

MINSTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent ...

As you are probably aware the Minster Board of Education has approved a 1% income tax for the May ballot. We currently have a 0.5% income tax that is expiring. Many school districts around us have income taxes. New Bremen has had a 1% for several years now and Ft. Loramie has a 1.25%. After two community meetings that were open to the public and much discussion with community members through e-mails, phone calls, and face-to-face conversations, the Board agreed to ask for a 1% income tax.

Along with the 1% income tax that you will see on the ballot this May, we are closing the elementary building as a cost savings initiative. We do have the space in the other two buildings as our enrollment has been declining and is projected to continue to do so in the next few years. The elementary building will be maintained and will be available for CYO basketball, and other groups to use/rent the facility. The middle school will become "Minster Elementary School" and will house grades K-6. The high school will become "Minster Junior Senior High School" and will house grades 7-12.

Currently the building principals are working with their respective faculties and parent advisory groups getting input into the building plans and layouts for grade levels, etc. The administration is also meeting with classified staff supervisors in order to garner input. The plans for both buildings will be finalized and will be unveiled to the public early in March.

A Levy Committee is being formed. If you are interested in becoming a part of that committee please contact board Vice President, Connie Meiring, at 419-628-4820 for more information. There are many things you can do on the levy committee from speaking to organizations and passing out yard signs to helping with web materials, etc. Whatever your talents might be, I am sure they will be used and much appreciated.

As a community member, you will be invited to open community meetings in order to gain information about the upcoming levy. We will make sure that the newspaper and our website has the information as to when the meetings will be held and what time they will occur. We will also use our One Call system to get the word out. We hope you will participate when the time comes.

Speaking of our Board of Education, the organizational meeting took place in January just before our regular Board meeting. At the organizational meeting, Mr. Kurt Forsthoefel was elected as the Board President; Mrs. Connie Meiring was elected as the Board Vice President with Mrs. Julie Ellis, Mr. John Heitbrink, and Dr. Jeffrey Monnin serving as members. Although January was officially Board of Education recognition month, we will be recognizing our Board members at our February meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 23, at 8:00 PM in the Board Conference Room located in the high school. Board meetings are open public meetings and we invite you to attend. When you see a Board of Education member out and about in the community, remember to say "thank you". If you have never served on the school board, you may not know that it can be a difficult job. Our Board members work tirelessly and give of their time and resources to make sure that Minster Local Schools remains a top performing school and fiscally solvent. I truly appreciate all of the great work they do. We are lucky to have a Board of Education who truly cares about ALL students.

Scholarship Available

Once again this year, the Minster Academic Boosters will be offering a scholarship. Applications will be available from Mrs. Gavit in early April. All applicants must intend to major in education and will be scheduled for a personal interview in the spring.



Any questions about the scholarship can be directed to Bonnie Trzaska (419-628-2062).

Remember: Throughout the school year, you can support the Academic Boosters by shopping Market Day. Order forms are available at any school office, or you may contact Shelly Hogenkamp (419-628-2342, jusshe1@hotmail.com) for more information. If you would like to purchase an Academic Boosters discount card, they are also available at any school office or by contacting Bonnie Trzaska (419-628-2062, trzaska@bright.net).



www.minster.k12.oh.us

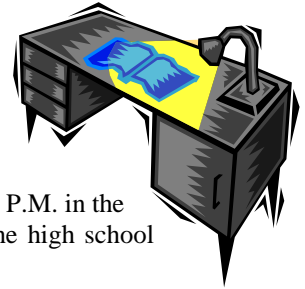
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HIGH SCHOOL NEWS GRADES 9-12

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mr. Mike Lee - High School Principal



CURRICULUM

Minster High School will be hosting an 8th grade orientation on Wednesday, March 23, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the high school gym. This informative session for parents and current 8th graders will outline many of the high school experiences including:

- Course options and descriptions
- Credit requirements
- Staff member introductions
- Small group break-out sessions

An open house will follow the orientation beginning at 7:30 P.M., and is open to the general public. Grades 7-12 will be housed at the high school beginning next fall, and maps of rooms and staff members will be available outlining the many changes forthcoming.

PARENT RESOURCES

Interim reports will be sent home with students on Wednesday, February 16, for those students that are at below level achievement in the classroom or have significantly dropped during the beginning portion of the quarter. The Ohio Graduation Test (O.G.T.) for all sophomore students will take place during the week of March 14. All testing will occur in the morning, and appointments should be avoided during this important week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of February 7	FCCLA Week Celebrated
Week of March 14	O.G.T. for all sophomores
Friday, March 18	End of Third Nine Weeks
Wednesday, March 23	8 th Grade Orientation @ 6:00 P.M. followed by an Open House @ 7:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 30	Prom

High School Students Score Well on Americanism Test

This fall our senior, junior and sophomore students took the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Test. The Americanism test measures a student's knowledge of the workings of our government at all levels and branches in addition to the history and customs of our nation. Each class has one boy winner and one girl winner. The results of the 2010 Americanism Test at Minster High School are as follows:

Seniors: Emily Thieman ** & Jack Olding

Juniors: Alex Monnin ** & John Freytag

Sophomores: Hannah Butler & Adam Wehrman

** Emily Thieman and Alex Monnin were also county-wide winners in their divisions.

FCCLA Kicks-Off the New Year

The FACS room is beginning its busiest season of the year. STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) Events and individual degrees are six short weeks away. The Minster chapter is taking part in ten STAR Events with 25 members participating. These students have been working hard on their events for Region Rally on March 5. Along with these events, we have several students working on their Power of One, State Degrees, Dynamic Leadership, and Chapter Degrees, with their interviews being held on March 3. Below, is a list of events and students that will be competing at the Regional Rally.

