

November/ December 2009

A Message from the Principal:

Teachers are Learners too!



Deyana Matt and Dr. Kling compare M.A.P. and ISAT test results

With our Early Release days this year along with our Teacher Institute Days, D13 is fostering a collaborative school climate that nurtures teacher learning. It gives teachers a unique opportunity to work together to research lesson design, take a diagnostic look at test data and review grade level test results in their entirety. Each school day, the learning that occurs in the classrooms can oftentimes be directly correlated back to these professional development times. Early Release Days provides collaboration time and gives teachers a chance to work together on research for lesson design, determine and identify new instructional classroom practices and understand how students think and learn. Professional development is time for active learning as teachers become inquirers and problem solvers. These afternoons, more often than not, finds teachers identifying problems and questions, thinking about and discussing their work, gathering data, and using what they learn to impact what is delivered to your student every day.

Michael Fullan, a recognized international leader in education confirms the need for *teachers as learners*: “You cannot have students as continuous learners and effective

collaborators, without teachers having the same characteristics”. Our teachers work in teams to plan and investigate questions related to our annual building goals. Starting my fourth year at Westfield, we have continued to show remarkable growth results with regards to our annual building goals. This year our building goals include:

1. At the end of 2009-10, 90% of students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades will maintain scores that meet or exceed in *Reading* and *Math* as measured on the ISAT.
2. At the end of 2009-10, 90% of 7th grade students will maintain scores that meet or exceed in *Science* as measured on the ISAT.
3. At the end of 2009-10, 85% of students in grades 6 and 8 will improve writing scores as measured by ISAT.
4. By the end of school year 2009-10, Westfield students will demonstrate an overall 3% decrease in bullying, disrespect and harassment.

What does that mean for your student? They too are setting student achievement growth goals based on their fall M.A.P. scores. Invite your student to share with you how they determined what was their goals for their own academic improvement for school year 2009-10. The results for their goal setting will hopefully be as successful as our continued success in our own building goal achievements.

Take some time to check out the Westfield website and learn more about our overall School Improvement Plan. It is listed on the left hand side of the Westfield page. Lots of celebration is visible there so share in our accomplishments because you provide the foundations and scaffolding necessary for us to get the job done every day in the classroom.

With thanks and appreciation, Dr. Debbie Kling

8th Grade Team News

A to Z

Eighth grade Language Arts teachers got to know their students upside-down, inside-out, backwards and forewords through the A to Z Project. This was a major writing assignment in the 1st quarter. The students wrote a paragraph for each letter of the alphabet, often creating their own prompt. There were many different ways the students produced this project: a cut and past booklet, power point slides, or a bound magazine. The students had a great time creating 13 pages all about them. Teachers were excited to know more about their students through writing. The A to Z books are housed in the students' portfolios and will be available for parents to see at conferences or at Portfolio Night in May.

SCIENCE



Students working on the Muscle Action Figure in Science

As one walks through the halls of Westfield you see Wonder Woman, The Pillsbury Dough Boy, Ferb, Peter Pan and many other characters from literature, TV, or sports. All of the science classes incorporated their knowledge of 17 specific muscles of the human body and drew the characters half clothed, and half with exposed muscles. When determining the angles of the muscle strand fibers, the students contorted their own bodies to match their characters and then identify the muscles. As always, every student is proud to see their hard work displayed for all to see.

Prior to learning about their muscles, students were engaged in the dissection of their owl pellet (ask them to describe how this was formed!) and mounted the skeletal bones from the prey of a barn owl. When entering the science classrooms, students identified prey seen in a display box or hard poster board frame. The students found it amazing that an owl devoured birds, moles, mice, voles and shrews as a meal, and were astounded by the different sizes of each bone, showing the size of the entire creature.

