From Mr. Dardaris …

As we finish our first half of the year, we have enjoyed some celebrations here at DMS. Our quarterly citizenship and effort breakfast was a wonderful success, and our quarterly awards assemblies that celebrated the honor roll and high honor roll achievers was also a tribute to those students who are achieving academically. A special recognition, however, is made at the end of the second marking period to boost us into the second half of the year. The Academic Improvement Awards, Effort Awards, and Marcellus Academic Club Step-Up Award winners were recognized and celebrated at the second marking period awards assemblies. At Driver Middle School we believe that it takes great character and dedication to demonstrate a continued commitment to improving grades and applying oneself. Research informs us that a commitment to continuously improving is an indicator of lifelong success. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students who won awards for effort and improvement, the teachers who continue to inspire us, and the parents of our students for instilling a value in an outstanding education. I continue to challenge all students to set a goal, and get involved! Mustang Pride!

Dress for Winter

As the winter weather continues, students in grades 4-6 should come prepared to go outside on days that weather permits. If the temperature is 20 or above, we will attempt to go outside for recess. Students should wear pants, jacket, hat and boots. If you wear a skirt to school, bring along a pair of leggings/snowpants/sweatpants to put on. We want to afford students the opportunity to go outside but we want to be sure students are dressed appropriately for the cold weather.
**Français from Madame Brown**

**February** was a busy month for French students at DMS… many of them traveled north of the border Sat. Feb. 13 to visit Canada’s capital – Ottawa! A busload of approximately 50 middle and high school students and their parent chaperones spent the day visiting shops and outdoor kiosks, dining in the many restaurants and cafés as well as skating on the Rideau Canal and touring the ice and snow sculptures. The visit concluded with a trip across the river to Jacques Cartier Park where students and parents alike enjoyed the winter weather, riding down the enormous ice slides, playing in the snow and finally warming up with a cup of “chocolat” and a “beaver tail”!

French 1 students recently wrote, performed and videotaped café skits. They are practicing for the National French Contest to be administered March 18 during school. We wish them much success as they prepare!

French 8 students have been learning to describe their favorite sports and past-times. We’re learning what we have in common and how our interests differ…These students will also learn to order in a café and express their opinions about their meals. Students will be using the school’s Flip cameras to record their skits; it’s easy and fun too!

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**DMS spotlight on Alexandra Sheridan**

By Mrs. Ferrara

We would like to congratulate Alex for her Honorable mention on her portrait that was entered in the CNY Scholastics Art Competition. It is such an honor for her to have her work chosen to be recognized in the show. The exhibition is open to the public until February 26th at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College.

Alex finds many inspirations for her artwork in music, from the things people say, animals, and things in her environment. Her favorite mediums are acrylic paint and pencil. Her work is colorful and expressionistic. She says “I put everything into my work, it describes me, and makes me feel happy.” She says it is hard to give away her work because it is so close to her.

Alex is a dancer. She has danced with the Moscow Ballet, the Met Ballet, and the dance center in North Mattydale. She also enjoys writing poetry and singing. Alex says she likes solving things, this is why she believes that one of her favorite subjects is math. When asked about some fun facts in her life she stated “I tried duck tongue and Alligator!” But the food she likes most is cupcakes! Sweet!
Poco Allegro Select Wind Ensemble at Syracuse University

Poco Allegro is a select wind ensemble at Syracuse University designed for seventh and eighth grade instrumental students. It provides students with a high caliber large ensemble experience and the opportunity to interact with their musical peers from other school districts. Students are also able to experience the facilities and resources that Syracuse University has to offer. Professor Justin Mertz, Assistant Director of Bands at Syracuse University conducts the ensemble. The group presented their first concert of the season on Tuesday, February 9, at the Setnor School of Music. Participants from Driver Middle School are Megan Charles on flute, Abby Vensel on clarinet, Noelle Cotter on trumpet, and Kevin Pierce, percussionist.

On January 21, John Flaver presented a masterclass on clarinet technique to the seventh and eighth grade clarinetists of the middle school band. Mr. Flaver, a retired teacher, is an active performer and clinician. He is a former member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and currently plays in the Highland Wind Quintet. He has guest conducted numerous all-county ensembles and maintains a large private studio. Mr. Flaver addressed how to play with a good tone, the importance of scales, how to develop fast fingers, and how to play with rhythmic precision.

Onondaga County Junior High Music Festival

The 2010 Onondaga County Junior High Music Festival was held on Friday, January 29 and Saturday January 30 at Solvay High School. Students in grades 7-9, selected through auditions, participated in band, chorus, and orchestra. Representing Driver Middle School were (Row 1) Noelle Cotter on trumpet/band, Matt Gooden in chorus, Evan Turner on trumpet/band, Dylan Felty on baritone/band, (Row 2) Adina Martin in chorus, Michael Clark in chorus, Rachel Ceparski on clarinet/orchestra, Andrew Herold on baritone/band, and Jeff Beyel on trombone/band.

Elementary All-County Music Festival

Twelve students from Driver Middle School will be representing our Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus and Fifth and Sixth Grade Elementary Band at the 2010 Onondaga County Elementary All-County Music Festival. These students, along with students from all over Onondaga County, will rehearse on March 5 and 6 and will then perform in a concert on March 6 at Corcoran High School. Students selected from our chorus include: Hannah Abbott, Kristen Goodwin, Abi Kankus, Meghan LaBombard, and Jayme Lema. Those students representing our band will be: Megan Powell-flute, James Murphy-tenor saxophone, Jason Gerbsch-bass clarinet, Trevor Costa-trumpet, Chris Torell-trumpet, Michael Keegan-trombone, and Connor Lundrigan-trombone. Congratulations to all of those students!

