

U.A. NEWS

October, 2009

Unified Arts Teachers are available for conferences. Please contact us to schedule a time.

Ms. Polletto:	November 4 th	2:30-6:40 PM	
Ms. Whitney:	November 5 th	2:30-8:00 PM	
Mr. Jensen:	November 5 th	2:00-8:00 PM	
Mrs. Phillips:	Nov. 3 rd 2:30-4:30PM	Nov. 4 th 3:30-5:30PM	Nov. 5 th 2:00-6:00PM
Mr. Sanders:	November 5 th	2:00-8:00 PM	
Mr. Welch:	November 5 th	2:00-8:00 PM	
Mrs. Bassani:	November 5 th	2:00-8:00 PM	
Ms. McGonagle:	November 5 th	2:30-8:30 PM	
Ms. Hamel:	Nov. 4 th 3:30-6:00PM	Nov. 5 th 2:30-7:00PM	
Ms. Weed:	November 5 th	2:00-8:30 PM	

**RISC info
available at
conferences.**

Band – Ms. Polletto epolletto@msad15.org

I would like to take this opportunity to commend your children! They have proved to be amazing musicians. The sixth grade band has “gelled” very nicely and the students are recognizing this great achievement. The seventh and eighth grade band has done the same and have been enhancing their musical knowledge with harder rhythms and new notes. I would also like to let you know that I have made a slight change with their practice charts. Many students are involved in after school activities and are having a hard time fitting in a lot of practice time. I have therefore had them cross out the grading chart. I will re-evaluate it and instate a new one soon. For now, students are encouraged to practice when they can, record it, and have you sign off on it. I will just be checking to see that they are practicing and for how much. Ideally, I would love to see 20 minutes for 5 days out of the week. Again, always feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Chorus & Performing Arts – Ms. Whitney lwhitney@msad15.org

Fifth graders are continuing to study the instruments of the orchestra by making their own instruments with everyday objects and learning to play them. Sixth graders have just started a unit called Breaking Music Down, where students learn about the basics of music: melody, rhythm and harmony. Right now students are composing melodies in the software program Finale. Seventh graders have just completed a unit on jazz and are beginning a composition unit based on the movie *Stomp Out Loud*.

A reminder that auditions for the District II Chorus Festival will be held on Monday October 26th. Students auditioning have been given a schedule of rehearsal dates and must come to at least 5 rehearsals. October 26th is an early release day, so students will be need to find their own ride back to school for our 3:00pm departure from the Middle School. Other details are pending and will be sent home in a letter. The auditionees are sounding fabulous!

Computer - Mr. Jensen wjensen@msad15.org

Fifth and sixth grade students' new unit will be on ethical and social issues related to technology and the internet. Students will be creating web pages about their life. No publishing to the internet will be permitted unless parent and principal approval is given. Students are about half way through learning to type all 26 letters without looking at their keys. They just finished their internet terminology quiz and their slideshow of parts of the computer.

Seventh grade multi-media class uses imaging and video programs as a tool to teach organization, self-discipline, and time management skills. Students just finished their first slideshow. This slideshow was about learning to write scripts and create a storyboard of the slideshow. Video taping themselves and using the technology of picture-in-picture were two of the skills they had to use.

Eighth grade desktop publishing students will work on the visual balance within a document that helps create a professional look. Students should have completed all reports and tests up to Editing-5, and they are currently designing business floor plans. Seventh and eighth grade students are encouraged to finish work, make-up work, or move ahead by using their laptops at home.

Health – Mrs. Phillips**gphillips@msad15.org**

This month, health classes have had new rotation of students from the wellness program. Health students have learned about the different components of health and the importance of keeping balance in all areas in order to achieve total wellness. Our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have been invited by the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Maine to take part in a video competition. Students are working on creating public service announcements that will be submitted for judging. These groups focus on age level research skills, healthy interactions with peers, demonstration of appropriate resistance skills, and the use of technology in our classroom.

**Physical Education – Mr. Sanders
Mr. Welch****dsanders@msad15.org
dwelch@msad15.org**

Students in PE classes are continuing to play soccer and ultimate frisbee outside. Students should bring a sweatshirt to class since it is starting to feel more like fall. We would like to see more students get involved with local recreation programs this year. Be looking for opportunities on the Gray Recreation Department's section of the Town of Gray's new website.

Spanish Grades 5 and 6 – Mrs. Bassani**dmoraes@msad15.org**

Estimados señoras y señores (Dear Parents): ¡Bienvenidos! Welcome! This week, we are learning how to talk about our emotions in Spanish. We are practicing conversation through games and other oral activities, and working on our Spanish writing skills by answering questions about our emotions. Next, we will learn how to say and write the colors in Spanish. Nos vemos (see you later)

Spanish Grades 7 and 8 – Ms. McGonagle**jmcgonagle@msad15.org**

Both seventh and eight grade Spanish are embarking on a project to be written completely in Spanish. The seventh grade's project, entitled "Un Poco de Yo", meaning "a little bit about me" is designed for students to describe themselves: their personality, physical characteristics, academic, social, and family life. Many students like to include personal and family photographs in this project. So, if they are searching around the family photo albums, please make sure they either scan the photos or have parental permission to use the photos for their project. The eight grade project is entitled " Actividades" and is focused upon learning the infinitive forms for many of the activities that they enjoy. In this project, students will also be learning the seasons, weather conditions, and the various activities which they enjoy doing during each season of the year. For this project also, students like to include photographs, so the same caution would apply here for the use of family photos. I look forward to learning more about the students through these Spanish projects!

Technology Education - Ms. Hamel**mhamel@msad15.org**

Fifth grade students have been learning about "square" or 90 degree corners. They are making a frame with mitered corners that will go in a "book safe". Students assemble the graphic art and text on their cardboard book cover, it is laminated, and the frame is glued inside.

Sixth grade students are designing paper mechanical sculptures that will be powered by the wooden cam and followers they have constructed.

Seventh grade students are learning to program the NXT robots to go through a maze.

Eighth grade students are learning about mass and acceleration and will apply these concepts to build an aerodynamic wooden dragster that will be powered by a CO2 cartridge.

Visual Art - Ms. Weed**bweed@msad15.org**

October is pumpkin month and the GNGMS art room will once again carve jack-o-lanterns for the Maine Wildlife Park HALLOWEENFEST, which is October 23rd. The first quarter of the year ends soon, so students are completing final projects and revising assessments. Everyone has had an opportunity to improve their drawing skills and everyone has sculpted in clay. Paint will dominate the classroom in the remaining days. All art students have folders in the classroom, which will come home at the end of the quarter. Please be sure to ask your child to explain what they have made. Clay projects will also go home at the end of the quarter, unless they are currently on display. There is an abundance of excellent student artwork that is sure to beautify your homes.