Chapter Showcase Manual: Macey Hoelscher and Vanessa Ahrens

Focus on Children Junior: Courtney Kuether and Whitney Oakley

Interior Design: Shelby Wentz, Kristin Hilgefert, and Samantha Osterfeld

Entrepreneurship: Stacy Bernard and Josie Corbit

Illustrated Talk: Emily Thieman and David Slonkosky

Life Event Planning: Brittany Heitkamp, Kassi Brown, and Sami Brown

National Programs in Action: Hillary Carder, Allison Jutte, and Brittany Mumaw

Parliamentary Procedure: Lauren Jutte, Kaitlyn Lehmkuhl, Zach Wyen, Megan Timmerman, Britt Sherman, Graham Goebel, and Katie Thieman

Recycle and Redesign: Theresa Barhorst

Also, the FCCLA sponsored a blood Drive on December 6, 2010. The drive was deemed a success with the students and staff donating a total of 36 pints of blood for the American Red Cross. The FCCLA chapter would like to say thank you to all those who took time out of their day to donate!

The FCCLA is also sponsoring a Valentine Day Dance on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at the New Bremen Legion starting at 7 PM. All proceeds raised will be donated to the FCCLA National Outreach Program, The Children's Miracle Network. We encourage all high school students to attend, and they are welcome to bring friends from other schools as well.

Finally, National FCCLA Week is February 6-12. The members are busy working on events for that week, which will include a Teacher Appreciation breakfast, a presentation to the 8th graders at the middle school, and a membership pizza party. The FCCLA members encourage everyone to spend extra time with their families during this week!



Minster Scholastic Team 2nd In MAC Bowl



On January 6, 2011, Delphos St. John's High School hosted the 2010-2011 Mercer Savings Bank MAC Scholastic Bowl. The 22nd annual tournament was sponsored by Mercer Savings Bank and coordinated by Ken Markward, Mercer County ESC. Students competed by providing answers to questions in all subject areas. They were asked fifteen questions at a time and they provided a written compilation of their answers. The team was then allowed to substitute with four players being in at one time.

The MAC Scholastic League is a program that promotes academic recognition. The league includes the Midwest Athletic Conference Schools of Coldwater, Delphos St. John's, Fort Recovery, Marion Local, Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, Parkway, St. Henry, and Versailles.

Representing the Mercer Savings Bank, Mark Fleck presented prize money to the top five teams. The New Knoxville High School Scholastic Team, coached by Cory Canan, won first place and received a \$150 award.

The second place award of \$100 went to the Minster High School team, coached by Pam Grew. Team members are Emily Barhorst, Quinten Bernhold, Drew Elson, Alex Monnin, Jack Olding, Morgan Prenger, Stacey Reithman and Emily Thieman.

Fresh Florida Strawberries Sale

The FFA is conducting a new sale this year of selling fresh strawberries from the "Winter Strawberry Capital of the World", Plant City, Florida. Delivery date is the week of March 14th when they are at their BEST!

The FFA will be taking orders by phone or email (paul.winglewich@minster.k12.oh.us). Orders must be received by February 24. Since this is a new venture, the FFA will need to receive a certain number of orders to proceed with this sale because a minimum quantity must be ordered. Sales will be:

- 1 flat (8 quarts) for \$26.00
- ½ flat (4 quarts) for \$14.00
- 1 quart for \$4.00

Strawberries are very perishable and must be refrigerated. Orders will need to be picked up the day they arrive to ensure the best quality and flavor. You will be emailed several reminders indicating when strawberries can be picked up the day they arrive in Minster.

Valencia Oranges and Red Grapefruit can also be ordered at this time. These two items are available in 2/5 bushel cartons for \$15.00 each. If you liked the grapefruit during our Christmas sale, you'll love these.

Thank you for your continued support of the Minster FFA!

Phone: 419-628-2324

Email: paul.winglewich@minster.k12.oh.us

♪ BAND NEWS ♪

Congratulations to senior Emily Thieman and junior Alex Monnin for making it into the District 3 High School Honors Band. Both of these ladies play the French Horn and performed a beautiful concert on January 16 in the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert. This band is made up of high school students in District 3 who are chosen after auditions. Way to go LADIES!

We would also like to congratulate 8th graders J. R. Nixon, Logan Pack and Rebekah Monnin for being chosen to perform in the District 3 Jr. High Honors Band. This group will be performing in the new Wapakoneta High School Auditorium on Saturday, February 26 at 3:00 pm. If you would be interested in tickets, please contact Mrs. Bear at school for information.

On February 19, many members of the High School band will be performing at St. Marys High School for the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event. We have 44 different groups performing with almost 70 different students involved. Good luck musicians!

The High School Concert & Symphonic Band will be having their annual "Coffee Concert" on Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 pm in the High School Gym. You are invited to listen to fantastic music while enjoying refreshments!

The High School Symphonic Band will be performing at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert for District Large Group Contest on Friday, March 11. The band will be performing music in OMEA Class B. The time will not be known until later. If you would like specific directions and time please call Mrs. Bear.

On April 2, we will once again be hosting the Jr. High Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event. There will be over 20 different schools participating and over 1000 students. It is truly a wonderful day of music and it is open and free to the public. Come and listen to your favorite junior high musicians!

Finally, mark your calendar for the Instrumental Departments Spring Concert. This concert features bands in grades 5-12. It's Monday, May 9 at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Gym.

Congratulations to the following
Minster Band Booster
raffle winners:

December:
\$75.00- Mike Ernst
\$50.00- Brenda Spieles
\$25.00- Ralph & Sue Westerheide

January:
\$75.00- Tony Enneking
\$50.00- Vic Baumer
\$25.00- Tom Griner

Principal's Advisory Committee



A representative group of parents for grades 9-12 will be meeting regularly with Mike Lee. The purpose of this committee is to improve communication between home and school. Please refer to the list below to find the parent representative for your child(ren)'s grade level(s). You may contact them with questions, comments, or concerns and they will bring your issue for discussion at our next meeting. Please do not present issues of a personal nature to them. If you need to resolve a concern about your child, it is best to contact the teacher(s) directly. If it is not resolved at that level, you should contact Mr. Lee. The Principal's Advisory Committee will address procedural, curricular, and building or district-level concerns.

