

MINSTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent ...

Our consolidation plans are underway and going well. Work is currently being done and will continue through the summer months in order to be ready for the first day of school on August 24. Public building tours took place on April 7 in both the current middle (new Elementary School) and current high school (new Jr.-Sr. High School).

The Healthy, Hunger Free Act of 2010 Section 205 (Public Law 11-296) requires school districts who participate in the National School Lunch Program to match paid lunches for those students who are not eligible for free or reduced price lunches, to equal the cost of the reimbursement. Beginning in the school year of 2011-2012, we will be reimbursed \$2.46 from the federal School Lunch program. This reimbursement is only for those students who are eligible and participate in this program. What this means for Minster is that we will need to increase our paid lunch prices. We will do this gradually. We will be implementing a 5-cent increase at both the Elementary and Jr.-Sr. High School buildings for next year 2011-2012. The new lunch prices will be \$1.95 for Elementary (grades 1-6) and \$2.15 for Jr.-Sr. High School (grades 7-12).

Grades 3 - 8 took The Ohio Achievement Assessments April 28, May 3, and May 5. Grades. 3 - 8 are assessed in Reading and Math. Grades 5 and 8 have an additional Science test. Results should be made available to us in June. The Academic Boosters provided juice and a healthy breakfast bar for all of our students who were assessed each morning. We certainly appreciate everything our Boosters do for our district.

Our Rocket Club qualified again this year in the top 100 teams in the nation and will be competing at the national competition in Washington DC on May 13 - 15. The club advisor is Mr. Ted Oldiges who teaches 7th and 8th grade science and a high school computer class in our district. We wish everyone the best of luck in this upcoming competition.

As you know I am retiring at the end of July. I want to thank the parents and members of this community for your support and your dedication to the school district over these last six years. I have certainly enjoyed my time in Minster and felt that it was a privilege to lead and serve this wonderful school district. It has been a great opportunity and I have gained so much from the experience. I also want to thank all of our employees including the administrative team and the Board of Education. A special thank you goes out to the students both past and present. They have enriched my life and touched my heart.

I compliment our Board of Education on the decision to appoint Brenda Boeke as the new superintendent. She is a very capable leader and will take the district to the next level. Minster Local School District is in great hands.



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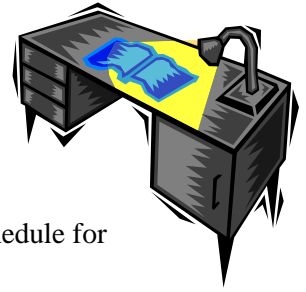
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Parents, thank you for responding to the survey regarding in town bus stops. Look for a letter coming home in May with the youngest student in your family. This letter will inform you of where the designated stops will be and will ask you to confirm your intent to use the stop nearest your home for next school year. You will also find information regarding school schedules and traffic procedures. This information will also be included in the August Newsletter, which will be mailed to each resident of the school district the first week of August.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS GRADES 9-12

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mr. Mike Lee - High School Principal



CURRICULUM

Advanced Placement (AP) courses have scheduled exams beginning the week of May 2. The schedule for these exams is as follows:

- Monday, May 2 8:00 A.M. Chemistry
- Monday, May 2 12:30 P.M. Psychology
- Wednesday, May 4 8:00 A.M. Calculus
- Thursday, May 5 8:00 A.M. English Literature
- Tuesday, May 10 8:00 A.M. Government

Final exams are set for grades 9-11, as they begin on Tuesday, May 24. The schedule can be found online via Minster Schools’ website.

PARENT RESOURCES

Results of your child’s Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) for all sophomores will be available beginning Wednesday, June 1. Report cards for all students will also be available starting on this date. Summer office hours for the high school run from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 18	Awards Assembly Grades 9-12
Friday, May 20	Seniors Scheduled Last Day
Tuesday, May 24	Senior Graduation Practice @ 9:30 A.M.
May 24 – 26	Final Exams Grades 9-11
Sunday, May 29	Commencement Exercises @ 2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, June 1	Report Cards Available
Tuesday, July 26	Athletic Parent & Student Meeting Grades 7-12 @ 7:00 P.M.

Minster High School Reading Instructions for Summer 2011

What to Read

All Minster High School students are required to read at least one book over the summer. The language arts teachers recommend that students who need to purchase books contact either the New Bremen Coffee Shop or amazon.com. The New Bremen Coffee Shop offers a 20% discount on these materials. Additional copies of these instructions will be available in the office.

Incoming freshmen: *And Then There Were None* (ISBN 0-312-97947-9)

Incoming sophomores: *The Last Lecture* (ISBN 978-1-4013-2325-7)

Incoming juniors: *For One More Day*

Incoming seniors:

Integrated IV: self-selected, teacher approved, 250 pages

English IV: *Pygmalion* (ISBN-13: 978-1-4165-0040-7 or ISBN-10: 1-4165-0040-5).

