



Principal's Message

Mr. Pat Houston

First, thank you for all of your kind comments during "Back to School Night." As I said that evening, we are committed to making Thompson the best school we possibly can. I am always encouraged and inspired by meeting parents in many areas of Middletown who always express to me how much their child really enjoys Thompson. What is not to like?

Our state-wide testing results, dedicated staff members, and your cooperation and support make this possible.

Secondly, I do wish to review with you some information and it is as follows:

- Please be advised that in the event of inclement weather we do have a delayed opening plan in place. Middle schools will start at 9:40 AM and end at the regular school time. There is always bus transportation for those students who would regularly be transported to and from school. When this occurs students should report to their bus stop 90 minutes from their regularly scheduled pick up time. For example- if the regular pick up time is 7:30 delayed pick up time could be 9:00 AM.
- I have included in this issue an "Upcoming Calendar" of major events that you may wish to review.
- Please read Assistant Principal

Mr. Baglivio's message on student safety, also in this issue. This, of course, is our highest priority.

- Finally, please know that all Thompson staff has e-mail addresses as well as voice mail.
- For your information I will be speaking with all eighth grade Language Arts classes soon. As some of you may know I was both fortunate and lucky to receive a full scholarship to visit the concentration sites in Poland and then study the Holocaust in Israel. I also was given a graduate scholarship to Seton Hall University to continue my studies. My only purpose is to make another connection with students on respect, tolerance and simply helping student's understand that they can make a difference with how they treat others. This is a theme in the eighth grade curriculum.

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A warm welcome back to all Thompson families both figuratively and literally with the warm weather in which we opened the school year! Today as we write this though, it is feeling much more like fall outside. Fall is the time that we are in high gear in respect to Granny's Attic plans. By this time each family should have handed in their volunteer forms, membership envelopes and have emailed your email address to ThompsonPFA@yahoo.com. All of these items helps us run a successful Granny's Attic and enables us to have a school year full of events to benefit the kids at Thompson. We also hope that you have made plans with family and

browsing and shopping and having lunch. This year's 27th annual Granny's Attic is sure to be the best ever. We have many of the favorite crafters returning and a whole list of new and wonderful crafters coming as well. Let's break records for attendance this year by doing your part and attending and letting friend and neighbors in on the excitement as well.

When you sign up with the Thompson PFA email list, you will be reminded about happenings around the school. We will also send reminders of meeting and inform you of the guest speaker. Look for a very enlightening internet safety presentation in November. Your children have

already seen it and it is both shocking and informative. Don't miss it.

Thanks to all who have given their support by attending meeting and pitching in to help at the various events both last year and now. We are always open to help and your suggestions.

Sign up for updates and news at:

ThompsonPFA@yahoo.com



Assistant Principal's Corner

Mr. Steve Baglivio

Well, now that the fall weather is finally here I would like to talk about student safety.

The teachers, Thompson administrators, central administration, our police department, and the Board of Education have joined efforts in creating a safe environment at Thompson Middle School.

Every endeavor has been made to ensure that students are in a safe environment and help is always available.

- When school starts, the entire building is locked. Visitors must ring a buzzer at the main door to enter our school.
- The building is now under 24-hour surveillance by security cameras. They are in all public locations.
- We have a security guard who travels through the school throughout the school day.
- In addition, Detective Godfrey has instructed students

how they can protect themselves. In September students saw a presentation on internet safety and how to recognize a predator. Additional information addressed the legal implications of bullying. And in the school there are many efforts to ensure that students structure their relationships properly without fear and trepidation.

- I personally spoke to every student the first week of school to explain how they need to talk to and relate to each other in school and out. We spoke about needing to genuinely respect each other, both children and adults.
- Our substance abuse coordinator, Rosemary Richards, addressed the issues of bullying and conflict resolution in a schoolwide assembly.
- Our principal, Mr. Houston, spoke to every 8th grade class about how hate can control a society. He did this within the text of a discussion on the Holocaust.
- At a recent faculty meeting, Mr. Houston, Ms. Richards, and I spoke to

the teachers about the signs and symptoms of substance abuse, how to identify students at risk both physically and emotionally, and where to find help.

- During the Student council election process our PFA paid for a multi-media presentation that carried the message of making correct choices in life.
- And finally, 8th graders saw an age-appropriate presentation by Mike Fowlin on how to accept others' differences and understand others' needs.

We are doing everything possible to teach your children how to identify, react, and cope with a variety of situations. But we are always willing to do more because your children are our children during the school day. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact. Once again, thank you for your support of OUR organization, the Parent-Faculty Association.

Happy fall!! I am pleased to be starting another year at Thompson Middle School. I purchased some excellent hands-on materials for use in our classrooms last year, the most recent being a drug identification kit that is of interest to our students and staff. It is important that students know a dangerous drug when confronted with one. The Peer leaders will be working on cross-age teaching lessons to share with both our elementary students and our sixth graders here at Thompson regarding the dangers of inhalants and smoking. Peer-to-peer work is often quite effective.

October is Violence Prevention Month. We will be having a variety of activities at Thompson that address this goal. I will be conducting workshops with all of our students regarding the harmful effects of bullying, the role bullying can play in school violence, and the policy prohibiting bullying. We will be having activities at Thompson for our staff and our students regarding how to identify the at-risk student, what to do about it, what should a student do if they hear another student making threats to harm themselves or others, and what faculty members should do in the same

scenario.

