

# Shelby Middle School

Positive Attitudes Welcome Success

Jeff Eichorn, Principal  
Chris Zuercher, Guidance Counselor

February 2012

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

The month of February is now upon us, even though it feels like just last week I was talking about Thanksgiving Break, not to mention Winter Break, which is now over a month behind us. With February, also comes the start of a new semester here at SMS, which actually got started on January 18<sup>th</sup>. I personally appreciate this time of the school year, because it gives students an opportunity to step back, evaluate, and celebrate their successes, while also examining and strategizing ways they can improve over the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester. What an opportunity for students to start fresh!!!!!! So please, continue to talk with your students about their opportunities to be successful, and how they can reach the goals they have established for themselves. In addition, I also want to remind you that we have another Parent-Teacher Conference scheduled in the middle of this 3<sup>rd</sup> grading period. It is scheduled on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-7:00, and is another wonderful opportunity to sit down with your student's teachers, and exchange ideas about how your child can become as successful as they possibly can over the next four months of the school year.

We are one month closer to the ever exciting 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. With that said, one of my New Year's resolutions was to begin exercising so I could keep up with all of our youthful teenagers on this trip. I had better start exercising twice a week in February, as January was not too kind to me. Anyway, more importantly, please remember that half of the total payment (\$100.00 of \$215.00) is due by Valentines Day (February 14<sup>th</sup> for those of you like me that seem to always forget this ever important date), with the complete payment due by St. Patrick's Day in March. If you have not done so already, please turn in your "Permission for Field Trip" and your "SMS Visitation of the United States Pentagon Form," which was the last page in the D.C. Orientation Packet that you received back in November. These forms are of great importance, as I need this information to submit our request to tour the Pentagon. Please turn both of these forms (which are front and back) in to the office no later than Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, and most importantly, yes this is more important than the Washington D.C. trip, are the upcoming state achievement assessments that will be given at the end of April. I truly believe that with our teachers' instruction, our students' hard work and dedication, and our parents' outstanding support and encouragement, all of our students will be more than prepared to showcase what they have learned over the course of the school year. This year our 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be assessed in both reading and math, while our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be assessed in reading, math, and science. As we continue to encourage our students in their preparation for these assessments, please continue to remind them that "if they take care of the little things," (such as studying a little bit each evening, as well as completing their daily homework); "the big things will take care of themselves" (tests, 9 week grades, and the Ohio Achievement Assessments). Parents, as we head into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, I want to again thank all of you for your continued support in helping to make your child's school year a success thus far. I know this sounds redundant when I say this at the end of each newsletter, but I mean it whole heartedly, please do not hesitate to stop in, shoot me an email, or give me a call if you have any questions or concerns regarding your son or daughter. Best of luck to all of our students that are a part of our extra-curricular activities, as they finish out another successful season. Go Whippets!!!!





## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



The winter sports season continues to pass quickly and smoothly. All four basketball teams and the wrestling team continue to show improvement and are enjoying successful seasons. Attendance at home basketball games has been outstanding. Parents and students are encouraged to get to as many games as possible. Your children love your support!

In February, the Northern Ohio League tournaments will occur for all middle school sports. Shelby will host the NOL wrestling meet on Saturday, February 4th at 9:30 AM at the high school. The 7th grade girls' basketball tournament will be held at Tiffin on February 4th and 7th, with the finals on the 9th. The 8th grade girls will play on the same dates in Norwalk. Dates for the boys' tournaments are February 4th and 7th, with finals on the 11th. The 7th grade will be playing home at Shelby and the 8th grade in Willard. Pairings for each of the tournaments will be announced later. Admission to NOL basketball tournament events are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students and senior citizens. The wrestling meet will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

Parents of athletes should be sure to keep an eye on their child's grades to insure eligibility. Grades being earned the third nine weeks determine eligibility for track in the spring. If your child is interested in going out for track this spring and has not been in any other sport, **make sure that he/she has a current physical card on file in the athletic office.** Track practice will begin March 5th. The entire track schedule is on the Shelby school web site under SMS Athletic Events.



## GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

It is amazing that half of the year is already over. We have done a lot of things already this year, and we are looking forward to the things ahead. In January, we had the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students start their Individual Career Plan Folders online. They started by completing a survey of activities that people do during a normal day in various jobs. The students had to choose how much they liked to do these things. After they finished the 128 question survey, the students received an online look at the career cluster and how they matched up with their survey. The students picked one job in the cluster that matched up with their survey and then they did research about the job they selected. They looked up preparation needed for the job, helpful high school courses, if they needed to go to college or a vocational school to get this job, etc.... After they were done, the students saved this information to the database online. These online folders follow the students through out their high school career. The students have a username and a password that they can use to look at their information anytime they want. The website can be accessed anytime at <http://www.ocis.org>. Your child may want to share this information with you now, which will help you with 9<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling.

Speaking of high school careers, the high school counselors, Mr. Grady and Mrs. Stefaniuk, will be coming to the middle school in February to talk to all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students about high school. Then, Mr. Zuercher will talk to the Bears and Chiefs about scheduling later in the month. On Tuesday, February 21st at 7:30PM in the High School Little Theater, Mr. Grady will talk to parents about the high school experience and he will also answer any questions that you have about high school scheduling and the four-year plan. Mr. Merickel spoke to the students in January about the science class offered at the high school called Project Lead the Way. This is a series of pre-engineering classes that the students can take. These classes are heavy in math and science and are a great way to challenge students who enjoy math and science. We will try to finish up the scheduling process by the end of March.





# BAND AND CHOIR NOTES

## Band

7th and 8th grade band students are beginning preparations for Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event. This is a great opportunity for the middle school band students to work in small groups and in solo situations, in preparation for this event. This extra time for students who elect to participate in these small group settings is extremely beneficial. There is a fee involved and information will be coming home with students and on practice reports soon. The event will be held at Ontario Middle School in April.

The annual Band Parents Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, April 22nd from noon-3 PM at SHS. All bands, grades 6-12, will participate. Look for details coming home soon!

The school calendar ends early this year – the week before Memorial Day. However, the 7th and 8th grade bands, along with the high school band, will participate in the Memorial Day parade the following Monday. Please mark your calendar accordingly – yes, this is a required performance!

## Choir

Choir students, also, will be given an opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event as well. Look for information coming from Mr. Nabors about this opportunity. Information concerning the middle school musical, **SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK**, will be forthcoming – watch for details!



## BEARS TEAM

BEARS language arts classes will be finishing up adjectives and going back to reading. We will be discussing reading strategies and reading elements. Our first book will be **Define Normal**, a very up to date story line with meaning. Required reading outside of the class will be monitored with reading logs.



BEARS science students have been studying heredity and genetics lately to try to find out who they are. They are not very happy when I show them that they really are half mom and half dad! Typical teenagers! We will soon be preparing diligently for the Ohio Achievement Assessment to prepare them for success.

Math students concluded proportions last month and we are working on fractions, decimals, and percents this month. We will be looking at the foundations for geometry over the next several weeks.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade history, students have been studying the time period around the 1800's which includes events such as the election of presidents, the first Industrial Revolution, and the War of 1812. With the election of presidents, students learned of the rivalry between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, which led to the most famous duel in American history. The Industrial Revolution of the 1800's was when the idea of factories came to America from Britain. The factory system not only changed how we made things, but changed other things, also. Family structure went from small farms to city life. Whole families, including children and women, went to the factory to work. No longer were families working together on small farms. They all were earning a wage in the factory. There were a lot of pros and cons for this movement, but the fact is, it changed American society. With the War of 1812, students saw that people felt a sense of national pride, beating the British for the second time. This sense of national pride will soon start to change over the next couple of chapters when events start to take place leading to the Civil War.



**EARLY RELEASE - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st AT 12:30 PM**





## CHIEFS TEAM

The CHIEFS' math students have been working with geometry for over a month now. We have just begun our work with data and statistics. This includes interpretation of graphs, work with central tendencies (mean, median, and mode), and choosing best representation of data. Please remind your child to continue working online with "SkillsTutor". They have the information they need to log onto this website. A minimum of twenty minutes is to be completed each week, and the student is to have a signature by their guardian to verify this completion.

The Chiefs have been busy in January in language arts class. The students have just turned in a paper on the rock cycle. Any major papers students may rewrite, if they are interested in raising their grade. During February, we will be reading the futuristic novel, **The Giver**. You should see your student reading the book and completing worksheets about the novel. I do not give homework every night, but it is imperative for a passing grade to complete the homework in a timely manner. If you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail me about your student's progress.

