

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

December 14, 2007

Quote of the Week for December 17th:

"We have to do the best we can.
This is our sacred human responsibility."

- Albert Einstein



Mix-It-Up Week

Mix-It-Up Week was a big success! This is a national program and is coordinated each year by our BRAVE Ambassadors and Quality Circle Facilitator teachers. During this week, students are encouraged to identify, question and cross social boundaries that separate them from each other. They are also encouraged to create an environment that welcomes and accepts others. These are hard things to do, especially for middle school students, but once it is tried out, students understand the importance and value of the program and it is a worthwhile one. Special congratulations to the teachers who organized the event, Matt Pagliari, Beth Brill and Casey Gallagher.



"Toys for Tots" Drive

A big "thank you" to our Jericho parents for participating in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" Drive. Because of the generosity of the Jericho community, the Marine Corps Reserve will be able to distribute many holiday gifts to needy youngster's right here on Long Island. Thank you once again for the overwhelming support we receive every time there is a fundraising event!

Geography Bee

The 4th annual Geography Bee preliminary rounds at the middle school will be held on Tuesday, December 18th. The Tie-breaking round will be held on Thursday, December 20th and the winners will then compete in the finals on January 4, 2008. The middle school winner will represent Jericho Middle School at the State level in Albany in the spring. Stay tuned . . .



Guidance Counselor Leave Replacement



We welcome Danielle Hill at the Middle School as a Leave Replacement for Meredith Pollack-Richman, our Seventh Grade Guidance Counselor. Ms. Hill is more than happy to become a part of the Jericho community. She received her Masters degree in School Counseling from the New York Institute of Technology. Danielle had the opportunity to work as a guidance intern at Centereach High School and Dawnwood Middle School. These experiences along with her education have given her the leadership, knowledge, and creativity to be a successful and effective member of an academic support team. Danielle is very excited about

this new opportunity at Jericho Middle School. When she is not at work, she enjoys spending time with her 3 year old nephew, James.



Fundraiser

The 7th grade Girls Student Leadership Group is sponsoring a "Twister Pop" fundraiser during lunch the week of December 17th. The cost will be \$1.00 per pop and all proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Middle School Play

Lights, camera, action! Our talented students will be performing "Once Upon A Mattress" this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Support our students by attending this entertaining play.

Special Congratulations

Eric Basile, 7th grader, is on the High School Varsity Fencing team and went undefeated at Wednesday nights meet against Cold Spring Harbor. Congratulations, Eric! We're very proud of your accomplishments!

Staff Members of the Week:

Ms. Maria Panayiotou, 7th Grade Math Teacher

Ms. Panayiotou is the math teacher on Team 7A. She also teaches 7th grade Community Service Learning. When she is not solving equations or factoring polynomials, she enjoys reading and is a fan of the Harry Potter series. She is also the only Team 7A teacher who roots for a certain NY baseball team. Her goals this year include making connections between math and other subject areas, teaching students that one person can make a positive impact on his or her community, and learning how to cook like her mom.





Mr. Michael Pekor, Physical Education Teacher

Mr. Pekor taught physical education and special education on the high school and middle school level in NYC for four years. He then taught PE at Cantiague Elementary School for five years and this will be his seventh year at Jericho Middle School. He has a five year old son named Sammy and a three year old daughter Jessie. Mr. Pekor runs the Kung Fu Club and is a JTA building representative here in the Middle School. He is also EXTREMELY HANDSOME!!!!!! :-))))

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 21 | No After School Clubs |
| December 24-Jan. 1 | Schools Closed |
| January 4 | Middle School Geography Bee |
| January 14-18 | Middle School Canned Food Drive |
| January 14-18 | English Language Arts Assessments for Grades 6, 7 and 8 |
| January 17 | Board of Education Meeting - Middle School Library - 7:30 p.m. |
| January 21 | Schools Closed |
| January 22 | Middle School Winter II Sports Season Begins |
| January 23 | Middle School Winter Concert II Bands - 7:30 p.m. |