

CAPT. NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Phone: 742-7334, Fax: 742-4565

March & April 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *By David Petrone*



Dear Parents,

As I am sure you know, students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will be taking the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) starting on Tuesday March 8th. A practice test was administered to students during the week of February 28th. This practice test touched upon all performance tasks on the actual mastery test. Examples of reading and writing skills were presented to students, as well as math problem solving and computation skills. Once the practice test was administered, students were allowed to take the test home. I hope that they shared this information and you had an opportunity to review and discuss this practice test with them.

The CMT schedule will run from March 8^h thru March 24th. All tests will be administered from approximately 9:00a.m. – 10:10a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during this time period. Due to the numerous snow days, we pushed back our testing window, which means that students will also test on two Fridays, March 11th and 18th. Students will resume their normal school schedule thereafter. If a student is absent during testing, a certified staff member will administer any part missed until March 29th. Please provide your child with a good breakfast and ample sleep during this testing period. If you have any questions, please contact me at 742-7334.

Sincerely,
David Petrone
Principal

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 26th	Solo & Small Ensemble Recital	7:00p.m.	Veterans Auditorium
March 29th	Chorus Solo Ensemble	7:00p.m	Veterans Auditorium
April 5th	PTO Meeting	7:00p.m	Library/Media Center
April 11, 2011	Reports cards are mailed home		
April 18th—22nd	Spring Vacation		
April 25, 2011	Annual Blood Drive	1:00— 6:30 p.m.	
May 3rd	PTO Meeting	7:00p.m.	Library/Media Center

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

By Scott Sadinsky

Last year I wrote about promoting the three R's for our students: Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness. I connected this theme to promoting an atmosphere of safety regarding our student's use of the internet, social media, and other forms of electronic communication such as text messaging and video chatting. Among the many struggles we (parents and educators) face is determining what our role is regarding monitoring and "staying connected" to our students.

An article in the December 5, 2010 issue of the New York Times entitled, *As Bullies Go Digital, Parents Play Catch-Up*, there is a question as to the role we play. Are we to be a *supervisor* or are we a *spy*? The article poses the question, "Should teenagers have the same expectation of privacy from parents in their online accounts that an earlier generation had with their little red diaries and keys?" The question is important; the responses are varied and quite complex. As we look back to the three R's and continue to ponder the fluid nature of the electronic world, we recommend the following:

- Encourage your students not to distribute their cell phone #, screen name, or to "friend" others they do not know;
- Take time to review your students social network site profiles and related information;
- Familiarize yourself with the websites your students visit;
- Promote an open dialogue with your students so that in the event a problem or concern arises, they will feel comfortable communicating and working through it with you.

As we continue to work together to support all of our students, we believe that effective communication is an essential component of any successful relationship. To that end the communication we have with our students, specific to their making good choices with the use of technology is paramount. In May of this year, we will be presenting a program in conjunction with the Coventry Police Department that will focus on social media, texting, bullying and related issues. More information will be provided as we get closer to this event. In our continued collaborative effort, please know how much we value your input, support and feedback. Please feel free to contact me at 860.742.7334, ext. 371, or by email at ssadinsky@coventryct.org should you have any questions or concerns.

Developmental Guidance

In recent weeks, we have begun our unit on Understanding and Managing Emotions. Together, we are learning to understand different steps in identifying and deescalating anger. First, we are becoming aware of our own **Warning Signs** of impending anger. These are the physical clues that our bodies provide (e.g., headache, knots in stomach, muscle tightening, rapid heart rate). We then progress to our associated **Emotions** (e.g., frustration, embarrassment, annoyance, hurt, anxiety). In the next step, we identify our **Thoughts**. Finally, we move forward to **Behaviors** (i.e., focusing on acceptable or adaptive responses). The ultimate goal is to understand that we have the ability to put on the brakes, step back, and choose our responses to situations that typically cause us stress.

On a different note, the World Language selection sheets were due back to the guidance office today. If your child has not returned his or her sheet, please send it by early next week. Please be aware that when students choose either Spanish or French, they are making a commitment to continue with that language through both seventh and eighth grades. They may choose a different language in high school.

A Mosaic field trip is scheduled for sixth grade students on May 4, 2011 with a rain date of May 11, 2011.

April 1st - Presentation of elective courses at Coventry High School for incoming 9th grade students.