SPRINGFIELD



Mark S., Ashley S & Sammi J. inside the President Lincoln Museum

On October 8, 2009, the 8th grade students and teachers raised their weary heads, wiped the sleep out of their eyes and got on a coach bus at 6:00 a.m. in the morning to head down to Springfield. Three busses of anxious teenagers battled the cold weather and the rain to see great sites. The students traveled back in time as they visited Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site to survey where Lincoln spent his early adulthood. They continued to study his life as they walked through the Abraham Lincoln Museum, and Lincoln's home. At the Illinois State Capital, the students were able to make connections between Lincoln's life and modern day government. They gave reverence at Lincoln's Tomb and the war memorials. This information will be revisited throughout the year in their social studies class.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Just a friendly reminder that all 8th grade students must come to school prepared with the items that were requested on the 8th grade supply list. It is beneficial during class time if students have these supplies readily available to them. Please check with your child to see if they have all of the supplies necessary.

- Blue/Black & Red Pens
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Sticky Notes
- Notebook & Graph Paper
- Markers & Colored Pencils

As we begin the 2nd quarter, teachers would like to provide a gentle reminder that Westfield provides many wonderful resources to all students to improve academic achievement. Every Tuesday and Thursday, Westfield stays open after school until 4:50 pm for **Homework Lab**. Students must obtain a pass from their teachers. At the lab, students have access to computers or can work in a quiet space.

In addition, students can also take advantage of the **quiet lunch** that is offered for the lunch period. At quiet lunch, students have 52 minutes to study, catch up on work, use a laptop, or just read while they eat. It is a perfect environment for focused academics and, if a student has forgotten to complete an assignment, is a great way to stay on top of schoolwork. Teachers use quiet lunch as an intervention for students who fall behind in work, but students may also voluntarily go if they wish for a perfect environment to complete schoolwork.

Finally, Westfield offers a 25 minute **social study hall**. Students may study quietly in groups, complete homework, or check with teachers for help or make-ups. This study hall is available directly after lunch and is a great way to network with friends on group projects or with study partners. Attendance at this study hall has been high in the first quarter, a great sign!

Please encourage your child to take advantage of these resources the school provides. One of the ways to lessen homework at home is to maximize time at school. If you have any questions about these programs, feel free to e-mail an 8th grade teacher.

Katsushi Minami Places 1st—TWICE! Katsushi, 8th grade alto saxophone player in the Westfield Concert Band and Jazz Band, recently placed first chair in both the IMEA Festival Jazz band and Concert Band. IMEA stands for the Illinois Music Educator's Association. Students participating in these festivals are nominated by their band directors to audition. Those chosen are the best student musicians in the area. He placed lead alto in the top Jazz Band and first chair in the IMEA Festival Concert Band. Katsushi won 1st place out of 40 other alto sax players. **Way to go!**

EXPLORE TESTING FOR 8TH GRADE

All 8th grade students are required to take the EXPLORE Test. This test is very important as it is used to help determine student class placement at Lake Park High School. EXPLORE testing is scheduled **Saturday, December 12th** at 7:45 am until 11:30 am at Lake Park's EAST Campus. Students need to bring two #2 pencils, eraser, and a calculator. **Room assignments will be mailed and included on Progress Reports.** The room assignments will also be posted at the Lake Park East cafeteria. Parents are asked to drop off students on the circle drive of Medinah Road. Parents should pick up their students in the bus parking lot.

7th Grade Team News

Meet the 7th grade parapro: *Stefanie Doherty*

I graduated from Rockford College with a degree in elementary education with middle school endorsements in language arts and social sciences. Since graduating college I have worked in several different schools. I filled in for a maternity leave for three months for a sixth grade reading and language arts classroom.

This is my second year here as a seventh grade TRS. Last year, I also filled in for Tina Kolzow's maternity leave. I am looking forward to another great school year here at Westfield Middle School.

Ryan Baird

I graduated from Aurora University in August of 2007 where I majored in middle level and secondary education for language arts. After graduating, I worked as a Freshman English teacher at Streamwood High School where I coached Freshman football and Sophomore baseball.

