



JGMS Principal's Newsletter

Bedford, Ma 01730

Principal's Letter

Dear JGMS Families,

I am so very proud of our kids! Since the first day of the school year, the faculty, staff and I have noticed a positive vibe among the student body. There seems to be so much more cohesiveness and caring among them as a whole. I believe that the work of our Student Council, led by Libbey Beiner-Hunnewell and Lauren Noferi, and our Chain Reaction Committee, led by Roseanne Ham and Renee Anderson, has been the major difference! These two groups are comprised of students who give their time and energy to give all students a voice. From little things, such as requesting 2 microwaves in the cafeteria and being responsible for keeping the area clean, to big things, such as the outstanding "Day of Respect" that just occurred on November 24th, these two groups promote unity, caring, service and tolerance all year.

To complement the work of these two groups we hope that the various assemblies, such as the Urban Improv, field trips, such as the recent Girls' Leadership Conference sponsored by the MIAA, and other activities, such as the upcoming annual student-teacher basketball game, , along with the work done in Advisory will create and sustain a strong sense of community that is based on mutual respect.

While the holiday season is a time for giving, I think we here at JGMS have been extremely fortunate in that we have been on the receiving end of others' thoughtfulness. On behalf of the students, staff and faculty of John Glenn Middle School, I would like to thank the BEF for its continued support of our academic initiatives. The Middle School Parents' Association also serves as a wonderful support for our school activities and classroom endeavors...not to mention they provide us with a wonderful luncheon quarterly every year!

Our students and staff are giving back as well. Last month our Student Council sponsored a service project to help those less fortunate by collecting monetary donations for a local food bank. They also just completed a coat drive, collecting over 500 coats for those in need of warm winter clothing. Currently the Student Council is sponsoring a "Giving Tree," where advisories and others can select a "leaf", identifying a particular need, from the tree and then collect items by December 15th to fulfill this need. All items will be donated to the New England Home for Little Wanderers. Our kids are learning a lot about giving from groups like the BEF and the MSPA...it's a lesson that will have tremendous impact on the rest of their lives.

Speaking of warm coats, you may be wondering just where that jacket, hat, heavy sweater, mittens or gloves may be, not to mention a variety of other clothing items that you have purchased for your child. I have some good news for many of you! It may be right here at JGMS in a recycle bin or on a "lost and found" table outside of the cafeteria in piles that appears to be growing daily! Please stop by the school to peruse these items. If it belongs to your child or someone else in your family, please feel free to take it home with you. What is left behind after the holidays will be donated, so if you can't make it by the school, please have your child look through the tables prior to the start of vacation.

In this edition please look for a new and regular article from the Student Council. There is also another new feature in our newsletter – “Parent to Parent,” which will appear periodically in our newsletters. Our Accept the Challenge committee of parents/community/school representatives is seeking parents to send in articles for submission. If you have a “Parent to Parent” topic with which you need help ... or if you have a situation with your middle schooler that went well, please contact us individually or anonymously by emailing jayne_viladenis@bedford.k12.ma.us or Y&F@bedfordma.gov We hope to have examples for you monthly.

Please be reminded that the next Principal’s Coffee is December 16th at 8:30 AM in the school library.

Hoping you have a restful and peaceful holiday season, on behalf of the entire JGMS faculty and staff, please enjoy the upcoming vacation!

Our next newsletter, the January-February edition, will be available on our website beginning February 5, 2011. In this newsletter you will find our newest addition to the JGMS Newsletter—the JGMS School Online Newspaper! Led by co-Advisors Matt McGonagle and Megan Salvucci, 25 students representing the 3 grade levels, will provide yet another student perspective of life at JGMS. I know I am looking forward to their input. Also in our next newsletter we will be providing information about course selection and scheduling for the next school year!

Happy Holidays!