It is important to discuss the dangers of inhalants with your child. Middle school –age students sometimes engage in the abuse of inhalants. Inhalants are readily available in all of our households and can be legally and easily purchased. Inhalants include all gasoline products, (for example, the gas for the lawn mower), aerosols, cleaning products, white -out, butane lighters, air conditioning fluids, and many other products. We cover this in our health classes, but parental reinforcement is critical to keeping our kids safe.

The TASK organization in conjunction with the Student Assistance Department will be providing transition workshops for parents on October 24 at 7:30 pm here at Thompson and at HSN on October 30 at 7:30 pm. These workshops will cover issues affecting adolescents and particularly what to expect as your child transitions to the next level of their academic and social setting. Topics to be covered include adolescent substance abuse, adolescent depression, computer safety, host laws and liability, dating behavior, and more. There will

be representatives from our law enforcement community and a judge at the HSN meeting on October 30.

I am available to speak with you on topics such as adolescent depression and substance abuse at your convenience. My office is in the hallway across from the gym. I may be reached at 732-671-2212 ext 8774.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Richards

TASK meetings:
October 24 Thompson
October 30 HS North



HAPPY FALL!

Student Assistance is available confidentially for any student or parent who needs it. Please contact our wonderful Student Assistance Counselor, Rosemary Richards at richardsr@middletownk12.org.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS OF INCOMING NINTH GRADERS:

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 (7:00 PM) at High School North (in the Auditorium)

Thursday, December 13, 2007 (7:00 PM) at High School South (in the Theater)

These programs will acquaint parents of incoming ninth graders with the academic curricula, extra-curricular offerings, and the high school scheduling process. Parents may attend either session, although you might find it more meaningful to attend the program at the high school your child is scheduled to attend. You may call the guidance offices with any questions.

North Guidance: 732-706-6061 (ext. 1211)

South Guidance: 732-706-611 (ext. 2126)

Math Contest Dates 2007-2008

CBA Math Contest (for 8th graders only)

Saturday, October 20th at 8:45 AM

American Scholastic Math Contest

(for 7th or 8th graders only—in Room 127 at 7:25 AM)

October 11, 2007

November 14, 2007

December 13, 2007

January 10, 2008

February 14, 2008

March 13, 2008

New Jersey Math League Statewide Contest

6th graders-February 19, 2008 at 7:25 AM in class

7th graders-February 26, 2008 at 7:25 AM in the cafeteria

8th graders-February 26, 2008 at 7:25 AM in the cafeteria

AMC-8 Math Contest (for thirty 8th graders)

November 13, 2007 at 7:15 AM in room 127

Sigma Mathematics Contests

(All held at 7:25 in Room 127)

8th graders-October 23, 2007

7th graders-October 24, 2007

6th graders-October 25, 2007

8th graders-November 27, 2007

7th graders-November 28, 2007

6th graders-November 29, 2007

8th graders-January 15, 2008

7th graders-January 16, 2008

6th graders-January 17, 2008

8th graders-February 20, 2008

7th graders-February 21, 2008

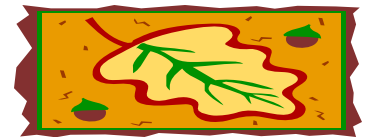
6th graders-February 22, 2008

8th graders-April 1, 2008

7th graders-April 2, 2008

6th graders-April 3, 2008

**Come out and compete in the
Math Contests!**



*The next Math Contest is November 14 –
Make yourself part of the equation!!*

Student Council News – Mr. (Mike) Melando

This year has gotten off to a great start. Our elections, held in September, produced some of the tightest races ever. We are proud to present our 2007-2008 Student Council Executive Board:

- President: Debra Parmentola
- Vice President: Melanie Ridgway
- 2nd Vice President: Connor Ryan

- Secretary: Gianna Fischer
- Treasurer: Jimmy Naughton
- Dance Chairperson: Laura Bilbao
- 8th Grade Representative:
Jerry Lunanuova
- 7th Grade Representative:
Ashley Suarez

- Publicity Chairperson: Claire Griffin.

Some of Student Council's upcoming events are: the Halloween costume contest, the Middletown Helps Its Own food drive, and the holiday door-decorating contest. Our next two dances are Friday, October 26th and Friday, December 7th. See you there!

Student Activities News by Miss Garofalo and Miss Sumick

Welcome Back!

Another school year opens with many activities already planned that will carry us through the academic year. A new school year brings new beginnings. This year, myself, Brooke Garofalo, along with Stephanie Sumick, will share Student Activities at Thompson Middle School. We are dedicated to ensuring an enjoyable experience for all of the students. We would like to thank Mrs. Toni-Marie DeGennaro for all of her hard work and dedication that she offered leading Student Activities over the last few years. We are very lucky to have her guidance as we embark on our new journey as co-chairs.

The school year was kicked off with The Sixth Grade Social that was held on Friday, September 14th. The social allowed our new sixth graders an opportunity to meet new friends and establish a

feeling of acceptance at their new school. They, along with the faculty, had an amazing afternoon, filled with activities that allowed the students to socialize in a comfortable environment outside of the classroom. It was a fun-packed, exciting afternoon for all who attended. Much thanks to the following teachers for helping to chaperone and making it a success: Mr. Spillane, Mrs. Marciani, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Collette, Mr. Durr, Mr. Melando, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Stolte.

