



The Howler

Publication of the Shady Grove Middle School PTA • February 2005

*Home of the
Timberwolves*

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable winter vacation. We're glad to be back and we're in full swing with the high school county exams on our doorstep. Our sixth grade students just returned from a very successful outdoor education program. Who ever thought the weather would be so perfect the second week in January? The students were engaged in team-building, environmental studies, orienteering, and confidence building. During the evening hours, the students were entertained by the singing and story telling talents of Dr. David Steinberg, principal of Magruder High School. He comes every year! We definitely have the best cluster in all of Montgomery County. Mr. Terry Eberhardt, former music teacher at Shady Grove, had us singing our hearts out around the campfire. Ask any high school student what they remember most about middle school and many will say "outdoor ed." It's a well spent three days that lead to an appreciation of nature and the environment but most importantly it gives our students the opportunity to learn more about each other in a different setting. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered their very valuable time and spent days and nights with us. We couldn't do it without you!

A Message From...

Lance Dempsey,
Principal

I would like to recognize Ms. Pat Christopher for her service to Shady Grove Middle School and for her recent retirement effective January 3. We wish her well as she enters the exciting world of retirement. We presently have a long-term substitute, Ms. Crystal Johnson, from the Johns Hopkins PROMAT Teaching Program filling the position.

Mark your calendars for Shady Grove's annual Career Day on Friday, April 29, 2005 from 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. If you have a job that you would like to share with our eighth grade students please contact Ms. Donnie Gamble-Poole in the Guidance Office at 301-548-7534 or by e-mail at DonnieL_Gamble@fc.mcps.k12.md.us

The registration process for all our students at Shady Grove are under way. Our feeder school breakfast is on January 20. During this breakfast our feeder school fifth grade teachers, principals, and counselors receive the necessary information regarding registration to the middle school. All registration materials are due back to the children's' fifth grade teachers by February 28. All the fifth grade students will be visiting Shady Grove Middle School (SGMS) for a tour and music concert on February 8 (snow date – February 10). On February 10 and 11 the Magruder High School (MHS) counselors will be pre-registering all eighth grade students through their social studies and science classes. The MHS counselors return to SGMS for the final registration on February 17. Eighth grade parents; please be on the look out for the four-year plan your students will be receiving prior to February 10. Our rising seventh and eighth grade students will receive registration packets through their science classes on February 2 and 3. All registration packets are due back to the guidance counselors by February 28. Some important meetings:

- * February 17 In-coming 6th Grade Parent Orientation Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
(Snow date February 24)
- * February 22 Rising 7th and 8th Grade Parent Orientation Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
(Snow date February 28)

It's Academic

Sixth Grade News

The sixth grade has successfully completed the first semester of the 2004-2005 school year. Things are definitely picking up speed as we roll along into our second half. This is a good time to check up on and restock school supplies. Each student should spend extra time at home checking his or her binder to make sure it is organized. Lets work hard to make the second semester as rewarding as the first!

English

The sixth graders have been busy reading adventures and learning what an adventure is all about. We ended our unit with a persuasive essay on an adventure. We look forward to our next unit, which is Triumphs. The GT students will begin their William and Mary unit with a research project!!

World Studies

Sixth grade World Studies scholars have finished Unit 2: Citizenship and Governance in Ancient and Modern Times. During the course of this unit students "toured" Ancient Athens, compared Athenian and American democracies, and learned about the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.

During the third marking period students will be learning about the "Impact of Economics in Ancient and Modern China." Very soon, students will retake the sixth grade MSDE vocabulary test to see if they've made progress now that it's halfway through the school year.

Science

Our sixth grade science students will become energized as they begin their unit on "Motion, Forces, and Energy". Lots of hands-on activities will be included in the unit as the students investigate motion and forces and the concepts

of speed, velocity, and acceleration. As the unit progresses, the students will learn about energy transformation and conservation and how it relates to the six forms of energy: electrical, nuclear, chemical, mechanical, electromagnetic, and thermal. Electricity and magnetism will also be introduced. Towards the end of the unit the students will participate in Roller Coaster Day, in which all sixth grade science students will work to construct a roller coaster with very limited materials.

Math

In Math A students are beginning the unit on geometry. In this unit, students will gain an understanding of the relationship of angle pairs. They will classify angle pairs and develop an understanding of congruence and similarity of shapes.

