



Special Dates of Interest:

- Luau Party— Thursday, February 7th, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Talent Show— Thursday, March 14th
- 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Spring Dance— Thursday, March 21st

Issue 10

Winter 2013

Principal's Corner

Dear Salida Middle School Families,

Remember when you were in the middle grades and a classmate asked someone to ask someone to ask a third person if he or she liked him or her? Sometimes it would take all day to get the message there and back, meanwhile the asker was hiding shyly behind a door somewhere. Well, the same thing still happens today, only now it happens instantaneously via texting, tweeting, or e-mail. Unfortunately, the results aren't always as amusing or harmless as when you were in school.

Cybermessages provide opportunities for comment and ridicule not often present in word-of-mouth interactions. When a middle schooler tweets "See if she likes me," and the answer is negative, the tweeter can then add, "He's a loser anyway." And the bad-mouthing can spiral from there and even flow out into IM, e-mail, and social networking pages.

Middle schoolers aren't mature enough to understand how painful, and sometimes dangerous, cybermessages can be. Ten- to fifteen-year-olds can be mean and thoughtless, and these traits blossom when there is no face-to-face experience. Rude comments can be made and sent with no regard to the hurt caused at the other end.

Adults should have regular conversations with their middle schoolers about the content of messages. It's hard for 10- to 15-year-olds to think ahead. Teach them to think through the consequences of messages before they send them.

With Warm Regards,

Rose Ley, Principal



Procedure for Checking into the Middle School

We are in the process of retraining the students, staff and parents on safety procedures for checking into the Middle School. They are as follows:

ALL VISITORS must sign in at the front window. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Everyone is required to grab a visitors badge when entering the building.

Mrs. Heckel or Mrs. Wyatt will buzz you into the building only after you sign in.

Everyone needs to enter through the front doors and only through the front doors.

No one is allowed to open the outside doors to anyone.

Office staff are the only ones permitted to buzz people into the building.

Please remind your students about these procedures.

8th Grade News

LaDonna Short, Julie Bright, Amy Tressler & Stephen Crane

The 8th grade core is pleased with the way the first semester has gone. We hope the second semester will go as well. We will be preparing to administer Acuity, our district test during the beginning of the third quarter along with our regular curriculum.

We would like to ask parents to inquire about replenishing supplies for the second half of the year. Some students have run out of paper, pencils etc. and we would appreciate it if they could come back after the holidays with ample supplies.

The students will also be receiving a Money Matters and Career Launch curriculum during part of their math and history classes. It is a required state standard and a necessary component for success.

We look forward to the New Year and preparing our students for high school.



“Art” News

by Adrienne Everett

Salida Middle School Art Classes have been very busy imagining, discovering, and creating. The 8th grade art students need your help! Start saving plastic lids of every size, shape, and color and bring them into the art room where our 8th grade artists will use them to create recycled art masterpieces!

Students will travel through time exploring the Stone Age, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Impressionism, Surrealism, and Abstract periods of art. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Claude Monet, and Georgia O’Keeffe are studied and inspire student work. Students use the elements and principles of design when creating work in pencil, pastel, marker, tile, plaster gauze, and clay. Student work is displayed in the halls of the middle school throughout the school year. Student work is taken home at the end of each semester. Be inspired and intrigued by our amazing students!

“To create one’s world in any of the arts takes courage.” Georgia O’Keeffe



“ELO” News

by Adrienne Everett and Pam Smith

The Extended Learning Opportunity Class participates in the Autonomous Learner Model. This model is designed to cater to the unique needs and interests of the individual learner through individual development, seminars, enrichments, explorations, and in-depth studies. The nationally recognized model facilitates the total growth of the learner and strives to develop learners who solve problems and develop new ideas through a combination of divergent and convergent thinking.

Our 5th and 6th grade “ELO” students will be working on the “Images of Greatness” unit. The culminating event will be the Night of the Noteables. This event will take place in March. More details will be sent home with your children later in the semester.

