

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By Michele Mullaly

Our school year is off to a phenomenal start. Our students returned to school with a renewed commitment to their learning and are enthusiastic about the promise a new year in school offers. In classrooms students have been engaged in learning activities, inquisitive, thoughtful, and working diligently. In the hallways they have been smiling, kind to each other, and friendly with their teachers and staff. We are proud of our students and cannot help but notice the positive energy in our school.

Our talented teachers are also approaching this new year with enthusiasm and dedication to your students' achievement. They are excited to work with your students on developing new skills and mastering new content, and they look forward to partnering with you this year to establish a strong home and school connection to support our students in setting goals and developing habits in school and at home that will help them to reach those goals. Please let our teachers, counselors, Mr. Sadinsky, or me know if we can assist you in any way this year. Good communication is important to us as we work together with you!

With this home and school collaboration in mind, we invite you to attend our parent teacher conferences, an excellent opportunity for monitoring your students' progress and achievement, which are scheduled for November 17-19. You will receive a separate mailing with details about those conferences. You have a standing invitation to PTO meetings as well; during these you will learn about new programs and learning experiences for students and have an opportunity to discuss topics of interest to you. Upcoming meeting dates are October 6 and November 4 and start at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

Our school goals this year revolve around a variety of initiatives. A primary endeavor for us is the implementation of the common schedule with Coventry High School and the expansion and addition of programs. In addition, we will maintain a focus on curricular refinements, the analysis of data to support instruction, and targeted interventions in reading and math to support student achievement.

After months of planning, we were delighted for such a smooth beginning to the year schedule-wise as well. Our seventh and eighth grade world language students' proficiency and knowledge is developing rapidly now that the program has been expanded! I recently visited our eighth grade technology education classes, restored to our school after they were cut years ago, to watch our students use the computer-based Autocad program to create figures and drawings. In our new seventh grade general music course students who do not take band or chorus are developing a global perspective on music as they study music from different regions of the world. Our sixth grade students are benefitting from establishing a relationship with a trusted adult and learning about topics such as healthy relationships, problem solving, and developing empathy in our new developmental guidance classes that meet once a week. In Sustained Silent Reading classes sixth grade students are reading independently and practicing reading strategies. Research validates the value of Sustained Silent Reading: the more students read the better readers they become; reading books of choice develops a positive attitude toward reading; SSR supports vocabulary acquisition and improves writing skills such as employing different sentence structures.

I also want to share good news about our students' achievement. We have begun to implement the curriculum revisions our teachers have been collaborating on for the A Balanced Curriculum initiative. With increased alignment to state and CMT standards and the incorporation of formative assessments (informal periodic measures of student learning based on standards) in reading, writing and math, we have seen a profound impact on student learning and achievement. Our CMT writing scores improved in double digits at all three grade levels this past year, and math scores rose at all grade levels, most notably by 12 points in Grade 6 and by 9 points in Grade 8.

In the 2007-2008 school year according to No Child Left Behind regulations, our special education students did not progress at the same rate as our other students in reading and math, and we were identified as not making Annual Yearly Progress. With intensive planning and interventions in 2008-2009, all of our students achieved at the same rate of improvement in reading and math, and we have made appropriate progress this year and achieved Safe Harbor+. We will continue to analyze data and customize instruction to support the high achievement of all of our students.

A district-wide goal this year relates to safety. As you may know, many schools practice lockdown procedures. These practices support a safe and orderly school environment if a school needs to lockdown for a weather event, accident, or emergency that occurs in the vicinity of the school or other situation. Recently, the State of Connecticut enacted Public Act No. 09-131 requiring all schools to hold a lockdown drill once every three months. In light of this legislation Coventry Public Schools will hold a town-wide practice of lockdown procedures on November 23 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Procedures and practices will be reviewed with students and teachers prior to this announced drill, and district-wide we will consult and collaborate with local agencies to insure our adoption of appropriate safety procedures. I am proud of our students for their focus on learning and for the leadership they have been demonstrating thus far this year, and I look forward to working with our parents and families to support our students' academic, social, and emotional growth this year. ❖

STANT PRINCIPAL

By Scott Sadinsky

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disagree without being disagreeable?+ Have you ever wondered how
get him or her to express opinions and thoughts without being
disagree with Grace Statements+ These are the types of statements/phrases we would like to encourage our
students to use when they want to share their thoughts or elicit further discussion in a constructive manner:

- %was curious what you thought when you saidō +
- %that's true for you, and what's true for me is something elseō +
- %that's a really good point, and I feel/think differentlyō +
- %Can you tell me more about what you meant when you saidō ?+

In our effort to enhance and foster a positive climate and culture here at CNHMS, we want to encourage all of our students to contribute in a proactive manner. To that end we will continue to promote student achievement (academic and social) through our Student of the Month and Positive Referral initiatives. Additionally, this year we will institute a
%Capt. Nathan Hale Hall of Fame+. This program will allow CNHMS staff members to recognize students for the many terrific things they do on a regular basis (i.e. helping a student at his/her locker; assisting a teacher with putting up chairs, making an extra effort to prepare for a quiz or test, etc.). Student achievement will be recognized in a visual manner in the front hall of our school.

