

# News In The Middle

## **IMPORTANT**

If your student is absent, please call the office to excuse your child from school. If you do not notify the office, the absence will be considered unexcused.

When a student needs to leave early, please contact the office ahead of time so a note can be sent to the student permitting them to leave class at a specified time.

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Parents/Guardians,

Please check with your student(s) to see if they still have plenty of school supplies. Pencils and paper will need to be constantly replenished throughout the year. Thank you for partnering with us as we try to help all students be successful.

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

### **In Case of Inclement Weather...**

The decision to dismiss school will be announced at 6:00 a.m. by the following media:

- RADIO -**
- KMDO (AM 1600) –Fort Scott
  - KOMB (FM 103.9) –Fort Scott
  - KNEM (AM 1240) –Nevada
  - KKOW (FM 96.9) –Pittsburg
- TV -**
- KOAM (channel 7) –Pittsburg
  - KSN (channel 16) –Joplin
- District Website -** [www.usd234.org](http://www.usd234.org)



# Information From The Nurse



## Medication Policy

- Written permission from the parent/guardian must accompany all prescription and over-the-counter medication (i.e. antibiotics, pain relievers, cough drops, gels/ointments, inhalers).
- All medication must be sent in the original container and include time, dosage, and duration the medication is to be given. You may need to ask your pharmacist for an additional bottle appropriately labeled for prescription drug use at school.
- New permission forms must accompany any change in type of medication, dosage, and/or time of administration.
- An adult must bring all medications deemed necessary to be given at school to the office and the nurse will supervise their administration.
- The medication policy was developed to insure the safety of the child in cases where medication is needed at school. It is desirable for medication to be administered at home; however, it is the schools intent to cooperate with the parent and physician in seeing that the student receives the correct medication and dosage at the proper time. Call the school or school nurse if you have any questions.



### Seasonal Flu Prevention Tips:

1. Do not share drinks or eat after someone else.
2. Practice **GOOD HAND HYGIENE** by washing your hands after coughing/sneezing, blowing your nose, before eating/food preparation, after tending to the sick, diapering and after using the bathroom.
3. If you have a fever or are ill, stay home until you have recovered. It is recommended that your child be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. A flu shot is recommended for **all** children ages 6 months to 18 years and adults to minimize contracting the flu and spreading it to others. Plan to get the flu vaccine in October or November, but getting vaccinated in December or later will still be beneficial in most years.



### Here are a few tips to staying healthy and maintaining a healthy weight during the holiday season.

- Winter can be a great time to get outside and keep fit — for you and your family. A good way is to get them out into the snow to play!
  - Encourage kids to be active every day. Experts recommend that kids get 60 minutes or more of physical activity on most — preferably all — days of the week.
  - Offer fruits and vegetables at meals and snacks and encourage your child to eat five or more servings a day. Serve appropriate portion sizes. Help you teen make healthy choice when eating out and snacking.
  - Limit sugar-sweetened beverages and offer low-fat milk or water instead.
  - Limit time spent in front of a screen, including TV and computers, to less than 2 hours a day.
  - Set a good example by eating healthy, being physically active, and limiting the time you spend in front of a screen.



## SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Sixth grade students spent two intensive weeks on the study of The Nutcracker by E.T.A. Hoffmann. Students also learned about the music and the history of the ballet. We then traveled to the recently opened Muriel Kauffman Theater for the Performing Arts to watch the live performance. This was an incredible opportunity for our students to see this opulent theater and view the famous ballet with music composed by Peter Tchaikovsky.

This sixth grade ProjectART field trip is made possible by Fort Scott Rotary, Fort Scott Kiwanis, Fort Scott Pioneers, Chapters FU and CA P.E.O., Bourbon County Arts Council, and USD #234.

Sixth grade students are continuing to prepare for upcoming state assessments. Please encourage your child to do his/her best on daily assignments, quizzes, and tests as these will all prepare him/her to do well on the math and reading KCAs (Kansas Computerized Assessments). Attendance at school is also extremely important to your child's success on the state assessments. Please do not schedule any family trips until after testing is concluded at the beginning of May. The reading assessments will start on March 7<sup>th</sup> and will be completed by March 16<sup>th</sup>. assessments will begin after Spring Break.



### LOST & FOUND

Please check lost & found to see if any of the lost items are yours.

DON'T FORGET:

- Coats, backpacks, etc. should have your name on them so they can be returned to you when they are found.
- Parents - please ensure all deliveries are marked with your student's name.



**Spring Break**  
**March 19 - 23**

### VIP Fall Extravaganza

The third annual Fall Extravaganza was a huge success! Thank you to all the VIP parents who volunteered their time to organize and host the event. Also, a big thanks to parents and community members who attended the event and purchased items from our vendors. The Fall Extravaganza will be held again next year on the Monday right before Thanksgiving. It's never too early to mark your calendar!



## SCIENCE FAIR

The annual Fort Scott Middle School Science Fair was held on November 8, 2011. Science Fair prizes were provided by City State Bank, UMB and Landmark National Bank. Prizes were awarded for 1st and 2nd places. Each student received an award letter for participating in the science fair. An open house was held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Kallee Bartlett, 6th grade, was awarded 2nd place; she received a silver medal and a \$50 savings bond. Brady Silvers, 7th grade, won 1st place; he received a gold medal and a \$100 savings bond.

