

STMS EXPRESS

The Choices I Make Today Shape Who I Will Become Tomorrow.
Middle School Matters!

Beth Delacour, Principal * Pat Harnett & Chris Renzullo, Assistant Principals

March 2009

FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL:

Dear Parents, As I write this letter, we are enjoying February break and I hope you and your family are, too. As you probably know, we had a wonderful speaker the first week in February, Mr. Manuel Scott, who was one of the characters depicted in the movie, "The Freedom Writers". He is an eloquent and compassionate young man who brings a message of hope for all, but especially to our middle school students. His messages to our students - were clear. DREAM was the acronym for his message.

D-Dream, be anything you want to be
R-Get a ROAD map so you have a plan on how to get there
E-EXCELLENCE, strive to do your best and be your best
A-ACTION, take the steps you need to reach your goals and dreams
M-Look for MENTORS that can help you reach your dreams.

The students were thrilled to meet him and have him at STMS for the day. I think that meeting Manuel Scott was valuable for both staff and students in increasing our understanding of each other. Truly we have more in common as people than ever have differences in color or race. Thanks to Cindy Cowen for continuing to bring us all together as people as well as bringing us great speakers throughout the year. Also a special thanks to the language arts department who helped us prepare for Manuel Scott's visit by incorporating our language arts standards into his visit. The video and audio for the assemblies were provided by Tony Calderon, for which we are grateful. Finally a big THANKS to an anonymous donor who contributed \$2500 to be able to bring Manuel Scott to our school in the first place. We appreciate your continued support of our kids and our school.

Beth Delacour, Principal

Issue 8

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REMINDER!!! There is no Collaboration day on Wednesday, March 11 due to the minimum day at the elementary schools and busses are not available.

Our PTA recently hosted the LOVE writing contest. The winners are:

6th grade - 1st Christina Boyer, 2nd Maia Bickert, 3rd Samantha Buscher

7th grade - 1st Rose Champion, 2nd Chloe Nolan, 3rd Nancy Kaur

8th grade - 1st Nataly Aguilar, 2nd Salome Byrd, 3rd Alexis Morales

Congratulations to all!!

From the Assistant Principal's Office:

STMS has reactivated the STMS Safe School TIP LINE. In each classroom there are posters showing the contact number and some examples of circumstances that would be appropriate for a student to call the TIP LINE. These examples include bullying, anything that makes the student feel unsafe, a threat, sexual harassment, and information about vandalism or thefts. The quicker information is reported to the administration, the quicker a situation can be dealt with. If you call or if your student calls, please be sure to include as much information on this confidential TIP LINE as possible. If you have any questions, please call the assistant principals office at 541-6404 x282. Thank you for helping keep our school safe.

To help our student focus on their academic instruction and addressing the standards they need to master, please remind them that cell phone are to be turned off before they arrive on campus and may not be out or turned on again until they are dismissed from their last class of the day. This is also true for MP3 players and any other electronic item that may distract the student or disrupt the learning environment. If you have any questions, please call the assistant principals.

PTA:

Aikido is back this month. Classes with senseis Mark and Jen will start Tuesday, March 10 and continue on the 17th and 24th. They will meet in Room 15 after school from 2:00 until 3:00.

Also this month, Joy Barney, from the US Forest Service, will teach a Survival Class on Wednesdays the 18th and 25th. The first class will cover Plants and "Leave no Trace." The second class topics are "10 Essentials" and Maps and Compasses. Both classes are open for 6th and 8th grade students only, since 7th graders will have an opportunity to attend another survival class in June. Meet after school in room 27 from 1:00 until 3:00.

Don't forget to have a permission slip signed by a parent for any of the after school enrichment classes.

The next PTA meeting will be on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30pm in the library. We have a lot of exciting things to go over, so please try to attend!!

Special Education:

The students in Mrs. Taylor's special day class have been working on a Geography unit in first block. They are learning about the 50 states by finding them on a large classroom map, naming them and discovering what makes them special. In an effort to make a connection between states and people they know, students have asked STMS teachers about places they were born, places they have lived and places they have vacationed within our 50 states. The students have discovered that while many teachers hail from our own golden state of California, we have teachers from places such as Texas, Oregon, Maine, Arizona, Kansas and Massachusetts. By the way, Hawaii rates as the number one state that people like to vacation!

