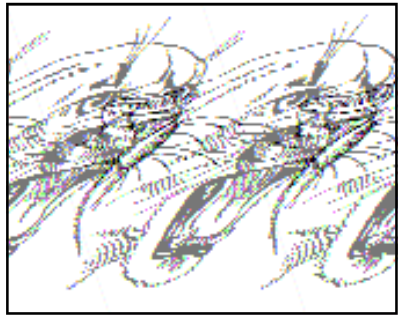




The newsletter of
Memorial Middle School
Providing quality education for all.

January 2009

Home of the Wildcats



Principal
Ms. Megan Welter

Assistant Principal
Mr. George Conant

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From the Principal's Desk

Message from Principal Welter



Dear Memorial Parents and Students,
The first semester has come to an end, and students are beginning classes for the new term – in many cases, new classes. Our students continue to shine in so many different respects. Our basketball teams are finishing very successful seasons, and we are gearing up for our second winter sports season, when students can participate in swimming and indoor track. The other co-curricular groups have also been busy throughout the first semester. The Drama Club has been hard at work rehearsing and preparing for it's next production, and our Civil Rights Team has continued to meet every other week to talk about school culture and to plan for school-wide events.

And while these activities are significant, they do not eclipse the academic work and the learning of our students. On February 24, we will be recognizing students' achievements. A group of staff members has been meeting to examine the ways in which we can improve upon our Student Recognition Assemblies. The team has solicited thoughts from colleagues, parents and students about different ways that we can celebrate students' achievements. As a result of this work, the format for the Student Recognition Assemblies has been changed so to allow additional opportunities to recognize more students for a broader range of accomplishments. We look forward to seeing you for our assemblies on the morning of February 24.

Continued on page 3

Message from Assistant Principal Conant,

It is that time! Time to get ready for the 8th grade social. Please join us in planning this special night. Please contact George Conant at Memorial Middle School if you are interested in participating in the planning of this event. (conantge@spsd.org or 773-5629 ext. 406)

DISCIPLINE:

To ensure that your student knows the conduct expectations at Memorial Middle School, review the policies in the Student Planner. They begin on page 15. Students need little reminders, and any assistance you can give us with this can help prevent future problems for your student.

Continued on pg 2

For Your Information

Indoor track and swimming begin on February 2. You can check the school web site for the schedule. Practices are usually after school. Track practice is here at the school and swimming practice takes place at the community pools. Jason Edwards is the head track coach and can be reached by email at jedwards@maine.rr.com. Christine Brunette is the head swim coach and can be reached by email at Chriscma@maine.rr.com.

Remind students that they need to pass all classes to be eligible to participate in athletics. If they fail one class they can be put on academic review for two weeks and become eligible, but if they fail two or more classes they are ineligible for the season. If you have any questions, feel free to contact George Conant at 773-5629 or by email at conantge@spisd.org

The Effective Relationship Workshop for Verbal and Coping Skills

This is a 6-week program to enrich family relationships by learning communication skills and developing new coping strategies. The first four sessions are for parents to learn when and how to listen, set family standards based on their historical values, and learn when and how to confront issues and differences.

The fifth session is for parents and teenagers invited as guests. The focus will be on exploring the history of family relationships and coping patterns over three generations. The last and sixth session is for all family members above the age of eight. Coping strategies will be examined and demonstrated utilizing the acquired

skills. Grandparents attending as guests in this last session will function as consultants for their wisdom and knowledge of family history. Minimum of 12/ maximum of 25.

Effective Relationship Workshop
January 14,21,28,
February 4,11,18
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Cost: \$30.00
SP Rec Center

Instructor: Larry Roy
For over thirty years Larry Roy has conducted numerous family workshops. His workshops have included Parent Effectiveness Training, Coping With Kids, The Community Family Workshop, Successful Parenting, and Don't Toss Your Teen in the greater Portland, Bath and Brunswick area.



MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
120 Wescott Road
South Portland, Maine 04106



Telephone number : 773-5629
Attendance messages: (x400)

Fax : 772-4597

TDDY: 775 -4284
Office Hours: 7:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Administrative Office

Megan Welter, Principal (x 405)
George Conant , Assistant Principal (x 406)
Lisa Ranger, Office Manager (x 401)
Janet Flynn, Office Clerk (x 400)

Special Services

Sue Comyns, School Nurse (x408)
Teresa Donovan, Social Worker (x 409)
Jeanne Shacker, Social Worker (x456)

Guidance

Brittany Sampson, Guidance Counselor (x 412)
Anthony Mastreani, Guidance Counselor (x 413)
Raye-Lin Merry, Guidance Secretary (x 411)

Kay Mallory, Library Clerk (x430)

For Your Information

Continued from Welter pg 1

On a less celebratory note, we are sorry to announce that Mr. Tschacher, our Library/Media Specialist, will be leaving us at the end of January. While he has only been with us for a semester, Mr. Tschacher made connections with our staff and students. He visited classes and made the library a warm and welcoming environment for everyone. Because of the budget cuts in this fiscal year, we will not be filling the Library/Media Specialist position. We will be relying on our library clerk, Mrs. Mallory, to keep the library open and accessible to all students. Other library/media specialists from around the District will also lend a hand to assist with some classroom projects.

Mr. Tschacher's departure is not the only one this month; Vince Mathews, our 7th grade social studies and language arts teacher will be leaving us at the end of January for his third military deployment in 6 years. Fortunately, Mr. Mathews will be stationed in Massachusetts, so he will be able to get home to see his family. Unfortunately for us, he will not be back until February 2010. We are delighted that Mr. Grant, one of our educational technicians who is also a certified teacher, will be stepping into Mr. Mathews' position for the remainder of the year. Mr. Grant has been working with our 7th grade students and teachers, so we expect the transition to be eased by his familiarity with our students as well as with the curriculum.

As the second semester gets underway, the staff at Memorial has been examining different ways we can reduce, reuse and recycle. We have been printing less and doing all we can to publish materials electronically. We continue to post our daily announcements, as well as the Monday Memo or our website. These are some of the best ways to communicate the events and activities at Memorial Middle School.

Megan Welter , Principal

Student Recognition Assemblies

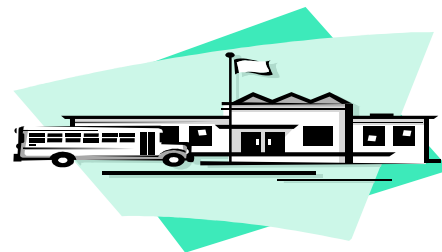
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Grade 8 - 8:00 a.m.
Grade 7 - 9:00 a.m.
Grade 6 - 10:00 a.m.

7th and 8th Grade Laptop Take Home

Students who are interesting in participation in the Laptop Take-Home Program for the 2nd half year (Jan.—June) may pick up an information packet and permission slip in room 313.

In order for a student to participate in the program, the parent/guardian must sign the permission slip that stipulates that the parent/guardian assumes all responsibilities for the cost of damages to or loss of the iBook while it is signed out to the student.

The enrollment will close February 6th.



Parent Forum

NEXT MEETING
FEB 5, 2009
6:30-8:00 P.M.
Memorial Library

Do You Dream About Your Child Attending College?

We believe college can be affordable for everyone!

Early College Planning Presentation for parents and guardians of K-8 students

Presentation by Steve Joyce
Director of Student Aid, Bowdoin College

Free babysitting and refreshments.

For more information contact
Brittney Sampson @ Memorial Middle school 773-5629 ext 412
Email: sampsobr@spsd.org

**Next Dance
Friday,
March 6
6:30-8:30 pm
\$6**



From the Classroom

8th Grade Job Shadow Day February 13, 2009

Again this year, the 8th grade at Memorial Middle School is participating in the Job Shadow Program. On Friday, February 13, from 9AM – 1PM, the students will be heading out into the Greater Portland Community to spend a few hours experiencing a “real world” job, gaining exposure to a professional atmosphere, and learning about all the many different possibilities for their future. We are very fortunate to have so many businesses willing to host our students.

We ask the help of all parents/guardians in assuring that the program works smoothly. A packet will be given out to the students in late January. It will contain a permission form, a student contract, and other important information about the day. Please read it carefully with your student, so you know what’s involved. The packet must be returned by Friday, February 2. It must be signed by the parent/guardian and by the student, in order for the student to be considered for the Job Shadow Program. No student will be allowed to go on the Job Shadow Day without these signed forms. No packets will be accepted after the due date of February 2. Students who meet the program guidelines will be assigned a Job Shadow site as soon as their forms come back, so the sooner they are returned the better their opportunities will be. On Tuesday, February 13th, there will be a stu-

dent assembly to give out the Job Shadow assignments.

