

# DOLPHIN DIGEST

A NEWSLETTER OF ROSA M. PARKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2011

## Mark Your Calendar!

### EXAMS

#### Review Day

Wednesday, January 12

#### Exam Dates

Thursday, January 13

Friday, January 14

Tuesday, January 18

Wednesday, January 19



### GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! While our Winter Break seemed like a very short one, I hope that it gave you and your family time to relax and reconnect. I would like to thank all parents of 6th graders who braved the brutal weather to chaperone at our Outdoor Education program at Skycroft just prior to the break. Hopefully, next year we will have the good luck of being assigned to a warmer month!

I want to congratulate Ms. Roots, along with her cast, crew and parent volunteers who worked tirelessly on our first production of the year—***A Midsummer Night's Dream!*** The play was truly a “class act” from start to finish. I hope that you were able to join us for one of the performances. Rosa Parks Middle School is bursting with talent!

Last week our teams also played their second round of basketball games. Both the girls’ and boys’ teams won their first and second set of games against Parkland and Farquhar. Go Dolphins!

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### PTA PRESIDENT ' S UPDATE

MRS. MICHELE SETTON

Thanks to Ann Bent and Linda Silverstein for a fabulously successful holiday event on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We had dozens of vendors, ice cream and spirit wear for sale and a musical ensemble that included Mrs. V! Thanks to everyone involved for your hard work in pulling this off and thanks to Tami Abramowitz for the ice cream!

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*The Rosa Parks Middle School community mourns the loss of Alex Popeck, and we send our deepest sympathies to the Popeck family.*

### *Principal's Greeting Cont'd*

With almost half of the school year behind us, it's now time to begin thinking about what courses students will take for the 2011-12 school year. We have two important meetings this month to help parents navigate through the choices in the middle school curriculum. For the parents of **current fifth graders** who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Rosa Parks for 2011-12, the registration information meeting is **Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** For parents of **rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**, the registration information meeting is **Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Having a solid foundation to succeed in Advanced Placement and honors courses in high school develops as a result of choosing rigorous courses in middle school. I hope that you can join us for these important meetings.

As the semester winds down, I am still emphasizing with students how important it is to get any outstanding work turned in to teachers. Many students will be taking **high school exams** in Advanced English (Grade 8), world language and mathematics courses. The final semester grades for the courses will appear on students' high school transcripts, so it's important that they get all work turned in and put forth their very best effort on the exams.

As we move into February, we'll be extremely focused on the preparation for the **Maryland School Assessment (MSA)** in reading and math. Please do not plan for students to be absent on any of the testing days. Sixth graders will test on March 7-8th; 11th & 14th. Seventh and eighth graders will test March 9 -10th; 15th - 16th. If a student is absent during testing, it is automatically counted against the school as a failing test score. We want Rosa Parks to continue earning Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2011, so please help by ensuring that your child is here to take the test!

Have a great January, and thanks as always for your support of Rosa Parks programs and initiatives.

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### *PTA President's Update Cont'd*

On a more somber note, many of you may have been following the recent Montgomery County Board of Education budget discussions. In early January there was a budget forum with the BOE and County Council members to discuss the budget for next year. It was clear that the ramifications of the economy and likely changes in state law regarding maintenance of effort and push back of pensions to the county means that it is quite likely that MCPS will have to cut up to \$100 million from the 2012 budget (from current levels). The county council made it crystal clear that MCPS employees would absolutely see less money in their paychecks next year whether it means furlough days or across the board pay cuts. In addition, it is likely that there will be increases in class sizes for all grade levels and that there will be fewer staff all around (counselors, pupil personnel works, support staff). Teachers facing pay cuts will have more students in a classroom and other reductions will increase the workload for support staff. Nothing will be definitive until the final figures are compiled in June. However, the school system cannot wait until then to make plans because there is too much involved in getting teachers, students and classes scheduled for the August opening.

# Quiet!

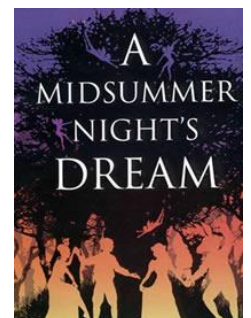
## EXAM IN PROGRESS



- Be sure to get plenty of rest the night before the test and eat a healthy meal the morning of the exam.
- Show up on time. Arriving late might make you feel rushed.
- Expect and accept a little bit of stress. Don't worry if you still have some stress while you begin the test. Almost everyone feels this...it's there because you want to do your best and get a good grade. Tell yourself, "I'm going to do well on this exam because I'm prepared."
- Stay focused on the test and pace yourself so that you don't run out of time.
- Use strategies such as estimation to eliminate incorrect answers and save time.
- Read all the test instructions before you get started. This will keep you from making simple mistakes and guarantee that you won't have to waste time going back and redoing work because you didn't understand the directions.
- Pace yourself. Your test will be timed. Know ahead of time how many questions there are and how quickly you will have to move through each one. Don't focus on the clock as time ticks away, but glance up every once in awhile to make sure you're not falling behind pace.
- Check back over your work to be sure that you've completed all questions, answered all questions and that you've put your answer on the correct line of the answer sheet. Double check to prevent *careless* errors.
- Don't get distracted. Keep your eyes on your paper.
- If you finish the test before time is up, don't sit there staring into space. Go back over the questions, especially the ones that seemed hard, and check your work. Fixing obvious mistakes can help your grade.
- If there is an essay question you are expected to answer based on a reading, read the question before you read the story. This will help you determine what you should focus on while you are reading.

