

BULLDOG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 6

January 2009

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A Caring Learning Community

Mission Statement

At Meade Middle School, we:

- ⇒ Develop lifelong learners
- ⇒ Provide both a rigorous and a relevant curriculum
- ⇒ Are committed to excellence



Vision Statement

Meade Middle School's Quest is to:

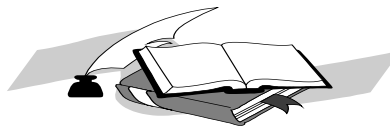
- ⇒ Provide an environment where learning and behavior lead to student success.
- ⇒ Equip students with twenty-first century learning competencies in order to be well rounded and competitive in a global society.
- ⇒ Foster a culture of meaningful adult and student relationships which leads to students feeling safe and supported.
- ⇒ Engage parents, businesses and the global community in building student success.



Value Statements

At Meade Middle we believe in:

- ⇒ The dignity of every human being;
- ⇒ Advocating for all of our students;
- ⇒ Affirming all cultures;
- ⇒ The power of high expectations for ourselves and our students;
- ⇒ The capacity of all students to learn.



MESSAGE FROM MR. SCOTT

Parents and Friends of the Meade Middle Learning Community:

To some extent the second semester signifies a new start for some of our students and a wonderful opportunity to extend

good academic performance for others. Beginning January 29, our students will receive their schedules for the second semester. Most students will rotate core classes allowing for further exposure to our fine arts program. Instructionally, our focus remains on promoting high levels of student engagement and critical thinking. We certainly value your efforts to reinforce the importance of completing class work, homework and projects, as well as encouraging a structured reading time outside of school.

I believe you would be delighted to know that as a school we have thoroughly attempted to engage our students with many of the current technology based learning tools. Through grant funding sources a number of our teachers are using interactive smart boards, document cameras, airliners (electronic white boards) and handheld interactive devices. It is the belief that the appropriate and ongoing use of these forms of instructional technology will help

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prepare students for learning in the 21st century.

Over the next several weeks we will conduct student scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year. Meade High School counselors will meet with 8th grade students during the last week of January to discuss course selections for next school year. The week of February 9, our guidance counselors will be meeting with current 6th and 7th graders to review course selections for the coming year. Should you have questions, I urge you to contact your child's guidance counselor. Additionally, our guidance staff will host a **scheduling information night for parents on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Maureen McMahon, Director of Advance Studies & Programs**, will discuss the process for students to enter Meade High School's International Baccalaureate program. This will be an opportunity to examine the courses your child has completed and develop a plan to ensure a competitive, challenging and rewarding high school course of study.

Lastly, as a way of assisting you in planning for future medical and dental appointments for your child, Maryland State Assessment (MSA) testing will be conducted March 17-25. In addition, our entire 8th grade student body will take the MSA science test on-line beginning April 22. As you know prompt arrival and daily attendance are extremely important during this time.

As usual, I thank you for working with us to foster a Caring Learning Community. Our belief is "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work". Thanks to your commitment, our students can learn to their fullest potential.

Welcome

Meade Middle School welcomes Ms. Maribel Hernandez-Drost. Ms. Hernandez-Drost will replace Mr. Raymond Nazario as a 7th grade math teacher. Mr. Nazario is in the process of pursuing a rigorous graduate level studies program. He has elected to pursue the completion of his graduate degree on a full-time basis. As we will, I am sure our students will miss Mr. Nazario.

Conversely, we are extremely confident that Ms. Hernandez-Drost's experience will benefit our child. It is helpful for you to know Ms. Hernandez-Drost's familiarity with our student body. Last school year she served as a long-term substitute teacher within our math department. During this time she formed meaningful relationships with teachers and students.

Ms. Hernandez-Drost started her teaching career in Rhode Island and completed her student-teaching experience in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system.

We firmly believe that the addition of Ms. Hernandez-Drost will benefit our school community in helping students strengthen their skill development and preparation for the upcoming Maryland State Assessment in math.

Counseling Corner

As we start 2009---and get ready to end semester 1---take a few minutes to review your child's homework habits. First, ensure your child has a permanent place for homework that is free of distractions and has good lighting, proper seating, a sufficient space

for materials, and common supplies readily available. Homework should be done at a specific time and rules restricting use of the phone, television, music devices and game systems until all homework is satisfactorily completed should be in place. If your child is having difficulty completing work, provide assistance but do not do the work yourself. Keep a contagious positive attitude that homework provides the practice that leads to mastery.

With the new year, as a family dedicate yourselves to being a strong, supportive and loving unit. Positive emotions will produce an environment in which you can set powerful family goals. Take time to talk about what is important to each family member and how you can support each other to realize dreams. Additionally, determine a "family moral code." What are things "this family" will and will not do? The family moral framework provides the basis for all future growth. Each family member should be very clear on what is considered right and wrong.

