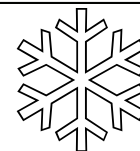




# MMSA NEWS



Volume XII, Issue III

December 2006

## From the Principals

Dear Parents,



We were very pleased during November to see so many of you here at school for visits, conferences and student performances. We again had over 250 parents visiting their children's classes during American Education Week. Many of you met your children's teachers at parent conferences just before Thanksgiving. We are grateful to the twenty parents who made presentations to our seventh and eighth grade students on Career Day on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. And many of you enjoyed our students' performances of *The Wizard of Oz*. Over 1500 tickets were sold for the four performances.

Many students in all grades are just getting started on their History Day projects, which will be displayed here at school in March. A flyer about History Day has gone home, detailing the particulars for each grade. If you would like more information about this long-term enrichment project, please contact Mr. Trembly ([tremblywn@mansfieldct.org](mailto:tremblywn@mansfieldct.org)).

## MMS Basketball Season Starts on December 12th



Parents, students, and members of the community are invited to the boys' first home game on Tuesday, December 12th and the girls' first home game on Thursday, December 14th. Games start at 3:30 PM in the gym. A complete season schedule is posted in the school office. There is no cost for admission, and it promises to be an exciting year for both teams.

To ensure proper supervision, **an adult must accompany students attending after-school activities, including athletic events. Students need to make arrangements with a teacher or another staff member before the end of X-Block** on the day of the game, or attend with a responsible adult. All students who have not made arrangements for adult supervision after school must go home at 2:45.

*continued on page 2*

## Upcoming Events

- Winter Vacation: December 25th—January 1st
- Board of Education Meeting: December 14th at 7:30pm
- Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 15th, No School

## Box Tops for Education

Now is the time to send in all those box tops you have been clipping. The MMSA will be sending in another batch soon and will receive \$.10 for each box top. This is an easy and painless way to earn money for MMS! Please place box tops in the marked container outside the main office. Thanks!



## News from the Mansfield Board of Education

Here are some highlights from the November 16, 2006 Board of Education Meeting:

- The Town of Mansfield referendum to appropriate \$3.8M for replacement of the electrical heating system at the Middle School was passed.
- New wells have been dug and well houses are being built, which will bring the district's schools up to state code.
- Sergeant Sean Cox and other Mansfield Police will be conducting security audits at the town schools.
- Total enrollment from all the schools is up 27 students from the same time last year.

The next meeting of the Board of Education is Thursday, December 14. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visit our website at: [www.mmsnet.org](http://www.mmsnet.org)

Link: *Mansfield Middle School Association*

## From the Principals (continued)

### Reminder of MMS Dismissal Procedures

During the day at the middle school, we only release a child to a parent – or to an adult or family member who has been designated by a parent. If we aren't familiar with the person picking up the child, we will ask to make a copy of the person's driver's license and make a verifying phone call to the parent. We also pay attention to the child's apparent comfort with the person providing the ride. Anyone (including parents) who picks up a child during the day must come into the office and sign out the child in the book at Mrs. Young's desk.

At the end of the day, most of our students take a bus home. Many others go out the front door to meet their rides on the front circle. If you have any concerns about your child going with an unapproved adult at the end of the day, please call one of us so we can develop a plan.

### Homework Help Available After School

Middle school is a critical time for students to develop the habit of completing their assignments on time. To help students to understand that this is a routine expectation, we have again established a Homework Help room after school each day. The room is supervised by one or two MMS teachers, supported by community volunteers. *If you would like to work with students in the Homework Help room, please let us know.*

At this time we are able to accommodate about ten students each day. Students are assigned to the room by a teacher when a child hasn't completed an assignment on time. The teacher contacts a parent and signs up the child to stay after school on the same day so that the assignment is completed promptly, with supervision and support.

This is not a disciplinary action or a punishment, but simply a logical consequence for not getting work completed on time. This provides us with a chance for immediate follow-up when a child is missing an assignment.

This is the second year that we have run this program. Students who participated last year told us that they felt better when their assignments were done. We hope that the Homework Help Center will again provide support for students who have had difficulty getting assignments completed on time.

