

Timberlane Regional Middle School



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2015

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IMPORTANT DATES

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

One of the buzz words in education in recent years is the term rigor. So, what does rigor look like in a middle school classroom? We believe that rigor is more about inquiry and discovery-based education to promote curiosity in our students.

A classroom environment where only the teacher asks questions is part of the old school model. Rigor that matters most is fostered through student questions and inquiry. A school that is inquiry-driven rather than content driven, allows students to build knowledge with the help of a skillful teacher.

A progressive school is built on the philosophy of active, discovery-based learning. For instance, if you want young people to be scientists, it's not how much they can retain but how much they can explore. Technology also plays a significant role in increasing rigor by encouraging students to research, collaborate, create, present, and network in meaningful ways.

As we continue to develop 21st Century learning models, it is important to discuss the importance and meaning of the word rigor in our delivery of education.

1/31—Shrek-The Musical at the PAC. 1:00-4:00 & 7:00-10:00.

Tickets are \$5.00

2/5—Deliberative Session 7:00 pm

**2/7—Antique Fair & Flea Market
8am-2pm in the Café**



Pictured above are 8th graders that received Student or Character of the month for December!



Pictured here are 6th graders that received awards for Student or Character of the month for December!

HINTS FROM HEALTH OFFICE

Cold and flu season is starting to hit our school. In accordance with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, please adhere to the following guidelines for keeping your sick student home from school:

Students with fever over 100 degrees during the night or morning before school should be kept home from school until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications like Tylenol or Ibuprofen.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhea- Student s should be kept home for any episodes of vomiting/diarrhea occurring within 24 hours of the school day.

Strep Throat- Students must be kept home for 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.

Conjunctivitis (pink eye)- students with crusty, red, itchy eyes with thick yellow drainage should not come back to school until they have been on antibiotic treatment for 24 hours and a clearance note from a physician.

Rashes-Any student with an unusual rash or rash with fever should be seen by a doctor and receive a clearance note that the student is not contagious and may return to school.

Staph Infections-All staph infections should be reported to the nurse and all open wounds covered while at school.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students well.

Art Department News

Congratulations to Liz Carstensen, Madison Comeau, Maggie Doyle, Kelsey Grenier, Kiara Phair, Sam Sawyer-Standley, and Alana Smith for their recognition in the Scholastic Art Awards of NH. Their work will be part of a regional exhibition at the Stockbridge Theater at Pinkerton Academy from January 20, 2015 through February 8, 2015. The awards ceremony at Stockbridge Theater will be held February 8 at noon. Kelsey and Sam received a gold key award. These two works will move on to be adjudicated at a national level. We will find out if they receive a national award in March. Good luck! We want to thank all students who submitted entries to the program. We appreciate all the effort and enthusiasm you put into your work!



Career Speaker – 8th Grade

The Guidance Department is offering a series of Career Speakers tailored to students' interests for their futures. On Friday, December 5th 25 students were served a bagel and fruit breakfast while listening to Warrant Officer Justin McCarthy discuss his experiences in the United States Army. Students listened as Officer McCarthy explained: the various paths of entering military service (for example as a commissioned or non-commissioned officer), how a career can move throughout a lifetime of service, the social and family impact of military life, the financial benefits and opportunities within the state of New Hampshire. All branches of the military were highlighted and the kids were able to hear about his world travels as a helicopter pilot.

The students were extremely attentive and learned so much from this very practical and meaningful experience. TRMS would like to thank Officer McCarthy for volunteering his limited time!!



Grade 7 News

There has been a lot going on in the Dragons' Lair! We have been working hard on this year's Toys for Tots collection. The kids started right after the Thanksgiving break by making posters and placing them all over the school. Students have also been auditioning to read about Toys for Tots on the morning announcements. The kids who were voted by their peers to be readers have all done a really great job! And the school has responded! We have collected tons of toys so far as well as enough money to buy a lot more. What fun it is to look at all the toys!

Just before Thanksgiving, the Seven Dragons also had 'Tie Dye Day' and we all wore our awesome shirts to school. Each year, the Dragon students create their own team tee shirts. We offered a variety of colors this year and the results are fascinating. Don't they look great?



Grade 6 News

This winter sixth grade English/Language Arts teachers used a four week Titanic unit to teach two informational reading standards, a narrative writing standard and a language standard. On the first day of the unit students were given a ticket to board the Titanic that included the identity and social class of a real passenger from the voyage. They followed the passenger on their journey for the unit and were engaged and anticipated their fate. Teachers used various informational texts about the Titanic for teaching text structures and informational reading strategies. To end the unit, students had a chance to create a narrative based on their passengers experience during that historic voyage. They were given a choice of several writing prompts to shape their narrative. Throughout the unit, teachers collaborated to find differentiated readings, create activities, develop practice and formative and summative assessments.

Christine Desrochers, M.S.E.d.
Interim 6th grade Vice Principal

Our Geography Bee Champion this year is 7th grader Katie Troy!

Our Spelling Bee Champion this year is 6th grader Maggie Smith! Maggie will be competing in Concord, NH at the state bee on February 28th.

Grade 8 News

On January 22nd and 23rd the High School guidance team spoke with students during their Language Arts class about High School Program of Studies, graduation requirements, and course selection. On January 27th the High School Guidance will be hosting an Incoming Freshman Parent information night at the Performing Arts Center at 6:30 PM. Learn about graduation requirements, freshmen academy, the course enrollment process and planned high school transition activities for the 8th grade students and their parents. On January 29th the 8th grade students will receive their course selection sheets and begin the course selection process. Course selection sheets due February 2nd. If you have an questions, please contact the high school guidance department.