This is my second year at Westfield Middle School, and I could not be more excited to work with the students of Westfield.

Recently, my wife, Angelina, just had a boy named Noah. Our other five-year-old son, Ryan, is the big brother.

7th Grade Homework Policy

Just a friendly reminder at the start of second quarter about our policy.

Responsibility grows as your child grows throughout their middle school experiences. Turning work in on time not only assures that your child has the best possible grade, it teaches them punctuality, follow-through, and time management. These are all skills that are important for a successful future. Therefore, the following is the 7th grade work policy:

1. Each student will be given 2 late homework passes per subject per quarter. Homework will be accepted one day past the due date for full credit, after that it will not be accepted and a "0" will be given.

2. For all long term assignments and projects, the individual classroom teacher will decide upon the penalty for late work.

3. There will be no retakes on tests or homework in any subject area.

*If a student loses his/her passes, they will not be issued another until the next quarter.

Extra Credit Options

Extra credit opportunities come in the form of a question here and there on quizzes and tests. Also, any unused hall passes at the end of each quarter can be turned in for extra credit.

No Late Work Lottery

Each quarter students are given two late work passes to be used in each core subject. This entitles them to turn in work one day late without penalty. By the end of a quarter, if a student does not use these passes, they are collected and put into a lottery. At the end of the quarter passes are drawn for various prizes (incentives to complete work on time).

First quarter winners received a \$5 gift certificate to Portillo's. The winners were:

Daniel Schmuldt, Kayla Palmisano (x2), Joey Kuzera, Chloe Fakhouri, Daniel Paskon, Ashley Clodfelter, Summer Clark, Joey Westwood, Tu Le, Brian Grimaldi, Alexis Pall, Nicole Aloia, Linnae Capuder, Lexie Vasilikos, Justin Li, Carly Auriemma, Mark Beshta, Jonathan Merza, Brittany Walker. Congratulations!!!!



Scaling Cartoons

Some of the seventh grade math students were asked to choose cartoon characters and trace them onto centimeter or quarter inch grid paper. Next, they created a graph around their character labeling the "x" and

"y" axes. They used their knowledge of similar figures to enlarge a cartoon character 2.5 to 5 times the size. This was a culminating activity for a unit on similarity. Fun was had by ALL!




VETERAN'S DAY November 11

In Social Studies classes students and teachers will be discussing the importance of honoring our nation's Veterans. Through reading, discussion, and letter writing, students will explore the importance of service to our country. Students will also be asked to reflect on current events in our world today. We encourage you to spend some time reflecting with your child the importance of Veteran's Day!

*****NOTES TO PARENTS*****

- Please help your child to check and make sure that they have the appropriate supplies.
- Please help support us by checking your child's assignment notebook on a daily basis
- In order to make the best use of time, please generate some questions that you would like to address during parent-teacher conferences.
- Remember that school is open every hour on the hour for students who need to obtain things from their lockers.
- A reminder that Power School is available through the quarter to check your child's grades. (Please contact the main office if you have lost/forgotten passwords)
- Please encourage your child to read outside of school.
- Help your child reflect on first quarter performance and set goals for second quarter.



6th Grade Team News

You Should Always be Careful When You're on the Internet

Reported by Elizabeth Waclawik and Patti Klco



All Westfield students were informed of internet safety in a presentation given by Officer Odoi of the Bloomingdale Police Department. Officer Odoi spoke to us about some dangers that can be found on many different forms of technology used by some middle school students.

Some major websites and technology you should be careful using are Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Instant messaging, or any types of chat rooms. When you are using any of these sites, you have to remember if someone asks you to be their friend and you don't know who they are, you should always reject them. This will help you avoid any conversations with people that might want to do

you harm. Be careful with what you talk about with your friends and also what information you include on your homepage. Make sure it's not inappropriate or gross because there are some very strange people out in the world. If anyone asks you to meet them and you don't know who they are, please just ignore them and log off as quickly as possible. Make sure you are aware of any information another person has on their page before talking to that person. There is a lot of personal information that should not be included on your homepage including your address, age, school, phone numbers, or pictures of you or your friends.