With this in mind it is also crucial that we continue to enhance home-school collaboration and communication. Please visit the district/school website at www.coventrypublicschools.org, email, and/or call your student's teachers, counselors, Ms. Mullaly, or me to share comments, inquire about class work, field trips, athletics, or just simply to say hello. Working together we can create a climate that supports all of our students, parents/guardians, faculty, and staff.❖

GUIDANCE

By Esperanza Nugent, Fran Perrotti

The Capt. Nathan Hale Homework Club (CNHHC) kicks off their program on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. The program is in session every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:30 pm. to 4:00 p.m. with the exception of UConn and CNHMS vacations. CNHMS has partnered with UConn which provides the tutors that allow this program to exist. A maximum of twenty-six students are enrolled in the program although additional students may sign up and will be assigned to our waiting list. This maximum number is critical to ensure the success of the program and continued involvement with UConn.

A new student breakfast is scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the CNHMS cafeteria. During this program town representatives will introduce a variety of services and programs available in Coventry. This serves as an introduction for all new families in the district who have students enrolled in the school system.

The New Images program will start its second year at CNHMS and is designed for seventh and eighth grade students. Students explore digital photography and creative writing as they share their views on how people express and elicit emotion. In the process, students create their own books, photographs, short stories, or poetry, which they share during a culminating exhibition.

The Mosaic program will start its second year at CNHMS and is designed for sixth grade students. This experientially-based leadership-training program focuses on student team-building and community engagement as students grapple with real-world, service-learning projects.

Sixth grade students are enrolled in a Developmental Guidance program that discusses lifelong learning topics. These topics include goal setting, decision making, relationships, diversity, and careers.

The following trade schools will visit with our eighth grade students on October 8: Windham Technical, Cheney Technical, and E.O. Smith Agricultural High School. Students interested in any of these schools will have an opportunity to ask questions. Later in the month Coventry High School will invite our eighth grade students to a special presentation. Students will have an opportunity to meet with guidance counselors on courses of study and to observe some classes.❖

GRADE 6

October. We will be working with your student to improve their fluency, while reading their assigned novel, students will be responsible for writing short answer questions, we want all students to follow this simple

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1. Restate the question in your answer.
2. Include at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Answer in complete sentences with proper grammar and spelling.

We expect all students to follow this pattern in order to achieve success in answering open-ended questions completely.

Reading classes will continue to focus on reading strategies such as making a prediction, using context clues, using background knowledge, making personal connections, visualizing, reflecting, and questioning. Reading strategies are essential for good readers to apply for the purpose of improved comprehension. We encourage you and your family to read together and practice these strategies at home.

In addition, reading along and aloud with your child will help improve his or her fluency--that is the pace at which they read. To determine your child's fluency or pace, simply have him or her read aloud for a minute. Then begin to read aloud yourself, but only at a slightly faster rate than the pace at which your child was just reading. Continue to monitor your child's pace once a week and continue to adjust your pace so that you are gradually helping your student to read faster. Your child must follow you word for word. To check if he or she is following, simply stop anywhere and have your student finish the sentence or say the next word.

We never want students to read so fast they cannot comprehend but increasing fluency is necessary for all students in order for them to complete assigned reading material. In our literature-rich environment, the demands upon the children will grow as they progress through middle school and on up into high school and beyond.

Math students began the year with Unit 1, Data, Statistics, and Graphs. Fulfilling CMT strands 19 and 20, students identified information and drew conclusions from tables, line graphs, bar graphs, pictographs, and stem-and-leaf plots, as well as created line and bar graphs. Students also solved problems involving ranges, means, medians, and modes of sets of data.

Students are continuing into Unit 2, Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers and Decimals, which includes exponents, place value, estimation, and the metric system.

Social studies classes have begun their exploration into ancient history. During October students will study cultures that begin in the Fertile Crescent. Also, students have begun to read Maroo of the Winter Caves and are responsible to complete six pages of reading a day. Students will be tested on the reading material, and there is a project due at the culmination of the reading assignment.