This year, The Student Activities Board consists of many members of our student body.

The committee of students will work together to make certain that the activities planned are organized and thoroughly carried out.

Upcoming Events for the fall:

8th Grade Panoramic Picture Day- Thursday, October 18th

Toy Drive- December 10-14th

Student Activities will be collecting NEW toys during the Annual TOY Drive this December.

As the school year continues, Student Activities will work diligently to accomplish its goals and construct an enjoyable year for all here at Thompson! We look forward to a wonderful school year! If you have any suggestions for us please feel to email us here at Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,

Miss Garofalo and Miss Sumick



Physical Education Update

The physical education department has taken full advantage of the great fall weather to implement an active lifestyle and a fitness-oriented philosophy. The physical education staff is working hard to motivate all students to engage in physical activity to promote health, psychological well-being, and a healthy body weight.

All classes are moving through a cycle of programs which includes flag

football, soccer, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and softball. The purpose of each program is to instill an understanding of different activities designed to make staying active simple and fun!

Along with these activities the staff has also dedicated one day each week to a pursuit of fitness. Each Wednesday classes participate in a

October 11, 2007

program to improve muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardio-respiratory endurance, and flexibility. Positive results have been observed in many students already!

Given one day each week, it is essential to make the most of it.



Staying active is simple and fun!

Fine Arts Department News from Mrs. Rosemarie Smith

Welcome back to school, parents and students. I am hoping that this year will be a fun learning experience for all of your children. Speaking of fun learning experiences, I had the opportunity this past July to attend the 2007 Teacher Institute on Dutch Art in the Golden Age at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. This was a weeklong institute I attended because I won a prestigious Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation fellowship. So you can see, learning and preparing to teach my students is a year-round affair!

I was able to meet and network with many teachers from all over the United States. They taught several subject matters including Art, Social Studies, Business, and Special Education, and levels from Kindergarten through 12th grade. We were immersed in Dutch Art from the moment of our arrival at the Gallery on Monday.

Julie Springer, Coordinator of Teacher Programs at the National Gallery, and Zev Slurzberg, Program Assistant, made sure that the program was both challenging and fun.

We had the opportunity to hear wonderful lectures, and see the corresponding wonderful paintings in the Dutch 17th c. galleries. Lectures were given by esteemed art historians and museum curators, such as Arthur Wheelock, Curator of Northern



Baroque Painting at NGA, William Kloss, Art Historian, Neal Turtell, Executive Librarian at NGA, Joaneath Spicer, Curator of Renaissance and Baroque Art at the Walters Museum in Baltimore, and Stephen Ackert, Head of Music Dept. at NGA. We were able to examine 500 year old books in the Rare Book Room, enter and examine a 17th century collectors cabinet at the Walters Museum in Baltimore, and listen to a 17th c. Chamber Music Concert given by Stephen Ackert. His beautiful Harpsichord music gave new meaning to the Genre paintings of Johannes Vermeer and Gerard ter Borch. The age of Rembrandt became so much more to me than just a name!

But the most exciting part of the institute was taking all of that knowledge that we had absorbed and creating our own “podcast” that we could use as a teaching tool in our classrooms. That perfect blend of left and right brain, of Art and Technology, learning in the 21st Century! What a fabulous concept! Who would have ever thought that those annoying

iPods that the kids have constantly stuck in their ears could be used for something so valuable to education, a teaching tool!

Am I techno-savvy? Maybe a little more than most, but still a far cry from our building techie and computer teachers. But I was able to use the Garage Band software and my video iPod to create a wonderful podcast about Dutch Genre paintings! Can you see the potential for Social Studies, Science, and even Math and Language Arts?

I can’t wait to expose my students to these great podcasts and hopefully in the near future have them create their own! Check out the following article “There’s something in the Air, Podcasting in Education” by Gardner Campbell in the November/December 2005 issue of EDUCAUSE Review. I hope to instill the love of art into your children using not only typical venues but these new innovative technologies as well. Have a wonderful and successful year!

Mrs. Smith

Check this link for the article:
<http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm05/erm056.asp>

We are pleased that this school year has jumped off to a great start. Our students know their schoolwork is preparing them to compete in a fast – changing world. We feel our program is designed to give your children what is necessary for the next level and give them the assurance that they are learning what they need to know.

The Special Education Program at Thompson continues to provide services in resource center classes of language arts, math, and social studies. Our in-class support programs for the 2007-2008 year include the following teaching teams:

Sixth Grade

Language Arts	Mrs. Flynn	Ms. Garofalo
Language Arts	Mrs. Fontanella	Mrs. Bedoya
Math	Mrs. Lanza	Mrs. De Gennaro
Science	Mrs. Flynn	Mrs. Jessurun
Science	Mr. LeMore	Mrs. Resnick
Science	Mrs. Talty	Ms. MacDonald
Social Studies	Mrs. Flynn	Mr. Tomo
Social Studies	Mr. LeMore	Mrs. Soldiviero
Social Studies	Mrs. Talty	Mrs. Einbinder