Chatting with people can be dangerous because you might think they are really nice, but men and women trick kids by acting that way. They really aren't like that on the outside. Some women or men might threaten kids to give them their information or they will hurt you, your friends, and even your family.

Make sure you stay away from all this dangerous stuff, and that you don't give away your personal information because it will come back and get you.

Make sure you remember all this stuff when you are using any of these sites. If you are not on any of these web sites and your friends are, make them aware of all of these tips.

Technology is part of most students' lives in many forms. Making sure to make intelligent decisions when using any forms of technology was Officer Odoi's message. Her presentation gave us a good understanding about safety in this area.



Extra Extra Read All About It!

Student Council

Bags Tournament Fundraiser

In conjunction with the Mr. Buchholz, Student Council hosted a Bags tournament on Friday, October 23rd, 2009. We had over 100 students and teacher attend this fundraising event which raised nearly \$800.00 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The final bags challenge was between Colin Jamison and Zachary Okolita on the student team and Mr. Kastory and Mr. Cikesh on the teacher team, with the teacher team being the overall winners. Mrs. Gaffey was also the winner of a customized bags set of her choice. Congratulations to all our



Winners!

Thank you to all of you who participated or donated your time for this event; without individuals like you, we could not do what we do for all our students!

Character Counts Points

On another note, a special congratulations goes out to the homerooms of Mr. Kastory, Mrs. Kolzow, Mrs. Raimondi and Mrs. Ocuto who are currently in the lead with the most Character Counts homeroom points for their grade levels. Keep up the great

team work!

Clothing Drive

November 16th through November 20th, 2009, Westfield's Student Council will be hosting a clothing drive through homerooms. Students are to bring in any gently used clothes of any size, babies to adults, such as shirts, pants, coats, shoes, etc. they wish to donate to local charities. Each item brought in will count towards Character Count Homeroom points. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Matt at Dmatt@sd13.org.

Sharing Tree Preview

Every year the Bloomingdale Township operates the "Sharing Tree" which serves needy children with gifts for Christmas. A Christmas tree is decorated with paper bells that include a wish list for a deserving child. Through homeroom donations, Student Council provides wrapped presents for nearly 50 children's bells, and gift cards for their parents. Approximately a week before Christmas, the gifts will be distributed insuring that children have something under their tree for the Christmas holiday season.

This year Student Council will be holding the Sharing Tree Homeroom Money donations from November 30th to December 4th, 2009. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Matt at Dmatt@sd13.org.

Cultural Arts Club

Cultural Arts Club has had a busy year so far! In September we had our annual Homemade Dinner



Night where we made Cheesy Calzones from scratch and delicious Puppy Chow. We have created several unique projects every week, including real artistic chairs, many which were donated by the Paskon Family.

Cultural Arts Club meets once a week after school in the art room with Ms. Matt; meeting days rotate in the order to meet as many students' needs as possible. Students can join at anytime so stop by the art room if you are interested in sharing and supporting our culture.

Club HYPE

On Monday, November 30th, Club Hype will be participating in the Bloomingdale Public Library's Annual Snowman Crossing, which a Community Christmas Tree Decorating event. The trees will be displayed throughout the month of December on the Library grounds. Remember, Club Hype meets once a week after school in either the Art room or Wellness room with Ms. Matt and Mrs. Denning. Students can join at anytime so stop by the art

Exploratory Classes

Writer's Workshop

In this past Writing Workshop rotation, students worked on beginning stories which had vivid descriptions. Here is a unique story created by 7th grader Fefe Ho:



Outside, torrents of rain fell and the wind howled and shrieked. Something in the distance howled. But inside a dark cave lit with torches, a hunched figure stood motionless by a magical table. Sometimes, the flames would flicker and cast mysterious shadows across the cave wall or a rat would skitter across the floor. The figure ignored all, raised his hands, recited an ominous chant, and the crudely drawn thing on the table moved. It breathed in a first breath and came to life. The thing listened quietly as its master told it its mission. Then it flew off, wings fluttering. The doodle raised his head to the ceiling and belted an evil and chilling laugh.

