

# In The Middle

Volume 13, Issue 4

Oconto Middle School

December 2011

## Notes from Mr. Malczewski, Principal

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who attended our student led conferences this year. School-wide over 80% of our students had at least one parent/guardian able to attend during our conference days. Keeping the lines of communication open is important and this event is a great opportunity. By working together, we can better ensure the success of our students. Hopefully, conference time resulted in some meaningful contact that can be built upon as the year progresses. I would like to add that if at any point you have a concern for your student, please communicate with your child's teachers and we will always make time to meet. Conferences are a good time to check in with grades, but we would be happy to discuss your child's progress at any time.

I would like that thank the parents and family members that were able to take some time to attend our awards assemblies on November 22. It was a wonderful event where we were able to focus on the positive things our students are doing. We had many certificates to hand out, raffled off a few gift cards, and rewarded our Citizenship Award winner with popcorn and a movie. In all there were 595 awards that were recognized including our Honor Level All-Stars, perfect attendance, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and our Citizenship Awards. Although I feel we had a great first quarter, at the end I challenged the students to see how many more awards we can recognize for our second quarter assembly.

The holidays have come upon us rapidly again this year. We are looking forward to the OMS Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the OMS gym. Thank you in advance to all of our students along with Mrs. Lucas and Mr. Marciniak for presenting the concert this year.

As we advance through the month of December I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday and a safe and joyous New Year!

## Artists of the Month

Congratulations! These students demonstrated great skill and craftsmanship in their artwork, and are hereby honored for excellence in art. Their artwork will be displayed in the showcase by the office entrance area. Students also receive a certificate that can be taken home along with their artwork.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jasmine Driscoll  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Madison Mortier

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Kira Roeger  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Claire Fahler

## Important Dates

12-08	OMS Holiday Concert	7:00 p.m.	Gym
12-16	Dance – Grades 6-8	6-8:30 p.m.	MP Room
12-12	PTO Meeting	3:35 p.m.	Library
12-14	Q2 Progress Reports sent home with students		
12-23	First day of winter vacation		
1-03	School resumes after winter vacation		
1-20	End of Semester 1 - 11:45 dismissal		

## From the Dean's Desktop

The next few weeks are important in each student's school year. Around the holidays, there are lots of distractions and events. We would like to keep our students focused and productive. Up to this point, students have done an exceptional job. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter honor roll lists were as long as they have ever been. We would like them to be even longer in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.

The weather is turning cold! Students need to dress appropriately and plan on being outside before school and at recess. The decision on whether we will be inside or outside is made on a daily basis. Historically, we prefer to take students out rather than keep them in.

Winter extra-curricular activities are well under way and student participation at OMS has been phenomenal! In order to participate in winter activities or attend events, students need to remain eligible. Please remind your son or daughter that being a good student is the number one priority in being a student-athlete.

If you are unsatisfied with your child's academic progress please contact my office at 834-7806 ext. 410 or e-mail me at [Adam.timm@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:Adam.timm@oconto.k12.wi.us). You can arrange a meeting with your student's academic teachers at your convenience. As 2011 arrives, I look forward to making it the best year ever at OMS. Parent participation in a child's education is a necessary ingredient to help us make this happen.

Mr. Timm, Dean of Students

## Student Council News



We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Cry Baby Club of Oconto. Please bring in your toys for ages K-12 by Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!

Our next dance is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. for grades 6-8.

## Nutrition Fitness Information

This month set your house and family up for nutritional success. Children learn their good and bad habits from those they live with and spend the most time around. So set yourself for success by only bringing good food into your house. Have fresh fruit available for snacks and fun water bottles cold and ready. A bowl of cut up veggies in the fridge make a quick snack to grab, or bowl of almonds on the counter encourages good snacking. You can control what types of foods are brought into your house and kids will try it, especially if it is all that's offered and around for them. Give it a shot!

## PTO News

The OMS PTO conducts its monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month.

All parents and staff are invited and encouraged to attend. This month the PTO will meet at 3:35 p.m. on Monday, December 12. The meeting will last no longer than one hour. Please join us.

## Grade Level News

**Grade 5:** Please encourage your child to keep up on his/her schoolwork. Vacation is approaching, and some of the students are allowing the holiday spirit to affect school work and habits. We still have several weeks before the holiday break and they need to complete their work on time. Please continue to check your child's grades online or contact your child's teacher to make sure your child is current with his/her work.

