

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

December 1, 2006

Quote of the Week:

"Thinking men cannot be ruled."

- Ayn Rand



December's Theme

Respect and Responsibility

"Self-Respect is like wearing a coat of armor that no one can cut through." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. This coat of armor allows us to demonstrate the importance and necessity in being dependable and responsible. Dependability is being there for others through all the times of their lives, as well as, showing and encouraging a personal commitment to each task.

Responsibility is being accountable in word and deed. It understands the need to fulfill tasks with reliability, dependability, and commitment.

Parents and educators model and demonstrate respect, dependability, and a sense of responsibility for you. We need to help you understand and internalize how you can and will change the lives of all with whom you come in contact.

From *Eight Habits of the Heart* by Clifton Taulbert

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. 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.



Middle School "Jump Rope for Heart"

On December 8th, Jericho Middle School sixth grade students will participate in the Second Annual American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart" event. This nationwide student event helps promote physical education and cardiovascular health, raises funds to help local Heart Associations fight heart disease and stroke, and raises the community's consciousness for improved health through physical activities.



As physical educators, we all try to teach our students that the way we treat our bodies today will affect the quality of our lives tomorrow. The same is true of the way we treat each other. By participating in the Jump Rope for Heart Program we are encouraging students to take personal responsibility for their lifestyle habits. The Jump Rope for Heart Program educates students about how they can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke by developing a habit of lifelong exercise and at the same time helping other people who are currently fighting with the disease.

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>

PTSA Membership

Jericho Middle School is off to a fantastic start and so is the Jericho Middle School PTSA. If you have already joined the PTSA we thank you for your support! If you have not, we invite you to join and hope you will be an active member of our organization. Our children are at a significant stage of their lives, where our awareness and involvement in their educational and social issues can be important to their personal development. Many pertinent issues are discussed at our monthly meetings. We have invited speakers, school administrators and other school staff members to our meetings based on your input and interests. The minutes of our meeting will be emailed home to you, along with the Principal's weekly newsletter.

We recommend that every parent, guardian, student and faculty member support our PTSA. Please click on the following link where you will find a letter with a tear-off at the bottom.

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/PTSAmembershipletterDec2006.pdf>. The fee is \$7.00 per parent, guardian, student or faculty member wishing to join. You may join by sending your check made out to Jericho Middle School PTSA, along with the tear off.

PTSA Meeting Minutes

Please click on the link below to view the minutes from the November 9th PTSA meeting.

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/PTSA%20Minutes/2006-2007/MinutesNovember92006.pdf>

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| December 7-8 | Middle School Play - <i>Annie, Jr.</i> will be performed in the Little Theatre, starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 and may be purchased from cast members the week of the performances. Please support our middle school cast by attending this delightful play. |
| December 14 | Middle School Principal's Coffee Hour - Middle School Library - 9:00 a.m. |
| December 19 | Middle School Evening Guidance Hours - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| December 19 | SEPTA Meeting - <i>College Night and Panel Discussion</i> - Little Theatre - 7:30 p.m. |