



Timberlane Regional Middle School PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2014

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Dear Parents,

Can failure be good? Although our schools and society sometimes instill the message that failure is bad, in life there are many things that can be very difficult to learn. For instance, we may fail many times before developing proficiency at skiing down a steep hill, hitting a baseball, playing a musical instrument, speaking a second language, or crafting a well-articulated speech. It takes effort, persistence, a positive attitude and reflection when we try to reach our goal.

In the awkward middle school years, where taking risks and fearing failure can be particularly daunting, students need the guidance, modeling and critical feedback from their teachers to be successful learners. As educators and parents, we must provide these critical supports to assist students in their quest to accomplish difficult tasks. Although failure can bring frustration, it can also build character and a sense of resilience in our children.

“GUYS AND DOLLS JR.”

AMAZES TRMS AUDIENCES

Guys and Dolls Jr. is set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City and introduces us to a colorful cast characters: Sarah Brown, the up-right but uptight "mission doll,"; Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide, a theater performer whose chronic flu is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit, her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating dice game. On Saturday February 1st 70 middle school students took to the stage to bring this delightful musical to life. Students who participated in the musical went through a 2 day try-out of singing and dancing. After the roles were posted, the Bruins and Patriots cast members rehearsed almost every day from November to February. All the students hard work paid off as both casts amazed the audiences with their stellar performances. A great big THANK-YOU goes out to the many involved for their time and assistance: the directors, producer, choreographer, stage crew, backstage crew, tech crew, PAC coordinator and the many, many parents.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Since 1983, NH Teen Institute has offered prevention training to middle school students. TRMS once again participated in this amazing opportunity on the weekend of January 17-19. Along with middle school teams from across New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the TRMS team learned key components about what it means to be a leader. Workshop topics included substance use, bullying prevention, self-esteem, and thinking outside the box among many others. The girls participated in large group sessions and small team meetings throughout the weekend. They created a plan to explore diversity and acceptance with their 6th grade advisories during the spring months at TRMS. The TRMS LIP team will facilitate this activity with the larger group of students involved in the leadership academy, and are hopeful to have an impact on students accepting one another more easily in the school. The girls had a fantastic time getting to know one another better, as well as meet new people with the same interests from across the state. For more information, please contact advisor Kelley Binette at Kelley.binette@timberlane.net.



Participants:

Jennifer Costa Kate Proctor Brianna Hammond
Amber Malkin Leala Oulette Shannon Duffy
Emily Dolan

HINTS FROM HEALTH OFFICE

The health office just finished 7th grade health screenings. Did you know the State of NH no longer requires schools to screen for Scoliosis or Height and Weight? They now request school nurses to conduct Blood Pressure screening (as well as the usual Vision and Hearing) as part of the 7th Grade Screening. They find that BP can be a good indicator of other health issues.



SKI CLUB NEWS

The 2014 Middle School Ski Club is off to a great, albeit rainy, start. One hundred forty-five students are accompanied by Coral Hampe, Matt McCabe, and Diane Murphy to Pat's Peak Ski Area in Henniker, NH. Students have the choice of taking lessons to further their skills or free skiing for the duration of the time we are at the mountain. Ski dates this year are February 21st, March 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.

SPORTS NEWS

Over vacation the wrestling team capped off one of the best seasons in the school's history by winning the State Championship. The team won all 3 post-season tournaments this year for the first time ever. The team had 3 individual State Champions and 8 others placed in the top 3. The team was led by a strong 8th grade class that has helped turn around the team that only had 10 to 15 kids on it 3 years ago. The team now has over 60 kids and all helped

PTSA NEWS & EVENTS

Thank you to all who supported our Antique Fair, from the set up crew to the 7th graders helping out with the food to those who came to buy. Our first Antique Fair had a nice turnout even though the snow threatened to ruin it. Keep us in mind for next year as we hope to make it bigger and better.

Next up is Staff Appreciation Week, the first week in May. If you are interested in helping out, email Carolyn Longchamp at

Grade 8 News

On Friday February 7th teams 8A and 8B attended the CU 4 Reality Financial Education Fair at the Service Credit Union's corporate office in Portsmouth NH. The fair is the final event in the Consumer Education financial literacy unit. In class the students had researched options for education and training to help them with in choosing a future career of their choice. At the fair each student received a folder detailing his/her personal information, specifically his/her career choice and monthly net income. Students then circulated among booths to create a monthly spending plan. Students visited booths where they had to choose an apartment and pay rent, purchase a car, purchase insurance, pay utilities and much more. Students were also required to visit the "Wheel of Reality" where they had to manage an unexpected expense of windfall. At the end of the day, students learned what it takes to make ends meet from month to month and now have a better appreciation of the importance of budgeting, financial planning and making wise purchasing choices. Teams 8C and 8D will be attending this event on Friday May 30th.

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to Emma King, Adrianna Quirk and Samuel Sawyer-Standley for their recognition in the Scholastic Art Awards of New Hampshire! Emma and Adrianna received a gold key for their artwork, and Sam got silver. Gold Key work is moving on to be adjudicated at the national level. We will find out March 17th if either student will receive a national award. Best of luck!!



Grade 6 News

IMAX Field Trip

As part of our science curriculum, all sixth grade teams took part in a fabulous field trip to the IMAX Theater in Reading, Massachusetts. Students viewed two educational movies that utilized 3D technology.

The first movie, *Galapagos*, presented by the Smithsonian Institution and IMAX Ltd., tied into our learning goal on Adaptations. This film documents an eight week expedition to the islands and surrounding waters of marine biologist Dr. Carole Baldwin.

The second movie, *Hubble 3D*, an IMAX and Warner Brothers production made in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), helped students get a clearer understanding of the Hubble Space Telescope's mission. It served as a preview to our learning goal on man's perception of his place in space.

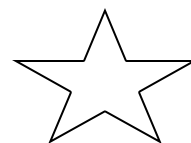
Our sixth graders excitedly returned to school eager to discuss what they learned.

Grade 7 News

7 Explorers Town Meeting

At the end of every quarter, Team 7 Explorers gather for a Town Meeting to celebrate all of our hard work. At these meetings, we often have fun activities for the students to participate in, and we also take a few moments to recognize those students who achieved "Honors" or "Honors with Distinction" for that quarter. In addition, each core teacher selects four students to receive an individual award for reasons ranging from outstanding class participation to overall work ethic.

Congratulations to all the Quarter 2 award winners from 7 Explorers!!



Pictured below are 7th graders who received Student or Character of the Month Awards for the month of February.

They were treated to breakfast and given certificates!



More 8th Grade News!



Pictured above are the 8th graders who received Student and Character of the Month Awards for the month of February.

Congratulations to all students who have received awards for Student / Character of the Month!