Subject: Fwd: The Eagle - Memorial Middle School PTA's Email Blast

From:

Date: 1/11/2013 5:12 PM

To:



The Eagle

December 17, 2012

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News to Share?

Click here to add someone to this weekly email blast!

A Word from our Principal

Dear MMS Parents,

I'm sure each of you are hugging your children a little tighter today as we are still trying to grasp the "whys" of the tragedy at that Connecticut elementary school last week. Please keep those families and that community in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. I want to reiterate that safety protocols are in place for MMS as well as all schools in SBISD. We practice these procedures regularly throughout the entire school year.

I also want to remind you again that there will be an informational parent meeting held at Memorial Middle School on Thursday, January 10th at 6:30 p.m. regarding the district recommended human sexuality curriculum entitled "It's your Game". More information about the curriculum can be found on the following website https://sph.uth.edu/tprc/its-your-game/. I encourage all parents to view the curriculum and go through the lessons prior to the

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meeting. One of the co-authors of the curriculum, Dr. Susan Tortolero will be our guest speaker and be available to answer your questions.

Quick Links...

2012-2013 MMS PTA Calendar

2012-2013 MMS PTA Board

Family Access/Skyward

Write a Check Donation Form

Fall 2012 Exam Schedule

Questions about the schedule, please contact the chair/teacher directly.

Currently, Memorial Middle is teaching human sexuality through the 8th grade Health elective. The Health class does not use the It's Your Game curriculum, but follows the state required TEKS for Health. In this meeting, we will discuss options for those parents who would like their student to have the opportunity to participate in the It's Your Game curriculum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great Winter break!

Lisa Weir

On the Schedule

Friday, January 11

December 19-21 Final Exams (7th & 8th Grades)

December 19-21 Early Dismissal

Friday, December 21 GT Testing Applications Due

December 24- January 4 Winter Break
Monday, January 7 Student Holiday
Tuesday, January 8 Classes Resume

Thursday, January 10 Informational Parent Meeting re. the District Recommended

Human Sexuality Curriculum - 6:30 p.m. MMS National Geography Bee Preliminary Round

in the Library during Activity

in the Library during Activity

Friday, January 11 International Club Luncheon

Tuesday, January 15 January Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday, January 17 PTA Meeting - Library at 12:00 p.m.

Monday, January 21 Teacher Staff Development - Student Holiday

Tuesday, January 22 6th Grade Peer Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 22 Credit by Exam for Spanish 1 and French 1

Wednesday, January 30 7th Grade Peer Group Meeting -Library at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 31 Credit by Exam for Spanish 2

In January 8th Grade Peer Group Transition to 9th Meeting

Message from our PTA President

We had a beautiful start to the Holiday Season with our Holiday Home Tour. Thank you so much to the families that worked so hard and so graciously opened their homes to help MMS raise money. The homes were amazing, and it was a great success!

I hope your students are ready to finish off this week by studying hard and doing great on their finals so they can have a relaxing fun Holiday break. They deserve it!

The senseless tragedy that took place in Connecticut last week has rocked our nation. Our hearts are breaking for those families and that community. As our thoughts and prayers go out to them, I hope each one of us will take this time to give our kids an extra tight hug and tell them and those around us how much they mean to us. Life is so fragile. We are truly such a blessed community, and I'm so thankful for each one of you.

I hope you all have a safe and blessed holiday, Leann Newton



Soaring Eagles

A big "Thank you" to the Holiday Home Tour chairs, Cindy Stein, Kara Uptegraph, Karen Miller and Heidi Heller.

Claudia Jarrard and Sarah Ridley are doing a great job with the International Club.

Thanks to **Chris Vierra** for keeping us up to date on happenings with our State Legislature.

Mary Kerr is working hard to make some changes with the sad looking plants we have in our buildings. Be on the look out for improvements.

Thanks to Casey Rowe for keeping our website up to date and informative.

Our Write-a Check chairs are working so hard to raise funds for MMS. Thanks to Claudine Wright, LeeAnna Lackey, Sharlynn Fenn and Pam Callahan.

PTA Happenings



Write-A-Check

It's not too late!! There is still time to make your tax deductible donation to MMS PTA in 2012. CLICK

<u>HERE</u> for the donation form and either mail it to Pam Callahan or drop it off in the MMS office.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation. We have collected \$93,465 so far. Our goal is over \$100,000.