Principal's Advisory Committee, School Year 2010-2011 Contact Information:

9 th grade	Pam Fischer	fischer@nktelco.net	419-628-4282
10 th grade	Karen Kauffman	kauffmanbriankaren@gmail.com	419-582-2902
11 th grade	Deb Dues	duesy2@yahoo.com	419-628-3628
	Deb Knapke	2d5ak@nktelco.net	419-628-2866
12 th grade	Margie Tebbe	ranmarg@nktelco.net	419-628-2597

Any questions regarding the Principal's Advisory Committee for the elementary or middle school, can be directed to Mrs. Leanne Keller or Mrs. Brenda Boeke.

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minster Scholarship Applications

Applications for the Minster Scholarships will be distributed to all of the seniors on **February 1**. The deadline for turning the completed application to Mrs. Gavit is **March 1**. Each student who wants to be considered for one of the scholarships distributed during the graduation ceremony on May 29 must complete an application. Please contact Mrs. Gavit at the high school if you have any questions about the scholarship program.

Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation Delegate Chosen

Adam Wehrmen, son of Dan and Sue Wehrman, has been chosen to be this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation Delegate for Minster High School. Adam is a sophomore and was chosen based on his short answer response on the application form concerning leadership and concern for others. Theresa Barhorst, daughter of Joseph Barhorst and Marilyn Brockman, was chosen to be the alternate.

HOBY Leadership Seminars are three-to-four-day events held each spring. Its purpose is to bring together a select group of high school sophomores who have demonstrated leadership ability so that they can interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and the professions to discuss present and future issues. The Minster Service Club generously sponsors Minster High School's delegate.

Post-Secondary Option Program

Through Legislative directive, students have the option to attend a college and earn credit while in high school. This is called Post-Secondary Option. Eligible students may choose this option. It will be explained to the students during the scheduling process later in the school year. If your student is interested in PSEOP or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Gavit, the high school guidance counselor, at 419-628-2324 to set up an appointment for individual counseling during the months of **January and February**. Counseling sessions must take place before March 1 and students are required to notify the school by March 30 if they plan to take advantage of this option.

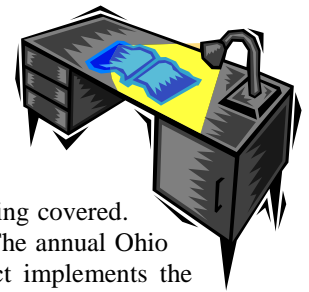
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS GRADES 4-8

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mrs. Brenda Boeke - Middle & Elementary School Principal

CURRICULUM

The students and teachers at the Middle School are busy making sure all areas of the curriculum are being covered. The State Department of Education determines the material covered or standards at each grade level. The annual Ohio Achievement Assessments in the spring are used to determine the success at which a school district implements the standards. Our students undergo benchmarking tests in both reading and math each fall, winter and spring. These results give the teachers an idea about the student's current progress toward mastering those standards. Our winter benchmarking scores in reading are showing we have 82% of our students on target for their grade level, 11.6% of our students in need of strategic interventions, and 6.8% of our students in need of intensive interventions. Our teachers spend their Wednesday morning PLC time reviewing the benchmarking results and developing appropriate instruction.



PARENT RESOURCES

Homework Help. A few tips to help make homework bearable:

1. **Don't settle for excuses.** "This is so boring," is a favorite used by middle school students. Some of the assignments may be fun, but others may be routine. Boost the students confidence by telling them, "Homework gives you a chance to show your teacher all that you know."
2. **Start with the least favorite subject first.** Before beginning the homework have your child make a to-do list. Number the tasks from toughest to easiest, and start with the hardest. This allows your child to get the toughest tasks out of the way first and will make the other assignments seem easy. Ending on a high note leaves the child thinking about homework with a much more positive feeling.
3. **Find a workable routine.** Pay attention to your child's study habits and then create a routine that fits those habits. Some students need a break from school and doing homework after dinner works better. Some students like to tackle the homework right after school. Some students need to exercise first to get rid of excess the energy. For them doing homework an hour after school works best. Know your child's study habits and pick a time that works best for you.

Most students struggle with homework at least sometimes, so don't worry if your child does too. Don't expect them to be perfect when it comes to homework. Homework lets teachers know where students need additional instruction.

Open House for the middle school is scheduled for March 30. Please plan to visit the middle school to see your child's work from the beginning of the year until now. Please watch the school mail for additional information about open house dates concerning the consolidation plan. Once final decisions have been made for the exact location of rooms, the public will be invited to visit the buildings to see which rooms the students will be occupying next year.

Please continue to monitor our middle school website for information about daily events. We appreciate your support and attendance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31 — County Spelling Bee 4:15 @ ESC

February 2 — 7:00 DC trip parent meeting for current 7th graders in Commons

February 7-11 — Spirit Week

February. 12 and 19 — Tournament Games for JH BB

February 14 — Dazzling Mills presentation in the Middle School at 2:00. All elementary students will attend the program and will be dismissed from the middle school.

February 16 — Interim Reports go home for students receiving below a C or falling behind from quarter 2

February 18-21 — No School Presidents Day Weekend

March 1 — Grade 6 Tdap booster MMR shots will be given at Minster Local School

March 18 — End of Quarter

March 23 — Report Cards Home

March 26 — Regional Power of the Pen Tournament at Minster Local School

A Knight to Remember

Each week students in Mrs. Brunswick's 5th and 6th CAT'S Pride class explored medieval life through simulations of: the role of the lord, the manor, and the serf, the role of the church, the role of the knight, etc. Students read both [A Door In The Wall](#) and [A Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval Europe](#) and selected various research projects regarding life during this period. In the caste system of this time period people had little upward mobility. (Unless you were a king's or noble's offspring) Students earned points for projects, and research work completed and earned a ranking, i.e. peasant, page, squire, knight or dame, lord or lady, and finally, king or queen.