Please make sure that your student has a lunch on the 13th. Some host sites provide a lunch, but all students should have a lunch with them just to be sure they have something to eat during their day.

Part of the student contract is that the students must agree to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, professional manner at the work place, and comply with standard school rules for participation in activities. They must also agree to be a good ambassador and represent Memorial Middle School in a positive and cooperative manner.

Professional conduct is very important. Part of being professional is presenting oneself in a professional manner. Students must dress appropriately for the business setting. If there are questions about suitable attire, please contact the Guidance Dept. Students who are not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to go to their job site and will stay behind to complete a written assignment. All students have the option to choose to arrange his/her own Job Shadow placement. If the student is self placed, he/she will not be required to come to school on February 13th. They will, however, be responsible for his/her own transportation.

Self-Placed Application are due February 12, 2009

Job Shadow Day has been a highlight of the eighth grade experience. We hope that the student chooses a job placement in an area in which they are really interested. Job shadowing is designed to increase career awareness, help model student behavior through examples and reinforce in the student the link between classroom learning and work requirements. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to understand the “world of work”. We all look forward to helping each student find the best fit and make the most of Job Shadow Day.

If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Department at Memorial Middle School at 773-5629. Or you can contact Molly Aldrich, Director of Volunteer Services and Job Shadow Coordinator, at 773-5629, ext. 432, AldricMo@spsd.org

For more South Portland Schools information, visit the district website at www.spsd.org.

From the Classroom

Instructional Support News

Students in Mrs. Casey's functional life skills classroom have regular opportunities to learn and practice a variety of skills in a variety of community-based settings. With support from special education staff, students have opportunities to learn and practice money skills, safety skills, social and communication skills. These experiences provide the students with hands-on learning that often cannot be duplicated within the classroom setting. Some of the life skills include learning about safety crossing streets and in parking lots; writing a shopping list at school and then locating items in a grocery or department store; managing a small amount of money and carrying out money exchanges in store settings; learning how to interact with people in the community such as cashiers, store clerks, etc. Some of the sites visited in the community include the stores at Mill Creek, Maine Mall Area, the Redemption Center, and other locations within the community of South Portland.

These experiences help each child to make connections between the skills that they learn in their individualized educational program (reading, writing, math, communication, social skills, wellness) and have the opportunity to apply these skills in real life settings.

February Vacation Week- Take it Outside Week! Activities for Grades 6,7 & 8

Need something to do this February vacation? Sign up for one or all four of these great trips and take advantage of getting outside this winter!

Tuesday, Feb. 17th -Tubing at Seacoast Fun Park

Wednesday, February 18th- snow shoeing at Wainwright farms

Thursday, February 19th -Night skiing and riding at Shawnee Peak

Friday, February 20th – Hiking and Skating at Pineland Farms

Sign up at the South Portland Community Center—registration is required!! For more info call the SPCC at 767-7650.

Spaghetti & Lasagna Dinner
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm
@ Uncle Andy's

The Maine Sr. Women's Basketball team and the SMCC Women's Basketball team will "serve you your supper". Come and join us.

The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs or vegetarian lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage

Kids 5 & younger eat free
Kids ages 6-12 - \$6.00
Age 13 & older - \$12.00

Uncle Andy's Restaurant is located in Mill Creek in South Portland – across the street from Mill Creek Park. Please share this email with family and friends.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
UNCLE ANDY'S ON FEBRUARY 10TH.

We'll also hold a 50/50 drawing!

Dates to Remember continued

March 17	7 th & 8 th grade Band & Chorus Concert @ SPHS
March 18	Parent Teacher Conferences 2:30-8:00 p.m.
March 19	6 th Grade Band Concert @ SPHS 7:00 p.m.
March 25	Early Release 11:45 a.m.
March 26	Parent Teacher Conference 2:30-8:00 p.m.
March 28	Jazz Festival

FROM THE CLASSROOM

7th Grade News

In Mrs. Hasson's and Mr. Mathews' social studies classes students just finished up a research project on Colonial America. Earlier in November the classes studied the Presidential election by researching many of the issues and the candidates. We are headed for a revolution soon as we begin our study of chapters 7 & 8.

