

# Meeting in the Middle

## Building a Better World

Linden Middle School

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2011/  
JANUARY 2012

### Principal's Ponderings

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The holiday season is upon us! As the 2011 calendar year winds down, please continue to contact teachers and keep students focused on school work.

The last day of school before winter break is Thursday, December 22nd. Classes will resume Tuesday, January 3rd. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, January 12th from 2:45-8:00 PM. There is no school on Friday, January 13th.

On Thursday, January 12th, we are holding our annual Career Fair. As always, we are looking for professionals to volunteer their time to share their work experience with our students. If you are interested in being a Career Fair speaker, please contact Mary VanBuskirk, EDP Coordinator, at (810) 591-0420.

Our Parent Koffee Klatch group is actively pursuing fund-raising opportunities to help students pay for the annual 8th grade Washington D. C. trip. Please encourage your child to get involved in fund-raising opportunities—we would love to see the entire 8th grade be able to attend this fun, education-packed field trip.

LMS is trying to revive our SCRIP fund-raising program. We mailed home information in report cards. Basically, parents purchase gift cards for local vendors through the school, and we earn a certain percentage of the total. If you are interested in having gift cards delivered to your door, please fill out the form and send a check or money order into the school by Friday, December 15th. Gift cards will be delivered before winter break begins!

Have a great winter break!

Sincerely,

Julie Brown

A January Newsletter is NOT posted. Please go to the district Web site for calendar information and contact the building with any questions you may have (810-591-0710).

#### Inside this issue:

Winged Warriors	2
Talented Talons	2
Cyberbullying	3
Responsible Raptors	3
Regal Eagles	3
Keys for Success	4
8th Grade News	4
Career Fair Presenters Wanted	5
Athletic Update	6
LMS Book Fair	6
Writers of the Month	7
Calendar	7

### Used Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones

Linden Middle School Media Center is collecting used computer inkjet and laser printer cartridges and old cell phones for recycling. We have joined The Funding Factory and will receive money to be used for new books. We need your help! Please send all of your old cartridges and cell phones to the Media Center for collection. Thank you for your help!



## *Winged Warriors*

In Social Studies, we have finished our study of chapter one. I am happy to report outstanding test scores in all four classes! This week we are starting chapter three and will examine the question; What is Culture? We will look at what influences how a culture develops. We will also explore economics and population. The students will learn about the different types of economic systems. They will learn how industrialized countries differ from developing countries. Finally, the students will look at how people around the world are connected. Please remember that books can be taken home for study. The pages to read ahead and study are 48-63. With review and practice on pages 64-65.

In Language Arts, students have completed reading the novel *Tuck Everlasting*. We are completing our study of the

Fantasy genre with students creating and writing their own Fantasy stories. Next trimester, we will begin our study of realistic/adventure fiction based around the novel *Far North*. Students will be writing stories based around an event that has happened in their life. We will continue to work on grammar, vocabulary, and spelling weekly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester. Reading Logs are due every two weeks. The next one is due on Monday, December 12th.

In Math, students have been working with fraction operations and are now working on converting between fractions, percents, and decimals. After finishing fractions, classes will be moving to Integers. We will explore negative numbers for the first time and see how operations with integers are in everyday life. Please remember that make up quizzes and re-takes can be taken after school on Tuesdays

and Thursdays. Students need to see me for practice problems in order to re-take a quiz.

In Science class we completed our first Chapter Test. I was somewhat satisfied with the results (C average) but hope for better results on the next test. It is a usual occurrence on the first 6<sup>th</sup> grade science test that the student receive their lowest scores of the year. They now have experienced their first test and know what to expect. Things will improve. The next short chapter focuses on the States of Matter. If you child has not been showing sharing his/her planner, ask for it. Please access ParentWeb to keep tabs on homework and grades. I will attempt to organize your child as far as science class. If they do not have a pocket folder dedicated to science, they need one now. As always, please contact me via email or phone. Thanks for you support.

## *Talented Talons*

It is amazing how much time flies when you are having fun! We can't believe that the first tri-mester is over! So far the Talented Talons have had an exceptional year. Students have successfully transitioned to the middle school and are feeling more comfortable in their surroundings. Here are just a few reminders of what it takes to be a successful middle school student:

1. Come to class prepared. This means having all the materials necessary for that class period. (pencil, books, folders, homework, etc.)
2. Turn in all assignments. One of the biggest culprits of low grades is missing work.
3. Participate in Class. This means engaging in class discussions, working cooperatively with peers, and asking questions when needed.
4. Be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.

We are looking forward to another fun and exciting tri-mester!

In language arts, we have just finished our first novel study of *Tuck Everlasting*. In this novel we continued our study of the fantasy genre, as well as looked at the roles of protagonists/antagonists, the way particular events or "episodes" affect the plot, talked about various themes, and learned to draw inferences. Next we will start in on our first major writing assignment, in which the students will be asked to create their own fantasy short story, using many of the story elements we have been discussing so far.

