



DOLPHIN DIGEST

A NEWSLETTER OF ROSA M. PARKS MIDDLE SCHOOL May 2011

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL



The month of May abounds with lots of exciting events as we near the end of the school year. Students and staff were captivated with our speakers at the **Career Expo** that was held Friday, May 13th. Special thanks to counselor Kim Bailey and PTA member Angie Ryder for leading the efforts to plan an exciting, fun-filled day. Our keynote speakers included motivational speaker “Claysmile” and NBC 4 meteorologist Tom Kierein. I also want to thank all of the parents who volunteered their time to speak to classes throughout the day about their careers. Students are more motivated to do well in school when they can see the connection between their studies and their aspirations.

For an update on how well your child is progressing during Quarter 4, parents can now access the fourth quarter **interim reports** on Edline. When you go into your child’s private reports, just click “view” beside the words “homeroom” and “interim report.” If you have any questions about your child’s interim report, please contact the appropriate teacher as soon as possible. Final exams will begin on June 9th.

On **May 18th**, 255 students will take the **Algebra HSA** at Rosa Parks. It’s important for all students who are testing to bring their calculators and number two pencils. Students should get a good night’s sleep and eat breakfast at home or when they arrive at school. There will be an abbreviated, five-minute TAP class, then all students who are testing will report to their testing locations. Students with any questions about the test can contact their algebra teachers.

We are also excited about our Spring musical—**Disney Idol**. Shows will be on **Wednesday, May 18th**, **Friday, May 20th** at 7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, May 21st** at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Roots and the cast members have worked very hard on this production, and we are looking forward to watching some of our favorite tunes from the Disney classics performed in this revue.

Eighth grade students are gearing up for their end of the year events. Students will go to Hershey Park on June 3rd and they will have their 8th grade dance on June 4th. Students who have been selected for special honors will be recognized at the 8th grade Awards Ceremony on May 31st.

As students get wound up for the closing of school, please support us in reminding them to continue to adhere to school policies and exhibit the four **core values** of *honesty, respect, responsibility* and *perspective*. As the weather gets warmer, please remind your children of our **dress code**. Underwear should not be exposed—girls are not permitted to wear spaghetti straps or tube tops. Shorts and skirts should be of appropriate length so as to provide ample coverage, particularly when girls are bending over. Boys should ensure that pants are not so baggy that their boxers, briefs or bare bottoms are revealed. Clothing that might have fit in the Fall could easily be too tight or too short now. If any staff member believes that a student’s attire is inappropriate or distracting in any way, the student will be asked to change clothes.

Please also be sure that your children have cleared up financial obligations to the school. This includes negative balances owed to the cafeteria. Students cannot participate in end-of-the-year activities until their financial obligations are fulfilled.

Let’s have an excellent finish to the school year with everyone putting forth his and her best effort!

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SURVEY



Rosa Parks has partnered with the Montgomery County's Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program. The Safe Routes to School program promotes and encourages safe and active walking and bicycling to and from school. It also provides an opportunity to make walking and bicycling safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, as well as to increase the number of children who chose to walk and bike.

As part of this program we are asking for your participation in a survey regarding your child's travel mode to and from school. The purpose of the Parent Survey is to understand the factors affecting whether parents allow their children to walk/bike to school, the presence of key safety-related conditions along school routes, and related information.

So, please take a moment to answer this 5 to 10 minute survey.

<http://www.saferoutesdata.org/surveyformparent.cfm?key=F986C557-9F8A-877A-A043C53D1BE5EB1F>

Your responses are very important to us and will help determine how to improve opportunities for kids. The survey will be open beginning Wednesday, May 18th!

Congratulations to our 2011-12 PTA Officers

President: Tea West

6th Grade Vice-Presidents: Kellie Blake & Cindy Keating

7th Grade Vice-Presidents: Tammy King & Gaye Danowitz

8th Grade Vice-Presidents: Betsy Palmer & Linda Silverstein

Secretary: Nancy Hull

Treasurer: Maureen Dymond

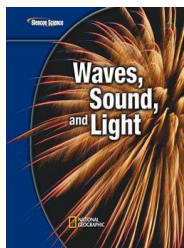
MCCPTA Delegates: Ginger Twombly & Tina Velazquez