The Vampire Doodle

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Musically Speaking

The Westfield Concert Choir and Concert Band members have been working diligently to raise money to help off-set the costs of their St. Louis trip. Students have sold preferred cards and Market Day pies. Their next fundraiser will take place during Parent / Teacher Conferences on November 23 and 24. There will be a bake sale taking place in the main hallway at Westfield. Please stop by and stock up on some homemade goodies for Thanksgiving. Thank you in advance for your support of the Music Department.

Artistically Speaking

Art for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students has been anything but ordinary this year. Sixth grade students have generated clay marionettes resembling those of Royal de Luxe. Seventh grade students have crafted their own Sodas Designs using recycled Jones Soda Bottles and labels. And last but not

least, eighth grade students have created abstract paintings similar to that of artist Jasper Johns. All in all, the art room has been celebrating and creating works of art which promote cultural diversity as well as creativity so remember to check out Westfield's student artwork at www.artsonia.com/westfield5.

Dramatically Speaking

Mark your calendar now: try-outs for this year's **WESTFIELD'S GOT TALENT 2010** are on either December 14th or 15th from 3:30 to 5:00. Sign up outside of the Drama room beginning Dec. 1st. We are looking for all types of talent: singing, dancing, comedy acts, marshal arts, musical groups, juggling, drama: the sky's the limit! Acts need to be *performance* ready. Please come with your costumes or at least ideas of what you'll be wearing. If you are using music you'll need to bring that with you. Also, if you are singing/performing to a song with lyrics, you need to bring a copy of the words to tryouts. All acts need to be three minutes or less. There will be three *mandatory* rehearsals: Jan. 5, 19, and 21 until 6:00 P.M.

Year-Long Spanish

El Día de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is a festival celebrating the reunion of dead relatives with their families, which is typically around the time of November 1st and 2nd. To celebrate El Día de los Muertos, the year-long Spanish classes collaborated with the 8th grade art classes for four fun filled days to create Day of the Dead Calacas out of clay. The classes will re-join in a few weeks to paint these unique Calacas. To see these wonderful creations, visit the project gallery at: <http://www.artsonia.com/museum/gallery.asp.exhibit=224743>





Communications

As the second quarter begins the new groups of students are settling down to work on their hands-on computer projects. Projects are intended to be completed during class time. Additional time is offered during social times and after school. Check out the Communications web page for contact information and a schedule for students to use computers to get extra work time when needed. Some students often choose to work on video projects or do make up work outside of school. It is important that any work done outside of school be saved in a format that is compatible with the software used at school.

Sixth graders during the first rotation worked on desktop publishing skills using Microsoft Draw to create an original design and create a brochure in Word. They used Excel to create a data table and basic charts (graphs). They finished the rotation using Photo Story as a means to create a travel log about various locations around the world. Not only did they have to find photographs, they had to research facts about the location, which were then included in either titles or voiceovers.

Seventh graders developed their skills by creating a variety of products for a fictional stock brokerage firm. The projects included formal business letters, an original graphic design, a personal resume, and business stationary. The rotation ended with a video editing project which required downloading video, converting it to a useable video format (avi). They also learned how to add titles and credits.

Eighth graders spent the first several weeks working with Microsoft Excel to develop and use several spreadsheets. Students not only created tables and charts (graphs) using Excel, they solved mathematical problems using formulas. The final unit included two independent projects. The first was a self-directed video. The students used a problem solving plan. They had to write a proposal, determine a Plan of Procedure, create storyboards, follow the plan, adapt it as necessary, create the video, and evaluate the whole process. The second was to create a photo editing or podcast project. They were allowed to work independently or in a small group.