Honors: *1984* (school copy)

AP: See separate instructions from Miss Moore

What to Write

While reading your summer book, complete the following four journal entries. All entries must be typed (12-point font, double spaced). Each entry must be at least one full page in length (at least 250 words, not including the headings, one-inch margins). Short entries will be docked.

Write after the first two chapters or scenes. What are your initial thoughts and feelings about the book? Describe the setting (time and place). Who seem to be the main characters? Which ones are the most interesting and why?

Write at the halfway point. Now that you are half way, what are your thoughts and feelings about the book? Have they changed since the first entry? Why or why not? Have you reached the climax or is your book leading to a climax yet? What do you think it might be? Compare this book to something else you have read or watched, explaining in what ways the two works are alike. (Consider style, theme, or character as well as plot.) Is there anything in your book so far that you don't understand or agree with?

Write after you have read at least three quarters of the book. Choose two areas of the book that stand out in your mind. Quote two memorable passages and explain their significance and your reaction to them. Are the passages crucial to the story? Are they extremely well written? Explain. Be sure to include page numbers with your quotations.

This is your final journal entry. Reflect on the entire book. Did you enjoy reading it? Why or why not? Be specific! Give details supporting your opinion of this book. Who would like to read this book? Why or why not?

The assignment is due on the first day of school and will be counted as one of your first grades of the year. On the first day of class, you will need to have (1) your own book with you and (2) your journal ready to hand in.

Sophomores Learn About Castro's Cuba

This spring Sophomore students in Mr. Kaylor's World Studies class have been studying the Cold War era. Special focus was given to US-Cuba relations since the Castro revolution in 1959. The unit culminated on Thursday, April 22, when the students heard a presentation from local resident Peter Blanco on his family's escape from the "imprisoned island". Mr. Blanco, his mother, and a few other relatives were granted political asylum by the US and arrived via the Freedom Flights program. Students heard about the hardships associated with leaving your old life behind to start anew in a strange place. A special "thank you" goes out to Mr. Blanco for his willingness to come in and share his unique experiences with our sophomore students!



High School Language Arts News

On April 20, AP English and Honors English students traveled to Edison Community College where they attended a live performance of *The Tempest*. The experience enriched the students' continuing studies of the works of William Shakespeare. The students, the language arts teachers, and bus driver Mr. Bill Young all enjoyed the show.

FCCLA News

The FCCLA chapter has recently completed their competition season. On March 5, six groups competed at the Regional Rally held at the Apollo Career Center in Lima. Out of the six groups, Minster students received 5 "Gold" Ratings and 1 "Silver" Rating, with four groups qualifying for the state competition.

On April 14-15, the Minster FCCLA chapter headed for Ohio State Fairgrounds for the annual FCCLA State Leadership Conference. The students had two full days of fun and leadership training. Students heard from speakers Kent Boyd (So You Think You Can Dance Runner-Up) and Joel Penton (a member of the 2002 Ohio State Football National Championship Team) about the importance of 'don't stop believing in your dreams and to try your best to achieve them'.

While attending the state conference, several members were recognized for their individual projects: Megan Jutte was recognized for receiving her FCCLA State Degree, Holly Brandewie was recognized for receiving her Dynamic Leadership Award, and Brittany Heitkamp and Theresa Barhorst were recognized for receiving their POWER of One awards. Of the four groups competing at the State Conference, Minster students received 1 "Gold" Rating and 3 "Silver" Ratings. Congratulations to all the students who put a lot of effort and hard work into their projects.

Below are the results from the Regional and State competition:

Parliamentary Procedure team, consisting of Megan Timmerman, Britt Sherman, Zach Wyen, Megan Hanenkratt, Katie Thieman, Kaitlin Lehmkuhl, and Lauren Jutte, received a Gold at Regionals and a Gold at State

Chapter Showcase Manual, consisting of Macey Hoelscher and Vanessa Ahrns, received a Gold at Regionals and a Silver at State

Interior Design, consisting of Shelby Wentz, Sam Osterfeld, and Kristen Hilgefert, received a Gold at Regionals and a Silver at State

Recycle and Redesign, consisting of Theresa Barhorst, received a Gold at Regionals and a Silver at State

Life Event Planning, consisting of Sami Brown, Kassi Brown, and Brittany Heitkamp, received a Gold at Regionals

National Programs in Action, consisting of Brittany Mumaw, Allison Jutte, and Hillary Carder, received a Silver at Regionals

Scholastic Team Completes Winning Year

The Minster Varsity Scholastic team finished second in the 23rd Annual Mercer Savings Bank MAC Scholastic Bowl, winning \$100.00. They also placed third in this year's MAC league competition.