Special thanks to Michele Setton for two years of service as PTA President. We also want to thank all outgoing officers who have committed so much of their time to the RPMS PTA: Carol Levy, Lori Alperin, Beth O'Gwin and Karen Nakamura. Special thanks also to outgoing MCCPTA Delegate George Siberry.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Science 6:

The fourth quarter unit concepts focus on Alternative Energy sources. So far during the unit, students have learned about electric circuits, energy forms and the transformation of energy forms. The students will continue to learn about different waves, specifically electromagnetic sound and light waves. By the end of the wave lessons, students will be able to analyze different sounds and colors based upon the appearance of the different waves. For the culminating project for the fourth quarter the students will be planning and designing a solar collector. The project will be completed during class time in which the students will be asked to bring different materials to supplement the design of their lab group's solar collector. We look forward to seeing the final products and analyzing the data to see which solar collector is the most efficient at transforming energy.

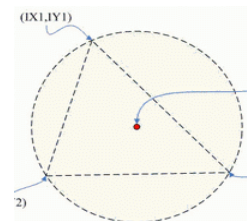


Math 6:

Unit four is in intro into learning algebra and understanding the relationship with functions. In this unit, students learn to distinguish between arithmetic and geometric sequences in addition to extending them. They investigate patterns graphically and symbolically, represent patterns in tables or graphs, and generalize patterns into a rule or function. Analyzing graphs globally leads to a deeper understanding of functions. Vocabulary is crucial for this unit.

Math 7:

In the fourth quarter, students will be focusing on Unit 5. In Unit five, students extend their understanding of arithmetic and geometric patterns or sequences and develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students represent, interpret, and analyze functions using tables and graphs. Students will need to bring graph paper to class on a daily basis.

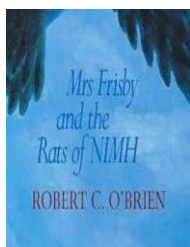


Social Studies 6:

Social Studies is in the midst of exploring our Culture Unit. We are currently studying five major religions of the world. We will use this information, and the principles of culture to investigate millennial civilizations that existed around the world including the Gupta, the Carolingian, the Maya, the Heian, the Abbasid Caliphate, and the Kingdom of Ghana. In our investigation of these civilizations we work to identify how culture and values impact decision making in government, the economy, and social structures. We will finish up our quarter with research in the library and the computer lab on a country of the student's choice.

English 6:

Students are in the midst of the Choices unit and are currently engaged in a novel study of *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* or *Ruby Holler*. Students will continue to explore how characters' choices affect a story. As part of our continual study of grammatical concepts, students will focus on understanding subject-verb agreement and using prepositional phrases to expand sentences. Heading into the final weeks of school, students will engage in a Shakespearean mini-unit in preparation for future encounters with Shakespeare's work between 7th and 12th grades. Note: MAP-R testing for sixth grade students will take place on May 10th and 11th.



Reading 6:

Reading 6 students have begun their study of printed and online newspapers. We have learned about the layout of the front page of The Washington Post and the various sections of the paper. As we prepare to learn about news article writing, reporter s from The Sentinel and The Washington Post will visit classes to talk about their experiences. Students will have an opportunity to write their own news story and develop an editorial supporting or refuting the use of security cameras in schools.

READ 180:

During the month of May, READ 180 students will be reading selected articles about life under sea. Students will consider three nonfiction articles and examine the structure the authors used to present their viewpoint. In addition, students will continue their work in independent reading, completing one book every two weeks. By the end of the month students will take a final SRI test and reflect on their progress in the course.

“Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is wing’d Cupid painted blind.”

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English

In addition to reading, viewing, and performing scenes from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Shakespeare’s timeless comedy about love, students are continuing to increase their vocabularies and improve their grammar skills. Students have now finished reading their first independent novel and demonstrated their comprehension by writing a Bio Poem from the perspective of the main character.

Student Service Learning (SSL) Assignment

7th graders earn 10 SSL hours by completing a project assigned by their English teachers. This year, the project involves interviewing a senior citizen. Please discuss this assignment with your child to make sure he or she is making appropriate progress.

READ 180 – Grade 7

During the month of May, READ 180 students will be examining the impact of telecommunications on domestic and international relations. Students will consider three nonfiction articles and examine the structure the authors used to present their viewpoint. In addition, students will continue their work in independent reading, completing one book every two weeks. By the end of the month, students will take a final SRI test and reflect on their progress in the course.

