

# Central Issues

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March/April 2010

Central Middle School

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### Celebrate the Green! Festival – March 15-19

In conjunction with St. Patrick's Day and our March 19th after school party with the same theme, CMS will be extending the festivities to a week long celebration for the purpose of supplementary learning and creating fun school memories. The week will focus on "green" things such as our responsibility pillar, "green" living, a green dress up day, along with games/puzzles/contests, and limerick writing. There will be a special place for Kermit, the Jolly Green Giant, Yoda, and other green characters. Start gathering together all of your green wardrobe items so that you can be as green as everyone else.

### CMS Environmental Club Takes Lead in Recycling Pilot Project

Central Middle School is the pilot location for the use of recycling bins for pop and water containers. Last July, the District partnered with Schuman Recycling for the community fireworks event held at McCamley Field. Exploring the opportunity of using these green containers in the schools, the District selected CMS as a test site since the school has been recycling for many years.

The club, which began this year under adviser Sandy Yonker, carries on the work of Boyd Puffpaff, who retired five years ago. The club has placed 10 bins throughout the school in high-traffic areas. The club, which meets weekly, has also been involved with recycling paper, batteries, cell phones, and ink cartridges.

According to Yonker, the club is organizing a recycling program for drink pouch containers and plans on promoting awareness of environmental issues.



Web sites for learning and fun -- for kids and parents together..

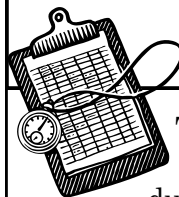
This week's Site to See:

#### Match the Math Measurements

[http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/con\\_math/g04c24.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/con_math/g04c24.html)

"Concentration" game using equivalent measures. (Grades 3-up)

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### Dunlop's Clipboard

Track and Field practice will begin on March 15. Our meets are scheduled to begin the Week of April 19 and will be conducted through May 20th. All runners will need to have a physical form on file in order to participate. Track is open to all 7 and 8 grade boys and girls. 6th graders are welcome to practice with the team but may not compete.

Swimming and Diving is scheduled to begin the week of April 5th. The season will run through the first month of May. Swimmers and Divers also need to have a physical performed on or after April 15, 2009 to participate.



**Student Absences** - Parents are asked to call the school office at 323-5600 as soon as they know a child is going to be absent or late for school. Parents may leave a voice mail message if the office is not open.

**Early Dismissals** - Although we would prefer that you do not take your student out of school for an appointment, we know

that they are inevitable. To make this process easy for everyone & reduce disruption in the classroom, please follow this procedure. On the morning of his/her appointment, have your child come to the front office with a note from you indicating time to be dismissed as well as the reason. The office staff will give your child an Early Dismissal form to show to their teacher. Your student will leave the classroom at the designated time, drop off the Early Dismissal form in the office and meet you outside. Students return to the front office following the appointment for an Admit to Class slip. Students will not be dismissed with a phone call. The office must have a signature of the adult who is responsible for the student on file.

**Procedure for Changing Busses** - Portage Public Schools is concerned about the safety and security of all students. Therefore, any changes to the scheduled bus stop for a student can only be made with WRITTEN authorization from the parent. Telephone requests cannot be honored!

**Homework Requests** - All homework requests are done through the Front Office (323-5661) We obtain assignments for students who have been absent from school for three consecutive days. Teachers are given 24 hours to respond to all requests. Students who have missed school for less than three days may contact one of their "study buddies" for updates on class activities/ assignments!

**Deliveries** - We can make deliveries and/or send messages to students during 2nd and 6th hours only. We would appreciate it if you would minimize making requests for other times, as we would have to call into the classroom and disrupt teacher instruction. Also, we do not deliver instruments that are dropped off for a student. A note will be sent to the student to pick it up in the front office.

## Citizenship In Action

In January, three large groups of CMS students logged on to the website [freerice.com](http://freerice.com) after school and donated grains of rice to less fortunate people all over the world. Through [freerice.com](http://freerice.com), almost 50 students were able to donate grains of rice directly to the UN World Food Program. The UN WFP provides food for people in 75 countries all around the world. The website works like this; sponsors donate 10 grains of rice for every correct answer given by anyone logged onto the website. So, by answering vocabulary, math, science, geography, or world language questions, CMS students were able to contribute over 425,000 grains of rice at our three events alone. Many other CMS students logged on at home and donated many more grains in their free time. Freerice.com is a fun, fast, and easy way to make a difference anytime you want. If you have any new ideas for service projects that Citizenship In Action could participate in, please contact Kris Winkle at 323-5614 or [kwinkle@portageps.org](mailto:kwinkle@portageps.org).



## CMS Counseling Corner

Here are directions to enable you to access detailed information about your child's classes and assignments using the PIV. Should you have specific questions, please contact the teacher directly or your child's counselor [Mrs. Schippers (Hamilton team and 8th grade) or Dr. Clinton (Yonker team and 7th grade)].

When logging into the PIV, you can see a grade summary of your child's grades in each class. The overall subject grade is a hyperlink, which one can click on.

If you click on the overall grade, you will be taken to a screen that has all of the individual assignments for that subject. From there, you will see all of the assignments, due date, category, grade, etc. for the assignment.

