

# Shelby Middle School

Positive Attitudes Welcome Success

Jeff Eichorn, Principal  
Chris Zuercher, Guidance Counselor

January 2012

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

My first words in the last newsletter that you received in early December were, "Wow," in regards to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This month I think the word that comes to my mind, and probably several of yours as well is, "pew." I say this as the month of December brought us the nervousness that the Black Fork may spill out of its banks once again, as well as the nervousness that we might not get all of the holiday shopping done before our December 25<sup>th</sup> deadline. However, thankfully the Black Fork stayed at bay, and while we might not have found each and every item we wanted to give to our family and friends, hopefully everyone was able to breath a sigh of relief, (pew) and truly enjoy the holiday season with those that you love.

In staying with the theme of "pew," I guess I also ponder, "what if all of this rain would have been snow over the course of the last couple of weeks?" Well, we know what that would have meant, several feet of snow, and probably several days off of school, which in my opinion, it's way too early to be accumulating snow days. Where I am going with this is that I want to make sure all of you are aware that the State of Ohio has granted an additional three calamity days (on top of the normal five calamity days) for districts that have approved "on-line learning days." You may have also heard these three days be referred to as "Blizzard Bag Days," which is in reference to those students that do not have internet access readily available to them, bringing their assignments home in a hard copy form. Thus, on snow days #6, #7, and #8, students are expected to log onto Progressbook, or their teachers Weebly or Moodle pages, and complete the daily assignments that their teachers have posted for the day. As I mentioned before, those students that do not have internet access, may be provided hard copies of this assignment by their teachers prior to an anticipated snow day, or given to the student upon the return to school, which will extend the opportunity for learning to continue during these three additional days. Therefore, education is still taking place on days #6, #7, and #8, which allows us from not having to make these days up at the end of the year. If any of you have any questions about this policy that the Ohio Department of Education has created, please don't hesitate to contact me, and I will try and answer any questions you might have.

Now, moving past the snow, and looking forward to the spring, I want to also remind you about two important pieces that deal with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington D.C. trip. First, just a reminder that if you have Box Tops to cash in, they must be turned in by January 27<sup>th</sup>, in order for them to be applied to this years trip. Second, please remember that a \$100.00 down payment must be made on or before February 14<sup>th</sup> for any student or chaperone that is planning on attending this annual trip to Washington D.C.

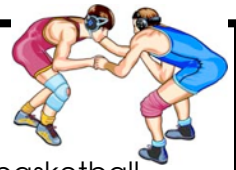
Finally, I want to thank all of you for everything you have done for your children over the course of this school year. The words of encouragement and the time you spend with your children as they complete their homework, or help them study for a test, is truly appreciated by not only your student, but all of us at SMS. Each and every one of you are a key part in your child's education. So to that I applaud you, and say thank you once again. Oh, and please don't forget, our grading period ends (1<sup>st</sup> semester-Hurrah) on January 13<sup>th</sup>, so keep that encouragement rolling!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Have a great break!!!!!! And when I can ever be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to get a hold of me. Happy Holidays!!!!!!!!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR





# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



December starts a busy season of winter sports contests at SMS. Girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling are all in full swing. After five games, our 7th grade girls' basketball team is 4-1 and our 8th grade girls are 1-4. The boys are a week behind and have only played four games to this point. The 7th grade boys are 2-2. Our wrestlers have competed in three events to this point. They have finished strong in all three. As we get into the busy part of our athletic schedules, we expect continued success from all of our teams.



Since grade cards for the second nine weeks come out in the middle of the winter sports season, parents are reminded that academics are more important than sports. The end of the 2nd nine weeks will be January 13, 2012. Please encourage your child to do his/her best in all subjects. Your child could become ineligible for wrestling, basketball or cheerleading in the middle of the season. A student must be passing 5 classes and maintain a 1.0 grade point average (D) to remain eligible for athletics.

On a similar note, parents are reminded that in order to participate, students must be in school at least half the day on a game day. This means that your child must be at school by 10:40 AM or he/she cannot participate that day. This time limit is strictly enforced. The same rule applies on Fridays for any Saturday contest.

Directions to schools are on the computer. All away basketball games are played at the middle schools unless there is a note on the computer website. If parents need directions to area schools for contests, check the website or call Mr. Walter at 419-342-6587. Thanks and have a great holiday season!