Marcellus Band Festival

The annual Marcellus Band Festival will take place on March 24 and 25 and will include the Marcellus Elementary Band (grades 5 & 6), Driver Middle School Band (grades 7 & 8), the Sr. High School Concert Band, and the Sr. High School Symphonic Band. These groups will rehearse with guest conductor Mr. William Palange, from Oswego Schools, and then will perform in a concert on March 25, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Sr. High School Gymnasium. Each group will perform individual selections and then will perform “Marcellus March” at the end of the concert all together. There will be approximately 300 band students performing!
# DMS PTA First Quarter Citizenship and Effort Breakfast

**GRADE 4 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN**
- Elizabeth Buff
- Con Clarke
- Grace Coon
- Alyssa Goodwin
- Erin Hass
- Noah LeFever
- Maxwell McAuliff
- Emmet Powell
- Lily Powell
- Taylor Reich
- Isabel Rodolico
- Jane Stewart
- Julia Torell
- Daniel Wrona

**GRADE 5 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN**
- Katlynn Bisesi
- Kevin Brown
- Allison Clancy
- Henry Cox
- Nicholas Distefano
- Emma Glose
- Jonathan Katzer
- Evelyn Leubner
- Isabella Matro
- Karianna Morrissey
- Ryan Quinlan
- Kiernan Reagan
- Sara Southern
- Michaela Tangredi

**GRADE 6 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN**
- Kacey Butler
- Reece Eddy
- Brittany LeClair
- Sha-Lee LeMarre
- Scott Mathieson
- Michael Melnyczuk
- Ryan Roseboom
- Ashley Seymour
- Sadie Smith
- Schuyler Stuart
- Joseph Tone
- Tristan Villnave

**GRADE 4 EFFORT AWARD**
- Steven Baunee
- Bryce Bowen
- Halley Dellostritto
- Morgan Gould
- Chantelle Jandrew
- Mikenzie Lader
- Mackenzie Libera
- Katherine Locastro
- Meghan O’Brien
- Olivia Quick
- Rachel Randall
- Jack Ritchie
- Jack Santariello
- Michaela Snook
- Justin Spack
- Matthew Spicer
- Brad Stoyell

**GRADE 5 EFFORT AWARD**
- Trinity Benyon
- Robert Beyel
- Tackenzie Fey
- John Houser
- William Kisil
- Andrew Marsh
- Avery Phillips
- Shane Rohe
- Katherine Saura
- Shelby Sutphin
- Hannah Tarolli
- Grace Vensel
- Caleb Wetherell
- Matthew White
- Nicholas Zimmer

**GRADE 6 EFFORT AWARD**
- Natasha Bealieu
- Madeline Bird
- Kyle Cangemi
- Kendyll French
- Kayla Ingianni
- Joshua Knapp
- Alaina Losito
- Tyler Manthey
- Colin McCormick
- Jamie McLennon
- Richie Mixon
- Aleyna Robertson
- Rosalee Winderl
## Effort and Improvement Awards for the Second Quarter

### Math Awards
**Effort:** Megan Haney, David Stopen, Nicole Scalce, Colin Smith, Megan Charles, Shannon Quinlan, Abigail Vensel  
**Improvement:** Karen Cramer, Zoe Higgins, Emily Townsend, Kiley Clancy, David Manke, Meghan Witkowski, Kaleb Phillips

### Science Awards
**Effort:** Joe Thompson, Madison Godbold, Shelby Nye  
**Improvement:** Noah Schoeneck, Robert Tucker, Nick VonHausen, Dylan Walker

### English Awards
**Effort:** Kaleb Phillips, Lauren Abee  
**Improvement:** Joe Thompson, Nick VonHausen

### Social Studies Awards
**Effort:** Jackie Sammon, Kaelee Waldref, Shelby Nye  
**Improvement:** Jonathan LaFlamme, Levi Parks, Kevin Hutchings

### Technology Awards
**Effort:** Sean King, Thomas Wagner  
**Improvement:** Alexis Nightingale-Stevens, Colton O’Neal

### Health Awards
**Effort:** Nellie Ramsden  
**Improvement:** Daniel Slade

### Music Awards
**Effort:** Abigeal Rix, Emily Trytek, Annabelle Vanderwerf, Noel Cotter  
**Improvement:** David Stopen, Kim Togni, Matthew Gooden, Andrew Murphy

### Art Awards
**Effort:** Ian Tock, Alexis Duke  
**Improvement:** Matthew Lopez, Zachary Markham

### Home and Career Awards
**Effort:** Lexi Taylor, Lauren Abee  
**Improvement:** Jackie Sammon, Shannon Quinlan

### French Awards
**Effort:** Michelle Brown, Richard Ghezzi  
**Improvement:** Kaitlin Bowen, Anna Fedorenko

### Physical Education Awards
**Effort:** Abigeal Rix, Alicia Leach  
**Improvement:** Gabrielle Coon, Jonathan Paul
## Marking Period 1 High Honor Roll

### Grade 6

- Hannah Abbott
- Shaughn Anson
- Margaret Blystone
- Jack Brennan
- Sarah Burke
- Emily Buschbascher
- Kyle Cangemi
- Hayley Cross
- Thomas Dailey
- Kelsey Desso
- Reece Eddy
- Laura Finn
- Patrick Finucane
- Gabrielle Gasowski
- Jason Gerbsch
- Nathan Gilmore
- Sage Hall
- Sarah Hogan
- Julia Holynski
- Daniel Jeske
- Peter Jeske
- Kara Johnson
- Abigail Kankus
- Maverick Keegan
- Michael Keegan
- Keelin Kelly
- Michael Kent
- Alexandra Kinsella
- Meghan Labombard
- Doughlas Laprease
- Sha-Lee LaMarre
- Jayme Lema
- Brittany LeClair
- Mary Locastro
- Connor Lundrigan
- Tyler Manthey
- Tyler McCarthy
- Colin McCormick
- Jamie McLennan
- Michael Melnychuk
- Neil Minet
- Rickie Mixon
- James Murphy
- Ceci Nelson
- Megan Powell
- Mary Proud
- Haley Randall
- Ryan Roseboom
- Mackenzie Sadler
- Ashley Seymour
- Sydney Stelhe
- Teagan Todd
- Alexandra Tone
- Christopher Torell
- Shannon White
- Rosalee Winderl
- Alaina Young
- Nicole Scalice
- Colin Smith
- Victor Stasyuk
- John Stopen
- Brianna Szczech
- Emily Townsend
- Evan Turner
- Brittney Valentine
- Dominique Weeks
- Lucas Wing
- Sean Winski
- Erica Ylitalo