If you would like more information about any of the items above, please contact us by phone or email. Best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Cryan  
Principal  
ryanj@mansfieldct.org

Candace Morell  
Assistant Principal  
morrellcv@mansfieldct.org

## Compost Help Needed

Help is needed once again to “turn the compost” at the Middle School. As you know recycling and composting is a predominate theme for the students and staff in the school lunchroom. We are looking for a few MMS families who will help turn the MMS compost pile. It is a one time commitment of 1-3 hours during the school year. If you are looking for a meaningful service project to do with your Middle School child, then this activity might be a match. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your contribution helped to create wonderful dark nutrient-rich soil which is available to the school community during the spring plant sale. For more information call Virginia Walton, Mansfield's Recycling Coordinator for more information at 429-3333



## K12NOW - Receive School Notifications Immediately Mansfield Middle School



Mansfield Middle School has signed up to use a new service called *K12now*. This service will allow us to communicate with you via **email** as well as cell phone or pager **text messaging**. We will use this service to inform you of emergency closings and announcements

about school events.

This service is free of charge and signing up is fast and secure. You can enter up to four email addresses and two cellular phones or pager text messaging phone numbers. *K12now* allows you to choose which addresses receive emergency or priority notifications and which addresses receive general notifications.

Your personal information is never shared or sold, and there is no advertising attached to the service.

*K12now* will complement our present procedures. We encourage you to sign up for this service. We think that it will help us to communicate with you more effectively.

To sign up free of charge, go to <http://myk12now.com> and enter the school code from the box on the right.

**Parent Registration:**  
<http://my.k12now.com>

**When prompted, you will need to enter the code below.**

**Now Code:**

**GST-WPJ-K**

## From the MMSA President

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe it's already December and another holiday season is upon us. And while everyone's schedule is busier this time of year, many of you still took the time to help the MMSA with some of our recent fall events – the Book Fair, refreshment sales at “Wizard of Oz”, and Career Day – to all of you I say **Thank You!** None of these events would have been successful or even possible without your continued support.

Thanks also to those of you who supported our Gift Wrap Sale; while the final numbers are still being tallied, it looks to be another successful fundraiser for the MMSA for 2006.

In the meantime, we're always looking for new ideas for appropriate fundraisers or new programs for parents or families. If you have any suggestions or know of something that was successful at another school or event, please let us know! You can email me at any time at [masikand@prodigy.net](mailto:masikand@prodigy.net).

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to moving ahead as we go into 2007.

Sincerely,  
Mary Sikand,  
MMSA President



## January MMSA Meeting Cancelled

The January 2, 2007 meeting of the MMSA has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 7:00pm in Room 99.

## School Banking

Due to the low participation on Wednesday mornings for school banking, it has been decided that MMS will not offer the service of taking weekly deposits this year. The number of students participating in the Liberty Bank school savings program has dwindled over the last few years. It was a tough decision to make, but I feel it is the right one at least for this year. I hope those students with Liberty Bank accounts continue to save by taking deposits into a Liberty Bank location.

Sondra Boyer  
MMS banking coordinator

## Chairperson Needed for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Closing Ceremony



While June may seem to be a long way off, it will be here before we know it and we still need a parent to coordinate the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Closing Ceremony. As chairperson you would help organize volunteers to set up the cafeteria and serve refreshments the night of the event. If you're a 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent, please consider taking the time to volunteer. If you'd like more information please call Mary Sikand at 423-1127. Thank you.

## MMSA 2006-2007 Board Members and Committee Chairs

### Executive Board

President	Mary Sikand	423-1127
Vice-President	Sheryl Lambert	429-3088
Secretary	Susanne Davis	429-3638
Treasurer	Lisa Drzewiecki	423-3942

### Committee Chairpersons

Book Fair	Natalie Miniutti	429-0595
	Stacey Fulton	456-2143
8th Grade Closing	<i>Open</i>	
Gift-Wrap Sale	Pam Cheney	450-1900
Grants	Jean Phillips	429-0692
History Day	Laura Smith	429-8735
Hospitality	Diane Briody	429-1585
Magazine Drive	Stacy Geist	423-0529
Membership	Cari Vincente	429-2497
Newsletter	Lisa Smith	465-9207
Orientation	Mary Sikand	423-1127
Plant Sale	Sondra Boyer	487-5812

### Grade Representatives

Grade 5:	Shamim Patwa	429-4321
	Anne Wiant-Rudd	429-4469
	Sherri Lee	456-9552
	Cari Vincente	429-2497
	Kim O'Keefe	429-6711
Grade 6:	Diane Briody	429-1585
	Jean Phillips	429-0692
	Therese John	429-4220
	Kate Cox	429-3844
Grade 7:	Charlie Dainton	456-2073
	Sue Kaeser	423-7264
	Doreen Simonsen	456-1871
	Jane Moynihan	429-9225
Grade 8:	Sondra Boyer	487-5812
	Susanne Davis	429-3638
	Stacey Fulton	456-2143
	Susan Mostowy	429-1107

### Teacher Representative:

Wayne Trembly 429-9341