

APRIL'S THEME: INTEGRITY

The Trail Blazer

Mackinaw Trail Middle School

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Cadillac, Michigan 49601
(231) 876-5600

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 28, 2008

Principals' VOICE

Dear Parents,

The administration, teachers and staff wish you the very best as the students at Mack Trail enter their week long spring break. This truly has been a tremendous year working with your child(ren) and we have seen some wonderful growth along the way. We are seeing students who have had difficulty in reading make great strides through our FastForward program, moving up two and three grade levels in reading. Students taking advantage of our after school-tutoring program are reducing the number of missing assignments and becoming eligible thus being able to participate in school wide events like our activity nights. Students are taking pride in striving for excellence and learning to self evaluate their performance. Our counseling department continues to push the envelope with programs like Breakthrough – helping those who need to breakthrough areas that are holding them back from being successful. There have been noticeable gains as a result of this program. And most of all, we are thankful for the partnership with the school that our parents are showing as we all strive to provide the very best educational environment and direction for “our” children. Without such support, we would not see the success stories that have occurred this year.

We hope everyone enjoys the week off and has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

Mr. Brown
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Fri, Apr 11 – spring picture orders due

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

Thurs, May 1 – 4:00pm

7th/8th Track Traverse City West JHS @ Cadillac

Mon, May 5 – 4:00pm

7th/8th Track Traverse City East JHS @ Cadillac

Wed, May 7 – 4:15pm

7th/8th Track Benzie Central Quad @ Benzie

Sat, May 10 – 8:00am

7th/8th Track Greenville Invitational @ Greenville

Mon, May 12 – 3:30pm

7th/8th Track East Jordan Invitational @ East Jordan

Tues, May 20 – 1:00pm

7th/8th Track Big North Conf. Meet @ Gaylord HS

Mon, May 26 – No School

Memorial Day Holiday

VOCABULARY WORD OF THE WEEK

Inference – the act or process of deriving a conclusion from facts or premises

We made the inference that the Pistons would lose the game when they were down by six points.

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.

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. Please make checks payable to MTMS.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Congratulations to this week's Reading Counts winner Kirstie Carlson from the Supernova 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 Friday, March 28th.

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.

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.

Activity Night

There will be a Student Council sponsored Activity Night Friday, April 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 here at MTMS. Come and see your friends and have fun! We will have a DJ dance, open gym, a movie, Giant Twister and Dance Dance Revolution. Cost is \$3.00, and free if you bring a chaperone. You must be eligible, so get your assignments in!

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.

SPRING PICTURES

The spring picture packets were sent home with students this week. The orders for these pictures are due on Friday, April 11th.

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.

HELMET YOUR HEAD

Cadillac Helmet Coalition sponsors a program that makes Snell Certified helmets available for adults, youth, children and toddlers. Available to order are bike helmets, ski/snowboard helmets, jump helmets (skateboard/rollerblade) and protective gear. The helmets come in a variety of colors and sizes. Please stop in and pick up an order form. Checks or money orders payable to "Think First" and return the forms to MTMS by Monday, April 18, 2008. Helmets will be distributed in May.

Cadillac Footliters Junior Players

The Cadillac Footliters Junior Players are offering a six week workshop to students ages 8-18. The workshop will introduce youth to theatre by focusing on character development, costumes and props, set design, lights and sound effects, make-up, musical theatre and then putting it all together in a short skit for family and friends. If you're interested in participating, please pick up a brochure in the Student Office.

NEWS FROM THE TECHNOLOGY CLASS

Congratulations to the following outstanding typing students:

SupernovaTeam -Stephanie Rann 74 wpm,
Sierra Sharp 50 wpm, Abby Vandercook 44 wpm, Chynna Newville 44 wpm
Voyager Team - Amanda Anderson 41 wpm
Zenith Team - Joseph Kraus 43 wpm

Star Quest Team - Jack Polus 44 wpm, Justin
Barczewski 41 wpm