Math B students are focusing on geometry as well. They will extend their ability to recognize geometric properties of figures. These properties include parallel, perpendicular, intersecting and skew line relationships.

IM students survived their first experience with mid year exams. Unit 5 will start the second semester off with data analysis. Students will collect, organize, display and interpret data for real life situations using appropriate displays.

Reading

In reading, sixth graders are moving on to the Triumphs unit, where we will focus on biographies and autobiographies. With a month remaining until the MSA's, we will also incorporate test-taking skills and writing strategies for responding to BCR's. Students need to keep working toward the goal of completing 25 books by the end of the school year. Our big project for the third quarter will be the Cereal Box Book Report.

Who's Who

Lisa Kellert, 6th Grade Team Leader

Principal ~ Lance Dempsey ~ 301-548-7540

PTA President ~ Brian Karem ~ 301-258-0277

Newsletter Editor; Design/Layout ~ Stephanie Schwinn ~ 301-926-7217

Copy Editor ~ Steve Simon

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The Howler is published and distributed by the first of each month (except January) ~ all articles should be submitted to Stephanie Schwinn at 5schwinn@comcast.net by the 10th of each month.

PTA Meeting...

*Tuesday
February 8
7:30 p.m.
Media Center*



It's Academic

Love is....7th Grade!

In Science, students are continuing their exploration of the human body in science class. In January we finished with the digestive system and moved on to the cardiovascular system. At the conclusion of the cardiovascular system unit, students will do a frog dissection. Any parents who would like to help with this dissection are encouraged to contact their child's science teacher. (The dissection is tentatively scheduled for February 14 and 15.) No experience is needed. Extra eyes are always useful in a room of 32 students with sharp dissecting instruments.

Math

Seventh grade math continues to be rigorous and challenging as we finish the second quarter and enter the third! To ensure success for all students, they should arrive to class prepared with their math book, pencil, paper, and calculator everyday. Please check with your child to make sure they have an adequate amount of supplies.

In Math B, students completed a lengthy chapter covering concepts of algebraic reasoning. For Unit 3 students have switched gears and are focusing on geometric relationships. For success in this unit, students must recognize and understand a number of vocabulary words. Nightly practice is essential for students to gain a strong understanding of these definitions.

IM students have now completed their semester one exam and are looking to begin the fifth unit of study: Data Analysis. The students will be using graphing calculators (TI-83) in this unit and should bring their calculator to class daily.

The Maryland State Assessment (MSA) in Math will be taken the first week in March. All students should be preparing for the test. They are doing math MSA activities in connect time every other week and will have a quiz on the fourth day of these weeks. To prepare for the quiz, please encourage your child to study their activities at home nightly.

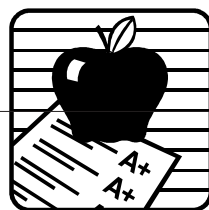
English

Students are completing their second unit, "A Sense of Place" and are preparing to move into "Voices from the Past." The "Voices from the Past" unit places emphasis on the process of research and on learning about how the past illuminates our understanding of the present. The English

classes will be working to that end by creating and producing radio broadcast shows reminiscent of the 1930s and 1940s. Keep an ear out for Shady Grove's newest broadcast journalists!

English teachers are continuing to prepare students for the Reading Maryland State Assessment coming up the second week in March. You can also help your child prepare by accessing the Maryland State Department of Education's website: www.md.k12.org. This site provides sample questions and passages from various grade levels tests that you can quiz your child on at home.

Meredith L. Mirkow, 7th Grade Team Leader



Eighth Grade News

Students are now starting their second semester at Shady Grove. We are now more than halfway through the school year! Eighth graders will soon

be registering for ninth grade classes at Magruder High School. Math and English teachers are hard at work preparing their students for the Maryland State Assessments that will be starting in the first week of March. In science classes, students will be working on a geology unit and world studies teachers will be preparing their students for a county final exam that will be given on February 4th. The following are important dates for students and parents to remember:

February 11th - progress reports sent home
February 28th - interims are mailed
March 14th - progress reports sent home

Doug Sheldon, Grade 8 World Studies

Congratulations to:

Seventh grader Vanessa Trinh whose prize winning short story is representing Shady Grove Middle School at the Young Authors' Contest! Wish her well as she awaits to hear the results from the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council.

