

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

October 13, 2008

Quote of the week for October 13, 2008

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



S.A.D.D. (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*) is a fun and important club at Jericho Middle School. S.A.D.D. members have the opportunity to plan and participate in school-wide programs throughout the year. Our first project will be preparing for our upcoming **Red Ribbon Spirit Week Celebration** that is held the week of October 27th through the 31st. This year's theme will be "**Create a Drug Free World.**" All students are invited to attend S.A.D.D. meetings where they will create flyers, posters, songs and special activities for **Red Ribbon Week**. S.A.D.D. meetings are held on Wednesdays, in Room 205 and Thursdays, in Room 227, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ms. Joanne Verdino, our social worker, would like to invite all students to join us on any Wednesday or Thursday you are available, to make friends, have fun, enjoy some snacks and help to get ready for **Red Ribbon Week**. More information will be forthcoming.

Recycling Program at the Middle School

*This old earth
Needs our help
To stay fresh and clean and green
With a pick-it-up; pitch-it-in; and throw-it-in the can. . .
This old earth needs a helping hand!*

On Wednesday of this week, the Community Service classes and club are encouraging all students to wear green. We wanted to remind students that we are recycling cans and bottles in the cafeterias for the 2008-2009 school year. Special bins have been placed there specifically for the collection of the cans. We are hoping for 100% cooperation.

Middle School Yearbook Dedication Form

Parents, this is your only opportunity to make your child's yearbook extra special. For only \$10.00 you can place a dedication permanently printed in your yearbook. There is a maximum of 25 words. Space is very limited, therefore, it will be on a first come, first serve basis. You can pick up a copy of the form in the Principal's Office. The deadline to submit your dedication and payment is December 5th, 2008.

Welcome Back Dance - Middle School Students Only

On Friday, October 17th, the Jericho Middle School Sixth Grade Student Council will sponsor its annual **Welcome Back Dance** from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Sam Springer Gym. The dance is open to all middle school students. Tickets will be sold in advance on Wednesday, October 15th; Thursday, October 16th; Friday, October 17th and also at the door. The cost of tickets is \$5.00 each (\$1.00 will go to a charity.) Pizza and soda will be available for \$1.00 each. This event is for **Middle School students only**. Sorry, no elementary or senior high school students can participate in this school event.

Staff Members of the Week



Joanne Verdino - Social Worker

Ms. Verdino has been a school social worker for 24 years. She loves working with children and teenagers, and being part of the school community. She is the advisor of SADD and is very involved in our BRAVE program. Ms. Verdino loves going to the beach and spending time with her husband and two teenage daughters. Ms. Verdino also enjoys collecting all sorts of pigs - piggy banks, stuffed animals and pig statues. You are welcome to visit her in her office to see her ever expanding collection.

Gina Gallagher - Learning Center Instructor

Ms. Gallagher has been with the Jericho School District since March of 1987. She has been married to Richard for 20 years and has a 15 year old daughter, Rigina, who is a sophomore in High School. Ms. Gallagher has worked in the Learning Center for over 20 years, when the middle school was known as a "Junior High". She enjoys going to Vermont and Florida during school vacations and has visited Italy and Ireland with family. One summer she accompanied her daughter on an archeological dig. The best part of her job is running into students she has worked with and seeing how independent and successful they've become.



Book Fair

The Jericho Middle School PTSA will hold its annual Book Fair in cooperation with the Jericho Middle School Library on **Tuesday, October 28th** and **Wednesday, October 29th**. With the assistance of our middle school librarian, Pat Minikel, we have arranged for Scholastic Book Fairs to bring a large selection of paperback books to the middle school for our youngsters to buy. Your child will visit the Book Fair during his or her English class. In addition, we also invite parents to visit the Book Fair, which will be located in the **Middle School Library from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 13	Schools Closed
October 14	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.
October 17	Welcome Back Dance - 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
October 23	Board of Education Meeting - Middle School Library - 7:30 p.m.
October 28-29	Middle School Book Fair
October 28	SEPTA Meeting Middle School Library - 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The speaker will be Janice McQuaid. The program is entitled: Pay Attention! Understanding and Managing Attention Controls.
October 29	Middle School Welcome & School Information Night - Middle School Library - 7:30 p.m.
November 4	Schools Closed - Superintendent's Conference Day
November 6	Middle School Yearbook Portraits Retakes