Seventh Grade

Language Arts	Mr. Durr	Mrs. Collette
Language Arts	Mrs. Fontanella	Mr. Shull
Math	Mrs. Levy	Mrs. Martino
Science	Mrs. Godfrey	Mrs. Van Fechtman
Science	Mr. Durr	Mr. Jacoves
Science	Mrs. Flynn	Mr. Newfeld
Social Studies	Mrs. Godfrey	Mrs. McCray
Social Studies	Mr. Durr	Mrs. Drury
Social Studies	Mrs. Flynn	Mr. Graham

Eighth Grade

Language Arts	Mrs. Fontanella	Mrs. Bedoya
Language Arts	Ms. Jen Nelson	Ms. Farrell
Math	Mrs. Pavelka-Luebs	Ms. Lambrinos
Science	Mr. Durr	Mrs. Jodi Nelson
Science	Mrs. Lanza	Mr. Newfeld
Science	Mr. LeMore	Mr. Jacoves
Science	Mrs. Pavelka-Luebs	Mr. Newfeld
Social Studies	Mr. Durr	Ms. Sumick
Social Studies	Mrs. Lanza	Mr. Graham
Social Studies	Mr. LeMore	Mrs. Drury
Social Studies	Mrs. Pavelka-Luebs	Mr. Graham



Continue to check your child's homework pad regularly and contact teachers if you have concerns or questions.

We hope you found Back-to-School night informative. If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher should you have any questions or concerns. In addition, we urge you to check your child's homework assignment pad nightly.

We welcome all Thompson students to a new year of second language learning. *Bienvenue! ¡Bienvenidos!* French and Spanish are part of every student’s schedule throughout his or her three years at Thompson. The sounds and flavors of our languages and cultures can be heard and seen any time you walk past our classrooms. I would like to introduce you to the members of the faculty in the Department of World Languages and let you know which courses we are each teaching this year:

Mrs. Finkelstein	Elementary French, French 1, French 2
Mr. Freeman	7 th & 8 th grade half year Spanish, Spanish 1, Spanish 2
Mrs. Horuzy-Maffucci	Elementary French, French 1, French 2
Mrs. Lynam	Elementary French, 7 th & 8 th grade half year French, 7 th grade half year Spanish, Spanish 1, French 2
Mr. Melando	8 th grade half year Spanish, Spanish 1, Spanish 2



Our sixth grade program is called Elementary French. It meets throughout the year every other day (A/B schedule), alternating with the extra math period. After studying Spanish in the elementary schools and French in the sixth grade, our students will be able to make an informed decision about which language they would like to study in depth, beginning in the seventh grade. Elementary French is a vocabulary and conversation based course on an introductory level. Seventh and eighth graders study either Spanish or French for two years. We offer half and full year courses in both languages. Placement is based on a variety of factors, including teacher recommendation, standardized test scores and performance in the sixth grade French course. Throughout the school year, we look forward to hearing from you about the World Languages curriculum. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or about your child’s placement and progress, please do not hesitate to call. By working together, we can ensure a pleasant and successful learning experience for your children.

Bonne chance! ¡Buena suerte! We wish all of our students an exciting and fulfilling year in French or Spanish!

Mathematics Department News

Thompson Middle School now has Connected Math at each grade level. The eighth grade Pre-Algebra students will now study Connected Math to prepare for Algebra I at the high school. This has allowed for more discovery activities that will help the students to understand, reinforce, and retain mathematical concepts.

Eighth grade Algebra I students were treated to a field trip in the classroom on September 25th and 26th. Mr. Mark Love, a civil engineer from New Hampshire, was here at Thompson to give a workshop to all Algebra I students on how he uses algebra everyday in his job. Students were presented with a problem of a

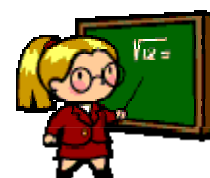
new shopping center doubling the traffic on a highway. They focused on the intricate details of traffic light timing and found out that the methods that they were using could be generalized into algebra to solve thousands of traffic timing problems.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:
GET INVOLVED IN THE
MATHEMATICS CONTESTS!

All of the math contests are going to be held in room 127 or the cafeteria at 7:25 AM. Bring your calculator and a pen or pencil and give it a try. You may find out that you have a talent that you never knew you had!

Mr. Sessa, Math Coordinator

CBA Math Contest (Brother Christian Jones Math Contest). The following 8th graders have been working hard to represent Thompson on October 20th: **Mark Cartier, Joyce Chin, Andrea D’Souza, Chris Daubert, Garrett Davey, Brian George, Matthew Littenberg, Jerry Lunanuova, William Mavrode, Samantha Peterson, and Frank Tota.** Eight will be chosen to represent Thompson. **GOOD LUCK!**



The science teachers would like to extend a welcome back to all our students and wish them a successful, wonderful year here at Thompson. We also enjoyed our Back-to-School night because it demonstrates the support the teachers get from the parents of our students. Thank you to all our parents. The science department welcomes Miss Kelly Mac Donald and Jodi Nelson who was here part of last year.

Miss MacDonald's 6th grade classes just finished up their awesome unit on Astronomy. They learned the origins of early astronomical studies and adopted a constellation. They have begun their study of life and what makes us who we are. The 8th graders are studying environmental science and how we can interact in an Eco-friendly manner.

Mr. Newfeld's 8th grade classes are studying chemical reactions. They will be adopting an element and advertising it on posters. The 7th grade classes are working in groups to research organelles in plants and animal cells. They will make presentations to the class based on their research.