The varsity team was comprised of: Quinten Bernhold (4 years), Drew Elson (3 years), Alex Monnin (2 years), Jack Olding (2 years), Morgan Prenger (2 years), Stacey Reithman (3 years) and Emily Thieman (4 years), Emily Barhorst (2 years), Aaron Brandewie (3 years), and Wes Stueve (3 years).

The JV team includes: Rachel Cull, Major Bernhold, Johanna Winner, Kody Seger, Laren Jutte, Olivia Winner, Leah Niekamp, Megan Tinnerman, Katie Thieman, and Alexis Kyburz .

In addition to the regular season matches and the MAC bowl, the team also competed on Channel 44 Whiz Quiz and at Wright State Lake Campus Scholastic bowl against 40 area teams.

TEAMS Waits for National Results

Sixteen Minster High School students, composing two teams, competed at Ohio Northern's Annual JETS competition called TEAMS – Test of Engineering Aptitude, Math and Science, on February 23.

The test consisted of eight scenarios focused on the theme: Cleaner Energy for our Planet. Each scenario dealt with a specific topic and required the team to answer ten computational questions based on real world data and problem solving for that particular situation. The eight students that worked as a team could consult each other and any resources they brought with them. At the end of an hour and half they needed to submit one answer sheet. This part determines their state rankings.

The teams then focused on eight additional tasks for another hour and half. This time they needed to give explanations and justifications for their answers. This will be used at the national level.

The Minster Teams tied for tenth place in the state of Ohio in our division. This qualifies the second part of their test to move to the national judging. Those results should be out any day.

Team A was made of: Ryan Bernhold, Quinton Bernhold, Emily Thieman, Thomas Stombaugh, Jack Olding, Stacey Reithman, Ellen Gruber, and Evan Eshelman

Team B included: Austin Knapke, Heather Schmiesing, Aaron Brandewie, Matt Wuebker, Megan Timmerman, Austin Fisher, Drew Elson, and Alexis Monnin.

Morgan Prenger Receives Recognition at the Forty-First Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition

The forty-first Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition opened for viewing at the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus on Sunday, April 10, 2011. Senior Morgan Prenger, daughter of Ed and Kathy Prenger, attended the awards ceremony to receive recognition for a piece she has on display in the show. The work is titled "Glass Slipper" and is a three dimensional sculpture made of metal, wire and glass beads. It will remain on display until May 12, 2011.

A total of over 12,000 art entries were submitted from Ohio high schools. Selections from each of the fifteen regions were judged and a panel of seven primary jurors reviewed over 3,000 pieces to determine the final 300. These selections of 300 works of art were created by 9th through 12th grade students throughout Ohio.

Morgan will be attending the University of Cincinnati next year and majoring in graphic design. She plans on pursuing a career in the art fields.



The Minster High School Art II, III, and IV classes attended the exhibition on a field trip to Columbus on May 21. They were able to see Morgan's piece on display as well as the other high school artwork at Rhodes Tower. After the Governor's Show, the students then toured the Columbus Museum of Art.

♪ Band Spring News ♪

Our annual Spring Concert is being held on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Gym. This concert features bands in grades 5-12. Admission is free and open to the public, so please join us!

On April 2, we hosted OMEA Jr. High Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event at the Middle School. This is a huge event with over 20 different schools and over 1000 seventh and eighth graders performing throughout the day. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time to make it yet another successful day!

The High School bands will be performing at the graduation ceremony and at St. Augustine on Memorial Day. We have had an excellent year in the band department and feel that next year will be even better. We will start performing again with the marching band late July at many of the local parades. Thanks again for the continued support you have given the program as every bit of it is always appreciated.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS GRADES 4-8

“From the Administrator’s Desk”

Mrs. Brenda Boeke - Middle & Elementary School Principal



CURRICULUM

All Parents please note- The Ohio Achievement Tests will be given to our students Thursday, April 28, Tuesday, May 3 and Thursday, May 5. Please refrain from scheduling any routine appointments on these dates. The teachers have covered the necessary material for the students to do well on the achievement tests. Students are asked to give their best effort and parents you can help by providing a good breakfast with plenty of rest the night before. Thank you very much to the Academic Booster for providing the nutritional snack for our students on these dates.

ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL ON THE DATES BELOW

2011	Thurs. Apr. 28	Tue. May 3	Thurs. May 5
Gr. 3	Reading	Math	
Gr. 4	Reading	Math	
Gr. 5	Reading	Math	Science
Gr. 6	Reading	Math	
Gr. 7	Reading	Math	
Gr. 8	Reading	Math	Science

Just a reminder - The end of testing week does not mean the end of learning. Please remember, much more curriculum needs to be covered between testing week and the end of the school year, May 26.