June 1st and 2nd – a program called College Knowledge Day is being presented to students in the 6th and 8th grade respectively. The students will attend age appropriate sessions about planning and preparing for college and career exploration.

Thank you to all the 8th grade students and their parents/guardians who returned their signed high school schedule.

As always, please contact any of us with questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Donna Plen, x402

Mrs. Esperanza Nugent, x376

Mrs. Erin Henrickson, x403

Mr. Francis Perrotti, x378

DONUTS WITH DONNA: The Superintendent of Schools is available for casual conversations with community members during the school year. "Donuts with Donna" is a way for you to greet your school Superintendent, ask questions, and keep informed about education in our town. Please feel free to stop by, where there will be an informal atmosphere with an open dialogue and no set agenda. The next session of "Donuts with Donna" is Tuesday, March 22 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Kenyon Mills Condominiums, 28 Armstrong Road, Coventry.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Coventry Grammar School is now scheduling Kindergarten registration appointments for the 2011-2012 school year. Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2011 are eligible to register for Kindergarten. Parents and guardians are asked to call the school at 860-742-7313 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily to schedule a registration appointment. Registration will take place during the weeks of March 7th through March 18th.

At the time of registration, a copy of the child's birth certificate will be required for proof of age. **Prior to the first day of school** (August 29, 2011), a physical exam and evidence of adequate immunizations will be required and must be submitted to the school nurse. The physical exam form is acceptable if dated between September 1, 2010 and August 26, 2011.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Coventry Grammar School at 860-742-7313.

READING CONSULTANT ~ Mrs. Dimmock

Fluency...For years this component of reading was considered less important than comprehension or word recognition. However, over the past couple of years fluency has been discovered to be very important in the scheme of things. What exactly is fluency? In simplistic terms, it is the rate at which a person reads a text. Students need to read quickly enough and with enough rhythm to enjoy the act of reading, to be able to understand what is read, and to keep up with reading assignments in the classroom. Fluency also has proven to be one of the major issues with which students in middle school struggle. Considering how much the middle schooler has on his or her plate, it's no wonder. Students in middle school are becoming more social, they prefer being active, playing video games, enjoying other forms of technology to reading. Yet this is the time when they really need to hone their reading skills. Fluency rates for the middle school child should range from 150 words per minutes in sixth grade, to 200 or more words per minute in eighth grade.

When kids read more slowly than this, they fall behind, which causes frustration, which causes the "I hate reading!" syndrome. You get the picture. So, how do we resolve this issue? Kids need to read daily. You can help them at home by sharing the reading – you read a page, they read a page. If your student is willing, time him or her once a week or so to see how fast they are reading: simply have them read something they enjoy for one minute, then count how many words they have read. Finally, graph the results. Most kids enjoy seeing their progress when this is done consistently. The most important thing, however, is regular practice. You wouldn't go on a stage without practicing your part, or on a basketball court without practicing your skills. Reading is no different!

GRADE 6

Grade Wide Activities

Our 13th annual blood drive will be held on **Monday, April 25th**. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, our 6th graders will be co-sponsoring and running a blood drive which will run **from 1:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.** All students will be helping out in some manner. We believe this is a great service learning project that fits well into our existing curriculum. In addition to this academically rich project, the students are given the opportunity to volunteer, learn what it means to give, as well as learn about career fields that may one day interest them.

This is a unique experience for all students, especially those who will be volunteering to actually work at the blood drive as either an escort, registration attendant, baby sitter for donors with little ones, or server in the canteen area. Please consider donating blood this year.

Language Arts:

Students in Language Arts classes have put forth a tireless effort into preparing for the CMT's in March. Students completed a number of editing and revising activities to hone their skills. Additionally, students have created a number of expository writing plans to prepare for the Direct Assessment of Writing portion of the CMT. In conjunction with CMT prep, students have worked with Figurative Language in preparation for their unit on poetry. Students then focused their talents on our current endeavor which is the creation of a poetry book using their figurative language skills to create an anthology of poetry. Poem styles will consist of Limericks, Lyrics, and Free Verses to name a few. Students created a poem and poster of choice to enter the EPA Poetry/Poem contest and will also submit poems from their book for publication in the Spring 2011 version of the [Celebration of Young Poets](#) book.



Reading:

During March, reading students read Ecology related articles in class while responding to the various texts in journal form. During the month of April students will be introduced to Aesop Fables. Afterwards, students will begin reading a fantasy novel, *The Secret of NIMH*.