### Grade 7

- Michael Abbott
- Liam Barry
- Jeffrey Beyel
- Hannah Burns
- Rachel Ceparski
- Michael Clark
- Colleen Condon
- Matthew Corcoran
- Garrett Crysler
- Gianna Dixe
- Alexander Dunn
- Dylan Felty
- Colleen Ferguson
- Margaret Fiacchi
- Kristin Field
- Taylor Garlow
- Matthew Gooden
- Claire Hammerschmidt
- Zoe Higgins
- Brad Kaler
- Sean King
- Stephen Larison
- Morgan Lavy
- Ian LeFever
- Jaclyn Madden
- Marykate McHale
- Taylor Mohn
- Mary Morroco
- Rebekah Mullins
- Benjmin Posecznik
- Nellie Ramsden
- Alyssa Reagan
- Kelsey Rodriguez-Doran

### Grade 8

- Hollis Abbott
- Mackie Anson
- Corallee Bechteler
- Eliza Bell
- Emma Blystone
- Hanna Brady
- Michelle Brown
- Megan Charles
- Kiley Clancy
- Laura Dailey
- Alexis Duke
- Emily Fabian
- Abigail Fallon
- Natalie Fournier
- Rachel Garn
- Richard Ghezzi
- Morgan Glose
- Geoffrey Golick
- Kaitlin Harris-Boyden
- Stephen Hogan
- Grace Keegan
- Thomas Keegan
- Jennifer Linn
- David Manke
- Adina Martin
- Roxana Novak
- Kevin Pierce
- Suzanna Sylcox
- Mark Tompkins
- Abigail Vensel
- Maui Waters
- Jordin Wentworth
- Jacklynn Wing
### Marking Period 1 Honor Roll

#### Grade 6
- Kheira Bennacer
- Madeline Bird
- Faith Bolewski
- Claudia Choroser
- Joshua Comstock
- Alexandra Cormack
- Trevor Costa
- Patrick Crosley
- Madolyn DiCaprio
- Aaron Fern
- Christopher Fragnito
- Audrey Frajda
- Kendyll French
- Kristen Goodwin
- Abigail Grosso
- Rebekah Herold
- Gavin Hoey
- Benjamin Hood
- James Kasak
- Amanda Kinney
- Joshua Knapp
- Alaina Losito
- Paige Manahan
- Scott Mathieson
- Patrick McGuane
- Louis Moran
- Michael Mort
- Timothy O'Sullivan
- Regina Perry
- Laura Prioretti
- Shyanne Rosetti
- Mark Santariello
- Courtney Sayre
- John Scheuermann
- Nicholas Sonnacchio
- Schuyler Stuart
- Johanna Sylcox
- Joseph Tone
- Tristan Villnave
- Lauren Winslow

#### Grade 7
- Emma Beaulieu
- Juliana Beratta
- Alec Bonk
- Makayla Burdekin
- Alexandra Burrows
- Corey Cabrinha
- Audrey Cerrone
- Ana Clark
- Olivia Clark
- Harrison Cox
- Karen Cramer
- Aaron Cusick
- Morgan Deland
- Craig Dorio
- Robert Mayers
- Kathleen McVey
- Andrew Mosher
- Tessa Mosher
- Corey Palmer
- Sara Provvidenti
- Genevieve Rao
- Daniel Slade
- Rylie Spicer
- Molly Tice
- Daniel Tierney
- Robert Tucker
- Jacob Welch
- Alicia Willenborg
- Madison Young

#### Grade 8
- Brian Boise
- Cecily Capo
- Allison Cherchio
- Gregory Curtin
- Shannon Donahue
- Anna Fedorenko
- Makenzie Felicia
- Brielle Filitch
- Michael Hastings
- Kaitlyn Heath
- Andrew Henderson
- Clare Manahan
- Nicole Piorkowski
- Shannon Quinlan
- Alexandra Sheridan
- Lauren Soule
- Adam Stottlar
- Thomas Wagner
- Alicia Waite
- Dylan Walker
- Cole Walsh
- Katherine White
- Meghan Witkowski
- Nicole Wynne
- Alexander Zamojski
"Mid-Winter Blues"

The Student Support Services Department wanted to educate parents on the topic of depression. Adolescence is a difficult time where mood are fluctuating. We thought it would be helpful to clarify what the symptoms of depression are and the interventions that can be used.

What is depression?

It is a mental illness that affects the mind and body. Most people feel down from time to time. It is a natural response to stress and tension. But, with depression, these feelings are severe or long-lasting. This means feelings occur nearly every day for 2 weeks or more.

What causes depression?

- Family history - having a family member who has depression may increase the risk.
- Imbalances of certain chemicals - in the brain may lead to depression.
- Major Life Change - positive or negative can trigger depression.
- Major Illness - may also trigger depression. Other health conditions may also play a role.
- Use of alcohol or other drugs - can lead to or worsen - depression.
- Certain medications - used alone or in combination, can cause side effects much like the symptoms of depression.
- Depression can also occur for no apparent reason.

If you or someone you know has symptoms of depression:

- See a health-care provider for a complete exam and discussion of symptoms. Follow up any referrals or recommendations.
- Talk things over with an understanding friend. If there's a specific problem, discuss it fully with the people involved (if possible).
- Don't expect too much of yourself. Avoid setting difficult goals or taking on too much responsibility.
- Take time out to enjoy a favorite activity, an evening out, a trip or a visit.
- Get some exercise to help work off bottled up tension, to help relax and sleep better. Consult a health-care provider before starting an exercise program.
- Avoid extra stress or big changes. They can create too much tension.
- If you feel your child is exhibiting depression-like symptoms, please feel free to contact any member of our Students Support Services team.