Each assignment title is also a hyperlink. Individuals can click on the assignment title and will find a narrative note, if there is one entered. For example, in an 8<sup>th</sup> grade SS class, there is an assignment entitled *Quiz: The Constitution DVD (Ch. 10-15)*. This assignment has a narrative that will appear when one clicks on the assignment title.

The narrative is only visible when one searches in this manner. To find this detail one must click on the subject grade, click on the assignment title to see if an assignment has a narrative attached.

Parents who have signed up for automatic email notifications will not automatically see the assignment narrative. To see a narrative, they will need to login to the PIV.

Are you a female golfer? Be a part of the PCHS Lady Mustangs Fall 2010 team. Parent/Athlete meeting will take place in May with information on summer golfing opportunities. If you are interested or have questions please contact Coach Becky Klose at [BKlose@portageps.org](mailto:BKlose@portageps.org) for further information. Exact date for the May meeting will be emailed to those who sign up.

## TEACHER REQUEST FORMS

Teacher request forms are available in the counseling office. The form must be completed, signed and returned to the counseling office by April 1, 2009. Although we do our best to accommodate requests, a request is not a guarantee.

## EIGHTH GRADE FAREWELL PARTY Saturday, May 1

The end of our eighth graders career at CMS is near and to celebrate a farewell party is being planned on Saturday, May 1st from 7-9 p.m. at the school. To make this a successful event, we need 8th grade parents to help out. We will need parents to assist with decorations, ticket sales, and to chaperone for the party. To volunteer please call Karen Mott at 329-0711.

## A Look Ahead...

- |          |                                                |
|----------|------------------------------------------------|
| Mar. 2   | 7th Grade Vision Screening                     |
| Mar. 3   | 8th Grade Band Pre-Festival Concert NHS 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 8   | Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert NHS 7 p.m.      |
| Mar. 11  | 6th & 7th Grade Band Concert NHS 7:00 p.m.     |
| Mar. 12  | Orchestra Festival                             |
| Mar. 15  | Choir Concert NHS 7 p.m.                       |
| Mar. 16  | 7th & 8th Grade Choir Festival                 |
| Mar. 19  | School Party 3:00—4:30                         |
| Mar. 23  | 8th Grade Band Festival NHS                    |
| Mar. 23  | PTO meeting in CMS Library at 6:30 p.m.        |
| Mar. 26  | No School                                      |
| Mar. 29  | Spring Recess                                  |
| April 5  | School Resumes                                 |
| April 16 | No School, Marking Period #3                   |
| April 18 | MSBOA 7th & 8th Grade Solo & Ensemble          |
| April 27 | PTO meeting in CMS Library at 6:30 p.m.        |
| May 1    | 8th Grade Dance                                |
| May 11   | MSVMA State Choral Festival                    |
| May 19   | 8th Grade Orchestra Concert NHS                |
| May 26   | 6th & 7th Grade Band Concert NHS 7 p.m.        |
| May 27   | 8th Grade Band Concert NHS 7 p.m.              |
| May 31   | Memorial Day, No School                        |
| June 1   | Orchestra Concert NHS 7 p.m.                   |
| June 3   | Honors Assembly                                |
| June 4   | Last Day for Students (Full Day)               |

**Portage Public Schools**

**Central Middle School  
8305 S. Westnedge Ave  
Portage, MI 49002**

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**Central Middle School will  
develop healthy, successful,  
positive, people!**

#### **MOMS IN TOUCH**

“Moms in Touch” is a group of moms who meet for one hour during the week to pray for their children, their schools, their teachers and administrators. They meet every other Wednesday from 9:00—10:00 a.m. at the home of Joni Mills, 8330 Valleywood Lane. For more information call Joni Mills at 321-0727 or email her at [djmills87@sbcglbal.net](mailto:djmills87@sbcglbal.net)


We are on the Web!

[http://  
www.portageps.org/  
schools/middle/cms/  
Default.htm](http://www.portageps.org/schools/middle/cms/Default.htm)

#### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Just a reminder that parent and emergency contact information needs to be current. We send out a form at the beginning of each school year asking for updates on parent/guardian and emergency contact information. In the event of an emergency when we cannot reach a parent/guardian we will release your student to the emergency contacts on record. If that information changes or you want to check the information we have on file please contact our counseling office at 323-5687.

Also, a divorced or otherwise separated parent has full legal rights and a student may be released to him/her unless we are presented with court papers to the contrary. If such a court order exists please make certain we have a copy of it.

 **Library events:** The Library Media Center at Central Middle has been overflowing with researchers in every grade. Reminder that all the reference sources are available to students at home through Mrs. Sims eboard or Remote Web Access. The 7th grade book group recently visited Barnes & Noble and Coldstone Creamery and purchased books for the library. CMS will hold Jeopardy competitions on March 16, 17, and 18. More information and sign-up sheets will be available soon in the library and on the eboard.

#### **Sign-Up for E-Mail Updates**

The District offers a free list service for anyone who would like to get regular e-mail updates about Portage Schools, any of the individual schools, or about the two district foundations, The Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Athletic Foundation. To sign-up, simply visit the District's homepage at [www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org), and click on the box in the lower right corner. That will take you to a page allowing you to select the list service messages you would like. Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation alerting you that your order went through. Call 323-5000 with any questions.