As many of you know Mr. Mathews will be reporting for active duty with his Army Reserve unit on 30 January. He will be serving for about a year on a U.S. tour to help train soldiers who are heading to Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. Grant who has been working on the 7th grade team as an Educational Technician, will be taking over for Mr. Mathews. He brings valued middle school experience with him; we wish him all the best as he helps out with this transition.

In Ms. Meyer's math class, students became entrepreneurs and used their math skills to create their own businesses. They did an excellent job using what they learned to design equations that enabled them to calculate total cost of overhead and predict when their businesses would start making a profit. We also had discussions about why businesses have to raise the price due to events like shoplifting. They presented their findings using tables, and graphs, and then advertised with slideshows, posters, and even video commercials.

In Mr. Battagliese's and Ms. Meyer's science classes we are visiting Antarctica. Well, not really, but students will have the opportunity to watch a web-cast with a scientist doing research on Adelie penguins in Antarctica. They will then be able to ask the scientist questions by speaker phone. This is an exciting event that the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association is hosting through an out-reach program called ACES. Students from all over the nation will be participating. There are some inspiring new changes to our curriculum in which students will share information with real scientists here in Maine, with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute Vital Signs program, and the ACES program that involves scientists from all over the world! Students will also be learning about ocean ecology and the local and global impact and importance, of our oceans.

GRADE 8 NEWS

Although many 8th graders are continuing with great effort and work ethic, some are acting as though the year is over. Please continue to check Homework.com and the school's Infinite Campus site for your child's grades, and whether they are handing in work.

In science we are working on our Change Over Time unit. Students will be finished in another week. Students have been working with fossils and learning

about adaptations. Our next unit will be about density. The approach with density will include real life applications. Students can expect to see a take home project as an assessment for the unit.

In Language Arts, we continue using the Wordly Wise series. Our Career Projects are finished, and students are presenting them. They will finish this unit with their job shadow on February 13th. Students who have not handed in an application, need to do so ASAP. We will be reading "To Kill A Mockingbird" after vacation and learning about the Great Depression. What a great connection to what's going on in the world now.

In Social Studies, we have been researching modern day slavery; tying it in with the Economics unit we just finished. Students have done a lot of learning about the current state of slavery in our world and in our country. It should be making for lively conversations for you at home. The final project is an essay they need to write. The directions and rubric are all found online in the curriculum handouts. Your child should be able to find that for you.

Remember, it's not too late to join the group of eighth graders who are travelling to Washington, D.C. with the Worldstrides organization. Register online at www.worldstrides.org and type in our trip ID #, which is 20214.

FROM THE NURSE

From Your School Nurses and The Maine Health Alert Network:

Wood Burning and Lung Health: Burn It Smart and Healthy

The problem of wood burning and lung health:

- * One in three Maine household have someone living there with asthma, another chronic lung disease or chronic heart disease. These are households who more commonly report having trouble heating their homes.
- Maine has the highest childhood and adult asthma rate in the country. 10% of adults and 12% of children in Maine have asthma
- Wood is a renewable source of heat. It has some benefits over non-renewable fossil fuels such as oil.
- However, smoke from wood burning can cause air pollution and public health problems. It can cause or worsen asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart disease. It affects children and the elderly more than others.
- Half of Maine households heat with at least some wood.
- Maine homes with an asthmatic child are more likely to have difficulty paying for heat and are more likely to be heating with wood.
- One in three Maine wood stove owners report their wood stove is older than 20 years, i.e. older than EPA clean air standards.
- Heating with wood is less prevalent and heating with oil is more prevalent in York and Cumberland.
- One in seven Maine household allow people to smoke tobacco in their home.

What you can do to improve air quality for breathing while heating w/ wood:

Weatherize your home, such as closing up areas that let heat escape.

Have your chimney, flue and wood stove inspected and cleaned at least once per year.

Use wood pellets. They burn 25-50% cleaner than cord wood.

Replace an old wood stove, fireplace or fireplace insert (built before the late 1980's) with newer more efficient EPA-certified equipment that uses less wood and burns up to 90% cleaner.