In science, the classes just finished a unit on plate tectonics. Students learned how forces shaped the earth and the causes and effects of plate motion. Classes discussed the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanos as well. Currently, students are starting a unit on astronomy and will learn about stars and other matter in the universe. They will also study the earth's movements that cause days and years. Students will learn about the movements of the moon and the gravitational effects of the moon and the earth.



## BOX TOPS



**SMS is collecting them.**

All box tops turned in to SMS at this point will count toward the general expenses of the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

The date has passed for box tops to count toward individual 8th grade/7th grade trips. 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>

## SCHOOL

### CANCELLATION

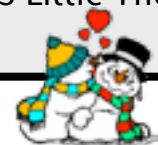
**Tune into the following stations to check for closings and delays**

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



## Upcoming Events:

- February 1<sup>st</sup>: Awards Assembly at 7:30 AM – Early Release: 12:30 PM
- February 6<sup>th</sup>: “Permission for Field Trip” and “SMS Visitation of the U.S. Pentagon” Form are DUE
- February 14<sup>th</sup>: \$100.00 payment for 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending Washington D.C.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Conferences: 3:00–7:00 PM.
- February 20<sup>th</sup>: No School – Presidents’ Day
- February 21<sup>st</sup>: 7:30 PM – 8th Grade Parents Meeting at SSS Little Theater – Scheduling information For 9th Grade





## MUSTANGS TEAM



Mustangs' science classes will start to look into weather. The students will study the layers of the atmosphere, reflection, radiation, convection currents and wind, the Coriolis Effect, and climates. We will begin to practice for the achievement tests as well, looking at some reading selections and how math and science tie together.

In January, the Mustangs' math classes tackled percents and proportions and studied 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 and they will also use spreadsheet on the computer to create different types of commonly used charts.

You have probably wondered what is going on with the rotation for the ACS classes. Here is the breakdown of the classes: Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Stocks will continue to practice on a daily basis for reading content and grammar; Mr. Clark, Mr. Hoover, and Mr. Hughes will have a 6 week rotation of reading selections (Mr. Clark will read Devil's Arithmetic, Mr. Hoover will read Julie of the Wolves, and Mr. Hughes will look at geography and how it ties into history), looking at more specific core items, as well as continuing with the spelling and reading from the STARS book. This rotation is being done to move your child to the next level in reading, as well as look into some interesting items from other subjects.

In Mustangs social studies classes, students just finished learning about Greece. Topics covered included: Greek gods, Greek thinkers, Alexander the Great and the city/states of Sparta and Athens. As we begin the second half of the year, we will start by learning about the ancient Romans, and we should finish the third 9 weeks by studying early African civilizations.

Language arts students have been working diligently on answering short and extended writing responses to reading questions. The students are expected to restate the question, answer all parts of the question using complete sentences (using evidence from the text), and provide a concluding sentence. We are incorporating OAA style questions that coincide with our novel, The Outsiders. Students are also examining the theme of friendship and belonging, and how the themes relate to their own lives. Expectations will continue to be high, and it is so important for students to be completing their homework every night. In addition to the twenty minutes of reading nightly, students will have an assignment to practice skills learned in class. The assignment needs to be completed, because often we review it first thing in class the next day. Thank you so much for your cooperation in making sure your child is achieving his or her best effort in homework!

### MUSTANG Team Students-of-the-Week

Seth Gwartz, Carter Copeland, Adie Goodyear,  
Ethan Vogt, and Sarah Harding



## 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.





# PUMAS TEAM

PUMAS continue to apply themselves in class and explore new concepts in their academics.

In language arts, we are reading the novel, The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton. This is a timeless novel that demonstrates struggles that all teenagers face while growing up. We are relating the events to our everyday lives through the study of the literacy concepts and standards. We are emphasizing student responsibility with the written responses of two and four point questions in preparation for the OAA later this spring. Students are expected to read nightly and record in their logs, which are due on Friday mornings.

Math students have completed a unit of study on percents and they are learning more about the concepts of data analysis and graphs. When graphs appear in newspapers or magazines, take a moment to study the display and its effectiveness. Once the unit is completed, students will be practicing probability (the chance of something occurring), and geometry. Students need to be logging in forty minutes biweekly on Skillstutor. Another great website that reviews seventh grade math material is [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com). Students will also be working on OAA packets to help in preparation for the Ohio Achievement Assessments in the spring.