Social Studies

Students will be learning about the Renaissance and the decline of Church authority in Europe. For the remainder of the school year, students will learn about European Exploration and Mercantilism.

Science

Students are having fun as crime scene investigators for our Forensic Unit. Students are becoming science sleuths using the techniques and knowledge that they learned this year. They are identifying culprits from a list of suspects using chemical separation techniques, DNA fingerprinting, and logic. Students will end the year by identifying the source of an outbreak of food poisoning on contaminated salad.

Math 7

Students will begin the final unit for the school year, “Functional Relationships.” They will complete function tables and graph their solutions. Students will also identify linear equations and identify rules for given functions. Transformations will be graphed as students will be required to graph combinations of translations, rotations, and reflections. A huge focus of the unit is on exploring patterns and sequences.

IM

Students in IM classes will begin finding the slope of lines with an emphasis on the equation $y = mx + b$. The majority of the last unit focuses on probability concepts. Students will explore situations and analyze word problems that will model the Fundamental Counting Principle and experimental probability. They will find the probability of simple and composite events and wrap of the school year in IM by identifying and solving permutations and combinations.

Algebra

Math Madness has begun. As we review for the HSA, all Algebra classes are in a 7-week competition to see which class scores the highest on the Friday HSA quiz. There are prizes awarded for the weekly winner and a grand prize for the class with the highest total score at the end of the competition. The HSA is Wednesday, May 18th.

Currently students continue to focus on exponents and polynomials. The last unit is Quadratic and Exponential Functions. Students will graph and solve these functions. Do you remember the quadratic formula?

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Advanced U.S. History, students have been studying the causes of the Civil War and have started work on a major Civil War project, which could be a scrapbook, diary, PowerPoint, PhotoStory/video/movie, glogster, newspaper, tri-fold, or song/rap. Students will learn details of key Civil War battles and personalities, and discuss events after the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

English, we are continuing our Discoveries unit and study of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. We are just finishing their performance assessments--always exciting to see students jump in and work collaboratively to plan, rehearse, and perform their scenes from Act 3. It is also wonderful to see how new talent and stars emerge during this activity. We will be finishing the play in the coming weeks. Then, we will be finishing the unit with a brief poetry study and writing activity on self-discovery. Next, it will be time to prepare and review for second semester exams.

Algebra Prep students are finishing up with the lessons on slopes and direct and inverse variation. We will review and take the unit-3B test, Linear Functions and Relationships and we will be starting unit-4 Geometry and Measurement. Students will be using a compass and straightedge to construct shapes, apply the properties of equality and proportionality to solve problems, determine relationships among length, area, and volume and describe how a change in one measure affects the others.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Spanish 1 students are working on the travel unit. They will have the opportunity to work in the computer lab doing research on countries around the world. They will be planning a trip to one of these countries and will report to the class about the interesting things they find. We are quickly wrapping up the year and will start studying for final exams soon.

Spanish 2 students are finishing up the restaurant unit and will soon be starting the travel unit. Classes are competing with one another to see which one will be the first to earn a piñata. Students earn points toward a piñata by speaking solely in Spanish. They are doing a fantastic job. Magnífico! Students will soon be preparing for the speaking exam coming up in June as well as the rest of the Countywide Final exams in Spanish

Physical Education & Health Education

The week of May 2nd – 6th is National Physical Education & Sports Week.

Physical Education students are receiving instruction on basic motor skills. In addition they are learning concepts for moving efficiently as they improve their physical fitness through sport activities.

Health Education students are learning about the following topics: Mental Health; Safety & Injury Prevention; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs; Family Life and Human Sexuality; Disease Prevention and Control; Nutrition and Fitness; Personal and Consumer Health.

The following instructional units will be taught in physical education (PE) and health for the month of May:

The physical education department conducted (in conjunction with the *Fuel-Up to Play 60* & *Let's Move* programs) several special school wide activities for the week.

Monday-	Final lesson for Flash (aerobic movement) Dance –all PE classes
Tuesday-	School wide participation in Nation Wide Flash (aerobic) Dance
Wednesday-	Favorite Sport Day- student were encouraged to play their favorite sport with a friend or friends after school.
Thursday-	PE Fun Day- Students can select their favorite sport to play for class.
Friday-	Staff & Students Walk / Jog / Run activity

Our regular unit activities for PE this month - Students will receive instruction for invasion sports.

