## JGMS Principal's Newsletter September 2010

## Principal's Letter

## Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to a new school year! It’s great to have the kids back in school! They have come back refreshed and ready for a great year! I do want to tell you that both individually and collectively they have been fantastic! Our $6^{\text {th }}$ graders have acclimated themselves quickly and our $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ graders are serving as wonderful role models for them. I am looking forward to a great year!!!

I hope that you enjoyed Open House. Please remember that if you have any input on the new JGMS antibullying plan, I would love to hear from you. Also, if you are interested in joining our Accept the Challenge parent/school/community advisory group, please email me so that I can put you on the group's listserv.

I would like to invite you all to please sign up to receive both the JGMS daily announcements and eNewsletters. You will get the most up-to-date information that way. To sign up all you have to do is go to our school website (http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/jgms/) and click on the link below the picture. Also, while you are on the website, please spend some time clicking around, as there is much information available for parents and students. Please also visit my JGMS Principal's Corner blog for anti-bullying information. You may access this by going to the JGMS website and clicking on the "JGMS Principal's Corner" link.

I appreciate your involvement in your children's education and would like to invite you to the first "Coffee with the Administration" to be held on Thursday, October 28th from 8:00 to 9:00 in the library. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
P. Jayne Viladenis


## October 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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|  |  |  |  |  | 1(6) | 2 |
| 3 | 4(1) | 5(2) | $6(3)$ <br> 1/2 Day Teacher Wkshp. | 7(4) | 8(5) | 9 |
| 10 | 11 <br> No School Columbus Day | 12(6) | 13(1) | 14(2) | 15(3) | 16 |
| 17 | 18(4) | 19(5) | 20(6) | 21(1) | 22(2) | 23 |
| 24 | 25(3) | 26(4) | 27(5) | 28(6) | 29(1) | 30 |
| 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

Every year, The Middlesex District Attorney's Office in collaboration with your local school district sends out this letter to all parents of students in Middlesex County. Though students and their families face many challenges throughout the school year, one of the most important concerns we share is the need for consistent and timely school attendance for all students.

The consequences for failing to attend school are serious and well-documented. Truancy has been identified as a potential predictor of criminal behavior, drug use, and is often associated with lowered academic achievement, self-esteem, and even employment potential. In addition, several studies have found that a pattern of poor attendance in early grades is linked to an increased likelihood for dropping out of school in later years.

Parents and guardians, as well as students themselves, have the statutory responsibility to ensure that attendance at school is regular and timely. If a school identifies a student who is exhibiting an attendance problem, which includes tardiness, the school is required by law to address that problem. This could be as simple as notifying the parent or guardian and working together to improve that student's attendance. However, in extreme instances, it may require the school to solicit assistance from the Court or The Department of Children and Families.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to attendance. We encourage you to review this as well as your school's policy on attendance. Please feel free to contact the principal of your child's school should you wish to discuss this information further.

We all share the goal of enabling our students to reach their full potential, and that begins with a student's regular and timely attendance at school. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. We look forward to a successful school year!

Cordially,

> Superintendent,
$\qquad$
Gerard T. Leone, Jr. Middlesex District Attorney
$\qquad$
Principal, Public Schools

－Did you know that if your child was new to the Bedford Public Schools that they were invited to join the Newcomers＇Club？The sixth grade Newcomers＇Club meets during Advisory on day 6 with Ms．Daley（grade 6 Counselor），Mrs．Siegenthaler（grade 7／8 Counselor）and Mrs．Anderson（School Adjustment Counselor）． The 7th and 8th grade Newcomers＇Club has been meeting during Advisory on Day 1 with Ms．Daley（7 Purple Counselor），Mrs．Siegenthaler（7 Navy， 8 Grey and 8 Green Counselor and Mrs．Anderson．All the new stu－ dents have participated．
－We have had the opportunity to have a snack，share our stories about who we are，where we came from and why we moved to Bedford．These groups will give the students a chance to talk about how they are feeling about their move，how to go about connecting with other students and making new friends and how we can provide support for one another in the halls，the lunchroom and in classes！
－There was consensus that the best way to meet new people is to try to keep a smile on your face（even when your stomach is in a knot！），meet one person who then introduces you to their friends and join in activi－ ties in school or town where you have something in common with the other students．
－Ask your students about the group．We will continue to meet one time per 6 day cycle throughout the Fall． It is fun getting to know all of them！
－Joanna Daley（grade 6 Counselor，grade 7 Purple Counselor）
－Diana Siegenthaler（grade 7 Navy Counselor，grade 8 Green and grade 8 Grey Counselor）
－Renee Anderson（School Adjustment Counselor）