They then explored and tested earthen materials to build a wall as they would have during the time period using sand, soil, rock, clay and water. Initially, they created mortar sandwiches and compared them for adhesiveness, and simulated an earthquake test. Combinations were created based on these results. The wall of greater clay powder ratios remained standing the longest in the demolition process. Minster Supply supplied the rock, and Springcreek Cement Company supplied the clay powder. Mr. Jim Stubbs, a materials engineer from the Minster Machine Company, spoke to students regarding the work of a materials engineer.

Finally, a medieval feast and knighting ceremony was organized, complete with entertainments by students for their parents. "A Knight to Remember," was held with St. Henry students at the high school commons in November. A special thank goes out to parents for helping with costumes, and "victuals." Thanks also to Mrs. Leanne Keller, for knighting our students; Craig Muhlenkamp, who juggled for the students; Minster Supply Company, Springcreek Cement Company, and Mr. Jim Stubbs.



Middle School Spelling Bee

Minster Middle School held their annual Spelling Bee January 12, 2011. Fifteen students and five alternates qualified to participate in the school bee. This year's spellers were extraordinary, as was the large crowd that came to cheer them on. The students breezed through the first few rounds. Some words that stumped our spellers were: *solicit*, *grievance*, and *unanimous*. Seventh grader, Maddie Schmidt, was our champion, correctly spelling *aborigine* and the winning word, *cistern*. Seventh grader, Conner Tumbusch, was the runner up and Alice Schmiesing received third place. Maddie, Conner, and Alice will be competing in the County Spelling Bee held January 31 in Wapakoneta. Fifth grader, Emma Schmiesing, placed fourth and will be the alternate. We're very proud of all of our spellers. Below is a list of all the 2010-2011 Spelling Bee contestants.

Fourth Grade

Kaitlyn Albers
Noah Enneking
Hannah Pack
*Jack Heitbrink

Fifth Grade

Emma Schmiesing
Alice Schmiesing
Erin Keller
*Claire Borgerding

Sixth Grade

Nick Chalk
Sarah Huwer
Paige Purdy
*Colleen Jutte

Seventh Grade

Maddie Schmidt
Conner Tumbusch
Zach Eiting
* Amanda Lehmkuhl

Eighth Grade

Jenna Sekas
Carlin Elder
Joe Trzaska
* Jon Fausey

Butler Wins Geography Bee

7th grade student, Ben Butler, son of Pat and Becky Butler, won the 'school-level' National Geography Bee. The school bee was held in the Middle School large group instruction room on January 13. This year's participants were:

5th Grade: Cricket Wuebker, Carlie Watkins, Hannah Koenig

6th Grade: Nick Chalk (2nd Place), Carter Hogenkamp, Alex Oldiges

7th Grade: Jason Schultz, Derek Grieshop, Ben Butler

8th Grade: Elizabeth Baker, Joe Trzaska, Nathan Riethman

Championship Round Questions were:

#1) Africa's highest peak is part of a national park in Tanzania. Name this mountain.

#2) *Tet* is an important holiday celebrating the new year in what country west of the Gulf of Tonkin?

#3) Santa Ana is a major coffee-producing city that shares its name with a nearby volcanic peak in which Central American country?

TIE-BREAKER:

#4) The site of an ancient lighthouse on the island of Pharos attracts visitors to Alexandria, a port city in which African country?

Answers: 1) Kilimanjaro 2) Vietnam 3) El Salvador 4) Egypt

Ben will now take a geography exam of 75 multiple-choice questions to determine his eligibility for state competition. We will find out if Ben will advance in competition in several weeks. We extend congratulations to all 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students for their participation, to the finalists, and to Ben for a job well done.

You also can brush up on your geography skills by going online at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which posts 5 new questions daily from past National Geographic Bees.

Coats for Kids

Minster Middle School students from grades 7 and 8 helped with former WDTN meteorologist, Carl Nichols, "Coats for Kids" campaign in an effort to support less fortunate children across Ohio and across America in obtaining a warm coat for the winter months. Brooke Monnin, a 7th grade student, said it was a great experience for all the students involved. She said, "It really shows that they have a lot of school spirit and that they really care about people in the community. They're willing to go out of their way." The 7th and 8th grade students collected coats, boxed them up, and made sure the sponsors of the program received them. In all, around 200 coats were collected.

(L to R) Jacob Johnson, Ben Butler, Kaci Bornhorst, Brooke Monnin, and Ryan Brown



7th and 8th Grade Reports

Language Arts students in the 7th grade recently completed business letters. The students wrote business letters to the corporations of a product they use often, favorite food or beverage manufacturers, clothing makers, or celebrities in the world of sports, television, or music. We are anxiously awaiting letters of response.

The 7th graders will begin researching Al Capone, Alcatraz Island, and autism in preparation for the upcoming class novel titled, Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. The students will create informational brochures to share with their classmates to gain background knowledge prior to reading the novel.

In Math, 7th grade students have been learning how to solve problems involving percents. These problems include dealing with sales tax, tips, discounts and simple interest. Students are currently reading and making different types of plots and graphs. These include stem and leaf plots, box and whisker plots, scatter plots as well as bar graphs and circle graphs.

In 7th Grade World Studies, the students are finishing up their unit on Ancient Greece, with some studying of the Parthenon, Greek society in Athens & Sparta, along with the building of empires by Alexander the Great. Next will be a comprehensive study of Ancient Rome.

Seventh grade Science has been busy studying Earth's atmosphere and the importance of energy transfer in the atmosphere and how air movement is responsible for all the Earth's weather. Students are preparing to tackle the ever turbulent unit on weather in the upcoming month.

Eighth grade Language Arts students are completing a thematic unit on survival in difficult situations. Activities include readings based on real-life experiences where people have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. This resounding question for students is what would they be willing to do in order to survive.

Math students in 8th grade have also had been reviewing percent concepts similar to the 7th grade math students. We go a little further in depth as the concept of compound interest is introduced. We discussed how banks compound their clients' money daily and showed how to figure compound interest depending on how often the principal amount is compounded. Currently we are working on many geometric concepts that get them ready for high school geometry class.