Congratulations to our winners and to all who participated in our annual science fair!



### 6th Grade Annual Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center Trip

Sixth grade Annual Kansas Cosmosphere trip is scheduled for the weekend of Friday, April 13th. The theme this year is Living in Space & Astronaut Training. There are 25 spots for this trip; these are reserved on a first-come/first-serve basis.

**What:** 6th Grade Annual Kansas Cosmosphere trip

**When:** Leaving FSMS around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 13th and returning to FSMS at between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 14th.

**Cost:** \$100.00 due by March 16, 2012 (or until all 25 spots are filled)

**Questions:** Contact Mrs. Rosemary Harris (620) 223-3262

## SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

### Christmas Carol

On Tuesday, December 6, our seventh-grade students attended UMKC's production of Charles Dickens' novel, A Christmas Carol. Ebenezer Scrooge, Jacob Marley, and Tiny Tim are just three of the many characters that sprang to life on the stage before our students. Students came back excited with greater understanding and deeper questions concerning the play and the novel. The seventh-grade teachers wish to express our deepest appreciation for those Project ART sponsors who made this experience possible.

The highest compliment for a parent or teacher is when total strangers recognize your child's/student's outstanding behavior. The director, ushers, sales/ticket representative, and theater official praised the quality manners, maturity and respect shown by the Fort Scott Middle School students. Parents and teachers play a significant role in preparing students for such a field trip. Thank you!

### **IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR FLORIDA 2012!!!**

The group for the Florida Trip 2012 is forming. Approximately 7 students have signed up for this amazing experience. We'd love to have a few more. We'll spend a total of five days together in Florida learning really cool things about science. Here are some of the awesome activities that are planned for us on our *Florida Science* program:

**Disney's Epcot®:** A visit to Disney's Epcot®, where we will explore everything from outer space to the ocean floor

**Kennedy Space Center:** Take the Kennedy Space Center tram tour, go on the shuttle flight simulator, enjoy the visitor center, and watch an IMAX film. We will also get to eat lunch with an astronaut.

**Sea World:** Experience the arctic ecosystem at Sea World, and the animal hospital where injured manatees are cared for.

**Fort DeSoto:** Participate in a shark dissection, kayak among the mangroves, and use seine nets while snorkeling in grass beds to collect and identify small marine species.

**Gatorland:** get up close and personal with the American alligator and many other unusual creatures!

There are several opportunities for scholarships for this trip. Go to [worldstrides.com](http://worldstrides.com) to discover some of them. Sign up today!!!! For more information, contact Mrs. Toll at (620) 233-3262 or e-mail at [ktoll@usd234.org](mailto:ktoll@usd234.org).

## To eighth graders of 2011-2012 school year!!!! A TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



Washington, D.C. will be the destination for some 8<sup>th</sup> graders during Spring Break, March 18-23, 2012. This is a trip that will be remembered for many years to come. There's nothing like touring our nation's Capitol and speaking with state's representatives. Students will view the Washington Monument, Vietnam, Korean, World War II and presidential memorials, the various Smithsonian museums, the National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, visit the National Archives, the Supreme Court, and the Holocaust Museum, and tour Mount Vernon, just to name a few! The cost (approx. \$1400) covers meals, lodging, and air.

### Project ART Dates

- 8th Grade - January 27, 2012 - The Wrestling Season - Students wear class t-shirt
- Project ART fee of \$10.00 needs paid before January 26, 2012

| January 2012 Events |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1-2-2012            | <b>NO SCHOOL</b>   |
| 1-3-2012            | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Practice Begins<br>3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Gymnastics Practice Begins |
| 1-6-2012            | End of Quarter 2   |
| 1-11-2012           | Progress Reports Sent Home - Parents need to sign the student agenda on page 20.                   |
| 1-16-2012           | <b>NO SCHOOL</b>   |
| 1-18-2012           | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games   |
| 1-19-2012           | 3:30 p.m. 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games  |
| 1-23-2012           | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games<br>3:30 p.m. Gymnastics Pictures                          |
| 1-25-2012           | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games and Pictures  |
| 1-26-2012           | 3:30 p.m. 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games  |
| 1-27-2012           | 8th Grade Project ART - The Wrestling<br>(Wear your class shirt)                                   |

| February 2012 Events |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 2-1-2012             | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games<br>5:15 p.m. Site Council Meeting       |
| 2-2-2012             | 3:30 p.m. 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games  |
| 2-6-2012             | 4:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Gymnastics   |
| 2-8-2012             | Progress Reports Sent Home - Parents need to sign the student agenda on page 20. |
| 2-9-2012             | 3:30 p.m. 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games  |
| 2-13-2012            | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games<br>7:30 p.m. MS/HS Band Concert (FSHS)  |
| 2-14-2012            | 7:30 p.m. MS/HS Orchestra Concert (FSMS)   |
| 2-15-2012            | 3:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games   |
| 2-16-2012            | 3:30 p.m. 7, 8 Boys' Basketball Games  |
| 2-17-2012            | No-D Party   |
| 2-20-2012            | <b>NO SCHOOL</b>   |
| 2-21-2012            | 4:30 p.m. 6, 7, 8 Gymnastics   |
| 2-27-2012            | Parent/Teacher Conference forms sent home  |