The instruction for sports in this unit places emphases on strategies and techniques to successfully invade your opponent's territory to score points. The activities are: football, lacrosse, and soccer.

Health Education students will receive instruction in the following units:

6th grade- Mental Health, Safety and Nutrition Units

7th grade- Adolescences Learning Effective Resistance training Skills Unit
Project (ALERT)

8th grade- Mental Health, Safety, and Dangerous Substances Units

Note: Mr. Eastham's classes receive health education instruction this (4th) quarter.



Congratulations to the following “Character Counts” students! The students received their award for “Trustworthiness”

Grade 6

Kristen Deppe
Dimitri Guynn
Jonathan Sebeck
Erica Wragg

Grade 7

Henry Cheung
Fernando Lopezmoreno
Katherine Ryan
Dara Williams

Grade 8

Kameyo Okamoto
Joseph Palmer
Lauren Thompson
Nathan Vorachack

Rosa Parks is
bursting with
Talent!!!

Rosa Parks Middle School will be presenting “Disney Idol” on Wednesday, May 18, Friday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m. This original show features 16 numbers from some of the most loved Disney productions. The show plays on the American Idol theme week idea. Songs from “The Lion King,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and many more will be performed.

WEEK OF MAY 2nd

Monday, May 2

2:45 p.m. - "Girls on Track"

Tuesday, May 3

State Orchestra Festival – 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – South Carroll HS

2:45 p.m. - 6th Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Gragnani, Mrs. Clark/B106

2:45 p.m. - Poms/Gym

2:45 p.m. - Spring Drama Rehearsal/Ms. Roots/Cafeteria

2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym

2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120

2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7th Comp Lab

2:45 p.m. - Boys/Girls Soccer Practice

4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Wednesday, May 4

State Band Festival – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – South Carroll HS

2:45 p.m. - Boys/Girls Soccer Practice/Mr. Louis-Charles, Mr. White

2:45 p.m. - Art Club/Mr. Edwards/C105

2:45 p.m. - "Girls on Track"

2:45 p.m. - 8th Grade Homework Club/Groves/C210

2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Ms. Butler/A101

2:45 p.m. - Flag Football/Miller

2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/8th Comp Lab

2:45 p.m. - Poms/Gym

2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Ms. Davis/C111

2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Roots/Cafeteria

2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Ms. Eurie/Gym

2:45 p.m. - World Languages Homework Club/C218

4:00 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Thursday, May 5

Character Counts – Perspective TAP and CC Breakfast

6^h Grade Locker Clean Out – TAP

Sherwood HS Football Coach to visit grade 8 lunch – Information

1:00 p.m. - Administrative Team Meeting/Principal's Conference Room

2:45 p.m. - Cross Country/Eastham

2:45 p.m. - Flag Football

2:45 p.m. - Girls Intramural Basketball/Mr. Crowley/Gym

2:45 p.m. - Project Change/A101

2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Cafeteria

2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120

2:45 p.m. - Weight Training/Mrs. Eurie/Weight Room

3:00 p.m. - Boys Soccer Game vs. Loiderman MS – Make-up Game from April 28

3:00 p.m. - Girls Soccer Game at Loiderman MS – Make-up Game from April 28

4:00 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Friday, May 6

6th Grade Town Hall Meeting – Period 7 - 6th Grade Wing

3:30 p.m. - Friday "Hoops" – Volz

WEEK OF MAY 9th

Monday, May 9

8th Grade Panoramic Picture - 8:30 a.m./Gym
2:45 p.m. - "Girls on Track"

Tuesday, May 10

MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing
(English classes) – Grade 6

2:45 p.m. - 6th Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Gragnani, Mrs. Clark/B106
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Gym
2:45 p.m. - Spring Drama Rehearsal/Ms. Roots/Cafeteria
2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym
2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120
2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7th Comp Lab
3:00 p.m. - Boys Soccer vs. Banneker MS
3:00 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Banneker MS
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
7:30 p.m. - PTA Meeting

Wednesday, May 11

MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing
(English classes) - Grade 6