Social studies classes have begun to explore the Roman Republic and Rome and Christianity. Students will learn major concepts including geography, government, important people in Rome's history, and the influence of religion during this time period. Students continue to read, participate in class discussions, take notes, and view video clips to make this experience more meaningful.

In science class, the PUMAS are continuing their study of weather, how it is created, and how it effects us. We are currently studying different types of clouds, air masses, and fronts. We will be moving on to severe weather, forecasting the weather, and the weather in different climates around the world. Ask your child about the three types of clouds we are studying and if they can pick out which type of cloud is currently in the sky. This would be a good time to introduce them to watching the weather on TV as well. The weathermen use some of the same terms we will be studying.

ACS students continue to be challenged each week with new spelling words. There is a great spelling app that can help your child practice their words each week. The name of it is – “Spelling Test”. Also, in ACS, students are continuing to work on reading strategies.

The PUMAS upcoming service project is on Valentine's Day. Kids have been bringing in money donations to pay for the cost of the flowers, and with the help of the horticulture program at Pioneer, we plan on delivering floral arrangements to the Meals on Wheels participants. Hopefully, if we raise enough money, we can also deliver to Shelby Pointe nursing home 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, during the winter months.



## IS YOUR CHILD FEELING A LITTLE SLUGGISH?? LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET THEM BACK ON TRACK??

Research has plainly shown that motivated children do better in school—not necessarily because they feel they have to be the best, but because they are trying their best.

Motivated students can rightly take credit for their own achievements, but most of them also owe a debt to the people who started them out on the right path—their parents.

As a parent, you have a large role to play in whether or not your child will be motivated to do his or her best in school.

In the end, it's up to him or her—but you can create an encouraging environment.

### Seven Proven Ways to Motivate Children to do Better in School

1. Set Proper Expectations
2. Help Your Child Set Goals
3. Show Your Child that You Think School is Important
4. Support Your Child's Learning Style
5. Speak the Language of Encouragement
6. Reinforce Learning at Home and in the Community
7. Encourage Your Child to Be Resilient





# DESTINATION TO STARDOM



**Shelby Middle School Auditorium**

**March 23rd and March 24th  
7:00 PM**

**ALL TICKETS: \$4.00**



## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 15th  
3:00 - 7:00 PM**

## DUE FEBRUARY 14th

**\$100.00 Payment**

**FOR 8th graders  
ATTENDING**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP**

## NO SCHOOL MONDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

**PRESIDENTS' DAY**

## WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP PERMISSION SLIPS

**NEED To Be In The  
Office By FEBRUARY 6th**

**\*\*Permission for Field Trip\*\*  
Form**

**\*\*SMS Visitation of the U.S.  
Pentagon\*\* Form  
(Front/Back of Both Forms)**

## SMS SNOW TRAILS TUBING TRIP

**Monday, February 27th  
Bus Leaves at 4:30 PM**

**Contact Mrs. Ream for MORE INFORMATION!**



Calendar of Events - February 2012

Wed. Feb. 1 7:30 AM - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Assembly - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
12:30 PM - Early Release  
6:00 PM - SMS Wrestlers at Crestview Dual Match

Sat. Feb. 4 7:15 AM - 4:00 PM - Power of the Pen Writing Competition in Creston, Ohio  
9:30 AM - SMS Wrestlers to Host NOL Match at SHS  
TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys BBall Tourney at Shelby  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys BBall Tourney at Willard  
TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Tiffin  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Norwalk

Tues. Feb. 7 TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys BBall Tourney at Shelby  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys BBall Tourney at Willard  
TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Tiffin  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Norwalk

Thurs. Feb. 9 TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Tiffin  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls BBall Tourney at Norwalk

Fri. Feb. 10 2:00 PM - Teachers: Grades to be in Progressbook

Sat. Feb. 11 TBA - 7<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys Tourney at Shelby  
TBA - 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys Tourney at Willard

Tues. Feb. 14 Interim Grades Distributed

Wed. Feb. 15 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mon. Feb. 20 No School - Presidents' Day

Tues. Feb. 21 7:30 PM - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Meeting for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Scheduling - SHS Little Theater

Mon. Feb. 27 4:30 PM - SMS Tubing Trip to Snow Trails