Our 7th and 8th grade “ELO” students will be visiting the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and studying the artifacts, culture and preservation of the ancient city of Pompeii. Students will be exploring Italy through real world problems and challenges and using problem solving, decision making, investigative skills, and reflection.

7th Grade News

Life Science by Pam Young

After learning about viruses and bacteria in November, we hopefully have armed ourselves with some knowledge that will help keep everyone a little healthier this winter. If your student reminds you to "DO IT IN YOUR SLEEVE" or "DO THE DRACULA MOVE" when you cough or sneeze, tell them great job!! The comic strips were fantastic. During our studies about invertebrates in December we dissected worms. Before Christmas break we learned about cold-blooded vertebrates, including amphibians – it was time to dissect frogs! During the month of January the students will be researching and writing about a warm-blooded vertebrate of their choice. At the completion of their research they will share their information in the form of a mural, power-point, model, scrapbook, interview, demonstration, etc. We will all become more familiar with many different warm-blooded vertebrates.

Thank you for your interest and support and remember - SCIENCE RULES! Pam Young/530-5348



Language Arts by Jacque Fisher

Welcome to 2013 and the second half of a great school year! (Can anyone tell me where the first half went?) Allow me to recap the end of last semester in 7th grade language arts, as it ties seamlessly into the 2nd semester: In our ongoing effort to strengthen students' speaking and writing skills, we have been focusing on using correct forms of verbs. For instance, which of the following sentences do *you* think is correct?

I have drank my glass of milk. OR *I have drunk my glass of milk.* Ask your 7th grader which one is right! In writing workshop students worked on independent pieces of writing; many wrote poetry; others, short stories or letters to loved ones. A number of students composed gifts of writing for the holidays; I hope you were lucky enough to receive one! In November students wrote thank-you notes to the veterans who came and shared their stories. Most recently, students submitted their poetry to Creative Communication, a reputable company that publishes student writing. We should know in a few weeks whose poems were accepted for publication. The same company offers an essay contest, as well, and I plan to have my students participate. The essays written last year for this contest were some of the best writing I have ever read from 7th graders. Here's why: Students select a topic that truly matters to them and then explore their thoughts and feelings about it through purposeful, meaningful writing. When the mind and heart work together to put thoughts into words, amazing things happen... And finally, nightly reading continues; literacy is the key that opens doors to academic success and lifelong learning.



Math by Hermann Lapp

I am continually impressed with this year's 7th grade class. They're working hard and making great progress. The next few weeks we will be exploring linear equations and geometry.



Eastern Hemisphere by John Goetz

"This month in Eastern Hemisphere, we'll be studying the ancient Egyptians and the ancient Greeks. In conjunction with this, we'll be studying Saharan Africa and Southern Europe.

"We'll also be completing our history projects. Students who have chosen to do the National History Day project will compete in the regional competition on January 26, 2012 at Adams State College in Alamosa.

"For more information, please visit my website at www.mrgoetzclass.weebly.com."

6th Grade News

Language Arts (Literacy) by Cory Scheffel

As you may have noticed, the 6th grade literacy team puts a **heavy** emphasis on vocabulary. By 6th grade, most of the early reading skills have been accomplished (concepts of print, letter blends, etc.) At this age, the focus becomes building what seems like an infinite amount of words for students to draw from as they delve into a piece of writing.

We have all had those times when we were reading something above our vocabulary level. The frequent trips to the dictionary to discover a word’s meaning is like hitting pause on a movie every few minutes. The disruption destroys the flow (fluency) of the story and meaning is lost.

As we head into second semester, use the day to day conversations with your child to help build these skills. Don’t be afraid to use words above their level. If they have to ask, “What does that mean?” You’ve just given them one more word to add to their tool kit.



Western Hemisphere by George A. Mossman

This semester in Western Hemisphere the kids are learning about indigenous cultures, Canada, Latin America as well as discussing the effects of exploration on the Western Hemisphere. Next quarter we will be gearing up for International Towne “a one-of-a-kind educational program offered to help teach students about global economics through fun, hands-on, experiential learning.” Expect to hear more details about this culminating experience at the beginning of the 4th quarter.