## Bedford＇s Got Talent

October 30th，3－5pm
Bedford High School Auditorium
Tickets＠www．bedfordeducation．org
$\$ 10$ adults／\＄7 seniors and under 18
Featured performers：
BHS Madrigal Singers
BHS Bellachord Singers
Christine Hamel BHS Class of＇90 and much，much more


The school year is underway and already I have students with sore throats, coughs, and colds. Please remember to keep your child home if he or she is ill. Remember to get flu shots. The vaccine is readily available this year. If your child develops a fever above 100.4 they should remain home. They may return to school after being fever free for 24 hours. Please let me know about cases of strep throat as I track the numbers.

A physical report is due for $6^{\text {th }}$ graders as well as students new to Bedford schools.
School wide Vision and Hearing Screening will take place in November.
Remember to schedule physicals for students who will try out for basketball. Sports physicals are valid for 13 months and are needed for try-outs as well.

Thanks to all parents who sent in required forms so promptly.
Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.
Carol Eaton, RN 781-275-3165

## JGMS Library News <br>  <br> Joan Collins Teacher Librarian

September 2010

## Library Activity

Fall began with wonderful discussions with our $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ grade students who read
Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix during the summer. Students brought their lunch to the library and talked about the many themes that impact the novel. Found is the first book in the author's new "The Missing Book" series. Her popular series, "The Shadow Children," remains high on middle school reading lists.

## Book Circulation

Teachers have brought their classes to the library to select books. We've checked out 768 books! Our students are busy reading.

Ms. Stephen and Ms Bemis brought their $8^{\text {th }}$ grade students to the library to select classics and challenging books. Eighth graders have rigorous outside reading expectations.

Ms. McGraw's $7^{\text {th }}$ graders selected historical fiction for their first book project. Students first discussed the important events in our history that stimulates authors to write stories set in a particular time period.

Two of Ms. D'Entremont's $7^{\text {th }}$ grade classes selected books that have won awards such as the Newbery Medal, National Book Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Printz Award. Three of Ms. D'Entremont's classes selected survival fiction.

Sixth graders were escorted to the library with SOS teachers, Ms. Wright and Ms. Pandre. We discussed how to check out books and locate books on the shelves.

Students scrutinized books from the outside to discover what they learn about that title before they checked them out.

## What Kids Are Reading

Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson \& the Olympians" series beginning with Lightning Thief is still popular with students.

Boys continue to look for the "Cherub" series by Robert Muchamore. Cherub agents are all 17 and under and are sent out on missions to spy on terrorists. Agents hack into computers, bug entire houses, and download crucial documents.


Girls are asking for books by Sara Shepard. "The Pretty Little Liars" series is hot at the moment. Vampire fever has died down.

Suzanne Collins’ "The Hunger Games Trilogy" is very popular. Set in the future, the nation of Panem consists of a shining Capitol surrounded by 12 districts that are forced to remain in a primitive condition. Main character 16-year old Katniss must participate in the annual Hunger Games, a survivor/gladiator-type televised event.


## Grade 8

The school year is off to a fantastic start for the eighth grade class as the Class of 2015 arrived motivated with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. The one hundred and ninety four members of the eighth class have set the right tone for the whole building and we are looking forward to a productive and fun year.

As you may already know, eighth grade has two distinct, yet parallel teams of teachers and students: Green and Grey. This concept of two parallel teams, we believe, allows students to make stronger academic and social connections within a smaller grouping while the staff has the opportunity to develop a more cohesive and collaborative instructional approach across teams.

Thank you as well to all of the parents who attended our Open House on September 30th. We had a great turnout and appreciate your involvement and support.

## Staff Members for the Green Team:

Joe Casey (Social Studies, Team Leader)
Vanessa Mangini (Math)
Barbara Ferri (Science)
Pat Stephen (English)
Rachel LeBlanc (Reading)
Beth Rozek (Special Education)
Diana Siegenthaler (Counselor)
Tammy Westenfeld (Special Education)
And a special welcome to our new Special Education liaison, Mr. Constantine Georgopoulos, who joins us from the Reading Public Schools.

