



Principal's Pen

Dear Parents,

Now that I am directing traffic in the upstairs middle and high school pick up line, I get a chance to see some of you on a daily basis as you pick up your students. I appreciate your patience as you move through this line. Our goal is to get as many cars off Township Drive as possible, so we ask that you try to stay close to the car in front of you. It's tempting to stop your car where your student is standing, but we prefer that you keep moving, even if it means your child may have to walk a few extra yards.

Another suggestion is to put on your indicator as you move from the side lanes to the middle exit lane. This lets me know that you have your students, especially when you have more than one to pick up.

Please pay special attention to the Parent to Parent articles in this issue. I agree with both articles.

Thanks to all who continue to volunteer and support the school. Your time and effort mean so much.

Sincerely,
Brad Schreiner

PTO General Membership Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 8th, 6:30 p.m.
Featuring the Instrumental Music Department
Winter Concert

All performing groups will present pieces of music demonstrating their proficiency level and talent. Included in the concert will be:

- ◆ **Beginning Band (their first public performance!)**
- ◆ **Middle School Band**
- ◆ **String Ensemble (complete with guitars this year!)**
- ◆ **Jazz Band**
- ◆ **High School Band**

In place of an admission charge, Mr. Clark asks that you bring one new, unwrapped toy to be donated to the local Samaritan Center or Toys For Tots campaign. This unselfish act on your part will help ensure that a child in need might indeed have a Merry Christmas!

Next Scheduled PTO Meeting: Tuesday, January 10th

Scrip Gift Card Competition Ends Soon



Parents place Scrip gift card orders by Dec. 6. For each weekly order (regardless of quantity or value of gift cards) each MHMS student in the family will receive one entry in the Scrip Competition drawing. **For a complete list of Scrip Card Retailers visit www.glscrip.com**

For more information, contact Beth Welch @ 822-9360
Keep using Kroger cards to purchase groceries and gas!!!

Spotlight on MHMS Staff

Scotti Harris

Our MHMS K-5 library media specialist received a B.S in Special Education with a concentration in Gifted Education from East Tennessee State University and a M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision (Library Science concentration) from Middle Tennessee State University. She has enjoyed teaching SEARCH classes and other Special Education courses in Sumner County for the past 15 years. She and her husband reside in Gallatin and have one daughter who attends Beech High School. Scotti enjoys reading, traveling, and bargain-shopping with her daughter.

STUDENT DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

Directories were distributed to all PTO Members. If you did not receive one, please contact: Kelley Graham at kellyggraham@netzero.net. If you would like to purchase a directory or

"ALL YOU CAN EAT" PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The MHMS Hawk Swim Team would like to invite you to join us for an "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast. This fundraiser is sponsored by: MHMS Hawk Swim Team & Chili's of Gallatin and all proceeds will benefit the swim team.

- ⇒ When: Saturday, December 17th from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
- ⇒ Where: Chili's at 600 Village Green Blvd., Gallatin
- ⇒ Cost: \$5.00 per ticket
- ⇒ Purchase tickets from Coach Stocco or any swim team member



A sincere thank you to
Mr. Ron Smith

The Victorian Garden

For his generous donation of the new landscaping around the Elementary Wing Flagpole.

SCIENTIFIC NOTATIONS

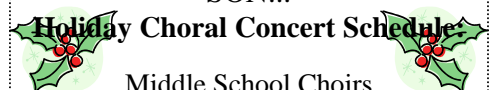
SPACE CAMP MEETING

The informational meeting for parents of 6th graders going to Space Camp on May 8-10 will be held in our commons area on Thurs., Dec. 8 at 5:45. We hope 6th grade parents will then stay for the PTO general meeting which will begin at 6:30.

MS. STOREY'S CLASS BLASTS OFF!

Foundations of Technology blasted off on Tuesday, November 29th. The 6th and 8th grade students built rockets in class and launched them. The building process was tedious, but the reward was well worth it. If you hear a boom.....look for liftoff!

Get into the SPIRIT OF THE SEASON...



Middle School Choirs
Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

High School and Show Choirs

Parent-to-Parent

By A Group of Very Concerned Parents

We truly care about all of the students at MHMS, and find comfort knowing that others are looking out for the well-being of our children, just as we are looking out for theirs. We hope this letter will inform you of a problem which is affecting our students. Many of you attended the meeting at the beginning of the school year when Mrs. Schreiner discussed her concerns with the website MySpace.com. This was just after a 23 year old man from Michigan tried to check a girl out of Gallatin High School after meeting her online. Mrs. Schreiner felt very strongly about this subject at the time and although many of us heard her, it is still a huge and growing problem.

For those of you who do not know about MySpace.com, it is an online community for people to meet, chat, and share pictures. If you have older children, they probably know ALL about it. If you have younger ones, they will one day. Seem innocent enough? It's not at all. Even if an innocent child gets online with the intention of chatting with their friends, there is no way they can be online for more than a few minutes without finding something extremely inappropriate.