If using cord wood, burn hardwoods that are clean, dry and seasoned (>6 months) because they burn cleaner and are less likely to pollute the air.

Never burn garbage, trash, plastics, Styrofoam, paints, painted wood, salt water wood, cleaning chemicals such as solvents, charcoal/coal or treated wood (treated with varnish, sealants or pressure treated).

Burning any of these can result in toxins being burned and released into the air.

Burn small, hot fires. They produce less smoke than those that are left to smolder.

Split wood into 4-6 inch pieces. Fire burns cleaner with more surface area exposed to the flame.

Keep your home tobacco/smoke free.

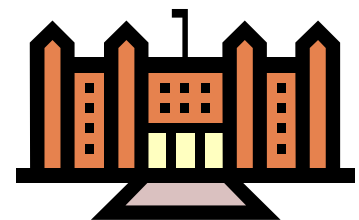
For more information on wood burning and lung health:

Maine's Stay Healthy This Winter web site:

www.maine.gov/dhs/boh/heat_2008.shtml

Maine Governor's Stay Safe and Warm web site:

www.211maine.org



Coming prepared to school
helps to make students feel
more confident.

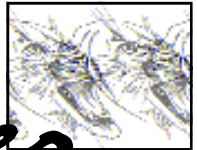


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February 2009

Memorial Middle School
South Portland School Department
120 Wescott Road
South Portland, Maine 04106

Memorial Middle School *Dates to Remember*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9-20	MEA testing for all grades
Tuesday, March 10	Parent Forum in Library @ 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11	Progress Reports go home
Saturday, March 14	6 th grade Band Festival
Tuesday, March 17	7 th & 8 th grade Band & Chorus Concert @ SPHS
Wednesday, March 18	Parent Teacher Conferences 2:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 19	6 th Grade Band Concert @ SPHS 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25	Early Release 11:45 a.m.
Thursday, March 26	Parent Teacher Conference 2:30-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 28	Jazz Festival

Related Arts News

RoboChallenge



Eighth grade Technology Education students competed in the RoboChallenge to complete the robotics unit. Each team of inventors was asked to create a robot to complete tasks on a playing surface. Each task completed added points to a team total. During the initial stages of the project, students tested and refined their robots.

Colton Gervais and Ryan Tuttle teamed up to use their creativity, planning and problem solving skills to win the competition with a total of 246 points out of a total of a possible 280.

Reflect Respect

Have you visited the Reflect Respect website lately? In the last 2 years over 29,000 hits have been recorded at the website which features photos from Memorial activities. Not sure when the next event will take place? Check the site for current schedules of athletic events and rosters of the teams. Be sure to visit often to check out our new additions.

Living in a Digital World

How can we believe anything we see anymore?

With the photo imaging software Photoshop Elements, 7th grade students have been learning how we can literally do anything we want with images in today's digital world. The work featured below was done by Memorial students in Technology Education.

Can you believe your eyes? Memorial has a pirate from the movie [Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest](#).



6th Grade News

Since returning from winter break, all core classes have been busy focusing on different topics, projects, and much more. 2nd quarter just ended, and we are full steam ahead into third quarter.

In Social Studies, students have been working vigorously on projects that involve different themes related to Egypt. They will present the projects in class, which will be followed by a quiz on what they learned. Then they will move into studies involving India.

In Language Arts, students worked with Mrs. Hutto and Mr. Tschacher on writing better answers to questions. Classes have also been participating in literature groups where students are reading one of the following books: [Freak the Mighty](#), [Flush](#), [Holes](#), or [Number the Stars](#). In each book, students are focusing on elements of literature and strategies for strong readers.

In math class, we are working on a book titled [Bits and Pieces I](#). The book helps students understand the relationships between fractions, decimals, and percents. Right now we are focusing on fractions including equivalence, simplifying, fractions between fractions, and more. Once students have a clear understanding of fractions, we will move into decimals.

Science classes have been studying atoms and the periodic table. Students have learned about where the periodic table came from, what each box on the table contains, and the importance of that information. They have also researched an element, built a model of their atom, and much more. Once we have finished this unit, we are going to study planet Earth and what makes the planet habitable along with natural disasters and renewable energy resources.

Take a moment to ask your child about the many things they are doing in class and what they have learned.



The Mirror