**SAVE your PULL TABS  
for the  
PUMA TEAM**



**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!**

## SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

If you have not signed up for the Shelby City Schools Notification System, and would like to receive text messages in regards to important school information, please sign up on the district website by clicking on the school house. We are now up to 236 contact numbers!!!! That's 20 more than last month!!!!!!

### Upcoming Events:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School: January 16th**
- **January 27<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to turn in Box Tops for Education**
- **February 1<sup>st</sup>: Early Release: 12:30 PM**
- **Parent Teacher Conferences: February 15th from 3:00-7:00**
- **Presidents Day: No School: February 20<sup>th</sup>**



# GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Happy New Year, we are half way done with the school year. Wow, we have done a lot already with job and career education and we have more things on the way. We will go over the results of the EXPLORE tests with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the first two weeks of January. Mr. Zuercher will also meet one-on-one with the students who are in the 90 percentile or higher to explain the results. If any student wants a more thorough explanation of the results, they can see Mr. Zuercher on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

The beginning of January we have Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Sorenson coming in for 2 days, for each 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, to talk to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes about careers. They will be working with the OCIS system online. The students will complete interest surveys on the computers. In return, the answers that they put down will give groups of jobs that the students might be interested in. It lets the students know the education that they would need for the job, the amount of years in college, starting salary, etc.... When they get to high school they will continue to work on job opportunities. The information that they have from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade OCIS will follow them to the high school. This way they can look back to see what they were interested in each year to their senior year and help narrow their choice of careers.

Then in February, we will start with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling. Mr. Merickel and Mr. Madison will talk to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in science class about Project Lead the Way. This is a series of classes for students who like math/science or are thinking about a career in engineering. A week later, Mrs. Stefaniuk, a high school counselor, will come over and talk with the students about the scheduling process. Also, Mr. Grady, a high school counselor, will have a night where he will talk to the students and parents about scheduling for high school. That date is Tuesday, February 21st at 7:30 PM at the senior high school in the David Jones Theater.



## BEARS TEAM

BEARS Science students have been in the Sci Tech lab quite a bit lately. We have looked at the solar system, planetary movements, the moon, and the moon's phases. We also have finished studying seasons and their causes. Predictable motions of the earth and other objects in space create a sense of order within our universe.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies, students have finished studying the Constitution. One thing they learned was there is a lot of information and details to go with it. Hopefully, they learned some of the basic structure of the government and some responsibilities that pertain to it. I know the next four years they will continue looking into the running of the government and other important concepts that go into the running of this country. The next step was to see how the people put the concepts of the Constitution into motion. Things such as electing a president, congress, or even the beginning of political parties. The last event we studied before Christmas break was part of the expansion of the U.S. with the Louisiana Purchase. Lewis and Clark led an expedition to see what was in the territory we purchased from France. When we return from break we will start with the War of 1812 and talk about a number of symbols that came along with the war.

**Happy Holidays and enjoy your break!!!**

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR



## SCHOOL CANCELLATION

**Tune into the following stations  
to check for  
closings and delays**

WYHT - 105.3 FM  
WMAN - 1400 AM  
WNCO - 1340 AM  
WNCO - 102.3 FM  
WVNO - 106.1 FM  
WMFD - TV MANSFIELD  
FOX 8 and CHANNEL 3  
TV stations  
out of Cleveland



## CHIEFS TEAM



The CHIEFS' math students will begin work with area, surface area, and volume when the new year begins. When we have finished this geometry unit, we will move on to data analysis. Please remind your student to work online with "Skills Tutor". They have all their log-on information. This website can be found on the Shelby website. On the top of the page, where it says "Student Online", they will find "Skills Tutor SMS". This is where they begin. They should be working here at least 20 minutes per week.

When the Chiefs get back from Christmas break, we will continue working with the parts of speech. Then we will be reviewing figurative language. After the first semester is over, we will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. The students will have regular reading assignments, followed by discussions and worksheets. While reading this book, I will emphasize finding main idea, recalling facts and details, recognizing cause and effect, making predictions and finding word meanings from context clues. It is very important that your students complete any homework assignments for my class. Low grades are mostly due to incomplete homework and not writing papers. If you have any questions, please contact me at 419-347-5451.



## BOX TOPS!

**SMS is collecting them.  
The next collection date  
is January 27th**

Box Tops can be turned into the office at anytime and those that are received by January 27th will go towards individual student accounts to be used for their Cedar Point trip or Washington D.C. trip. After this date, Box Tops will be applied to the general expenses of the 8th grade D.C. trip and not to individual accounts.