P. Jayne Viladenis

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JGMS Principal’s Corner Blog: <http://jgmsprincipalscorner.blogspot.com/>

December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15(1)	16(2)	17(3)	18
19	20(4)	21(5)	22(6)	23(1) Student- Teacher B-ball	24 Vacation	25
26	27 Vacation	28 Vacation	29 Vacation	30 Vacation	31 Vacation	

January 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Important Information

Dr. Maureen LaCroix will be presenting a proposal to change start times for 2011-2012 to the School Committee at its January 4th meeting. Included in this will be a proposal to create a weekly early release day for professional development. All School Committee meetings are held in the BHS Large Group Instruction room and begin at 7:30 PM.

Also, the FY 2012 budget will be discussed at School Committee on the following dates: January 4th, January 18th. The School Committee will vote the budget on January 18th, and on January 20th, the budget will be presented to the Finance Committee.

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Note From Student Council:

The Student Council is off to a great start! Chris E. (vice president), Kristen K. (secretary), Gina H. (treasurer), and all of our wonderful representatives have been doing a fantastic job, and it looks like it's going to be an awesome year!

To try and get JGMS to "go green" we have once again put boxes for recycling bottles and cans in many classrooms and hallways.

And to help give back to the community while celebrating Halloween, the Student Council ran a canned food drive for the Bedford Food Pantry. Students could wear their costumes if they brought in a canned good. The drive was very successful.

In addition, we started our monthly raffle, which we will hold each month. We hope to add a little more fun to daily life at JGMS!

I recently got, with the help of Ms. Viladenis' generosity, two new microwaves for the cafeteria for students to use. Students have certainly responded positively to this, and I am excited to have the microwaves. They are a nice addition to the lunch scene! Students are encouraged to bring in food to heat up, but please keep in mind that only eighth graders are allowed to pop popcorn. Enjoy!

The annual Coats for Kids drive is underway. Outside of the LGI is a bulletin board, with a paper character named Walter pinned up there. Our long-term goal is 200 coats, but once we collect 50 coats, Walter can get his very own paper coat! Every 50 coats we collect, Walter will get another paper winter clothing item. Please help Walter and other families in need this winter season by donating gently used, winter coats.

Also, the Giving Tree is going on once again. The tree is up outside the office with paper apples hanging on them. The apples have a gift written on them. Each advisory is encouraged to choose an apple, and each advisory should try and work together to purchase that gift. All gifts contributed will be collected and given to the Home for Little Wanderers so that these kids can have a chance to receive holiday presents of their own. Please consider these kids and think of others during this time. Happy Holidays!

As you can see, the Student Council has a lot going on already! I am super excited to serve as President, and I can tell that we are going to have an amazing year! I'm looking forward to it!

Thanks,
Emily M., President

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From the Board of Health

Dear Parents,

In January 2009 Massachusetts launched a broad-based state initiative to promote wellness and prevent overweight and obesity in Massachusetts called Mass in Motion. The purpose of this multifaceted campaign is to promote the importance of healthy eating and active living at home, at work, and in communities throughout the Commonwealth. **Please see www.mass.gov/massinmotion** for more information. One element of Mass in Motion is a statewide school-based **Body Mass Index (BMI)** collection and reporting regulation. Massachusetts schools have taken heights and weights of students each year for many years. As part of the Mass in Motion initiative, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has made amendments to improve the annual height and weight screening protocols to include calculation of a Body Mass Index (BMI) and percentile for grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. Bedford will begin implementing this initiative during the 2010/2011 school year.

Overweight/obesity is on the rise and the Board of Health believes in a community wide approach to address this issue. While the BMI requirement is assessing individual status, it is important to look at what we as a community are doing to provide individuals of all ages the opportunity to engage in healthy behaviors. There is a lot happening in Bedford! The schools have worked to offer healthier choices within the food service. There is a community initiative to increase the number of children that walk or bicycle to school. The Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs for residents of all ages to be physically active. The Bedford Farmers' Market provides an additional resource for purchasing fresh fruit and vegetables. A Walkable Community Workshop sponsored by the Board of Selectman, Planning Board, Board of Health, Transportation Advisory Committee and Chamber of Commerce was held on May 14 that brought together municipal officials, staff and community members to discuss walkability in Bedford. These are just a few examples of how Bedford is working to provide children and adults the opportunity to be more physically active and eat healthy. The Board of Health wants to encourage the community to continue to work together to create an environment supportive of a healthy community and looks forward to collaborating with others on these issues.