In U.S. Studies, 8th grade students are studying the US Constitution. They have studied its development through history, the Founding Fathers that played large roles in its conception, and the changes made to it over time through the 27 Amendments. Next, they will learn important aspects of a few of the Articles of the Constitution relating to the Legislative and Executive branches of our government, and relate much of it to things they witnessed and experienced on their 8th Grade trip to Washington, DC last October. Eighth grade Science students are studying about traits and the environment. Students are introduced to genetics through the understanding of genotype and phenotype and how they are affected by the environment. Through several lab experiments, students gain an understanding of dominant and recessive traits and how environmental changes affect the population.

High-Tech Current Event Vlogging

Minster Middle School students from 7th and 8th grade Science have been busy researching articles, writing scripts, reading a teleprompter, and learning the ins and outs of the latest technology in vlogging.

Vlogging, short for "video blogging", is blogging through the medium of video. Ted Oldiges, 7th and 8th grade Science teacher exclaims, "Giving your students access to technology makes them more engaged in the academic tasks assigned to them."

Science students in grades 7 and 8 are required to write current event articles every two weeks and present the summary and their thoughts on paper. Prior to the Christmas break students were introduced to vlogging as another medium to deliver their thoughts to the masses.

Using Adobe Visual Communicator 3 software, video cameras, and green screen technology, students created their own video blog on an article of their choosing related to plants, food, or medicine.

"Studies predicted that 90 percent of all Internet traffic will be video by the year 2013. The Internet is impacting our lives every day. Being able to take a video and put that on your computer and send that over a social media network or email it to someone is really powerful. Preparing Minster students with 21st century technology skills will help them in any future endeavor," Oldiges said.



In the recording studio - Standing (L to R) Pierce McGowan, Erin Cavanaugh, and Kaci Bornhorst. Sitting (L to R) Wes Kogge, Conner Tumbusch, Jacob Dues, and Kyle Heitkamp.



Jacquelline Hoying and Katherine Burke practice their vlogging before recording their final presentation.

6th Grade News

Did you hear that Minster Bank might be opening a branch office at the Minster Middle School? Not really, but the students in the 6th grade now have an understanding of the economics behind banking that they could. On November 22, Minster Bank employees Erin Stewart and Susan Hogenkamp spent their day working with the Minster 6th graders. During the banking classes, the students learned the definitions of economic terms such as interest, balancing accounts, inflation, and credit. The students shared stories from parents and grandparents about how much things cost in the past. This led to an activity that demonstrated to the students what inflation is and how to figure the inflation rate. The students learned that inflation will cause many items to cost more in the future and saving in the present is one way to be able to afford things in the future.

Another area of discussion centered around “wants” vs. “needs”. Students learned the difference between what they really need and the things they would just like to have. The students learned about the “real” cost of buying something on credit when interest on the borrowed money is added. In this discussion the students learned about setting long range goals and then breaking these goals down into smaller pieces to see how these goals could be achieved little by little over time. One example of this is saving small amounts of money as children are growing up to be able to afford college after graduating from high school.

The 6th grade students and teachers would like to say “thanks” to Erin and Susan for taking time out of their busy schedules to come spend the day at school.

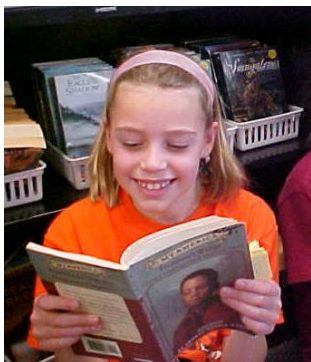
5th Grade McKrehsenger Lodge #5 has been busy!

In math, The Ohio Society of CPAs were in the building working with the 5th and 6th graders. Several accountants from local businesses volunteered their time to help lead the students in an interactive game called FETCH (Financial Education Teaches Children Healthy Habits). FETCH teaches students about saving, spending and budgeting through a fun and interactive game based on a concept every student can relate to - taking care of a pet. Understanding how to use and manage money early in life paves the way for a lifetime of financial success. Through donations, pizza was provided for lunch. A special thank you to Tricia Pohl for organizing this event.

In language arts, the winners of the biography projects were Anthony Boehlein (Anne Frank), Cricket Wuebker (Walt Disney), Taylor Hoying (Ronald Reagan), and Hannah Koenig (Annie Oakley). Students also have read Revolutionary War novels and created journals written in first person.

In science and social studies, the students have been playing with lots of toys as they have been exploring energy and energy transformations. The classroom and hallway has been filled with the students’ informative and creative Native American projects.

4th Grade News



Students have been working in multiplication in Math. They have learned 1 digit times 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and 2 digit by 2 and 3 digit numbers. Now they are beginning to explore the division process. They realize the importance of knowing their math facts.

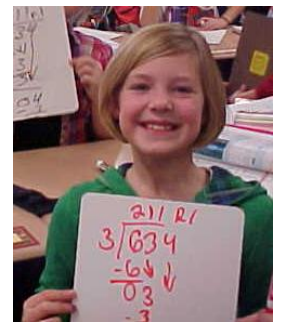
In reading, our students are working on an Underground Railroad unit. They are reading either, A Picture of Freedom, Clotee, A Diary of a Slave Girl or Freedom’s Wings, Corey’s Underground Railroad Diary. They are learning to use the inferencing strategy as they read.

In Social Studies, students have been studying the history of Ohio, learning about the prehistoric and historic Ohio Indian groups. They are now learning about the European interest in Ohio’s land and how the French and British goals created

conflict that lead to the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Students

are enjoying using the new United States maps provided to the fourth grade by the Herkenhoff Trust Fund.

Science finds the students exploring the weather of Ohio and how weather and its effects can change landforms and cause great devastation. They like the possibilities that Lake Effect snow can bring.