Mrs. Van Fechtman's 8th graders are experimenting with sound and light waves as well as mirrors and lenses. Chemistry will start in November. The 7th graders are exploring the ocean and informing their peers about ocean pollution. The animal unit will start in November.

Mrs. Resnick's classes have been working on weather and the changing surface of the Earth. They have produced outstanding topographic projects.

Miss Nelson has the 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes. They are all engaged in critical thinking activities, watching demonstrations, taking notes and doing labs.

Mrs. Jesserun's 6th grade classes completed their Astronomy unit by making up their own constellation myths and presenting

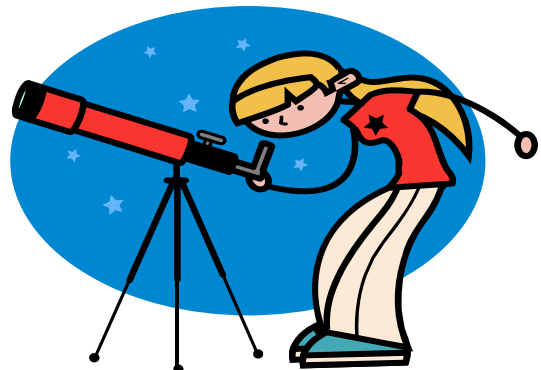
them to the class. They are now investigating density and chemistry through the use of many labs. The 8th grade

classes have completed their study of maps and are now engaged in learning about soil, weathering and erosion. They too have had many hands on activities and group work. Both 6th and 8th grade students will be involved in a web quest in which they must do research, answer specific questions and creatively present their knowledge to the class.

Mrs. Nelson's science classes are off to a great start. The 6th grade had fun making astrolabes that help find stars in the night sky. They also had the opportunity to go outside and use the sundials they made in class. The 7th graders learned how streams form and is currently learning how to chart the ocean floor. The 8th graders are focusing on the environment in which we live. They are discovering the many different biomes on earth and creating travel brochures focusing on one particular biome. It is going to be an exciting year!

In Mr. Jacoves's science class the 7th grade students are investigating invertebrates and observing cave crickets, caterpillars and crayfish. We are also working on our animal behavior experiments for our first marking period project. The 8th grade students have been investigating sound and light waves and will soon embark on their chemistry unit.

The science department is proud to announce the addition of the new Environmental Club headed by Mr. Jacoves. We hope the students will join him after school in doing some wonderful science projects.



The Language Arts Department Carl Gentry, Coordinator

The beginning of the academic year has proven to be exciting, challenging, and very busy for students and teachers in language arts classes. Teachers are implementing the L.E.A.D.S. initiative in their classes, in particular at the sixth grade level. This N.J. state model is in accordance with the district's philosophy of instruction, which is student-centered, inquiry-based, differentiated based on students' abilities, and technology-infused.

In July, many of the language arts teachers participated in the weeklong L.E.A.D.S. summer camp where they examined various aspects of good teaching such as but not limited to thematic curriculum, PBL's (Project-based learning), guided reading, vocabulary instruction, word walls, individualized instruction, group instruction, and full-class instruction, etc. Teachers will continue training in these areas throughout the course of the year. Students are benefiting from these strategies and are taking an active role in their learning.

The L.E.A.D.S. curriculum

provides the students with a vast array of fiction and non-fiction in the form of novels, short stories, articles, essays, anthology selections, etc. The literature is rated based upon its complexity of vocabulary. Teachers then may select appropriate-level novels for the whole class or small groups. In the next issue of the P.F.A. Gazette, I will highlight some of those novels along with others and the enriching activities that complement various units of study

Our department strongly encourages cooperation between students, parents and teachers to strengthen each child's skills in language arts. This will provide a strong foundation for each student to excel in all subject areas.

If you have any questions or concerns about the language arts program at Thompson, feel free to contact me via phone (732-671-2212 ext. 8761) or email (gentryc@middletownk12.org).

Our dedicated teachers care about your children and wish to make this the best year possible. The Language Arts Department is as follows:

Teacher Grades

Mrs. Bedoya	6,8
Mrs. Collette	6,7
Ms. Crowe	7,8
Mrs. Diodato	7,8
Ms. Farrell	7,8
Mrs. Foulks	7,8
Ms. Garofalo	6,8
Mr. Gentry	6,7,8
Mrs. Heidel	6,7
Mrs. Kaufman	8
Mr. Shull	6,7
Mrs. Siwiak	6,7,8
Mrs. Thompson	6,7

Guidance Department Updates.....Mr. James Anderson

The school year is well under way and the Thompson Guidance Department is working hard to meet your child's needs.

Progress reports have just come out and we are seeing many students off of these reports.

Mr. Gomulka, the 8th grade counselor, has already begun the process of getting students ready for high school. There was an in-school program done recently to provide information regarding the Monmouth County Career Academies (MAST, Hi-

Tech etc.). All students who have interest in these schools must attend a mandatory night session at their school (s) of interest. All applications for these schools must be returned to Mr. Gomulka by November 30th, 2007.

Also all 8th grade students will be attending an orientation program at High School South on Tuesday, October 23rd during the school day. There will be a trip for students who are going or who are interested in going to High School North at a date to be announced.

Mr. Anderson, the 7th grade counselor, has visited all students in their classrooms this year to reacquaint himself during their transition year at Thompson.

Mrs. Mason, the 6th grade counselor, has been visiting homerooms and meeting students individually to begin the process of matching names and faces.