Submitted by,

Mr. Alan Wing
Mrs. Lorraine Reynolds
Mrs. Diana Finn
Seventh Grade Student, Justin Miller, is School Champion in the 22nd Annual National Geographic Bee

C. S. Driver Middle School students in grades five through eight recently participated in the 22nd annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Over the years, this competition has provided students with a fun, educational and challenging classroom activity.

There are seven preliminary rounds, which are held in the classrooms. Each round has a different focus, such as U. S. geography, continents, world geography, and physical geography. After winning their classroom bees, students took a written exam. Ten students with the highest scores qualified to compete in the Final School Round.

Congratulations to the following students for their fine performances.

Fifth Grade classroom winners are: Trinity Benyon, Mary Catherine Coon, Max Heinekamp, Sean Kearney, Brian LeClair, Kierman Reagan, Colette Rigas, and Matthew Strempel.
Sixth grade classroom winners are: Jack Brennan, Dakota Elderbroom, Nathan Gilmore, Connor Lundrigan, Rickie Mixon, and Cecil Nelson.
Seventh grade classroom winners are: Rachel Ceparski, Justin Miller, Mary Morocco, Ben Posecznick, Joey Sacco, and Jacob Welsh.
Eighth grade classroom winners are: Jon Bisisi, Nadia Bennacer, and Kaitlin Harris-Boyden.

The following ten students participated in the Final School Round:
Grade five: Sean Kearney
Grade six: Dakota Elderbroom, Nathan Gilmore, Connor Lundrigan, and Rickie Mixon
Grade seven: Justin Miller, Mary Morocco, Jacob Welsh, and Ben Posecznick
Grade eight: Kaitlin Harris-Boyden

Tied for Fourth Place: Nathan Gilmore, Sean Kearney, and Mary Morocco
Third Place Winner: Rickie Mixon
Second Place Winner: Jacob Welsh
2010 National Geographic Bee School Champion: Justin Miller

The last question that Justin answered correctly in the Championship round, which earned him his First Place honors was, “The Dry Tortugas, named by Ponce de Leon after the numerous sea turtles found there, is now a national park in which state?” Justin’s answer was “Florida.” Justin has a chance to qualify for the New York State National Geographic Bee.

Good luck to Justin and congratulations to all winners!
The Student Council recently finished a project for a charity called Project Linus. Project Linus is an organization that provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets. The blankets are collected locally and distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug. Students from the DMS Student Council and the Yearbook Club assisted in making 12 blankets. During the second week of January, students worked hard for two days after school to complete the blankets. The blankets were delivered on January 16th by Mrs. Cappelletti. The local council was in desperate need of these blankets.

The preparation for the talent show is underway. A variety of bands and single acts will be performing on Friday, February 26, at 7 p.m. in the DMS Auditorium. The money raised from this event will go towards the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Come and enjoy an entertaining evening with our own Stephen Hogan, Tom Keegan, and Brian Boise as the M.C.’s.

Candy grams were being sold on February 10th through the 12th since it was the week before Valentine’s Day. The candy grams were small packets of candy hearts that were sold for fifty cents each. The Student Council will be assisting Mustang Pride with their Dance Marathon. We encourage all 7/8th graders to join us for this fun and worthwhile evening on Friday, March 12th.

Congratulations to the following 7th and 8th graders

The Wildfire Soccer Team won the U14 National Indoor Soccer Championship in Sterling Virginia Feb 13-14, 2010. The team is compromised of some of our very own Marcellus students as well as a few girls from Westhill! The girls defeated teams from Virginia, Ohio and Idaho to win the championship!

Way to go ... Nicole Dillon, Shannon Donahue, Maggie Fiacchi, Brielle Filch, Molly MacLachlan, Nellie Ramsden, Molly Tice, Meghan Witkowski, Nicole Wynne!
Students in Mrs. Manke’s English class have been busy completing research this new year. John Ylitalo, Travis Gilfus and Tyler McCarthy researched hygiene information and then created proper hand washing flyers to add to the bathrooms here at DMS. They began this project as a response to reading about the illness Typhoid in the early 1900’s. Emily Trytek, as part of her 7th grade Science class, researched Typhoid Fever as the class was completing a unit on bacteria and viruses. These students used the internet to locate information on the importance of washing thoroughly to prevent the spread of disease.

Two other students researched the effect of stress on teens and teenage stars and the importance of quality friendship during stressful times. Emily Trytek and Ariana Dedonato created a “Teen Times” newsletter to report their information to the class. All students in class have had practice presenting and being videotaped. Their goal is to not only find information for their own knowledge but to find a way to share what they have learned to help keep DMS a “safe and comfortable” place to be. Keep up the good work!

What is Handwash?
1. Get your hands wet
2. Put soap on hands
3. Rubber germs for 20 seconds
4. Rinse hands for 10 seconds
5. Turn water off
6. Dry hands

Hand washing

Steps
1. Wet hands with warm water
2. Apply hand washing soap
3. Wash for 15 sec. Scrub your hands
4. Rinse both sides of hands with water
5. Dry hands and shut off water

Did you know?
- There are 1000 more germs on damp hands!
- There are between 2-10 million bacteria between your fingers

- Germs on your fingers DOUBLE after using the bathroom!
- Germs stay alive on your hands for 3 hours.

- HAND SANITIZER IS NOT ENOUGH!!
More from Mrs. Manke’s Class:

Wanted!
It can get you sick
Typhoid Fever-Salmonella Typhi

Victims- people

Symptoms- fever as high as 40°C (104°F), profuse sweating, gastroenteritis, and diarrhea. Less commonly a rash of flat, rose-colored spots may appear.

Transmission- The disease is carried by contaminated water or food or by human carriers. It is carried on dirty hands after using the bathroom.

Treatment- oral typhoid vaccine and a new single dose injectable vaccine. Antibiotics, Anti-inflammatory steroids and contaminated materials can be cleared by pasteurization.