Middle School Student Council

The middle school student council has been hard at work planning student activities and organizing and laying out the yearbook. They have held several dances, conducted their annual t-shirt sale, and ran a contest for the yearbook cover. The last day of the semester they sponsored their annual dodge ball tournament from a single elimination bracket. Most of the matches were very close and exciting but probably not as exciting as the final match for the championship. It was between Mr. Goettemoeller's 7th grade and Mrs. Conrad's 4th grade homerooms. With just seconds to go one of Mrs. Conrad's students caught the ball allowing all of the team back on the floor clinching the title. This is the first time that a fourth grade class has won the championship.

There are plans in the making to hold several contests such as a reading contest and a contest to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The council has planned a movie matinee in February for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes. They have also contracted the Amazing Mills Family to perform in February the grades K-8 in the middle school gym.

The student council would like to thank everyone for supporting the junior high concession stand by either working or buying. A special thanks goes to the staff members and parents that have helped to supervise the stand.



Mrs. Conrad's 4th grade, this dodge ball champions.

Middle School Power of the Pen

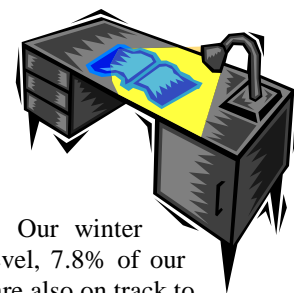
The middle school Power of the Pen team competed at the District tournament held at Greenville Junior High on Saturday, January 8. This year's seventh grade team members are Jessica Berelsman, Kacie Bornhorst, Ryan Brown, Jesse Burkhead, Reid Frick, Amanda Lehmkuhl, Kristen Phlipot, and Cortney Thien. Logan Arnold, Gabrielle Barga, Regan Hahn, Cassie Jutte, Marissa Luthman, Lauren Roetgerman, Abbie Synder, and Kayla Thien make up the eighth grade team.

The eighth grade team finished in third place with three members moving on to the Regional. Kayla Thien was awarded a second place trophy that advances her to Regional along with Logan Arnold and Gabrielle Barga. Seventh grader Reid Frick earned a fifth place trophy and has also qualified for the Regional to be held at Minster Middle School the end of March.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS GRADES K-3

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mrs. Leanne Keller - Middle & Elementary School Assistant Principal



CURRICULUM

Winter benchmarking was completed in reading and mathematics during the week of January 10. Our winter benchmarking scores in reading are showing we have 82.6% of our students on target for their grade level, 7.8% of our students in need of strategic interventions, and 9.6% of our students in need of intensive interventions. We are also on track to meet our building goal in mathematics achievement. It is amazing to see how our students’ skills have grown since the fall!

Daily reading and math fact practice are critical for elementary age students. Mastering math facts allows the brain to focus more on math concepts. Fluent reading allows the brain to concentrate on comprehension, rather than decoding words. Because neither of these assignments are the “turn it in” paper and pencil type, they can sometimes fall to the wayside on a busy evening. Please help your child prioritize their activities so there is always time for reading and a few math facts.

Kindergarten 2011-12. Parents of prospective kindergarten students should contact the elementary office at 419-628-2214. We will need your child’s full name, date of birth, parents’ names, and phone number. Kindergarten will continue as a half-day program for the 2011-12 school year. Please note the parent meetings and kindergarten screening dates below.

PARENT RESOURCES

Reading. Here is a simple “Five Finger Rule” to help your child choose “just right” books. “Just right” books are ones that your child can read fluently (90% accuracy) and enjoy.

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

Mathematics. The web offers several fun, free ways to take the drudgery out of math fact practice. Here are a couple to check out:

Arcademicskillbuilders.com

AAAMath.com

Planning for 2011-12 School Year. With the district plan to consolidate buildings next year, students in K-6 will attend at the current Middle School. Our goal is to make a smooth transition for our families as well as staff. Take every opportunity to become informed, ask questions, and offer suggestions. Look for a public tour of both facilities (K-6 and 7-12) to be offered in March.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2	100 th Day of School Celebration
February 14	Dazzling Mills Anti-Bullying Assembly at Middle School (Note: Grades 1-3 will be dismissed from Middle School)
February 16	Interims go home
February 16	Market Day Pick Up
February 24	Elementary Spring Pictures
March 10	Musical and Open House
March 11	Grandparents Day
March 16	Market Day Pick Up
March 18	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 21	Parent Meeting for 2011-12 Kindergarten Class
March 23	Report Cards go home
March 30 & 31	Kindergarten Screening
April 11	Parent Meeting for 2011-12 Kindergarten Class

3rd Grade Investigated Soil

The 3rd grade students recently completed their earth science study of soil. They observed and described the composition of soil and investigated the properties of soil. Then they completed an experiment with different soil and its capacity to retain water. Finally the students decided which soil would be best to support healthy plant growth. Playing with the soil was fun, but also very educational.



1st Grade Math Facts

Learning math facts is an important part of the first grade curriculum. The first grade students have been introduced to many different strategies to help them memorize their facts. These students are demonstrating number puzzles, tile cards, domino facts, flash cards, and marshmallow. They have learned that memorizing facts can be fun.



2nd Grade News

Our second graders have been very busy with schoolwork along with a little fun. After Thanksgiving and up until Christmas break, Gingerbread Fred made his way into the homes of each second grader. Each student had the opportunity to take home a paper gingerbread man to spend a day with his/her family. Gingerbread Fred attended basketball games, helped with holiday decorating and baking, and even received a few special gifts along the way. Each student wrote a journal entry to share with his/her class before Gingerbread Fred was passed on to the next lucky classmate for another adventure.

In second grade, students are required to understand how a person's actions and a person's character have made a difference in other people's lives. The students were introduced to the importance of social and political leaders, inventors, scientists, and explorers of the United States. Following are some of those famous people: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Tecumseh, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Thomas Edison, Charles Drew, Rachel Carson, and Neil Armstrong. A famous people mini booklet was made and facts of these important people were added.

