

MARCH'S THEME: OPEN-MINDED

The Trail Blazer

Mackinaw Trail Middle School

8401 South Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, Michigan 49601
(231) 876-5600

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 29, 2008

Principals' VOICE

Dear Parents,

Next week marks the start of the 5th marking period at Mackinaw Trail. We encourage you to take some time and review the progress that your child is making. For some it will be a time to celebrate success, while to others a time to reflect and revise to make necessary changes and improvements. However in both scenarios, your involvement is crucial. As hard as it is to believe, your child does want to impress you.

Our theme for March is Open Minded: willing to accept the ideas and differences of others. It is truly amazing to see this life skill in action on a daily basis with the students here at school. We hope that this trait will continue on during their school years and beyond, as they become productive members of our society.

We will be offering a new service for all parents beginning next week. It is called Parent Connect. This new program will allow parents to monitor their child's progress on a daily basis through the use of the Internet right at home. The first day for registration for Parent Connect will take place at Mackinaw Trail during our parent teacher conferences on March 6th in the media center. Parents can also register at school on any day after that as well. Eventually, we will be using this to replace our weekly progress reports. More information will be sent home regarding this in the near future.

As always, it is privilege to work with your child. If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Mr. Brown
Principal

VOCABULARY WORD OF THE WEEK

[twitter](#) + [pated](#), i.e., having one's pate (head) in a twitter (confused). First seen in the Disney movie [Bambi](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, Feb 29 – End of 4th Marking Period

Sat, Mar 1 – 12:00pm

Girls B'ball Alpena Thunder Bay JHS @ home

Thurs, Mar 6 - 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Fri, Mar 7 – Report cards go home w/students

Fri, Mar 7 – Spring pictures

Fri, March 21 – No school

Good Friday

Mon, Mar 31 thru Fri, April 4 – No School

Spring Break

Mon, May 26 – No School

Memorial Day Holiday

SPRING PICTURES



Spring pictures will be taken on Friday, March 7th.

... To Report Absences or Leave a message for a student...

The direct line to the Student Office at Mackinaw Trail is **876-5602**. Please dial that number when you wish to report an absence or leave a message for a student.

...AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING...

... a free program provided again this year at Mackinaw Trail. Tutoring is held Monday through Thursday from 2:45 – 3:45. Transportation home will be arranged through the CWTA. Registration forms are now available in the Student Office. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Deitrick, Counselor (876-5610) or Mr. Brown, Principal (876-5600).

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 from 4:00-8:00pm. Conference confirmation letters were mailed on Monday, February 25, 2008. The conferences were scheduled based upon student need, parent's inability to attend the last conference and teacher or parent requests. With this in mind, we are requesting that you contact the office if you were not scheduled and you wish to have a Parent/Teacher conference. The Student Office phone number is 876-5602.

8th Grade Class Schedules

Ms. Bush, CJHS Counselor, is coming to our building to schedule classes for next year and to do their EDP (Educational Development Plans). EDP is state mandated and they help kids look into future classes, occupations, and community involvement. These are not set in stone and the students will most likely change them in the upcoming years at CJHS. Students will bring home their sheets, and they need to be returned to their teacher by Friday March 7th. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms. Bush at 876-5711.

BOOK FAIR

The Information Center will be hosting a book fair starting Thursday, February 28th through Friday, March 7th. It will be open during the school day and also during Parent/Teacher conferences. All proceeds from the book fair are taken in books for the library.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

During the month of March there will be a quote and a clue in the weekly Trailblazer. Figure out which famous person said the quote and enter to win. Answers must be submitted to the Information Center by 1:00 on Monday.

Quote: "My books are water; those of the great geniuses are wine. Everybody drinks water."

Clue: This American author was born in 1835 and considered one of the major authors of American fiction. Many of his books are considered classics.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Congratulations to this week's Reading Counts winner Matthew King the Alpha Team!

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out the website for the Cadillac Area Public Schools! Log on to www.vikingnet.org.



SPARTAN LABELS

The Information Center is collecting Spartan Labels. Just cut the UPC code off of any Spartan product and have your student bring them into school.

GIRLS ON TRACK

(The middle school version of Girls on the Run)

Girls on Track will begin on Tuesday, March 18th. They will practice every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45pm-4:15pm in the MTMS gym. Information and forms are available in the Student Office. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 7th. Please contact Mrs. Falan on the Starquest team with any questions.



MTMS Ski Program

Information/Application for the MTMS ski program is available in the Student Office. Students who wish to join throughout the ski season will be allowed to turn in registration materials when they sign up and payment is due on **Thursday mornings in the Principals' office before school.** **MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.**

Cadillac 3 X 3 Basketball Tournament

When: Saturday March 22, 2008

Where: Cadillac High School, 400 Linden St., Cadillac

Entry Fee: \$75.00 per team

Divisions 3rd & 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Registration Deadline: March 8th

Information and applications are available in the Student Office. Applications are to be mailed to CASA, P.O. Box 308, Cadillac, Michigan 49601.

7th & 8th Grade Track

7th & 8th grade track will begin on Monday, March 17, 2008. 7th grade track students will be transported by bus to the Jr. High school. Parents will pick up students from Jr. High. Students must have a physical form on file.

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Any change in transportation for your child needs to occur before 2:00PM. We have nearly 500 students in the school and the end of the day gets extremely busy. Our secretaries are doing the very best they can to accommodate, but an earlier time for such arrangements will be necessary. We will not guarantee that a message to a student will be delivered if we are notified after 2:00PM.

GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

The Protostars Teams is collecting General Mills "Box Tops for Education." Please save and return coupons to Mrs. Austin's room #360. Thank you!

After School Activity Reminder

If your child is staying after school for any reason (clubs, activities, athletics, etc.), please be sure to pick them up promptly at the time indicated by the supervisor. When children are not picked up on time, our school staff are forced to remain with them for kid's safety. This is sometimes a burden for staff that have other appointments to get to, and always an inconvenience. Thanks for your understanding and support.