

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

December 8, 2006



Quote of the Week:

"The final forming of a person's character lies in his/her own hands."

- Anne Frank

Who Knew Studying Could Be So Much Fun?

Recently, we introduced the online program Study Island to students in grades 6-8. This interactive, independent, online program allows students to practice skills based upon the New York State Standards in both Math and English Language Arts. Teachers and students have been using the program for about six weeks now and we're excited about the results we've seen.

Your child has been assigned an individualized username and a password to access a wide range of information. In addition to activities aligned with the New York State Standards, a major component of this online program is a host of fun, educational games that reinforce skills.

Goals of the Study Island Pilot Program:

- Students have access in school and at home.
- Study Island activities directly reflect New York State Standards.
- Students are highly engaged in English and Math curricula.
- Students are excited and motivated to perform at their personal best.
- Teachers are able to monitor performance.
- The Study Island activities promote higher-order critical thinking.

Instructions for logging on to the website:

- Open the Internet on a computer and log on to: www.studyisland.com
- To Log in: First initial of first name, full last name @ jms, (e.g. dgately@jms)
Password: Your child's student ID number.

Children can work through a series of activities, games, and review lessons to refresh their understanding of a concept. Some teachers are beginning to post specific activities for students to complete based upon class work, while others will allow students to explore topics of interest.

Please feel free to email your child's teachers or me after your child has some experience with Study Island. I'd like to hear your thoughts.

Toys for Tots Program

The Middle School will be collecting toys for the **Toys for Tots Program** run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve **until December 14th**. The mission of the Toys for Tots Program is to collect **new, unwrapped**, toys during November and December each year, and to distribute those toys as holiday gifts while simultaneously providing a message of hope to needy youngsters. Please drop off the toys in Ms. Bany's office, Mr. D'Aquila's office or in Mr. Kahn's classroom. Your generosity and kindness will help make someone else's holiday a special one.



Safety

The safety of your child is our utmost concern! Please click on the following link to view our arrival and pick-up safety information. <http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/safetybulletin2006-2007.pdf>



DATES TO REMEMBER

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| December 14 | Middle School Principal's Coffee Hour - Middle School Library - 9:00 a.m.
Program: New York State Assessments - Everything you would like to know about standardized testing at the middle level." |
| December 19 | Middle School Evening Guidance Hours - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| December 19 | SEPTA Meeting - College Night and Panel Discussion - Little Theatre - 7:30 p.m. |
| December 21 | Board of Education Meeting - MS/HS Auditorium - 7:30 p.m. |
| December 22 | No After School Clubs |

December 25 - January 1, 2007 - Schools Closed