## Staff Members for the Grey Team:

Charlie Puopolo (Science, Team Leader)
Sara Berinato (Math)
Marilyn Bemis (English)
James Nagle (Social Studies)
Rachel LeBlanc (Reading)
Fern Thompson (Special Education)
Michelle DelaValle (Special Education)
Kristen Gibbons (Special Education)
Diana Siegenthaler (Guidance)
Robin Eriksen (French), Terri Mills ( Spanish) and Wendy Tanahashi- Works ( Spanish) all teach students from both Teams.

At any time if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, do not hesitate to contact any of the above Team members.


In the $7^{\text {th }}$ grade, students will design, build, and test $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ cars during 1st term. On graph paper, students will design $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ cars that adhere to design challenge constraints. First, the car design will be cut on the bandsaw. Students will use the drill press in order to make axle holes in their cars. Next, students will file, sand, and paint their cars.
Throughout this unit, students will develop skills and knowledge to prepare them for the engineering section of the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Science $\&$ Technology/Engineering MCAS. To prepare students for the MCAS, students will study the engineering design process, tools/machines, and transportation systems.

In the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade, students will design home floor plans during $1^{\text {st }}$ term. Using computer home design software, students will develop an understanding of construction technology. Throughout this unit, students will develop skills and knowledge to prepare them for the engineering section of the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Science $\&$ Technology/Engineering MCAS. To prepare students for the MCAS, students will study the engineering design process, tools/machines, and Technology Systems.

## Spanish 6

Students have been introduced to Spanish speaking communities in the United States and throughout the world. After a scavenger hunt in the book they have become familiar with the organization of each unit and chapter. They have practiced pronunciation of vowels and the Spanish alphabet. They have also created a bookmark of useful classroom expressions. Students are learning the new vocabulary of Unit 1-Chapter 1 of our Spanish program and learning to converse with formal and familiar greetings. This is taking place in the cultural context of Miami, Florida.

## Spanish 7

In grade 7 Spanish we are beginning the next chapter, unit 2 chapter 2, in which the students learn to talk about the places in school and schedules. We talk about where people are, where they are going, and times. The geographical context continues to be in Mexico City.

## Spanish 8

Students have been reviewing Unit 3- Chapter 3 of our Spanish program.
They are reviewing weather and special expressions with tener, the present progressive tense and the use of direct object pronouns. They are describing clothing and accessories, saying what is happening at the moment, stating an opinion and describing how they feel. All of these activities take place in the cultural context of Puerto Rico.
Students recently started Unit 4- Chapter 1 which takes place in Oaxaca, Mexico. They are learning to identify places in the city, give addresses, choose transportation and ask for and give directions. Students are studying the verbs decir and salir and prepositions of place. They have been enjoying some cultural aspects of Oaxaca through music, dance,photographs and handicrafts.

Grade 6 French

In $6^{\text {th }}$ grade French we have just reviewed the numbers 1-10, basic greetings and the alphabet. We had our first quiz and oral dictation. We have presented mini skits in French using our greetings. We have had some fun singing French songs karaoke style with Frère Jacques and other favorites. We are also learning some songs that incorporate the grammar points from our textbook. We enjoyed watching some cartoons from Québec as well as a children's show from Telefrançais.

## Grade 7 French

Welcome back to school! Our wonderful summer weather provided the opportunity for a more relaxed schedule and time to spend time with our families. We are moving right along in our wonderful new textbook and materials. Currently, we are finishing up unit 3 (lesson 8). We've been learning to ask information questions, ask questions using inversion, and to use the ubiquitous verb "faire" and some of its idiomatic expressions, e.g. to go for a walk, to take a trip, to pay attention.

## Grade 8 French

Welcome back to school! Our wonderful summer weather certainly allowed our families time to rejuvenate and enjoy a more relaxing schedule. This fall we are doing something different and more challenging. At the suggestion of last year's $8^{\text {th }}$ grade class, we started this school year at the beginning of the second year book in the French series, Discovering French Nouveau - Blanc. (Formerly, we'd finish DFN-Bleu and start the new book at lesson 13.) The beginning of Blanc is a good blend of reviewing familiar material along with adding more current vocabulary. We just had a quiz on lesson one which melded greetings, nationalities, and professions. Today we start lesson two which focuses on being able to describe people and things with both regular and irregular adjectives. Should be fun!