Eighth grader Julia Boudrye who won the school-wide Shakespeare Monologue Competition. She will compete with winners from across the region February 17th at the Imagination Stage in Bethesda. Be sure to congratulate her and wish her well as she advances to the next level.

Counselor's Corner

It's that time again!! Registration for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Favazzo and Ms. Finch will be meeting with 6th and 7th grade students on February 2 and 3. They will prepare students with the ability to choose their classes for next year. The deadline to turn in all registration forms will be February 28. Magruder High School counselors will be here on February 10 to register our eighth graders for next year. They will return on February 17 to collect all registration forms. The eighth graders will also get to meet with their counselors one-on-one to make sure that all registration information is correct. It is very important that students are in school these days so that they do not miss out on some very important information.

February, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Transition from Middle School to High School. Designed for parents of students with special needs and learning differences. Hoover Middle School. Offered by the Special Needs Committee, Nahid Linares, linareseyedin@aol.com.

Feb. 1 - Mar. 8, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Family Strategies for Dealing with Anger. Class for parents and their middle school children (both must attend). Learn to work as a team to better understand intense feelings. YMCA Ayrilawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda. Offered by the Bethesda YMCA Parenting Programs, 301-229-1347 or email parenting@ymcadc.org.

Feb. 2 - Mar. 9, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Parenting Teens. Down to earth and practical ways to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. Required text - \$15. YMCA Ayrilawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda. Offered by the Bethesda YMCA Parenting Programs, 301-229-1347 or email parenting@ymcadc.org.

Feb. 2, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Summer Search Information Meeting. Parents may learn about unique summer enrichment or fun activities for their children of all ages. Scholarships and internship opportunities will also be discussed. Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville. Offered by MCPS, snowdate Feb. 23.

Feb. 2 & 9, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Back Talk: How Dare You Speak to Me That Way! (members, \$50/per; \$85/couple ~ non-members, \$55/per; \$95/couple). Learn why children engage in disrespectful talk, and strategies for reducing back talk and building stronger relations. PEP, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Offered by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), registration required by calling 301-929-8824.

Feb. 3 - Mar. 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Communicating Success to Children. Learn to identify the purposes of children's misbehaviors and develop effective discipline and encouragement

strategies. Required text - \$15. YMCA Ayrilawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda. Offered by the Bethesda YMCA Parenting Programs, 301-229-1347 or email parenting@ymcadc.org.

Feb. 10, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Thomas Edison - Open House. Parent and students interested in exploring Thomas Edison's programs are invited to annual open house. Programs include Biotechnology, Restaurant Management, Construction and Automotive Trades, Information Technology, Graphics, Drafting, Cosmetology & Nails, Medical Careers, and Hospitality, Travel & Tourism. Thomas Edison High School of Technology, 12501 Dalewood Dr., Silver Spring. Sponsored by Thomas Edison, 301-929-2175.

Feb. 11, 8:00 -11:30 a.m. *Helping Obese Children: Mental Health Interventions that Work. \$45/member; \$60/non-member, \$30/student, CEUs. Speakers include Cindy Salmon, RN, Mike Goldsmith, LCSW. University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus, Building II, Rockville. Sponsored by the Mental Health Assn. of MC, 301-424-0656, ext. 129.

Feb. 16, 23 & Mar. 2, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Anger Management - A User's Guide (members, \$70/person; \$125/couple; non-members, \$80/person; \$135/couple). Learn how to help your children cope with frustration while using your own anger in productive ways. PEP, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Offered by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), registration required by calling 301-929-8824

Feb. 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Suspicion with a Smile - Hosting Teen Age Parties. The School Community Action Team has organized a series of prevention sessions to provide opportunities for families, students, business people, police, clergy, teachers and other interested community members to network. Upcounty Regional

Enrichment

For parents who are interested in enrichment opportunities for their child, check the Shady Grove Middle School website for regularly updated postings.

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/shadygrovemv



It's Academic

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Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown. Sponsored by the MCPS School Community Action Team.

Feb. 22, 8:30 a.m. Thomas Edison - Family Tour. *See February 10 listing for details. Call 301-929-6920 for reservations.

Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. Thomas Edison - Student Tour. *See February 10 listing for details. Call 301-929-6920 for reservations.

Feb. 26 & Mar. 5 & 12, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Helping Your Underachieving Child to Be More Motivated & Self-Disciplined in School (members, \$70/person; \$125/couple; non-members, \$80/person; \$135/couple). Come to this seminar to learn a proven method that encourages motivation and self-discipline in school and puts the child in charge of his choices. For parents of children in grades 6th-9th. PEP, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Offered by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), registration required by calling 301-929-8824.

John Favazzo & Donnie Gamble, Guidance

Exciting Summer Opportunities for Students

The Division of Family and Community Partnerships will host the 2005 Summer Search Family Night on Wednesday, February 2, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville.

The Family Night is designed to acquaint parents and students with a wide range of enrichment opportunities available to students during the summer months, including internships, courses, camps, travel experiences, and other educational programs.

Many programs are free of charge, while others have tuition and/or travel costs attached. A majority of the programs offer scholarships and other financial assistance. College credit is available for some senior-level program offerings.

For more information, call the Div. of Family & Community Partnerships at 301-279-3100.

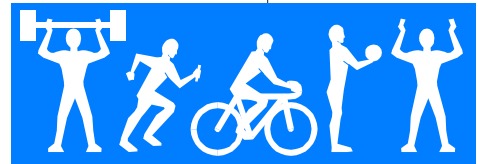
John Favazzo & Donnie Gamble, Guidance

PE News

This month is physical education we are starting great units like volleyball, table tennis, and weight training. Some of our future units will include dance, fitness and archery.

PARENTS: Please remind your child to bring clothes for physical education everyday and to take them home for cleaning at the end of the week.

KIDS: Remember spring will be there before we know it. If you are here interested in spring sports at Shady Grove or in the community please ask your physical education teacher for information.



Milton Thomas, Physical Education Teacher

Art News

Art students from each grade level created posters which reflected the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: his achievements and aspirations. To commemorate his birthday, on January 17th many of these posters were on display at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. During February these works will again be on exhibit at the Executive Office Building in Rockville .. in conjunction with the celebration of African American History month. Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded to each student whose work was chosen for these displays.

Art students who created holiday ornaments for the Statehouse tree in Annapolis will be receiving letters of appreciation signed by Governor Ehrlich, along with a photograph of the decorated tree. In December, all student participants and their families were invited to an Open House and reception where our students were greeted by and personally thanked by the Governor for their participation in this event. For the first time there is a website (www.gov.state.md.us) which shows photos of the open house and the decorated tree.

Many thanks to the students whose exhibited art work represented SGMS and made us all very proud!

Gerry Hunter, Art

*Career Day
Flyer*

MCCPTA Delegate's Report

In her President's opening remarks at the November assembly, Cindy Kerr said she is working to educate the State PTA on the current demographic needs of Montgomery County. Many officials are still not aware of our increased lower-income and ESOL populations, compared to ten to twenty years ago; when officials believe the outdated statistics that put the county among the richest in the nation are still accurate, MCPS is put at risk again and again to be bypassed for state funding for school construction and renovation, as well as various programs and staff positions.

As state funding becomes more competitive each year, all parents are encouraged to write their elected officials and demand that they support our Capital Improvement Plan and Dr. Weast's proposed Operations Budget, which he presented in an open address on December 15. Cindy also commented that Montgomery County has the most PTA's in Maryland.

Vice President for Educational Issues Shirley Brandman is reviewing the policy on ineligibility, which forbids students with a grade point average of less than 2.0 from participating in after-school activities that are funded by MCPS. If this matter

interests you, Shirley can be reached at 301-460-0224.

A draft of the 2005 – 2006 school calendar was provided; it shows the first day of school as Monday, August 29. If you prefer the calendar start after labor day, call me.

This assembly also included an opportunity to meet with representatives from each of the more than 30 standing committees, including Middle School, Parent Leadership, Health and Technology. If you would like more information about a committee that matches your interests, call me. Committee membership is open to all MCPS parents.

On January 10, the MCCPTA sponsored a forum on the Operations Budget, with members from both the County Council and the Board of Education on the panel.

