

John Glenn Middle School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The first month and a half of school has already passed us, and it has been a fantastic start! The kids are fantastic!!! We continue to reap the benefits of our "Accept the Challenge effort," as our school data that shows us that we continue to make progress in that ever-so intangible social aspect of the middle years. JGMS students are currently taking our annual anti-bullying survey. Data from last year's survey tells us that approximately 60 percent of our students have neither been bullied or cyberbullied recently and that 80 percent feel that bullying at school is either "very rare" or "happens sometimes but not often." I am certain that the work that we are doing in advisories and followed-up by general interactions between student and adult, our kids are positively responding to our simple message of "treat people the way you want to be treated." I appreciate the efforts you have made to support us in this endeavor. I hope you get a chance to check in regularly on my "Principal's Corner" blog, which you may access by going to the JGMS website and clicking on the "JGMS Principal's Corner" link, that focuses on positive youth development through our "Accept the Challenge" initiative.

JGMS students saw two anti-bullying presentations in September (please check out my blog for more information about these), and JGMS parents also got a chance to view a presentation on bullying by the Middlesex District Attorney's office prior to the start of Open House on Thursday, September 22nd. I am happy to say that the auditorium was packed with parents.

Last week in Advisory, students reviewed the annual Full Value Contract and, hopefully, signed it to indicate their commitment to its basic tenets:

1. I will respect everyone, even if a person is not in my "friend" group.

2. I won't be a bystander. I will support those in need.
3. I will reach out and include all people.
4. I understand that it is my responsibility to speak up if I know someone is being targeted.

I would like to invite you all to please sign up to receive both the JGMS daily announcements and eNewsletters. You will get the most up-to-date information that way. To sign up all you have to do is go to our school website (<http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/jgms/>) and click on the link below the picture. Also, while you are on the website, please spend some time clicking around, as there is much information available for parents and students.

On another front, believe it or not it is almost time to sign up for November/December parent/teacher conferences. Letters with the username and password that you will need in order to access the system will be mailed home on Monday, November 1st. Sign-up will begin at 6 PM on Wednesday, November 9th and will remain open until Tuesday, November 15th. Please remember that the November conference date is Thursday, November 16th and will run from 4 PM to 7 PM. The December 7th conferences will run from 1 to 3:30 PM.

Our next JGMS Newsletter will combine November and December. Please look for it on our website during the week of November 30th.

I appreciate your involvement in your children's education and would like to invite you to the first "Coffee with the Administration" to be held on Thursday, October 27th from 8:15 to 9:15 in the library. It is my hope that anyone interested in joining the "Accept the Challenge" home/school/community group will attend. Hope to see you there!

Regards,

P. Jayne Viladenis
Principal

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October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17(4)	18(5)	19(6)	20(1)	21(2) <i>Dance</i> 6:30-8:30	22
23	24(3)	25(4)	26(5)	27(6)	28(1)	29
30	31(2)					

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1(3)	2(4)	3(5)	4(6)	5
6	7(1)	8(2)	9(3)	10(4)	11 No School <i>Veterans' Day</i>	12
13	14(5)	15(6)	16(1)	17(2)	18(3)	19
20	21(4)	22(5)	23(6) <i>Day of Respect; 1/2 Day</i>	24 No School <i>Thanksgiving</i>	25 No School	26
27	28(1)	29(2)	30(3)			

Truancy Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Every year, The Middlesex District Attorney's Office in collaboration with your local school district sends out this letter to all parents of students in Middlesex County. Though students and their families face many challenges throughout the school year, one of the most important concerns we share is **the need for consistent and timely school attendance for all students.**

The consequences for failing to attend school are serious and well-documented. Truancy has been identified as a potential predictor of criminal behavior, drug use, and is often associated with lowered academic achievement, self-esteem, and even employment potential. In addition, several studies have found that a pattern of poor attendance in early grades is linked to an increased likelihood for dropping out of school in later years.

Parents and guardians, as well as

students themselves, have the **statutory responsibility** to ensure that **attendance at school is regular and timely.** If a school identifies a student who is exhibiting an attendance problem, which includes tardiness, **the school is required by law to address that problem.** This could be as simple as notifying the parent or guardian and working together to improve that student's attendance. However, in extreme instances, it may require the school to solicit assistance from the Court or The Department of Children and Families.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to attendance. We encourage you to review this as well as your school's policy on attendance. Please feel free to contact the principal of your child's school should you wish to discuss this information further.

We all share the goal of enabling our students to reach their full potential,

and that begins with a student's regular and timely attendance at school. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. We look forward to a successful school year!

Cordially,



Superintendent,
Gerard T. Leone, Jr.

From The Health Office

The School year is underway and business is picking up in the nurse's office. We have had lots of coughs and colds already. Students should remain home if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees, and should only return to school if fever free for 24 hours without tylenol or ibuprofen.

Reminder: A physical report is due for all sixth graders as well as students who are new to Bedford schools.

School wide Vision and Hearing screening will take place in Novem-

ber. Students who wear corrective lenses should remember to have them available.

The Ma Dept of Public Health mandates annual height and weight screening for grades 1 4 7 and 10. Each child's height and weight will be used to calculate the BMI. The results are kept confidential and will be mailed directly to parents. BMI is a "weight to height for age" index that can be a useful tool in early identification of possible health risk factors among children and youth. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about BMI screening or if

you do not want your child to participate in the screening. Additional information may be found at:
www.mass.gov/massinmotion/.

