

# Freedom Middle School



## FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

January, 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 2** School resumes
- Jan. 9** MAPSS meeting
- Jan. 10** Star math testing;  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter work completion day
- Jan. 12** Star reading testing
- Jan. 14** Saturday School
- Jan. 16** Board meeting
- Jan. 18** Local Solo Ensemble
- Jan. 19** 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ends
- Jan. 20** No school
- Jan. 25** 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report cards home;  
Eric Samuel Timm assembly
- Jan. 31** NHD Exhibits

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR. FISHER MIDDLE YEARS/TEEN FOOD & FITNESS

The monthly articles in these two publications are always age appropriate and useful to the middle school students and the entire family. Middle Years talks about some of the daily challenges facing adolescent students related to academic, social, and emotional health. Teen Food & Fitness promotes a healthy lifestyle during the developmental years in middle school. This publication offers advice on good nutrition and healthy physical activity for the entire family.

### PRINCIPAL'S PEN AWARD

Four times each year students at Freedom Middle School are recognized for their special contributions to our positive school climate. Each student recognized will receive an award certificate with their special contributions listed, breakfast with the Principal, and a special Principal's Pen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Principal's Pen Breakfast will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 immediately following morning announcements. Parents should find a special place for the certificate that your child brings home on that day! Our special guest speaker for this event will be Mr. Tom Harke (School Board President for FASD). Mr. Harke has served on the school board for multiple years and is serving his first full term as school board president!

### 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER ENDS

The half way point in the 2016-2017 school year is almost upon us and it seems as though we have just begun! It is very important that students work diligently to complete all assigned work, hand the work in on time, and study for all quizzes and tests. I will be sending a copy of the goal sheet that our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students completed in the fall as it is time to revisit those academic and behavior goals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter officially ends on Thursday, January 19, 2017 and I strongly encourage parents to

talk with your child regarding their daily effort and academic progress. The staff at Freedom Middle School expects all students to use their agenda books on a daily basis to record assignments, long term projects, and upcoming tests/quizzes.

### **VALUE A GOOD WORK ETHIC**

As our students work to become college and career ready, they will need to understand that their knowledge and skills in the area of technology will be the expectation and the norm. Technical Colleges are also providing excellent training for those that choose a career in manufacturing or a related field. When I was a young man my parents always told me that a little hard work never hurt anyone and I still live by that today. Please instill in your children a work ethic that will serve them for the rest of their lives. A strong work ethic can be easily demonstrated in physical labor, physical exercise, completing work around the house, completing homework on time, studying diligently for tests/quizzes, practicing for an upcoming concert, or volunteering to help out a neighbor by shoveling snow/raking leaves, etc. I would like to see more effort by our middle school students in the cafeteria. I ask that tables are left clean and chairs are pushed in when leaving the table. I would suspect that you at home have these same expectations and I am not sure why this continues to be a problem in our cafeteria. Please include this request when you talk to your child about a good work ethic!

### **RECORDS DAY NO SCHOOL**

School will not be in session for students on Friday, January 20, 2017. Teachers will be at school to begin planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the current school year. I would encourage parents to use this time to help your child prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the

school year as well. Report cards will be sent home in the weekly envelope on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 so parents please sit down with your child and review their report card. Showing an interest in your child's education will enable them to achieve at a higher level academically.



### **ONLINE UPDATE**

It seems that many students spend time on the Skyward online grading site checking their academic progress. I encourage parents/guardians to show the same interest as their children and my suggestion would be to view academic progress together from your home computer. You can log on our district website to access information regarding your child's academic progress and sit down with them to review their current status. This site will give you information regarding your child's daily attendance, discipline, current grade in all classes, assignments completed, assignments that are late or missing, scores on tests and quizzes, etc. Viewing your child's progress can be a positive motivator for them to keep working toward improvement. To view your child's academic progress; go to the Freedom Area School District home page [www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us](http://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us) and click on Family & Student Access – Online Grading. If you are unable to reach this site, please contact the MS office at 920-788-7945 and we will assist you.