Welcome to the $7^{\text {th }}$ grade! It has been a great start to the school year and the $7^{\text {th }}$ graders are adjusting quite well to their second year of middle school. Students can look forward to a year filled with exciting challenges and unique learning opportunities.

We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the $7^{\text {th }}$ grade teachers on both teams.

## Navy Team

Nicole d'Entremont—English
Karen Burstein-Math
Heidi Scaltreto-Science
Matthew McGonagle—Social Studies
Fern Thompson-Special Ed.
Constantine Georgopoulos-Special Ed.
Michelle Della Valle-Special Ed.
Diana Siegenthaler-Guidance
Renee Anderson-Guidance

## Purple Team

Lynda McGraw—English
Elizabeth Cowles-Math
Bradd Smithson-Science
Allison Hammer—Social Studies
Beth Rozek—Special Ed.
David Malio-Special Ed. Math
Cheryl Pespisa—Special Ed. English
Joanna Daley-Guidance
Renee Anderson-Guidance

There are also teachers who teach both Navy and Purple students in French, Spanish, and Reading. They are Robin Eriksen, Wendy Tanahashi-Works, Bonnie Klein, Barbara Barnett, Robin Talkowski, Alison Breaux, and Rachel Leblanc

The Team Leader for the Navy Team is Fern Thompson.
The Team Leader for the Purple Team is Allison Hammer.
If you need to schedule a team meeting or have a concern to convey to the entire team, please email the Team Leader for your team.

Here is a brief update on what has been going on in classes:
Math
$7^{\text {th }}$ grade is using the McDougal-Littell book series this year. Students in Pre-Algebra use Math Course 3 and students in $7^{\text {th }}$ Grade Math use Math Course 2. The books should remain at home. There are supplemental materials supporting each chapter at www.classzone.com. Students have received usernames and passwords for access to the online textbook. In Pre-Algebra, students are learning about variables, equations, and integers. Students will start working on their graphing project beginning in October. In $7^{\text {th }}$ Grade Math, students are learning about patterns and Algebraic thinking.

English
Students have been reading, writing and reflecting! They started this year by reading a short story about a nightmarish first day of school in hopes that no matter how our students' years began, they could not compare to the poor soul in the story. They thought about how a person looks at life, half full or half empty. Also, stu-
students wrote a friendly letter in which they shared interesting things about themselves and their goals for English this year. In addition, students have expanded their vocabularies, and reviewed the parts of speech with the Word Generation program. Students were also assigned a book project that is due toward the end of the quarter. After reading a few short stories, students will begin a folklore unit beginning with famous fables along with their own created fables showing understanding of fables and some creative writing skills. Their fables will demonstrate the life lessons they have learned so far.

## Science

In science students have been learning about what life science is all about and what kinds of things life scientists study. In addition they have learned the six characteristics all living things share.

## Social Studies

Students have begun their study of archaeology and are answering 'Who and what define history?' which is the essential question for this unit. Students have been learning about prehistory, culture, different types of sources, and how to distinguish between a fact, inference, and opinion. Students watched a National Geographic video focusing on the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius to help them see how archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians evaluate and interpret the sources they find to put together the story of the past. Students had their first quiz during the week of September 27. Each student has been given a textbook, called A Message of Ancient Days, so that it can be used for homework assignments. Students should not bring the textbook to school, but should keep it in a safe place at home.

Open House is this Thursday, September 30 beginning at $6: 00$ with a presentation in the auditorium. We look forward to meeting you on Thursday night.

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As a grade, we are quite pleased with the transition that students have made. Almost everyone has mastered using his/her locker, although we might suggest stopping by after school for a quick organizing session. How do you know if your child may need this? Look at his or her room. This may indicate the state of his or her locker. Our students are also adapting to the routine of changing classes and following a six day schedule. We are pleased with how quickly this has happened. Each teacher feels that this year is off to a wonderful start!

## Field Trips

Both teams will be taking a field trip on Friday October 8. We will be thrilled to look at the changing colors of Autumn and make some scientific inferences about what this may mean. We will note our inferences in some descriptive writing we will do as we use our map skills to find our way around the fields of the areas in which we live, work, and play. Please remember to have your son or daughter dress appropriately for a walk in the woods on this day.

## Agendas

Both teams would like to remind parents to check in each night with your child to see whether homework is complete and sign the agenda when you are finished. Thanks! This will help keep you better informed and will help your son/daughter complete all homework. Remember, we will only be stamping agendas for the first term. After that, it is up to students to remember to record their homework accurately.

