



Jackson Hole Middle School Newsletter November 2008

Parent Involvement

The first quarter of the school year is over! We appreciate the over 85% parent turnout at conferences last week! Your commitment to education is critical to your child's success in school. If you were unable to attend conferences, you should have received your child's report card in the mail. Please feel free to call or email your child's teacher any time you have a question!

We also had an amazing turn out for our 7th grade Greek Feast, with each student bringing in Greek food, and many parents on hand to help. Parents are needed for tutoring, helping with classroom projects and special events, as well as sharing an expertise. Thanks to Sue Harris for all her hard work as our volunteer coordinator. Parents are always welcome in the Middle School, and volunteer help is much appreciated. Call the Middle School if you would like to help out!

Absences

Please remember to call the school when your child is absent due to an illness, or when you have a planned absence for your child. (733 – 4234) With planned absences of more than a day, students are required to pick up a form from the front office to take to their teachers for assignments, so they do not fall behind in their school work.

Grants

Teton County School District is fortunate to have several federal and state funded grants to enhance services provided to teachers and students. Several of these grants are housed at the Middle School. Jeff Parrott is the project director of a U.S. History Grant funded by the federal government. TCSD has several teachers participating, and the grant provides a combination of teacher education lead by nationally recognized educators, as well as "field trips" for these teachers. They have visited several famous places, including Washington D.C., Gettysburg, Philadelphia, and a week-long wagon train trip. A second grant housed at the Middle School is a mentoring program. Teton Mentor Project serves students of all ages, and currently has 70 students matched with a mentor. Mentoring is one of the most effective interventions in helping students be successful in school. If you are interested in being a mentor, please call 733-3153.

Middle School Spotlight

The **LEGO Robotics** competitive team is getting ready to compete in Casper on December 6th! Team "Technical Difficulties" will match wits with other kids who love LEGOS and want to solve complex problems using robots. The club has been meeting on Tuesdays after school, and is coached by teacher Nancy Brumsted and mechanical engineers Lisa Mosier and Echo Miller from ***Square One Systems Design*** in Jackson. The competitive team is made up of 10 students from the middle school who have been practicing and doing research since September.

The team will be programming and running their unique robots to compete with over 50 teams from across the state at the competition in the Casper Events Center. They will also see MIT engineer Dan Stiehl, who will present a program about robotic companions from the MIT Personal Robots Group. He

will put specific emphasis on his current research in developing the Huggable, a personal robotic teddy bear for education and health care.

Parent Help needed for Band Concert

A morning rehearsal will take place at the Walk Festival Hall for seventh and eighth grade Band students on December 15th. Conductor Tom Dunham needs 12 volunteers to ride busses with the students and help the students during the rehearsal. Please call Tom Dunham at the Middle School if you are interested in helping out! 733 – 4234.

Upcoming Events

Wed.	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving break begins
Wed.	Dec. 3	12:00, PIE meeting
Fri.	Dec. 5	Teacher in-service day – no school for students
Tue.	Dec. 9	6:30, Orchestra @ Walk Festival Hall
Wed.	Dec.10	Mid Terms mailed home (for students who have below a C in a class)
Mon.	Dec. 15 7:00,	7 th and 8 th grade band concert Walk Festival Hall
Sat.	Dec. 20	Winter break begins
Mon.	Jan. 5	Winter break ends

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!