From the School Nurse and the Bedford Board of Health



JGMS Library News

December 2010

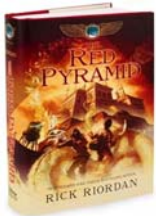
Joan Collins
Teacher Librarian

Annual Book Fair

Thanks to all who supported our annual School Book Fair. Students were scheduled to attend the fair with classroom teachers. Book fairs provide students with a wide variety of titles that are of specific interest to them. They are like bookstores designed solely for middle school kids.

Special thanks to the parents who gave of their time to help out with the fair. Emily Barga, Vinny Dee, and Jeremy Roe were lucky winners from the daily drawings.

What's Hot, New, and Noteworthy



Rick Riordan has followed up with a new series. *Red Pyramid* is proving to be as desirable as the *Lightning Thief*, his Percy Jackson series.

Jeff Kinney's Wimpy Kid books are wildly popular with the boys. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* is his latest.



The *Uglies* trilogy is popular with girls. Scott Westerfeld examines a dystopian society where, at the age of 16, everyone becomes pretty by extreme methods. The main character, Tally, eventually rebels against society's conformity.

Book Circulation

Ms. Stephen and Ms. Bemis brought their 8th grade students to the library to select historical fiction and non-fiction. Students were encouraged to select books from the Suggested Reading for Incoming Freshman list. Eighth graders have rigorous outside reading expectations from their English teachers.

Ms. McGraw's Level II 7th graders selected survival fiction. Survival fiction can be set in stories that are based in reality, that are framed in history, or that are part of a fantasy or science fiction adventure.

Level I students selected books that have won awards such as the Newbery Medal, National Book Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Printz Award.



Ms. D'Entremont's 7th grade classes selected titles that appealed to them.

Library Activity

Mr. Harrington's 8th graders worked on a mural project. They read articles from the ABC-Clio issues database to evaluate what information they already knew about their topic and to consider how to frame any new knowledge.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Nagle's 8th graders researched the giants of the Renaissance to create *glogs* or voicethread products.

Parent to Parent E-mail

The Accept the Challenge Task Force in consultation with JGMS Principal Jayne Viladenis decided to try a periodic column to help parents with sticky situations with their middle schoolers. We are calling it “Parent to Parent” and hope that if you have a question or a situation with which you need help if you have a success you wish to share, you can do so by emailing jayne_viladenis@bedford.k12.ma.us or Y&F@bedfordma.gov. We will then attempt to use your examples anonymously in future columns. Let us know!

E-Mail

By a Parent of a 6th Grader

Sometimes it is hard to be the parent when technology seems like it’s running the show. I don’t know how to stay ahead of the curve with email and technology sometimes.

Suffice to say that my daughter got herself into a sticky situation that was exacerbated because of email. My daughter finally told a popular girl about a boy she liked in a secret email conversation that would be shared with no one. Then the popular girl forwarded the email to find out if the boy also liked my daughter. According to the email thread, it turns out that he did not like her. In fact, the party line said that he was going to ask out *another* girl.

My daughter got wind of this in email and said “she’s not good enough for him.”

That email then got forwarded to the boy and to many other JGMS students.

When confronted about this comment face to face, denial was the response. She was embarrassed and probably upset that everybody knew she had liked this boy and was not liked back.

How did I know something was going on?