Math: Math students are busy with lots of hands-on activities figuring out ratios and proportions, as well as working with both theoretical and experimental probability. They will then explore the world of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures and apply concepts of translations, rotations, reflections and line symmetry. This unit will be followed by an algebra unit including graph functions and algebraic equations.



Social studies Students are focusing their attention north to Ancient Greece. Students have been introduced to Greek mythology and have researched and presented information regarding Greek deities. Students will continue to study Ancient Greece as they research the similarities and differences between Sparta and Athens. They will look into and discuss the Persian War and the Peloponnesian War. Students will have the opportunity to research a Greek God and prepare a presentation for their class. We will work in groups to learn about the Greek Olympics. Finally, students will be introduced to the Golden Age of Greece. Our next unit will focus on Ancient Rome.



Science:

The students are becoming mini-meteorologists in 6th grade science. We've looked at the unequal heating of the earth as the driving force behind weather. Students will soon be creating weather instruments to learn about predicting weather. Students will be measuring air pressure with hand-made barometers, measuring wind-speed and direction with their anemometers and vanes. Sling psychrometers will be used to measure relative humidity.

We will continue to use our WeatherBug station to analyze data from Captain Nathan Hale to find patterns and trends and predict weather. Maybe someday, one of our students will be on the evening news giving us the details of our next snow day.

GRADE 7

Math

During the month of March, the 7th grade math students will be reviewing skills from 6th grade and the beginning of 7th grade in preparation for the CMTs. We will also be learning how to do basic percent problems, graphing and transformations, and some basic geometry. In April, we will move on to Ratio, Rate, Proportion and Probability, followed by a larger unit on 2-Dimensional Geometry.



Reading

Currently, students are reading the book, *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor. Next in reading classes, we will read *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. Students will learn about the Civil Rights Movement and the injustices African Americans have faced throughout our history. We will supplement with information on the history of African Americans through a variety of other novels, films, and historical documents. Students will use reading strategies previously learned as well as learning new reading strategies that are helping them to become more critical-thinking readers. We will continue to use the small group format, as well as whole class discussion, to discuss and analyze the events of the story.



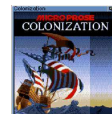
Language Arts

Students in language arts have done an excellent job with preparing for this year's CMT writing prompt. They have shown tremendous growth since our first practice in the fall. We look forward to their success on this year's mastery testing. Next, we will start the Autobiographical Scrapbook project. As always, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary continue to be a weekly focus in language arts.



Social Studies

In 7th grade Social Studies we have finished taking a look at Canada and Mexico, our immediate neighbors, and will begin examining South & Central America as well as the Caribbean. Students will explore the concept of colonization by taking on the roles of the natives and the Europeans and discuss their perspectives on what occurred in these regions historically. From there students will take a look at Europe. In this unit students will work on a project in which they will research an individual European nation and present their research to the class; teaching their classmates about their chosen nation's resources, landforms, language, culture, history, and even more interesting information!



Science

Students in the 7th grade science classes are continuing their exploration of the human body systems. This exploration is based on discovering how specialized organ systems interact with each other to maintain a stable internal environment. As an introduction to this process, students compared and contrasted single-celled organisms with multi-celled organisms, analyzed the structure and function of animal cells and explained how these cell structures interact as tissues, organs and organ systems. After gaining a full understanding of these concepts, the students are now investigating the basic structure of the human musculoskeletal system and the how these two systems support the body and allow movement. Students will then gain a full understanding of the respiratory system and the human circulatory system. Lastly, students integrate how the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems function together with the nervous, immune and excretory systems to understand how these systems interact to maintain that balanced internal environment, call homeostasis, in humans.

Language Arts

Currently, students are focusing on their writing strategies in preparation for the Connecticut Mastery Tests. In class, they have been working on how to write a well-developed response that takes a clear and thoughtful position and provides persuasive support. In addition, students are also practicing on how to improve their grammar usage and mechanics while continuing to expand their vocabulary through *Word Wisdom*. As we proceed through March and April, students will be working to complete their nonfiction response to Carl Hiaasen's article *The Florida Keys: Something Precious is Falling Apart*, and then move onward to write a memoir.



Science

Grade 8 science students are busy preparing for the CMTs coming up this month. We have reviewed the standards from grades 6 - 8, and will continue reviewing until the science portion of the testing is administered on March 11.