Once again they had to make a proposal, figure out how to get in done, do it, and evaluate what they did.

Concert Choir News

The Concert Choir has a number of exciting events planned in the near future. On November 17, they have been invited to Lake Park to join the freshman choir in a "Sing and Share" event. On December 3, the choir will travel with the Concert Band to perform in their annual Holiday Tour. Performances will be given at both DuJardin and Erickson schools as well as Stratford Square Mall. Their Holiday Concert will be at Westfield on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm.

Music Dept. Fundraiser

Do you shop online? Do you buy from Amazon.com, or order your Holiday greeting cards from Shutterfly.com? If so, please visit www.2clickfundraising.com before placing your orders this season. The Music Department will earn a percentage of your final purchase price to help fund the Choir/Band trip to St. Louis in April 2010.


Here's what you do:

1. Go to www.2clickfundraising.com
2. Select 'Westfield Middle School Music Department' from the list
3. Select the on-line store where you will be shopping, from a list of more than 100 stores
4. Continue to place your order as usual

Thank you so much for your support of Westfield's Music Department!

Wellness Department

The Wellness Team has started their nutrition unit during this second quarter. Students will be keeping track of a 3-day food and drink intake. After 3 days they will input their meals at www.mypyramid.gov. They will receive a printout showing in which areas they did well and which areas they need improvement, according to the food guide pyramid. We want our students to be able to incorporate grains, meats, dairy, fruit, and vegetables everyday, and be eating the unhealthy foods in moderation.



In other Wellness news, the students just finished their first experience with the climbing wall. It was a success, as students learned that it was much more difficult than it looks. Students were able to challenge themselves by advancing to more difficult levels. Students also had the option to time themselves to see how quickly they can get across the wall and some even got to try it blindfolded. Next quarter, students will have to solve math problems, form words together, and go through obstacles on the wall!

Athletic Website

Attention parents and students: the athletic department now has their website up and running. The website consists of team rosters, schedules, directions to schools, and stats for all sporting events. You can find the athletic website at www.sd13.org

Character Counts Celebration Night

Every year the Character Counts program hosts an evening program called their Celebration Night highlighting students participation in Character Counts. This year the celebration took place Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00pm at Old Town Park in Bloomingdale. All three District 13 schools participated, in addition to Winnebago Elementary and St. Isodore School. Student performances included singing and skits illustrating the 6 pillars of character. American Youth Character Awards were presented to students who did an exemplary job demonstrating the 6 pillars of character in their schools and communities. Miss Illinois was also there, leading students in a fun game show activity. A great time was had by all!

Exploratory Field Trip

The 7th grade students will be traveling to Chicago on Friday, December 11 to visit the Art Institute and to take a walking tour of several well known sculptures in the area.

Please look for permission slips coming home in the near future.

Community Safety from the Bloomingdale Police Department

In order to make our community safer, please use extreme care in school zones and around school buses. Do not speed or pass school buses when it is loading and unloading children. The BPD aggressively enforces traffic laws near schools and school crossing areas.

Motorist Responsibilities:

- When traveling in a school zone, drivers must obey **20 M.P.H.** reduced speed limit during school hours while children are present.
- All vehicles must stop on **one-way streets** and **two-lane roads** when a school bus has red lights flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- On four-lane roads, **drivers traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop**, when the bus lights are flashing and the sign is extended. Drivers going the opposite direction of the school bus are not required to stop, because students are not permitted to cross four-lane roads after getting off the bus.
- Residential areas have a 25 M.P.H. speed limit, unless otherwise posted.

Note: If convicted of passing a stopped school bus in Illinois, you will lose your driving privileges for three months. If you receive two convictions within five years, your driving privileges will be suspended for one year. In addition, violators will be fined \$150 for the first offense and \$500 for the second or subsequent conviction.

Beginning January 1, 2010, Illinois Vehicle Code provides that a person, regardless of age, may **NOT** use a wireless telephone in a school zone, construction zone, or maintenance speed zone.