Carol Eaton 781-275-3165

"Reminder: A physical report is due for all sixth graders as well as students who are new to Bedford schools."

Annual Report Card

To the Bedford Community:

I am pleased to present you with the annual **Report Card for the Bedford Public Schools for 2011**. The federal legislation, **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**, requires all states, school districts, and schools to report student assessment results, drop-out rates, and teacher qualifications to the community on an annual basis. Bedford's Report Card results are available to you on the **district webpage: www.bedford.k12.ma.us**.

In terms of the NCLB reporting requirements, Bedford has achieved the following:

- **All of our subgroups at Bedford High School are making AYP.**
- **Virtually all of our teachers (99.2%) are considered "highly qualified" for the subject(s) they teach.**

While we are pleased with Bedford's overall progress to date, we also recognize that we have work to do in terms of student achievement as we disaggregate the achievement of certain student cohorts. That said, we also recognize that in Massachusetts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has adopted the highest student performance standards in the nation. In Massachusetts, *all students* are expected to reach the "proficient level" on MCAS by 2014. Since MCAS is recognized as one of the most difficult state assessments in the nation, reaching that standard for *all students* will challenge every school district in the Commonwealth. It is my

hope that you will find the Report Card helpful in providing you with a snapshot of the schools.

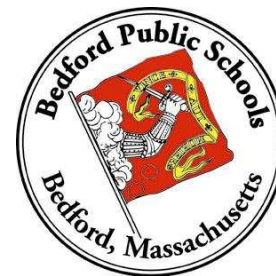
Moreover, the Bedford Public Schools is committed to providing quality instruction for all students and does so by employing the most qualified individuals to teach and support each student in the classroom. Under NCLB, teachers must hold a Massachusetts teaching license at the Preliminary, Initial, or Professional level and demonstrate subject matter competency in the areas they teach. NCLB standards apply to the subject matter taught by teachers. The report card contains general information about the teachers in our school as a whole. In addition, you may request individual information about the qualifications of your child's teacher(s) as well as any paraprofessionals who may be assisting the teacher. If you would like to receive any of the information listed above for your child's teacher, please contact my office.

If you have any questions about the data, please call me, or any of our principals. Should you require a hard copy of the results, please contact my office. Thanks for your continued support of the work we do to make the Bedford Public Schools the best that they can be.

Sincerely,

Maureen LaCroix, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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From the desk of Student Owned Strategies (S.O.S.)

We have been very busy in S.O.S since the start of classes this year. The class started off with an overview of the class and a discussion on what S.O.S stands for. We then dove into the five keys of learning (Author's Craft, Background Knowledge, Purpose Setting, Active Learning and Metacognition) and discussed with students how each of the keys work together in an academic setting as well as in life outside of school.

In addition to the keys of learning, we are introducing several tools that stu-

dents can use in other classes to help them academically. These tools include ways to take more effective notes, such as two-column note taking and power notes. We will also use these tools in the writing process. We will discuss how these tools such as power notes and concept definition maps can be used to organize a brainstorm list and then transformed into paragraphs.

Within the next few days we are excited to roll out our S.O.S semes-

ter project. This project is the culmination of our work so far. Students will be required to incorporate all five of the learning keys by creating a mini booklet with two stories, a table of contents and so much more! In addition to the project, students will be assessed on their mastery of the five keys of learning just in time for the end of the semester.

Newcomers Club

Counselors' Corner...Did you know that we have 24 new students at JGMS this year ?

Did you know that if your child was new to Bedford and the Middle School this year they were invited to join the Newcomers' Club? The 6th grade Newcomers' Club has met during Advisory on Day 1 with Mrs. Siegenthaler and Ms. Daley. The 7th and 8th grade Newcomers' Club has been meeting during Advisory on Day 3 with Mrs. Siegenthaler and Ms. Daley. Most of the new students have participated.

We have had an opportunity to eat our

snacks, share our stories about who we are, where we came from and why we moved to Bedford. These groups have given the students an opportunity to talk about how they are feeling about their moves, how to go about connecting with other students and making new friends and how we can provide support for one another in the halls, the lunchroom and in classes!

There was consensus that the best way to meet new people is to try to keep a smile on your face (even when your stomach is in a knot!), meet one person who then intro-

duces you to their friends and join in activities in school or in town where you have something in common with the other students.

Ask your children about our group...it has been fun getting to know them. We will continue to meet throughout the first term.

Diana Siegenthaler
Counselor
Grade 6 and 8 Green

Joanna Daley
Counselor
Grade 7 and 8 Gray

Performing Arts

General music students in grade 6 are working on rhythmic notation using drums and hand-held percussion instruments. Each student is preparing a presentation on a music instrument as well. Occasionally we sing together using the songbook "Getting America Singing... Again". Soon we will be moving into a study of the development of music notation through world history, and an exploration of the aural/oral tradition in world cultures.

Students in 7th grade **theater arts class** started this year with full-class cumulative invented stories, and now we are reading skits and plays in the story-theater style. This is a relaxing and entertaining way of practicing skills in oral presentation, which include attention to volume, speed, diction, inflection, and body and facial expression. We have also started playing beginning improvisation and theater games.

All of our **performing ensembles** are off to a great start this year! A calendar with all the concert dates for Band, Chorus and Orchestra is posted on the JGMS website under "Academics - Music." Upcoming concerts include the Band and Orchestra concert on Tuesday, December 6th, and the Choral concert on Thursday, December 8th. Both concerts start at 7 pm.