- She had bitten her finger nails down to the quick
- When she got home, she checked her email even before she said hello or took her shoes off
- She checked email every 5 minutes at home – from 2:50-until bedtime
- She was cranky and irritable
- She started saying that she didn’t want to go to school
- Finally, her sister came to us in tears about her sister’s being ‘bullied’

I had to investigate and become super sleuth to find out what had happened. So I talked to her that night, and she told me what was on the surface. Then I talked with her sister to get her side of the story. I read her recent email and went back through a month’s worth of emails that she had sent or received, finding what I believe to be the email that started this all frenzy. I talked with her over the next week to two to gain more information, insight, and background into the relationships and communication.

While my daughter regrets what she said and knows she should not have said it, she also has been made painfully aware of what 'privacy' is and is not. Though what she said was not that cruel or horrid, she has learned how even an opinion can impact a person or situation negatively.

As an adult, I know that I have certainly sent emails that in hindsight I now know I would have sent. Some were mistakes, some were bad jokes, some just made things very uncomfortable. As a parent I hope I can help my children to think before they send and to handle any inevitable oops'. I want my children to learn about not emailing something that could be misinterpreted but, if it is, that it is never too late to say they are sorry

How to recover-

Apologize, preferably in person but by email if that is better for the person who was hurt. Saying "I'm sorry - I shouldn't have said that" or "I'm sorry I hurt your feelings. It was wrong to say that in an email (text, IM, etc.)" are basic enough for most any situation. The apology will mean more if it is followed by a change in behavior, too.

Email/cellphone/texting tips:

- Set some ground rules for Email for your family
- Allow Email access in a public place in your home
- Monitor your kids' email
- Tell your kids that you have the right to monitor their emails
- Make a huge point of the fact that Email is permanent, even if they delete it

Do you have a Parent to Parent topic you need help with? Do you have a situation with your middle schooler that went well? Contact us individually or anonymously by emailing jayne_viladenis@bedford.k12.ma.us or Y&F@bedfordma.gov We hope to have examples for you monthly. The Accept the Challenge Committee

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Grade 8

With the holiday season upon us, and the winter season officially underway, the 8th graders have continued to bring enthusiasm and leadership to JGMS and their individual classrooms. With the winter vacation a little over a week away, you can imagine that the excitement level has certainly increased in lower A Wing. We encourage parents to remind their children to work hard until the close of school on December 23rd! We hope all of our JGMS families have a wonderful holiday season and a restful and enjoyable winter break!

UPCOMING Grade 8 Events:

January 3, 4,5: National Geographic Geography Bee in social studies classes.

January 15th: Registration deposit for DC. Trip due

Social Studies:

Students in Mr. Casey's and Mr. Nagle's classes have recently completed library research and technology based projects on the Renaissance. Mr. Nagle's classes produced voice Threads on key figures that contributed to the Humanist movement in Europe. Mr. Casey's classes produced similar type projects using the program "Glogster" which allowed the students to produce mini-posters and web pages on some of these historical figures and their impact on the Renaissance period. .

Math:

The current unit of study in Pre-Algebra classes involves factors, fractions and exponents. In this unit, students use factorization of numbers and also factor monomials. Students find the greatest common factor and least common multiple of numbers and monomials and use these quantities to simplify, compare and order fractions and mixed numbers.

Algebra classes have recently completed a unit on functions. Students represented functions in a variety of ways, such as graphs, tables, equations or words. Students also explored when each representation could be particularly useful.

techniques learned in previous chapters to solve equations and inequalities involving subtraction.

Science:

On the Green Team, students have just completed lessons on Earth Chemistry and are beginning a unit on minerals. They will learn how scientists categorize minerals into two main groups. Mineral formation and classification will also be studied. Students will identify unknown minerals according to their color, streak, luster, how they break and density. Special properties of minerals are to be highlighted by demonstrating the optical properties of calcite (double vision), chemical reactivity (calcite and weak acid) and fluorescence.

English:

Mrs. Stephen and Ms. Bemis have introduced their students to Edgar Allan Poe and his philosophy of careful word choice and conscientious development of a single effect to create powerful writing. After a grammar review detailing when to use quotation marks or underlining and how to properly quote dialogue, we are working on a personal narrative. The topic of this in-class writing assignment is to describe a winter memory based on a contrast or change in you or those around you. This two to four page story will be collected on 12/23 to provide us with some exciting reading over the winter break!

