

MARCH'S THEME: OPEN-MINDED

The Trail Blazer

Mackinaw Trail Middle School

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Cadillac, Michigan 49601
(231) 876-5600

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 20, 2008

Principals' VOICE

Dear Parents,

As spring is finally upon us, I encourage you to continue monitoring your child's progress using either Parent Connect or the weekly progress sent home each Friday. The school year can resemble a marathon at times with March being a really tough leg of the race. During this period it is very easy for kids to slack off their homework almost as if they are running on reserve power. To help with this, continue to have daily talks with your child, inspiring them to put forth their best effort and be the leaders of tomorrow. Turning the TV off as the weather begins to warm up (wishful thinking – I know) will also help refresh their spirits as well as give them a little exercise.

Please call us anytime if you have questions or concerns and have a wonderful weekend with family and friends.

Mr. Brown
Principal

VOCABULARY WORD OF THE WEEK

Delve – to search carefully and laboriously
Mr. Brown will delve into the assessment results during his spring break.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, March 21 – No school
Good Friday

Sun, March 23 – Easter Sunday

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

Mon, Apr 14 – 4:00pm

7th/8th Track Manistee Jr. High @ Cadillac

Thurs, Apr 17 – 3:00pm

7th/8th TC West/Alpena @ Alpena

Thurs, Apr 24 - 4:00pm

7th/8th Track TC East JHS Inv. @ TC Central HS

Mon, May 26 – No School

Memorial Day Holiday

SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

... 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.

MTMS Ski Program

MTMS ski program is done for the season! Students who have paid and not skied should report to the principal's office for their refund.

YEARBOOK

Yearbooks will be here in May. The price will be \$13.00. They will be sold in the principal's office the week that they arrive.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

March is reading month. During the morning announcements students were given a question about an event that happened in the past. Students entered their answer for a chance to win a gift certificate to the book fair.

Who said that?

Figure out which famous person said the quote below and enter to win. Answers must be submitted to the Information Center by 1:00 on Monday if you want to be eligible for the prize.

Quote: "A book is just a way to remember a story, like a photograph is a way to remember a friend."

Clue: Born in 1906, this American Poet was married to a famous aviator. Who is the author of the above quote?

Congratulations to Elizabeth Paddock, last week's winner of "Who said that?" The answer was Betsy Byars.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Congratulations to this week's Reading Counts winner Skylar Asiala from the Alpha Team.

DEAL OR NO DEAL

During the month of March students are competing for a chance to play **Deal or No Deal**. The top three Reading Counts point achievers will play for a top prize of \$20 at the Reading Assembly on March 28th.

DRESS UP WEEK

During the month of March, students have participated in numerous activities to celebrate Reading Month. We had "Mystery Readers," Scavenger Hunts, "Questions of the Day" and a "Deal or No Deal" competition. Next week is dress up with the days listed below:

Monday: Word Day – wear clothing with words

Tuesday: Sport Day – wear sports clothing

Wednesday: Book Character Day – dress like your favorite character

Thursday: Retro day – dress from your favorite century

Friday: Jimmy Buffet Day – dress in Hawaiian clothing
On Friday, March 28 we will be wrapping up the month with an assembly.

GIRLS ON TRACK

(The middle school version of Girls on the Run)

Girls on Track will practice every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45pm-4:15pm in the MTMS gym. Please contact Mrs. Falan on the Starquest team with any questions.

AFTER SCHOOL INTRAMURALS

After-school intramurals are now being held on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** from 2:45 – 3:30pm.

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.

YMCA TEEN SCHEDULE

The YMCA Teen Center's March schedule is available in the Student Office. The YMCA Teen Center will have special hours over spring break. The hours are as follows: Wednesday, April 2 noon - 6:00 pm and Friday, April 4 noon - 6:00 pm.

7th & 8th Grade Track

7/8 Track begins on Monday, March 24th at the Junior High. Students must have a physical, if they have not already had one, to begin practice. MTMS students will take a bus to the Junior High and parents will need to pick up their child at the Junior High in the bus lane by Junior High gym at 4:15. \$7 is needed for the team shirt/uniform and also solid navy or black shorts need to be purchased. There is a parent meeting March 26th at 4:20 in the Junior High gym. No practice March 28th. Please call Ann Bush 876-5711 with any questions.

CASA BASEBALL/SOFTBALL APPLICATIONS

Casa baseball/softball applications are now available from the Student Office. The applications are due on Friday, March 28, 2008. Along with the applications there is a flyer that contains information about a special sign-up event happening on Saturday, March 15th at Dunham's. There will be drawings for gloves and bats, special discounts and free hot dogs for each child that signs up.

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.

PARENT CONNECT

Please take time to consider our new progress reporting system called Parent Connect. This online program will enable you to stay "Connected" with assignments and grades of your child any time you log into the site. You may register on line but need to see Mrs. Boerma at the Student Office to receive your password. Please bring a photo ID as well.