Information from:

Teen Stress

Teen Stress by Emily Trytek

Teen stress is caused by bullies, friend problems, death, problems with schoolwork, busy schedules, and quizzes in school. Good stress keep you on your toes. Bad stress is long term and too much.

Sometimes people have teen stress and feel pole. They might get a headache, chest pain, problems sleeping and sadness.

The symptoms might disappear once you get helped to deal with stress.

Even Miley Cyrus has teen stress. Teenagers, like her get stress because of her busy schedule. Her dad thinks Miley is getting up strange times at night because of stress. He told her, “Go up your room and go put your P’t’s on and go to bed because are not getting up too late. Don’t go downstairs and talk to me because you are sleepwalking.”

I know teen stress and her sleeping walking is because she is tired. Miley says the things that stress her out are Hannah Montana the movie because it was filmed in Europe. She has a busy schedule and doesn’t have enough time to talk to her friends. She even she has a heart condition and teen stress. Teen stress comes to kids and friends and rest will help people get better.

How to be a friend by Ariana Dedonato

6 things that make a good friend
1. loyalty
2. Be kind to them
3. Take them to the mall to go shopping
4. Help each other pick clothes out
5. Listen to them talk about their problems
6. To have a friend to talk to about boys
Battle of the Books in 6th Grade

Two of our 6th grade classes participated in a three month long reading competition. Students from Mrs. van der Ve’s and Mr. Mango’s classes read award winning books in the hopes to advance in a book battle. Teams consisted of four students. The criteria included every member reading at least 3 books. Some students read as many as fourteen. Once the weekly competitions began, teams either advanced to the next round or were eliminated. Teams were judged using a rubric and classroom parents as score keepers. Eliminated teams were still encouraged to read along and be audience members as the competition continued. The final round is on February the 24th.

Also in 6th grade ...

John Ferguson also visited the sixth grade class. Mrs. Pawlewicz set up an exciting presentation about Juanita, a 500 year old well preserved mummy. In fact weighing in at roughly 80 pounds, she is the best preserved mummy out there. Students from the entire grade were engaged throughout his presentation.
Upcoming Event ... Mark your Calendar NOW!

**Goofy Basketball**

*Becoming a tradition at DMS!!!*

When: Friday, March 26 at 7:00 pm  
Where: New DMS gym

There will be: raffles, 3-point shooting contests, concessions, baked goods and a whole lot of fun!

Come watch your teachers and Marcellus staff members dress up in silly costumes and play ball!

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Spack family.

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**ALSO UPCOMING**

The DMS Talent Show featuring our very own DMS Students!

Friday, February 26th  
Starting at 7:00 p.m.  
DMS Auditorium

Proceeds going to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
At DMS, Family Matters

How pervasive is drug use in our society?

What can parents do to reduce drug and alcohol use amongst teens?

What are the most accurate predictors to determine whether or not your child may eventually have a drug or alcohol problem?

The answers to these questions and more will be answered in a special FREE discussion with internationally recognized substance abuse expert

Robert Stutman.

Please join us on May 13th, 2010

Three Killer Words of Abuse... "Not My Kid"

Join us as Bob discusses the world of substance abuse in our community, and answers questions including:

- At what age do kids generally start using drugs & alcohol?
- What can you as a parent do about it?
- What are the new drugs of choice?

Did you know:

The U.S., with 5% of the world’s population, consumes over 50% of the world’s drugs with an average first-use age of 12½. The number of drug addicts in the U.S. over age 12 has doubled since 1992.

After attending this discussion, you’ll walk away with critical base-knowledge and a plan of action for your family concerning this life-altering issue.

May 13th 2010, 7:30 DMS Auditorium

Mr. Stutman has become one of the world’s foremost experts in substance abuse and how it affects our society. His credentials include:

- A 25 year career in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Head of DEA’s largest office in the world, New York City for six years.
- Appearances on National television including 60 Minutes, Nightline, and The Today Show
- Working with Congress forging several of our nations policies on drug abuse
- Training and educating people in over 70 different countries around the world
- Over 100 presentations per year to corporations, colleges, middle schools and high schools throughout the U.S.

For more information, visit www.TheStutmanGroup.com.

“Those who have heard [him] will never be the same on the drug issue again.”

David Burke
President of CBS News

A community service provided by:

The Marcellus Central School District
**We eat three meals a day**  
He eats three meals a week  
We eat feast at holidays  
He may have a piece of bread.

We take for granted what we have  
He cherishes everything he gets  
We don’t realize how good we have it  
He wishes he knew what it was like.

We could do so much to help  
He doesn’t know there’s anyone else  
We could send him food  
Instead, he starves.

We don’t realize how lucky we are  
To have what we do  
There’s a way out for him  
But, it’s up to us to show him it.

**By: Allison Cherchio**

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**My First Board**
My first board was the best  
Bearings spun smooth and fresh  
All the time I spent on it  
I never got off for one bit  
It is my life!  
It is my skateboard.

**By Jake Downing**

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**Success**
The road to success is very severe  
It might take awhile for bruises to appear  
Take all the time you need  
You might even make a good deed  
Remember to stay aware  
And don’t forget to say you care  
Never letting go to what you think is true  
Make sure your heart is always with you  
So here we are, we are here at last  
It all seems so fast  
The road to success is a journey, you see  
It all comes down to what you think you can be.

**By Laura Dailey**

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**The Feel of Absolute Darkness**
All alone  
Not a soul to be found  
Just the sound of trees and water  
The path of animals  
Running, running in fear  
He was afraid  
He wanted out  
He did not belong there  
He belonged home  
Out of the darkness  
Out of the place.

**By Hanna Brady**
Haiti
Dead
There all dead
From the earthquake
It came rumbling
It left swiftly
Leaving broken bones
And bleeding wounds
People trapped still dying
Children alone crying

Success
To feel good about yourself
Show people what you can do for those
Who didn’t believe.
Laugh and be glad for what you
accomplished
Stand out and be proud,
Show the world that you’re here.
By Amber Lozepone

Teenager
It’s strange
You know,
How a teenager
Feels.
One minute it’s
Good, happy
The next
It could be
Sad and gloomy
Your life feels
Astray,
But yet, there’s
Always the next
Day and you
Think to yourself,
Life isn’t so bad,
Before another
Thing comes along,
Another blow
And you feel as
Though your life
Is a comedy show
Making fun of whom?