## **SCHOOL THEME IN ACTION**

Our school theme for the 2016-2017 school year is REACH and we focus on each letter for several months at a time. During the months of January and February we will focus on the letter A for achievement. I would encourage all parents and students to look for special achievements that have occurred in your family and email me a photo of your child's accomplishments. I will post (with your permission) the photo on the district website middle school home page under the REACH tab. At the present time, some photos are from last year because I have not received any replacement pictures. Please talk about the school theme at home and we will do our best to promote it here! I have also added one additional link to the district website called Inside the Middle School Classroom. On this site you can view videos of teachers teaching the common core standards and kids engaging in relevant learning experiences.



## **BIG BLAST FUND RAISER PARTY**

As I write the January newsletter articles, our students are waiting patiently for the incentives they earned from their selling efforts this year! The Big Blast party will be held in the field house on Friday, December 23, 2016 at the following times: Grade 6 (8:00-8:15), Grade 7 (9:25-10:40), and Grade 8 (11:15-12:30).

## **SATURDAY SCHOOL VS LUNCH CLUB**

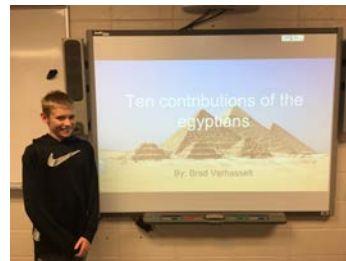
I realize the importance of working with our MS students to develop the skills and a sense of academic responsibility needed to complete daily assignments and hand them in on time. Saturday School is working to some degree but the number of students on the list is alarming. Mr. Bins and I are researching programs at other schools in the Fox Valley area that are addressing this same concern and I would like to tell you about a program called Lunch Club. Students will be put on the lunch club list if they have one or more of the following: (3) late/missing assignments in any single class, (5 total) missing assignments in multiple classes, or an (F) in any class. When students are assigned to lunch club they eat their lunch in a designated classroom and spend the lunch and recess time working on missing assignments. The classroom will be staffed by a certified teacher and they will assist students and hold them accountable. Students will continue to attend the lunch club until they are caught up with all missing work and have passing grades in all classes. Our current Saturday School program addresses the problem of late and missing work after the fact and maybe we need to be proactive and address this concern when it begins? Please contact me with your feedback on the Lunch Club program, your input is important to me!

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Mr. Fellingner**

We just finished studying all about Egypt including the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, as well as, the different Pharaohs in each kingdom. We learned that the Egyptians worshiped different gods such as Re (The sun god), Hapi (The river god), and Osiris (The god of the underworld). The

Egyptians used the process of mummification to preserve the bodies of their dead, especially the pharaohs. They believed that the pharaohs would have an afterlife which explains the building of the great pyramids as tombs which stored many of the pharaoh's possessions, as well as, the Valley of the Kings in which King Tut was discovered. The students built an Egyptian water lifting machine called a shadoof in which they tested with a container of water to see if their design would work. The Egyptian culture contributed many things to past and present cultures in the areas of mathematics, medicine, and the development of an early form of paper called papyrus. The Egyptian projects that the students presented turned out great and were very informative! Now we are going to explore some people who travelled the seas and created a great trading empire. We will study the Phoenicians and their great contributions in navigating and the development of an alphabet!



**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ARTS  
Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck**



We will begin the New Year with a Non-Fiction unit.

We will review Non-Fiction text features, analyze many Non-Fiction writing pieces, and write 2 Non-Fiction pieces—one being an informative essay on wave comparison...the other being a Biographical Research project.

In the Biography portion of the Non-Fiction Unit, students will be reading biographies and completing a biography project which includes a Biography Research Report. The goal is for students to select notable people who transcend history for making an impact, gather important details about their choice, and organize it into writing. We will have many books available here for the students to read. Most of the work on the Biography project will be done in school; however, some work will need to be done at home. Please watch agendas and your emails for important updates about this unit.

Thank you for making sure your child reads each and every night. Please contact us if your child is not bringing home a book to read. You can do so by email [terickson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:terickson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us) [dwruck@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:dwruck@freedomschools.k12.wi.us) or by phone 788-7945. Thank you for your support!