Happy Holidays,

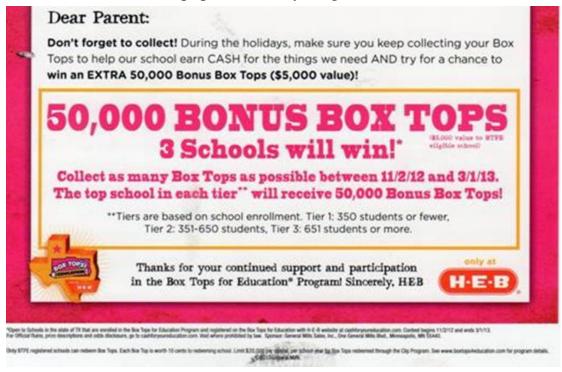
The Write A Check Committee

Claudine Wright, Pam Callahan, LeeAnna Lackey, Sharalynn Fenn



Congratulations Nick Heller, 7th grade, for being November's Box Top submission winner. Stop by the front office for your Christmas treat!

Box Tops for Education and HEB are joining together for Texas schools this year. 50,000 Bonus Box Tops (\$5,000) will be given to the top school in each of the 3 categories. So, keep on collecting during the busy holidays. Just think what MMS could do with this money..new computers, science lab, classroom equipment, or anything MMS needs.



To learn more and track our school's progress, register at BoxTops4Education.com. MMS will receive Box Tops simply by you registering. In addition, there are grocery coupons and on-line games (in which MMS earns Box Tops) on the website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at mcole5@att.net.



Thanks so much to the wonderful families that opened their homes for the 2012 HOLIDAY HOME TOUR



Many Thanks to our FABULOUS Homeowners:

The Arnett Family, The McFatter Family, The Stewart Family & The Vandenburg Family

All of the homes were absolutely beautiful and got everyone in the mood for the holiday season!

A big thank you to our Volunteers: Pam Allen, Gina Brooks, Melanie Cizik, Amy Eggert, Katie Fields, Karen Flajnik, Carrie Graves, Robin Howell, Mary Kerr, Lesli Pendergraft, Cheryl Stein, Claudine Wright, Shannon Childress, Lauri Gleaves, Cindy Wagner, Helen Hamilton, Kimberly Morris, Leann Newton, Momei Ge, Sheri Howard, Gena Eckerman, Robin Tucker, Sharalynn Fenn, Cami Moseley, Annie Lovell, Lisa Verbeke, Munia Chehayeb, Tracy Kettler, Leigh Ann Ranslem, Kelly Hicks, Alyce Eyster, Shannon Bregenzer, Hayley Stewart, Holly Roberts, Anne-Laure Stephens, Annie Bullock, Terri Stroube, Michelle Vandervoort, Debra Bigler, Robin Harger, Lisa Henkel, Mary Ranger, Donna Waitkus, & Renee Allred. We could not have done it without you! Additionally, the homeowners want to put out a special thanks to Melissa DeAyala, Danielle Rushing, Nancy Dunbar, Susan Syamken & Amy Badger for all their decorating help and preparation support.

Lastly, we want to thank everyone who purchased a Home Tour ticket. The turnout was great and over \$9300 was raised for the MMS PTA.

We hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break!

The 2012 Home Tour Committee: Heidi Heller, Karen Miller, Cindy Stein & Kara Uptegraph

December International Coffee



Thanks to Megan Cody for hosting the December International Club Christmas ornament exchange and coffee. It was a great turn out and lots of fun.



MMS Reflections

CONGRATULATIONS to our 11 MMS Reflections entries on advancing to the District Level!

Those entries receiving The Award of Excellencewere eligible to advance to the District Level of judging.

This level of judging is winding down now and they hope to have the results to us before winter break.

This means that MMS could have entries going to the State Level!



(pictured left to right, standing)

Sepano Mehdi (7th grade-Literature), Joshua Chan (8th grade-Film), Blakeley Kress (8th grade-Special Artist, Visual Arts), Stuart Martin (6th grade-Visual Arts), Melanie Alvarez (7th grade-Visual Arts), Allison Delgado (6th grade-Music), Zoe Wheelock (8th grade-Photography), Allie McKee (8th grade-Photography), Kate Balleza (8th grade-Photography)

(pictured kneeling front row) Emily Ward (7th grade-Visual Arts), Lauren Dodds (6th grade-Photography)

CONGRATULATIONS and good luck Reflections Eleven!!