Success
Success is to always learn
Something new
It’s to realize your mistakes
To grow and play
To laugh and to smile
To always look at the positives
Most importantly
You need to have fun
That is success.

Football
Do you see
That?
Those passes flying
Through the air?
Oh man! What a catch!
What a grab he just made!
Did you see that?
It was like a miracle save!
It was astounding,
And to tell you the truth I am
Very amused
With the way
my team played today!
Hopefully they will go on, all
The way to the championship,
And if we play every game
Like we played today.
Nothing could possibly
Stand
In
Our
Way!

Ginger Snap Cookies
Ginger snap cookies,
A delectable delight.
The look on your face
What a wonderful sight.
You are sweet,
But sugar is sweeter,
I love your kisses
They couldn’t be neater.

Success
Success means to be the best
As if you had an “S” on your chest
Success means to win
To win gold, not tin
Success means a lot
Like the dude who invented the robot
SUCCESS!
By Jake Downing

Little Sister
I walked in the door
As tired as can be
I almost fell on the floor
Trying to get to my room
I heard my mom calling
A family meeting
Life! A new sibling was coming.
Local Soldier visits Ms. Alexander’s and Mrs. Snyder’s 4th Grade Class

Zac Finch, a local soldier serving in Afghanistan, stopped by to visit Ms. Alexander’s and Mrs. Snyder’s 4th grade students on February 23, 2010. The 4th grade class has been e-mailing Zac throughout the year, learning about life as a soldier and the culture of Afghanistan. Zac spent the morning at room 185 answering the many questions asked by the 4th graders. The youngsters stated that this was a day they would never forget! Thank you for visiting us, Zac!!! We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

There is still time to order a yearbook. If you are interested, please send in your order form or contact Mrs. Cook in the office.
Try family meetings to teach responsibility, communication

ow that your child is in elementary school, he’s probably ready to participate in family meetings. Led properly, family meetings can teach your child about responsibility, communication, negotiation and cooperation. Here are some tips for your family meetings:

• **Meet once every week or two.** Since you’re the parent, all final decisions will be yours. But be open to your child’s views and let him request meetings when he wants to discuss important issues.

• **Make an agenda.** Each family member may bring one problem to the table. Make a list of topics to be addressed. Leave time for each concern, although the meeting should take less than an hour.

• **Put someone in charge.** The meeting “chairperson” will probably be an adult, but some older children are mature enough for the job. The chairperson must stick to the agenda and give everyone a fair, uninterrupted say. This might not be easy!

• **Take turns.** After one person describes a problem, everyone else can explain how they feel about it. Brainstorm solutions, giving each person time to contribute. Choose an idea—or a combination of ideas—to try, with parents having the final say.

• **Write down decisions.** As each problem is solved, record the family’s plan. Keep notes in a journal or post them as a reminder. Remember, however, that many solutions will need more work, and you can always revise them at the next meeting.

Teach your elementary schooler the importance of a work ethic

Working hard and sticking to a tough task is a sign of strong character. As it turns out, it’s also a great way to be successful in school. Students who keep at a task are more successful than those who quit at the first time of trouble.

Here are some ways parents can encourage effort:

- **Tell a story.** Talk about a time you had trouble learning to do something. How many times did you fall before you rode a bike? Let your child see that things haven’t always come easily to you.
- **Notice effort.** When you see your child trying to do something, compliment her. Say, “I’m proud of how hard you are working on this project.”

- **Help your child see progress.** Your child may be focusing on how far she still has to go. You can keep her motivated by helping her see how far she’s come. “Last week, you could only run around the block. Today you were able to run over a ¼ mile.”


“Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they’re going to catch you in next.”
—Franklin P. Adams

Are you a reading role model for your child?

There’s no question that your attitude about reading has a big impact on how your child feels about picking up a book. When you show your child how much you value reading, he’s likely to follow your lead.

Are you a reading role model?

Answer yes or no to the questions below to find out:

1. **Do you read** something for pleasure every day?
2. **Do you share** something interesting that you’ve read with your child each day?
3. **Do you keep** a book handy for times you may have to wait—in the doctor’s office or in a long line?
4. **Do you read** food labels at the store and talk about the information with your child?
5. **Do you keep** books and magazines around your home—so it’s easy to find something to read?

**How well are you doing?**

Each yes means you are a role model for helping your child love reading. For each no, try that idea in the quiz.

Help your child create knowledge cards to review math vocabulary

Learning math involves learning a lot of new vocabulary words. For example, in math, a *product* isn’t something on the shelf of a store—it’s the answer to a multiplication problem.

Creating knowledge cards is one way to help your child master and remember math vocabulary words. First, your child will write his own definitions and create illustrations for these math words. Later, he’ll use them to review before a math test.

Here’s how your child can create his own set of knowledge cards:

1. **Have your child** look through his math book. Help him make a list of the vocabulary words he needs to know. Often, these words will be listed in bold letters the first time they appear.
2. **Give your child** a stack of index cards.
3. **Have your child write** the vocabulary word on the front of the card. Then have your child create a drawing or diagram that illustrates the meaning of that word.
4. **Have your child** write a definition on the back of the cards. He should not copy the definition from his math book. He should try to explain it in his own words.
5. **Use the cards** to review math vocabulary before a test.

Your elementary schooler will live up (or down) to expectations

Your child will live up to your expectations. Or, she'll live down to them. That's the advice of Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg. He says there are several ways you can help children learn to feel that they can handle any situation.