The **JGMS Bands** have been busy making music on stage since September. We're proud to say the Grade 6 Band has 32 students who have continued on from the Lane School! They are currently learning a catchy piece called "New Orleans Strut" and a more difficult composition, "Overture to Tomorrow." Additionally, the Grade 7 & 8 Bands are doing well with an arrangement of the classic band piece "American Patrol." They also have a

challenge piece titled "March for Kim" requiring advanced musicianship skills including meter changes and extended note ranges on their instruments.

The **JGMS Orchestra** classes bounce around a bit - from the Large Group Instruction Room to the Music Room and eventually to the Concert Hall. Our talented and hard-working orchestra members are rehearsing in preparation for our winter performance! Selections include: *Grade 6* - Calypso Capers (with some exciting syncopated motives), Golden Fields (a lush, beautifully-scored work by movie composer, Alan Lee Silva, and The Lonely Bull (an arrangement of the Herb Alpert and The Tijuana Brass tune). *Grades 7/8* - Serenade for Strings (an arrangement of the gorgeous Tchaikovsky piece), Rocky Mountain Switchback ((a lively, bluegrass-style selection by composer Robert Frost), and Romantic Etude (a nice arrangement of the popular Chopin Etude in E Major.)

Besides their classroom work, many students are actively involved in practicing and preparing for the Eastern Junior District festival in January. Many, not necessarily all who are auditioning for this festival, are busy studying privately with our POMS instructors as they gain more skills on their respective instruments. All levels will be performing some of the above selections in our concert on Tuesday, December 6!

Chorus classes are in full swing. Mrs. Budka, Mrs. Pritchett and Mr Felker are working on an exciting program with many different style of music in our repertoire. We go from sixteenth century madrigals, to folk music from Brazil and the Georgia Sea Islands, through to pop

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contemporary music. We still find time to work on our vocal pitch and quality, using sight-reading skills practice with solfège. In addition to our first concert of December 8th, stay tuned for more info about our appearance at Barnes and Noble in December for the annual Bedford Education Foundation fundraising event!

Junior District Music Festival: The Eastern District of the Massachusetts Music Educator's Association offers an opportunity for higher-level singers and instrumentalists to audition for the Eastern District Music Festival. Detailed information can be found at www.mmeaEasternDistrict.org. Auditions are held in late January, and those who are chosen will participate in a concert in March. Vocal and instrumental music students will be given information about the festival during band, orchestra and chorus classes. Mrs. Budka offers coaching for the Junior District chorus auditions on Mondays, after school in the music room from 2:30 to 3:45.

POMS Music Lesson Program - Many students are already working to improve their playing and singing skills by studying privately through our POMS Lessons Program. Information can be found on the JGMS Music website under the Academics tab. The next round of lessons begin in December with tuition due by 12/6. Lessons are offered on cello, clarinet, fiddle, flute, French horn, Double Bass, Bass Guitar, Guitar (acoustic and electric) percussion/drums, piano, saxophone, trumpet, voice, viola and violin. For more info email Jim O'Malley at JM0991@verizon.net.

JGMS Jazz Band is an after-school activity. We play jazz and rock ensemble music, and explores the basics

of blues. We perform at the Band and Orchestra concerts. All instruments, including guitar, electric bass, keyboard/piano and orchestral stringed instruments are invited. We have members from grades 6, 7 and 8. It is expected that you have been playing for at least two years. We are working out a rehearsal schedule right now, and we hope to start meeting soon. It is difficult to choose a day after school right now that will work for everyone – we may explore the possibility of rehearsing before school. See Mrs. Budka for more information.

JGMS Guitar Ensemble – “For those about to rock, we salute you!” Mr. Grunwald invites all interested guitarists and bass players to join the Guitar Ensemble. We meet every Monday after school from 2:30 til 3:45, on the stage in the auditorium starting on Monday, October 17th. New members should see Mr. Grunwald for an audition time. Returning members do not need to audition. The Guitar Ensemble performs during the band and orchestra concert nights.

This year's **Spring musical** will be “Bye Bye Birdie”! All JGMS students are invited to sign up to be in the cast, and Students in grade 7 and 8 are invited to participate on the stage crews. Our performances this year will be on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Auditions for lead roles will be held before and after school on November 7th and 8th, and rehearsals will start on November 15th. This is a bit earlier than usual, due to some scheduling challenges, so check your calendars to see if you can make the commitment. Packets with audition and rehearsal schedule information will be available soon. See Mrs. Budka for more information.

Grade 6 News

Field Trips

Both teams are happy to report that we had successful field trips. The blue team went to Great Meadows and enjoyed noting the varying characteristics of nature lining the path. The red team enjoyed their hike at Great Brook farm and made some interesting and descriptive quantitative and qualitative observations. Both teams were grateful for the time spent getting to know each other better and forming a cohesive team.

General Announcements

Please check teacher websites on Aspen. There are many useful materials to be found there, including rubrics, extra copies of project assignment sheets, classroom expectations, etc.

Student of the Month

The red team would like to congratulate Kyle M-P on earning the prestigious honor of becoming their first stu-

dent of the month for the 2011-2012 school year. Kyle is an exemplary student of the month because of his maturity in dealing with others, his sense of humor that brings enjoyment to learning, and his motivation to do his best each and every day.

Upcoming Events

Both teams will be taking a science field trip in November to explore the use of science in forensics. Students will understand how the properties of matter enable scientists to investigate crimes. More details to follow...