SMS Box Tops for the DC trip is now on Facebook. Please check us out at the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shelby-Middle-School-Box-Tops-for-Education-DC-for-free-page/266411146717918>

## DESTINATION TO STARDOM

### TRYOUTS

Saturday, January 7th - 10:00 AM - Noon

Sunday, January 8th - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Once you have tried out - it is not necessary to stay the entire time.

Please remember to bring your music to audition!



**NO SCHOOL  
PRESIDENTS DAY  
MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 20th**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST  
EARLY RELEASE FOR  
STUDENTS  
12:30 PM**

**NO SCHOOL  
MARTIN LUTHER  
KING DAY  
MONDAY,  
JANUARY 16th**





## MUSTANGS TEAM

In January, the Mustang's math classes will tackle percents and proportions and then begin a unit on gathering, displaying, and analyzing statistics. Students will be creating, by hand, several new types of graphs that they might not be familiar with. They also will use spreadsheet on the computer to create different types of commonly used charts.

Mustangs science for the month of January will consist of looking into ways water plays such an important role with everything on Earth. We will look deeper into the water cycle and cover ocean currents as well. Each night students should be studying class notes, spelling words, or vocabulary. A great site, that a lot of students continue to rave about, is [www.flashcarddb.com](http://www.flashcarddb.com). Ask them to show you this site some evening. Continue to stay on top of your child's homework using progress book, also remember the semester will bring a change in classes for the LIFE team. Discuss with them what classes they will be taking when that change occurs in mid-January.



Mustangs' social studies classes will continue to look into ancient Greece.

Language arts classes are off to a super start to the new year. Students have started reading The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton. Once again we will be applying all literary terms we have studied so far this year. They are expected to not only know the definitions of all literary terms, but to also apply them by giving the author's examples of each one. Students should continue to practice flash cards, either made out of file cards or created online, in order for them to have the definitions memorized. They will also continue to practice test taking skills in language arts for the upcoming OAA tests in late April. Expectations will be high to make sure that they are answering all questions asked, writing answers in complete sentences, and providing detailed, correct answers with text evidence.

### **MUSTANGS Team - Students of the Week**

**Seth Gwirtz, Carter Copeland, and Adie Goodyear**

### **MUSTANGS Team - November Student of the Month**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Macy Lynch for earning this month's award. We appreciate your hard work and effort!**



## Notes from the Music Department



### **Bands**

Students are preparing for the Mid Winter Band Concert to be held on Sunday, January 22nd at 2 PM in the SHS Gymnasium. All bands, grades 6-12 will be featured, including the Jazz Bands. Hope to see you there!

### **Choirs**

Choir members have just finished participating in Music Man and the annual Christmas Concert. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities for the kids!

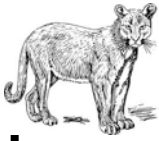
## MID WINTER BAND CONCERT

**Sunday, January 22nd**

**2 PM - SSHS Gym**

**For Grades 6 - 12  
and  
Jazz Band**





# PUMAS TEAM

## Time to set those New Year's Resolutions

1. What homework? For some kids, using their assignment notebook would be helpful in knowing what they need to complete each night.
2. Where's that paper? Organization is another area that many kids struggle with. They need to be able to put papers in the correct folder. Many folders are falling apart and pencils are down to stubs. It's time to restock on those school supplies.
3. I don't know how to do my work. Paying attention in class is very important. Take notes, ask questions, and have a homework buddy to work with.
4. .Look for ways to improve in school.

In math class, students have been working on Chapter 5 on ratios, rates, proportions, scale factors, and customary units. At home, have your child help out with measuring ingredients and cooking dinner for the family. In January, we will be starting Chapter 6, which is about proportions and percents. Take your child shopping so they can learn how to compare prices and find the best buys. You can teach them how to figure out what 30% off is or what a 15% tip would be. They also need to understand what commission is, how to find the percent of change (for example on the show "BIGGEST LOSER" they calculate the percent of weight loss each week), and they need to know how to figure simple interest. Needless to say, math is all around us and there are many ways that you can teach your child how you use math in your everyday life. Students need to complete their homework everyday for math. They need to understand that the effort they put into their work is connected to the achievements that they have in any class. In order to do well on quizzes and tests, practice with a good effort is necessary. Online textbook: [my.hrw.com/sms201112](http://my.hrw.com/sms201112) whippets Many parents at conferences mentioned the online videos that help re-teach every lesson in the book. If you haven't seen a lesson video, you might want to check it out. They are very helpful in going over the concepts covered in class.