Students will be engaged in many hands-on activities throughout this unit. They are also working on a mineral research project and creating an advertisement for their mineral and its uses.

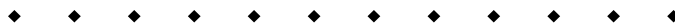
On the Grey Team, students have studied in depth units covering rocks and the rock cycle and geologic time. Currently students are consolidating the information learned in those units and are applying it to the understanding of earth composition and plate tectonics. Students will see that our planet is dynamic and that its surface is reflective of what is happening within the planet.

The Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Chorus ensembles did an outstanding job in their concert performances over the last few weeks. The dedication and talent of these groups is obvious, and their pride in a job well done is evident. Having fun making music with friends is a joy in our lives.

A Note from Guidance:

- Any 8th grade students who are applying to private schools should remember to do the following:
- 1. Politely ask your teachers if they would complete your teacher recommendation form. Each school has a form for the English and/or Math teacher to complete and one form for the counselor.
- 2. Bring the materials to the staff at least three weeks prior to the deadline. Most schools want the applications by mid-January so have the forms in before December vacation.
- 3. Please provide a stamped, addressed envelope made out to the private school. Schools usually include envelopes with their forms.
- 4. Your 8th grade counselor (Mrs. Siegenthaler) will complete that page marked School Report. Copies of your report card in grades 6 - 8, testing scores and a recommendation regarding your candidacy will be sent to each school. You will meet with your counselor about your plans so that a full picture of you, as a person and a student, will be presented as part of the application.
- 5. Be sure to thank your teachers for helping you in this endeavor.

Hope that will work.



Grade 7

We hope that everyone is enjoying the colder weather. It was great for teachers to be able to meet with so many parents during conferences in November and December. The 2nd Quarter has begun and we are approaching the mid-way point. Interims will be posted after school on Monday, December 13. Please be sure to check how your child is doing now that we are half way through the quarter. As always, if you have questions about how your child is doing in any class, please contact the teacher via email or phone. Email addresses and phone extensions are available on the school website.

Here is what is happening in your child's classes:

Social Studies:

Students have been learning about the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia, which was located in present-day Iraq. There has been a focus on the government structure, the importance of irrigation, the increasing need for military protection as competition for resources grew, the religion and culture, the social structure, the development of writing, the struggle between the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires, and the development of law and order through the Code of Hammurabi. Students began this unit by learning about the six characteristics of a civilization and wrote an essay explaining how the city-state of Ur met each of those characteristics. Students will complete their study of ancient Mesopotamia before the December vacation and will begin their study of ancient Egypt

Science:

Students have been learning about cell biology. Because most cells are microscopic, students have been using microscopes and preparing specimens to view under various magnifications. Recently they have been working on constructing a large graphic organizer, or "foldable" that illustrates cell organelles and the role they play in living cells. In December students will be learning how cells interact with their environment, how they get food in and waste out, and where cells get the energy they need to carry out all the activities of life.

English:

Seventh graders have been hard at work on improving their writing skills. Students will be writing a descriptive essay utilizing sensory details about a valuable object or showing personality traits of a person whom they treasure. Additionally, they will be encountering the play, *Monsters are Due on Maple Street* as a preview to the "mob mentality" that they will see in their novels, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* or *The Pigman*. Lastly, students will continue work on their second quarter book project.

Math:

In 7th grade PreAlgebra classes, students are currently working on ratios and proportions. They will conclude the unit with a test on December 22nd/23rd. Students will also be working on their cartoon enlargement project, which will be due on January 10, 2011. The next unit will focus on polygons and square roots.

In 7th grade Math classes, students are learning how to solve equations. This unit will conclude with a test on December 22nd/23rd. The next unit will be on fractions.

In all classes, there will continue to be meaningful learning experiences through the last day of school prior to the December vacation, so we appreciate the help you give to keep your child focused on homework and studies. We hope you enjoy the winter break!