Curriculum Updates

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Social Studies

Both teams are in full swing with our Five Themes of Geography Flipbook. Students were assigned a country in South America, Central America, or Europe and have been researching that country in terms of the five themes of geography. Students have also been sharpening their mapping skills by working on an atlas packet that is due October 18 for both red and blue students.

English

The blue team has completed our Descriptive Writing unit with wonderfully bright, rich, echoing, flavorful, and tactile results. Thank you to all students for your efforts on this project! We are plunging into Narnia now with our Magician's Nephew unit and will soon be starting character studies.

The red team has completed our first vocabulary unit. The next set of words will be offered in another week or so. Students will select three strategies to use to study on their own. This is our first real experience with self-guided study, so it might be helpful to check in with your son or daughter with regard to their progress. We are also knee-deep in our descriptive writing unit and are working to bring our writing to life by using strong verbs, specific sensory details, and by showing rather than telling. Creativity abounds in room A221!

Science

In science, we're continuing with our introduction to basic science skills. After becoming familiar with the metric system and lab safety, we're putting these skills to use by conducting experiments. Over the next few weeks, students will be working towards designing their own experiments to test.

Math

In sixth grade math, we have recently completed unit 1 where we reviewed many of the basic concepts that were covered in fifth grade. We also introduced the use of exponents and looked at problems involving exponential growth. As we move forward into unit 2, we will be working on concepts involving decimals and introducing dividing decimals by whole numbers and other decimals.

From the music department...

The JGMS Bands have been busy making music on stage since September. We're proud to say the Grade 6 Band has 32 students who have continued on from the Lane School! They are currently learning a catchy piece called "New Orleans Strut" and a more difficult composition, "Overture to Tomorrow." We look forward to seeing you all at our 7:00 p.m. concerts at the JGMS Auditorium. December 6--Band & Orchestra; December 8--Chorus.

Many students are already working to improve their playing and singing skills by studying privately through our POMS Lessons Program. Information can be found on the JGMS Music website under the Academics tab. The next round of lessons begin in December with tuition due by 12/6.

The JGMS String Orchestras are off to a great start! As we bounce around a bit from the large group instruction room to the music room and eventually to the concert hall, our talented and hard-working orchestra members are rehearsing in preparation for our winter (before we know it) performance! Selections include: Calypso Capers (with some exciting syncopated motives), Golden Fields (a lush, beautifully-scored work by movie composer, Alan Lee Silva), and The Lonely Bull (an arrangement of the Herb Alpert and The Tijuana Brass tune).

Grade 7 News

We are having a great 1st Quarter in the 7th Grade! Interims were posted on Aspen, so if you have not checked them, please do. The quarter ends on November 4. Parent conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 16, and Wednesday, December 7. Information about signing up for conferences will be sent out from the main office.

Here is what has been happening in your child's classes:

Math:

7th Grade Math and Pre-Algebra students are covering a unit on Integers. The students will be working on a project, applying graphing of coordinates, in the next few weeks. 7th Grade Math students will move on to a unit

on fractions. Having a solid foundation with their basic multiplication facts will be extremely helpful for students as we move on to this next unit. In Pre-Algebra, the next chapter the students will focus on solving equations and inequalities.

7th grade is using the McDougal-Littell book series. Pre-Algebra students use Math Course 3 and 7th Grade Math students use Math Course 2, and the books should remain at home. There are supplemental materials supporting each chapter at: www.classzone.com and usernames and passwords were issued for access to the online textbook. Homework assignments and access to classroom lessons can be found on the class Moodle

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site using the student's JGMS username and password.

Social Studies:

Students have completed their study of archaeology and have been learning the answer to the unit's essential question, 'Who and what define history?' Students learned about prehistory, culture, different types of sources, and how to distinguish between a fact, inference, and opinion. Students have watched two videos to help them to understand how archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians evaluate and interpret the sources they find to put together the story of the past. The first was a National Geographic video about the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum as sites rich in archaeological evidence. The second was a PBS video called *Other People's Garbage* that followed modern archaeologists in California and Boston as they race to save artifacts from being destroyed or lost to construction projects. Students have begun the second unit of the year, which focuses on early people. Each student has been given a textbook, called *A Message of Ancient Days*, so that it can be used for homework assignments. Students should not bring the textbook to school, but should keep it in a safe place at home.

English:

In English students have been reading, writing and reflecting! They started this year by reading a short story about a nightmarish first day of school in hopes that no

matter how our students' years began, they could not compare to the poor soul in the story. Also, students wrote a friendly email in which they shared interesting things about themselves and their goals for English this year. In addition, students have expanded their vocabularies, and reviewed the parts of speech with the **Word Generation** and **Vocabulary-Lit** programs. Students were also assigned a book project that is due toward the end of the quarter. After reading a few short stories, students are now looking forward to beginning our folklore unit beginning with famous fables and fables they will create themselves showing their writing skills and ability to teach a moral. We are looking forward to discovering the life lessons the students have learned and will share.

Science:

In science classes, students have completed a mini-project on the 6 characteristics of all living things. Presently the students are working on Ecology, learning about ecosystems and their components, as well as learning how living things obtain the energy they need for life. In the next couple weeks students will make their own miniature ecosystem using plastic 2-liter soda containers.

We look forward to meeting you at parent conferences. Enjoy the fall weather!

Grade 8 News

The school year is off to a fantastic start for the eighth grade class as the Class of 2016 arrived motivated with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. The one hundred and eighty six members of the eighth grade class have set the right tone for the whole building and we are looking forward to a productive and fun year.