Math by Bryan Lamont

As we start the third quarter we are thinking about the rapidly approaching TCAP. To prepare for the test, students will be focused on problem solving in the real world. Students will also work on skills that help them gain a better understanding of probability, integers, measurement and geometry. Students have been working hard so far this year to solve one and two step Algebra equations. They will continue working on challenging material for the remainder of the year in an effort to effectively prepare them for their 7th grade Pre-Algebra class.



Science by Jean Dyer

We will be learning about atoms, molecules, elements and compounds.

5th Grade News

Leslie Garrity - Keri Godina - Samantha Lane - Sandy Love

Wow! We're halfway through the school year! The fifth graders are having a great year.

In math, we wrapped up our unit on fractions, decimals, and percents. We continue to work on comprehension and other reading strategies as we read novels and nonfiction books. In our writing, we have written descriptive paragraphs, personal narratives, and persuasive paragraphs. In social studies we finished studying European explorers and are beginning Colonial life and the American Revolution. For science, we finished studying the human body systems and are beginning classification.

The second half of the year we will be looking forward to our annual trip to Camp Redcloud. We will be looking for parent volunteers to come with us. We also need to do more fundraising for our trip if you have any ideas. We are open to any and all ideas! Call Leslie Garrity if you have fundraising suggestions for us – 221-5171.



Title Reading & Math

by Dewey Groover

Success in school begins at home. Since we have become such an electronic society it is natural to rely heavily on television for information. TV is useful but it tends to turn the viewer into a passive processor rather than an evaluator. Computers and calculators can quickly crunch numbers but do not help anyone actually be a thinker. So, it is up to parents to guide their children/students to use electronic devices to become better thinkers and not just game players. For reading consider an electronic tablet that can download a book or magazine that your child has interest in, in just seconds. No searching in bookstores or having to go to a library. What is important is that your child is motivated to read if their interests are addressed. Good readers become good readers by reading and processing on their own. As for games on computers try some sites like Cool Math or Funbrain and share some of the learning with your students. What a student can attain while “playing” some of these games can increase their broader abilities in math significantly. Monitor their use of games and sites to ensure that what they are doing is not just zoning out.



The Yearbook Club

by Susan Matthews

Dear Parents,

We have begun the Yearbook Club for this year. If you have any pictures of students from sports, field trips, assemblies, concerts, talent show, etc. from this year, please send them to smatthews@salida.k12.co.us. Pictures must include description of what event it is, grade level, and any other important information about the picture.

Thank you, The Yearbook Club

Music News

by Robin French

Second semester in Music brings new students, 8th graders now, and new instruments to learn and have fun playing, drums. The 5th and 6th grade classes will still be playing guitars on Wednesdays through the month of January. We are all so grateful to the Salida community for their generosity in donating guitars and money to purchase guitars to our program. We are now fully supplied and there is no more sharing of instruments in any class. To show our appreciation, we are inviting any and all parents and community members to drop in on our classes on Wednesdays in January. We will happily and proudly play for you and let you see for yourselves what it means to us to have so many great guitars. So, you are welcome in the Music Room between noon and 2:00 any Wednesday in January. Stop by the office for directions.