The sixth grade resource students are finishing up their social studies adventures and projects for ancient Egypt. In Science they are studying earth science and plate tectonics. Mrs. Sullivan's Intervention Math class is finishing up integers and moving into rates, ratios and percents. Read 180 Language Arts students can earn an end-of-the-trimester bowling celebration by meeting their AR goal. Students will be taking part in the Soroptimist's Writing Contest. The prompt is the "Most influential Person" in your life.

The Special Education Department would like to thank the Soroptimist for their donation towards our Workability Program. Students, Travis Bomar and Kalen Anderson attended a recent luncheon to speak to and thank the group in person!

Language Arts

March Madness!! For language arts at STMS it means getting ready for write offs, testing and covering the curriculum with the school year rapidly approaching the end. Seventh grade Language Arts classes have their writing assessment on March 4. It will be given the first block of the day to all 7th grade students.

The 6th grade is focusing heavily on the writing process in preparation for the Soroptimist Writing competition. They are staying with the hero/heroine theme, following the presentation of Manny Scott of the Freedom Writers. Students are doing research and then choosing an influential woman or man from their own life about whom to write. And, of course, testing practice.

Read 180's students with Louise Ann Simon are working on non fiction reading, context and comprehension. Our writing focus is on persuasive, narrative and response to literature.

Eighth grade language arts has been studying poetry in all its different forms. Students are reading and studying poetry form and then writing their own. Our next focus will be on documents and working on the write off for the Soroptimist.

Athletic News

Volleyball wrapped up their season on February 12th. Congratulations to our 8th grade team who came in 3rd place out of both big and small middle schools.

Nordic Ski wrapped up their season on Feb 28th at Auburn Ski Club. We had our biggest team in years with a total of 24 skiers. Lack of snow did not slow our skiers down.. All showed amazing growth over the season.

Our Wrestling team had their first tournament on February 28th at the Mountain Man Classic in Truckee. They will start their duals on Wed at Pa Wa Lu Middle School. We will host a dual on March 18th after school. Volunteers will be needed.

Track for 6th graders will begin in the middle of March. PE Teachers will pass out forms. The first 6th grade meet is April 9th. The first all grade meet is April 30th and wraps up with Championships at Carson High Schools brand new facility on May 20th. We will be hosting a meet on May 14th. Volunteers and spectators are welcome.

Club Live News

During the month of February STMS Club Live sold "Love Bugs" during lunch. Proceeds from the "Bug" sales helped to benefit the ASPCA. More than \$100 was collected for this project. Also during the month of February the club sponsored a 'Mini-General Meeting.' During the meeting the club discussed the effects of second hand smoke through skits and games.

Recently Club Live was honored with a grant from the El Dorado Youth Advisory Board (EDGABY). The club was given \$1300 which will be used towards some tolerance activities, and a trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles in June.

Up-coming events:

March 6- Club Live trip to UC Davis and Laser X in Sacramento. We leave at 8:00 am and return by 7:45. The cost is \$34 for current members and \$40 for new members. Permission slips are available in front of room 19. The trip is limited to the first 52 students. Parents are always welcome!!!!

March 26-28- Twenty-two Club Live leaders will be attending the annual "Reach for the Future 2009" conference in Chico. The group will attend leadership workshops, ropes course, Challenge Day, a talent show and dance. This is the 13th year the group has attended this conference.

In the not to distant future....

Club Live adopted two US Forest Service lots in the Angora Fire area. In working with the Forest Service we hope to plant trees in an effort to re-vegetate the forest. Watch for details during the month of April.

Club Live is open to all STMS, St. Teresa, and Visions' students. We promote the healthy lifestyle, by providing healthy alternatives to drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

PE:

The STMS PE Department is very excited that all classes have been using heart rate monitors to enhance our exercise programs and increase student awareness of how exercise affects their bodies. Grants from the Optimist Club of South Lake Tahoe and The El Dorado Community Foundation helped us purchase enough heart rate monitors to make this possible. Over the next 6 weeks the 6th graders in Mrs. Holmes' class are refining their basketball and juggling skills. Mr. Hudson's 6th graders are trying to cross country ski on whatever snow we have. In between snow storms they are learning different forms of dance (tinikling, line dancing and square dancing). We are having a "Diablofest" on April 2nd. All 6th graders will learn about Diablos, also known as the Chinese Yo Yo, with a hands on demonstration. Should be fun for all of us! Our classes will also be cup stacking and working on a tobacco resistance education program next month. The 7th grade classes are busy working on basketball skills and combatives and looking forward to the Fitness-gram assessments that are coming up. Is your student ready? The 8th graders are completing their combatives and wrestling unit. We are also reviewing why they want to avoid drugs and alcohol. In addition to remembering what to stay away from, we are busy helping our 8th graders plan out what they can do for themselves to make their lives healthier right now.

