



Timberlane Regional Middle School

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

44 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH 03865 • Phone: (603) 382-7131
Web Address: www.timberlanems.com

Dear Parents,

How do we meet the academic needs of each student? This is the ultimate challenge for teachers working in a 21st century classroom. Classrooms are filled with students with diverse needs and a wide range of learning styles. Teachers play a critical role as the designers of student learning, using a curriculum built on the goal of student understanding. As part of curriculum planning, differentiated instruction is used to create a responsive classroom environment that challenges all students to attain success.

Today, teachers must look at their class as individuals, not groups. Acknowledging, understanding and responding to differences in individual students is really good teaching. Setting clear goals for students and designing effective and flexible classrooms, assists in creating personal and meaningful learning experiences for our children. We know that students will not understand in the same way, or learn in the same length of time or need the same supports. Quite a challenge.

Michael Hogan-Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

April 14th—4th Quarter Begins

April 16th—3rd Quarter Report Cards distributed

April 25th—Early Release Day

April 28th—May 2nd—Spring Vacation—No School

Daily Bulletin News is posted on our website and updated quite frequently. Please check the website for current news and events.

Spring has Sprung!!!!
Our Spring Sports are in full Swing!!

PTSA NEWS

In May, the PTSA works really hard to show the staff how much we appreciate them. We do this with a week long celebration which includes a breakfast, thank you cards done by the students, and a gift card raffle not to mention the barbeque with Chef Michael Hogan.

Now is the time to pitch in and help with the celebration!! We need gift card donations, \$5-\$10 maximum from any coffee place, craft store, restaurant/fast food place, Target, Walmart or drug store. We raffle these cards off throughout the week and it becomes a fun competition to see what team gets the most cards.

If your time is limited and you would rather, we will accept cash/check donations and we will do the shopping for you. The checks should be made out to TRMS PTSA and sent to the PTSA c/o the main office.

If you have time and would like to help with serving breakfast, supervising the thank you card table, or tracking the gift card donations, please contact Carolyn Longchamp at cclchamp@aol.com.

Lastly, we are looking for anyone who might be interested in holding a board position. The position will require you to meet once a month for about an hour, help with events and decisions that need to be made. We create our board with any interested parent before the end of the year so we can start next year with a bang. If you are interested, please contact any board member: Carolyn Longchamp, Joanne Heim, Shirley Orio, Mike Hogan, Darlene Schmidt, Karen Mederios.

Guidance Spotlight on Social Media

ALL ABOUT SNAPCHAT



Social media is constantly changing. It seems like a new “App” is popping up on kids’ smart phones every day. So, what is Snapchat? Why do kids like it? What do parents need to know? And, most importantly how do we keep kids safe while using it?

“Snapchat is a photo and video sharing app with a twist.” Unlike many social media apps the image/video someone sends on Snapchat disappears after viewing. The sender decides how long the message can be seen before it vanishes – up to 10 seconds. Also, unlike some other social media, users don’t post publicly. Instead, videos and photos are sent to “friends” chosen by the user.

So, what do kids love about it? In many ways it is just like them – living in the moment, spontaneous, goofy, and playful. Users make funny faces, pose in silly ways; essentially taking different kinds of “selfies” all while not worrying about it being out there forever. One teen says, “no matter how ridiculous the image I don’t have to regret it.”

Sounds pretty cool, right? Well, just like most things Snapchat has its disadvantages too. It can be used inappropriately or to harass others. A key point is not to have a false sense of security. Though intended to be more secure than other apps there’s always a way around safety features. Users can save “screenshots” of images received on their device or take a picture with another camera. Though designed for “real-life friends” there are still ways to find or be sought out by others.

Thankfully there are things parents can do to allow kids to enjoy social media while keeping them safe.

1. Follow the minimum age requirement of 13.
2. Check the privacy settings – be sure it says “my friends” and not “everyone” to limit sharing.
3. Protect (by not sharing with friends) and create strong passwords.
4. Dealing with unwanted or harassing snaps – block the user, report an underage or inappropriate user to Snapchat, or contact your local police if someone is in danger.
5. Maybe your teen isn’t ready – delete the account. If you don’t know the password, contact Snapchat for help.