In language arts students are reviewing the structure of expository writing. Students are focusing on understanding how the essay should be constructed. Through the use of cut and paste activities, where essays are cut up sentence by sentence and put back together again, students learn the importance of detail and staying on topic. Students are taking their first writing prompt practice in just a couple of weeks. Classes are also working on grammar, focusing in September on basic sentence structure, such as complete and simple subjects and predicates. The focus will soon turn to the four types of sentences as well as an upcoming October project on vivid adjectives.❖

A FAMILY WORKSHOP

The Coventry High School Advisory Council presents a family workshop entitled "Time and Stress Management" on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center. Workshop topics will include panel presentations and open discussion, keeping a calendar that works for everyone, balancing family with work and everything else, techniques to be more organized, and effective ways to help everyone reduce stress.❖

The Big Y Homework Helpline is available to all students by visiting www.bigy.com/homework or calling 1-800-866-BIGY Monday through Thursday, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Homework Helpline is a FREE one-on-one homework assistance service for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12.❖

GRADE 7

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and Miss McDougall are adapting math instructional materials to meet the needs of our students. This year, we are covering decimals and place value. The students are soaring right through this and soon we will be covering expressions, exponents, and order of operations from chapter one. Additionally students will be reviewing metric measures and scientific notation to make sure they are familiar with it for the CMT. After that we will be covering operations with integers. In Level 1-3 math students are covering place value and decimals. Just like the Level 4 classes, students will then move on to scientific notation, order of operations, expressions, exponents, and metric conversions. Up next will be operations with integers. Each level will be covering the same material but at their own pace. This year Miss Deptula and Miss McDougall are doing pre- and post-tests. The hope is that students can take more responsibility for tracking their own progress, and the teachers can use these tests to gauge what aspects of the curriculum need the most emphasis.

Science started the year with an investigation focused on having the students begin "Thinking About Science". Students were taught about finding patterns, using observations, and explaining conclusions. Most importantly, the students began demonstrating their skills in using evidence to support their conclusions by exploring a Mystery Box and then a Biological Box. Continuing to use this knowledge and other science skills to do hands-on, minds-on science is the goal of our science program. Different science labs will be based on energy and energy transformations in the coming weeks. It is vitally important that students are in class each day so that they can participate in these hands-on investigations as they occur. When absent, making up a lab rather than doing it with their friends can be a totally different experience, especially when working with simple machines such as levers and pulleys! Another important item to keep in mind is that students now have access to an on-line text book and have received a user name and password. If, however, a student wants to have the actual textbook, we have a hard copy of the textbook and can provide it to any student who prefers a book. All they need to do is ask Ms. Peterson or Mr. Goodale.

In September social studies classes began the Five Themes of Geography (Location, Place, Movement, Human-Environment Interaction, and Region) which will be recurring themes throughout this year. Students also discovered the physical features of the earth, plate tectonics, climate, and resources. Students should be finishing this first unit in the first few weeks of October. The rest of October will revolve around beginning the second unit on introducing and developing mapping skills (specifically latitude and longitude), and the different types of maps such as physical, cultural, or political maps.

Students in reading classes will begin the Nutmeg book unit. While reading a Nutmeg book of their choice, students will work on reader response journals and book projects. Additionally, students will begin a unit on challenge and awareness. The novels will include The Acorn People by Ron Jones and Tangerine by Edward Bloor. While focusing on the theme of diversity, students will also examine both authors use of imagery, simile, and metaphor. Students will also study challenging vocabulary from both novels. In addition to the assigned novel, all students should have a personal silent reading book with them, as well.

In language arts, students are in the beginning stages of their first Writing Workshop. This Writing Workshop focus will be a personal narrative. Students will be given an opportunity to write and develop a story about a personal experience. In the Writing Workshop, students use peer editing skills, teacher conferencing, and write multiple drafts to produce a quality piece of work. We are looking forward to the outcomes! In conjunction with the Writing Workshop, students will work on spelling, vocabulary, and grammar lessons, as well as practice for the Connecticut Mastery Test. ❖

PTO NEWS

The PTO is proud to be a part of many functions and events that are a part of Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School--Spiritwear and staff appreciation, the eighth grade dance, and the craft fair, to name a few. There are many ways for you to be a part of the activities at school, and everyone is welcome to participate! Please fill out our volunteer survey available at www.coventrypublicschools.org and let us know your interests so you can get involved- there's something for everyone! At minimum, please provide for us your email address so we can send you PTO minutes and other information throughout the school year. Upcoming Fall events include:

- Yankee Candle fundraiser, running from September 25 until October 9. Visit and share the Yankee Candle website to see the catalog, but note that orders cannot be placed on-line. Pick up an order form at the school!
- Next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center. Get caught up on school activities, socialize, and hear from our Principal, Ms. Mullaly. Additionally, Mr. Susi and Mr. Gibbs will be there to share information about our outstanding music department, band, and chorus.
- Kids Winter Clothes Exchange on Saturday, October 24. The Clothes Exchange will be a day for families to exchange their gently-used kids winter clothing for other new clothes- a chance to empty your closets, update your wardrobes, and reduce, reuse, and recycle in a way that benefits our community. This is a new fundraising event for the CNHMS PTO, and we hope it is a big success! Find out more at the school's website and get involved!

We hope you have had a good start to your year and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on October 6! ❖

GRADE 8

ooks. They are an important part of the curriculum at CNHMS because the his group of novels travels from grade level to grade level so that all students ary voting deadline. Currently, students on Team 8A are enjoying this to read the novel Hoot. All students on both teams will be developing and and evaluative ways. Students will do this by responding in journals and

working on specific tasks both in the classroom and through homework.

Math students have started off the year with a unit on Number Sense. This includes the study of: scientific notation; the relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents; ordering mixed numbers, fractions, and decimals; and writing story problems. Each class begins with a Math Minute, a daily ten question review of eighth grade math concepts. Since math applications are so valuable for understanding concepts, we welcome those of you in the work force that use math in your job. Feel free to contact Helen Sanborn at Ext. 448 or Karyn Deptula at Ext. 452 if you would like to spend some time in the classroom sharing your expertise.

In language arts students are quickly immersing themselves in the writing process. Students are becoming more aware that in order to improve as writers they must revise their writing. Also, through daily editing practice, our students are learning important editing skills. Students have completed their first writing assignment, a narrative, which is part of their writing portfolio. At present, students are writing tributes and will soon begin their first nonfiction essay. Please note a nonfiction writing piece will be completed each quarter. This will definitely prepare students for research-based writing in high school. Students will also be instructed on how to cite published text using the MLA format. Vocabulary development using various context clue strategies is also being introduced to our hard working eighth grade students.

Social studies students have been working on a new unit the Constitution and Citizenship in order to meet the new state standards. We have just begun a group assignment in which students, working in groups of three, are stranded on an island and are required to create a constitution to insure a safe and productive society. The next unit introduces students to the world of Antebellum America (circa 1831-1861). We will be examining the roots and effects of chattel slavery in the United States. No longer able to solve the problem of slavery through compromise, Americans were compelled to resolve the issue on the field of battle. Following the Civil War, 1861-1865, students will explore the period called Reconstruction, a time of healing and reconciliation between the North and the South. Students will participate in a project entitled "Flight to Freedom," which involves the filming of a successful slave escape. These documentaries may include friends, family pets, relatives, and exciting outcomes! This undertaking tests geographic knowledge, history, major personalities of the period, effective use of environment, as well as performance. This year students have been working on Daily Warm-Ups in social studies which tests new knowledge.

Science students are exploring the effects of force on objects. The result of a force is movement in the direction of the force exerted. With that said, students are determining average speed, velocity, and acceleration. We have just completed an activity called "Domino Derby". This exercise gives students the opportunity to practice producing a formal lab write-up. Students will be working with acceleration carts to measure changes in velocity. All of this work is tied directly to the ABC Curriculum and the State of CT Science Standards 8.1.❖

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

By Donna Plen

Intellectually, our children in the middle school are beginning to engage in more abstract thinking. They enjoy applying their developing reasoning skills to the world around them. We can actually have logical and satisfying conversations with them! The bodies of our children in middle school are changing, each at their own individual rate of development. They are becoming bigger and stronger and may be very motivated to develop their abilities in athletics or dance. Children at this stage can additionally be deeply moved by music, art, and literature. Their involvement in these fields can result in truly amazing performances and products! When we pursue opportunities for our children's enrichment, both inside and outside of school, our children benefit. The positive effects of extracurricular activities on our children's motivation, self-esteem, and school performance can be well worth the financial expenditures made on their behalf.

Despite their physical and intellectual growth, we must not be deceived into thinking that our children require less parental involvement than when they were younger. Our children wonder where they fit in in their families, classrooms, and circles of friends and acquaintances. They may additionally be concerned with their body image, and of course, the hormones start to kick in. They are riding a roller coaster of emotional highs and lows. While our children value their friends, they still need (and secretly desire) parental support, expectations, and guidance. Our children require our support in enabling them to succeed in school as well. Many children of this age still require our daily review of their agendas for current and upcoming assignments, as well as for materials they may be required to bring to school. While the ultimate responsibility for homework remains with our children, we can help them to develop the organizational skills that they require to succeed in school and beyond. By making it clear that we care enough to make this a part of the daily routine in our homes, we can minimize homework resistance on their part.