Language arts classes have finished Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol." We have examined characters, plot, conflict, and inferencing. Students applied this dramatic adaptation to the literary elements we have been studying. We will begin the New Year with a new class book, The Outsiders. We will continue to work on skills needed for the achievement test in late April. Students will resume their reading logs in January. Remember, they are expected to read and record 20 minutes per night, Monday through Thursday.

In Science, the PUMAS just finished their study of animals, classification, and a fun popcorn lab. After Christmas break, we will be learning about weather. We will look at the water cycle and how it relates to weather and we will learn about predicting weather and how difficult it is! At least it appears that way when we watch the weather forecast on TV! During this unit we will explore weather related phenomenon like tornadoes, floods, droughts, and hurricanes.

Social studies students will be finishing the Ancient Greeks and then they will study the Roman Empire and Japan.

### Other news on the PUMAS team:

### Congratulations to the November Student of the Month – Sidney Wolfe

### PUMAS Community Service Projects:

November was a busy month for the PUMAS' kids. First, we volunteered to help the Friends of the Blackfork plant spring bulbs in the flower boxes downtown. We look forward to seeing our hard work in the Spring. Second, the kids volunteered at all four of the Music Man productions. They ran a concession stand that raised \$284.00. We shopped local and spent the proceeds by purchasing new socks, underwear, and hats and gloves for Shelby Helpline. We are always looking for ways to be helpful in our town.

If you want to be happy for an hour,  
GO WATCH TV.

If you want to be happy for a day,  
GO TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK.

If you want to be happy for a lifetime,  
GO OUT AND HELP OTHERS.

The PUMAS next service project is on Valentine's Day. Kids will bring in money donations to pay for the cost of the flowers. With the help of the horticulture program at Pioneer, we plan on delivering floral arrangements to the Meals on Wheels participants and hopefully if we raise enough money we can also deliver to one of the nursing homes in town on Valentine's Day. The Shelby Thrift store has helped us out tremendously by donating all the vases we need. This is a special project that truly touches the hearts of many of our elderly people in Shelby.



Calendar of Events - January 2012

Mon. Jan. 2	No School - Winter Break
Tues. Jan. 3	Classes Resume
Wed. Jan. 4	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Madison at Madison 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Madison at Home
Thurs. Jan. 5	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Clearfork at Home 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Clearfork at Clearfork
Sat. Jan. 7	9:00 - SMS Wrestlers at Hillsdale 10:00 - 12:00 - Talent Show Auditions
Sun. Jan. 8	1:00 - 3:00 - Talent Show Auditions
Mon. Jan. 9	4:30 - Girls BBall vs Sandusky at Home 4:30 - Boys BBall vs Sandusky at Sandusky
Tues. Jan. 10	3:15 - Academic Challenge at Willard MS
Wed. Jan. 11	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Marion Harding at Marion 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Marion Harding at Home 6:00 - SMS Wrestlers vs Marion Harding at Shelby SHS
Fri. Jan. 13	End of Second 9 Weeks
Sat. Jan. 14	10:00 - SMS Wrestlers at New London Invite
Mon. Jan. 16	No School - Martin Luther King Day
Tues. Jan. 17	OCIS - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 4:30 - Boys BBall vs St. Bernards at Home 4:30 - Girls BBall vs St. Bernards at New Washington
Wed. Jan. 18	OCIS - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Thurs. Jan. 19	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Tiffin at Tiffin 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Tiffin at Home
Fri. Jan. 20	Grade Cards Distributed OCIS - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Sat. Jan. 21	SMS Wrestlers at Malabar Invite at Malabar
Sun. Jan. 22	2:00 - Mid Winter Band Concert at SHS Gym - All Bands Grades 6-12
Mon. Jan. 23	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Willard at Willard
Tues. Jan. 24	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Marion Harding at Home 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Marion Harding at Marion
Thurs. Jan. 26	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Bellevue at Home 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Bellevue at Bellevue
Fri. Jan. 27	BOX TOP COLLECTION DAY
Mon. Jan. 30	4:30 - Boys BBall vs Norwalk at Home 4:30 - Girls BBall vs Norwalk at Norwalk
Tues. Jan. 31	10:30 - 11:30 - 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Meeting With Mr. Grady Re: 9 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Scheduling
Wed. Feb. 1	12:30 - EARLY RELEASE 6:00 - SMS Wrestlers at Crestview Dual Match

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