



CATONSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(April) 2009

From the Principal

Dear CMS Families,

Spring is in the air in Catonsville, and the community will be in full bloom again this year as a result of the annual PTSA mulch sale, which took place on March 27-28, 2009. It was gratifying to see so many parents, students, and staff members, and neighbors working together to deliver the 12,000+ bags of mulch to our customers. This is traditionally the fundraiser that creates the most profit for the PTSA, and this year was no exception. Thank you to Mrs. Beth Reymann for organizing this incredibly successful fundraiser for our school and to the PTSA for all their support.

NorthBay Adventure (Grade 6):

By the time you receive this letter, our sixth graders will have returned from their one week trip to the NorthBay Outdoor Education Center. The NorthBay program is aligned with the Maryland

Voluntary State Curriculum and gives students an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities that help them to learn about environmental issues and scientific principles—specifically those that pertain to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I would like to thank Mrs. Feeney, Mr. Dungey, and the entire team of sixth grade teachers and other teacher and parent chaperones who donated their time and talents to ensure a successful trip to NorthBay.

Music Notes (Pun Intended):

Spring is also a time when music is in the air at Catonsville Middle School. The area feeder elementary schools and our sixth graders just performed together in the annual side-by-side concert. In May, each performing group will have its spring concert as well. (See calendar below for specific dates.) Additionally, all of our festival groups (choir, band, and orchestra) received a superior rating at the county-wide adjudications. Each group will perform at the

state adjudication festivals in May.

Important News for 8th Grade Families

After the music concerts, the end of the school year will be right around the corner. Parents of eighth grade students, please see the list of upcoming events below and save the dates for the eighth grade dance, the farewell assembly, and eighth grade field day. (Please note that the field day date has changed from the one that was originally posted on our web site and in our tri-fold pamphlet.)

Speaking of the 8th grade farewell assembly, there are some changes this year that you should know. For several years, the 8th grade farewell assembly has been held at Catonsville High School. The assembly was moved there because the auditorium at the high school was (believe it or not!) a cooler temperature than our gymnasium. This year, the high school is undergoing extensive renovations, and this has precluded us

STAFF

Michael Thorne
Principal

Tina Morroni
Assistant Principal

Michelle Feeney
Assistant Principal

Norma Cunniff
Administrative Secretary

Kim Palacios
Front Desk Secretary

Sue Mike
Counseling Secretary

Christine Fultz
Counseling Chairperson

Deborah Margulies
School Counselor

Kristi Lowman
School Nurse
410-887-1087

Office: 410-887-0803
Fax: 410-887-1036
Guidance: 410-887-0807
Parent Conferences:
410-887-0864

The next PTSA Board

Meeting is

in the library.

All are welcome!

from holding our assembly there. However, over the past two years, the middle school was renovated as well, and as a result, our gymnasium is now air-conditioned. We now have bleachers that provide us with additional seating as well. For these reasons, the PTSA farewell assembly committee, the 8th grade teachers, and the administration decided to bring the assembly back home to Catonsville Middle School this year. We believe this change will provide the parents and students with a more comfortable experience, and since it will be held in our own building, we will also have greater control over the sound system and other logistics as well. I am grateful to our PTSA farewell assembly committee for their input in this decision.

In the past, we have also had some students who had difficulty coming to the school in the evening. We want every student to participate in the farewell assembly, therefore, we are holding the assembly during the school day this year. The committee also reported that the assembly tended to last a very long time in the past. We will shorten our farewell assembly to approximately 90 minutes by awarding certificates to students during the school day on a date prior to the farewell assembly. Furthermore, last year we did not have enough seating to accommodate the parents and family members of our students. As a result, we will issue two tickets per family this year. Tickets will be given to students during the school day the week prior to the assembly. We understand that not all families are organized the same way and that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances in families that may necessitate requesting an extra ticket or two. When tickets are sent home, we will also send contact information to assist families that may have a need for one or two extra tickets. Rest assured that we will do our best to accommodate all parents and legal guardians at this assembly.

Final Thoughts

As always, thank you for sending us such terrific children every day. Because of all the work you do with your children at home, our school is so successful. In fact, in April, Catonsville Middle School was recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education for outstanding student achievement on last year's Maryland School Assessment. Only four middle schools in the entire Baltimore County Public Schools district were recognized. We are very fortunate to be a part of the Catonsville Community.

Sincerely,

*Michael Thorne
Principal*

PTSA President

The PTSA was very busy this year raising money, spending money and helping the students and staff at CMS to become successful. None of what we accomplished could have been done without our dedicated members and volunteers who make it all work. THANK YOU to everyone who got involved at CMS this year. You know who you are and YOU are the reason our PTSA is successful.