As you may already know, eighth grade has two distinct, yet parallel teams of teachers and students: Green and Grey. This concept of two parallel teams, we believe, allows students to make stronger academic and social connections within a smaller grouping, while the staff has the opportunity to develop a more cohesive and collaborative instructional approach across Teams.

Staff Members for the Green Team:

Joe Casey (Social Studies, Team Leader)
Vanessa Mangini (Math)..... currently out on maternity leave (a baby boy born in July!). She will return in mid-December
Jeff McGrath is currently filling in for Mrs. Mangini as a long term substitute. Jeff is a proud graduate of JGMS and the Bedford Public Schools.

Barbara Ferri (Science)
Pat Stephen (English)
Rachel LeBlanc (Reading)
Kris Gibbons (Special Education)
Diana Siegenthaler (Counselor)
Mr. Constantine Georgopoulos, (Special Education)

Staff Members for the Grey Team:

Charlie Puopolo (Science, Team Leader)
Marilyn Bemis (English)
Sara Berinato (Math)
Michelle DelaValle (Special Education)
Rachel LeBlanc (Reading)
James Nagle (Social Studies)
Fern Thompson (Special Education)
Erin Wyman (Special Education)
Tammy Westenfeld (Special Education)
Joanna Daley (Guidance)

The Grey Team would also like to welcome Ms. Sarah Perkins a graduate student at Gordon College, who will be student-teaching with Ms. Bemis. Like Mr. McGrath, Sarah is a proud graduate of the Bedford schools!

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Terri Mills (Spanish) and Wendy Tanahashi- Works (French) both teach students from both Teams.

And a special welcome to our new Foreign Language Teacher, Nicole Pallardy who comes to us from the Fairfax County ,Virginia school system. Nicole will be teaching Spanish to each of the three grade levels.

At any time if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, do not hesitate to contact any of the above Team members. Team meetings can be requested through either the Team leader, Guidance Counselor, or Special Education liaison.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the parents who attended our Open House on September 22nd. We had a great turnout and appreciate your involvement and support.

Spanish News

Grade 6 Spanish

Sixth grade Spanish students will soon study the verb *gustar* and many new infinitives. They will be asking and answering questions about what they like and what they like to do. They are beginning to create original sentences with *ser* and *ser de* and subject pronouns. Our first lesson takes place in the cultural context of Miami, Florida. Recently all Spanish 6 students received their new Spanish workbook called *Más Práctica*. In the last section of this workbook students can find a resource section with complete vocabulary lists and grammar points for each chapter. This is most helpful to students completing

Grade 7 Spanish

The students are completing the chapter in which they are learning to talk about schedules, ask and tell time, ask questions, say where they are going, and request food (Unit2/Etapa2). The cultural setting is Mexico City. They are going to be starting the next chapter (Unit2/Etapa3), in which they will discuss plans, sequence events, and talk about places and people they know, still based in Mexico City.

Grade 8 Spanish

Grade eight students have been learning to ask for and give directions with regular affirmative tú commands. They have learned new vocabulary associated with identifying places, giving directions and using different modes of transportation. They have been using the prepositions of place to describe the location of any stores and other places in the city. This is all taking place in the cultural context of Oaxaca, Mexico.

French News

Grade 6 French

In French 6 we have just finished reviewing the basic greetings and nationalities. We have gone to the computer lab and familiarized ourselves with Quizlet and other online study programs. The students have been completing activities both in pairs and groups. We have practiced numbers up to 60. We are also learning to use the informal and formal when addressing people.

Grade 7 French

In French 7 we have just finished leçon 8 and 9 which focuses on adjectives and various ways to form questions. The students have presented mini dialogues with partners as well as a description of their room. We are currently learning the song Les Champs- Élysées. The students are using various programs to help them with review and pronunciation such as Quizlet, Quia.com and Classzone.

Grade 8 French

In French 8 we are finishing up some irregular verbs forms and learning about patterns and using mnemonic devices to help us remember verb charts. The students have reviewed a unit on clothing and demonstrative adjectives. We have used the web to visit a large department store in France as well as for French review with programs such as Quizlet and Classzone.com. The students are now able to write short descriptions and are more confident telling stories to the class or in groups with images as their cues.

Notes from the Gifted and Talented and Differentiation Instruction Program

Gifted and Talented E-mail List

All parents and students are invited to sign-up to receive e-mails from Lisa Fontaine-Rainen regarding opportunities particularly appropriate for gifted students, both in and out of school. Lisa will send out information on opportunities in the area, school events, and anything else that might be of interest. Please send an e-mail to lisa_fontaine-rainen@bedford.k12.ma.us to get on the list!

Gifted and Talented Programming through Differentiation

Students with particular gifts and talents have many opportunities to learn and excel at JGMS. Many of these opportunities are provided in the regular classroom, through differentiation. Teachers provide students with challenging options in the context of the regular curriculum, based on student needs and interests. The Gifted and Talented and Differentiated Instruction Teacher, Lisa Fontaine-Rainen, provides support to teachers on differentiation. Feel free to contact the classroom teachers if you feel your child needs additional challenge.

