

# In The Middle

Volume 13, Issue 7

Oconto Middle School

March 2012

## Notes from Mr. Malczewski, Principal

As we head into spring, we are thinking about scheduling for the 2012-13 school year. If you have any questions about scheduling for next year, please contact me; 920-834-7806 x2106 or at [aaron.malczewski@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:aaron.malczewski@oconto.k12.wi.us).

It has been great to watch our students in co-curricular activities this year. I have heard many nice compliments in regards to our student-athlete's sportsmanship; fantastic! Girls' basketball is achieving some great accomplishments this year including a wonderful fundraising event which brought in over \$1800 for the Ribbon of Hope Foundation. Wrestling is also nearing the end of a successful season. The sportsmanship and efforts of our athletes and fans have been admirable along with the hard work from our student council and yearbook participants.

Our band and choir students have been working hard to prepare for the solo and ensemble music festival in March which will be held in OHS this year. We wish all of our participants the best.

One of the biggest indicators of success in school is excellent attendance, and that is a goal everyone should be trying to attain. There has been some illness this year as usual, but as the weather improves and spring begins, we look for all of our students to maintain or establish excellence in daily attendance. It is the first key to success in school. Students that have missed more than ten days of school due to illness this year, will need a note from a medical professional for any further excused absences.

## PTO News

The next regularly scheduled PTO meeting is Monday, March 12 at 3:35 p.m. in the IMC. The April meeting will be Monday, April 9.

## Important Dates

- 3-10 Regional Solo and Ensemble Music Festival at OMS
- 3-12 PTO Meeting 3:35 p.m. IMC
- 3-16 Snow make-up day with students, classes in session**
- 3-23 11:45am dismissal
- 3-28 Q3 Report cards sent home with students

## OMS Musicians Prepare for Festival

The halls are alive with the sound of music as 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and choir students get ready for the Near North Music Conference Solo and Ensemble Festival. The festival, to be held on **Saturday, March 10 at Oconto High**

**School**, will include musicians in grades 7-12 from Marinette, Oconto Falls, and Oconto. Students may participate in solos, small ensembles of two to five musicians, or large ensembles over twenty musicians. Our students and staff have put in many hours of practice to perfect their musical selections. Directors Mrs. Lucas and Mr. Marciniak encourage you to come and hear the results of the hard work put in by these students.

## 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 will be taken home along with their artwork.

For the month of March, "Youth Art Month", several pieces of artwork have been selected to be displayed at the Bond Community Center. Please stop in to see the variety of art on display. Mrs. Rennie and Ms. Griffin.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Isabelle Bergsbaken

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Megan Seidl

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jamie Sotka

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jackie Fieck

Reilly McFadden

## From the Dean's Desktop

Students need to remember that as the weather starts to warm, spring will not be completely here for a few weeks. Remind students to dress appropriately for playground activities. Bicycles need to be walked on the playground and skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades are not allowed during the regular school hours.

We are preparing for 2012-13 but would like our students to finish the year strong to better prepare them for the upcoming grade level. Most of our students are doing a very nice job. I think that is a credit to our students, their parents, and the OMS staff.

If you are not satisfied with your child's progress report, please contact the office or their homebase teacher. We'd like every child to have a successful 2011-12 school year and be ready for next year. If you have any questions about Honor Level status or are concerned about your child's progress, please feel free to call me at 834-7806 ext. 2105 or e-mail me at [adam.timm@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:adam.timm@oconto.k12.wi.us). Honor Level reports are always available.

Mr. Adam Timm

Dean of Students

## Nutrition/Fitness Tip of the Month

Nutrition is important for children because it helps prevent obesity and diabetes and helps them grow, according to KeepKidsHealthy.com. Parents who model good nutrition habits for their children find that they are able to make healthy choices on their own. Good nutrition should start when kids are young so that it feels like a way of life to them, and introducing healthy foods early helps children get a taste for them. Here are some tips that parents can introduce to their children:

- Eat Foods From All Food Groups
- Drink Water
- Limit Fast Food

Read more: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/265503-nutrition-tips-for-children/#ixzz1niNJ9rK>

## Grade Level News

**Grade 5:** All students on honor level one enjoyed participating in an Honor Level Activity on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. We would like to see more students participate next month. Please talk to your child about behavioral and academic expectations.