As always if you have a question regarding your son/daughter please contact the teacher and/or counselor.

Social Studies Department – by Kevin Graham

On behalf of the entire Social Studies Department, welcome / welcome back to the 2007 – 2008 school year. Our department consists of the following teachers: Mrs. Einbinder, Mrs. Soldiviero, Mr. Graham (Department Coordinator), Ms. Sumick, Mr. Tomo, Mrs. McCray, and Mrs. Drury.

Sixth grade Social Studies is a world history course. It was designed to emphasize ancient civilizations and geography skills and to help students understand their physical and human world so they may become better citizens. Emphasis is placed upon how civilizations developed, how people lived and solved their problems and their relation to the world today.

Seventh grade Social Studies is United States history. We cover the story of North America's discovery by the Europeans of the 16th century, the exploration and settlement of North America, the creation of the United States and many of the important historical events which have made our country what it is today.

Eighth grade Social Studies is actually two half-year courses – World Geography and Civics. World Geography is a continent-by-continent study, which covers the physical and political features of our world. Civics is a course which examines our American system of government at the local, county, state and federal levels – how they operate and serve us.

If at any time you have a question or concern regarding the Social Studies Department please feel free to contact me by phoning school or by e mail (grahamk@middletownk12.org). I will be very happy to speak with or meet personally with you. Have a great school year.



Activity Arts Department in Full Swing Mrs. Williams, Department Coordinator

If you see students playing a saxophone, singing and moving to a song, acting in a play, solving a group problem, sketching a work of art, creating a spreadsheet on a computer, or broadcasting the news, they are in Activity Arts! The Activity Arts Department encompasses the 6th grade cycle of one term classes, such as Music Appreciation, and Contemporary Issues, as well as longer electives in 7th and 8th grades such as Theater, Applied Art, Chorus and Band.

Here is some news from teachers in the department:

Ms. Vaccarella, Team Problem Solving:

Students who are involved in the Team Problem Solving class have the opportunity to be creative and free to express their ideas as they work as a team. They can create and show their talents in the form of group role-playing, research projects and group reports. Their group creations might include the perfect Halloween safety plan, addressing a bullying problem, or a speech on the benefits of working together as a team to accomplish a goal. Working on such projects lets the students recognize their skills and abilities within a group. Students realize if each member of the group uses individual skill on a project, the outcome is usually a more creative and diverse product. My hope is that students will come to the appreciation that a group is a more powerful thinking force than an individual. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at vaccarellak@middletownk12.org

Mrs. Ballone, Computers:

Grades 6, 7, & 8 will be working on Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher and in 8th grade, Access. To see a brief outline of the computer curriculum visit the Communication Hotline on the Middletown website.

Mrs. Williams, Chorus 7/8:

The 7th and 8th grade Winter Concert date has been changed from Dec. 19 to Dec. 18 due to a district date conflict. Students will have their rehearsal Dec. 18 from 2:37-4:30, and need to report back to school at 7:00 pm. The concert starts at 7:30pm.

The evening will feature the chorus singing and moving to holiday and winter songs. All are invited to come and get into the holiday spirit with over 400 enthusiastic chorus members. Students need a chorus uniform, white pants, white skirt, white shoes, (sneakers) by December 1. Please have students bring the white portion of the uniform to school on that date.

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Thompson Singers!!

<u>Krista Hallenbeck</u>	Samantha Price	Anna Mitarotondo
Stephanie Occhipinti	Amanda Applegate	Julie Russell
Olivia Mullen	Abby Mullen	Brianna Dumm
Alana Ortiz	Amelia De Steno	Barbara Astman
Holly Menna	Danielle Cavaluzzi	Michelle Patrouch
Colleen Miller	Andrea Bondura	Willoe Gallagher
Taylor Hartl	Anna Wajda	Lauren Eltringham
Avery Mandeville	Emily Walsh	Arianna DiFiore
Nicole Salviolo	Kira Jarostchuk	Skylar Barney
<u>Lindsey Roesch</u>	Laura Bilbao	Maggie Ballard
<u>Laura Stack</u>	Deanna White	Kara Mowery
<u>Julia Vanzelli</u>	Geena Luccibello	Jenna Rae Alexy
<u>Melanie Ridgway</u>	Amelia Coluccio	Katie Rowe
<u>Giovanna Antonino</u>	Becki Maidlow	Kelsey Johnson

More Activity Arts News

Mrs. Kaufman:

Drama classes are exploring characters through pantomime and improvisation exercises. Art Appreciation has completed line studies (which were on display at Back To School Night) and Navajo-style rugs. Theater has just completed a Shakespeare study, comparing classic and modern tellings of Romeo & Juliet with West Side Story. Video Production is planning and filming their own version of a popular children's program using live action and animation.

Mrs. Raguseo:

Mrs. Raguseo would like to welcome all of Thompson Band's new members. Our concerts are scheduled for December 12th, May 7th and graduation (date TBA). Selected members of the Thompson Band will also be performing at the High Note Music Festival on May 16th.