🎵 GENERAL MUSIC NOTES 🎵

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be a kid again? How would your life be different from 10, 20 or even 30 plus years ago? Did **you** have a cell phone? Did **you** have a computer? How about an Xbox or an MP3 player? Our kids today are surrounded by technology and a never-ending supply of better and new "gadgets" seeming to be created every day! Simply put, our kids today rely on tech gadgets to make it through their day.

Our music program this year is called "A Kid's Life" and features a modern day family with many, many children (to afford many students an opportunity to have a special part). A "typical" day begins as the children text mom their breakfast orders, listen to MP3 players and many other things, until something strange happens from outer space. All electronic devices shut down!! **Imagine the panic!!** But...all is not lost! Grandma and Grandpa are coming for the day to watch the kids while their parents are away. Grandpa and Grandma teach their grandkids games and things they did when "they" were young. ☺

Please plan to join us for our program on **Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.** with an Open House following. **Grandparents Day will be Friday, March 11 at 2:00.** Our Book Fair will also be open and available for browsing Thursday evening and Friday! We hope to see you there!

ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR coming soon, Mark your Calendars!

This year's book fair for Grades K-3 will be held at Minster Elementary School Monday, March 7 - Thursday, March 10 in the old band room across from the school office.

The fair, provided by Scholastic Books, also will be open during the elementary school open house as well as during Grandparents Day on Friday, March 11.

Open House Hours (Thursday, March 10): 7:00 – 8:45 p.m.
Parents are specially invited to stop by during this time to look at the many selections available.

Friday (March 11) 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Grandparents Day)

Step right up and see our Spring Book Fair Carnival preview!



Click here for your ticket to read!

Share a Book with Your Child/Grandchild!

Elementary / Middle School Art Room News

30 Minster Students in grades 1-7 will be participating in The Riverside Art Center, 3 W Auglaize St, Wapakoneta, 3rd Annual Invitational Children's Art Exhibit. The exhibit will be open regular gallery hours until February 26. (Thursday and Friday 10 am- 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am – noon.) We are very proud of these students and thank them for allowing their work to be displayed at this exhibit. If you have a chance, swing by to take a look at their work along with the work of students from other area schools.

Joseph Slonkosky, Grade 1
 Kamryn Bornhorst, Grade 1
 Jayden Clune, Grade 1
 Grace Schmiesing, Grade 2
 Elyssa Mullins, Grade 2
 Mason Pohl, Grade 2
 Ivy Wolf, Grade 2
 Chase Morrow, Grade 2
 Nathan Droesch, Grade 2
 Brynn Oldiges, Grade 2

Brady Hoelscher, Grade 2
 Rachel Kitzmiller, Grade 3
 Emily Stubbs, Grade 3
 Faith Hagelberger, Grade 4
 Jon Albers, Grade 4
 Carlie Watkins, Grade 5
 Erin Keller, Grade 5
 Alli Fischer, Grade 5
 Alli Borgerding, Grade 6
 Shelby Elson, Grade 6

Jordan Brackman, Grade 6
 Maggie Meiring, Grade 7
 Katie Wuebker, Grade 7
 Jason Schultz, Grade 7
 Hannah Kuether, Grade 7
 Amanda Lehmkuhl, Grade 7
 Alex Eiting, Grade 7
 Hannah Schmitmeyer, Grade 7
 Conner Tumbusch, Grade 7
 Laura Meyer, Grade 7



Alli Borgerding- Grade 6



Hannah Schmitmeyer-Grade 7



Emily Stubbs-Grade 3



Rachel Kitzmiller-Grade 3



Hannah Kuether-Grade 7



Jon Albers-Grade 4

You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

Here's how you can help:

- **Clip** Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school.
- **Sign up to support** our school on the Box Tops website at btfe.com
- **Shop** at over 100 favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (btfe.com/marketplace); our school earns up to 15% of your qualifying purchases, at no additional cost to you!
- **Purchase books** through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM at Barnes & Noble; our school earns up to 6% of your purchases.



Sign up to support our school today at www.btfe.com. You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops for our school and the latest Box Tops news!



get the latest at www.boxtops4education.com

SOS Club Update



The purpose of the club is to offer and encourage student community volunteerism. Community organizations or individuals in need of volunteer service are united with student members who are available to provide that service. Past President, Ryan Bernhold, started the Student Outreach Service (SOS) club in January 2010. Ryan, along with past vice-president, Morgan Prenger, helped to lead this very successful club from 70 members to now over 100 members and the club continues to grow. To date we have had over 23 organizations that have requested our volunteer services. Some of those organizations are National Honor Society, Minster Historical Society, Heritage Manor, Stallo Library, Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner, Radio Maria, and the Village of Minster just to name a

few. At the first meeting, the SOS club decided to hold a fundraiser. We chose "Help Haiti!! Hand-to-Hand" as our motto and through the non-profit organization, "One Block at a Time" raised money to send food to the earthquake victims. In one weekend we set up tables at various businesses around the community and collected over \$3000.00 for that cause. Since the club's inception, our members have contributed 1180 hours of community service. This year we have decided to once again help out an organization that we feel is very deserving. We have chosen The Minster Soldier's Fund as this year's winter project. The SOS club will be at The Minster Bank, Wagner's IGA, Jenni's Hallmark, YMCA, and the Boys & Girls home basketball games the weekend of February 11, 12, & 13. We will have donation jars from January 31 – February 11 at the Library, Ernst Sporting Goods, Bud's, Community Lanes and Willy's. Numerous businesses have agreed to allow donation jars in their break rooms to help our fundraiser. We are thankful for all the help and support that the Minster Community gives to our troops and this is just one more way we, the SOS club can help. Please stop by one of the businesses mentioned to give your support.

