

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **6th Grade  
Mini Course  
Monday  
January 26**
- **7/8 Grade  
Mini Courses  
Tuesday  
January 27**
- **NO SCHOOL  
Friday  
February 27**

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# Eureka Middle School News

FEBRUARY 2009

## Middle Schoolers Need to Do More Reading at Home

Research has shown some interesting things about reading. First, kids who read a lot become better readers. Second, reading and writing skills complement each other. Third, parents influence how well kids read.

For all these reasons—and many more—it's important to encourage reading at home. Try these ideas:

- Set a good example by reading yourself. Talk about the things you're reading and recommend interesting material to your child.
- Keep magazines, newspa-

pers and books around the house. Once in a while, surprise your child with a special book about



one of his/her hobbies.

- Plan activities that involve reading. Try a new recipe, build something that requires instructions, or do research at the library.

- Choose a regular time for family reading. You might let kids read in bed or set aside one night a week for reading.
- Write notes to your child about a book you're reading. Ask her to write back to you.
- Have your child pick a book to read to a younger sibling. Perhaps he/she remembers one they used to enjoy themselves.

Source: "How Can I Improve My Child's Reading?", Project Appleseed, (9/2007)

## Valentine's for Veterans

Valentine's Day is coming soon. Our Veteran's Hospitals are filled with Vets from World War I, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and Operation Desert Storm. They often receive no mail on special holidays. If you're interested in sending Valentine's to our veterans, below are addresses of our veteran facilities in Montana:

VA Reg. Medical Center  
Voluntary Service  
Fort Harrison, MT 59636

VA Eastern MT Health Care  
ATTN: Nursing Home  
210 S. Winchester  
Miles City, MT 59301

Montana Veteran's Home  
Box 250  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Eastern Montana Vet's Home  
2000 Montana Avenue  
Glendive, MT 59330



# Groundhog Day!

February 2nd is Groundhog Day!

Here are some facts about the prognosticating rodent, courtesy of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University:

- The names “groundhog” and “woodchuck” refer to the same animal. Related to squir-



**Will the Groundhog see his shadow?**

- rels, this rodent can climb trees and swim.
- February 2nd is a “cross-quarter” day, about halfway between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox in March. Many groundhogs end their hibernation a week or so later.
- The groundhog’s internal clock is believed to be affected by changes in the duration of

daylight. Hormonal responses change the production of melatonin and are thought to signal them awake.

- How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? The answer is about 700 pounds. A wildlife biologist measured the inside volume of a typical woodchuck burrow and estimated that if the burrow were filled with wood instead of dirt, the industrious animal

would have chucked 700 pounds worth! Of course, the woodchuck doesn’t chuck wood. They might chew on wood, but they are not adept at moving timber, especially compared to beavers.



## Geography Bee

The Geography Bee was held on Thursday, January 15th, with **8th grader Nick Rackley** being the winner. Second Place went to **5th grader Charity Parsons**. Congratulations!



## Leaving the Campus

For their own safety, students may not leave the campus during the school day without permission. If it is necessary for your child to leave campus, you must notify the office in writing, in person, (or if in extreme circumstances, by phone) and your child must be signed out at the school office by you or another designated adult. Our school also has a close campus policy at lunchtime. If you would like to take your child to lunch, please come into the office and sign him/her out. Please have the student check back into the office when they return.

## Valentine’s Dance

The next 7th/8th school dance is scheduled for Friday, February 13th, from 7:30 to 10:00 in the middle school gym. Advisors for this dance are Mrs. Kincheloe, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Taylor. Chaperones are always needed, so please call the office if you’d like to help out.

## School Hours

Students are supervised starting 20 minutes before class until dismissal. Children should not arrive before that time, since their safety can’t be assured. Similarly, students should return home immediately after school unless they participate in authorized extracurricular activities or are enrolled in the after school program. **NO OTHER STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN THE BUILDING AFTER 3:30 pm**

**Be Respectful**  
**Be Responsible**  
**Be Ready to Learn**