“Leap into Summer” Luau

Thursday, February 7th

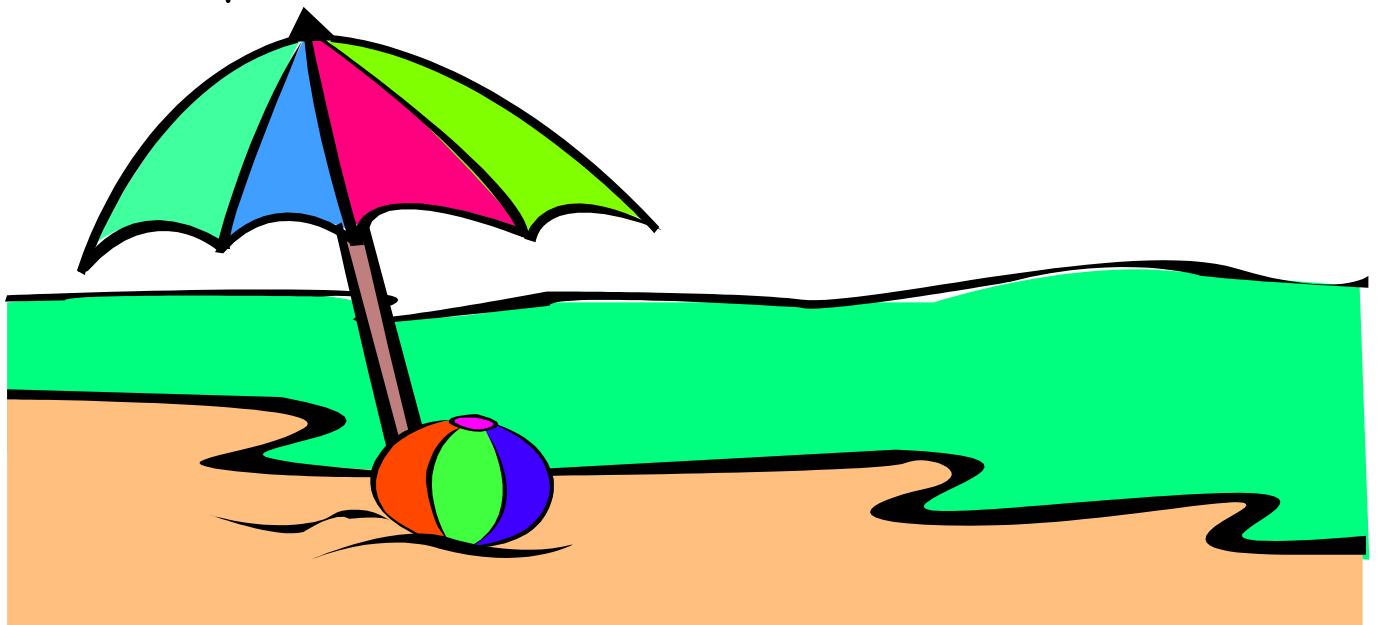
5:30—7:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served-Free of Charge

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips & Hawaiian Punch

Fun for the Whole Family - Games, Prizes & Popsicles

So put on your Hawaiian Clothes and surf on over!



Start Saving BOX TOP\$ for Education

Please send trimmed Box Tops to school with your child.
Earn cash for our school.



Talent Show Coming In March!!

You don't want to miss out.

Start Practicing Now!! Cash Prices!!!

~Must Audition Prior to Show~

More Details to come!!!



Special points of interest:

- Lunch \$2.80
- Reduced .40
- Breakfast continues to be free to all for now.
- Call 530-5302 if your student is absent.
- We are not taking homework requests this year. Students request work when they return to school.

Next PTO Meeting Monday, February 4th at 4:15 p.m. in the Library

Time to start planning the Luau Scheduled on February 7th





Salida Middle School

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FAX: 719-530-5364**



2013 Calendar Dates & Activities

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| January 8-March 14, 3 rd quarter | March 21, spring dance for 6, 7, 8 |
| January 28, SMS Accountability | March 18-May 31, 4 th quarter |
| February 7, Luau Party | March 25-29, Spring Break |
| February 4, PTO-4:15 PM library | April 1, PTO-4:15 PM library |
| February 7, mid-term | April 15, SMS Accountability |
| February 25, SMS Accountability | April 25, mid-term |
| March 4, PTO-4:15 PM library | May 6, PTO-4:15 PM library |
| March 14, Talent Show | May 9, 6th Grade International Towne |
| March 14, end of 3 rd quarter | May 20, SMS Accountability |
| March 18, SMS Accountability | May 30, 7th Grade to Sand Dunes |
| | May 31, 4th quarter ends |