Middlebrook PTA Meeting

November 21, 2013

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Middlebrook School @ 9am in the Media Center
2. Approval of October’s 2013 Minutes
3. Principal’s Report – Maria Coleman
   1. Discussion/Review of Common Core Presentation
   2. Websites:Corestandards.org, Achievethecore.org, Sbac.portal.airast.org
   3. Maria will have follow up answers for questions asked this month regarding presentation.
4. Teacher Representative – Luisa Nanos

November Team Updates

**6Y**

* Students enjoyed their “cell-a-brations” in science class in which they showed off their creative cell projects.
* Students did an excellent job presenting their research on famous archaeological sites and discoveries from all over the world in social studies.
* In English, students have started reading their first novel together, North to Freedom, and heard from a guest speaker about growing up in Communist Bulgaria in preparation.

**6R**

* Social Studies - beginning work on Egypt after Thanksgiving,
* Science - getting technical with microscopes
* LA/English - a LOT of amazing and creative writing happening in preparation for the 6 Red Poetry Festival on 12-12-13
* Team - excited about HEARTS and CRAFTS with other 6th grades

AWESOME field trip BTW to the zoo with all 6th grade students!

**6G**

* Students in social studies have completed their study of early humans and the multimedia presentation Becoming Human. We are now beginning our journey through southwestern Asia where people first settled near the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and developed agriculture and their early societies and cultures. This will eventually lead us across the Arabian Peninsula to the banks of another important river, the Nile River, and the significant contributions that came to us from the ancient Egyptians, including our recreation of King Tut's Tomb.
* In RWW, students are beginning a poetry unit. Students will write their own creative poems and put together a poetry book applying the literary techniques discussed in class.

**7Y**

* Students will be studying Africa in World Geography classes with subtle and not so subtle tie-ins from other classes
* Students will recite a paragraph from A Christmas Carol with storytelling flair as an example of one of the presentations coming up in classes
* Students will finish up the recent Heiffer fund drive through the 7Y Acts of Random Kindness group and move on to their next self-generated project

**7R**

* English: The focus will be more study of grammar while we are also reading some nonfiction books and writing persuasively about them.
* RWW: *A Christmas Carol* and the times in which it was written will be at the core of work in RWW in December.
* World Geography: The continent of Africa will be studied next, and "Air Africa" broadcasts by the students will allow them an opportunity to share their new understandings.
* Science: "Dig In" will focus on the State's required embedded inquiry lab about soil permeability/porosity and water retention. After that the students' work will switch to Plate Tectonics and include an activity regarding gas fracking this year.
* Math7: Students are beginning to study algebraic expressions.
* Advanced Math 7: Students are completing a unit on algebraic expressions.
* Algebra: Students are in the midst of a unit on lines and linear equations.
* World Language: Students are reviewing how to communicate in a restaurant and constructing dialogues to simulate eating out at a restaurant.

**7G**

* English students have recently completed reading the novel, The Contender
* Students practiced purposeful gratitude by reflecting on things in their lives that they appreciate, and then selecting one item that they could gift to a developing country that could possibly impact the lives of its people for generations to come.
* Tomorrow(Friday 11/22), 7G students will participate in a Power of One Day where they will have a chance to hear from speakers who will share work that they have done to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Students will hear from representatives from organizations such as the make-a-wish foundation, Community Plates (Norwalk, CT) and Volunteer Squared.

**8Y**

* The 8Y team went to Philadelphia on November 14 and had a lovely day. They visited many historic sites and had the opportunity to see the special Pulitzer Prize photography exhibit.
* Students are now reading Animal Farm and will be learning about propaganda during this unit.
* Students designed, constructed, and tested “Robot Arms” as a STEM culminating activity after the unit on Bones, Muscles and Movement.
* After studying the structure of the heart, students will dissect and observe a sheep’s heart.

**8R**

* Defending the 8RED honor in the Great Debates!
* Learning all the ins and outs of human digestion just in time for the holiday buffets!
* Using our knowledge of English to contribute to the UN World Food Program!

**8G**

* The 8G students will begin a gratitude journal where they will write one reason they are grateful for each day. Our goal is that the students will find intrinsic value in this assignment as we give them time to reflect about gratitude in their lives. The current research examining what makes people happy all have one common reason they share. The claim is that folks that are grateful seem to be happiest.
* In RWW, students are going to be reading the classic novel The Pearl.
* And in SS class, students are learning about the US Constitution.

1. President’s Report – Savet Constantine
   1. Safety Presentation Approved for Scott Driscoll’s visit January 22.
   2. Superintendent search is ongoing.
2. Officer Reports –

Vice President – Pam Hickey

-We have 544 members signed up. (down 7)

Treasurer – Maria Wilcox

-Fundraiser “Thank You” we raised $19k /net $18.5k

-Gave $1k to school for families who can’t afford field trips.

-Gave $300/team for students

-Will have updated budget for next month

Parent-At-Large – Stacy Crameri

-BOE met Oct30, testing results/ value on BOE website

-BOE met Nov 13, Class size report to go to superintendent.

Average class size 21 or 22 students/ classroom. This has held steady for the last few years.

-Headhunter search for Superintendant is on-line with feedback report. Search will continue. Expect new Superintendant by July 1.

-However Dr. Richards will stay on until new candidate is place.

VII. Committee Reports:

1. Reflections- Discussion regarding motivating kids to participate.
2. Science Fair- Discussion regarding motivating kids to participate.
3. Spiritwear-Approve for grey workout shirt due to the white shirt complaints from the children. Effective Immediately.
4. Special Ed-
5. Photos –Extra Kids for photo day.
6. Fundraising:

VIII. Adjournment