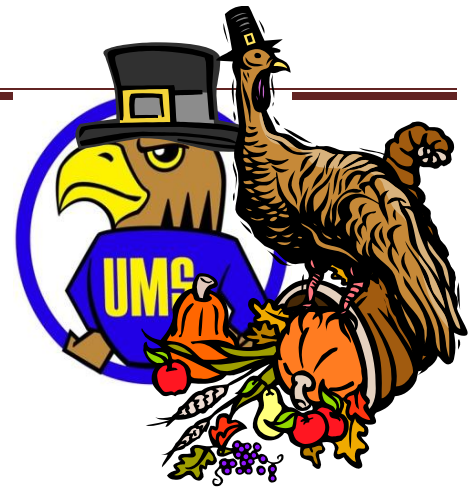


November 2013

# HAWK NEWS

For Urbana Middle School Families



## Principal's Message

Urbana Middle School is the educational home of 769 students in grades six through eight. The staff and students are two of the things that make our school such a unique, vibrant community in which to learn.

We hold each other to high standards here. The teachers expect a lot from students: take responsibility for academic success, come to school every day prepared to learn and respect others, property and yourself. Students in turn expect certain things from their teachers: appreciation of diverse learning styles, interesting and intriguing approaches to education, high academic and behavioral expectations. Parents want the very best education for their children. Here at Urbana Middle School our goal is to deliver!

### **UMS Instructional Goals for 2013-14 school year:**

- Increase the rigor of daily objectives, activities, and assessment during full implementation of the Common Core Curriculum
- Utilize technology to enhance instruction
- Differentiate instruction to accommodate all learners
- Use data to drive daily instruction
- Eliminate the Achievement Gap
- Communicate Effectively – internally & externally

The first marking period report cards will be distributed on Friday, November 8. When you receive the report cards, be sure to take some time and sit down with your child to discuss his or her progress this year. If there are any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers. We are looking forward to sitting down with the parents during parent teacher conferences on November 25 and 26.

### **UMS Focus Areas for 2013-14 school year:**

- Increase Academic Achievement in all areas:
  - Measured by set MSA percentage gains in Reading, Math, and Science
  - Measured by gains in CRES scores
- Increase Student Attendance to 97%
  - State satisfactory standard is 94%
  - State excellent standard is 96%
- Increase Parent/Community Involvement
  - Measured by PTSA membership
  - Measured by Volunteer Hours

We have some exciting events planned for the month of November such as Mustache Day on November 15, PTSA Turkey Games on November 15, Picture Make-Up Day on November 19, and the Honor Roll Assembly on November 21. Please consider joining us on these dates and many other events that we have planned throughout the school year. As always we welcome you to be a part of your child's academic program as well as the fun and exciting events we plan outside the school day to enhance our school community and bring everyone closer together.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Concepcion*

Michelle Concepcion

## *Are Your Children Prepared?*

*As the second term begins please take a moment to restock your child's school supplies. Students go through pencils and paper at a rapid rate!*

*Thank you,  
UMS Teachers*

## *Mrs. Forster would love to share...*

*UMS had TWO students recognized for their entries in the MACRO Maryland Judiciary Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office 2013 Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest.*

*This is a STATE wide contest.*

*2nd Place Winner - Emily Zheng - 8th grade*

*Honorable Mention - Emily Morningstar - 8th grade*



## **What's new with our Highly Able Learner Classes?**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade HAL** science teacher Matt Isleib and 6<sup>th</sup> grade HAL language arts teachers' Emma Kaveney and Jenna Waybright have teamed up to support students with this year's science fair project. Students will work on the research component in LA classes during the two weeks before Thanksgiving break.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade HAL** social studies teacher Holly Jung is allowing students who score a 90% or better on a unit pre-assessment to work with Specialists on independent projects related to the topic.

**November is the month for All-County Choir, Orchestra, and Band auditions. The dates and locations of the auditions are as follows:**

Middle School Choir - Wednesday, November 6, West Frederick Middle School

Middle School Orchestra - Wednesday, November 13, Monocacy Middle School

Middle School Band - Wednesday, November 20, Urbana Middle School

**Find Out First (FOF) before your friends do!**

<http://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/frederick/loginform.aspx?app=0>

Sign on to ensure your account is updated to UMS

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**Math-** Ms. Boyle's and Mrs. Stultz's merit classes have begun working with decimal operations such as adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimal numbers. Honors classes will be modeling the division of fractions and applying the models to help them understand which process of mathematics occurs when students divide fractions.