It is no secret how difficult it can be to keep up with all the apps out there. Keep the lines of communication open with your teen to talk casually about social media. Encouraging them to respect themselves and to be kind to others will go a long way towards having a positive experience.

HINTS FROM HEALTH OFFICE

. With the coming of spring and longer days, it's important that students get out and get moving! How many minutes a day should be spent being active?

- Aim for at least 3 hours a week!
- Kids should be active for at least 60 minutes a day!
- Set Goals of 3-4 hours of PLAY a WEEK!! Give it a try!!!!

Try going for a 10-minute brisk walk, 3 times a day, 5 days a week. This will give you a total of 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity!!

Walking is an exceptional exercise, get the whole family involved!

REMINDER OF BUS RULES

Please be advised that food is not allowed on buses due to students with food allergies. The only exception would be for a medical reason. In the same respect we ask that students not open any scented items on the bus as we do have students with sensitivity to smells. This would include, perfumes, colognes, hand sanitizer and creams.

Please spread the word about these very important rules on buses.

Grade 7 News



Catch a glimpse of the Dragons' lair! To celebrate the Irish in all of us the team sported their green and sent warm wishes to Mrs. Berrigan. We're lucky to be dragons!!



Grade 6 News

The Sixth Grade Transformer Team (6D) is having a productive year. Our core classes are rich with Standard's Based material and activities and Literacy has proven to be a great way to start our days. In Literacy students are able to engage in Literacy programs specific to their needs or experience how Literacy is part of everything from Social Studies and Science to FACS and Art. This quarter we are very lucky to have Mrs. Richards as our additional Literacy teacher. The cross-curricular projects students are working on in Quarter 3, has a large technology component which is perfect for Mrs. Richards to help with. Students are researching topics of their choice for their connection to Social Studies and Science. They then write a short paper on their findings, create a computer-generated presentation and design and construct a 3-D model. Students are in the process of presenting their project to their classmates. The completed projects were quite impressive including power-points, videos, Presi's, and models made of paper, play dough and everyone's favorite, cake. Our next quarter will give our actors and actresses an opportunity to show their talents off in a Ms. Pettersen Production, investigate cultural aspects of various holidays and delve into the successful failure of Apollo 13. We all can't wait.

Grade 8 News

Apply to be a Member of the High School Student Council !

On Tuesday, April 1, members of the high school student council came down to speak to the 8th grade students at lunch about joining student council for next year. This is a great opportunity for all 8th grade students to get involved early in the high school community!

Student council is a multi-grade organization with a variety of responsibilities that include:

- Serving as a liaison between the school administration and faculty and the student body
- Working as a service organization for the school community
- Providing social activities for the student body
- Promoting school pride and leadership within the school

All 8th grade students who are interested in being a part of this organization are encouraged to apply. Applications are in Ms. Roy's office and are due back on April 8, 2014.



Pictured here are 6th grade students that received awards for Student of the Month For the month of March. 2 students are nominated each month from each team.

Pictured here are the 7th grade Students that received an award for Student of the Month for the month Of March.



More Grade 7 News



The Bengals will have a special visit from Wildlife Encounters on April 25th to wrap up their study of the animal kingdom. In this presentation, students will see animals from around the world and learn about conservation efforts to protect them.



In social studies the Bengals traveled to the Notre Dame Cathedral in France! The classes utilized Google Earth to explore the architectural brilliance of the medieval builder. After watching a video about the cathedral and the three primitive tools they used to create the structures, we were able to gain access into the wondrous building. We studied the stained glass windows, vaulted ceilings, hand carved statues, gargoyles, buttresses and flying buttresses and more! The students were able to go inside and explore the intricate details of the bible stories that the glassblowers created. We learned that all cathedral foundations are built in the shape of a cross. We had a bird's eye view of the top of the structure and were able to identify the cross shape!

Bengal students have been learning about the structure and function of invertebrates. As part of this study, they have dissected both earthworms and sea stars. This picture shows Melanie Cooper, Dain Berardinangelo, Sam Sawyer-Stanley and Elizabeth Dougherty hard at work learning about the anatomy of an earthworm.