Many students have already taken it to a level beyond chatting with their friends. It's obvious by the pictures and comments that some of them are chatting with attractive people they have searched for and met online. They not only have the ability to search for people in their zip code, but also have other disturbing options that might lead to a sexual predator. There are over 38,000,000 members of MySpace. It is littered with explicit sexual material and strong language. Once on the website, it only takes two clicks of the mouse to view extremely explicit photos of adults. **JUST TWO CLICKS!!!** There are children in our school and our community who are spending hours upon hours online every single day. Doesn't it make sense that they would easily become obsessed with such graphic information at their age?

On a recent News Channel 2 report, they interviewed a college student about her addiction to MySpace. At the end of the report, they said, "MySpace is intended for adults over the age of 18." Yet there are hundreds of students from our community in the group, and almost every one is misrepresenting their age. Most middle school students say they are between 17 and 22. If our children are lying about their age, the people they are talking to are doing the same. Who really knows who they are talking to? Isn't this a perfect place for online predators? Dateline recently aired a very shocking report on this topic.

We have also spoken with students in the area who say they enjoy being online because they can say things they would never say in person - they can be exciting and anonymous. Does this sound like a way to build meaningful relationships? How will our children be able to have normal relationships in the future when this is what they are learning at such a young age? They may think it is fun, but they don't realize how it is affecting their minds.

It is our responsibility to become informed with what our children are viewing online. Many students these days have their own computer and are more knowledgeable about it than their parents are. Parental controls do not block this site, but there are ways to do so manually. We believe there are many parents who would like to know more and would feel strongly about this subject if they only had the tools and expertise. If you would like more information about the website, would like to view the Dateline report or would like any assistance in a confidential way, please call the MHMS Guidance Office. They will put you in touch with someone who can answer your questions or show you around the website. We hope this information will challenge parents to educate themselves and hopefully, together we can make a difference. We have such wonderful students and it is disheartening to see them get into something so inappropriate at such a young age.

Parent-to-Parent

By Rebecca Gailmard

Remember when you were a child in school and were given a project to complete for your class? Some kids were the first to start AND finish, while others were like me, putting completion off until the last possible minute. But, ahhhh - the joy and satisfaction of finally turning it in, knowing that you, and you alone, were responsible for whatever grade came from it. At least back then, we knew it would be graded on effort - our OWN personal effort!

When and why did that all change? When did it become acceptable - almost mandatory - for a parent to do a child's homework? What is wrong with a society that fears children making mistakes? And what kind of a learning environment have we created when a child hides her self-made project from her classmates and teacher because it is not "picture perfect" like the other parent-assisted works? When did the word "average" become such an intolerable word for parents and society in general???

Okay, okay - enough questions (with no "perfect" answers!). We have terrific kids with all sorts of gifts and talents in a wonderful school environment. Let us, as adults, be like our parents, and show our children it is okay to make mistakes on their own, because it's from making mistakes that they learn and grow - just like us grownups. Show me a child who's afraid of failure, and you will find an over-eager, anxious parent standing by who doesn't want his/her child to suffer. No parent wants that for their child, but it's only by trying and failing by yourself, and learning to try again, that they will learn to succeed.



**ATTENTION
AMAZON.COM
SHOPPERS**



Remember to use the Amazon.com link on the MHMS web site for your online holiday shopping. MHMS Athletic Booster Club will receive 3-10% of the amount of the purchase. This is a great way to earn money for MHMS.

Speech Team Takes Two First Place Honors

The MHMS speech team recently traveled to Dickson County High School for their second tournament of the season. Junior Sandra Miselem won first place in Original Oratory. Junior Sara Denton won first place in Storytelling and also received \$250 in honor of Storytelling Week.

Out of 29 teams in attendance, MHMS placed sixth. Team members who competed are Grayson Bailey, Jessica Cobb, Sara Denton, Christina England, Maggy Hume, Brandi Long, Sandra Miselem, Kaleb Moran, Monica St. Amant, and Brittany Webster. Courtney Blankenship Spears coaches the team. Their next tournament will be Dec. 3 at Rossview High School in Clarksville, TN.

Congratulations Choral Freshmen!

The MHMS choral department would like to congratulate Samantha Hughey, Morgan Lamberth, and Holly Yearout for being selected to Mid- State and Honors Freshman Choirs for the Middle Tennessee Region.

They competed November 18 at Ezell Harding High School with 1600 other students from High Schools all over Middle Tennessee. We are very proud that Holly Yearout ranked #1 and Morgan Lamberth ranked #18 of all the Freshman 1st Sopranos who auditioned!



Model UN

Every participating student at MHMS needs to be congratulated for their part in the, *Brother Can You Spare a Dime/Quarters for the French Quarter* school-wide service project. Not only did our school raise the most money for this project, but MHMS' Model UN Delegation received the coveted Service Award for the project. The plaque will hang in the office of our school for all to see. A very special thank you also goes to our PTO for helping us with this project!

MHMS now has two officers that were elected on the state level for Model UN. Sara Denton and Melanie Martin will both serve as press editors of the Model UN Wire in 2006.