Here are some tips:
- **Help your child recognize** that she has individual strengths. Not every child (and not every adult) is good at everything. But knowing that she is a great reader—or soccer player—can help her feel more competent and confident.
- **Don't overprotect.** Yes, parents always want children to be safe. But if you are always stepping in to handle every tough situation, your child will assume it's because she can't do so for herself.
- **Let your child make** decisions. Even two-year-olds can decide if they want to wear the red shirt or the yellow one. As your child grows older, she should get to make more and more choices. But once she makes those choices, she needs to learn to live with the consequences.
- **Let your child know** you have faith in her. That doesn't mean you have to praise everything she does. But kids who know someone believes in them will grow up to believe in themselves.


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**Encourage the whole family to spend one ‘green hour’ per day**

If you’re like most parents, you agree that it’s important for your kids to spend time outdoors. But nearly seven in 10 parents say their children are spending less time outdoors than they did.

Children not only want that chance for outdoor play—they want parents to be part of it. A survey by the Boys & Girls Clubs found that 43 percent of all kids said they’d like their parents to spend more time outdoors with them.

Doctors agree. There’s been a dramatic rise in childhood obesity. Parents, too, are struggling to reduce stress and keep their weight down.

What’s the solution? Think about giving your child one “green hour” each day. For 60 minutes, unplug your child from all electronic media. Turn off the TV and the video game. Don’t use the Internet.

Instead, give your child a chance for active play. Better yet, encourage the entire family to participate. To enjoy a “green hour”:
- **Go for a walk,** run or bike ride.
- **Find a basketball court** and challenge your child to see who can get the most baskets in the least amount of time.
- **Explore nature.** Head to a nearby park, a wooded area or even your own backyard. What do you hear? What do you see? Focus on tiny insects and large trees. Later, look up answers to the questions you wanted to answer as you explored.


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**Questions & Answers**

**Q:** About once every two weeks, my fifth-grade daughter says she’s too sick for school. She says she has a headache or her throat hurts. Now that we’re all careful about spreading illnesses, I tend to give in. She rarely feels sick on the weekends. What should I do?

**A:** You're right to worry about sending a sick child to school. A sick child can infect the whole class. So there are times when she should stay home.

Does she have a fever? The National Association of School Nurses says children should not come to school if they have a fever or have had one in the last two days. Also keep her home if she's vomiting or has diarrhea. Check with the school for additional guidelines on when to keep her home.

But mysterious illnesses that never seem to occur on weekends are often signals that something else is going on. Ask her teacher if there are other problems. She may be struggling with a subject (in which case missing school will make it worse). Or she might be having problems with other students in the class.

If you suspect she’s just avoiding school, don’t let her stay home. Missing even one day every two weeks can lead to serious learning problems.

Meanwhile, take steps to prevent real infections. Practice proper hand washing. Teach her how to cover her cough (by coughing into her elbow, not her hand). But don’t let her beg off school unless she is truly sick. Otherwise, it could create bigger problems.

—Kristen Amundson, The Parent Institute
Motivate your underachieving middle schooler with support

Your middle schooler is smart, so why does he keep bringing home so-so grades? The issue may be motivation—or, rather, a lack thereof.

If that’s the case, he’s not alone. According to a U.S. Department of Education study, students’ lack of motivation is a main cause of low achievement in school.

Of course, students become underachievers for different reasons. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem. There are, however, many strategies you can use.

To motivate your child:

- **Talk to him.** Find out what makes your child tick and what he enjoys most/least about school. Is he bored because the work is too easy? Is he overwhelmed because the work is too hard? Figure out your child’s feelings and you’ll be that much closer to solving the issue.

- **Work with his school.** Talk with your preteen’s teachers regularly. Get their thoughts on how he’s doing in class. Ask for suggestions about encouraging him to try harder.

- **Believe in him.** Your preteen may feel like the whole world is against him. So show him that you’re always on his side. Knowing you believe in him may go a long way toward motivating him to do better in school.

Soothe your child’s homework headaches with routines, quiet

Research shows that studying at home can help your middle schooler perform better at school. Does your child have good homework habits? Now is a great time to reevaluate your child’s homework routine.

To reinforce homework habits:
- **Choose a central location.** Whether it’s a desk in his room or a spot at the kitchen table, pick a work zone for your child. Keep it quiet, well lit and stocked with supplies. If he works in the family room, enforce a “no TV or radio during study time” rule for others in your home.
- **Stick around.** Don’t hover as your preteen works. But do be available to offer praise or encouragement. It’ll show that his schoolwork matters to you.
- **Set a limit.** Allow a certain amount of time for studying each night—about 45–75 minutes for middle schoolers. No homework? He can use the time to study or read.
- **Designate a start time.** If possible, have your child begin working at the same time every evening. Just be flexible when necessary.
- **Be a good role model.** Use your preteen’s study time to complete your own quiet activities. Read a magazine, answer email or balance the checkbook while he gets his work done.


“**When your children reach adolescence, they fire you as parent. You’ve got to scramble to get rehired as a consultant.”**

—Michael Riera

Are you helping your child handle peer pressure?

Take this quiz to see if you are providing your child with strategies to resist peer temptation to try things that may be harmful or wrong for her. Answer yes or no to the questions below:

___1. Have you made your family values clear to your child? “Smoking is a health risk we do not condone in our family.”

___2. Do you practice role-playing different ways to say no with your child?

___3. Do you urge your child to say no with conviction? This is an occasion when it is okay to be rude or walk away.

___4. Do you tell your child to blame you? “It sounds like fun. But I can’t do it—my mom is so strict!”

___5. Do you focus on the lesson? Your child may slip, but you can discuss what she learned and plan for how to avoid the problem in future.

**How well are you doing?**

Mostly yes answers mean you are actively helping your child deal with negative peer pressure. For no answers, try those ideas in the quiz.

Impress upon your child the reasons for being respectful

You have probably talked many times with your child about how to treat others. But have you had a good discussion about why? Middle school students are ready for a higher level of thinking. So it is important that they know the reasons behind the action. Here are the reasons for being respectful:

- **Respectful behavior is moral** and ethical. It’s the difference between right and wrong.
- **Respectful behavior is fair.** Rude and disruptive behavior is not fair. The person it is directed at does not deserve it. No one does. It is also not fair to the people around who are trying to teach and learn.
- **Respectful behavior is rewarded.** Your child will benefit from a reputation as a respectful, kind and polite person. Respectful people are often chosen as leaders. They receive greater responsibilities and freedoms. Why? Because it is already clear that they know how to treat others. They are the kind of people others look up to.