MMS Messages

Credit By Exam (CBE) Announcement

For students who are able to speak, read, and write Spanish or French, the

Spanish 1 and French 1 CBE will be offered on **Tuesday, January 22, 2013**. The Spanish 2 CBE will be offered on **Thursday, January 31, 2013**. The exam is for students who are not currently enrolled in Spanish at this time. Please see your grade level counselor to apply to take the test (6th-Lisa Suchart, 7th - Liz Rushing, 8th - Diana Peters).

GT Applications

If you are interested in applying for your child to test into the GT program, you can pick up a referral packet in the main office. The applications are due **Friday, December 21**. If you have questions, please contact your child's grade level counselor.



Notes From the MMS Clinic:

- 1. Screening is complete for all new students, special services, 6th grade and 7th grade. Referrals have been sent and should be returned with official medical documentation ASAP.
- 2. 6th grade you will be receiving letters shortly of required immunization to enter the 7th grade.
- 3. It's cold outside but still many students come to school under dressed with only shorts and t-shirts. Please assure your student is warmly dress for school. Long sleeve t-shirts and sweat shirts are available in the office for \$20.
- 4. Avoid the creeping crud! Eat well, sleep well, and wash your hands! Bug defense is the best health offense.

Be Healthy!

Becky-Lou Ruiz, RN School Nurse Memorial Middle School 12550 Vindon Houston, Texas 77024

713-251-3925 phone/fax

rebekah.ruiz@springbranchisd.com



MMS National Geographic Bee 2013

Coordinators:

Dr. Charlene Gibert

barbara.gibert@springbranchisd.com

Dianne Gebhardt

diannegebhardt@springbranchisd.com

Educational Goals: To inspire young people to care about the planet through geographic literacy.

The Preliminary Round will consist of a written challenge of 35 questions covering such topics as place-names, location of cultural and physical features, landforms, climate, and tools used by geographers. The top 10 participants will advance to the Final Competition. From among those top 10 contestants, 2 will go on to participate in the Championship Round. The MMS Champion will take the written Qualifying Test to compete for advancement to the state level. State winners will go on to the National competition in Washington, D.C.

MMS Prizes: The MMS Champion will receive a trophy and a medal. All other participants will receive certificates of participation.

(Preliminary Round - Friday, Jan. 11th in the Library during Activity

State Prizes:

1st Place: \$100 and a trip to Washington, D.C.;

2nd Place: \$75; 3rd Place: \$50;

All students will receive T-shirts and certificates. (State Bee will be held on

Friday, April 5, 2013).

National Prizes:

1st Place: \$25,000 college scholarship, Lifetime Membership in NGS,

trip to the Galapagos Islands, \$500 cash;

2nd Place: \$15,000 college scholarship and \$500 cash; 3rd Place: \$10,000 college scholarship and \$500 cash;

4th Place: \$1,500 cash;

Top Six Finalists: \$500 cash each.

(National Bee will be held on May 20-22, 2013 in Washington, D.C.).

How to Participate. - <u>Click here for the form</u>. For more information, click here <u>http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/</u>

What's happening in your grade?

6th GRADE NEWS

December and January Schedule Reminders: (For all school reminders see "On the Schedule")

Wed - Fri, December 19 - 21 Early Dismissal (See Class Schedule Below)

Monday, January 7 All School Holiday
Tuesday, January 8 Classes Resume

Thursday, January 17 PTA Meeting in Library at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22 Peer Group Meeting in Library at 12:30 p.m.

Fall Bell Schedule for

Tuesday, December 18 - Friday, December 21

Tuesday, December 18

Normal Day 1 - 5th Period 1:19 - 1:55 7th Period 2:00 - 3:30 8th Period

Wednesday, December 19

8:30 - 10:00 Period 1 10:05 - 11:35 Period 4 11:40 - 12:05 Lunch 12:10 - 12:30 Activity

Thursday, December 20

8:30 - 10:00 Period 2 10:05 - 11:35 Period 5 11:40 - 12:05 Lunch 12:10 - 12:30 Activity

Friday, December 21

8:30 - 10:00 Period 7 10:05 - 11:35 Period 3 11:40 - 12:05 Lunch 12:10 - 12:30 Activity

Note: There are no finals for this semester for 6th Graders. Some teachers may, however,

have an end-of-the 9-Week Period cumulative test.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the successful Good Neighbor Program Toy Drive!