Congratulations to the new members of the Thompson Jazz Band:

Saxes: Abbey Bayer, Heather Harbachuk, Stephen Jin, Christina Reid

Trumpets: Garrett Davey, James Romano, Zachary Stroz, Anthony Yang

Trombones: Evie Athanasiou, Ryan Cuddihy, Mike DeSocio, Sam Gladis

Guitar: Jack Russell

Bass: Will Cariello

Drums: Frank Tota

Piano: Andrea D'Souza, Alyson Massa

Thompson Band is proud of its tradition of excellence. Remember to do your part and take home your instrument to practice!



ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT KUDOS

by Mr. Anderson, Athletic Coordinator

Once again it has been a tremendous fall sports season at Thompson Middle School. Approximately 285 kids (one-third of the school) are participating on the 5 fall teams. All the student-athletics are representing Thompson very well in the Shore Conference of Middle Schools.

On September 20th, twenty student-athletes (who were nominated by their coaches) represented Thompson at the 2nd Annual Shore Conference of Middle Schools Leadership breakfast. The students had guest speakers discussing sportsmanship, leadership and finished the day off with leadership activities.

The following 8th grade students represented Thompson:

Brad Bennett	Tara Cangialosi
Alex Cleary	Christine DeSpirito
Eric Dominach	Gina Franciosi
Brian Healy	Sara Galanti
Nick Herring	Lauren Hymanson
Palmer Lintz	Kelly McQuade
Jimmy McDonough	Hope Nilson
Joe Simone	Allison Nolan
Dan Sweeney	Christina Reid
Eric Youncofski	Jill Troiano

Also at the end of October there will be meetings for the winter sports (cheerleading, wrestling and boys/girls basketball. At these meetings student-athletes will be given information and forms to participate. All forms must be returned in order to tryout **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Yeah, Thompson!!

Thompson's 2007 Girls Cross Country Team

By Coach Marciani

Thompson's 2007 Girl's Cross-Country team is having another successful season with a 6-0 record. We officially have 72 girls running practice every day for an hour working on strength, flexibility, distance, and speed. The training is definitely paying off with a strong leadership of young 6th, 7th and 8th grade runners. Captains are eighth graders Taylor Landis, Christina Reid, and Shannon Cotterell. We are looking forward to continue our undefeated season and running in Holmdel Park for our finale run. This year's runners by grade level are:

8th graders

Shannon Cotterell
 Erica Falvey
 Jessica Gambino
 Samantha Gottlieb
 Taylor Landis
 Claire McKenna
 Alexandra Prendergast
 Christina Reid
 Kelsey Simonson

7th graders

Meghan Banach
 Megan Davidson
 Lianne Donohue
 Gianna Fischer
 Michele Jin
 Danielle Leung
 Erin Mclaughlin
 Mallory Martin
 Danielle Marino
 Caroline Mulvey
 Heather Osocki
 Casey Raguseo
 Sarah Segovia
 Paige Seiler
 Brittany Synder
 Kate Spence
 Brianna Susca

6th graders

Janine Bardell
 Rileigh Barradale
 Marianna Borke
 Shona Buchanan
 Grace Candio
 Julia Castellano
 Joy Cognata
 Abigail Cohen
 Stephanie Coleman
 Paige Connors
 Glenna DeMarks
 Jill Doyle
 Lyssa Dussman
 Kelly Geant
 Kaitlin Gilbride
 Brianna Haspel
 Mary Healy
 Hayley Hendricks
 Kiley Hetem
 Julianna Hymanson
 Cara Introcaso
 Kristen Jones

Bailey Kernan
 Sue King
 Jennifer Laub
 Bridget Laurence
 Danielle Linzalone
 Monica Loperana
 Elizabeth Madsen
 Kerianne Matre
 Nina Mitarontondo
 Kacie Moran
 Lucie Mullen
 Tara Murphy
 Nicole Natale
 Megan Oxley
 Dana Pierce
 Samantha Ridgeway
 Sophia Rizzuto
 Lauren Toth
 Nina Tripp
 Samantha Valkos
 Raquel Wall
 Erin Walsh
 Morgan Yawger



Run, girls, run!!

Thompson 2007-2008 Girls Field Hockey Team *Coach: Ms. Vaccarella*

The Thompson Girls Field Hockey Team is made up of 24 energetic and hard-working athletes. The girls have been working on their technique, agility, endurance, flexibility, strength, and speed. So far our record is 4 wins and 1 tie and 1 loss. We have a great group of girls who are motivated, disciplined, organized, and cooperative. Captains are 8th graders Jessica Martin, Sara Galanti, Jill Troiano and Gina Franciosi. We are very lucky to have a first time 7th grader goalie, Jackie Dluhi, who is new this season to playing goalie and is a quick learner.

We are looking forward to a fun and challenging field hockey season. Great job, girls! I am very proud to coach such a great group of athletes this season. Any sixth grader who wishes to try out for the team next year should participate in summer camps or clinics. Be sure to get your physicals over the summer for anyone interested in going out for Field Hockey next September.

Team manager: Ally Rausa *Thompson Girls Field Hockey Team for 2007-2008*

Jackie Dluhi	Gina Franciosi	Sara Galanti	Keira Gannon
Maria Herring	Lauren Hymanson	Kaitlyn Lane	Kelsey Lawrence
Molly Lucyk	Jessica Martin	Sarah Miller	Emma Moffitt
Hope Nilson	Debra Parmentola	Anna Rauso	Allie Salvatore
Kristy Scheurer	Abby Schulz	Laura Stack	Kelly Stevens
Ashley Suarez	Jill Troiano	Catherine Urban	Lindsay Weil

Thompson Boys Soccer

The Thompson boys are off to a fantastic start with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss.