At this time of year, supplies seem to be running low. Please see that your child has crayons/colored pencils, pencils, paper, glue sticks, etc. This is also the season for students to have colds, so additional tissue can also be used.

**Grade 6:** On February 28th, the sixth grade Accelerated Math class participated in the 2012 Math League Contest. The following students were the top qualifiers in the contest: Alex Maynard, Balin Welch, Ali Stary, Olivia Ortiz, Lucas Ruechel, and Gavin Longsine. Congratulations!

Jeremy Wusterbarth from the City of Oconto recently spoke to the 6th grade class about where we get our drinking water from. It was an informative session and we would like to thank Jeremy for his time. Also, we would like to remind students to bring in an empty 2 liter bottle for an upcoming Science experiment.

**Grade 7:** Gizmos, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other Camp U-Nah-Li-Yah memorabilia will be available to order through Tuesday, March 8, 2012. The students had such a great time; please help them remember this experience! For questions or to place an order, please contact Andrew Bucheger ext. 2153.

Science—think Spring! We will be starting on plants. Let's hope March goes out like a lamb.

In language arts students are developing research skills and improving the quality of their written paragraphs.

For reading, students need to be reading their independent reading books. A book share presentation is due March 19. Please encourage your child to read every single day.

The 7th grade math students are just finishing Chapter 7 which focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

The Pre-Algebra students are graphing linear equations using slope and intercepts.

**Grade 8:** In Algebra, we will be finishing a very difficult chapter on factoring. Our next unit includes fractions with variables, but incorporates our factoring skills. In math, students will be using indirect measurement and scale drawings to solve math problems. This will lead into our next chapter where we will be exploring real numbers with the use of the Pythagorean Theorem. Finally in Language Arts, students will be reading plays that will prepare them for the end of the year play presentations. Also, students will continue to work on their Children's Book which will be due

in May. Remind your son or daughter to complete their READING IS FUN bookmarker.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, students who are eligible will be Skiing at Ski Brule. If your child is going, please make sure that you have the necessary forms filled out and turned in by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, remember to have your child to school by 5:45 AM with an expected return time of 6:30 PM.

## OMS Drama Club Starting!

The school Board has approved the formation of a new OMS Drama Club. Any students who wish to join may sign up in the OMS Office or talk with Mrs. Richardson. The club will meet after school in the IMC at a time that is convenient for the majority of students who wish to participate.

The Drama Club is hoping to become an outlet for students who wish to learn more about acting and the process of putting on plays. Any parents who would like to volunteer can contact Mrs. Richardson at extension 2166 or via email at [megan.richardson@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:megan.richardson@oconto.k12.wi.us)

## Student Council News



Student Council Fund Raiser March 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 19<sup>th</sup> Please help us raise funds to support our council so we can continue to help our school and community while providing leadership opportunities for our students at OMS. We are selling Earth Friendly Products – check out our brochure! Donations are welcome!

**The public is cordially invited to attend  
THE OCONTO AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
5th ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO**

**BOND COMMUNITY CENTER,  
PARK AVE., OCONTO  
MARCH 24, 2012  
12:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**\$1 admission as donation  
to the Oconto Youth Center  
(children under 12 free)  
SHOP OCONTO**

## Oconto Lions Club

The Oconto Lions Club is having its 19th annual Rose Sale to benefit OHS scholarships and other local charities. The cost is \$15 per dozen and will be delivered April 19-20. The choice of colors will be Red, Yellow or Rainbow. Deadline for ordering is April 6, 2012. If interested, please contact either Gary Zahn or Russ Young to order. As always, the Oconto Lions Club and previous OHS scholarship winners thank you for your support.

## **Lucas Ruechel–OMS Geography Bee Champion! ...and beyond???**

Congratulations Lucas Ruechel who won the OMS Geography Bee and has qualified to represent OMS at the state level competition. Lucas, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at OMS, won the OMS Geography Bee in December competing with students from grades 5-8. After he won that event Lucas took a state wide test in order to qualify and advance to the state competition. The results came in and Lucas is one of a few students to qualify and advance. The state Bee will be held on Friday, March 30, 2012 in Madison. One winner from Lucas's territory will advance to the national competition on May 22-24 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C. The final round of the 2012 National Geography Bee, moderated by Alex Trebek, will air on the National Geographic and Nat Geo Wild channels on Thursday, May 24. Great work Lucas and we hope to see you compete at this level!

