

**J. M. S. News. . . by Donald F. Gately**  
**January 19, 2007**

**Quote of the Week:**

**"Always do right—this will gratify  
some and astonish the rest."  
-Mark Twain**



**To our Students and Staff:** Thank you for doing **your personal best** during the ELA assessments this week. It is a relief to have this over with, but we are all proud of what we have accomplished.

**Reaching Beyond Comfortable Relationships**

Our Social Emotional Literacy theme for the month of January is Cooperation (Tolerance and Brotherhood).

Clifton Taulbert in his book, *Eight Habits of the Heart*, writes that this theme means to "reach beyond comfortable relationships, to extend a welcome to those who may be different from yourself." This is a challenging concept for adolescents. Visit the cafeteria during lunch periods and observe who your child sits with. In many cases, they are sitting with the same kids they sit with every day and perhaps have hung around with since elementary school.

There is a reason that adolescents cling to comfortable relationships. Consider all the changes occurring in the life of an 11-14 year old. Adolescents are beginning to have adult feelings and thoughts in an emerging adult body and yet they lack the independence and the control that we have as adults. Given the scope of the physical, emotional and social changes they face, it should come as no surprise that middle schoolers cling to these friendships. They are safe. They make them feel confident, important, capable and yes . . . powerful.

So reaching beyond comfortable relationships for our children is challenging indeed. Yet, no one would disagree that this is something we all should do. Our world would be a far better place if we were all more accepting of differences. And, what better place to teach this than middle school! Encourage your child to do one of the following:

- Invite someone who is sitting in the cafeteria by him/herself to sit with your friends;
- You pass somebody in the hallway you know is a middle school student, but you aren't friends with, smile and say "hi."
- Eat lunch or spend an hour with a group of students you don't usually hang out with.

It's important that we translate S.E.L. words into social emotional literate actions. Try it. Let me know how it goes.

## High School Information for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

### Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Meeting

We would like to invite you to attend the Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Meeting being held on **Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Auditorium**. Discussions from parents, students and guidance counselor's perspective will be provided. Students are encouraged to attend.

### Course Information Night/Community Service Fair - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

We cordially invite you to attend Course Information Night/Community Service Fair on **Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Sam Springer Gymnasium**. Course Information Night gives students and parents an opportunity to meet with staff and to gather information on course offerings prior to making course requests for next year.

In conjunction with Course Information Night is the Community Service Fair. Representatives from a variety of local organizations and agencies that serve the less fortunate have been invited to answer your questions and provide information to students and parents who are interested in making community service a meaningful part of their lives.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip



Every year, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students go on a grade-wide field trip. This year's planned trip is to a Long Island Ducks game. Please click on the following link for additional information:

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

### Community Service Club Announcement

The Community Service Learning classes will be holding a **Canned Food Drive from January 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 26<sup>th</sup>**. All donations can be dropped off in Mrs. Bany's office. Thank you for remembering! Please click on the following link to view a flyer:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/cannedfooddrive1.pdf>

### Middle School Winter Concert II Bands

This concert will take place on **January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium**. Why not come out and hear our great sounds and have an evening of entertainment? Hope to see you there!

### Nassau BOCES Earth Balloon at Jericho Middle School

On various days from **January 24<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the sixth graders will have the **Nassau BOCES Earth Balloon at Jericho Middle School**. It is a presentation that integrates both science and social studies.

The Earth Balloon is a large inflatable model of the earth, so large that it almost touches the ceiling. Students will have an opportunity to enter the balloon to learn about our changing planet. Earth Balloon is made up of satellite photographs that were taken high above our actual earth. The photos allow students to view mountains, rivers, volcanoes, earthquakes, deserts, rain forests, islands, and oceans. It's both fun and educational.



### **Informational Meeting for Incoming Sixth Grade Parents**

Please click on the following link where you will find a flier for the **Incoming Sixth Grade Parents Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** at **7:30 p.m.**

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/announcements/Incoming6thparentmeeting13107.pdf>

### **Student Council, Community Service Learning, and S.A.D.D. Information**



The members of student council, community service learning, and S.A.D.D. have been working on a campaign to encourage students to clean up the hallways and not to litter. They have been preparing posters, signs, songs, and announcements to encourage students to help out and keep their school clean.

### **Take the Bus to School**

For the safety of students and staff, we encourage parents to use the buses in the transportation of their children, especially in inclement weather. The number of cars using the roadway to enter and exit the school grounds makes for traffic congestion that is unsafe.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 23	Middle School Winter Concert II Bands - Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.
January 23	Middle School Evening Guidance Hours - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
January 26	Middle School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends
January 30	Incoming Ninth Grade Parents Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Auditorium
January 31	Informational Incoming Sixth Grade Parents Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Auditorium
February 6	Middle School Report Cards E-mailed Home