PARENT RESOURCES

As the end of the year approaches and thoughts turn to summer vacation please consider the many opportunities for your child to continue learning all summer long. Vacation from school should not mean a vacation from learning and being responsible. Responsible students don't have any one secret for their success- but they do practice some habits that help them. Please find below ways you can help your child practice being responsible all summer:

- Set Goals:** Establish a list of things to accomplish over the summer. This list should include chores at home, physical activity, community service, and reading for pleasure.
- Develop a plan:** Help your child learn to meet obligations by planning their time wisely. Use a big calendar to organize their commitments. Schedule time each day to review the calendar and plan accordingly.
- Celebrate Accomplishments:** When a goal is met, be sure to acknowledge the accomplishment.

Please look for the August Newsletter, which will be delivered to your home the first week in August. This newsletter will contain very important information concerning the start to next school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3	ELECTION DAY please vote
May 3	Grade. 4-8 Math OAA 8:30-11:00
May 5	Grade. 5 and 8 Science OAA 8:30-11:00
May 6	JTDMH Health fair and healthy living day
May 5-6	Grade. 6 TAG to Chicago
May 10	Grade. 4 to Boonshaft Museum 8:15-2:45
May 10	Grade. 5 Farm Safety from 12:00-2:25 at Four Seasons
May 10	Last Day for after school Buddies Program
May 11	Last Day for after school NHS tutoring
May 13	Grade 5 to Henry Ford Museum- extended day field trip
May 13-14	Rocket Club to TARC National Finals in Washington D.C
May 16	Grade. 5 Historical Museum walking tour- rain date May 17
May 17	Grade. 4 Wax Museum 12:00
May 20	Grade. 8 end of year dance
May 24-26	2:15 dismissal each day
May 24	Grade. 7-8 Field Day at Four Seasons
May 25	Grade. 4-5-6 Field Day on school grounds
May 26	Last Day for Students
May 27	Teacher Work Day

8th Grade News

Our 8th grade math class has been hard at work over the past few months. We have discussed many different math concepts ranging from reading and graphing data to figuring out probabilities of dependent and independent events. We have also solved multi-step equations as well as learned how to solve and graph linear equations and inequalities.

Have you wondered which computer is the best one to buy? Should you drink chocolate milk or water after an intense workout? Is homework really beneficial to students? These questions and more were a few of the topics of persuasive writings completed in 8th grade language arts. Students wrote formal papers complete with works cited as they considered their own views on various topics. In addition to persuasive writings, students are currently reading Avi's novel, *Nothing But the Truth*, which challenges the ideas of fairness in a school setting and asks the question, what happens if someone fails to tell the "whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Is he lying, or is he not lying?

The 8th Graders are entering into a large unit on the Civil War. They will study the life of the soldiers, weapons, food, and army leaders from both sides. The ideas of the government relating to a country that was "Half Slave; Half Free" will also be explored. Included in this will be an in-depth study of several Civil War battles, including the 3-day Battle of Gettysburg. Students experienced the battlefield itself on a 2-hour tour this passed October on their class trip to Washington, DC.

In Science, the 8th grade students have been investigating many science concepts involving the nonliving world, abiotic factors, cycles in nature, plate tectonics, and clues to the earth's past; such as fossils, relative dating and radiometric dating. As part of the 8th grade investigation of plate tectonics, students participated in an animation production of one of the plate boundaries. Students were each given a different type of plate boundary and basic



Bridget McGowan, Abbey Goubeaux, and Loren Schmidt work on their subduction zone animation short

knowledge in computer animation. The outcome was the production of an animation short on how their boundaries interact with each other. Students had a great deal of fun learning the animation process and gained a deeper knowledge of how their plate boundary really works. At the premier of the student's animation shorts, many laughs were had by all as they watched their productions come to life and the unique ideas that many groups presented.

7th Grade News

Over the past several months the 7th grade math class has been working on many different math concepts. We studied measuring two and three-dimensional figures. This includes the ideas of area, surface area and volume. The class also learned about probability of dependent and independent events and how these differ from one another. Recently we have been studying algebra concepts learning how to solve algebraic equations as well as solving and graphing linear inequalities.

In Language Arts, the seventh grade students recently completed a Poetry unit that focused on various types of figurative language. Students wrote several poems that required specific elements: alliteration, personification, similes, metaphors, imagery onomatopoeia, etc. Mrs. Homan was very impressed by the students' creativity and their development of poetic writing. The poems were shared with family and friends at Open House.

Third quarter Reading Bingo ended March 11. Three students in the seventh grade read double the required reading of 6 books, by reading 12 or more books. Those students who surpassed the reading requirements were Jessica Berelsman, Erin Cavanaugh, and Alex Eiting. Great job! The fourth quarter Reading Bingo began March 11 and will run through May 20. Keep reading!