In science we are exploring the changes of the state of matter. This includes freezing, melting, condensation, vaporization, sublimation, and deposition. Students have done an awesome job with their independent practice choice work to support their understanding of the learning targets. They should also be keeping track of their progress on the

learning targets in their interactive notebook. I am always available for those that need extra help: Tuesday – Friday after school until 3:30 pm, at lunch Monday – Friday, and before school Monday – Friday from 7:00 am until 7:30 am.



Our math classes are currently finishing up the study of fractions. We will be moving on to some basic Algebra targets involving expressions and equations in the coming weeks. Ask your child about my "Aunt Sally" and what his/her math goal is for the second trimester. As always, I'm available after school until 3:30 every day but Monday.

In social studies, we have been studying geography. We have been looking at how geographers think and the different tools they use in their work. Next we will be exploring various cultures, how they differ, and how people around the world are connected.

## Responsible Raptors

We are looking forward to our field trip to Roll-Haven in Flushing on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please look for a permission slip soon.

As we begin a fresh trimester, please encourage your child to turn work in on time. We would like to remind parents that e-mail is an excellent way to keep in contact with your child's teachers. Also, assignments are posted on ParentWeb and [Ms. Marton's website](#) and grades can be followed on [Standard Score](#). Thank you for all of your help and support this year.

Please remember that the holiday break will begin December 23rd, and we will return January 3rd. We hope you and your families have a great holiday and a happy new year.



### Santa's Favorite Cookies

3 c. shortening	6 eggs	3 c. white sugar
3 c. brown sugar	2 t. vanilla	1 T. baking soda
½ t. salt	6 c. oatmeal	½ t. baking powder
6 c. flour	2 lg. pkg. chocolate chips	

Cream together shortening, eggs, sugars, and vanilla. Sift flour, salt, baking soda, and powder. Slowly combine dry and creamed mixtures. Add oats and chips. Mix evenly. Bake 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Makes several dozen, depending on the size of cookies you make.

## Regal Eagles

There was no team information at this time. Please contact teachers with any questions you may have.

Linda Allen	(810) 591-0758
Brenda Beckman	(810) 591-0747
Melissa Boyer	(810) 591-0757
Heather Briggs	(810) 591-0753
Kristen Crumm	(810) 591-0766
Rick Kimball	(810) 591-0744
Michele Packard	(810) 591-0755

### Cyberbullying

**Q:** I'm worried about cyberbullying. How can I protect my middle grader from this kind of bullying?

**A:** Cyberbullying occurs when someone sends hurtful messages online or by cell phone. It can take many forms, such as writing rude comments, spreading rumors, and posting embarrassing pictures.

Your child can discourage cyberbullying by giving personal information (name, email address, cell phone number) only to friends. If she receives nasty emails or text messages, she should not respond. Explain that replying just gives the person the satisfaction of having upset her. A good thing to do is simply to log off the computer or turn off the cell phone.

Let your youngster know she should tell an adult if she experiences cyberbullying. You can report problems to your Internet provider, school authorities, or even the police.

## Keys for Success

You can set your middle grader up for success this school year with some basic pointers. Suggest that he try to follow this checklist, and you'll help him get off on the right foot:

- ⇒ I attend school every day unless I'm sick, and I get there on time.
- ⇒ I get 8-10 hours of sleep each night.
- ⇒ I eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.
- ⇒ I pay attention in class.
- ⇒ I write down my assignments for each subject.
- ⇒ I start my projects when I get them.
- ⇒ I complete my homework on time.
- ⇒ I read for pleasure each day.

## *8th Grade News*

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking a field trip on Thursday, December 22nd. We will be traveling to Grand Blanc lanes. The cost to students will be \$10.00. This includes lunch, transportation, and bowling. Each student will need to have a permission slip signed to attend the trip. The permission slip will go out to students soon and will need to be in by Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*Students not attending

the trip and not in school will be assigned an absence that will count toward Saturday School time.\*\*

Thanks to Mrs. Elmer and Mr. Kirkey, the Washington D. C. trip went off without a hitch. We would like to thank all of the parent chaperones that attended with their student. Students that stayed back were able to attend the Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills and were able to meet and listen to a survivor of the

*“Kind  
words are  
the music  
of the  
world.”*

-Frederick William Fader

Holocaust. This was a great educational experience for students



We would also like to remind parents that e-mail is a good way to keep track of your student's progress. Go to [lindenschools.org](http://lindenschools.org) and click on Middle school, then the teacher's name. Also make sure you use Standard-Score. This is a great tool to check your student's grades.



Linden Middle School  
15425 Lobdell Road – Linden MI 48451  
Julie Brown, Principal  
PH: (810) 591-0710 FAX: (810) 591-0155  
[www.lindenschools.org](http://www.lindenschools.org)

Linden Middle School will be hosting a **Career Fair** on **Thursday, January 12, 2012**, for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our goal is to provide them with the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers. As a result of activities like this career fair, our students are able to tailor their education to meet the needs of a more specific and realistic future goal. Below you'll find pertinent information for the career fair. **If you are able to be a presenter, please contact Mary Beth VanBuskirk, EDP Coordinator at 810-591-0420, or [mvanbusk@lindenschools.org](mailto:mvanbusk@lindenschools.org) (preferred method).**

**Registration and Continental Breakfast:** 7:30 – 7:55am

**Presentations Begin:** 8:00am

**Number of Presentations:** 5

You will be assigned to a classroom, and the students will rotate into your room for each session with their Advisory classes.