After the reviews we will begin a unit on "Structure and Function of Bridges". Students will work in teams to design and construct a bridge that will be put under stress until it breaks. The winners will be crowned at a grade level contest held in the Veterans Auditorium.

Math

8th grade math students are reviewing skills in preparation for the Connecticut Mastery Test. Following the CMTs, students will undertake an in-depth study of graphing in the coordinate plane with a focus on slope. Working with equations is an important component of this unit.



GRADE 8

Social Studies



1. Students in grade 8 have just completed their trenches in their unit on World War I. Everyone was required to properly label the parts of a trench after conducting research and viewing Power Points. We will be introducing multiple assessments for this very important event in world history. Earlier, students were required to draw a recruitment poster with an appropriate message, symbols, and technique. This project followed an examination of over twenty-five recruitment posters in which students analyzed propaganda techniques.
2. Over 30 students from grades 6 and 8 are participating in National History Day this year. 2011 marks the 30th consecutive year that CNHMS and CHS students have taken part. Participants are engaged in performances, paper writing, documentary presentations, web site construction, and exhibits. This year's theme is a daunting one: Good luck kids!
3. Mindy Gosselin recently won the regional competition for National Geo Bee. Mindy has also taken the written part of the exam to be scored by National Geographic Bee. Results to come soon. Mindy then proceeds to the State Bee at Central Connecticut State University. Good luck Mindy!
4. The decade of the 1920s is next. Students will be examining aspects of this very exciting yet tragic decade by constructing visuals. Topics include politics, sports, economy, fashion, diplomacy, art, and literature.
5. As in the past, social studies teachers have allotted time to help prepare for the CMTs. Most of the time will be devoted to persuasive writing. Following the CMTs, students will take on CAPT testing exercises.

Reading

"Books are ... funny little portable pieces of thought." Susan Sontag

8th graders have been honing their inferential comprehension skills as we wrap up *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*, by Mark Haddon.

In the next week or two we will begin our reading journey back to 12th century Korea. This is the setting for the book, *A Single Shard*, by Linda Sue Park.

Essential questions we will be discussing include: How does a literary work reveal common themes found in human nature? How does the use of language structures create an intended effect? And, how do cultural or historical time frames affect a character's motivation and/or reaction to a personal conflict? Students will build on their inferential skills as they grapple with themes that reflect human nature. Also, students will be immersed in rich vocabulary as they read through the book.

Continuing with the theme of cultural diversity, we will be reading two books which deal with the Japanese-American experience of World War II: *Under The Blood-Red Sun* and *Eyes of the Emperor*, both by Graham Salisbury. Please note that *Under the Blood-Red Sun* won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Each student will read one of the titles. This will lead to exciting book talk discussions as they compare and contrast various literary elements found in each book.



WORLD LANGUAGE

March and April 2011
Chère Famille (Dear family),

The theme for eighth grade for March and April focuses on food. Students will learn to offer, accept, and refuse food. They will order, inquire about, and give an opinion on foods, as well as ask for and pay the bill. Students will learn the << -ir >> verb conjugation in the present tense, and the formation of the imperative. Note that the French placement exam will be administered during the beginning of April. A letter will be sent home with the details.

*Reminder for all sections: Written homework is given 3 times a week, and students are expected to practice the vocabulary daily. In each chapter, the vocabulary is listed in blue and beige boxes. To reach my homework hotline, dial 860-742-7334, and then enter 6488 for 8th grade French homework updates. Enter 6465 for 7th grade updates.

In April and May, the theme for seventh grade French will be the family. Students will identify and describe family members. They will ask about other students' families, and activities. The grammar focus is on the present tense of the verb "to be -être", and adjective agreement with the noun that it modifies. Please remember to check the homework hotline for assignments.*

Mrs. Thornton's French Class



Mrs. Page's 8th grade Spanish

The theme for eighth grade for March and April focuses on food. Students will learn to offer, accept, and refuse food. They will order, inquire about, and give an opinion on foods, as well as ask for and pay the bill. Students will learn the differences between the two words that mean "to be", "ser" and "estar". **Note that the Spanish placement exam will be administered during the beginning of April. A letter will be sent home with the details.**

*Reminder for all sections: Written homework is given approximately 3 times a week, and students are expected to practice the vocabulary daily. In each chapter, the vocabulary is listed in blue and beige boxes. To reach **the Spanish** homework hotline, dial 860-742-7334, and then enter 6469.