Above all, we need to let our children know that we love and appreciate them and that they enrich our lives. While they may resist our attempts to initiate conversation, we need to keep the lines of communication open and let them know that we are here for them. When they know that we make time to listen to them and talk with them calmly and candidly, they benefit . and so do we! Finally, I invite you to join me in exploring questions related to parenting in a fun and experiential group format. The times of our multi-session Adventures in Parenting group will be publicized in upcoming weeks. Please contact me at Ext. 402 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this group or the growth and development of your children.❖

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Mrs. Thornton

Concerning our new world language program. We would like to reiterate begins in the seventh grade and continues into eighth grade for a two-year period. Classes will meet four times a week. During these two years, the students will use Holt/Rinehart/Winston's 2008 textbook Bien dit!/¡Exprésate!, complete with video and audio components, and interactive online edition. This two-year course will be equivalent to a high school's first level course. The instructional strategies that will be used, however, are specifically designed to accommodate the middle school aged child. Students who have successfully completed the middle school's first level program may be placed into the second level course when they enter the high school upon teacher recommendation. Our first unit for September and October can be viewed on the ABC website at www.balancedcurriculum.com and includes introduction to language, basic introductions, and getting acquainted phrases. Students have received a workbook for practice, which will be housed in the classroom, unless assigned for homework. The homework hotline is Ext. 6469 for Mrs. Page and Ext. 6465 for Mrs. Thornton.

Eighth grade French students have completed a brief review of the vocabulary and concepts covered last year (Chapters 1 through 12 and several verbs). Eighth grade students will continue Level B (Chapter 13) in the Discovering French Bleu Program text book, video, and cassette. In October the students will learn to describe daily activities, they will practice the verb "faire- to do", and they will ask and answer others questions about what others like to do. The homework hotline for eighth grade French is Ext. 6469 for Mrs. Page and Ext. 6488 for Mrs. Thornton. ❖

Mrs. Page

In Spanish classes the eighth grade students are done reviewing and have started working with Chapter 3, El ratoncito del campo+which is a slightly different version of The Country Mouse and the City Mouse+. The thematic vocabulary in this chapter centers on feelings and emotions, work and careers, and going places. The cultural component is about neighborhoods and friendships in Spanish-speaking places.

This is a new and exciting year for us, and we are enjoying the consistency we have with this new schedule. The classes meet much more often as well, and I will be updating the timeline on the ABC curriculum website which you can access through our district website at www.coventrypublicschools.org.

Students usually have homework every night. If they do not have a written assignment, there is always vocabulary to be reviewed and studied listed in their books. If you or your child is unsure of what the homework is, please call my homework hotline at 742-7334 ext. 6469. ❖

DRAMA CLUB

By Bethany Schmidt

Drama Club is in full swing again! I am sad to say that Mr. Veo will not be with us this fall on a regular basis. He may pop in from time to time for some fun improvisational activities. He will return to help direct this spring! Our first event of the year will be our Coffeehouse+. This will once again be a night of monologues and scenes performed by students in the cafeteria with refreshments being served during a brief intermission. This fun night will take place on Friday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend to see how talented our CNHMS students are! We are already in plans for our spring production, more on that in later newsletters. Drama Club members will be doing fundraising throughout the year to raise money for future productions. It will be a fun year! ❖

BEST BUDDIES

By Sharon Sandman, Bethany Schmidt

The CNHMS chapter of Best Buddies has combined with the Coventry High School chapter to form one big Coventry chapter of Best Buddies. This year we will have one shared meeting after school each month. In addition the CNHMS chapter will still do their usual "Buddy Lunches" as well as some after-school activities of their own. We all look forward to a new year of building friendships! ❖

URSE'S NOTES

By Joyce Manning

When you are calling us, please make a special note when reading the website before calling us. Please go to our questions. Further questions can be directed to the school systems website via questions can be directed to the information on the website information regarding when to send your child back to school after having a fever.



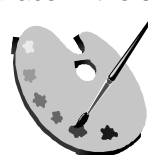
Further questions can be directed to the information on the website information regarding when to send your child back to school after having a fever.

Please remember to call the attendance line at 742-7334, dial 907, then dial 907 or call my voicemail at 742-4541 when your child is absent or will be tardy to school. We are assisting the health district in tracking flu so it is important for you to leave the reason for the absence. Please do not label the illness as flu unless your doctor has confirmed it.

