

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

September 2, 2008

Quote for the Week of September 2nd:

"The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today."

Lyndon B. Johnson



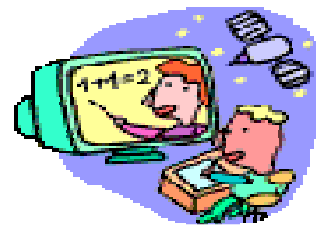
OK, Welcome Back . . . so school starts next Tuesday. Are you excited? Or, are you nervous? Would it make you feel any better to know that I am always nervous before the first day of school too! The teachers came in Wednesday for meetings and I have to admit, I got very little sleep Tuesday night thinking about the preparations I'd made, anxious about how everything would go. You know what, everything went just fine. Everyone looks happy to be back to school, and eager to meet their new students. The building has a new roof, the floors are shining thanks to our head custodian, Tom Fucci, and his staff and everything is ready. You might be anxious about whether you can meet the expectations of a new grade in school, but you don't have to do anything other than **your personal best** each and every day. No one can ask you to do more than that. You're going to do your best academically as well as socially; you'll reflect upon and act on our monthly themes: community, courage, high expectation, respect and responsibility, cooperation love, friendship, hope, attitudes and values, and reflections/transitions. Every day, try to be better than you were yesterday.

I am so excited to be starting a new school year and I'm looking forward to seeing you next Tuesday!
Let's have our best year ever!



School Meal Program Letter and Application

Middle school parents are asked to complete the School Meal Program letter and application at the following link: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/lunchmenu/index.htm>



JERICO MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS. . .



Mrs. Jeanne O'Brien is no stranger to the Jericho School District. You may have seen her in the Middle School hallways where she has worked as a Learning Center Instructor for the past four years. Jeanne completed her Masters degree in Elementary and Special Education from Adelphi University. She has worked at the Hagedorn Little Village School, a center-based program for children with developmental disabilities, and for the New York City Public Schools before joining the Jericho staff. In her free time, Jeanne enjoys a good book, traveling, and spending time with her husband and three sons. She looks forward to the challenge the new 6th grade collaborative teaching class presents.



Ms. Brooke Schnittman is delighted to become part of the Jericho community as the new 6th grade Math and Science Collaborative Co-Teacher. Ms. Schnittman earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in math and science from Penn State University and completed her Masters Degree in Special Education at New York University. She also studied education abroad at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia. For the past two years, Ms. Schnittman has taught in a collaborative setting in another Nassau County School District. She was an All-County tennis player and Junior Olympic swimmer throughout high school. During the summer, Ms. Schnittman is the aquatics director for Crestwood Country Day School in Melville, where she has already formed wonderful relationships with many of the Jericho families.



Ms. Jacqueline Palumbo is excited to join the Jericho school community as a middle school Spanish teacher. She received her Bachelors degree in Spanish from St. Joseph's College. During her course of study, Ms. Palumbo had the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Alicante in Spain. She has traveled to Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay and brings a great deal of cultural knowledge to the classroom. She is a member of LILT and the NYSAFT. Ms. Palumbo has taught at Sachem HS North and most recently at HBT Middle School in Syosset. Jacqueline enjoys traveling, learning, and being with her two sons. She is looking forward to a wonderful year with the students, parents and staff at Jericho Middle School.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 4
September 9**

**Middle School Fall Sports Season Begins
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Guidance
Evening Hours, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Recognizing that other commitments often make it impossible for parents to find time to meet with counselors during the regular school day, we will continue a program of evening meetings this year. If you would like to meet with your youngster's counselor but are unable to do so during the school day, please call the counselor in order to schedule an evening appointment.

September 17

**SEPTA Meeting - Middle School Library - 7:45 p.m.
"How Diet and Lifestyle Effect ADHD"
Speaker: Dr. Christy Russell-Shae**

September 18

Board of Education Meeting - Middle School Library - 7:30 p.m.

September 22

Middle School Learning Center - Back-to-School Night- 7:00 p.m.

September 24-25

Middle School Yearbook Portraits - Auditorium

A reminder to all students you must bring in your picture envelope on the day you are scheduled for pictures. Picture envelopes should be given directly to the photographers. Your team teachers will tell you whether your scheduled day will be September 24 or 25th.

September 24

Middle School Back-to-School Night - Grade 6 - 7:30 p.m.

September 25

PTSA Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Middle School Library.

September 30/October 1 Schools Closed

October 2

Middle School Back-to-School Night - Grades 7 and 8 - 7:30 p.m.

October 8

State Required Emergency Evacuation Drill - Dismissal at 1:45 p.m.

All after school activities will be canceled for the day. No student will be permitted to remain in the building.