## Curriculum Updates

Science
In science we've been working on basic science skills such as making observations and using the metric system to make measurements. Over the next few weeks we'll be using these skills as we begin to design experiments and collect and analyze data. See if you can work the words hypothesis, analysis, and data collection into a conversation. You child will know not only what these words mean, but also how they are essential to the scientific process.

## Social Studies

We are beginning our unit on world geography by reviewing and introducing basic skills of geography as covered by the five themes. We are excited to be able to locate places using latitude and longitude and to know what makes a place or a region unique. Eventually, our studies will begin by taking a closer look at Africa.

## English

In English, we are beginning a review of the parts of speech by studying nouns. We are learning the power of words and what a difference language can make when just the right words are selected. In our first unit, we will learn to use our words to describe the world around us or the world that exists in our imagination. Awesome, good, great, bad, amazing are wonderful words, but what do they really tell us? Push your son or daughter to be more specific in describing the wonderful dinner you have prepared for him/her/them!

Mathematics
Is 2025 divisible by 3? Your son or daughter should know. We have been studying division and divisibility
rules. We are now moving into order of operations. Math is off to a great start this year.

## SOS

We are off to a great start in SOS as we learn to be more active readers. Paying attention to all of the text on the page and why it is there is the first step in becoming a strong reader. Please engage your student and ask him or heNotes from the Gifted and Talented and Differentiation Instruction Program

## Gifted and Talented E-mail List

All parents and students are invited to sign-up to receive e-mails from Lisa Fontaine-Rainen regarding opportunities particularly appropriate for gifted students, both in and out of school. Lisa will send out information on opportunities in the area, school events, and anything else that might be of interest. Please send an e-mail to lisa_fontaine-rainen@bedford.k12.ma.us to get on the list! For the past couple years, this list has been too small to be very useful - if more than 15 parent join this year, we'll keep it going.

## Gifted and Talented Programming through Differentiation

Students with particular gifts and talents have many opportunities to learn and excel at JGMS. Many of these opportunities are provided in the regular classroom, through differentiation. Teachers provide students with challenging options in the context of the regular curriculum, based on student needs and interests. The Gifted and Talented and Differentiated Instruction Teacher, Lisa Rainen, provides support to teachers on differentiation. Feel free to contact the classroom teachers if you feel your child needs additional challenge.

## Advanced Mathematics

Mathematics can be particularly challenging to differentiate. We acknowledge that some students need a qualitatively different mathematics curriculum on a daily basis. These needs change throughout the year, based largely on readiness. One way we work to meet these needs is to pre-test students in mathematics for every unit, and provide alternate curriculum to some students who show the need for more advanced work. The advanced math pull-out classes work on units that parallel the regular curriculum, taking it deeper and to a more challenging level. For the first unit of $6^{\text {th }}$ grade, the pull-out class has worked with expressing numbers as powers of other numbers, become masters of estimation of all kinds, and learned the "why" behind divisibility rules. The first $7^{\text {th }}$ grade unit focuses on the concepts of patterns and includes writing patterns algebraically, using integers in patterns, and solving equations that represent patterns. The $8^{\text {th }}$ grade class extends the regular algebra text with more challenging problems, as well as with extensions on sets of numbers.

## MathCounts

The JGMS math competition program, MathCounts, meets after school on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 in room B218. Students participating in MathCounts will compete in many competitions, including the American Mathematics Competition for grade 8 and below (AMC 8), the Collaborative Problem Solving Contest, Math Olympiad, and MathCounts. Each of these competitions will engage students' mathematical talents in differ-
ent ways, including individual speed competitions, extended problem solving, team competitions, and head-tohead problem solving. All students are invited to train and compete. Any student who cannot attend some meetings due to conflicts with sports or other activities should contact Lisa Fontaine-Rainen to be put on the email list and to get information on how to stay competitive and join when they are able.

## WordSmiths

School Scrabble has expanded! With the goal of providing a place for students to stretch their verbal talents, WordSmiths has come into being. Students who wish to continue with School Scrabble, including competition training, are welcome to make every WordSmiths session into Scrabble. Other students may come wanting to workshop writing, do word puzzles, play with poetry, play other word games, discuss books, or anything else with our language that appeals. Students can come with something in mind they'd like to do, or can come see what others are doing and join. WordSmiths meets after school on Wednesdays (and before school on Wednesday half-days) in A117. The program is run under the umbrella of Youth and Family Services After School Program, with additional meetings before and between sessions, and field trips for competitions. Students are welcome to come try out School Scrabble until the After School Program schedule starts and decide if they would like to sign up.