Medications, over the counter or prescription, **cannot be carried to school by a student even with a parent note.** Medications, over the counter or prescription, will not be accepted from an adult unless they are accompanied by a written order from the prescriber. Please review the medication policy in the Student Handbook. I am always on the lookout for any moms wishing to volunteer for scoliosis screening which takes place in the spring. Anyone interested in helping can leave me a voicemail at 742-4541. Thank you. ❖

ART DEPARTMENT

By Scott Rhoades, Lori Vigue



Sixth grade students have worked with line, color, space, and shape to create name designs in the style of pop artist Robert Indiana. Students are currently working on ceramic works.

Seventh grade students have designed original cartoon characters after sketching faces, expressions, body types, and action poses. Students are currently making drawings of nature with emphasis on texture and line.



Eighth grade students have gotten off to a great start in art! Students have been practicing their realistic drawing and drawing from a photograph of an animal. Students have also been applying their problem-solving skills and creativity through an assignment whereby they combine a name or word with an illustration. Both assignments have been yielding some fantastic results! ❖

Kristina and Ashley working on their Illustrated Name

LIFE SKILLS

By Robin Rosen

We are all adjusting to the school schedule with early risings and increased demands. We notice students struggling to stay awake or starving by lunch time. It is a good time to establish new health habits that fit into our busy lives. In eighth grade health classes, we begin the quarter with a process of evaluating our current health habits and focus on one area to improve throughout the quarter. Sixth grade classes will soon be watching the educational version of Supersize Me and will examine their own diets and how they can make better choices.

In the spirit of President Obama's volunteer initiatives, we also have a Community Service component to the Health program. We all can make a difference in other people's lives! Each student is required to volunteer his or her time at a nonprofit agency or event during the quarter of Health class. Plans must be approved by their teacher. If you are in need of student volunteers for an event, please contact me at Ext. 445, and I will announce these opportunities in classes. ❖

ATHLETICS

By Nancy Levinson, Athletic Director

Did you know that you could get up-to-the-minute sports schedules, directions, or e-mail alerts sent to you whenever a change is made to a team's schedule? Well you can! The www.coventrypublicschools.org web site, CNHMS, has a link to these features—click on Athletics on Quick Links and just click on CIAC site. You may see our entire sports schedule or just a particular team's schedule. Scroll down and sign up for e-mail alerts, again either for all teams or for just a particular team. Any questions, please call me at Ext. 549. Please come out and support our teams—they have been practicing hard and are anxious for the games to start! ❖

MUSIC-BAND

By Tony Susi

Music Methods+class at UConn this semester. As a result, Capt. Nathan M. Fifteen undergraduate music education students complete part of the CNHMS Band on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Our band students are benefiting greatly from the additional help, attention, and instruction they are receiving from this partnership with UConn. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade bands, as well as the Jazz Band, are up and running with each group already starting two selections for their Winter Concert. Students are also progressing nicely through pages in their Standard of Excellence Method Book which every sixth and seventh grade band student should have. A limited number of copies are still available for \$8 (payable to %CNHS Activity Fund+) for those who still do not own a book or lost it. Eighth grade band members are using a different method book this year called Accent on Achievement, Book 2, and some copies are still available for \$8. All band students should be bringing the Practice Sheet to their first band class of each week, filled out, and signed by a parent for verification of homework. It is recommended that the Combined Rehearsal Calendar issued to every student is posted at home where parents can help remind children when they need to bring in their instrument and music for these special full ensemble rehearsals. There will be three combined section rehearsals each marking period on a rotation so students will need to miss only one World Language and one Related Arts class. Parents of saxophone and clarinet players: please make sure your child has an adequate supply of reeds in good condition because their instruments do not function well without them! *Thank you for your support of this important matter!*

Sixth grade general music classes are just finishing up their first unit on %American Patriotic Songs+and will be starting their next unit on %Work Songs+sung by pioneers, cowboys, whalers, and railroad workers. Students began the school year learning about important songs written during the American Revolution and Civil War. In addition to learning about these historical songs, the students will sing a popular song every class and analyze what the successful formula is for a %pop+hit. ❖

CHORUS

By Tony Gibbs

The chorus classes have been busy working on the singing techniques as well as concert preparation. The students are also learning the musical terms associated with the music they are singing. This year the sixth and seventh grade chorus students will combine for the concert. The eighth grade students are taught by Mrs. Rood who is our Coventry High School chorus teacher. The Show Choir has also started rehearsing for the winter concert. This group is a select group of seventh and eighth grade students.

