



Madison Academy

SCHOOLDAZE NEWS

October 9, 2009

Volume 6: Number 4

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

October 12-31

MEAP testing

October 13

PTO meeting
3:45p.m.

October 23

Me & My Guy
Masquerade Ball
Grades K-5th
7-9p.m.

From the Office:

We are nearing the MEAP testing period and want to take an opportunity to communicate how important an opportunity this test (or any of the other testing we do here at Madison) is to the educational process.

Yes, MEAP testing is a requirement of the Michigan Department of Education to remain in compliance with The Child Left Behind policy. It will remain as such unless the state government decides to use another test to fulfill our mandated testing requirement. This may happen today, tomorrow, or never. Regardless of the test (or tests) used, evaluation is how we measure achievement. We measure achievement to ascertain what learning remains to be done and in what area. When students take their testing opportunities seriously and put forth their best efforts, we can more effectively tailor instruction to meet their needs. If you, our parent partners, can help to reinforce this message, we believe that each student's education can be much more impactful than ever before. Even a failing score tells us where we need to go with instruction, but if the student did not actually put forth effort on the evaluation, we will be making changes to re-teach content that they may already know. You, as parents, can help your student by supporting the need for testing and encouraging them to get enough sleep, eat well, and put forth their best effort.

Mr. Heflin



Office hours

We want to also take the opportunity to clarify the Office Hours of Monday through Friday 7:30 to 4:00 PM. Please keep in mind that the final hour of school days is as important as the first hour. If a student were to leave the building one half hour early each day, that student would miss the equivalent of 5,130 minutes of instruction. This equates to 85.5 hours of instruction or three and one half days of instruction. What's three days between friends, right? But, which three days? Please consider that on any given day a connection can be made that lasts a lifetime and becomes the linchpin in a lifetime of learning. Do we really want a child to miss that connection to leave "a little early"?

Dress Code:

The Weather outside has begun to remind us that we do, indeed, live in Michigan. We will maintain a temperature in each classroom of between 68 and 72 degrees Fahrenheit. If this range is too cold for your student, please make certain that they wear appropriate undershirts or acceptable sweaters or Madison apparel. Any other garments of that type must be removed when inside the building. Scarves, gloves, and other outerwear is for use outside.



**Madison's New Math Club:
MATHEMATICS PENTATHLON**

- Differentiates Instruction
- Develops Active Problem Solving
- Integrates 3 Types of Mathematical Reasoning
- Stimulates "Right Brain" Thought
- Utilizes Mathematics Manipulative



Coming soon to a classroom near you.
Stay tuned for more information.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

If you have two coins in your hand and they total 55 cents, but one of them is not a nickel, what coins do you have?

Answer to last weeks Question.

If there is an electric train traveling west at 50 mph and the wind is blowing east at 25 mph. How fast and in what direction is the smoke traveling?

Electric trains do not have smoke.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Math committee with any questions, comments or suggestions that you may have.

Please send all questions to jkelly@madison-academy.org

Thank You,

Madison Academy Math Committee

Service Learning in the News

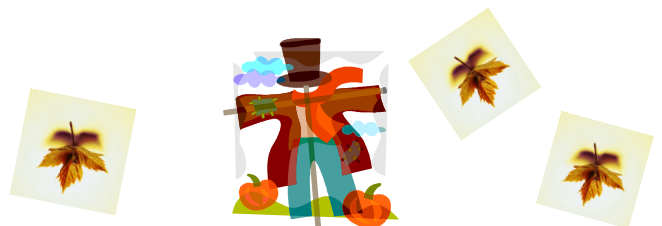
The 10 B class is doing projects for service learning class with Ms. Wahl. Here are the names of the projects: Mural Mural On the Wall, Kids Care, Silence in the West Wing, Madison's Got Talent, Eagle Friendly, Children Helpers, Wheels on the Bus, and Fall Masquerade. After these projects there will be a survey for each to measure the successes of each project.

Thank You,
10 B Service Learning Class

Campus Safety

The crisis team will hold their next meeting on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 3:45 p.m. in the Art room. We are still looking for a parent to join our team!! If you are interested in being part of our team, please contact Laurie Miller at 655-2949 ext.

120 or contact me by email at lmiller@madison-academy.org



Science Department:

The science department is looking for a parent to serve on the science committee. This is approximately 1 hour per month at Madison Academy. If anyone is interested please feel free to contact my home page or the school office.

Biology classes have all started their planters. Every planter has growth and the students are tending their gardens and journaling their results. Next week we will be finishing up Introduction to Biology and we will be starting a new unit called The Cell.

Chemistry class is off to a fast start this year. We've completed several experiments and activities including Paper Chromatography and Density Calculations. We have already started the next unit Atomic Structure where students will be doing hands on activities with atomic models.