Keep the pictures and information coming! Send any MMS news or questions you'd like answered in the email blast to Tracy Ashmore at tlashmore@sbcglobal.net.

7th GRADE NEWS

December and January Schedule reminders: (For all school reminders see "on the schedule")

Wed - Fri December 19 - 21st - Early Dismissal

Wed - Fri December 19 - 21st - Final Exams for 7th and 8th Grade

Monday, January 7th - All School holiday

Tuesday, January 8th - Classes Resume

Wednesday, January 30th - Peer Group Meeting at 11:30 in library

Fall 2012 Exam Schedule

Tuesday, December 18th - All Grade Levels

Normal day 1st - 5th Period

1:19 - 1:55 7th Period

2:00 - 3:30 Exam 8 (exam for 8th period subject)

Wednesday, December 19th

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 1 (exam for 1st period subject)

10:05 - 10:25 Activity

10:30 - 10:55 Lunch

11:00 - 12:30 Exam 4 (exam for 4th period subject)

Thursday, December 20th

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 2 (exam for 2nd period subject)

10:05 - 10:25 Activity

10:30 - 10:55 Lunch

11:00 - 12:30 Exam 5 (exam for 5th period subject)

Friday, December 21st

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 7 (exam for 7th period subject)

10:05 - 10:25 Activity

10:30 - 10:55 Lunch

11:00 - 12:30 Exam 3 (exam for 3rd period subject)

Please send 7th grade photographs, sporting reminders/schedules and general MMS event information to Helen Hamilton at hamilton.helen@msn.com.

8th Grade News

Hope you all have a very Happy Holidays & a Very FUN Happy New Years. See you all on Tuesday January 8th 2013!!

Fall 2012 Exam Schedule

Normal day 1st - 5th Period

1:19 - 1:55 7th Period

2:00 - 3:30 Exam 8

Wednesday, December 19th

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 1

10:05 - 10:25 Lunch

10:30 - 10:55 Activity

11:00 - 12:30 Exam 4

Thursday, December 20th

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 2

10:05 - 10:25 Lunch 10:30 - 10:55 Activity 11:00 - 12:30 Exam 5

Friday, December 21st

8:30 - 10:00 Exam 7

10:05 - 10:25 Lunch

10:30 - 10:55 Activity

11:00 - 12:30 Exam 3

BASKETBALL

The 8A/B Girls Basketball team opened up their season on December 3 against the Spring Woods winning 54-4 and 48-4. In our next competition against our arch rivals Spring Branch the A team won 39-30 and the B team won 38-4. Our motto for the season is "Memorial Basketball- the GREATEST game on earth". Come watch our Lady Eagles in action during the month of January and February (see MMS website-Athletics-girls).

A Team members- Brittany Baerg, Sydney Gauss, Virginia Herring, Gracie Jones, Kayla Keeling, Blake Machen, Kate Moses, Hannah Pruitt, Grace Shea-Han, Paige Shiring, Katie Troutman and Coach Crite.

B team members- Sofia Antillon, Madeline Baker, Emma Bantleman, Jalen Beck, Peyton Childress, Maddie Coolidge, Hannah Hutchins, Tina Khosrowshahi, Abby Klasing, Jacinda Kwon, Hannah Lee, Sydney Milanesi, Farah Saqer, Kaleigh Stallings, Maddie Taff, Grace Winburne and Coach Moore.

Team managers- Camille Abrunhosa, Catherine Hackworth and Rachel Ridley



NEED A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE 8TH GRADER IN YOUR HOUSE???!!!!

YOU CAN STILL SEND YOUR KID TO WASHINGTON DC!!!!!!!!!

During the last ten years, over 800 MMS students have traveled to Washington D.C. and Williamsburg/Jamestown and had a GREAT time seeing our nation's history come alive. Once again this trip is being offered and is organized by School Tours of America. The dates of the trip are June 7th - June 10th.