The chemistry among the team is the strongest that I have seen in my four years of coaching of 23 7th and 8th graders who are working hard to improve their skills and performance. Greg is the leading goal scorer with 7, followed by John Ripnick (6), Keith Monaghan (2), and Danny W...

The boys are not scared to put the ball in the goal and have outscored their opponents 18 to 8. The offense is powered by Danny Scaduto, Mike D'Alessio, Eric Dominach with the help of Garret Breyer as well as our goal scores. The team could not be held together without our core midfielders who help to put the ball back into the offense attack. These guys consist of Marc Krivitzky, Conor Ryan, Stephen McGeever, Chris Daubert, Rob Leinart, and Evan Marx. The defense has played exceptionally well with key starters Dave Alfano, John Sperduto, and Steven Sangermano as the backbone to the "D". Coming off the bench to continue the fine play are James Merges, Daniel Eynsfield, Mike Diorio, and Garret Davey. Finally, keeping the ball completely out of the net are second year starter Bradley Bennet and a strong 7th grader Sam Atland who will look to secure the starting job next year.

I am extremely proud of all the boys who have made this season successful. I wish those moving on to the next level good luck and those returning next year to continue to improve on their skills in order to have another great year in 2008. Many thanks to my two managers, James Romano, and Will Mavrode, who help keep the stats of each game. Finally, thanks to all the fans, who come out to watch us at home and away games.

Coach Dooley



2008 Thompson Boys and Girls Basketball Schedule

Thursday	January 3	Matawan	Home	Boys first
Tuesday	January 8	Neptune	Home	Boys DH
			Away	Girls DH
Thursday	January 10	Hazlet	Away	Girls First
Tuesday	January 15	Long Branch	Away	Girls First 3:45
Thursday	January 17	Bayshore	Home	Boys First
Tuesday	January 22	Holmdel	Away	Boys First
Friday	January 25	Thorne	Home	Girls First
Thursday	January 31	Neptune	Away	Boys DH
			Home	Girls DH
Monday	February 4	Hazlet	Home	Boys First
Wednesday	February 6	Long Branch	Home	Boys Only 4:30
Thursday	February 7	Long Branch	Home	Girls Only 4:30
Tuesday	February 12	Bayshore	Away	Boys First
Thursday	February 14	Holmdel	Home	Girls First
Tuesday	February 19	Thorne	Away	Boys First

Go Thompson!!

All first games are scheduled to begin at 3:30 unless otherwise noted.

Second games usually start one hour and 15 minutes after the first game.

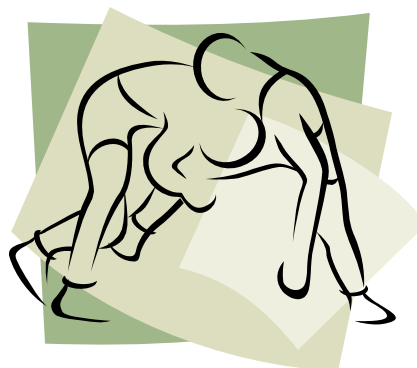


2008 Thompson Wrestling Schedule

Thursday	January 3	Matawan	Away	
Tuesday	January 8	Neptune	Away	
Thursday	January 10	Hazlet	Home	
Tuesday	January 15	Long Branch	Home	4:30
Thursday	January 17	Bayshore	Away	
Tuesday	January 22	Holmdel	Home	
Friday	January 25	Thorne	Away	
Tuesday	January 29	Matawan	Home	
Friday	February 1	Neptune	Home	
Monday	February 4	Hazlet	Away	
Thursday	February 7	Long Branch	Away	
Saturday	February 9	Wrestling Tournament @Hazlet 9:00AM		
Tuesday	February 12	Bayshore	Home	
Thursday	February 14	Holmdel	Away	
Wednesday	February 20	Thorne	Home	

**All meets are scheduled to begin at 3:45
unless noted.**

Go Thompson!!



Thompson Middle School
Calendar of Events

October

Saturday, 20th Annual "Great Race"
Friday, 26th Student Council Dance 5-7:30 PM

November

Tuesday, 6th Election Day-Schools Closed
Thursday, 8th NJEA Convention - Schools Closed
Friday, 9th NJEA Convention - Schools Closed
Tuesday, 13-16th Annual "Food Drive"
Saturday, 17th World famous "Granny's Attic" 9 AM-4 PM
Monday, 19th Parent Faculty Association meeting 9:15
Wednesday, 21st PFA sponsored "Thanksgiving Staff Breakfast" 7:30 AM
Schools close at 12:30 PM (early dismissal)

December

Friday, 7th Student Council Dance 5-7:30 PM
Monday, 10-14th Annual "Toy Drive"
Tuesday, 11th Parent Orientation High School North 7:00 PM
Wednesday, 12th Annual "Holiday Band Concert" 7:30 PM
Thursday, 13th Parent Orientation High School South 7:00 PM
Thursday, 13th Bottlecappers visit Thompson
Monday, 17th Annual homeroom "Winter Door Decorating" contest
Tuesday, 18th Seventh & Eighth grade annual "Chorus Concert" 7:30 PM
Friday, 21st School wide "Holiday Concert" for students (TBA)
Schools close at the end of the day "Winter Break"