Earth Science-8th Graders are finishing up the introduction of Planet Earth as a system. This class will spend equal time between Geology, Hydrology (Oceans), Meteorology and Astronomy. Late next week the 8th grade will begin the first section of Earth Science, Geology. We have hands on rock, mineral and fossils samples for the students to work with while they learn how rocks form and the Earth systems function together.

Climatic Impact has gotten off to a great start Students are expressing their opinions in a scientific format. The students have already learned several computer graphing techniques that will serve them in the years to come. We are starting a data collection project today on current and local weather. Students will progress rapidly to weather map making and forecasting.

Again the science department is looking for a parent to serve on the science committee. This is approximately 1 hour per month at Madison Academy. If anyone is interested please feel free to contact my home page or the school office.

Thanks,

dalmquist@madison-academy.org

7th grade in Mr. Smith's room-Our class just finished the introduction of matter (ch 1). This was a review of last year and I also introduced some new terms and ideas. We also had an opportunity to utilize Mr. Almquist's Science lab for our Density Lab. This was a very informative lab for the students. They were given three tasks measuring with beam balance, ruler, and calculation. We also discussed proper lab behavior. The classes were awesome for this particular assignment, and for many it was the first time using a beam balance. We will be expanding the Matter unit for next week with the Properties of Matter. I look forward to working with the students and we hope to continue our lab use.

Thank you,

msmith@madison-academy.org



Athletic Department:

A basketball parent information evening is being held Friday, October 9th, from 3:45-4:15pm for all 4-8th grade students. If you missed this meeting please check the athletics website at www.madison-academy.org. Also, please contact Mr. Mills as soon as possible so that you can collect all the paperwork necessary. Shirt orders for these teams need to be turned in by the middle of next week so please do not delay!

Shirts are also available for any parents or family members that wants to show off there Madison Spirit. Again, please contact Mr. Mills for more information as soon as possible.

Both volleyball and soccer teams are having fantastic season so far. Please come out and support the teams, this is there first season and they are doing a tremendous job so far! GO EAGLES!!

English Language Arts Department:

Regardless of the age of your student, there is always an aspect of ELA that transcends across all ages with the capability of taking your student to places only imagined. These destinations are attainable to all, simply through reading a good book and/or writing the story that exists in us all. Stories have a way of unlocking places, moods, and dreams within us all, and sometimes giving a sometimes troubled life, a glimmer of hope-that is the power of literature.

What about the story that lies inside? We all have one. We all have a story that is worthy to be told. So, why not encourage your student, or yourself, to write this story down. I like to look at this as, "A story not told, is a life that's not changed,"- that is the power of writing.

Throughout their education, your student will read countless books and write countless stories. If we, as educators and parents, could succeed in convincing our students that the grade is secondary and the experience of the journey is primary, then I truly believe the grade would naturally surpass our expectations. Our 8th graders are reading *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton. Did you know that Susan Hinton was only 15 when she began writing *The Outsiders*? What is even more fascinating is she began writing it out of frustration that her school didn't have enough good realistic fiction books to choose from. So rather than complain and develop an attitude, she did something about it and wrote a book. What a fantastic lesson to us all!

The vision of the ELA dept. of Madison Academy is to not only equip your student to be successful in all aspects of English Language Arts, but to also encourage them to be active and excited readers, as well as to believe in *their* story-to believe enough to write it down. You never know...that little boy, girl, or teenager, that you're trying to convince to eat their veggies at dinner, is the next S.E. Hinton. We'd like to think so!

If I can help with suggestions to get your student motivated to read and write with enthusiasm and expectation, please don't hesitate to send over an email. You can reach Mrs. VanBuren, our elementary committee member and co-chair at rvanburen@madison-academy.org, or me, Mrs. Corbray, ELA chair and HS English at dcorbray@madison-academy.org.

PTO Happenings:

Just a reminder, our Frankenmuth Fundraiser is coming to an end! Please turn in the order form and monies together to the office. Remember all checks are to be made payable to Madison Academy. Thank you, from the PTO with your help in our first fundraiser!

On October 23rd the "Me and My Guy" dance will take place in the gym from 7-9pm The price will be \$5.00 per couple and \$1.00 each additional young lady that attends in the same family. This is for our K5-5th grade young ladies. There is a flyer coming home with more detailed information on this after school activity this week.

"The Eagles Nest" is open! It is available during the day for our students, parents, and staff to purchase snacks. The students really enjoy purchasing their own snacks and it allow them to practice on their math skills.

Help! We need Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels, VG's receipts for our school. We haven't been receiving too many at the school this year. Another way to help Madison Academy is to sign up at any of these locations with your information. If anyone has any questions with PTO or may be available to help operate concessions at our home athletic games please contact me at slarson@madison-academy.org

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." -Henry Ford