7th Grade World Studies just finished a unit on the Middle Ages (Medieval Times). Students presented a topic of their choosing to the class. Some choose medieval torture, weapons & warfare, manors, clothing, medieval food, the Black Death, and even the 100 Years War and the Crusades to gain back the Holy Land.

The 7th Graders will finish out the school year learning of the Renaissance in Europe followed by the Age of Exploration when Europeans begin to sail across the Atlantic to settle in the New World.

In Science, the seventh grade students have been investigating many science concepts. Students have been working hard classifying clouds, predicting weather patterns, and studying severe weather systems.

Recently 7th grade students began studying earth in space concepts that include earth's motion & seasons, our solar system, and the moon. A fun and educational activity that followed the learning of the moon phases involved students producing an animation video of the moon phases. Students learned the ins and outs of a computer program called Stop Motion Pro to produce their animation; a program that is used by many of the top producers of stop motion animation in the industry.



Jesse Bailey displays the medieval weapons he constructed for World Studies class



Mya McFarlin and Zach Eiting work on their Moon Phases animation production

6th Grade Science

Do you have any jobs around the house that you really do not like to do? Are there chores that you wish there would be an easier method of completing? You might want to talk to a 6th grade student if you answered yes to either of these questions. The 6th grade students have been utilizing the scientific method in the creative thinking process to develop new inventions or innovations on existing devices during the past several weeks. After much hard work and effort, the inventions and innovations are complete. We hope that you had a chance to see these amazing new ideas on display at our annual open house held on March 30, 2011.

We are looking forward to Columbus Children's Theatre's performance of Gavin Bernhold's play, *Pizzeria*. Out of over 900 entries, his story was chosen as one out of seventeen stories to be reenacted as a play.

5th Grade News

The fifth grade students are going on a field trip to the Henry Ford Museum on Friday, May 13, 2011. The day will be an extended day and there will be many things to see and do. The field trip covers social studies and science indicators, including industrialization and transportation, inventions and inventors, and the students will have the opportunity to see real working farms and factories. Thank you to all the chaperones for volunteering their time to spend the day with us.

The fifth grade is also looking forward to our walking field trip to the Minster Historical Society on Monday, May 16. We would like to thank Mary Oldiges and the Historical Society for welcoming us and sharing the Steinemann family display.

In language arts the students have been reading social injustice novels and creating projects. Novels with a social injustice provide a perfect springboard to define, research, and question global human issues. This multi-week unit incorporates literature, research, and multi-genre writing to encourage critical thinking. Students studied racism, child labor, the Holocaust, and political oppression.



4th Graders Take Part in Underground Railroad



Our fourth grade students recently took part in a simulated Underground Railroad here at school. They read novels in language arts about life on a plantation and the life of a slave. These historical fiction novels included Freedom's Wings: Corey's Underground Railroad Diary and A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl. Students met in small novel study groups to read, consider vocabulary and analyze themes. They created trioramas with the Triangular Trade



between Africa, the Caribbean and the English colonies. As a culminating activity, students took on the role of a young person hoping to escape to freedom. They had just fifteen minutes to stop at various rooms marked "Underground Railroad" around the school. They hoped to gain five "friend" signatures before three "foe/enemy" signatures given by teachers and staff with marked doors. They were not permitted to speak, as a slave catcher was in the area. Four of our twenty small groups made it to freedom represented by Canada in the commons. Sixteen of the groups met their fate and had to return to the plantation.

Responses from students were plentiful. Some responded they couldn't believe a certain teacher would sign enemy, but the Fugitive Slave Law was on the books, and they had heard a slave catcher was in the area. Another student commented that it gave me the real feel of what it would have been like to be afraid and on the run. One of our fourth graders said it freaked her out...but asked whether we thought she could do it again in 5th grade?



Students participated in discussions and wrote persuasive 'Letters to the Editor' as if they were a slave or Southerner in 1859 trying to urge the editor to abolish slavery. Finally, all students enjoyed a slice of sweet potato pie as they discussed the simulation and what it must have felt like for those who really attempted the escape on the Underground Railroad.



Spring Happenings in the 4th Grade

Spring is a busy season for Minster Fourth Graders. On April 29, our Fourth Graders walked to Four Season's Park to celebrate Arbor Day. They learned about the first Arbor Day, which was celebrated on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. The students helped plant a tree. It joins the trees planted by previous classes in the park. Students were also given a seedling to plant in their yards. Look for these new trees around town and in the park.

On May 10, we will take our field trip to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton. This trip is always a great way to reinforce so many of the concepts we have been learning during the year. Learning through discovery is exciting while watching a revolving moon in the Hall of the Universe, learning about static electricity in Science Central, or observing the many Ohio animals in Wild Ohio Zoo. We hope many of the fourth graders encourage their families to make a return visit soon.