Mrs. Page's and Mrs. Voelker's 7th grade Spanish

In March and April, the theme for seventh grade Spanish will be a continuation of likes and dislikes including what we *want* to do and how often we do things and how the weather affects what we do. The grammar focus is on the verbs "querer" (to want), "ir" (to go), and "jugar" to play, as well as regular -ar verb conjugations. Please remember to check the homework hotline for assignments.*

Chinese Enrichment:

As soon as the snow melts and fields dry up, we will be making and flying kites of our own design with the Chinese symbols of words and concepts that are meaningful to us. We have already practiced learning how to draw some symbols, what some of the basic symbols mean, and how they get put together to create more complex words and ideas. There are still a few slots left and it is never too late to join, so if your child is interested in learning about China and its culture, please contact Mrs. Page at 860-742-7334 ext. 469.

Elaine Thornton ethornton@coventryct.org 860-742-7334 ext. 465
 Debby Page dpage@coventryct.org 860-742-7334 ext. 469
 Patricia Voelker pvoelker@coventryct.org 860-742-7334 ext. 477

Health News 6th/8th grade

Water is the best all-day drink! It has no sugar or calories and it is available at little or no cost. Have water for car rides, shopping days, or sports events. Try serving water with meals at home and ask for water when dining out. Remember that a typical can of soda may have as much as **ten teaspoons** of sugar and the carbonation robs the body of much needed calcium. Help your family make better choices.

We continue to be very proud of our students' Community Service endeavors. We have had students remove snow from cars at Orchard Hill, help coach younger sports teams, stock the food bank, assist at Nathan Hale Homestead and much more. They really are making a difference! If you are planning a nonprofit event and need student volunteers, please contact me (860-742-7334 x445 or rrosen@coventryct.org.)

Mrs. Rosen

Family and Consumer Science ~ Corine Cagianello-Jones

"The Story of Me and What I Want to Be!" Personal Success Plan (PSP)

Where can you go to find aspiring architects, teachers, lawyers, actors, animators, doctors, botanists, professional athletes, photographers and forensic scientists? (Just to name a few!) The answer is right here at CNHMS! Family and Consumer Science students in sixth grade recently completed a unit on career exploration. They utilized the Renzulli Learning website and focused on an individual Personal Success Plan (PSP). The PSP module begins with My Interests, My Heroes and Helpers, and moves through My Careers, My Goals, and My Projects. Each student had access to information and valuable websites that was differentiated for them based on their individual interests and expression styles. Interests varied from Science and Technology, Fine and Performing Arts, History and Social Action, Athletics, Business and Math, Writing and Photography/Video. Students completed different modules on their PSP and were encouraged to think and write about who inspires and helps them. They also completed a Work Preferences Profile and answered questions about how and why a possible career would be a good match for them. As a culmination to this unit, students will present their, "**The Story of Me and What I Want to Be!**" project to classmates. I was quite impressed with what my students created last quarter. Check out the pictures below and see for yourself! Or, better yet, stop by the display case near the office where some of the fabulous projects will soon be showcased!

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." -Confucius



NURSE'S NOTES ~ JOYCE MANNING

Spring is just around the corner. When cleaning out the winter clothes please remember that my office is always looking for middle school size pants, t-shirts and sweatshirts for both the boy and girl students that may need a change during the day.

6th Grade Parents

Now is the time to schedule the 7th grade physical if it hasn't been done yet. Most doctor's offices have a wait for physicals and the closer to summer you call the fewer appointments will be available. The physical exam report has to be in my office **BEFORE** the first day of 7th grade in order for your child to start on time. If there are any problems please do not hesitate to call me at 860-742-4541.

Scoliosis

Scoliosis screening for 7th grade will be in April and for 6th grade in May. I need three parents for each grade as helpers (checking students in and supervising in the locker rooms) for each screening. The screenings start at 8am and finish by 11am. Please call me if you are interested.

Crutches

The school needs a doctor's note that allows your child to use crutches in school.

Please do not send your child to school on crutches without the doctor's note.