If you want more information about what the PTSA does throughout the year I encourage you to visit our website, sign up for our eSchoolnewsletters and visit the school.

On behalf of our PTSA I'd like to thank the administration of Catonsville Middle School. Mr. Thorne, Mrs. Morroni and Mrs. Feeney are the best. We are also grateful to Mrs. Willis, who was our PTSA teacher liaison this year, and to all the teachers and staff at CMS. We are lucky to have all of them.

Lastly, the PTSA sends well wishes

to all the 8th grade students moving on to high school in the fall and we send a fond farewell to the families leaving CMS for the last time. I hope you're leaving with some wonderful memories of the past three years (or longer).

It was a real pleasure being PTSA president this year and I look forward to doing it again in 2009-2010.

Sincerely,

Dianne Eff

School Café

Did you know that if your child has free or reduced lunch that they can also get free or reduced breakfast? We have both hot and cold breakfasts every full day of school.

At lunch we have a deli line where you chose what you want on your sub, we also have two hot food lines where we have a least five to seven different choices daily.

Then there are the snacks. We have snacks every day on all the food lines and in the vending machines, but it is against our policy to sell snacks to anyone who owes the cafeteria money. That money must be put towards their debt. We will lend money for lunch only but it must be paid back to us the next day. If your child abuses this courtesy we will no longer lend them money, but we will give them cereal and milk. No child will go hungry.

Congratulations to Catonsville's Destination Imagination Teams!!

Both teams took 1st place at the North Central Regional Tournament on March 7th at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute! Cheer them on at the State Tournament on April 18th at Towson University!

Improvinitors:

Emma Clark, Mia Decker, Dyan Ordakowski (CMS)
Sukayna Elhani (Sudbrook), Peyton Hoffmaster (Fairhaven)

Wild Things:

Alex Armbruster, Aiden Callahan, James Callahan, Alice Xie (CMS)
Gillian Gonder (Sudbrook), Harris Rasheed (Al-Rahmah)

April

- 20-24 6th Grade Trip to North Bay
- 24 Market Day Internet Orders Due by Noon
- 27 Report Cards Distributed
- 28 Science MSA—Grade 8
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- 30 Market Day Pick Up in the CMS Café from 7-8 pm
Side-by-Side Concert (5th Grade and 6th Grade) 7:00 pm at CMS in Gym

May

- 5 Hoops for Heart (Grades 6 and 7) 3:00-4:00pm
- 6 Hoops for Heart (Grade 8) 3:00-4:00pm
- 8 8th Grade Panoramic Picture 8:30-9:00am
- 12 School Improvement Team Meeting 3:00 pm in Faculty Room
- 13 5th Grade Visitation 7:00-9:00 pm in CMS Gym
- 15 4th Quarter Interims
- 18 HSA Testing/Mod-HSA Testing —Algebra
- 19 Chorus Concert, Grades 6th, 7th & 8th 7:00pm
- TBD PTSA General Assembly Meeting & Elections 7:00pm
- 20 Orchestra Concert, Grades 6th, 7th & 8th 7:00pm
Market Day Paper Orders Due
Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00-5:00pm
- 21 Band Concert, Grades 6th, 7th & 8th 7:00pm
- 22 Market Day Internet Orders Due by Noon
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday—Schools Closed
- 26 Market Day Internet Orders Due by Noon
- 27 National Junior Honor Society Induction 7:00 pm in Gym
- 28 Market Day Pick Up in the CMS Café from 7-8pm
- 30 Festival Band, Orchestra and Chorus competition and Hersey Trip

June

- 3 Coffee House at 7:00pm
- 5 8th Grade Dance
- 8 1/2 if 7th Grade to Visit Calvert Cliffs Park
6th Grade Field
- 9 1/2 if 7th Grade to Visit Calvert Cliffs Park
8th Grade Field Day
- 10 7th Grade Field Day
- 11 8th Grade Farewell Assembly Rehearsal (1:03-2:45pm)
- 12 8th Grade Awards Assembly in the Catonsville Middle School Gymnasium(10:00-11:30am)
- 16 School Closes 3 hours early! @ 11:45am
- 17 School Closes 3 hours early! @ 11:45am
Market Day Paper Orders Due
- 18 Last Day of School—School Closes 3 hours early! @ 11:45 am
Report Cards Distributed
- 19 Market Day Internet Orders Due by Noon
- 25 Market Day Pick Up in the CMS Café from 7-8pm

Note: The Board of Education has not yet voted on whether or not the last day of school will be changed due to unused snow days. When a decision has been made about the last day of school, we will send a ConnectedED telephone message and an eSchoolNewsletter message to let you know.

PTSA President

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