**Length of Presentations:** 20 min with a 5 minute passing time between each presentation.

**Number of Students per Presentation:** approximately 30

**Schedule:**

- 8:00 – 8:20 Presentation 1
- 8:25 – 8:45 Presentation 2
- 8:50 – 9:10 Presentation 3
- 9:15 – 9:35 Presentation 4
- 9:40 – 10:00 Presentation 5

**Talk Points:**

\*Typical day on the job, required education/training, courses in school that help to prepare for this field, anything else you feel is relevant.

Please remember your audience. Students at this level respond best to interactive lessons and activities. Visual aids are not required, but if you have items from your line of work, a video, or a PowerPoint that the students may find interesting, please consider bringing these for them to see. A computer, projector, and document camera will be available in most rooms. If you will require these items, please let me know.

If you plan to hand out any PR materials, etc., please bring 200 to accommodate your groups.

## LINDEN EAGLES

### Middle School Athletic Updates

1. Athletic Physical – must be completed and signed by a medical doctor on or after April 15, of the previous school year and ON FILE in the main office BEFORE receiving a tryout card for any athletic team or club. One physical is good for the current school year.
2. Emergency Form - must be ON FILE in the main office BEFORE competing for any athletic team or club.
3. Academic Eligibility – students must have passed 66% (4 classes) of their classes in the previous trimester.
4. Outstanding Items – all unpaid fees and fines or unreturned equipment must be paid and turned in prior to trying out for your sport. Please contact the main office if you have questions.
5. Current Fees – participation fee (\$75) must be paid prior to the first contest or athletes will be suspended from further participation until payment is satisfactory. If your family has financial difficulty, please contact Mr. Gagne at 591-0711 right away. There are procedures for helping families meet their obligation. The fee is only due once per year, per child.
6. Enrollment – If a student was not enrolled in Linden Community Schools before the fourth Friday in February the previous year, please contact the Mr. Gagne immediately. Students may not be immediately eligible to participate in athletics.

## THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is coming soon!

We are having our annual Scholastic Book Fair December 5 - December 9. The Scholastic Book Fair includes lots of great books, software, school supplies, stationery and posters. Students are welcome to shop any time during the week. Our Book Fair hours are from 7:40 AM - 2:40 PM. Parents are always welcome!



**Linden Middle School****November** *writers of the Month*

As part of the **Writer of the Month** program, each month students will be honored for completing an exceptional piece of writing. These selections will be on display in the Media Center. The Writers of the Month for November are:

Alia Frederick	Jakub Gagne	Brittany Hukill	Frank Allen
Brendan Hansen	CJ Blackburn	Orval Padgett III	Meghan McClanahan
Chris Martin	Misty Hansen	Jackson Stevenson	Travis Hansen
Whitney MacDonald	Cole Morea	Aaron Beardsley	Megan Oldenburg
Mikayla Hilliker	Tyler Kelley	Devin Shannon	Anthony Warner
Brent Roberts	Kayla Demars	Jacob Bogedain	Emily Kershaw
Bryan Reeve	Justin Corcoran	Kyle Holliday	Brandon Shaffer

**Calendar****DECEMBER**

Monday, December 5	Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive Begins! LMS Building Newsletter Posted on Web site LMS Book Fair Begins; Media Center
Friday, December 9	Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive Ends! LMS Book Fair Ends
Tuesday, December 13	LMS Art Fair; 6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 14	6th Grade Honor Roll Celebration; 7:45 AM; Gymnasium LMS Art Fair; 6:00 PM 7th/8th Grade Band Concert; 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 15	7th Grade Honor Roll Celebration
Friday, December 16	8th Grade Honor Roll Celebration
Thursday, December 22	7th Grade Field Trip 8th Grade Field Trip Winter Break Begins at the End of the Day
Friday, December 23	No School—Winter Break Begins

**JANUARY**

Tuesday, January 3	Classes Resume
Friday, January 6	Progress Reporting Period Ends 6th/7th Grade Alpine/VG/Spartan Receipt/Label Collection; Lunch Periods
Thursday, January 12	LMS Annual Career Fair; AM Parent/Teacher Conferences; 2:45-8:00 PM
Friday, January 13	No School
Monday, January 16	No School for Students; Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday, January 17	Parent Koffee Klatch @ 4:00 PM, Media Center
Friday, January 27	Washington D. C. Pasta Fund-Raiser Begins (Ends February 10th)

**FEBRUARY**

Monday, February 6	LMS Newsletter Posted on Web site
Friday, February 10	Last Day for 6th/7th Grade Pasta Fund Raiser