

News!

March, 2009

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Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 8th
Set clocks AHEAD one hour!

Looking ahead:

- Middle School Concerts 6
-7-8 Choirs 6:00 pm
6-7-8 Bands 7:00 pm
All i High School Auditorium
- February 26th
End of Quarter 3
Report Cards go home 4/1/09
- NO School Friday, 4/3/09
- Spring Break 4/6 thru 4/10/09

MontCAS Testing

During the week of March 16th, our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be taking the MontCAS testing. MontCAS is the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System. It consists of several state-wide tests. This is a standardized test that is administered and scored in a predetermined, standard manner. The intent of a standardized test is to learn how students are faring and identify trends in the performances of groups of students. The MontCAS test also compares student achievement to Montana content standards.

The middle school staff has put a lot of thought into how to best administer the test to your children and how

to effectively use the results. We realize that the teaching of our community's children is too important to be left unmonitored.

As parents, you play a significant role in the predicted success of your child on standardized tests. Many of the test questions assess what students have learned outside of school. If the parent sees the test as valuable, then the students also see the test as important and put more effort into it.

During the test week we encourage students to eat breakfast and get the right amount of sleep. Nodding off in the middle of a math test doesn't help us in determining the student's fu-

ture math needs. Students who are relaxed, rested, and eager to perform will have much more success on the test than those with grumbling stomachs and negative attitudes.

Middle School students don't like to sit for long periods of time, doing mundane tasks like filling in bubble sheets. Because of this, we will be providing plenty of breaks, a little snack, and opportunities for peer interaction.

When the test results are returned to the school, you will receive a data sheet, explaining your child's scores. If you have questions about the results, please contact us. We're always eager to help.

6-7-8 Track

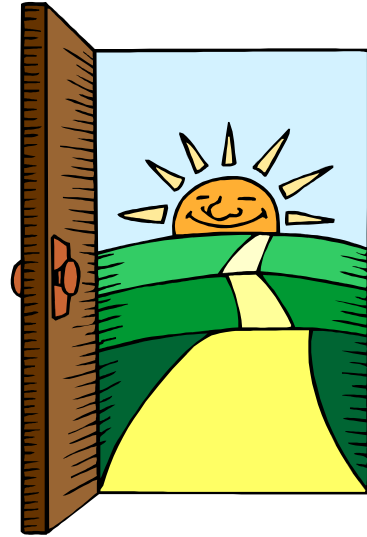


Spring is almost here and that means tso is track season! Track practice for all interested 6-7-8 graders will begin on Monday, March 16th. A current physical is needed as

well as an insurance form (available in the office).

Any questions, please call Kim Kilroy at 297-5600.





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Parent/Caregiver:

Dear Counselor,

What is a way to help to build resiliency in my child?

Counselor:

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Resiliency is when kids can face a problem with confidence, and have the ability to bounce back from upset. Children thrive on encouragement from adults in their life. Encouragement is different than praise. Encouragement is specific and detailed and communicates belief in the child's ability to solve a problem, face a challenge, and get through a difficult situation. Encouragement builds resiliency. Praising your kids is ok it's just that encouragement is more effective for building resiliency. An example of praise is "Good Job Bobby!" An example of encouragement is "I saw how you stuck with that difficult math problem and solved it!" or "I believe that you have the ability to work this conflict out with your friends," or "I have seen you work hard before, I know you can do it again". Belief in their ability comes across in encouragement. Belief in their ability builds resiliency.

Sincerely,

Karen K. Fowler

Eureka Middle School Counselor

297-5632