May 16 is the Fourth Grade All Ohio Wax Museum. We would like to invite everyone to attend from noon to 1:00 pm. This is the day Fourth Graders have been working toward for two months. They have been busy researching famous Ohioans. They have written reports, which they have turned into speeches. On the 16th the students will costume themselves to represent their Ohioans. Weather permitting, they will then be under the trees on the west side of the Middle School where, as wax figures, they will come to life and tell you about the persons they are representing. If the weather doesn't cooperate, they will be stationed in the Middle School Gym. Please come and enjoy all our hard work!

Minster Middle School Power of the Pen

The Regional power of the Pen competition took place on Saturday, March 26, at the Middle School. Four Minster students had previously qualified and participated in the tournament. They were 8th grade students: Logan Arnold, Gabrielle Barga, Kayla Thien, and seventh grader Reid Frick. When all the tallying was completed, Reid Frick had earned the first place trophy for the seventh grade. Reid's first place has advanced him to the State Tournament to be held on Friday, May 27 at the College of Wooster. Congratulations to Reid and all those who participated in Power of the Pen this writing season. The teams would like to thank Mrs. Renee Arnold for serving as a judge for all our competitions over the last six years.



Minster Middle School Named Among Top 100 Teams To Compete in Team America Rocketry Challenge National Finals on May 14 Outside of Washington, DC

A team of budding rocket scientists at Minster Middle School will compete in the national finals of the world's largest rocket contest, after qualifying in April to be among the top 100 teams in the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC). The Super Nova Blast team consisting of Nathan Riethman, Danielle Monnin, Blake Mallory, Carlin Elder, Austin Dwenger, Reid Frick, and Jessica Berelsman beat out 653 other student teams from across the country. The team will now travel to compete in the final fly-off of the Team America Rocketry Challenge on Saturday, May 14, outside of Washington, DC.

The contest challenges middle and high school students across the country to design and build a rocket that will climb to 750 feet and stay aloft for between 40 and 45 seconds using a 15-inch diameter parachute for a recovery device. Teams must also transport a payload of one egg in their rocket and return it unbroken. Students compete for \$60,000 in prizes and scholarships, as well as a chance to compete nationally at the finals held at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va. (near Washington, D.C.). The winning team also earns the chance to attend the International Air Show in Paris, France. Last year the American team represented by Penn Manor High School in Pennsylvania won the international contest.

This is the second consecutive year Minster Middle School has earned the honor of attending the TARC competition. Ted Oldiges, a teacher at the middle school, formed The Rocket Club at the school in 2009 to encourage students to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). "Each student has a critical role in designing their team's rocket and they learn to appreciate how engineering is both exciting and mentally challenging."

Oldiges says the contest is an extraordinary opportunity to bring physics and technology out of the classroom and really make it come alive. Teams learn lessons about aerodynamics, forces, and computer aided designing in a real hands-on way. Students apply concepts like computing launch trajectory or ballast placement within their rocket to increase its stability. On those occasions where their model did not perform up to their expectations, students applied failure analysis to learn from their mistakes and came through it much stronger. "I'm very proud of these kids and the outstanding job they've done. Two years in a row being among the best in the country, that's something to celebrate and be proud of!"

About 6,000 students from across the country took part in the contest in this, its ninth year. Since TARC's first contest in 2003, over 60,000 students have participated in the challenge. The Aerospace Industries Association sponsors the contest with the National Association of Rocketry, NASA, the U.S. Department of Defense, the American Association of Physics Teachers and AIA member companies.

"TARC is a great way for students to get real aerospace engineering experience, and it's also a lot of fun," said Marion Blakey, president and CEO of the Aerospace Industries Association. "We are delighted Minster Middle School has joined this important effort."

TARC is aimed at attracting students to science, math and technology education and, ultimately, careers in the aerospace industry. With nearly 60 percent of the aerospace workforce over the age of 50, AIA and other industry leaders hope to spark the interest of future aerospace engineers with programs like TARC. For more information about the Team America Rocketry Challenge visit www.rocketcontest.org.



(l-r) Austin Dwenger, Jessica Berelsman, Reid Frick, Nathan Riethman, Carlin Elder, Blake Mallory, and Danielle Monnin.

Middle School Student Council

The middle school student council is bringing their year to a close. One of their major projects this year was sponsoring the junior high concession stand that raised over \$1900 to be used to help fund technology at the middle school. Through classroom donations and a bake sale, the students raised \$469.50 for the Leukemia Society's Pennies for Patients.

Another major accomplishment was the completion of this year's yearbook by its deadline. The yearbook was completed on time and the books have been received. There are still a few soft-cover and about 12 hard-covered yearbooks available if someone did not order and would like to have a yearbook.