Medication

Any medication, whether it is over the counter or prescribed needs to be brought in by an adult with a doctor's written order. The order form is on our website. If it will be medication that the child will need at home, also please call me first so we can

Art Department

"To send light into the darkness of men's hearts - such is the duty of the artist." ~ Schumann



Third Quarter **ART!!**
6th Grade Projects

- Jasper John inspired Color Theory
- Pablo Picasso inspired Clay Bowls
- Symmetrical Printmaking
- Three Dimensional Greek Vases
- Three Dimensional Nylon Sculptures
- Style Me Matisse Portraits

7th Grade Projects

- Frank Stella inspired Color Theory
- Expressionism Portraits
- Collagraph Printmaking
- Paper Mache Animal Masks
- Cubist Portraits



Challenge and Enrichment Opportunities Fall, 2010

Renzulli Learning Systems

Every student at CNHMS has an account for this on-line database of over 45,000 educationally appropriate websites and enrichment activities/projects to support the curriculum. Please encourage your child to log-on to www.renzullilearning.com today to explore this amazing resource! Parents, you can also sign up for an account to monitor your child's usage. **Deadline: Open all year.**

Stock Market Game

Now more than ever, schools are looking for ways to meet higher education standards while working within tighter budgets. To meet this challenge, schools are seeking more effective educational tools that both motivate students and support teachers in building lifelong learning skills. One tool that meets these requirements in an innovative yet time tested way is The Stock Market Game™ program. Since 1977, the program has given educators a way to improve the learning experience in thousands of classrooms. Teachers have successfully used The Stock Market Game™ program to enliven core academic subjects — including Math, Social Studies, and Language Arts — and research has shown there's no better way to learn the importance of saving and investing. The program also teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts:

- Critical thinking
- Decision-making
- Cooperation and communication
- Independent research

Saving and investing

Students use real internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive game play creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact. As they progress, they learn core academic concepts and skills that can help them succeed in the classroom — and in life. Starting with a virtual cash account of \$100,000, students strive to create the best-performing portfolio using a live trading simulation. They work together in teams, practicing leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation as they compete for the top spot. The setup is engaging, and the learning is a natural part of the experience. In building a portfolio, students research and evaluate stocks and make decisions based on what they've learned. Teams trade common stocks and mutual funds from the NYSE, Nasdaq and AMEX exchanges; earn interest on cash balances; pay interest if buying on margin and pay a commission on all trades. To determine why certain stocks perform the way they do, or why the broader market has moved up or down, they need to understand how the economy works, and to calculate their returns they need to do the math. The trading session began **February 22, 2011!** Let Mrs. Golaski know as soon as possible if you are interested in participating. **It is not too late to start trading!**

Creative Communication

What a wonderful way to celebrate writing! From the editors at Creative Communication:

Every famous writer started somewhere. You can start here. Enter our poetry or essay contests and get published. Unlike many contests, Creative Communication is selective and you can consider it an honor if we accept your work. With several contests a year, you have many opportunities to amaze us with your writing. We publish thousands of student writers each year, so send us your poems and essays and see if you can get your name in print and win your share of the prizes. For more information please visit <http://www.poeticpower.com/>. **Poetry—April 12, 2011. There are also summer dates if you are interested!**

Meet a Change-maker

This timely year-long program, written in collaboration with the Purpose Project, is designed to develop community awareness and student involvement. Monthly features focus on stories and experiences of change-makers from Connecticut and across the country. This program will:

- Introduce students to the current issues and challenges facing our communities, country, and world and the efforts made toward creating solutions.
- Inspire students to consider the role they can play as leaders in their community now and in the future.

Encourage lively classroom discussions about the elements of leadership and social change that will in turn motivate students to take action and develop skills that are needed to become effective leaders.

Let Mrs. Golaski know if you are interested. This is an ongoing project.

BAND INFORMATION

The Captain Nathan Hale 6th Grade Band has been selected by audition to be showcased at the 2011 Connecticut Music Educators Association annual In-Service Conference to be held at the Hartford Convention Center, April 7-9, 2011. The CNH 6th gr. Bands was one of eight performing groups chosen from almost 30 applicants to give a half hour concert. This is the second consecutive year that one of the CNH Bands has been given this honor under the direction of Anthony Susi. Last year, the CNH 8th grade Band was awarded the opportunity to perform. The CNH 6th grade Band is comprised of 63 instrumentalists.

