

Madison Messenger

November 2009

Turkey Time News



Book Fair

December 8-11 & Dec 14th
8:30am to 3:30pm

Madison Middle School will host the annual Scholastic Book Fair in the library each day. Please drop by the fair, and in addition to helping the library, you might find some wonderful books for those readers on your holiday list.

From Mrs. Deitrich:

"Just because everything is different doesn't mean that everything has changed."

-Irene Pete

This first nine weeks has certainly flown by and this school year is well underway. During these first nine weeks, the school has experienced a great deal of change. All change comes with an adjustment period and everyone is now coming together with the purpose of providing a high quality education to our students and to instill a sense of belonging to our families. This shift requires us all - students, teachers, staff, and community- to work together towards what is best for children!

While our enrollment numbers, master schedule, transportation, and staff have changed there are many constants that remain the same. Our mission has not changed!

The mission of JMMS is to foster a safe, positive, and integrated learning experience which will prepare students for future independence in varied educational opportunities through problem solving, communication and decision-making skills in order to adapt to a diverse and evolving society.

We believe that all student's, have the right to learn in a safe, non-disruptive environment and that any behavior which interferes with this right is unacceptable.

This year we also created the Madison Pillars of Success. These standards are in place for all students and we will be working to increase the rewards and recognition for the students who are showcasing these characteristics through their daily actions.

Madison Pillars of Success

- **Be Prepared** – have all necessary materials daily including your planner for class to avoid unnecessary trips to the locker.
- **Be Productive** – always use your time wisely to complete assignments on time.
- **Be Prompt** – be on time for school and class. Time missed adds up fast and often it's hard to find time to catch up.
- **Have Pride** – treat others the way you want to be treated...with respect. Remember school is your job so dress for success and encourage others to do their best.

The faculty and staff are ready and excited about the rest of the 2009-2010 school year and we are looking forward to great things happening! With your help and support, we know that we can surpass the expectations set before us and we will achieve great things!

Reflections Winners

Thank you to all who participated in the Reflections Contest.

We had over 80 wonderful entries this year!

Congratulations to the following students whose entries have gone on to the citywide Reflections level:

Dance & Choreography

1. Sara Cate Bingham

Literature

1. Evans Schmedtje
2. Ford Carson
3. Olivia Stanley

Photography

1. Charles Harris
2. Taylor Martin
3. Taylor Thompson

Visual Arts

1. Madison Fitzgerald
2. Jenna Wrenn
3. Jack Hitchens

Parent University is Back!

Parents – this fall you will have another exciting opportunity to receive free school supplies, books and lunch while learning about resources and new programs to help your child become more successful. The event is called Parent University and it will be held at William Fleming High School from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2009.

This fun- filled event is offered at no cost to any parent of guardian of a RCPS student. There will be free transportation and childcare for anyone interested in attending. All parents need to do is fill out a registration form by Monday, November 23. Registration forms can be found on the school division's webpage at www.rcps.info or at the main desk of our school.

This year we will have exciting workshops for you to choose from such as:

- Healthy cooking class
- Internet safety workshop
- College planning workshop

Don't miss this year's Parent University. There will be something for everyone at this event and not to mention you will get to walk away with a bag full of free goodies! Several community agencies will also be at this event to greet parents and provide useful information about resources available for both students and parents. Again, the registration deadline is November 23. We hope to see you all at this event!

Volunteer Opportunities

The next Parent Volunteer opportunities at JMMS are:

- School Dance, November 20th
- H1N1 Flu Vaccinations for students (date TBA)
- Fruit Sale unpacking & helping with Student distribution (date TBA).

Please contact Cheryl Martin (rpm84@cox.net) if you are interested in volunteering. THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank you to: **Jennifer Brady, Sheryl McNally, Julie Comer & Kelly Angle** for performing the Hearing Testing at the Madison Health Screening.

The James Madison Middle School Track and Field team would like to thank **Jack Cunningham and Robert Kulp** for putting in a new long jump pit in the back of the school!

Corrections

The following are corrections to JMMS PTA Board Committees that were printed in the Student Directory:

Bylaws	Susan Wheeler	982-1247 swg1204@aol.com
School Board Representative	Lauren Breakell	345-6883 mom24xys@i-plus.net
Hospitality	Diane Arrington	815-0998 dlarrington@gmail.com
	Julie Boxley	342-9289 julieboxley@aol.com
	Lisa Cargill	342-2130 lkargill@yahoo.com
	Jamie & Kathy Spencer	342-1926 spenfam03@aol.com
	Susan Wheeler	982-1247 swg1204@aol.com

Our Matadors

"Winning isn't everything, but the will to win is everything"

~ Vince Lombardi

As a school family, we are truly achieving this ~ hour by hour, day by day.

In sitting through various sports events this fall, I found myself contemplating a "Matador" - what it exemplifies. A Matador ~ *a bullfighter or highest ranking card when playing cards.*

Madison added a significant number of new students this year ~ and with this a lot of changes to our past schedules and classes. From the beginning of the school year to where we are now, I feel strongly that we are winning these battles that we have faced over the past few months and we are all now settling into a good rhythm.