# January

- Monday, January 3**                      **Student Survey – School Environment (6<sup>th</sup> grade math classes)**
- Tuesday, January 4**                      **Student Survey – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**  
 2:45 p.m. - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Gragnani, Clark/B106  
 2:45 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley  
 2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Math, Reading  
 2:45 p.m. - Fall Drama Practice/Ms. Roots/Cafeteria  
 2:45 p.m. - Origami Club/Ms. Overly/B116  
 2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120  
 2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
 4:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie  
 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
- Wednesday, January 5**                      2:45 p.m. - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210  
 2:45 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley  
 2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Mrs. Butler/A101  
 2:45 p.m. - Digital Art Club/Mr. Costantino/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
 2:45 p.m. - Fall Drama Practice/Mrs. Roots/Cafeteria  
 2:45 p.m. - History Club/Mr. White/Media Center  
 2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/Mr. Gallagher/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
 2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Mrs. Davis/C111  
 4:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie  
 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
- Thursday, January 6**                      6<sup>th</sup> Grade Locker Clean Out – TAP  
 Character Counts Breakfast – “Tolerance”  
 2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Reading, Math  
 2:45 p.m. - Fall Drama Practice/Mrs. Roots/Cafeteria  
 3:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Game vs. Farquhar MS  
 3:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Game at Farquhar MS  
 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart  
 7:00 p.m. - **Drama Production – “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”**
- Friday, January 7**                      2:45 p.m. - Friday “Hoops” Volz  
 7:00 p.m. - **Drama Production – “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”**
- Saturday, January 8**                      -6:00 p.m. -**Drama Production – “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”**



# WEEK OF JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

Monday, January 10

2:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Amnesty Night

Tuesday, January 11

2:45 p.m. - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Graggani, Clark/B106  
2:45 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Ms. Eurie  
2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Math, Reading  
2:45 p.m. - Origami Club/Ms. Overly/B116  
2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120  
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria  
2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
4:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Wednesday, January 12

## EXAM REVIEW DAY

2:45 p.m. - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210  
2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Mrs. Butler/A101  
2:45 p.m. - Art Club/Mr. Edwards/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
2:45 p.m. - Fall Drama Practice/Mrs. Roots/Cafeteria  
2:45 p.m. - History Club/Mr. White/Media Center  
2:45 p.m. - Project Change/C103  
2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/Mr. Gallagher/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Mrs. Davis/C111  
3:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Game at Wood MS  
3:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Game vs. Wood MS  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Thursday, January 13

## EXAMS

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Locker Clean-Out - TAP  
2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Reading, Math  
2:45 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie/Gym  
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria  
4:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley/Gym  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Friday, January 14

## EXAMS

2:45 p.m. - Friday "Hoops"



# WEEK OF JANUARY 15th

Monday, January 17

**HOLIDAY Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School for Staff and Students**

Tuesday, January 18

## EXAMS

- 2:45 p.m. - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Graggani, Clark/B106
- 2:45 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley
- 2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Math, Reading
- 2:45 p.m. - Origami Club/Ms. Overly/B116
- 2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120
- 2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab
- 2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria
- 4:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie
- 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Wednesday, January 19

## EXAMS

- 2:45 p.m. - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210
- 2:45 p.m. - Boys Basketball/Mr. Crowley/Gym
- 2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Mrs. Butler/A101
- 2:45 p.m. - Digital Art Club/Mr. Costantino/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab
- 2:45 p.m. - History Club/Mr. White/Media Center
- 2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/Mr. Gallagher/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab
- 2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Mrs. Davis/C111
- 4:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie/Gym
- 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Thursday, January 20

## MAKE-UP EXAMS

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Locker Clean-Out – TAP
- 2:45 p.m. - Box Tops for Education
- 2:45 p.m. - Boys Basketball/Mr. Crowley/Gym
- 2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Program/Reading, Math
- 2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria
- 4:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym
- 6:00 p.m. - **Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Parent Meeting (special education)**
- 7:00 p.m. - **Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**

Friday, January 21

## SECOND MARKING PERIOD ENDS

- 2:45 p.m. - Friday "Hoops" - Volz

## WEEK OF JANUARY 24th

Monday, January 24

**PROFESSIONAL DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Tuesday, January 25

2:45 p.m. - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Gagnani, Clark/B106  
2:45 p.m. - Extended Day Programs/Reading, Math  
2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Volz/B120  
2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Hast/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria  
3:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Game vs. Argyle MS  
3:00 p.m. - Girls Basketball Game at Argyle MS  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart  
**7:00 p.m. - Parent Registration Meeting (rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)**

Wednesday, January 26

2:45 p.m. - Art Club/Mr. Edwards/C105  
2:45 p.m. - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210  
2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Mrs. Butler/A101  
2:45 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Ms. Eurie/Gym  
2:45 p.m. - Project Change/C103  
2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Mrs. Davis/C111  
2:45 p.m. - History Club/Mr. White/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Lab  
2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/Mr. Gallagher/8<sup>th</sup> Computer Lab  
4:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley/Gym  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Thursday, January 27

RPMS Registration Lesson (rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)  
2:45 p.m. - Extended Day/Math, Reading  
2:45 p.m. - Girls Basketball Practice/Mrs. Eurie  
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Cafeteria  
4:00 p.m. - Boys Basketball Practice/Mr. Crowley  
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart  
**6:30 p.m. - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting at Sherwood High School**

Friday, January 28

9:15 a.m. - Electives Assembly – Grades 7 and 8  
10:00 a.m. - Electives Assembly – Grade 6  
2:45 p.m. - Friday “Hoops” – Volz