Social Studies:

As we roll into the month of March, all grades seem busier than ever continuing to cover our grade level state standards. Eighth grade students are learning about the growth of democracy during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Students are looking at Jackson's presidency through the eyes of four groups: the common people, States' rights supporters, the rich and well-born, and the Native Americans. Finally, eighth graders will be studying Manifest Destiny and learning how the United States expanded across the North American continent. Hujambo! Seventh grade students have been busy learning about the continent of Africa...Geography, oral traditions, and learning about the ancient kingdoms of Ghana and Mali have been their main focus. Ask your children whether salt or Gold was more valuable during the 1100's on?! Lastly, seventh graders will be headed off to ancient China and Japan! Last, but not least, our sixth grade historians have had the pleasure of learning about ancient Egypt. Some classes just completed their funerary masks for the Egyptian Pharaohs. They too, will be heading to the orient to begin studying about early China!

Some Important Phone Numbers:

Snow Day Information: 541-4636

LTUSD District Office: 541-2850

LTUSD Transportation: 543-2218

STMS Attendance: 543-2281

STMS Counselors: 543-2290

STMS Homework Hotline: 543-2282
(+ 4 +room number)

School Safe School Tipline: 541-6404 xt 469

(Anonymous and confidential)

English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) Parent Committee

Ballot for Official Membership

South Tahoe Middle School is looking for three (3) parents of English Learners who are willing to be official members of the STMS English Learner Advisory Committee. The responsibility of this group includes reviewing progress for English Learners, advising allocations of the school budget for English Learners, participating in review of student achievement data and the Single School Plan development and the evaluation of all of these aspects of STMS.

If you are interested, please write your name below and send it to the office at STMS.

_____Yes, I would be interested in becoming a member of the ELAC parent committee.

You can also call Judy at 530-541-6404 x 281 and give her your name.

The first meeting for the ELAC committee is scheduled for: Tuesday, March 24th at 2:00 in the library. Please send in your name to us by 3/20.

Thank you in advance for participating in this very important committee. All parents are encouraged to attend ELAC meetings together with our three official voting members. **We value your participation.**

The Students of the Month for February were:

Chian Agbigay	Cameron Montanari
Elvira Torres	Sandra Evangelista
Angel Olmos	Sid Loomis
Merissa Chaussee	Anna DeVries
Grace Lin	Esperanza Ramos
Thomas Smith	Jesenia Camarena
Juan Carlos Martinez	Adrian Rojas
Lulu Peterson	Federico Nunez

These students were given a certificate and 6 of these students were chosen to attend a lunch sponsored by the Optimist Club. Congratulations to all and keep up the great work!!!

WHEN A GIRL by Nataly Aguilar

(8th grade winner of PTA writing contest)

- When a girl is quiet, millions of things are running in her mind
- When a girl is not arguing, she is thinking deeply
- When a girl looks at you with eyes full of questions, she is wondering how long you will be around
- When a girl stares at you, she is wondering why you are lying
- When a girl calls you everyday, she is seeking your attention
- When a girl text's you every day, she wants you to reply at least once
- When a girl says she loves you, she means it
- When a girl says she can't live without you, she has made up her mind that you are her future
- When a girl says I miss you, no one in the world can miss you more than that!

MARCH 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 7th grade writing tests	4 Collaboration Day 3rd trimester Benchmark begins	5	6 Club Live to UC Davis and Laser X	7 Destination Imagination Tournament
8	9	10 PTA Enrichment class - Aikido 2-3 room 15	11 STMS Music concert 7pm	12 3rd trimester Benchmark ends DRUG forum 6-8 MPR	13 <i>END OF 2ND TRIMESTER</i>	14 Wrestling/ Fernley
15	16 STHS AVID recruitment all week	17 PTA Enrichment class - Aikido 2-3 room 15 TAP assemblies in the MPR	18 Collaboration day Wrestling meet	19 Trimester grades mailed PTA - in the library 6:30pm	20	21 Wrestling/ Carson City
22	23	24 PTA Enrichment class - Aikido 2-3 room 15	25 Collaboration Day String Fling Concert 7pm SSC 2:00 - library	26 Club Live to Chico	27 Club Live to Chico	Wrestling/ Yerington Club Live to Chico
29	30	31				

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South Tahoe Middle School
2940 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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