Through their t-shirt sales and dances, the student council was able to fund or help fund Power of the Pen, the Geography Bee, and the Rocket Club. They organized and sponsored a movie matinee for fourth through sixth grade students, an all-school dodge ball tournament, and Spirit Week.

A few events will close their year. The student council is working with a committee of teachers for the first middle school "Health Day". In the afternoon the student council will help organize and conduct team-building games with all grades participating in "Mix-it-up" teams. As part of the health day, all student 4th through 7th grade will be given a time to walk or run laps on the track. The students will receive a purple ribbon for each lap they complete. At the end of the day the student council will donate 15¢ for every purple ribbon earned to the area Relay for Life campaign.

Students are asked to continue collecting pop tabs until the last week of school. To this point they have collected well over a hundred pounds of pop tabs. The reading contest, which was started the first week of February, has students reading, at last count, over 536,000 pages. We still hope to reach our goal of 1,000,000 pages. The student council will end the year with an eighth grade graduation party.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS GRADES K-3

"From the Administrator's Desk"

Mrs. Leanne Keller - Middle & Elementary School Assistant Principal



CURRICULUM

May benchmarking will be done the week of May 9-13. This "quick skill check" is given each fall, winter, and spring in the areas of reading fluency, math computation, and math concepts & applications. We use benchmarking to ensure that all students are making adequate progress.

Our third grade students will be taking the Ohio Achievement Assessment in the areas of Reading (April 28) and Mathematics (May 5). Please be sure your child has a full breakfast on these days and emphasize the importance of giving his/her best effort.

PARENT RESOURCES

Continued reading throughout the summer is critical for each and every student. Our students have truly made great progress during the school year, but daily practice is necessary to maintain your child's skill level. Below are some resources to help your child stick with reading through the summer:

1. Join the Summer Reading Program offered by F. J. Stallo Library.
2. Consider a summer tutor or signing up for the Wright State Lake Campus Reading Center tutoring program. Contact Judy Brewer @ 419-586-0323 or find an online enrollment form at <http://wright.edu/lake/read/programs.html>.
3. Third grade students who do not perform at a proficient level on the Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment will be offered a summer reading program through Minster Schools. You will receive a letter in the mail in June if your child is invited to participate in this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27	Children's Writing Project / Columbus Children's Theatre
April 28	Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment – grade 3
May 3	Math Ohio Achievement Assessment – grade 3
May 4	2 nd grade field trip to Allen County Museum
May 5	Science Ohio Achievement Test – (grades 5 & 8)
May 9-13	Spring Benchmark Week
May 9	3 rd grade field trip to Brukner's Nature Preserve
May 12	1 st grade field trip to Indianapolis Zoo
May 20	Kindergarten Graduation
May 24	Field Day
May 26	Last Day for Students
May 27	Teacher Work Day

3rd Graders Hatch Chicken Eggs

The students in third grade spend a great deal of time learning about life sciences. They compare the life cycles of different animals including birth to adulthood. One of the highlights is the 4-H project where they actually get to learn about the life cycle of the chicken first hand. On March 8, the Auglaize County 4-H provided them with the fertilized eggs and the incubators. The students carefully observed the conditions within the incubators over the next 21 days. They recorded their findings in their journals each day. They made sure the temperature stayed at 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit, that the automatic turner was working properly and that there was adequate water in the incubator each day. On March 29 they had a chance to watch the chicks begin to hatch out of their eggs. It was a very successful hatch this year and the students especially liked the part where they got to hold and play with the chicks before they were taken back to the farm. This was an “eggciting” experience for all of the third graders!

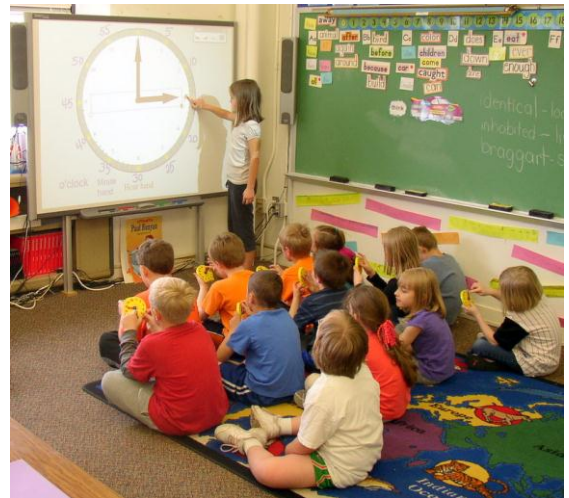
**2nd Grade Field Trips**

The second grade students recently walked to the village administration building and met the mayor and a few council members. The children had many of their questions answered about their roles in our local government. A huge thank you goes to the Mayor, Mr. Dennis Kitzmiller, and council members, Craig Oldiges, Tom Herkenhoff, and Nicole Clune for taking the time out of their day to talk to the second graders!

