



Timberlane Regional Middle School

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

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Dear Parents,

We are back in school after an interesting Thanksgiving, complete with a monster snowstorm. December 1st marks the beginning of a very busy holiday season at TRMS. Students and staff have completed a food drive and are now sponsoring Toys for Tots, and a hat and mitten drive to support needy children and families. These types of community service activities are a regular part of what our school is about.

The TRMS Student Senate has continued to provide service and make connections with our senior citizens. On Saturday, December 6th, they will help sponsor our annual Senior Citizen Tea. This festive event is a celebration of holiday music, gifts and treats for many area seniors. If you are looking for something to get you in the holiday spirit, come join our students at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) for our winter concerts. Our music program provides the opportunity to enrich students' lives through the study of music. We are very proud of our band, chorus and orchestra students, whose teamwork and effort provide audiences with exceptional music performances. Have a wonderful holiday season!

IMPORTANT DATES

12/6 Senior Holiday Tea 10:00am

12/10 Geography Bee 8:30-10:30am

12/11 No School—Professionals
Development Day

12/12 Quarter 2 Progress Reports
Posted

12/17 8th Grade trip to North Shore
Music Theatre

12/24-1/4 Holiday Break



Hat and Mitten Drive!

Mrs. Hogan's Advisory is once again sponsoring Mealey's Meals Hat and Mitten Drive. Please donate new hats and mittens to this wonderful cause. Mealey's Meals is a program that has been helping our friends and neighbors in our district during the holidays for many years now. It helps to support those in need with food and some little extras to help make the holidays a little brighter. There will be a hat and mitten tree in the café to hang up all donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

My Sister's Closet!

My Sister's Closet is a new program this year sponsored by the girls empowerment group, Sister Power. We have opened our own "Boutique" in Room 1506. It is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during Advisory. This is a second hand shop that offers clothing to girls for free. Why go to the mall and spend money when you can find it at My Sister's Closet for free. Have your daughter check us out and browse through our closet of tops, sweaters, pants, dresses, jeans and more. We even have winter coats, shoes and accessories. The best part is that it is all for free. Also if you are looking for a place to send gently used clothes that would fit middle school girls, please feel free to send them in. Just a few that are washed and folded would be great, as we do not have a lot of storage.

6TH GRADE TITANIC UNIT

In mid-November, each sixth grade student was handed a ticket to come aboard as they entered their Language Arts class. Each student was given a first, second, or third class ticket with the name of a real passenger from the storied ship, the Titanic. This marked the onset of a unit where students have learned about the tragic sinking of the ship and how avoidable it really was. As students continue through this project, they will read excerpts from Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*, as well as other texts, video clips, and online resources. This high interest topic has engaged students with challenging informational texts as they anxiously await to find out the fate of the Titanic passenger on their ticket.



Winter Health Reminders from the Health Office

A healthy school environment requires the cooperation and effort of us all working together.

Habits for Good Health

- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—throw the tissue away after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow. For more information watch the video@ www.coughsafe.com.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water** especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- Stay away as much as you can from people who are sick.
- **If you or your child gets the flu, stay home from work or school.** Do not go near other people so that you don't make them sick too.
- **Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs often spread this way.
- **Dress for the weather.** Come to school dressed for the winter. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing. Wear mittens and gloves. Wear a hat. Remember, the air that is trapped inside your clothing, warmed by your body heat, is the best protection from the cold.

Grade 8 News

On December 17th, the 8th grade students will take their annual field trip to a performance of the play, *A Christmas Carol* at the North Shore Music Theatre. "With dazzling special effects that have grown even more exciting over time, traditional and original songs, and colorful costumes, *A Christmas Carol* has become a holiday favorite throughout New England."

This field trip is a learning opportunity tied to curriculum activities that begin after Thanksgiving and continue until the holiday break. Students will focus on the study of this classic in its original form. There is a heavy emphasis on analyzing words, information, and ideas. Students learn to understand the literary devices used such as symbolism, theme, simile, and metaphor. The emphasis is on giving students the opportunity to practice working with classic literature to gain enduring understandings of the elements of these works .

PTSA NEWS

A big thank you to those volunteers who helped make the 6th grade Halloween party a success! The decorations were awesome, fortune tellers dressed to the hilt and the haunted house was as amazing as ever. A special thank you to Mike Harnois who has been doing the haunted house for 6 or so years. This was his last haunted house as his youngest child is in 6th grade this year, thanks Mike for the years of haunting you provided.

We tried something different with apparel this fall and placed a one time order that is due in shortly. As a trial run, it was a success. We will be evaluating how we want to proceed in the future. Look for announcements on the website in the spring.

You can still sign up for PTSA membership, forms are available on our website or in the main office. Thank you for supporting your children through the PTSA!

Grade 6 News

On Friday, October 31, Halloween was not the only terrifying event unfolding at TRMS. The fates of two advisories were on the line as Mr. McCabe's advisory took Mr. McCluskey's advisory to court. Even though both teachers and students are on the same team (6D Rangers), justice had to be served to settle a friendly dispute over an online game of battleship. While some say that Mr. McCluskey's advisory forfeited by leaving the game, other contend that pausing the game was necessary for students to get to class on time and that the game should have been a tie. Both advisories prepared opening and closing statements, presented evidence, and called witnesses to testify on their behalf. An all student jury was relied upon to reach a fair decision. After hearing both sides in a hotly contested trial, the real TRICK on this festive day was on both Mr. McCluskey's and Mr. McCabe's homeroom when the jury came back with a final vote of 6 to 6, a hung jury. It seems that even Mr. McCabe's feeble attempt to bribe the jury with donuts was unsuccessful. The debate over the infamous battleship game rages on and does not seem as if it will ever end. The 6D Rangers teachers would like to thank all of the students who participated for their hard work in putting on this mock trial.

Student Senate News

Students came into school on the day before Thanksgiving to make pies to donate. 6 pumpkin pies were given to the Rockingham Church to be given to families in the area. 5 pies including apple, blueberry as well as a pumpkin pies were made and delivered to a Atkinson community Thanksgiving dinner. Students worked with Diane Gagnon, Carol Mrowka and Linda Walsh. What a wonderful thing these students did on their own time and a do off from school. They should feel pretty good about themselves!

Math Olympiads at TRMS

We held our first Math Olympiad competition of the year on November 18th. This is the second year TRMS has participated in the Math Olympiads and already our scores are stronger than last year's scores. Mathematicians Elizabeth Amorelli, Zac Aprahamian, Dan Lewis, Chris Longchamp, Nick Longchamp, Jack Pepin, and Adrian Suciu competed in this international math competition. It was exciting to see students from all three grades in attendance. All students answered at least one of the five challenges correctly! *Congratulations to Chris Longchamp our high scorer of the month!* It's not too late to participate in Math Olympiads, the next Math Olympiad competition will be held after school on December 17th.