Advanced Mathematics

Mathematics can be particularly challenging to differentiate. We acknowledge that some students need a qualitatively different mathematics curriculum on a daily basis. These needs change throughout the year, based largely on readiness. One way we work to meet these needs is to pre-test students in mathematics for every unit, and provide alternate curriculum to some students who show the need for more advanced work. The advanced math pull-out classes work on units that parallel the regular curriculum, taking it deeper and to a more challenging level. For the first unit of 6th grade, the pull-out class has worked with expressing numbers as powers of other numbers, become masters of estimation of all kinds, and learned the “why” behind divisibility rules. In the second unit, which has just begun, we are working on understanding decimals and base ten at a deep level by applying our understanding of place value to different bases. The first 7th grade unit focuses on the concepts of patterns and includes writing patterns algebraically, using integers in patterns, and solving equations that represent patterns. The 8th grade class extends the regular algebra text with more challenging problems, as well as with extensions on sets of numbers, challenging rate problems, and much more.

MathCounts

The JGMS math competition program, MathCounts, meets after school on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 in room B218. Students participating in MathCounts will compete in many competitions, including the American Mathemat-

ics Competition for grade 8 and below (AMC 8), the Collaborative Problem Solving Contest, Math Olympiad, and MathCounts. Each of these competitions will engage students' mathematical talents in different ways, including individual speed competitions, extended problem solving, team competitions, and head-to-head problem solving. All students are invited to train and compete. Any student who cannot attend some meetings due to conflicts with sports or other activities should contact Lisa Fontaine-Rainen to be put on the e-mail list and to get information on how to stay competitive and join when they are able.

WordSmiths

School Scrabble expanded last year! With the goal of providing a place for students to stretch their verbal talents, WordSmiths came into being. So far, it has been a haven for unusual thinkers who like to play with words. Students who wish to continue with School Scrabble, including competition training, are welcome to make every WordSmiths session into Scrabble. Other students may come wanting to workshop writing, do word puzzles, play with poetry, play other word games, discuss books, or anything else with our language that appeals. Students can come with something in mind they'd like to do, or can come see what others are doing and join. WordSmiths meets after school on Thursdays in A117. The program is run under the umbrella of Youth and Family Services After School Program, with additional meetings before and between sessions, and field trips for competitions. Students need to sign up by October 19th through Youth and Family Services.

Please check out the WordSmiths blog at wordsmithed-byjgms.wordpress.com, where WordSmiths share their interesting ideas with the public!

Out of School Resources

MIT SPLASH <http://esp.mit.edu/learn/Splash/index.html>

SPLASH is an incredible opportunity for students who love to learn or who have particular passions or talents. It runs every year on the MIT campus on the weekend before Thanksgiving – this year on November 20th and 21st. Students in grades 7-12 can sign up for a very low cost to take up to 16 hours of courses over two days on almost any topic imaginable. Courses range from yoga and knitting to decisive battles in history and the mathematics of knots. Registration begins in early November and some classes fill up fast, so it's worth keeping tabs on the website! This is a really fantastic opportunity, so

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

mark your calendars now to ensure you don't miss it! Please let Ms. Fontaine-Rainen know if cost or transportation is an issue. SPLASH is highly recommended!

CTY Talent Search www.cty.jhu.edu

Students who have scored at the advanced level on any of their most recent MCAS are invited to participate in the Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. Students in 7th and 8th grade will take either the SAT or the ACT tests,

typically given to college bound juniors and seniors. Students in 6th grade will take the SCAT (School and College Ability Test). Participation in the CTY Talent Search can lead to recognition, qualification for additional CTY programming, and, at the 7th and 8th grade level, scholarships to local colleges to be used to take courses before high school graduation. If you would like information to be sent home with your child, please e-mail Lisa Fontaine-Rainen at lisa_fontaine-rainen@bedford.k12.ma.us. You can also get more information on the CTY website listed above.

Homework Club Returns!

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the MSPA to fund Homework Club at John Glenn Middle School beginning Tuesday, November 1st. This resource has helped many students in prior years to access assistance and receive guided structure as needed to help with homework, study skills and project completion. Homework Club will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:40. Late buses are available on these days to take students home and typically leave JGMS by 4:05 pm. Homework club will be monitored by two JGMS teachers. The location of Homework Club will vary between the library and Ms. Noferi A206/Ms. Coletta's A207 rooms.

Homework Club is a resource available to any and all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Some of you may have already been contacted by our guidance department if it was felt by your child's teaching team that he or she would greatly benefit from attending Homework Club to access help with work completion, time

management, and study skills and strategies. These students are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions each week. Even if you have not been directly contacted, please know that this resource will be available until early March, so encourage your child to access Homework Club when they are feeling that they need some extra guidance (perhaps before a test or during a project) or if they just want to get some work done before they go home. Individual teachers will continue to provide their own extra help sessions based on their own routine.

If you have questions about your individual student attending Homework Club, please contact your child's team leader, subject teacher, or the guidance department. If you fully expect your child to attend, please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to their advisor by the end of this week.

Thank you,

Homework Club Sign-up (please return to advisor)

I expect my child (print name), _____, to attend Homework Club. I have informed him or her of this expectation, and they will attend (check one):

☐ Tuesdays only ☐ Thursdays only ☐ both Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week

I understand that the expectations for student behavior are as outlined in the student handbook. Any disruptive or inappropriate behavior that interferes with other students' work could result in being dismissed from Homework Club.

Parent Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____

Homework Club Schedule:

Please post this somewhere accessible to you and your student so you are aware of when Homework Club is taking place.