Grade 6

Blue Team Field Trip Wrap Up

The blue team had a great time on the field trip to the Museum of Science! The kids enjoyed touching a set of lungs and watching how they expanded when air was blown into them, interacting with the K'nex exhibit, using their science skills in the main exhibits to observe and infer many things about how the world around them works, and the OMNI about Australia. Thank you for supporting our trip... the kids were well behaved and a pleasure to be on the trip with! We look forward to more learning opportunities like this in the future!

Updates in Mathematics

In math we are starting our operations with decimals unit which covers chapters 3 and 4 in the textbook. Before holiday break we will complete our tessellation projects working with transformations.

Red Team English

On the red team, we just finished our short story unit. We are now going to apply our skills for analyzing literature to take a deeper look at the novel we will be reading, The Magician's Nephew. This is the story of how Narnia was created, and we are eager to learn the details after having watched "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". We will also be developing our listening and discussion skills as each student will be required to lead and participate in a small group discussion in "fishbowl" style (where others can look in and observe the discussion but not participate).

Blue Team English

We have just finished The Magician's Nephew and have begun to learn different note-taking strategies and styles that we will use during our "Change-Maker" research unit. Our essential question for this portion of the unit is: How do I give credit to the people who I learn from when I research?

Red Team News...

We are pleased to congratulate this month's student of the month, Miles H. Miles earned this distinction for being an active participant in class and for having a positive attitude. Even more specifically, we observed him show kindness to another student who he had given a second chance. Congratulations Miles.

Our December student of the month will be announced at our next town meeting, which will be held during period 6 on Dec. 23rd. We will be setting our New Year's resolutions at that time and celebrating the many holidays that are occurring this year during the month of December.

On behalf of all of the sixth grade...

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a joyous solstice, and enjoy the time off from school with your children. We will see you in 2011!

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Notes from the Gifted and Talented and Differentiated Instruction

MathCounts News

MathCounts has taken the AMC 8 competition, a challenging multiple choice competition. We are eagerly awaiting the scores and expect them soon. It had some particularly challenging problems this year! The top ten competitors will be invited to take the AMC 10 competition in February.

The MathCounts school competition takes places on January 24th. Students will need to stay until approximately 6pm to compete.

Students may join MathCounts at any time. Just show up in B210 on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. The setting is relaxed for students who wish to just play with math, with opportunities for more focused work.

WordSmiths News

WordSmiths has finished its first Youth and Family Services session. Registration is open for the second session. Meanwhile, everyone is welcome to come try out WordSmiths! As we head into the winter, WordSmiths students will be working on a public blog – we'll share the site as soon as we have it going. We'll also be working on writing dramatic material. After three weeks of morning WordSmiths, we've missed having the whole group together!

Advanced Math Pull-Out Classes

The 6th grade advanced math pull-out class is working on a decimal unit. We have nearly mastered decimal operations and will start exploring radix numbers (decimals in different bases) and repeating decimals. 7th graders are working on ratios and proportions. We will soon begin working on compound interest, and will be doing a project where students get to spend a lot of money on credit cards, then figure out how much they will have to pay over time. 8th grade students are learning about functions as a way to think about relationships in algebra and will be researching interesting functions.

Gifted and Talented E-mail List

The Gifted and Talented E-mail list is growing! The list provides resources, interesting websites, and out-of-school opportunities for parents of students with particular talents and/or passions. If you would like to be on the list, send an e-mail to lisa_fontaine-rainen@bedford.k12.ma.us.

Out of School Resources

Hoagies' Gifted Education Page <http://www.hoagiesgifted.com>

This is an excellent resource page for parents and children in understanding the needs of gifted students. In particular, for this time of year, there is a great gift guide at http://www.hoagiesgifted.com/shopping_guide.htm.