The CNH Jazz Band recently performed on Feb. 16th at the Manchester Jazz Festival along with 17 other middle and high school Jazz band from around the state. Each Jazz ensemble performed three selections for two adjudicators who provided a formal critique. Each band also received a half hour clinic with one of the judges. Gina Wiese was recognized by the pair of adjudicators as the Outstanding Soloist from Coventry.

The annual CNH Solo & Small Ensemble Recital will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at 7pm in the Veterans Auditorium. Several students in all three grade levels from both the Band and Chorus have volunteered to perform in this event and are presently preparing their music. The program is in recognition of the nationally celebrated "Music in Our Schools Month" and is free to the public.

Anthony Susi, band director at Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, has been invited to be the guest conductor for the 2011 Western Region Middle School Honors Band. This marks the eighth time that Mr. Susi has been asked to conduct either the Symphonic Band or Jazz Band for one of the four regional music festivals sponsored annually by the Connecticut Music Educators Association. Students from approximately 30 middle schools are selected through audition to perform in this prestigious ensemble comprised of 106 of the best musicians from their region. The concert will be held on Saturday, March 19th in White Hall at Western Connecticut State University beginning at 4pm.



Chorus and General Music News



The chorus students are preparing for the solo and ensembles concert. This program will feature band and chorus students from grade 6, 7, and 8th grade who would like to work in small groups or sing solos. These students will practice on their own time and prepare their performance for March 29, at 7:00p.m. The performance will take place at Veterans Auditorium. Mr. Gibbs is available to work with students before school, after school, and during lunch time. Our full choral concert will take place on Tuesday, May 10, in Veterans Auditorium.

The 6th grade general music students are studying jazz this month. The students will write a paper on a famous jazz musician. The 7th grade general music students will start a unit on Renaissance and Baroque music this month.

CNHMS—PTO NEWS

Hard to believe with all of the snow still outside our windows, but Spring is just around the corner. The PTO has begun planning our 2nd annual walk-a-thon. Last year we held our first walk-a-thon at CNH and raised almost \$2000 to purchase an AED for our school. Not only was the event a financial success, it was great to see the kids and staff outside getting some exercise and having fun. Since the event was such a hit, we have decided to hold it again this year. We are planning on a Friday afternoon in May. Stay tuned for more details....

Want to earn extra Labels For Education Points for our school?

Register your Shoprite card and Price Chopper card on line at elabelsforeducation.com.

Every time you purchase a participating Labels For Education product one point will be automatically deposited into our account. It is simple and easy to register. Then don't forget to cut the label off your product and send it into school for us to get more points.

With the points we have collected so far, we have been able to get the school a digital camera for use by teachers. So sign your cards up now for the extra points.

Also, we are still collecting Box Tops! We have gotten over \$200 this year from sending these in!

Thanks to those families who have turned in Box Tops and Labels for Education points. A big Thank You to all of you that either volunteered for or came to the PTO Craft Fair in December. We raised over \$8000 which was split amongst the four-schools.

Please join us at our remaining PTO meetings on Tuesday, April 5 and Tuesday, May 3rd. All PTO meetings are held in the library/ media center and begin at 7pm. Hope to see you there.

Physical Education

Each year, a handful of students enter the gymnasium with anxiety because they feel that they are not athletic and will fail or perform poorly in physical education. This may have been true years ago; however, the integrity of the physical education program has changed over the past decade. Unfortunately, many people may still confuse physical education as being one in the same with athletics. Needless to say, *physical education is for everyone, not solely for the athlete.*

It is the goal of physical educators to help students become physically educated. A physically educated student will demonstrate motor skills and movement patterns; understand movement concepts, principles, and strategies; participate regularly in physical activity; maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness; exhibit responsible personal and social behavior; and value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, and social interaction. Students are assessed on skill development as well as effort, improvement, cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship and goal achievement, not only athletic ability. We hope that all students will develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will assist them in participating in physical activity and benefiting from a healthy lifestyle.

To succeed in this, a physical education program must provide a variety of different activities that include team sports, as well as individual activities. Offering both team sports and individual sports will optimistically provide each student an opportunity to find an activity that they enjoy and will continue pursuing in the future. At Captain Nathan Hale, the following activities are provided:

Team Sports

Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Basketball, Lacrosse, Floor Hockey, Softball, Volleyball



Individual Sports

Badminton, Weight Training, Tennis, Archery, Track & Field, Orienteering, Fitness, Golf, Wrestling

If you have any questions or suggestions about the direction that our PE program is going, please feel free to contact Mr. Gabordi or Mrs. Talaga.

