

COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL



“Message from the Principal”
– Mr. Greg Meschke

It's difficult to believe we are closing in on the end of our first semester! Here at Columbia Middle School our students were active in supporting families for the holidays. The Student Council and Builders Club have been busy in their work to sponsor families in need. We are also proud to announce that our Parent Conferences had over 90% attendance. Proof of our active parents and their support for educational process their children are receiving. We are fortunate to have this participation from the great parents in our district. I hope each of you had a safe and relaxing time off!



A Letter of Thanks...

From Ms. Barb Dagenais, CMS Teacher

The 7th grade teachers at Columbia Middle School would like to thank all the students and parents who participated in the student-led conferences. Throughout the afternoon and evening, 92% of the seventh grade students presented portfolios to their parents in the media center where all enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere of classical music, candles and after-dinner mints. The six core teachers were present and tried to get around to all groups for questions or comments. The after-conference comments were very positive and nearly all felt it was a worthwhile experience. Without parents willing to participate in change, it could not have been such a successful day. The teachers wish to express their appreciation for all the parental support and interest in this new method of conferencing.

Ancient Egypt Day Festivities

This past fall the sixth grade spent several weeks learning about the Egyptian culture. On Egypt Day, the students dressed in Egyptian clothing and chose two classes where they learned more about the customs. Some of the class's students had to choose from included, Egyptian Scribes where students studied about hieroglyphs which is Egyptian writing, Egyptian Architects and History, Egyptian Artisans where students learned about Egyptian art and murals on tomb walls. The students made a museum by recreating different Egyptian artifacts. When asked what the favorite thing she learned about Egyptian times, sixth grade student Miranda Stutzman replied, "How they mummified people. It was gross and neat all at the same time." Student Tim Wyliss added, "I liked how they (modern scientist) discovered a language on the Rosetta Stone." Other favorites included King Tut and the Pyramids.



The Gift of Giving

Lucas Wright, seventh grade student at Columbia Middle School worked this summer doing odd jobs to earn extra money. To earn money, he helped stock shelves at a grocery store, did yard work, and helped his Grandma when she needed things moved. He knew from the beginning of summer he wanted to save his money and when the right situation came around, he felt this money should go to a family who could really use it. Through the Student Council at the middle school, Lucas learned of a family they had chosen to help out during the holidays. Lucas instinctively knew this is where he wanted the money he had earned to go. Lucas donated all that he had earned this past summer - \$115.00. What a wonderful gift from a fine young man! In response to why he decided to donate this money, Lucas explained, "You're taking care of by your parents, so if you can turn around and help others...well, it just seemed the right thing to do. I hope I can do more of this in the future". Lucas said he had really felt good about his donation, and I reminded him that when we put positive things out into the universe, it always comes back to us in unexpected ways, and perhaps what he sensing was the gift of giving.



Holiday Shopping Made Easy

Article by Mr. Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

The CMS Transitions class operated a "Holiday Store" this past Christmas season. The students sold homemade goods and goodies during lunch hours and at basketball games in order to give those procrastinators an easy chance at buying that special someone a gift. And if you think this store is just thrown together overnight, you got a little *Grinch* in you. It all starts in the beginning of the school year. The students take a field trip to shop for craft items trying to figure out what they will make. The kids take inventory on what they have, what they need, and how much they have to spend. The next step, after a little reading, writing, and arithmetic, the class fills out applications for each position in the store. "They take turns working different jobs, giving them hands on experience and job skills that they may use in the real world," explains Ms. Patti Kanaan. The students often stay after school and are solely responsible for promoting their products. By making signs, advertising, and setting up during a week of lunch hours and at two basketball games it is "very helpful with their social skills not only with other students but also with the public," says Ms. Kanaan. Proceeds from the store go back to the class in the form of field trips and classroom extras.



CMS PTO MEETINGS

- January 11, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
- February 8, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
- March 8, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
- April 12, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
- May 10, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.

Columbia Middle School PTO invites you to come and join their meetings as they support the students and staff.