## Gifted and Talented and Differentiated Instruction at Open House

Lisa Fontaine-Rainen will have information for parents at Open House on Thursday, September $30^{\text {th }}$. During blocks 2, 3, and the final block she will be with the regular math teachers to share information on the math pull -out programming. During all other periods, parents can come get information on the GTDI program in the library.

## Out of School Resources

MIT SPLASH http://esp.mit.edu/learn/Splash/index.html
SPLASH is an incredible opportunity for students who love to learn or who have particular passions or talents. It runs every year on the MIT campus on the weekend before Thanksgiving - this year on November $20^{\text {th }}$ and $21^{\text {st }}$. Students in grades 7-12 can sign up for a very low cost to take up to 16 hours of courses over two days on almost any topic imaginable. Courses range from yoga and knitting to decisive battles in history and the mathematics of knots. Registration begins in early November and some classes fill up fast, so it's worth keeping tabs on the website! This is a really fantastic opportunity, so mark your calendars now to ensure you don't miss it! Please let Ms. Fontaine-Rainen know if cost or transportation is an issue. SPLASH is highly recommended!

## CTY Talent Search www.cty.jhu.edu

Students who have scored at the advanced level on any of their most recent MCAS are invited to participate in the Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. Students in $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ grade will take either the SAT or the ACT tests, typically given to college bound juniors and seniors. Students in $6^{\text {th }}$ grade will take the SCAT (School and College Ability Test). Participation in the CTY Talent Search can lead to recognition, qualification for additional CTY programming, and, at the $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ grade level, scholarships to local colleges to be used to take courses before high school graduation. The deadline for applications is November $20^{\text {th }}$. If you would like information to be sent home with your child, please e-mail Lisa Fontaine-Rainen at lisa_fontainerainen@bedford.k12.ma.us. You can also get more information on the CTY website listed above.


The Middle School Parent Association (MSPA) is in need of volunteers for a few of our positions this year. The commitments are not long and the Executive Board assists with the coordination of the positions and events.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know the J GMS staff and fellow parents!

## Teacher Luncheons:

During the course of the year on 3-4 different half days, MSPA sponsors teacher lunches. The Chair plans the menu (from restaurants usually), solicits donations, coordinates and schedules volunteers to help set up and clean up at each lunch. If you don't want to be a Chair of this committee, we still need you to help on the actual half-day luncheons for an hour or two!

## Newsletter:

MSPA puts out a newsletter both electronically and via the J GMS students through their Advisory class. No specialized skills needed but creativity and computer savvy a plus!

## Library:

Coordinate volunteers on an as-needed basis to shelf books and other duties requested by the library staff.

## Gardens:

Assist our new Chair, Shaheen Bossi, with garden projects/planting one or two times a year, as needed to beautify our great school!

## Good Cheer:

Make Welcome bags/ baskets for new hires at J GMS or new students to Bedford. Also, as needed, respond to school community members who are facing personal difficulties through a cheerful gift or donation of financial support.

## Magazine Drive:

A Co-Chair is needed to assist our Chair, Lisa Bowers for this J GMS fundraiser (benefits the school directly, not MSPA). This involves help in September and early October to check and tabulate magazine orders for each advisory group and grade. Additionally, approximately 25 volunteers are needed to work 1-2 hour shifts in the mornings between 10:30 and 1:00 pm on Friday, 9/24, Tuesday 9/28 and

Thursday $9 / 30$ to take the orders from the J GMS students.

## Moving On:

$8^{\text {TH }}$ GRADE PARENTS - Become a part of the big Moving On ceremony in the spring when we send off the $8^{\text {th }}$ graders to the High School. A Chair (or Co-Chairs) will plan and coordinate the big event/ dance/ dinner and recruit additional volunteers to help.

To sign up, see an MSPA representative at the table during Open House where we will be selling J GMS STUDENT DIRECTORIES or contact MSPA Co-Presidents Annette Brown or Lita Verrier

Annette Brown: C: 781-775-9168 pgbanb@comcast.net
Lita Verrier: C: 781-775-8892 lverrier@rmkb.com

