

**Thornton W. Burgess Middle School**

# Parent Newsletter

**FEBRUARY / MARCH  
2010**

***From the desk of Principal Pixley . . .***

Bullying has been a hot topic in the news recently due to the unfortunate event in South Hadley last month. Mrs. Fitts and I would like you to know that paying attention to bullying and harassment have been addressed here at TWB long before the student deaths in South Hadley this year or in Springfield last year. We have worked proactively to make our students aware of what bullying is and how it can be prevented.

At various grade levels, students in our school have been introduced to anti-bullying programs such as *Second Step, Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders*, Internet Safety, and DARE. Last year we introduced the Developmental Design program to the school and have fully embraced it this year. With this program, students have daily interaction with their home-room/advisory teacher and their peers, learning about respect and responsibility.

An element of these specialized programs is to have the students write and follow the TWB School Rules which are posted in every classroom and throughout the school building. These four simple rules include:

1. Maintain a positive attitude.
2. Always try your best.
3. Respect everyone and everything.
4. Behave appropriately.

Students are held accountable according to these rules and those listed in our district's handbook. Bullying receives zero tolerance from the entire school community. Each incident that is reported is investigated and consequences are given when appropriate. Unfortunately, investigating these acts is not always easy or clear cut. For example, bullying may take place outside of school, often in the form of cyber-bullying. Facebook and texting are two such venues. We ask parents to be vigilant in overseeing the use of cell phones (texting) and the computer (the use of the internet). These two technologies can be very dangerous and are where much of the bullying takes place. Cell phones must be "off and away" in school, but what begins outside of school often makes its way into the school setting.

As of this writing, I am in the process of scheduling Sergeant Joy from the Hampden Police Department to come in to the school and speak to students about bullying behaviors, including cyber-bullying. Sergeant Joy has had extensive training in this area, so we are fortunate to have him at our disposal for this type of training.

Again, we want to let you know that we do not tolerate bullying behaviors and we need your assistance to effectively combat this problem. Please make us aware of any incident of bullying that your child may be experiencing as soon as possible, as this is the most effective way for us to deal with any situation. The sooner we are made aware of a problem, the

**Special Dates of Interest**

**February**

*15th President's Day—No School*  
*16th Winter Break Begins*  
*22nd School Re-opens*

**March**

*3rd PTO Meeting @ 7 pm*  
*3rd TWB Book Fair 8-2*  
*4th TWB Book Fair 8-2*  
*12th Progress Reports Go Home*

**Attendance Calls**



Effective the week of February 8th, the school will be making a Connect-Ed call to the home number of any student who is not in school and whose parent (s) have not called to report an absence. You may call the school at 566-8950 between 7:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to report an absence.

**Principal's Message Continued . . .**

quicker we can resolve it. Also, please remind your child(ren) to advocate for themselves in these situations. Children need to know that they should report any incident of harassment/bullying to a teacher, counselor, paraprofessional or administrator immediately. Parents can also assist the school by discussing this very important topic with their children outside of school so that they are aware of how words and actions may affect other people. We need to ensure that bullying behaviors are stopped in school, in the neighborhood, on the playing fields or in cyberspace. It will take vigilance by all of us as a group to stop this behavior as our common goal is to keep our children safe.

Sincerely,

**Noel P. Pixley**

**From the School Nurse . . .**

**Hand Washing Basics**

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of illness. How good is your basic hand washing knowledge?

1. True      False

A person's hands are the most common transmitters of disease

.2. True      False

If infectious matter gets on your hands, the sooner you wash it off, the less chance you have of becoming infected.

3. True      False

If they are not visibly soiled, hands can be rinsed under plain running water and air-dried.

4. True      False

The entire sink, including faucet controls, should be considered contaminated.

5. True      False

You don't need to wash your hands while you're caring for/in contact with only one student.

6. True      False

You should wash your hands after removing gloves only if a glove has been punctured.