Register for AACC classes offered at Meade Middle School

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is pleased to partner with AACPS to provide opportunities for adult learners to achieve their academic, professional, and personal enrichment goals. AACC offers courses on three campuses (Arnold, Arundel Mills, and Glen Burnie Town Center) and at seven public school locations throughout the county, including Meade Middle School. Adult learners can choose from over 44 credit and noncredit courses at Meade Middle School

this spring. Three other institutions, Bowie State University, Central Michigan University, and University of Maryland University College also offer courses at Meade Middle School. AACC credit classes begin on January 21 and March 16, and you can register right up to the start of the class. To view a schedule of classes, go to: www.aacc.edu/search/course. Contact Fran Turcott, Director, Off-site and Weekend College at 410-777-2340 (fmturcott@aacc.edu) for more information.

Science Department News

Ms. McCallister and Ms. Thon would like to congratulate the 41, 8th grade students who participated in this year's science fair! Of the 41, we're proud to announce 9 students' projects earned special recognition on January 13th at the evening science fair where they all received an award medal or plaque. These students did an excellent job using the scientific method and high-level thinking skills to propose a hypothesis to a problem, collect and analyze data, and then use their results to draw a conclusion for applications in the real world.

The 6 honorable mention award winners of a medal and ribbon were:

- 1) Wesley B- "Can hydropower be used to lift a weight?"
- 2) Elyse B- "How does the strength of a magnet vary with temperature?"
- 3) Hunter C- "Plants: A search for clean water."
- 4) Travis Pt- "Lemon Batteries"

- 5) Stephen R- "Guess how many?"
 - 6) Gregory W- "Does a wind turbine produce more power in vertical or horizontal position?"
- the top 3 outstanding project winners were recognized and awarded with a plaque for their use of scientific knowledge in completing their projects. These students were:

3rd Place Winner: Aaron B ---
"How does the surface that a seismograph is on affect the amount of noise and the sensitivity?"

2nd Place Winner: Chanel V ---
"How does your nose affect what you taste?"

1st Place Winner: Sarah W ----
"Insulation Revelation"

These 3 students have been invited to represent Meade Middle in this year's county science fair taking place in March. We wish them the best of luck in that competition!

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Fundraiser

Students at Meade Middle School will participate in a Math-A-Thon as part of their Service Learning Project for this school year. The Math-A-Thon is a volunteer-based fundraising program for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Students will obtain sponsors, and then complete a Funbook by solving a variety of math problems. Students will be able to improve math and comprehension skills, solve age-appropriate math problems and understand the importance of helping others and most

importantly help patients at St. Jude battling cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. Parents and the community may log on to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital website (www.stjude.org) to help Meade Middle School reach our goal of \$2000. (Click on Math-A-Thon, Participate Now and choose Maryland to find Meade Middle School and make a contribution in our school's name).

St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatments that are not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. Through their research and protocols with physicians and hospitals worldwide, their physicians and scientists have pioneered treatments that have pushed the overall survival rates for childhood cancers from less than 20 percent in 1962 to more than 70 percent today. *Parents* magazine has named St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as the No. 1 pediatric cancer care hospital in the country in their January 13, 2009 issue.

Meade Middle School students will learn the importance of volunteerism and they will learn that they have the power to make a difference in the life of another child.

Please look for a permission slip for your child to participate which will be sent home with all students on February 9.

Campbell Labels/Box Tops for Education

We are collecting Campbell Labels and General Mills "Box Tops for Education" coupons. With your help the school can purchase educational equipment

and/or items for the children.
Please have your child drop off
the labels and coupons in the
Campbell Soup barrel located in
the Volunteer Coordinator's office.

Calendar of Events

Jan. 27 & 28 – Schools
Closed for students

Jan. 29 - Beginning of 3rd
marking period

Monday, Feb. 2 – AVID/Little
Dragon/Dare to be a Queen
Field Trip, Toby's Dinner
Theatre

**Friday, Feb. 13 – Report card
distribution**

**Monday, Feb. 16 – Presidents'
Day – School Closed**

Tuesday, Feb. 17 – Principal's
Honor Roll Breakfast

Friday, Feb. 20 – MESA Field
Trip,
2009 MESA Precollege Career
Fair, Baltimore Convention
Center

**Friday, Mar. 6 – Interims sent
home**

Tuesday, Mar. 17 –Maryland
School Assessment
administration (MSA) –
Reading

Wednesday, Mar. 18 – Maryland
School Assessment
administration (MSA) –
Reading

Tuesday, Mar. 24 –Maryland
School Assessment
administration (MSA) –
Mathematics

Wednesday, Mar. 25 – Maryland
School Assessment
administration (MSA) –
Mathematics

Thursday, Mar. 26 – First day of
MSA Make-up Testing

Monday, Mar. 30 – Spring
Student Led Conference, 4:30
to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 31 – Last day of
MSA Make-up Testing