Whether we are "battling" to bring up a C to a B on our report card or finishing that book report in time, I'm continually amazed at how well our Matadors step up ~ their "will to win" being such an impressive character trait. Amazing that in year's past we have had approximately 10 students from Madison participate in Reflections and this year over 80 participated! Our students having a healthy will to win and excel = our future leaders!

Fundraising is a continuous battle for all of us at Madison and we hope that each of you did your best in our Fruit Sales in the past few weeks! A special thank you to Laura Stockstill, Lori Privott and Ann Marie Poore for all their hard work and enthusiasm around this huge effort, our largest fundraiser at Madison!

Truly our athletes have honorably fought their battles this fall. Our Matadors at Madison have played with highest ranking talent and profound skills. We should all be proud in which our athletes have not only performed, but also in how they presented themselves ~ as upstanding and honorable sports 'men' and 'women'. You all have made us immensely proud.

Our first dance is coming up! What a great way to reward our students who exemplify good behavior every day at school. We are always looking for ways, initiatives to encourage and motivate our students ~ any new ideas you may have in rewarding good behavior and attendance, please send to my attention at tori13@cox.net!

As we wind down our first semester this fall at Madison, I say to our Matadors **"Job well done!"**
Safe and healthy holidays everyone!

Best,

Victoria

PTA President

James Madison Middle School



Fruit Sale Update

MANY THANKS to all students and families who sold fruit for the school-wide Fruit Sale! Look for a flyer and all-call telling exactly when the fruit is available to be picked up--it should be close to the second week in December. We appreciate your help in picking up and delivering the fruit in a timely manner! The Fruit Bash (a party during school to reward students who sold at least 2 boxes) will be later in December.

What's Happening?

Band and Strings Concert

December 15, 2009

James Madison Gymnasium

Skate Nights

November 20, December 18, and January 22

The Skate Center of Roanoke Valley on Brandon Avenue

Special Rates for Woodrow and Madison Students from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Admission to the Skate Center is \$1.00. Plan to rent skates, or bring your own.

Schools are not providing supervision; there will be Skate Center staff only.

Invest in Excellence

Invest in excellence is another way the PTA raises money to fund its programs and acquisitions for JMMS. 100% of the money collected is re-invested in your school.

We know all parents and children are extremely busy with school and extra-curricular activities. We don't ask you to participate in time consuming fundraisers. We just ask that you invest in your child's future by sending a donation to help support the Madison PTA.

Once again, it's simple. Complete the form below and enclose your donation. Return it to your child's teacher in an envelope marked "INVEST IN EXCELLENCE."

Invest in Excellence

Name: _____

Address: _____

Child/Children's Name(s) _____

Amount: _____

Make checks payable to Madison PTA

In the know....

Do you want to find out what's for Homework, when is the next quiz or test or what special project is due in your child's classes? We have set up three ways for teachers to communicate this important information to you! If you do not have internet access, you can contact the front office at 853-2351 to leave a message for your child's teacher. In your message, please leave your name, your child's name, the teacher you need to reach, and a contact phone number. If you do have internet access, you can go online and have this information right at your fingertips! Teachers are currently using either the RCPS Webpage or School Notes to keep you informed about assignments and class happenings. Please check the list below for where you can find information about your child's specific class.

RCPS JMMS Webpage		School Notes
http://roanoke.va.schoolwebpages.com/education/school/school.php?sectionid=51		http://new.schoolnotes.com
S. Wright J. Poston S. Pearman A. Tlockowski K. Guertin C. Sharpe J. Cheek M. Martin J. Curry C. Hambrick C. Morris J. Steele S. Davis J. Settle Q. Parker	M. Pac K. Miller E. Hackworth M. Potter J. Strassburg A. Tackett J. Marks J. Childress T. Chappell K. Townley C. Murphy Keith Smith M. Edwards F. Stinson	Kim Smith B. Snead S. Seidel K. McGrath T. Lester D. Westland P. Harmon A. Hale R. Migoni J. Bresnahan J. Hufton

Sports Update

Congratulations to the Girls Soccer and Softball Teams – Roanoke City Middle School Champs!

Beginning November 16:

Wrestling practice at JMMS — Coach Goldberg hgoldberg@rcps.info;

Volleyball tryouts at JMMS — Coach Migoni rmigoni@rcps.info;

Pep squad — contact JMMS at 853-2351

Girls' basketball workouts at PH (for 8th graders) — contact PH athletic office at 853-1190

Ongoing:

Boys' Soccer weight training at PH (for 8th graders) being held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the PH weight room from 3:45-5:00. No bus provided.

Contact Coach Dowdy at csdowdy21@yahoo.com. Tryouts begin February 22.

For information about other JV and middle school sports opportunities for 7th and 8th graders at PH contact athletic director Patti Sheedy at psheedy@rcps.info

Your student **MUST** have a current Virginia High School League athletic physical form to try out for teams. Forms can be found at www.vhsl.org/forms or picked up in the school office.