Spotlight on a Caudill...

Each newsletter will have a look at a couple of 2009 Caudill nominees. Try one today!.

Dragon Slippers by Jessica Day George. Orphaned after a fever epidemic, Creel befriends a dragon and unknowingly inherits an object that can either save or destroy her kingdom.

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate. Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

The Mozart Question by Michael Morpurgo. A young journalist goes to Venice, Italy, to interview a famous violinist, who tells the story of his parents' incarceration by the Nazis, and explains why they can no longer listen to the music of Mozart.

Library Helpers...

Make the library run smoother! Does your child like to be surrounded by books? Would your child like to help out in the library? Mrs. Siegert is always thankful for the library helpers

that assist her during their social time. They can join with a friend, see the new books before anyone else, and learn how a library runs.

Lots of fun and maybe even a pizza party or two! Have your child talk to Mrs. Siegert right away if they are interested!

LTC!

If your child enjoys being creative in a variety of ways, LTC club is for them! LTC stands for Library Tech Club. This is for readers and non-readers alike because there is so much to do. They can make short films about the library, create movie-style book trailers, decorate bulletin boards, set up book displays, help choose books to purchase for the IMC, and much more. If this sounds like something your child would enjoy, have them see Mrs. Siegert asap for an application to LTC!

Roselle Public Library...

Has a way for you to learn how to make great gifts for others. Teen knits is an opportunity to learn how to knit, and create great items. Everything is provided, including needles, yarn, patterns, and snacks! Once you have made those great gifts, you can learn to

wrap them like an expert! On Tuesday, December 22nd from 1-2:30 you can learn to wrap gifts that look so beautiful, you won't want to open them up! All of these activities are available to all students in 6th-12th grade, even if you live in Bloomingdale! Just call the library at 630-529-1641 to register.

Bloomingdale Public Library...

Has Teen Game Night twice a month. On the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8:30, you have the opportunity to show off your mad skills at playing Guitar Hero, Rock Band, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Mario Kart Wii, or groove to DDR. While you wait, make sure to participate in the Yu-gi-Oh! card tournament, which is held at every first Teen Game Night of the month (the second Thursday). Call the library for more information!

Don't forget...

If you ever have any questions regarding reading, books to purchase for your child, volunteering at the IMC, or anything involving literature for enjoyment, drop me an email at msiegert@sd13.org.

Social Work & Guidance News



Dear Gabby,

With the start of second quarter, can you give me some suggestions for how to keep my child on track and motivated with her grades in school? Her grades started to slip at the end of first quarter, and I want to make sure she gets off to a good start.

Sincerely,
Staying on Track in Bloomingtondale

Dear, Staying on Track in Bloomingtondale:

Sometimes it's hard for students to keep the momentum going after the beginning of the new school year. Encourage your child to develop some positive study habits and routines. For example:

1. Pack up the backpack the night before with all needed homework, books and materials. This way nothing will be forgotten at home.
2. Make sure your child is using their planbook regularly to keep track of all assignments and tests.

3. You and your child can check their grades on PowerSchool. Information is available not only on assignment grades, but also cumulative grades. User names and passwords for PowerSchool will be printed on report cards.

4. Make sure your child has a quiet time and place for doing homework, free from distractions. Set aside a specific time each time for doing homework.

5. Check-in with your child periodically while they are doing their homework to see how they're coming along, and to help them out with any questions they may have.

6. Schedule one day and time every week designated as "organization time". Your child can use this time to go through their folders and make sure all papers are where they should be, and get rid of any unneeded papers.

7. Remind your child about resources available at Westfield for completing schoolwork: Homework Lab after school until 4:50 (late bus available) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Quiet Lunch study hall (50 minutes) and regular study hall (23 minutes) available daily.

8. Acknowledge your child's accomplishments—let them know you recognize it when they've done a great job!

If you have any questions you'd like to ask Gabby, please call or e-mail Ms. Hubbard at :
dhubbard@sd13.org or Mrs. Zagotta at szagotta@sd13.org.