Answers: 1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. F, 6. F

The quiz is taken from ***Handwashing For Schools: A Clean Defense***

## Honor Roll Second Marking Term

### GRADE 5

#### HIGH HONORS

Joseph Burzdak  
Maya Pope  
Krista Schoonover

Matthew Garbecki  
Nicholas Savoie

Kaitlyn Kelly  
Krista Schoonover

Sarah Penna  
Curtis Tongue

#### HONORS

Jessica Boss  
Michaela Cronin  
Hannah Flowers  
Nazar Kouzmouk  
Cole Modestow  
Katherine Walulak

Samantha Budynkiewicz  
Robert Culhane  
Samuel Hackett  
Kyle Langlois  
Maralyse Montouri  
KaraCatherine White

Joseph Bushey  
Vincent DeMattia  
Joseph Janczulewicz  
Alexis LeBrasseur  
Dionna Porcello  
Samantha Zeno

Michael Camilleri  
Alyssa Doran  
Stephn Kane  
Maxwell Macero  
Deirdre Simmons

Mike Cherkashin  
La Mara Evans  
Haleigh Kology  
David Martin  
Jason Walbridge

### GRADE 6

#### HIGH HONORS

Stephanie Chapin  
Rachel Mayotte

Madison Duncan  
Lauren Shimel

Layla Galavotti  
Amanda Tongue

Ashley Jones

Kaylee Lord

#### HONORS

Arianna Anamisis  
Jacob D'Agostino  
Adriana Isham  
Sean Lee  
Courtney Ostrikis  
Nikolas Vanderleeden

Erica Bavaro  
Luke D'Agostino  
Lindsay Janeczek  
Amanda Lynch  
Elizabeth Pradis  
Madasyn Ward

William Bond  
Rachel Dembek  
Alexander Jones  
Christine Mayotte  
Nicholas Santos  
Holly Weinberg

Christine Culhane  
Katherine Gagnon  
Hannah Kane  
Carl Mercier Jr.  
Nathan Smith-Epaul  
Emma Weisse

Lara Cushman  
Rachel Granger  
Ethan Kibbe  
Cullen Murray  
Dominic Soares

### GRADE 7

#### HIGH HONORS

Jun Ho Cho

Eve Falk

Taylor Loveling

Nicole Milette

Emily Zeno

#### HONORS

Gisele Andree  
Matthew Caron  
Chandler Giza  
Kurt LaFlamme  
Toni Olstein  
Leah Wallace

Catherine Avery  
Connor Crane  
Benjamin Glista  
Caitlin MacGregor  
Jordyn Pedersen  
James Webber

Tanis Boyd  
Nicole Cronin  
Robert Gomez  
Paulina Modestow  
Sabrina Raffaele  
Griffin Willis

Ny'obi Brown  
Emma Dzierzgowski  
Dennis Hackett  
Kayla Murphy  
Andrew Smith  
Sarah Willoughby

Andrew Bushey  
Jack Fitzgerald  
La'neir Haines  
Lauro Ogoley  
Andrew Stewart  
Paulina Wysocka

### GRADE 8

#### HIGH HONORS

Gherly Abulag  
Casey Lu Simon-Plumb

Alexis Alston  
Meghan Smith Epaul

Stephany Burzdak  
Sara Trecker

Taylor Coopee

Abigail Hinkamper

## Honor Roll Second Marking Term

### GRADE 8

### HONORS

Christa Belardo	Zachary Booth	Kathryn Charest	Katheryn DeMarey	Michael Diotalevi
Molly Gagnon	Allison Gioielli	Jameson_Kapinos	Robert MacGregor	Chelon Myles
Chase Olstein	Jacklyn Orellana	Adam Patterson	John Quackenbush	Mariah Shea
Francesco Siniscalchi	Taylor Tragakis			

## Awesome Student Award . . .

*The following students were chosen as “Awesome” for the month of:*

### November 2009

*5th Grade—Joseph Burzdak*

*6th Grade—Zoe Lipkens*

*7th Grade—Nicole Cronin*

*8th Grade—Stephany Burzdak*

### December 2009

*5th Grade—Sarah Penna*

*6th Grade—Nicholas Santos*

*7th Grade— Robert Gomez*

*8th Grade—Madison Courtney*

### TWB/Hampden PTO Book Fair

Our TWB/Hampden PTO Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for March 3rd and 4th from 8am–2pm.

The Book Fair provides a wide variety of age appropriate books specifically selected to appeal to middle school tastes and interests. A Book Fair flyer, which has a sampling of books was sent home in your students Tuesday envelope. You can also check out [www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/](http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/) for additional information about the selections.

The Book Fair helps promote literacy and reading, while at the same time raising money for much needed TWB library/media center resources.

### 8th Grade Orientation

An Eighth Grade Orientation program for parents of 8th grade students will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 7:00pm in the MRHS Auditorium. Students may attend if they wish.

Principal Hale will welcome everyone and explain the evening's agenda. Mrs. Lewsi, Guidance Director, will speak about graduation requirement and the course selection process. Parents will then go to the large cafeteria where, in an open forum, they will have the opportunity to speak directly with all the Department Chairs. In the forum, they may also review course curricula, instructional materials, and samples of students' work.