It Matters: Reading

Vocabulary is the key to reading success in school

In middle school, your child must read at a different level than he did in elementary school. Texts are more complex and contain advanced vocabulary. A broad and deep vocabulary will help your child. A limited one may hold him back.

Your child can strengthen his vocabulary by:

- **Reading.** Your child should read every day. And he should read a variety of materials—novels, short stories, newspapers, magazines and websites. The more reading material your child takes in, the more words he will encounter. He should look up words he doesn't know or do his best to figure out their meaning through context clues.

- **Talking.** Make an effort to introduce new words when having a conversation with your child. This is a good exercise for everyone in the family. It may seem awkward at first. But it is worth making a habit of if your child struggles with reading.

- **Practicing.** Reading and hearing all these new words may not mean much if your child doesn't use them. Challenge him to use one or two new words a day. Contact his teachers and let them in on your efforts so they can help him put his words into practice as well.


Encourage pleasure reading with series books, recordings

Inspire your middle schooler to love books and you may create a lifelong reader! To encourage her to read for pleasure:

- **Follow her cues.** Pay attention to the things your middle schooler loves and look for books about those things. Whether she adores spaceships, sports or unicorns, there are bound to be stories all about them.

- **Consider a series.** If your middle schooler becomes enthralled with the first book in a series, she'll likely want to stick with it to the end. Ask your local librarian for preteen-friendly options.

- **Think outside the book.** For a change of pace, let your middle schooler listen to audio books occasionally. She'll still be exposed to stories. But she'll get to enjoy them in a whole new way!


Prior knowledge affects ability to understand, relate to text

Research shows your child's ability to understand and relate to what he reads is linked to what he knows before he turns that first page. This is called “prior knowledge.”

Prior knowledge is important because having some knowledge before reading means your child will not have to try to figure out the text just from the information in front of him. Prior knowledge of a topic may also keep him more engaged in what he's reading.

Here's how you can help:

- **Encourage your child to read a newspaper every day.** This will expose him to topics and themes that he will likely encounter in his schoolwork.

- **Expand your child's world.** Take trips to museums and zoos. Also look for free or low-cost shows. Every bit of culture your child soaks up may help him make a connection with something he'll read in the future.

- **Share experiences with your child.** Talk with your child about places you have been or jobs you have had.

# Activity Calendar

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>It's National Pig Day. If your child hasn't read <em>Charlotte's Web</em>, start it today. If you've read it, read it again!</td>
<td>2. Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading one of his books aloud. Have your child make up his own rhyming phrases.</td>
<td>3. It's the birthday of Alexander Bell, inventor of the telephone. Teach your child how to make a message.</td>
<td>4. Talk with your child about a choice you have made. Then talk about the consequence.</td>
<td>5. Does your child know your state flag? Look it up.</td>
<td>6. Go to a nearby park or running trail. Have family members run like the March wind!</td>
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<td>7. Create a word search. Hide words in a grid and surround them with random letters. Challenge your child to solve it!</td>
<td>8. Visit the library. Help your child check out a book about a famous woman.</td>
<td>9. It's the birthday of Ameiros Vespucci. Have your child find out what continent was named for him.</td>
<td>10. Challenge your child to do a scary, good deed for a friend or neighbor.</td>
<td>11. Talk about the less and more of your day. Give everyone a chance to share.</td>
<td>12. Have a family dinner tonight by candlelight.</td>
<td>13. Seam a family scrapbook. Collect souvenirs, photos, certificates and other mementos. Look through it often.</td>
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<td>14. Fill a dishpan with water. Help your child test an assembly of obstacles. Which will float? Which will sink?</td>
<td>15. Celebrate Nutrition Month by having your child check out a library book about nutrition.</td>
<td>16. Plan a No TV Night. Read, play games or listen to music together instead.</td>
<td>17. Pick a new word out of the dictionary. Everyone try to use this word at least three times today!</td>
<td>18. Wash the children's clothes and choose a “Person of the Week.” Read more about him or her.</td>
<td>19. Have a reading dinner. Plan a nutritious menu—and make sure everyone pitches in.</td>
<td>20. Today is the first day of spring. Make a list of spring words. Then put them together to make a poem.</td>
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## March 2010

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>28. Have your child write a list of the approved TV shows she will watch next week. Stick to the list!</td>
<td>29. When you read aloud, stop at an exciting place. Then ask, “What do you think will happen next?”</td>
<td>30. Does your child place his or her meal on a tray and rub with a crayon? See the tree’s unique bark pattern.</td>
<td>31. Have your child place a piece of paper on a tree trunk and rub with a crayon. See the tree’s unique bark pattern.</td>
<td>32. Have a family picnic in the park. Have a family picnic in the park. Have a family picnic in the park.</td>
<td>33. It is 1860. The Pony Express made its first trip. Have your child write a story about something someone did today.</td>
<td>34. In 1849, the Pony Express made its first trip. Have your child write a story about something someone did today.</td>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Concert for First Year Band and 5/6 Select Choir on March 4th
Rollerskating for grade 4-6 on March 18th
6th Grade Parent Information Night on March 24th
DMS Grades 4-6 Open House on March 24th
Festival of the Bands on March 25th
No School on April 2nd
Town Meeting with the Superintendent on April 12th
SHS and DMS Jazz Cabaret Concert on April 9th
Spring Recess April 19-23rd
Grade 5 Wax Museum on April 29th
NYS English Language Arts Testing begins April 26th
NYS Mathematics Testing begins May 5th

Please check our website regularly for announcements and upcoming events.

www.marcellusschools.org

Also, to help create the most successful and enjoyable experience for you and your child, please contact us at any time you have a concern, comment or question. Working together we make Driver Middle School a Safe and Comfortable Environment!!

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