Tuesday, November 1st

Tuesday, November 7th

Tuesday, November 14th

Tuesday, November 29th

Tuesday, December 6th

Tuesday, December 13th

Tuesday, January 10th

Tuesday, January 17th

Tuesday, January 24th

Tuesday, January 31st

Tuesday, February 7th

Tuesday, February 14th

Tuesday, February 28th

Tuesday, March 6th

Thursday, November 3rd

Thursday, November 10th

Thursday, November 17th

Thursday, December 1st

Thursday, December 8th

Thursday, December 15th

Thursday, January 5th

Thursday, January 19th

Thursday, January 26th

Thursday, February 2nd

Thursday, February 9th

Thursday, February 16th

Thursday, March 1st

Thursday, March 8th

Late bus pick-up is between 3:55 and 4:05. Parents may pick up their student at 3:40. Students should have a parent note to be released early from homework club, as the supervising teachers are responsible for student whereabouts during this time.

JGMS Library News



Joan Collins
Teacher Librarian

Summer Book Discussions

6th graders gathered on Sept. 26th in the library to discuss, *Anything But Typical* by Nora Baskin. They enjoyed pizza and soft drinks and talked about autism, the topic of Baskin's book.

7th graders talked about *Saving Sky* by Diane Stanley on Sept. 27th. Between bites of pizza, they discussed this provocative title whose themes center on war and conflict in a future America.

Orientation

SOS teachers, Bryan Tonini and Sandi Smith escorted 6th graders to the library to learn about its physical space and to check out books. Our books circulate for two weeks with the option to renew, if needed.

Geography Research

Both blue and red teams have been researching countries as part of their five themes of geography reports. Marie Mallot and Paula Bakarian directed students to use databases, books, and websites. They utilized books, *Culturegrams*, *Grolier OnLine.*, and trusted websites. These eager researchers learned how to save documents in a folder and how to cite sources.

Teachers have brought their classes to the library to select books. We've checked out **728** books! Our students are busy reading.

Book Projects

8th grade teachers Marilyn Bemis and Pat Stephen assigned first quarter book projects, and encouraged students to read all through the year. Many chose challenge books from an approved list.

7th grade teachers Lynda McGraw and Nicole d'Entremont assigned survival fiction, non-fiction, and historical fiction.

Art Projects

Candy Banks had students search for images to create murals on a variety of topics, like global warming, war, poverty, etc. Students worked in groups and saved at least 8 images. They will be presenting their work.



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FALL 2011 MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

ATTENTION PARENTS! ATTENTION PARENTS!

JOHN GLENN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

- ◆ Give the gift of reading and help support your school! We thank you and appreciate your participation. Every order counts, more than ever.
- ◆ Our school will receive 40% of each order and these funds will be used to **support important goals and programs that benefit our children.**
- ◆ Over 600 magazine titles like **People, Sports Illustrated, SI Kids, Reader's Digest, Everyday with Rachael Ray, Good Housekeeping and National Geographic for Kids** — great value and prices for everyone.
- ◆ **RENEW** your favorite subscription, **ORDER** a **NEW** title, or **GIVE** a **GIFT**
- ◆ Ask family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and don't forget local business professionals or service centers with waiting rooms (doctors, salons, etc.).

DATE OF SALE:

Wed. 9/28 through Fri. 10/7

SCHOOL/STUDENT GOAL:

1 order per Student

COLLECTION DAYS:

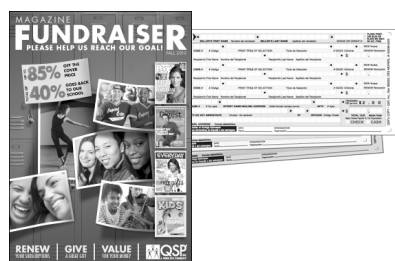
Postcard book only! Mon. 10/3
Order turn in days: 10/4, 10/6, 10/7

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

Toll free customer service # (800-678-2673) is printed on the back of the customer receipt (pink copy).

IT'S SO EASY TO PARTICIPATE! Every Order Counts!

(1) The Catalog



- ◆ Complete the order form. Print accurate and complete information.
- ◆ Include seller and organization name plus email address to receive confirmation.
- ◆ Enclose white/yellow copies with payment, and keep pink copy.
- ◆ Allow 10-14 weeks for delivery.

Make checks payable to:
JOHN GLENN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL

(2) The Postcard Booklet



- ◆ Help your child fill out each postcard with names and addresses of family and friends you don't see regularly.
- ◆ Do not tear postcards out. These booklets will be collected and sent to addresses with a list of items to support the fundraiser. These names will only be used by QSP.
- ◆ Your child will receive a **FREE PRIZE** for the completed booklet. Nationally, on average, your school receives \$22 for each completed booklet.

(3) Order Online



- ◆ Go to www.qsp.com to order online.
- ◆ **Use your School Code: 1152875**
- ◆ Easy pay with credit cards.
- ◆ Sell 24 hours a day, year round.
- ◆ Online orders are processed immediately, save up to 4-6 weeks delivery time.
- ◆ **Have your parents post a message on their Facebook page and their friends can order directly from the link!**

PRIZES!






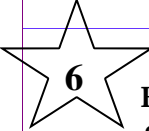











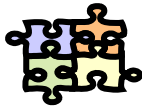






Your child can earn fun prizes for his or her hard work and support. The more orders that are turned in, the more prizes he or she earns.