There was an error in December newsletter....The following students should be congratulated for their exceptional performance during this past fall's fitness test. These students exceeded the health-related standards and performed at the High Fitness Performance Zone on ALL 4 OF THE FITNESS TESTS, quite the accomplishment!

6th graders-Jack Olivieri, Sean Gannon, Amber Buske, Sydonie Merrell, Julia Caromile, Katelyn Oberlin, and Kristi Francini.

7th graders- Chance LoRicco, Emilie Dufresne, Madison Decker, Paul Bates, and Lexie Hanrath.

8th graders- Brian Martel, Ashley Keeney, Haley Pollinger, Kristina Black, Connor Madsen, Carleigh Davis, and Ben Norstrom.

Drama Club – Mrs. Schmidt & Mr. Veo

Rehearsals are in full swing for the spring production of [The Boy Who Left Home to Find out about the Shivers](#).

We are both very excited at the wonderful talent we discovered in many of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders. While not everyone could be cast there will be opportunities for students to get involved in the technical aspect of the production later on in the spring. There will be opportunities for set movement crew, sound and light operators. If you are interested in helping with the technical part of the show please pay attention to announcements beginning after April vacation.

Best Buddies – Mrs. Schmidt & Mrs. Sandman

Best Buddies is going to have a busy spring. In March we had our first full group lunch in a while. We met during the lunch time and ate together. We also talked about our Shamrock sales. This is our spring fundraiser. For this we cut out paper shamrocks and use labels to put good luck sayings on them for students and teachers to send to friends. The Buddy Pairs will be selling them on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 14th, 15th and 16th during all lunches. They are 25¢ each or 4 for \$1. They will be delivered to students in their first period class on Friday March 18th. Help support Best Buddies and send a friend some luck! In April we will have our monthly grade level lunch. This is where each grade comes during their lunch period and spends some time together chatting and eating. Listen to morning announcements for the date of this lunch.

Coventry Public Schools is hosting a free workshop presented by Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center:

Developing the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

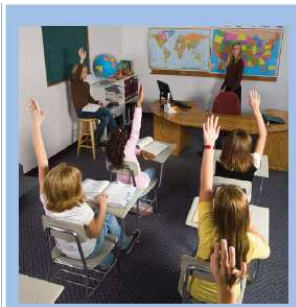
This training focuses on how parents can be actively and effectively involved in the development of the Individualized Education Program. Participants will learn the key components of an IEP and will become familiar with the Connecticut IEP forms. It will offer guidance about developing measurable goals and tips for monitoring a student's progress.

Registration is required by April 4th.

Register online at www.cpacinc.org/workshop-registration.

For more information contact CPAC at 1-800-445-2722 or cpac@cpacinc.org.

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center is a statewide nonprofit organization offering information and support to parents of children ages birth to 26 with any disability or chronic illness.



Wednesday, April 6, 2011

6 PM to 8 PM

**Coventry High School
Media Center
78 Ripley Hill Rd.
Coventry, CT**



Computer Education

Computer education classes are progressing without delay. Sixth grade students are working on editing and revising documents. They continue to improve their typing skills. Seventh grade students have completed their research projects, specifically their scavenger hunts. They have moved on to exploration of Microsoft PowerPoint. We anticipate seventh grade students will analyze and discover Microsoft Excel and discuss safe Internet use.

2010-2011 YEAR BOOK

"Pre-orders for the 2010-2011 CNH yearbook will be taken soon. Watch for further information. The cost will be only \$13."

In our effort to “go green” and significantly reduce the amount of paper being consumed, we would like to send you an electronic copy of our quarterly newsletter.

Please know we are aware that some families might not have access to the internet and may not be able to use this option. Simply check off the appropriate choice on the form below that best suits your needs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Debbie Russell ~ Newsletter Coordinator ~ (860)742-7334 x264 or via email at drussell@coventryct.org.

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*Please fill out the form & check an appropriate box return back to CNHMS *

Yes - Please send the CNHMS Newsletter to our family via email

Parent/Guardian – Email Address (please print clearly)

No - Please continue to mail the CNHMS Newsletter home

Neither - I wish to view the CNHMS Newsletter by visiting Coventry Public Schools Website at www.coventryps.org

____ Grade

Student Name

Parent/Guardian - Signature