8TH GRADERS CAN TAKE SPANISH ALL YEAR

Westfield Middle School is now offering a year-long elective course of Spanish 1 for 8th grade students. This elective option is **only** for 8th graders instead of the Exploratory rotation.

Jon Perry, our Spanish teacher, works closely with Lake Park High School, using the same textbook series. Individual student profiles of study habits and academic performance will be taken into consideration for Placement into Spanish 1.

Seventh graders, please turn in your green sheet declaring interest in this full-year elective for the 2010-2011 school year. **Letters are due to the office by Friday, November 20, 2009.**



STP News

The **S**tudent **T**eacher **P**arent Organization is looking forward to a successful 2009-2010 school year. STP is a parent run, volunteer group which meets on the third Tuesday of the month. It funds extra activities and programs for students and staff at Westfield Middle.

STP BOARD MEMBERS

President:: Lori Deichstetter
Vice Pres: Kerri Trebonsky
Secretary: Katie Pall
Treasurer: Maureen Lucenti

2009-2010 STP Meetings:

- **November 17 7:00pm**
- **No Meeting in December**
- **January 19 1:30pm**
- **February 16 7:00pm**
- **March 16 7:00pm**
- **April 20 7:00pm**
- **May 18 1:30pm**

You can view the monthly STP minutes and other **Westfield** information on the District 13 website at:
www.sd13.org

REQUEST FOR EMAILS :)

In order to improve communication among STP families, we are requesting parents' email addresses. If you are interested in staying connected and informed of STP and Westfield Middle School activities, **please e-mail your name, e-mail address, child's name and grade to: Amy Dahly, Communications Chair, at amydahly@aol.com**

MEMBERSHIP INFO

It's not too late to send in your STP membership registration. The STP is comprised of our students, teachers, and parents who are interested in enhancing each student's experience at Westfield. Every student at Westfield Middle School will benefit from the funds raised by STP. Plus, you will receive the telephone directory with your paid \$10.00 membership. Your support is very much appreciated. *Thank you!*

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Westfield's hot lunch program is serviced by Home Run Inn and takes place on most Wednesdays. If you choose **not** to order hot lunch, please **send a lunch** with your child to school that day. Sometimes there is food leftover to purchase, but many times there are **no** hot lunches left. Also, we are now only offering water as a drink, as we are not allowed to serve pop in public schools.

VOLUNTEERS

We are still in need of volunteers to help out on Hot Lunch Wednesdays. If you did not get a chance to sign up and would like to help, please call: **Donna Carusiello at 630-980-8744.**

SUBSTITUE NURSE

District 13 is looking for people to fill in for the nurses on days when they are out of the office. RNs or LPNs are preferred, but anyone who has first aid and CPR certification would be welcome to apply. Responsibilities would include helping students who report to the health office and maintaining a recorded of those visits. If you are interested in becoming a nurse substitute, please contact: Fred Louderman at 630-582-5130.

NOVEMBER 15TH IS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DAY

November 15th has been designated as School Board Member Day in Illinois, and Bloomingdale School District 13 is joining other districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their commitment and contributions to our public schools.

"School board members serve countless hours working to make public education the best it can be for every child," said Dr. Kim Perkins, District 13 Superintendent. They bear responsibility in District 13 for an annual budget of \$17 million, 1,234 students in grades PK to 8th, 195 employees, and three buildings.

"Preparing today's students to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow is a tremendous task. As elected officials, school board members are the voice of their communities, serving first and foremost in the best interest of our schoolchildren," continued Dr. Perkins.

"Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of our community's children and families. These dedicated individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their unflinching commitment to the continuing success of our students now and in the future."

Our District 13 Board Members are: Dr. Donald Litchfield, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mr. Terrence McKeown, Ms. Tamara Peterson, Mrs. Diane Birkley, Mrs. Fina Klco, and Mr. Cary Moreth.