The general music classes have expanded to include seventh grade for the first time. Students experience the music of Africa through responding to recorded examples, performing on instruments native to Africa with proper technique in the appropriate rhythmic style, and singing authentic African songs. Students begin the process with Echo and Call/Response rhythm patterns and singing to develop the concept of musical space, an important component of African music. As songs are introduced, their geographical origins and cultural traditions will be discussed. ❖

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

By Corine Cagianello-Jones

Sixth grade students are completing their unit on %Caring for Children+. Students investigated hazards around the home and presented prevention measures to keep children safe. Students also enjoyed role playing with one another to reinforce our positive child guidance discussion. In addition, students were given the opportunity to %play+ with different materials in class . playdoh, blocks, children's books, and art supplies. Students then learned that PLAY benefits children physically, socially, mentally, emotionally, morally, and creatively. Play is an essential ingredient in the lives of children . and adults! Remember to take some time and recharge while doing something you love. Finally, students will be given the opportunity to explore a child-related career and share their research with classmates. I am looking forward to finding out what they have learned!

Eighth grade students began the year studying consumerism. Classes brainstormed many creative ways that consumers can save money. I will share some of their ideas: buy in bulk, comparison shop, make and use a budget, avoid impulse purchases, try to buy on sale, use store brands, recycle items, limit wants/stick to needs, shop on ebay, and don't be fooled by advertisements. These are some of their great ideas that encourage us all to be wise consumers! Recently, students have studied safety and sanitation, kitchen tools and uses, and measuring techniques. Students will soon be entering the kitchens, working in small groups during their Foods Labs. Students are eager to begin this hands-on experience. Later in the quarter students will study The Food Guide Pyramid, how to read food labels, body image, and advertising. ❖

ENRICHMENT

By Carla Kennedy

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able for students at CNHMS. Just stop by and see Mrs. Kennedy for

Renzulli Learning Systems

Every student at CNHMS has an account for this on-line database of over 30,000 educationally appropriate websites and enrichment activities 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.

Fox 61 Student News

This program allows students to research a topic of interest, learn the skills and technology involved in producing their own 50 second news story to be broadcast on Fox61 and CW20. **Entry Deadline: March 1, 2010.**

Future Problem Solving Program: Scenario Writing

An FPS scenario is a short-short story (1500 words or less) that predicts future trends and is written as though the future were the present. Scenario writing allows students to examine current issues as they might develop in the future. The children must examine these issues and develop a piece of creative writing that incorporates their research and insight into the future. The scenarios must be based on one of this year's FPS topics. This year's FPS topics are: sensory overload, invasive species, orphaned children, food distribution, and green living. Please see Mrs. Kennedy in the CEP room for more information. **Entry Deadline: January 5, 2010**

VFW Patriot's Pen Contest

2009-2010 Theme: *"When is the right time to honor our military heroes?"*



Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' [contest criteria](#), is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7, and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually, more than 115,000 students participate in the contest. Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first-place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000. **Entry Deadline: November 1, 2009**

CT Invention Convention

CT young inventors combine knowledge and creativity to solve real-world problems. The annual convention is on **May 1, 2010** at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

New England Math League

The math league is dedicated to bringing challenging mathematics materials to students. League specialties include math contests, books, and computer software designed to simulate interest and confidence in mathematics. The contest is generally held in April. ❖

READING CONSULTANT

By Virginia Dimmock



Welcome to another year at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School! With our brand new joint schedule and new initiatives, it is an exciting time to be here. Over the past few years we have been putting an emphasis on providing more time for students to spend reading, not only classroom assignments, but literature of their own choosing. The possibilities are endless.

Every grade level is providing students with SSR, or silent sustained reading periods, in which they can read anything of their liking. The graphic novels available in our Library Media Center are becoming a real hit! Magazines and newspapers are also an option; the goal is to get our students reading, and it appears to be working. SSR classrooms exude a relaxed atmosphere; everywhere you look students seem genuinely engrossed in the reading material in front of them. Hopefully this will carry through into adulthood, and our then adult children will consider sitting down with a good book a treat! Happy reading! ❖

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ew Hurlock, Michelle Talaga

competency in motor skills and movement patterns and identify movement and tactics to the learning and performance of physical activities. maintaining a health enhancing level of fitness and valuing physical

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Students must bring a change of clothes for P.E. The following items are permitted: t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, and proper footwear. Pajama pants, spaghetti straps, and extremely short shorts are not permitted. Proper footwear consists of sneakers. Hikers, boots, flip flops, or heels will not be allowed for safety reasons and gym floor preservation. Jewelry is also not permitted for safety reasons.