2:45 p.m. - Flag Football
2:45 p.m. - Volley Ball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym
2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Ms. Davis/C109
2:45 p.m. - 8th Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210
2:45 p.m. - Poms/Field
2:45 p.m. - World Languages Homework Club/C218
2:45 p.m. - Girls Intramural Basketball/Mr. Crowley/Gym
2:45 p.m. - "Girls on Track"
2:45 p.m. - Boys/Girls Soccer Practice
2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Cafeteria
2:45 p.m. - Weight Training/Mrs. Eurie/Weight Room
4:00 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
7:00 p.m. - Parent Academy Workshop: *The Teen Years—Effective*

Parenting

Thursday, May 12

7th Grade Locker Clean Out

2:45 p.m. - Cross Country/Mr. Eastham
2:45 p.m. - Girls Intramural Basketball/Mr. Crowley/Gym
2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Cafeteria
2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz
2:45 p.m. - Weight Training/Ms. Eurie
3:00 p.m. - Boys Soccer Game at Wood MS
3:00 p.m. - Girls Soccer Game vs. Wood MS
4:10 a.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Friday, May 13

Career Expo Day – Modified Schedule

Yearbook Sales – TAP (through May 23rd)

3:00 p.m. - Friday "Hoops" – Mr. Volz



WEEK OF May 16th

Yearbook Sales – All Week in TAP

Monday, May 16	MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing (English classes) – Grade 8 2:45 p.m. - “Girls on Track”
Tuesday, May 17	MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing (English classes) – Grade 8 2:45 p.m. - 6 th Grade Homework Club/Mrs. Gragnani, Mrs. Clark 2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Mrs. Roots/Cafeteria 2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120 2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym 2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7 th Grade Computer Lab 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
Wednesday, May 18	HSA (High School Assessments) Algebra 2:45 p.m. - Art Club/Mr. Edwards/C105 2:45 p.m. - “Girls on Track” 2:45 p.m. - Flag Football/Mr. Miller 2:45 p.m. - 8 th Homework Club/Mrs. Groves/C210 2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Ms. Butler/A101 2:45 p.m. - Journalism Club/Mr. Gallagher/8 th Grade Computer Lab 2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Ms. Davis/C111 2:45 p.m. - Spring Musical Rehearsal/Cafeteria 2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym 2:45 p.m. - World Language Homework Club/C218 4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart 7:00 p.m. - Spring Musical -“Disney Idol”
Thursday, May 19	MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing (English classes) – Grade 7 8th Grade Locker Clean-out 2:45 p.m. - Cross Country/Mr. Eastham 2:45 p.m. - Girls Basketball – Intramurals/Mr. Crowley/Gym 2:45 p.m. - Video Game Club/Mr. Volz/B120 2:45 p.m. - Weight Training /Eurie/Gym 4:10 a.m. - Activity Buses Depart
Friday, May 20	MAP – R (Measurement of Academic Progress - Reading) Testing (English classes) – Grade 7 3:00 p.m. - Boys Friday “Hoops” Mr. Volz 7:00 p.m. - Spring Musical – “Disney Idol”
Saturday, May 21	6:00 p.m. - Spring Musical – “Disney Idol”

WEEK OF May 23rd

Monday, May 23

No Scheduled Activities!

Tuesday, May 24

2:45 p.m. - Homework Club/Mrs. Gragnani, Mrs. Clark/B106
2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie/Gym
2:45 p.m. - Yearbook Club/Mr. Hast/7th Grade Computer Lab
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart

Wednesday, May 25

HSA – Make-up

2:45 p.m. - Chorus/Mrs. Kelly/A101
2:45 p.m. - Digital Art Club/Mr. Costantino/7th Grade Comp Lab
2:45 p.m. - Flag Football/Mr. Miller
2:45 p.m. - Journalism/Mr. Gallagher/8th Grade Computer Lab
2:45 p.m. - Sewing Club/Ms. Davis/C111
2:45 p.m. - Volleyball/Mrs. Eurie
2:45 p.m. - World Languages Homework Club/C218
4:10 p.m. - Activity Buses Depart
7:00 p.m. - Rosa Parks Orchestra Concert

Thursday, May 26

2:45 p.m. - Girls Intramural Basketball/Mr. Crowley
4:10 a.m. - Activity Buses Depart
7:00 p.m. - Band Concert

Friday, May 27

3:00 p.m. - Boys Friday “Hoops” Mr. Volz