

J. M. S. News. . . by Donald F. Gately

June 15, 2007

Quote of the Week:

"We will surely get to our destination if we join hands."

- Kyi Aung San Suu



Reflections and Transitions

The monthly themes for June are *reflections* and *transitions*. These are appropriate themes as our 2006-2007 school year comes to a close. It is a time to reflect upon all of our accomplishments as a school and community; we have a lot to be proud of. Our community, school, administrators, faculty, staff, and students have achieved many new milestones and accomplishments this year and it has been my privilege to have joined the Jericho Middle School family.

Many people ask me how my first year at Jericho Middle School has gone. I always answer the same way, and I sincerely mean it. . . "I feel like I died and went to heaven."

The staff at our school is amazing. They are experts at the craft of teaching. They know their subject areas inside and out, and most importantly, they care deeply about kids. I see it every day as I walk the hallways and visit classrooms. They are good middle school teachers because they have the enthusiasm and the spirit of middle school kids inside of them. My son, Patrick, recently said to me, "Dad, I know what I want to do when I grow up. I want to be a middle school teacher." I told him, "Son, you can grow up or you can be a middle school teacher . . . you can't do both." This is so very true of our staff.

Parents at our school are wonderful. They care about our school and they want what is best for their own child and for other children too! I have been blessed to work with Ilene Joachim and Rhonda Starr, our PTSA president and vice president. I want to thank all of our parents for welcoming me to the middle school family and for your support and guidance throughout the year.

Our assistant principals are extraordinary. Pat Bany is smart, energetic, organized, a good friend, and somebody who understands adolescent youngsters better than anyone I've ever met. Benny D'Aquila is insightful, funny, generous, and someone who cares about our students like they are his own children (you cannot ask for more than that). He is also, unfortunately, leaving! We wish him lots of luck as the new principal at Jackson. They are lucky to have him.

Our students are fantastic. My grandmother always said, "Don't measure a person by the kindness with which he treats his brother or his neighbor . . . anybody can do that. Measure a man by how he treats the people he just met." By this criteria, our students are quite special indeed. They welcomed me as the new principal with open arms and they helped me become part of our middle school family. I feel so proud to be the principal of this school and these students.

Looking ahead to next year, we're looking forward to Mr. Wiener joining our staff and expanding our Personal Best Program. We'll also make some changes to our report card format in response to the parent survey that was done in April. It will be another fantastic school year. Please have a restful and safe summer. Read many books. See you in September!

Moving-up Reminders

As you are aware, our 8th grade Moving-Up Ceremony is scheduled for
Thursday, June 21st at 8:00 a.m.

Please click on the following link for some ceremony reminders:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/movingupReminderflier2007.pdf>



Literacy Leaders

This year we are beginning a new program designed to encourage our incoming 7th and 8th grade students to read independently over the summer. Those students who choose to participate in this program will be recognized as *Jericho Middle School Literacy Leaders* and be invited to participate in a special event when we return to school in September.

Please click on the following link for additional information:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/SummerReading2007.pdf>

8th Grade Boat Trip



The 8th grade boat trip aboard the Nautical Empress is scheduled for
Tuesday, June 19th at 3:45 p.m.

Please click on the following link for additional information:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/boattripreminders2007.pdf>

End of Year Schedule - June 18-22, 2007

The school year is quickly coming to an end! Please click on the following link to view our End-of-Year Schedule: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/EndOfYearScheduleJune2007.pdf>

June Assessments

Assessments are coming up in June. Teachers and students are busy preparing for these state exams. An updated schedule is posted on the middle school webpage. Please click on the following link to view the schedule: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/updatedassessmentschedule2007.pdf>

Have a wonderful and safe...

Summer Vacation

We will see you again in September!

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 15	Middle School Last Day of Regularly Scheduled Classes
June 21	Moving-Up Ceremony - Auditorium - 8:00 a.m.
June 27	Middle School Report Cards Emailed Home