The students in grade two have also been learning about forms of communication and transportation from the past and the present. As a culminating activity the second grade students will travel to the Allen County Museum in Lima to learn all about pioneer life and the changes in lifestyles that have occurred over the years.

1st Grade News

First grade students are working on telling time. They learn to tell time to the hour and half hour using an analog clock and a digital clock. They use technology as well as setting small hand held clocks. They will also be learning about the calendar and reading schedules during this unit of study.



Kindergarten Students Visit Hospital

Minster's Kindergarten students visited the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital on April 7. Students were given a fun introduction to the hospital world and visited eight stations where they learned about admissions, surgery, casts, our organs, and much more. The children got to take home small souvenirs from each station such as an admission bracelet, surgical cap and mask, and small adhesive bandages.



♪ General Music Notes ♪

Something **new** has been happening at our elementary and middle school this year. We have added the singing of our National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner, to our morning announcements at the beginning and end of each school week. In the middle school, we learn the history behind the lyrics, and that the Star-Spangled Banner actually has only been our National Anthem since March 3, 1931. There was a great deal of controversy as to whether or not this should be the song that represents the United States of America. Those opposing it said the pitches are too high for the average person to sing and felt the words in the verses would be easily forgotten. Those in favor of the song said it couldn't help but stir up deep feelings of patriotism for our nation. At the middle school, student volunteers lead our song over the announcements. It takes great courage to do this! We've even had teachers lead the song at various times throughout the year! It is extremely important for **all Americans** to know the words of our National Anthem and to sing the National Anthem with **pride**. Please help our students learn this very valuable lesson by singing along beside them. We certainly are fortunate to live in such a great country!

MINSTER LOCAL SCHOOLS - CALENDAR 2011-2012

Monday-Tuesday.	August 22-23	Teacher Work Days
Wednesday	August 24	First Day for Students
Monday	September 5	No School - Labor Day
Wednesday	September 28	No School – Waiver Day for Teacher Professional Development
Wednesday	October 26	End of Nine Weeks (45 + 2 + 1)
Thursday	November 10	No School – Waiver Day for Teacher Professional Development
Friday	November 11	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences
Wednesday-Friday	November 23-25	No School - Thanksgiving Break
Thursday	December 22	No School – WOE A Day
Friday	December 23	First Day of Christmas Vacation
Tuesday	January 3	Classes Resume
Friday	January 13	End of Nine Weeks (47 + 2 + 0)
Monday	January 16	No School – Martin Luther King Day
Friday-Monday	February 17-20	No School – President’s Day
Wednesday	March 7	No School – Waiver Day for Teacher Professional Development
Wednesday	March 21	End of Nine Weeks (45 + 1 + 0)
Friday-Monday.	April 6-9	No School - Easter Vacation
Wednesday	May 23	Last Day for Students
Thursday	May 24	Teacher Workday (43 + 0 + 1)
Sunday	May 27	Graduation

*** Make-up Days: If required to make up any or all days, any of the following days may be used for make-up: 2-17; 2-20; 4-9; 5-24; and 5/25 and extend school year if needed.

*** Interim Dates: September 23, 2011, December 7, 2011, February 15, 2012, and April 25, 2012

GRADING PERIODS	IN SESSION	PROFESSIONAL	TEACHER WORK DAYS
1. August 24 – October 26	45	1	1
2. October 27 – January 13	47	1	0
3. January 17 – March 21	45	1	0
4. March 22 – May 23	<u>43</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	180	3	2

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 JH Girls Track @ New Bremen Var Baseball @ Ft. Jennings JV Baseball @ Lehman Var Softball vs Versailles	3 Var Baseball @ Versailles JV Baseball vs Versailles Var Softball @ New Bremen	4 Var Softball vs Ft. Recovery	5 JH Track @ Versailles Tiger Challenge	6 Var Baseball @ New Knoxville JV Baseball vs Perry	7 Var Track @ Ada Invite JH Track @ Anna Relays Var Baseball Sectional Semi- Finals
8	9 Band Spring Concert 7:00 pm Var Softball @ St. Henry	10 Var Baseball vs St. Henry JV Baseball @ St. Henry Var Track MAC @ Minster	11 Var Baseball Sectional Finals	12 Var Softbal 1 vs Marion Local JV Baseball vs Parkway JH Track MAC @ New Bremen	13 Var Baseball @ Marion Local JV Baseball vs Marion Local Var Track MAC @ Minster	14
15	16	17	18	19 Var Track District	20	21 Var Track District
22	23	24	25	26 Last Day of School for Students	27	28
29 Graduation	30	31				