THERE ARE STILL SPOTS AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL...PLEASE CONTACT COACH THORNTON AT 713-825-8539

Or you can go to www.schooltoursofamerica.com for more information.

This is a great opportunity to witness history firsthand!

8th GRADE DVD UPDATE

In the spirit of the holidays, we are extending the deadline for the DVD video submissions to February 15th. We know it is a busy time of year, so take extra time to organize your 2 DVD's.

If it is possible, we would like you to include some spring activities on the DVD which contains pictures of your child and his/her fellow 8th grade friends.

Please refer to the MMS PTA newsletter for the specific details under 8th grade news. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Evans at evansritkec@gmail.com

8th Grade Boys Basketball Off To Flying Start

The 2012-13 basketball season is off to a great start as all three teams are undefeated going into Christmas break.

MMS BOYS 8TH GRADE ROSTERS

8A	8B Orange	8B White\
#42 Jack Cooper	#11 Peyton Brooks	#32 Ryan Caesar
#32 Durham Craig	#12 Jack Buvens	#33 Josh Chan
#20 Blake Gregory	#34 Carter Day	#00 Trey Evans
#30 Hasib Hamdi	#14 Josh Gustafson	#31 Wes Fields
#35 Sam Kersey	#10 Hayden Kerns	#10 Jacob Lackey
#4 Patrick McNulty	#41 Brian Kim #4	3 Arash Mesgarpouran
#45 Sam Miller	#42 Sterling Laguarta	# 2 Kee Park
#25 Sam Sicola	#25 David Lee	#11 Lake Pendergraft
#43 Preston Smith	#15 Marcus Mollerup-Mads	sen #40 Jimmy Price
#40 Mark Wagner	# 4 McGregor Meek	#12 Quinn Smith
#44 Jake Williams	#31 Peter Park	#30 Luke Tesarek
	#40 Jake Robinson	#14 Derek Tolson

#21 Will Schuster #45 Ryan Smith #00 Tripp Uptegraph #33 Will Moody #15 Zach Uthman #50 Omid Shirazi #20 Jeffrey Williams

8th Grade Party

Thank you to the following families for their generous donations towards the 8th grade party

Marina Smith Derrick & Traci Jensen Jennifer & Rob Cooksey The Coolidge Family The Dina Family The Allred Family **Greg & Bina Lorfing** The Wade Crawford Family Sarah & Bren Ridley The Siciliano Family The Odum Family Logan Morris The Purcell Family The Stevens Family Winburne Family **Harrington Family Family of Kate Mumey** Jeff & Alice Hopkins **Michael Taff Family Kelly Williams Tamppy Patton Broussard Family** Mr & Mrs W Ritchie **Neyland Family** Han, Liz & Lauren Vu Ninette & Perpe Eastmen Paul & Susan Reinhardt **Megan & Denis Cody** David & Angelita Harkin **Hargett Family** Michael & Kim Gustafson Carter & Tam Cooper Robert & Cynthia Broom Lucianna & George James Pierre Koutani Cassie & Ian Cloud Wagner Family

Cecilia Ryu Sarah Valerius Mickey & Stephanie Peters The Fleming Family Sam Miller Ed & Marie Kaminski

Please feel free to send me pictures or news you'd like me to share.

My email is: bridgetstevens70@aol.com

Do you have news to share?

Help us get your information into print by following the below guidelines.

- The Eagle, our weekly email blast, will be sent out on Mondays.
- All news must be received the Thursday before the Monday blast.
- All news should be MMS related.
- The last Monday of each month will be an extended issue with pictures and highlights from that month.
- All articles should be sent ready for print.
- Send grade level articles to your grade level editors.
 - o 6th Grade: Tracy Ashmore at tlashmore@sbcglobal.net.
 - 7th Grade: Helen Hamilton at helen@msn.com.
 - 8th Grade: Bridget Stevens at <u>Bridgetstevens70@aol.com</u>.
- Send general articles to Katherine Dawson at kathdawson@comcast.net.
- Any PTA questions can be sent to our 2012-2013 PTA President, Leann Newton at txnewton@yahoo.com.

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Memorial Middle School PTA | 12550 Vindon | Houston | TX | 77024