**Language Arts-** Mrs. Kaveney's and Mrs. Waybright's classes have just finished the "Growing Up" unit. The next unit, "Our Traditions/Ourselves", will focus on traditions we carry on as well as learn about new traditions. This unit will carry them through the holiday break. There will be a rigorous analysis of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens where students will explore characterization, theme, point of view and episodic structure.

**Science-** Mr. Isleib's students are working on the control systems (nervous and endocrine) in our human body unit. Students are gearing up for the CRES test which includes material from both the structural and control systems.

**Social Studies-** Mrs. Georgi's and Mrs. Troy's classes are moving into their second unit on Egypt, Israel and the Phoenicians.

**Visual Arts-** Mr. Snyders' classes are finishing an optical art unit. Currently, the students are creating a mask design. The students are using elements of art and principles of design in their work. Recently, the focus has been on color, contrast, and emphasis.

**World Language Exploratory-** Mrs. Gadra's classes will continue to focus on the French language. Students will learn the following: how to ask and respond to "How are you doing", how to describe the student's nationality, to tell where the student is originally from, and family vocabulary. Latin may also be introduced this month.

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**Math-** Mr. Erb's and Mr. Pereira's classes are in the middle of Unit 3, "The Number Systems".

**Language Arts-** Ms. Ware's and Mr. Porter's classes will be starting Unit 2, "Focusing on Choices". We will be reading from Kipling in school and students will begin their next novel project.

**Science-** Mrs. Poti's and Mrs. Elias' students will explore the cycling of matter, discuss and classify world resources, and examine human impact on those resources. Students will also decide on a project to research for the Science Fair.

**Social Studies-** Mr. Farbman's and Mrs. Jung's classes will soon be wrapping up Unit II, and moving on to Unit III; "Middle East in the Early Middle Ages". Unit III will begin with the geography of the Arabian Peninsula and the rise of Islam.

**Creative Arts-** The students are working on an illuminated letter design, creating a letter that depicts a time period of choice. The students are using principles of design to arrange the elements of art in their work.

**Life Skills-** Mrs. Bosley's and Mrs. Roberts' classes have finished the study of "Family" and have moved on to "Childcare!" In this unit, students will be learning about the human growth and development of children, planning safe environments for children, understanding the importance of play, and developing some great babysitting tips and tricks.

**Tech Ed-** Inventions and Innovation classes are currently hard at work inventing Jelly Bean Dispensers from recycled materials. Students are working in groups to design, build and test their inventions. The **Comm Tech** class is starting Unit 3 - "Radio Production/Podcasting". Students will be creating their own podcast using Audacity.

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**Math-** We have moved into unit #4 in HSA Algebra, solving linear inequalities. Please continue to remind students they can study for any quiz or test using their teacher's webpage which is organized by unit and has interactive activities!

**Language Arts-** Mrs. Bosley's and Ms. DeGroat's classes will be focusing on research projects with Social Studies. Unit 2 will focus on the essential question, "Can a Dream Change the World?"

**Science-** Mrs. Spencer's and Mr. Schulman's classes are completing work on the Variations Module and will begin the Energy Module soon. Students will focus on how reproductive strategies, cell division, and genetics foster variation in organisms. Students will also begin to prepare for their Science Fair projects in early November.

**Social Studies-** Ms. Blakeslee's and Ms. Sayed's students did a great job with their first research projects! Students worked on a joint L.A./Social Studies research project on a Revolutionary Figure. Check out your student's book on their historical figure. We have also completed our Road to Independence Unit and have moved into the Confederation to Constitution unit. This is an important unit as it is the basis for what students will study in 9th grade. Great first term for 8th graders in American Studies - keep up the great work!

**Visual Arts-** Mrs. Forster's classes are currently in a pencil drawing unit, focusing on rendering techniques and drawing a still life of white objects. 8<sup>th</sup> graders just finished Op Art designs and they are currently displayed in the Art department hallway.