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH  
Mr. Reed**



In 6th grade math we are using the area concepts that the students learned in Unit 2, along with their knowledge of decimals and fractions, to find the surface area of 3 dimensional shapes like prisms and pyramids. In the past Unit 4 has been one of the more challenging units in the 6th grade curriculum. It is relatively short, but the idea of picturing a 3-dimensional shape and all of the sides that exist on that shape (even though some are not directly visible) can be difficult for some students. The next unit we start is algebra. (My favorite!) I will also be out for a few weeks after the holiday break. My daughter is receiving a kidney transplant from my wife on Jan.11, so Mrs. Gaffney will be my substitute. She taught here previously and has used my curriculum in the before. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns while I am gone and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE  
Mr. Runyon**



It's hard to believe that it's already the New Year. We have been working hard in science to complete our study of matter and its interactions. The students have learned a great deal about atomic structure, the periodic table, acids and bases, and chemical reactions. We will be finishing that unit with studies of chemical reactions and

identifying mystery substances. Before reviewing and taking a unit final test that goes back almost two and a half months.

As we move forward in the New Year we will begin one of two smaller units on the engineering and design process standards. The students will: ask, imagine, plan, create, improve, and communicate about four projects that will require them to apply and draw on previous knowledge in new and challenging ways. As students test their various projects they will refine their designs, and engaging in the engineering process. This will also serve as an introduction to certain concepts that we will explore in more detail during our study of forces and motion in the following chapter.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Lingnofski**

Happy New Year! January, in language, will continue our work with informative writing. We will revisit the Burmese Python Essay written in November to familiarize ourselves with the writing process then jump into a new topic: The Great Lakes. We will plan one paragraph together as a class. Students will have the option to plan a second with a partner and will be required to plan two individually. After planning the body paragraphs, students will plan out their introduction, conclusion, and transitions all working towards the organization portion of the scoring rubric. We will write one paragraph of the rough draft together as a class before students finish on their own. Time will be allotted in class to type a final draft. The non-negotiable errors number will change to eight maximum errors prior to necessary revisions. Please see the orange sheet stapled into your child's agenda book to view our middle school non-negotiables.

After this essay, we will move into our final grammatical unit of the year: clauses. This unit reviews compound sentences and introduces complex and compound-complex sentences all based on the understanding of subordinate and independent clauses. This unit will end with the final benchmark test of the year. The concepts tested on these assessments will continue to play a role in our writing for the duration of the school year.

As we begin 2017, in the literature half of the ELA block, seventh graders will be working towards finishing Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. We'll finish the last few chapters concentrating on vocabulary, comprehension questions, and discussion questions. Once we finish the book, we'll be doing a RACES writing prompt as we did with the Watsons book, some additional wrap-up activities, and a final test. We'll culminate by watching the movie version of the novel.

For independent reading, the January AR test must be completed and passed by Friday, January 27th. This will be a third quarter grade. Students can use either their November, December, or, if finished early, their January book on this quarter's book project: Tic Tac Toe. Students will have two class work days, January 10th and 11th, prior to the project being due on Friday, January 13th. As students look to choose AR books for February, we will be upping the requirements for points. Students will still be required to read one book per month and pass the tests on that book. However, we ask that books now be a minimum of four points instead of three. All students will be taking the STAR test on January 12th and likely have an updated Lexile level. This will help students find books at their level. The following websites will allow parents and

students to find AR and Lexile information on books:

<http://www.arbookfind.com/>

<https://lexile.com/fab/>

Per usual, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher via phone or email.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

**Mr. Atwater**



We are currently in a unit on DNA, RNA and protein synthesis. Next we will be starting to get into genetics this month by looking at different gene expressions. Soon we will be able to figure out why some of us can wiggle our ears and some of us can't. After that we will look at changes in gene frequency. From there we move into ecosystem dynamics, which will take us through the rest of the school year.

**Wisconsin Bird of the Month:** The Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco. This purple/slate colored member of the sparrow family is a common feeder bird seen throughout the state through fall, winter and early spring. It mainly feeds off the ground so if you want to attract it to your yard, sprinkle some black-oil sunflower on the ground under your feeders.

Here's hoping your holiday is restful and full of family time. Happy holidays and see you in January.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

**Mr. LeBrun**

The students have finished and turned in their NHD paper on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Now it is time to focus on creating the exhibit. The students will need to have their exhibit completed by end of January. It would not be a bad idea to put a little work in to it over the holiday break. Other things going on in Social Studies this quarter are the geography bee which was held just before the break. Winners will be announced in the next news letter. The students are also studying about colonization, learning how the original 13 colonies came to be. Have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the break!!