French

Grade 6 French

6th grade French is working on fictional family trees using famous people or cartoon characters. These will be presented in class. They have been practicing various songs and have memorized many of them as well! They have just completed Leçon 2C which included possessive adjectives, family vocabulary and uses of the verb Avoir with age. We are now embarking on Leçon 3 which introduces days of the week, months and how to formulate dates in French. We will be creating two computer projects this quarter, Blabberize and Animoto. These are fun interactive programs designed by the student in French.

Grade 7 French

The 7th grade French classes are working hard and making wonderful progress. We are working on lesson 11 and learning about noun-adjective agreement and describing different nouns. The vocabulary in this unit focuses on articles generally found in and around the home. It is interesting to see some of the interesting combinations that the kids can come up with.

Bonnes vacances!

Grade 8 French

Bonjour tout le monde! The second year textbook is proving to be just the right challenge for the 8th grade class. We are finishing up Unit I and the test is this week. The class read “Chez les LaGrange” about what happens to a high school age girl who isn’t honest about where she’s going after supper. It has a really good message. We’ve also started using some authentic literature as warm-up activities. Last week the class took an oral on-line quiz. Check it out at lingtlanguage.com/eriksen.

Bonnes vacances!



Spanish

Spanish Grade 6

Spanish 6 students are studying Unit 1- Chapter 2 in the cultural context of San Antonio, Texas. They will be learning to describe others with the verb *ser* and adjectives of appearance and personality. They will be describing colors and clothing and expressing the likes and dislikes of other people. They will study the difference between definite and indefinite articles as they create sentences using noun and adjective agreement. They will experience and enjoy *la música tejana* along with other cultural and historical aspects of San Antonio in the connecting cultures section of our program.

Spanish Grade 7

The students are currently studying how to sequence events in a paragraph and how to say what they are going to do after school. They will be learning the regular -er and -ir verbs and the irregular verbs *hacer*, *conocer*, and *oír*. These subjects are in unit 2 chapter 3, the last chapter set in Mexico City. Our next unit will be focused on Puerto Rico

Spanish Grade 8

Students in Spanish 8 have been studying and practicing the art of bargaining for items sold at outdoor markets in Oaxaca, Mexico. Talking about shopping, making purchases and giving gifts are also embedded in this context. They have learned the vocabulary to describe many handicrafts and other items offered for sale at these outdoor markets. Grammar points include a group of *o>ue* stem changing verbs along with the review of the *e>ie* stem changing verbs studied during grade seven. Students are also reviewing the use and placement of indirect object pronouns.



The **JGMS PE Dept.** is always looking for sporting good donations. If you have any old or new equipment that you are looking to get rid of please contact us and we would be happy to pick it up. Items in particular that the department needs are baseball/softball gloves, tennis rackets and tennis balls, cardiovascular machines such as (ellipticals, treadmills, stationary bikes, and rowers), field hockey sticks, soccer balls, Frisbees and footballs. Thank you.

Kenneth Norling	Kenneth_Norling@bedford.k12.ma.us
Roseanne Ham	Roseanne_Ham@bedford.k12.ma.us
Libbey Beinert-Hunniwell	Libbey_Beinert@bedford.k12.ma.us

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The JGMS school newspaper is back! It will be advised by Ms. Salvucci and Mr. McGonagle. Students will be writing a monthly paper that will be published electronically on the JGMS website. Stories will discuss current events in and outside of school and give an insight into student life. Students in all grade levels are welcome to participate as writers and/or editors. Meetings will be held on the first full Wednesday of each month in the LGI.

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The students in grades six, seven and eight will take The GRADE reading test early the week of January 3rd. The nationally normed test will be administered over one to two class periods in each student's English class. The un-timed reading test assesses sentence comprehension, passage comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills. As part of the placement process approved last year by the Bedford School Committee the test will be used to identify specific reading strengths and weaknesses and assist in each student's English class placement for next year. The scores will be made available to parents in the spring of this school year.

Thank you.

See you after the break!

Lynda McGraw and Pat Stephen
English Dept. co-Curriculum Coordinators

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