Students will be graded on a daily 0-10 point system. Each student will begin with a score of 10 points. Grades will be based on participation, proper attire, effort, improvement, and behavior. This includes time in the locker rooms, hallways, outside fields, and gym. Students will be allowed to participate in P.E. class if they have on proper footwear but forgot a change of clothing. The student will begin the class with a grade of an 8 for the day. This will be allowed only ONCE per quarter. Any time after will result in a zero and the student will not be allowed to participate during that class period. Parents will be contacted if this becomes a chronic problem. Some examples of point reductions are gum chewing, swearing, disruptive behavior, horseplay, poor sportsmanship, and poor attitude, tardiness, improper use of equipment, not following directions, not prepared for class, and not participating at capability level.



***There will be opportunity for bonus points. This may include assisting with equipment, creating bulletin boards, volunteering, outstanding sportsmanship, etc. This will be at the teacher's discretion.*



Students that have been medically excused from P.E. class for a period of time should report to the Nurse's Office with a doctor's note. Any injuries that may occur during P.E. class must be reported to the teacher as soon as it occurs. If parents/guardians have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's P.E. teacher. Mr. Hurlock can be reached at Ext. 281 or mhurlock@coventryct.org. Mrs. Talaga can be reached at Ext. 295 or at mitalaga@coventryct.org. ****Please remember to lock up your valuables! Memorize your locker combination. There will be a \$7 charge for lost or misplaced locks.**

How to help children be fit and develop healthy eating habits:

- Make sure kids get at least one hour of physical activity a day. Fun activities work best . try bicycling, dancing, jumping rope, playing basketball, or going for a walk.
- Limit children's television, video games, and Internet use.
- Prepare healthful meals at home. Offer children fruits and vegetables at every meal and snack.
- Don't let children drink their calories. Choose water and low-fat milk, not juice or high-calorie, sugar-sweetened beverages, such as sodas.
- Encourage children to take advantage of healthy food choices provided at school. ❖

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Bring empty inkjet printer cartridges with a print head to the office for factory rebates or to the Library Media Center for points good towards equipment purchases. The Library Media Center is also accepting old cell phones.
2. Designate our school at Target stores website, www.target.com or call 1-800-316-6142 to participate in their %ake Charge of Education+ program. Whenever you use your Target VISA card or Target Guest Card, a donation will be made on your behalf to our school. The school just received a check in September in the amount of \$55.07. *Thank you!*
3. Register your Shop Rite Price Plus card now at www.shoprite.com/educate, and we can redeem shopping credits for school and office supplies when the program ends on 4/30/10.
4. Register your Big Y Express Savings Club card online at www.bigy.com/education and use our School ID No. 5119 so we can continue to accumulate Education Express points. To date we have earned a total of 548,650 points to be redeemed at the end of the school year for office and school supplies. ❖
5. Thank you to everyone who has sent in box tops for redemption. The school earns 10 cents for each box top submitted. In addition, we are also collecting Campbell's Soup labels. These can be sent in with your student or turned into the office. ❖



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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November 3, 2009	Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL		
November 4, 2009	PTO Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Library Media Center
November 11, 2009	Veterans' Day – NO SCHOOL		
November 13, 2009	Report Cards Mailed Home		
November 13, 2009	Drama Club Coffeehouse	6:00 p.m.	Cafeteria
November 17-19, 2009	Parent Conferences – <i>Early Release at 12:20 p.m.</i>		
November 23, 2009	District-Wide Lockdown Drill	1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	
November 25, 2009	Thanksgiving Recess – <i>Early Release at 12:20 p.m.</i>		
November 26-27, 2009	NO SCHOOL		
December 1, 2009	Progress Reports Mailed Home		
December 1, 2009	PTO Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Library Media Center
December 5, 2009	PTO Craft Fair	9:00 a.m.	Coventry High School
December 16, 2009	Band Concert	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
December 21, 2009	<i>Band Concert (snow date)</i>		
December 17, 2009	Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
December 22, 2009	<i>Chorus Concert (snow date)</i>		
December 24-January 1, 2010	Holiday Recess – NO SCHOOL		
January 15, 2010	Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL		
January 18, 2010	Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL		
January 29, 2010	Report Cards Mailed Home		
February 15-19, 2010	Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL		
March 3, 2010	Progress Reports Mailed Home		
March 26, 2010	Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL		
April 2, 2010	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL		
April 12-16, 2010	Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL		
April 22, 2010	Report Cards Mailed Home		
May 17, 2010	Progress Reports Mailed Home		
May 31, 2010	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL		

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