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

**Mrs. Runyon**

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday break. Prior to the break we finished a difficult chapter on rational numbers. I think the kids are ready to put the fractions aside and work on something different. 😊

Unit 3 is focused on expressions and equations. During the month of January we will be developing a better understanding of expressions and how they can be used to represent real-world situations. Students will be beginning to delve deeper into the world of algebra.

In Pre-Algebra, we also finishing chapter 5 dealing with ratios, proportions, and similar figures. After we finish this chapter, I hope we can spend a little time using what we learned in chapter 5 with some hands on experiences. Chapter 6 will focus on percents; specifically students will be finding percents, percent change, discount and markups, along with simple and compound interest.

If you get a chance, ask your child if they have all the supplies they need for class to make them successful – pencils, red pens, calculators, folder, and a binder.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum**

Hopefully everyone enjoyed some well deserved time away from school and with your families! The end of the quarter will be here before we know it, so please remind your child to finish strong and reach their maximum potential after being renewed from break.

Our focus has been on understanding media this quarter. We have been reading newspapers, sharing current events, and reflecting on these issues with the impact to ourselves. We've spent the most time discussing the issue of bullying. As a culmination of the current events unit, students are writing a news story in journalistic about what we covered in our bullying unit. Perhaps you can ask your child to see what he/she wrote and get an in-depth answer to the age-old question: "What did you do in school?"

To wrap up the informative unit, students will spend the last weeks of the quarter writing short informational pieces. They will be working on formulating their thoughts and producing quality writing over short time periods. At the end of this short unit, students will pick one of their pieces and turn it into an informative speech.

As a reminder, students are also expected to pass an AR test by **January 27**. You can utilize the website AR Book Finder to determine if the book they are reading is AR. One day a week will be devoted to in class IR time or AR test taking.

Once we begin 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, we will be trying out a new textbook series. Our writing will shift to persuasive writing. Students will work both in class and out to achieve certain requirements and curricular goals.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE**

**Mr. Bins**



Over the five months, it has been a true pleasure to work with the class of 2021 in Eighth Grade Earth Science. They have demonstrated the ability to think abstractly, question the world around them, and have fun along the way!

Our previous unit took us into an exploration of plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

Here we learned about the internal processes of Earth and how they affect our daily lives.

As we enter our next unit, we will discuss erosion, weathering, deposition, and soil. Although this unit seems pretty dirty, these processes and soil impact our lives daily. This unit usually helps students grow their knowledge vote.

I am looking forward to seeing what the next five months have in store for our eighth grade students as they develop both scientifically and as leaders of our school!



## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

Ms. VanEperen



Welcome to 2017! I cannot believe it is the New Year already. The students finished 2016 strong and are ready to continue their learning. The students in Algebra completed a project in December where they drew a picture on a coordinate plane using only straight lines, which they then had to write equations for. The pictures all turned out wonderful and look beautiful around my room! Hopefully some of you had the opportunity to see your child's picture. The students then finished up with Chapter 5 right before break where they switched from linear equations to linear inequalities.

The students in Math 8 class were able to do a few authentic assessments as well this month. They created scatter plots to analyze any relationship between their class's heights and arm lengths. Students also came up with questions and surveyed the 8th grade class in order to collect data for a two-way table. As you can see, Chapter 9 was all about statistics. Students did very well in this chapter as this is quite a different branch of mathematics compared to Algebra and Geometry. Students completed quite a few geometry units this quarter. Some of them are ready to switch back to Algebra after the break!

I hope you and your families all had a wonderful break and are ready for the New Year!

## SPANISH

Mrs. Drammeh

Feliz enero! 6th grade pentemester just changed on Dec. 20th and we are on a basic conversation unit now. 7th grade is on an animal/body part unit, and 8th grade is on a community unit. 7th & 8th grade ends their 9 weeks with me on Jan. 19th when 2nd quarter ends. I've thoroughly enjoyed having such fun students this quarter!

