



# BALLYHOO!

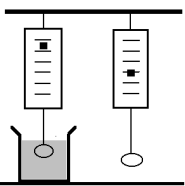
NEWSLETTER OF THE U-32 MIDDLE SCHOOL

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CHRIS GRANTZ ~ KELSIE MOORE-QUINN ~ CHRIS WILLIAMS ~ BRITTANY PERRY ~ MEL BYRD

## PINNACLE 8 - December 18, 2009

### Archimedes' Principle



**SCIENCE** – The first semester of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science has been dedicated to exploring scientific measurement. During independent and group hands-on lab investigations, students have been exploring methods used to measure the properties of matter. Using the methods we have recently learned to measure volume and mass, students are now exploring density and will be conducting experiments to test the density of various materials. *Kelsey Moore-Quinn*



**LANGUAGE ARTS** – We just finished a three-week poetry unit. Students read, wrote, and analyzed a variety of poems and worked with grade-level figurative language. We are currently transitioning into the 8th grade Play Unit. This unit culminates in a class performance on January 27 at 7 p.m. in the U-32 theater. I really hope to see you all there. During this unit, students are expected to write four days a week in a Play Journal. Your children are also expected to memorize their lines, develop their character, and complete production responsibilities.



Please encourage your son or daughter to maintain their journal and stay on top of their production responsibilities. Since class time is dedicated to rehearsing for the play, we are asking students to read more at home in their independent reading books. We are still expecting students to read 25 books a year, which is a state-wide standard. Students are expected to read 20 - 30 minutes a night in their independent reading book.

*Chris Grantz*

**HEALTH** - Hi my name is Beth Allen and I have either been, am now, or will be your child's Health Teacher. If your child is in health class right now and you have email, you should have already heard from me. If not, and you would like to, please email me at [ballen@u32.org](mailto:ballen@u32.org) and I will add you to my distribution list. In 8th grade we finished a "Mental Health" unit. Topics included: stress, depression, and suicide. At this point we are into the "Reproduction/Healthy Relationship" unit. Did you know that teenagers get most of their sexual/relationship information from the TV they watch? Part of this unit will be analyzing TV shows and song lyrics to decide whether they promote healthy or unhealthy relationships. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. Remember that homework assignments are posted at: [www.u328thgradehealth.blogspot.com](http://www.u328thgradehealth.blogspot.com).



*Beth Allen*

**SOCIAL STUDIES** - Eighth grade Pinnacle students are beginning their Model Government Unit. After learning some of the basics of the Constitution, we are now going to learn about the legislative process by **living it!** Every student will receive a role in the government and we will work through various stages by writing bills on topics and issues that the students feel there should be action on. This whole process will culminate with a visit to the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier where our government will attempt to pass legislation and have it signed by our president.



*Chris Williams*

**MATH** – Using their knowledge and expertise of Pythagoras and his theorem, students now have the chance to create their own mini golf course and to build a mini-mini hole to play. Using scale models, and calculating the real areas and distances of their holes from the tees, students will be as creative as possible to attract players to their golf hole, come mini-golf day. Upon completion of the construction, students will play the golf holes, record data and analyze their data to determine an appropriate par for their hole. Students will begin a new unit on exponential growth in the new year, including building and analyzing exponential models, as well as recognizing and describing exponential situations.

*Rachel Collier, Cathy Guiffre, Mary Ellen Simmons, Hollis St. Peter*

**DC TRIP UPDATE** – Departs Monday, May 31 and returns Friday, June 4. Payment Schedule: Nov. 3 - permission forms due with \$100; Dec. 1 - \$100 due; Jan. 4 - \$100 due. Mark your calendars: Zachary's Pizza Kits (from Red Barn), Jan. 5-20... for Super Bowl Sunday! Pizza Hut Value Cards, Feb. 12-March 3. Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle & Silent Auction on Friday, March 26, 2010!

*Sally DeCicco, coordinator*

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** - Second session of **Bolton Ski & Ride**, starts Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, sign-up packets are in the CC office. Middle School Winter Session of **R.O.L.E.** (Raider Outdoor Leadership Experience) is Mondays and Fridays, see Paul to sign up. **Advance Photoshop**, Tuesdays with Brendan Eaton. **Yoga** with Heather Clark-Warner, Mondays and Thursdays. **W.H.I.Z.**, Middle School Art and Lit Magazine with Gillian, Thursdays. **Mad River Rocket Club**, see Paul for details. **Beginner Woodcarving**, Mondays with Dave Bazis. **VT Folk Art** with Paul, Wednesdays. **Homework Club** with Leigh Garrity, Mondays and Thursdays. **Chillax**, a safe and legal place for Middle Schoolers to hang out after school. Anyone who wants to get something going, contact Paul Dayton at [pdayton@u32.org](mailto:pdayton@u32.org).

## ~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~

**MONDAYS & THURSDAYS** – Middle School Homework Club, 2:45 to 4:45 in room 32 with Leigh Garrity.

**DEC. 23 (11:30) through JAN. 3** – Holiday break. Enjoy!

**JAN. 6 & JAN. 20** – School Board meeting at 6 p.m. in cafeteria.

**JAN. 14** – Middle School Parent Teacher Council, 6:30 – 8:00, library conference room.

**JAN. 14** – Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Info Night, 6:30 – 8:00, AREA

**JAN. 15** – No School. Eighth Grade Parent Conferences. *LOOK FOR LETTER IN THE MAIL!*

**JAN. 18** – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**JAN. 19** – No School – In-service.

**JAN. 26, 27, 28** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Plays: Zenith on Tuesday, January 26; Pinnacle on Wednesday, January 27; and Apex on Thursday, January 28. Snow date is Friday, January 29. All plays start at 7 p.m. with cast call at 6 p.m.