Middlebrook PTA Meeting

March 20, 2014

1. Call to Order – Middlebrook School @ 9am
2. Approval of Feb 2013 Minutes
3. Principal’s Report – Maria Coleman
   1. Scott Driscoll’s Feb 26 largest attendence 120 parents, another presentatiom scheduled for 20th.
   2. Discussed the drop off procedure – drop offs should not be in the front area
   3. Science Fair – liked proposeal for next year. Attendees will not have homework leading up to the day of the fair.
   4. SBAC testing delayed 1 week.
   5. 6th graders Tues March 25th
   6. 7th graders after the break 21st
   7. 8th graders May 5-16
4. Teacher Representative – Luisa Nanos

***6R***

* Just finished our Faces of Egypt masks and very excited to have the other teams visit to guess who's who!
* Students in Mrs. Geissler’s RWW are finishing presenting mythology projects, a pre-teaching unit for Ancient Greece which we begin in two weeks!

***6G***

* Six Green students are exploring a variety of iPad apps to create interactive digital presentations. In English, they are using Touchcast to create book talks to share recommendations for SSR. In math, they are using Educreations to create lessons on fraction concepts, decimal concepts, and concepts involved in solving multi-step equations.
* Six Green students are entering the stage of ancient Greek theater by performing a collection of plays during our team's Greek Festival on April 24th.

***6Y***

* Hundreds of guests visited the 6Y Museum of Ancient Egypt on Friday, March 14th. They enjoyed tours and presentations given by the 6Y students. The day was a huge success!
* Students created their very own imaginary organisms in science class, learning about scientific adaptations along the way.
* In RWW, students will soon start a poetry unit.

***8G***

* The 8 G team is getting ready for our annual field trip to Philadelphia. This trip ties in well to our study of the US Constitution in Social Studies.
* In Science, we spent a great deal of time preparing the students for the CMT’s we just had and feel confident that this paid off. The students have expressed that they felt quite comfortable with how they were prepared and shared that the test was fairly easy for them. We will be starting our unit of building bridges during the testing next week.
* We have been preparing the students for the SBAC testing that will begin next week. In preparation for these students have been taking the practice tests and watching the modules to review the instructions.

***8Y***

* Soc. Studies: Will begin Boom to Bust (Roaring 20’s to Great Depression)
* RWW – Just started Shakespeare unit – Midsummer Night’s Dream
* French – Soon to study Fitness and Nutrition and will be doing a fitness brochure
* Spanish – Will be relating events from their childhood using imperfect tense
* Science – Have studied forces, motion & Newton’s Laws. Will begin the study of bridge types and the forces that act on them
* English – In the middle of John Steinbeck’s THE PEARL & doing literary analysis

***8R***

* Taking a deep breath before a hectic spring
* Animal Farm, Economics, Physics currently on the table among other things
* Reaching beyond the pod with involvement in: science fairs, tech expos, spring service initiative, theatrical productions

***7R***

* English, World Geography, and RWW: We are continuing TOD, our second interdisciplinary team project, and studying the causes of intolerance in situations all over the world. Be sure to ask your child what he/she is learning from all of the presentations we are hearing.
* Science: Students will be learning about chemical *reactions*, including evidence of a chemical reaction, conservation of mass, and endo- and exo-thermic reactions.
* World Language: Students are working on persuasive/argumentative language by writing persuasive letters to sell products in popular publications.
* Math7: Students are learning how to solve inequalities and word problems.
* Advanced Math 7: Students are learning about angle properties and lines.
* Algebra: Students are studying factoring and simplifying rational expressions.

***7Y***

* The Change Agent Meal is occurring today (Thursday) so you may see students in costume as they prepare for this performance based assessment.
* Atoms, Arab nations, adverbs, and angles are among the diverse topics being studied.
* Individualized positive message shamrocks were created and delivered by the 7Y Acts of Random Kindness group.

***7G***

**Power of One**

* Students are currently working to identify an issue of interest to them so that they can engage in authentic research. As part of this process, students are developing research questions, locating and evaluating resources, and drafting an informational letter to share what they have learned with a peer. This is all a precursor to our final project in which students will work collaboratively to develop an informational campaign to raise awareness of a selected issue while proposing possible, positive solutions. We are all looking forward to seeing what our thoughtful, resourceful students create throughout this project.
* In RWW, students experienced the dramatic world of Shakespeare’s, Macbeth. In order to make the text accessible to a variety of learners, students read, listened, viewed, and performed different scenes from the play. In addition, students demonstrated understanding through conversation, writing, art, music, and performance. As we read the text in the original language and modern translations, students engaged in thoughtful discussion about ideas surrounding ambition, power, and gender.
* In English, students wrapped up their nonfiction reading by sharing their insights and experiences in small group book talks. Also, they recently collaborated to create class Haiku Decks of words, definitions, sentences, and images for Vocabulary Units 8 and 9.

**Officer Reports:**

1. President’s Report – Savet Constantine

* Scott Driscoll March 20th
* Monday Middle School Budget. – They are going to trim the school budget
* June 17th is the last day of school .
* We need a few more nominations for PTA- fundraising, sportswear, 6 & 7 grade activity night parent.

Vice President-Pam Hickey

* Met with student government about what they do/what they would like to do at lunch recess
* Majority of kids stay inside – unless they could find a ball
* PTA will look at purchasing balls
* Look at the possibility to having indoor games
* Look into if it is possible to build a climbing structure
* Add Event days – Kickball day during lunch recess once a month

Treasurer – Maria Wilcox

* WTC Weekend acoustic concert March 22
* Event Sponsoring moving up to 8th grade April 29th Middlebrook 7-9 in the Little Theatre

Parent-At-Large – Stacy Crameri

* BOE March 13, Budget
* BOF decreased budget: health benefits 3.73% lower from 4%
* BOF wants 2%!
* BOE – Dr Richards air quality comprehensive report will be available soon.

6/7th Activity Night

• Propose to have the 6th and 7th grade Activity night to later in Feb or March to increase attendance. Will check with school as to available dates.

1. Adjournment