There was no assembly in December. The January assembly took place on January 25, it was scheduled to address the county's growing problem of fatal car accidents involving our children.

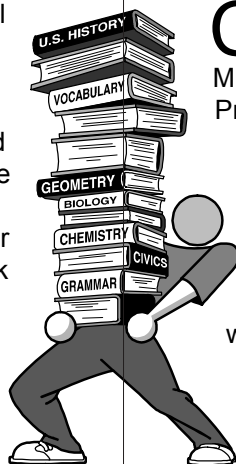
Patty Winters, PTA MCCPTA Delegate

Book Fair Committee GT/LD Speaker Series

The spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held May 2-6, in the SGMS Media Center. We'll take delivery of the books on Thursday, April 28 and will need help setting up on Thursday and Friday (April 28-29), as well as during the day the following week.

Since this will be the last year for most of the members of the "core" book fair committee, we are looking for a "chairperson-in-training" to help with the spring fair and take over in the fall of next year. Please contact Debbie Milder at 301-926-4760 or dcmilder@comcast.net for further information.

Debbie Milder, PTA Book Fair Chair



College Search Process for GT/LD Students Nancy Rosenberg, M.Ed., Educational Consultation, Private Practice - GTLD Interest, Silver Spring, MD. The presentation will take place at Carver Educational Services Center in the auditorium. Advocacy discussion from 6-7 pm and presentation from 7-9 pm. More information can be found at their website: www.gtldnetwork.org

Debbie Symons, 6th Grade Science Teacher

February 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31 <i>Jan</i>	1	2	3 <i>Report Card Distribution</i>	4
7	8 <i>PTA Meeting 7:30p.m.</i>	9	10	11 <i>Relay for Life Dance 2:45-5 p.m.</i>
14	15	16	17	18 EARLY RELEASE
21 NO SCHOOL <i>President's Day</i>	22	23	24	25
27	28	1 <i>Mar</i>	2	3

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The Student Government Association (SGA) at Shady Grove will be starting a Tsunami fundraiser on January 18th running through January 28. With all the coverage on this horrific tragedy, what has been most disheartening for many of our students here at SGMS is the number of children being left as orphans. In order to reach out across the globe and lend a helpful hand to these children, our students have decided to hold a fundraiser and to raise as much money as possible to donate to helping these children piece their lives back together. The entire school will be participating in this fundraiser with the proceeds being donated to the UNICEF foundation. The fundraiser will be held during the lunch periods each day for two weeks. Whichever class raises the most money will (hopefully) have their total amount of funding matched by a local business. In addition to the lunchtime fundraising, there will be a school dance on January 21 and a separate "Hat Day" to raise more money to be given to UNICEF. The SGA is hoping to find a local business that will match the amount raised by the class who wins the competition. If you know of anyone or any business that might be interested in matching our donation, please contact Ms. Sarah Phillips, the staff sponsor of the SGA at SGMS at 301-548-7540.

Looking a little ahead, the Maryland State Assessments (MSAs) will be given the first two weeks in March. These tests are given in the morning during a two and a half hour block schedule and attendance is mandatory. A specific schedule will be forthcoming. For those of you planning for next year the school calendar for the 2005 – 2006 school year is on line at the MCPS website.

As I have mentioned previously, communication between the home and school is a two-way street, meaningful and critical to any partnership. As we move into the second semester at the end of this month, please continue with routine procedures to review your child's work on a daily basis, to make sure they have completed all assignments, attend school regularly and they are prepared for learning. To assist with communicating the activities taking place during and/or after school please check out our school website (www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/shaygrovemv/) and click on News and Noteworthy to view our morning announcements.

Now that winter appears to have arrived we never know what Mother Nature has in store for us. Here are a few reminders of the inclement weather procedures for MCPS. When schools are closed you can listen to area radio and television stations, including Cable Channel 34. You can also access the Internet (www.mcps.k12.md.us) to get the information.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about all the exciting events taking place at Shady Grove. At SGMS we continue to be committed to academic excellence for all our students. Our students, staff and parent community make Shady Grove Middle School a great place to learn and work. Let me know if I can ever be of any assistance. You can call me at 301-548-7540 or e-mail me at Lancellotti_Dempsey@fc.mcps.k12.md.us

Howler

Sincerely,