## UPDATE FROM MR. MAVE'S CLASS

Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle

The New Year of 2017 will be here soon. As each of us look forward to the New Year 2017, goal setting is a popular topic and for some of us goal setting is a critical activity for our success. It is no different in our classroom. It is important to fully realize that effective goal setting and the follow through of each established goal can and will determine the success or failure of the things we do each day. With this in mind, students in my class learn the value of effective goal setting.

We all have our ideas of what goals are and are not. In class, it is first critical to know the benefits of goal setting. Goals will help you get where you want to go. For example, when you have a goal to travel to Milwaukee, goal setting is critical to making this trip and arriving at the destination successfully.

Let's explore more about the benefits of goal setting.

*A. Goals provide a sense of direction.*

What this means: Goals will help you get where you want to go.

Goals help you figure out how to get to the destination.

*B. Goals help us identify what is important in life.*

What this means: Goals help us determine what we should be working on and clarify our priorities to reach the goal. Having goals also helps determine the areas that are not important.

*C. Goals will help us monitor progress.*

What this means: Goals keep us on the right track. If our goal is to complete all homework assignments on time, we can stay focused. Goals also help us to prioritize actions to follow each day.

*D. Goals motivate us because we feel good when we accomplish them successfully.*

What this means: Accomplishment and success of our goals leads to more reasons to continue goal setting and follow through on the goals we have set. Goal completion is a measurement of our success or failure.

We wish you and your families a Happy New Year!

## **ART NEWS**

**Mrs. Glynn**



Wow!!! I can't believe that we are fast approaching the end of our first semester. The students have been working on numerous projects so far this year. We will continue in January working on our current project, which are paintings and product design drawings.

The 6th graders will begin working on still-life drawings. After that, we will move on to one point perspective drawings and we will also be working with clay.

The 7th graders will start off working with still-life drawings. They will move on to clay and product design paintings. After that on to two-point perspective.

The 8th graders will finish two point perspective and move on to three point perspective. When they complete that, they will work with either chalk pastel or oil pastel.

They all have been working hard and doing their best! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday break!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh**

In physical education, Mr. Springstroh and Ms. Vandenberg's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been playing volleyball. Both classes learned how to pass, set, and underhand serve. They all have been doing a great job with these skills. The students enjoy playing serving games and volleyball games; both these games help enhance their skills. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we use a Biggie ball; this is a bigger and lighter ball compared to a regular volleyball. This ball allows the students to have more rallies while playing. This unit will take us into our break and when the students get back we will be starting our new unit.

The 7th and 8th grades have started brand new units in physical education. 7th grade is rollerblading and learning the different types of braking and turns with this. We spend a lot of time emphasizing safety and

individual responsibility with rollerblading. The students have done very well so far with it. We have included a few pictures of two 7th grade classes in action with relay races and leg workouts with high and low skating.

Our 8th grade is learning a new game called pickleball. It is similar to playing tennis and table tennis. The first few days were just getting to know the rules of the game and getting used to hitting the pickleball. After the first couple class periods the students really caught on and have been enjoying the new game. Within the next month we are hoping to get outside with 7th and 8th grade and do some snowshoeing. Fingers crossed that the weather cooperates with temperatures and precipitation!



## HEALTH

### Mr. Springstroh

Here are some of the recent topics we have been discussing in the health classroom. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class we are currently discussing the nervous system. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we are talking about the effects of alcohol on the body and how advertising can influence a person to drink. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is currently discussing anatomy of the male and female reproductive systems.

## TECH ED

### Mr. Rupiper

Students in the 8th grade tech ed are getting the chance to experience some very cool technology we have at Freedom. Students started the quarter using the 3D CAD software Solidworks. They had the opportunity to draw some very simple items that just scratch the surface of the programs capability.

Students also had the opportunity to use our 3D printers which allows them to print the part of in 3 dimensions that they drew up in Solidworks. Once this unit was complete the students have been researching simple machines and creating a Rube Goldberg setup. Students have been designing creating and building their own simple machine to perform a task. All students have shown a great deal of enthusiasm getting to use the cool technology and a wide range of tools in the department.

## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

### **Mr. Rusch and Mrs. Seibert**

The students have learned a lot of skills in 7th Grade Programming. Work has been done to develop programming concepts, such as events, parallelism, looping (iterating), and reset. A few technical computer skills have also been picked up along the way. In January, and leading into February we will be using all of those technical skills and concepts to start exploring themes and try our hand at telling stories. The complexity of our work grows to match the skills and abilities that the young programmers continue to practice and develop. Some new programming concepts that we will explore are modularization, conditional decisions, and random behavior.

We will continue to work with and refine the understanding of parallelism, reset, and looping. Your children have been having a lot fun in class using Scratch, but are also learning how to plan and problem solve the entire time. Ask to see their Party Invitation, or It's Alive! and see for yourself what they are up to.

## **CHOIR**

### **Mrs. Maves**



Singing is so much more than “just having a good voice”. We are working on developing our ear, or, inner voice, to “hear” the notes we see in front of us without any help from instruments. We are learning to focus and read the music independently, yet, stay together as a group. We are learning to count the time that passes while we sing. We are learning to listen, really listen, to those around us, and hopefully to the teacher in the room ;) We are learning to internalize the music, so the voice is an expression of our whole being. We are learning to encourage those around us, as we struggle to learn new things. We are learning that kindness matters, All. The. Time. And we are learning that respect is not an option. As we work on each of those pieces of that puzzle called singing, we are also changing our brains. We are becoming smarter, happier, healthier and more creative. We are being transformed as we work together in choir. Only then can we “Just Sing” and join together the beauty that lies within each of us.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES**

### **Mrs. Langner**



As I sit writing this newsletter article on December 12th, I realize that December was a busy, but rewarding month. On December 3rd, Irish Band 7 & 8 students played in the

Freedom Christmas parade. The students did a wonderful job! Thank you to Mrs. Delany and Dianna Langner for your help during the parade and to all who helped after the parade, it was **greatly** appreciated! A **special thanks** to **Hintz Trucking** for providing the truck and trailer for the parade, to Mrs. Roche for walking along with us, and to Doug Langner for helping with the float!

**THANK YOU** to staff, parents, and students who helped at our concert! Whether you helped with concert preparations, taking down equipment, or encouraging your student to practice, we could not have done it without you! The concert was awesome and the musicians did a wonderful job! Please encourage your instrumental music student to keep practicing.

Irish Band 7 and 8 performed at the Elementary School and Country Villa on December 8 and did a very nice job.

The quote for December is from Virgil Thomson "I've never known a musician who regretted being one. Whatever life may have in store for you, music itself will never let you down."

The Instrumental Music Department hopes everyone had a safe and blessed holiday season – **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## **EXPLORING MUSIC**

### **Mrs. Seibert**

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing up presenting famous speeches in front of the class. They are putting famous American music with the speeches. This allows them the opportunity to set the scene of their speeches and gives the listeners an idea as to why music is included in everything they watch on television. We will move into playing

American songs on electric guitar after Christmas.

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade are having fun playing chords on acoustic guitar and putting them to some famous Christmas tunes. Ask your student about Rudolph. There are quite a few of them that are getting very interested in playing guitar. If they ask for a guitar, I am proud to say that it is my fault. It is a great thing that they can do the rest of their lives.

Please look for sheets to come home after Christmas regarding the middle school musical. I am hoping to get as many involved as I can. Practices will be after school.

We are having fun creating music. Thank you for this opportunity.

## **THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

### **Mrs. Kielpikowski**



Brrr! As I write this, it is in the single digits for temperature. Hopefully, this is not a common occurrence this winter. I enjoy winter outdoor activities, so hope there are many days to do this.

We are just finishing up the second pentemester of ACP. We are discussing internet safety in the next few days. We finished up our career unit and each student did a learner portfolio about themselves. Ask your child to share their google slides with you. They did an outstanding job and should be proud of themselves. Also, I encourage students to share what they have learned in our career unit, and show parents the career cruising website that we used.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we are mid way through 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. We have done some career research, but will do more soon. We just did a lesson on stereotypes and now are focusing on a person's character and what kind of person they want to be.

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ACP, each quarter we have a speaker from the Sexual Assault Resource Center come in and discuss internet safety, and general safety which includes how others treat them including the topic of harassment. Dates for the next two quarters have not been determined yet. Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and have a great start to 2017!!