New Officers of the SOS club are:

President – Dana Stucke

Vice President – Wes Stueve

Secretary – Hannah Butler

Treasurer – Andrew Knapke

Student Supervisor Leaders – Kayla Albers and Drew Elson

You can also find us on Facebook & Follow us on Twitter

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 JH Boys BB vs Versailles JH Girls BB @ Versailles	2	3 JH Boys BB vs Versailles Var/JV Girls BB @ Versailles Var Coed Swimming vs Elida, Ft. Recovery, & Lima Senior @ Lima YMCA	4 Var/JV Boy BB vs Versailles	5 Fr Girls BB vs St Marys Fr Boys BB vs St Marys Var Coed Swimming @ Coldwater Invite @ Celina YMCA Var/JV Boys BB vs Jackson Center
6	7 JH Boys BB vs New Knoxville Fr Girls BB @ Ft Loramie Fr Boys BB @ New Knoxville	8 JH Girls BB @ New Knoxville Var/JV Boys BB vs Anna	9	10 Var/JV Girls BB @ New Knoxville 8 th Gr Girls BB MAC Tournament	11 Var/JV Boys BB vs New Knoxville	12 Var/JV Girls BB vs Anna Var/JV Boys BB @ St Marys Fr Girls @ St Marys Tourn 7 th Gr Boys BB @ McKirman Classic – Celins 8 th Gr Girls BB MAC Tournament @ Minster
13	14 Fr Boys BB vs St Henry	15 Var/JV Boys BB @ Lehman Fr Boys BB MAC Tournament @ Ft Recovery Fr Girls BB @ St Marys Tournament 8 th Gr Girls BB MAC Tournament Semi Final @ Minster	16	17 Var/JV Girls BB vs St Henry Fr Girls BB @ St Marys Tournament 7 th Gr Boys BB @ Mckirman Classic in Celina	18 Var/JV Boys BB @ St Henry	19 Fr Boys BB MAC Tournament @ Ft Recovery 7 th Gr Boys BB @ Mckirman Classic in Celina 8 th Gr Girls BB MAC Tournament Final @ New Bremen
20	21 Fr Boys BB MAC Tournament Semi-Final @ Fr Recovery	22 Fr Boys BB MAC Tournament Final @ Fr Recovery	23	24	25 Var/JV Boys BB vs Marion Local	26
27	28					

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Var Baseball scrimmage @ Ottoville
20	21	22	23	24 Var Baseball scrimmage @ Ottoville	25	26 Var Girls Track @ Versailles Invite
27	28 JV Baseball @ Lincolnview	29 Var Track @ Bath w/ St Marys Var Baseball @ Russia JV Baseball vs Russia Var Softball @ Celina JV Softball @ Celina	30	31		

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1 Var Baseball @ Anna</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Anna</p> <p>Var Softball vs Houston</p>	<p>2 Var Boys Track @ Versailles Invite</p> <p>Var Baseball vs St Marys (DH)</p> <p>JV Baseball @ St Marys (DH)</p> <p>Var Softball @ Delphos Jeff. (DH)</p>
3	<p>4 JH Track @ St Marys w/ St Henry</p> <p>Var Baseball @ Wapak</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Wapak</p> <p>Var Softball @ Waynesfield-Goshen</p>	<p>5 Var Baseball @ Botkins</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Botkins</p> <p>Var Softball vs St Henry</p> <p>Jv Softball @ St Henry</p>	6	<p>7 Var Softball vs Lehman</p> <p>JV Softball vs Lehman</p>	<p>8 Var Baseball vs Jackson Center</p> <p>Var Softball @ Russia</p> <p>JV Softball vs Russia</p>	<p>9 Var Track @ Anna Invitational</p> <p>JH Track @ Ft Loramie Invitational</p> <p>Var Baseball @ Ft Loramie (DH)</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Ft Loramie (DH)</p> <p>Var Softball @ St Marys (DH)</p> <p>JV Softball vs St Marys (DH)</p>
10	<p>11 JH Track vs Holy Rosary/Russia</p> <p>Var Baseball @ Covington</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Covington</p> <p>Var Softball @ Covington</p>	<p>12 Var Track vs Botkins/Jackson Center/ St Henry</p> <p>Var Baseball vs St Johns</p> <p>JV Baseball @ St Johns</p> <p>Var Softball vs Anna</p> <p>JV Softball @ Anna</p>	13	<p>14 Var Softball vs New Bremen</p> <p>JV Softball @ New Bremen</p>	<p>15 JH Track @ New Bremen Invitational</p> <p>Var Baseball @ New Bremen</p> <p>JV Baseball vs New Bremen</p> <p>Var Softball vs Jackson Center</p> <p>Var Softball vs Perry</p>	<p>16 Var Track Minster Memorial</p>
17	<p>18 JH Track vs Anna/Coldwater/Versailles</p> <p>Var Softball @ Parkway</p> <p>JV Softball vs Parkway</p>	<p>19 Var Track vs Marion Local</p> <p>Var Baseball vs Parkway</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Parkway</p> <p>Var Softball @ Botkins</p>	<p>20 Var Baseball vs Crestview</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Crestview</p>	21	<p>22 Var Baseball @ Ft Loramie Invitational</p>	<p>23 Var Track @ Milton-Union Invite</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Lima Shawnee (DH)</p> <p>Var Softball vs Ft Loramie (DH)</p> <p>JV Softball @ Ft Loramie (DH)</p> <p>Var Baseball @ Ft Loramie Invitational</p>
24	<p>25 JH Track vs Ft Loramie / Marion Local</p> <p>Var Baseball vs Celina</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Celina</p> <p>Var Softball vs Ft Recovery</p> <p>JV Softball @ Ft Recovery</p>	<p>26 Var Baseball @ Ft Recovery</p> <p>JV Baseball vs Ft Recovery</p> <p>Var Softball vs Spencerville</p>	27	<p>28 Var Track vs Ft Jennings/Parkway/ New Knoxville</p> <p>Var Baseball vs Bath</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Bath</p> <p>Var Softball @ Coldwater</p> <p>JV Softball vs Coldwater</p>	<p>29 JH Track @ Coldwater Relays</p> <p>Var Baseball vs Coldwater</p> <p>JV Baseball @ Coldwater</p>	<p>30 High School Prom</p>