**Life Skills-** Mrs. Gadra's class will focus on techniques to encourage children to behave. We will also discuss how to correct misbehavior in a non-critical way and how to implement consequences when necessary. Students will have the opportunity to hold and work with the baby mannequins in order to master important babysitting skills such as proper techniques for picking up an infant, holding an infant, bottle-feeding, spoon-feeding, and diapering. Please encourage students to respect the mannequins and to treat them as real babies as they are quite expensive and cannot be easily replaced.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup>

**FRENCH 1** – Mrs. Gadra’s students will focus on Chapter 2 grammar and vocabulary this month. Students will learn how to conjugate – “er” verbs and how to express likes and dislikes. Students were introduced to a new vocabulary acquisition technique this week which they must apply when learning all new vocabulary in Chapter 2. Your child should be studying 10-15 minutes every night in addition to any written homework. French I is rigorous as it is a high school level course.

**MS. FORSTER’S** students are working on an Egyptian Unit. They learned how to write their names using hieroglyphs and created mummy drawings based on Egyptian history and colored pencil techniques learned in class.

### **Grade Level News and Events**

*(Please see pages above focusing on grade level updates from content teachers.)*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Congratulations to the 6th grade students for successfully completing the first term of middle school. You did it! All 6th grade students will be going on a fieldtrip December 19, 2013 to the Weinberg Center for the Arts to see “A Christmas Carol”. Look for permission slips to be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The seventh graders are really showing their spirit for all of the PBIS incentives! Keep up the strong morale!

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Wow! 214 of our 240 eighth graders participated in our Pink Out day to raise awareness for Breast Cancer! We saw everything from pink tutus and pink socks to pink hair! Way to show your school spirit 8th grade!

### **Please Consider Helping!**

*Our school is in need of more great substitutes! If you have at least 60 college credit hours and want to make a positive impact on our school, please apply to be a substitute teacher. Call Carrie Artis at (301) 644-5252 for more details or go to the JOBS icon on [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org).*

Please remember to check teacher web pages and pinnacle for questions regarding student assignments and/or grades. Both links can be found on the UMS home page: <http://education.fcps.org/ums/>

### **All UMS Students are Encouraged to Participate:**

**Black Eyed Susan Bash**- to complete the challenge students need to read 3 of this year’s Middle School Black Eyed Susan Nominees and take a 10 question quiz on the book. Students that earn 80% or higher on at least 3 of the 10 book quizzes by early April will be invited to the Black Eyed Susan Bash that will be held over lunch shifts.

**25 Book Challenge**- Encourage your child to participate in the 25 book challenge by having them record the book and author on a log sheet. Parents need to initial next to each book to show that the student did read the book. Students may include books read from Sept. 1st through the middle of May. All participants who complete the challenge will be invited a party at the end of the school year.

For more information on these reading challenges visit <http://education.fcps.org/ums/MCEvents>

### **Interested in contests?**

Check out the website below for amazing opportunities!

Scholastic Instructor Magazine  
[instructornl@emailer.scholastic.com](mailto:instructornl@emailer.scholastic.com)

**The College Savings Plans of Maryland offers two options from the State of Maryland to help save for college costs. The Maryland Prepaid College Trust allows you to lock in tomorrow’s tuition at today’s prices and offers the security of a Maryland Legislative Guarantee. The Maryland College Investment Plan offers a variety of different investment portfolios managed by T. Rowe Price. Plus, both plans offer State and federal tax benefits!**

**For more information, contact the College Savings Plans of Maryland at [www.collegesavingsmd.org](http://www.collegesavingsmd.org) (Click on “Events”) or – 1-888-4MD-GRAD**

### **Specialists Corner**

All specialists can be reached via email or phone:

Leslie Pearre- Literacy Specialist

[Leslie.pearre@fcps.org](mailto:Leslie.pearre@fcps.org)

Bernie Shapiro- Math Specialist

[Bernie.Shapiro@fcps.org](mailto:Bernie.Shapiro@fcps.org)

David Adamiak- Advanced Academics

[David.Adamiak@fcps.org](mailto:David.Adamiak@fcps.org)

Kathy Domboski- Media Specialist

[Kathy.Domboski@fcps.org](mailto:Kathy.Domboski@fcps.org)