SAFETY FIRST! NO DOOR-TO-DOOR SELLING!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SPONSORED BY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Check out the special highlighted activities — more info at www.bedfordma.gov/youth				
		1 Eat Out! Kids Choice! 	2 Read a book aloud together 	3 Play catch or Frisbee with someone new 	4 Backwards - Eat dinner backwards, dessert first! 	5 Wander in the Town Forest 
6 Free Family Swim 12-2 Bedford Plaza Hotel - First come, first served 	7 Text Free Monday Can you talk face-to-face all day?	8 Election Day! Collect household change & vote on a charity to donate to 	9 UNPLUGGED! No homework, No night meetings, No sports... really! 	10 Take a neighborhood stroll by the light of the full moon 	11 Veterans Day Attend the Bedford event at Memorial Park 	12 Count the ducks at Great Meadows 
13 Make a family story book with old pictures 	14 Help a family for Thanksgiving - drop off a donation to the Bedford Food Pantry	15 Free Family Singalong 7 p.m. Bedford Public Library 	16 After School Lego Challenge Bedford Public Library 3:30 p.m. 	17 Eat Out! Parents Choice! 	18 Ice Cream Social 5-8 p.m. Town Center 	19 Volunteer Do a volunteer project as a family
20 Kids plan and cook dinner for parents 	21 Puzzled?  Complete a puzzle as a family	22 Write a Thank You note to someone who has helped you	23 Have Breakfast for Dinner tonight! 	24 Thanksgiving Share 5 things you are thankful for with your family 	25 Camp Out Inside! Make popcorn, get sleeping bags, tell stories by flashlight	26 Pizza Night - Make your own! 
27 Go through closets and donate clothes and coats you don't wear	28 Organize a relay race on your street or around your block 	29 Go Fish! Get out the cards and play your favorite card game 	30 Family Choice Day - You pick! 	Congrats on unplugging your electronic devices... and continue to find ways to unplug in December and all year long!		

Bedford Families Unplugged 2011

This year, “Bedford Unplugged” is bringing back the month-long calendar of activity ideas, along with the homework, activity, sports and meeting-free evening on **Wednesday, November 9th**, when folks are encouraged to be home for dinner and enjoy time with friends or family without attention to an outside schedule.

“Bedford Unplugged” is an annual community initiative begun October 2004 to encourage families to pull the plug on electronic distractions and disconnect from overly busy schedules, and to connect with each other through activities with family and friends. It is all too easy to forget having meals with others, making conversation, or bringing people together for fun, games, and relaxation. “Bedford Unplugged” is your reminder to take a break from the hectic times for a day or more.

The hope is for Bedford children and adults to remember to have a personal mix of connections with others while living in a fast-paced world with its own demands. The idea behind “Bedford Unplugged” is not to eliminate electronics from our lives, but to practice being with those around us — apart from the telephone, movies, video games and TV. This does not come about with one day each year, but one day can be a valuable reminder for all of us to examine how we would like our daily routines to work best.

Look over the calendar and see what strikes your fancy. Make it your own. Do you love ice cream sundae parties? A walk in the woods? Stories and books? Games? Dinner with friends? Crafts? Try something new or old. Create your own special way to unplug, slow down, take a break, and connect. Stay tuned for information about community “Unplugged” activities throughout November 2011. You will also find tips and ideas from folks who practice people-friendly scheduling in various articles through the year. Maybe you have an idea of your own? Let us know and we will pass it on. For more ideas you can try at home, check out [Unplugged Play](#) by Bobbi Conner available through the library and www.thefamilydinnerproject.org website.

Sponsored by **Bedford Community Partnership (BCP)** whose purpose is to *promote, collaborate, and partner strategies that effectively nurture the physical, sociological, and emotional health of Bedford children and families across generations*. Organizations represented in BCP include:

Bedford Selectmen ■ Bedford School Committee ■ Bedford Public Schools
Bedford Youth & Family Services ■ Bedford Council on Aging ■ Bedford Police Department
Bedford Fire Department ■ Bedford Recreation Department ■ Bedford Health Department
BEST Parent Teacher Organization ■ Middle School Parent Association
Bedford High School Parent Association ■ Bedford Clergy Association ■ Bedford Chamber of Commerce
Middlesex Community College ■ Bedford TV ■ Bedford Education Foundation

For more information or to share ideas contact 781-275-7727 or visit www.bedfordma.gov/youth

Bedford Families Unplugged Special Activities November 2011

Sunday, November 6, 2011

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Free Family Swim , Bedford Plaza Hotel, 340 Great Road, Bedford

Bedford Plaza Hotel at 340 Great Road is again opening its pool to Bedford residents for a free family swim. Space is limited – first come first served. Children under 18 require adult supervision. Questions? Call 781/275-6700 or 781/275-7727.

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Free Family Sing-a-long at Bedford Free Public Library

For everyone who loves to sing around the campfire, come join Bedford's children's librarian Sharon McDonald and her guitar. Come sing your little hearts out while exercising your tonsils! For all ages. Call Sharon McDonald at the Library, 781/275-9440 with questions.

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

3:30 -4:30 p.m.

Lego Challenge at Bedford Free Public Library

Kids in K -- 5th grades are invited to explore the wonderful world of Legos. We will challenge you with a theme or you can build your own creation. Afterwards, your model will be put on display in the case outside the Children's Room. We have loads of Legos to build with, so just bring your imagination! Call Nancy Tegeler at the Library, 781/275-9440 with questions.

Friday, November 18, 2011**

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social At Bedford Town Center, Shawsheen Room, lower level

Sponsored by Bedford Family Connection and co-sponsored by Bedford Farms and Bedford Youth and Family Services. Drop in and make your own sundae with hot fudge, whipped cream, and jimmies for just \$1.50! Please RSVP to SpecialEvents@BFCToday.com

****All Activities FREE Unless Noted**!**