Many students need their school supplies replenished. Please check with your child to see if more pencils, colored pencils, crayons, paper, etc. are needed.

Please encourage your child to work on basic math facts at home. Extra practice on basic division and multiplication facts at home can make a huge difference at school. Keep reading at home for pleasure, too!

In the holiday spirit, the fifth grade is having a picture decorating contest. Students will receive pictures from their teachers to color. These entries are due by December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are offering some nice prizes for the winners!

Have a great holiday season!

**Grade 6:** On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Mr. Ken Exferd gave a presentation to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on his experiences in Vietnam. Mr. Exferd explained to the students the many different dangers soldiers faced on an everyday basis. It was a very informative session. Thank you Mr. Exferd!

In Social Studies students are finishing up studying Confucius and Chinese Dynasties. They will be moving on to India and Persia next. In Math students will be using number patterns, fractions, and ratios. Science classes will focus on cells and ecosystems this month. Students have been creating PowerPoint presentations and brochures on life science topics.

**Grade 7:** The 7th grade Seroogy's Candy Bar sale has begun to raise money for our Winter Camp field trip. Winter Camp will be February 7 & 8, 2012 at Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya. We still have more boxes of candy left to be sold. Please challenge your son or daughter to sell the candy they already have. You may check out more candy bars to sell once the money is returned from your original order. All profits from this sale go towards the cost of Winter Camp. The more the 7th grade sells, the lower the cost for each individual to attend camp. Thank you for supporting the 7th grade fundraiser

**Grade 8:** As we approach the Holiday Season, please remind your child of the importance of being able to enjoy the holiday while still realizing how important homework, attendance, attitude and effort are in school. If you do not utilize PowerSchool, remember to ask your child to see their progress report that they will bring home on Dec. 14th.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team would like to thank all those who participated in the Poinsettia and Wreath Sale. The sale was a great success with 77 Poinsettias and 22 wreaths being sold. Top sellers this year were Sawyer Koch, Gabe Hintz, Savannah Brisson, and Graham Welch. Thank you for the selling efforts!

Don't forget to ask your child for their **READING IS FUN** bookmark.

Hopefully, 2011 was a good year for everyone and we look forward to the New Year with renewed enthusiasm. Happy Holiday, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

## Honor Roll – Great Start

With first quarter grades in the books, it's time to take stock of how things are going and resolve to continue to do well, or make necessary improvements. In our first quarter we had 128 of our 325 students make the honor roll; 3.0-3.6 GPA. We had 107 students make the "A" Honor roll; 3.7 and up. That is 72% of our student body that is averaging a 3.0 GPA or higher. That is a good start, but now the question is how can we improve?

Most low grades are the result of incomplete student work. Sometimes it takes awhile to get organized and realize what must be done to earn good grades, but one quarter is more than enough time for that. We believe A, B, and C are all good/respectable grades. Each individual student should work to his/her capabilities. In other words, don't settle for less than your best. A grade of D or lower is an indication that improvement is definitely needed. After-school tutoring is available for students that need the extra help, and are committed to using the extra time to make improvement.

## First Quarter Citizenship Award Recipients

First quarter Citizenship Award recipients received their well-deserved awards on Tuesday, November 22, during grade level assemblies at OMS.

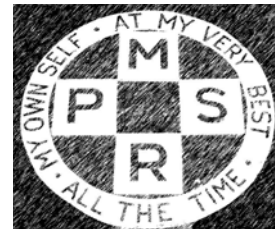
Each grade level chooses five students per quarter who they feel are doing an exemplary job. By the end of the school year, eighty students will be honored for their daily efforts to practice good citizenship and a positive attitude. Such qualities are to be admired, and the OMS staff presents these awards each year to recognize those students that are leading the way in terms of responsibility, respectfulness, and attitude. We are indeed fortunate to have no shortage of very worthy candidates. The quarter one honorees are ...

**Grade 5:** Morgan Durand, Bennett Frazer, Lauren Meyer, Andrew Ramage, Maryah Weiler

**Grade 6:** Colin Gegare, Mercedes Gibeault, David Neering, Desirea Steier, Katelyn Volk

**Grade 7:** Akia Allen, Parker Anderson, Cassie Curio, Caleb Floyd, Jasey Jicha

**Grade 8:** Riley DeCleen, Grant Frazer, Jasmine Gromoske, Ceejay Parmentier, Megan Stroud



**Happy Holidays from the OMS Staff!**