identify what and who they value most in their lives. Learning how to distinguish between who is helpful and essential and how to maintain those relationships. They are learning how to remain positive when circumstances around them try to bring them down.

**Kristal Patterson's Classes** - 7th Grade is finishing up the chapter about fossils and how we can date rocks and the samples from the Earth's crust to create a geologic timeline. The students will also be making crystal ornaments this week and we will begin wrapping up the semester and studying for next week's semester test. 8th grade has been studying plant reproduction and plant processes. We will be doing an experiment called Magic Trees and begin preparing for next week's semester test.

**Mike Harris' Classes** - In ELA classes, we are currently working on different types of vocabulary from homophones, homographs to eponyms. We are studying where many of our words have originated.

In Social Studies, we are finishing our study of the South America, its climate, people and cultures. We have discovered that South America, although all developing countries have produced many firsts in the world.

In Science, we have finished our study of Physical Science and now are moving into Space and Technology.

**6th GRADE SCIENCE PROJECTS:** The Science projects are due on Friday, January 17th. No late projects will be accepted. The projects are over our solar system. Students may use their imagination and be creative in preparing their projects. This should not be a financial burden. We have discussed them thoroughly in class, so your student should be fully aware of what they need to do.

**Stacey McCaa's Classes** - 8th grade English classes just finished an essay for REC. Students will compete for a chance to attend REC camp in the summer of 2020. Another essay the classes are currently working on is for the Elks Lodge. The topic is "What does Freedom of Speech mean to me?"

Math classes just finished up a unit from the OERB curriculum over measurements, land descriptions and locations.

Archery teams are attending a tournament on December 9 and 14. 4h has the communication contest coming up in January.

**Stephen McCleskey** - Computer Applications Class is starting to do basic Binary coding, which will lead to some very creative things next semester (we hope!).

Both middle school bands have been hard at work preparing to perform at the Christmas concert on December 12th at 7pm.

**Willie Harrell's Classes** - In 7th Grade Geography we are studying Sub-Saharan Africa. We are talking about how conflict and government instability have slowed the economic development of Sub-Saharan Africa, and how rich they are in mineral resources.

In 8th grade U.S. History we are talking about the Constitution and its parts: Preamble, Articles and Amendments. I am collaborating with Jennifer Earp; she is having students do an essay over their 1st amendment right, so I am teaching them what that is and how it affects their everyday life.

*Happy Holidays from the Staff at **ECPMS!***

