



# Mountview Middle School

Newsletter— June 2010

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## Principal's Message

Hello, everyone. It just doesn't seem possible that this is the final newsletter of the school year. Every school year opens in the fall with beautiful weather. As the climate changes, the rest of the months seem to fly by. Suddenly, we look up to see beautiful weather once again, and it's June.

When you look at the attached calendar you will see that there is plenty going on these next three weeks. For our eighth graders, they are completing step two in what for so many of them will be four giant steps in their educational process. This eighth grade has been a wonderful group. Throughout the year they have set a very positive tone on their floor and have been excellent role models in the school. A number of well-earned activities have been set aside for them these next couple of weeks. I look forward to two of their major events; the Semi-Formal Graduation Dance followed the next night with the Graduation Ceremony. For the first time in several years graduation will be held at Wachusett Regional High School.

As you most likely know, I will be retiring in a few weeks after 42 years in education. I have truly loved my job and am so happy that I chose to teach. I have worked in five schools and at each stop I have met many, many fine people. I have always been impressed with the quality teachers and administrators that I have met in public education and especially in the middle schools. I have had the good fortune to work with so many dedicated, creative, talented, caring middle school teachers. I will long remember the saying, "*TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL. Those who can, do.*" Mountview families are blessed with a school populated with teachers who **can**. They care deeply and want all children to succeed.

Then there are the parents who have contributed so much. The list is long, but I'd like to mention five in particular. In my short tenure at Mountview, I worked with two really, really wonderful PTA presidents. The first two years it was Jennifer Toppin, an individual with incredible energy and drive. The Mountview community appreciated her efforts so much. This year, Randi Setterlund stepped up and took the PTA presidency. The organization never missed a beat, and, as in the past, our faculty and staff truly appreciate what she has done this year. Both of these wonderful women provided so much in helping to establish a most positive home/school partnership. I also want to mention Hope Cotton. She and her family have put in hours of time each late winter/early spring directing the annual school musical. Close to one hundred children each year have benefited from her endeavors. Lastly, I want to recognize Wayne and Gloriann Switzer. Wayne has volunteered for the past three years to serve on Mountview's School Council. In times where we often have to dig awfully hard to find volunteers, Wayne stepped up not once, but three times and I appreciated our many philosophical discussions. Gloriann seems to be available whenever a volunteer is needed and she is representative of several parents who consistently give what they can. Thank you to each of you and to all those other folks who, in one way or another, have given time whenever possible.

Finally, to the students of Mountview, thank you. I find young adolescents to be vibrant, energetic, passionate, funny, interesting young people. When one works with young people for a lifetime, one cannot possibly get old. My students have been the most enjoyable part of my professional life and I'll treasure the experience forever.

Have a great summer.  
Preston A. Shaw

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Graphics Exhibit

A Selection of Visual Art and Graphic Arts Work

Chosen from Grades 6, 7<sup>t</sup> & 8

Presented on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> only  
in the Mountview Middle School Gym

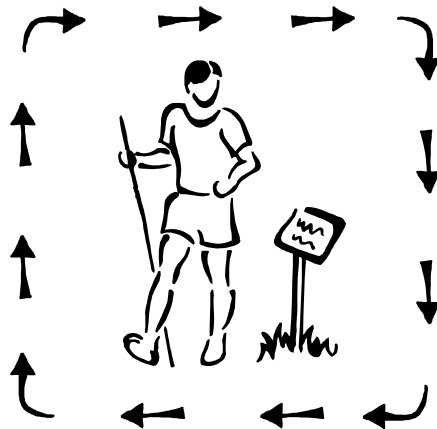
from 6:00-9:00 pm



The exhibit is in conjunction with the  
music concerts on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>  
Music and Art meet again!

## ***A work in progress***

A transformation is underway in the woods behind Mountview. Mountview is very lucky to have our own Boy Scout, Liam O'Brien, who will be transforming our existing running trails and creating a new trail as part of his Eagle Scout project. On May 26, Liam led an eager group of student council members equipped with cutting shears, rakes and trash bags onto one of the existing running trails to do a much needed post ice storm clean up. Next on his list is to employ the efforts of the student council and his Boy Scout Troop to blaze a new nature trail which will include the creation of an outdoor classroom complete with benches for students to sit. This project will take several years, however, having the opportunity to experience Mountview's ecology outside the classroom walls is a project worth waiting for.



## ***Grade 6 Science***

On Friday May 28, 2010 the traveling program of the Boston Museum of Science presented Cryogenics: Heat and Temperature to the 6th grade. This program illustrated core ideas about heat energy and transfer. Through live demonstration, students learned the difference between the three main mechanisms of heat transfer: conduction, convection, and radiation. Students explored the definitions of heat and temperature, discovered that all elements have specific melting and boiling points, and saw that light, or even water, can incinerate a piece of paper!

### **Message for Parents Regarding the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law and Information Regarding Gifts to School Personnel**

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, the recently enacted Ethic's Reform Law, imposed new mandatory education and training requirements for all public employees. As this included all public school employees, questions arose regarding gifts. The Ethics Commission established the following parameters:

- Employees may receive gifts valued at less than \$50, either from an individual or from a group.
- Employees may receive either cash, gift cards/gift certificates in amounts less than \$50, either from an individual or from a group, provided that the employee completes a *Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest* form which would be forwarded to the building Principal, then on to the Superintendent of Schools.
- Gifts that are intended for the purposes of supplementing the classroom, school, or District, may be accepted in any amount. The policies regarding gifts to the District must be followed in accepting these gifts.

### **Congratulations!**

Eighth graders MacKenzie Brandes and Mitchell Axelson have been selected by their teachers as Mountview Middle School's Scholar-Leaders for 2010.

MacKenzie and Mitchell, and their families were the honored guests of the New England League of Middle Schools at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholar-Leader Awards Dinner at the DCU Center in Worcester on the evening of May 27. They joined many other eighth grade students from the middle schools across the Commonwealth.

Our students were selected on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates academic achievement
- Provides service to classmates and school
- Is a positive role model for peers
- Demonstrates integrity, honesty, self-discipline, and courage
- Shows leadership in the classroom and school activities
- Shows respect for self and others
- Is dependable and well-organized in any responsibility undertaken
- Exemplifies desirable qualities of character and integrity

In addition to being excellent students in the classroom and outstanding role models for other kids, each has been active in a number of school activities. MacKenzie has been a member of the National Junior Honor Society. She has participated as a volunteer for Kids in the Community, and has been a mentor in our Peer-2-Peer program. This year she played on the field hockey and softball teams. Mitch played on the soccer team in the fall and has been a member of the JV track team. He has also been a Peer-2-Peer mentor and plays clarinet in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band.

### *Field Day 2010*

The NJHS would like to hold its last Diversity Day outdoors as a school-wide field day! NJHS members will be responsible for running activities that are part of specific cultures as our final celebration of Acceptance & Diversity! The Field Day is scheduled for Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> with a rain “pre-date” of June 10<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to bring the following for the Field Day: sunscreen, a hat, and a water bottle, as most of the festivities will be outdoors. Additionally, students should wear clothing and shoes that would be appropriate for gym class (while still meeting dress code). We are looking for parental support. We’d like to keep Gatorade coolers filled with water available for water bottle refills. If you have one you’d like to let us use for the day, you can drop it off in the office the morning of the Field Day (labeled with your name and phone number), and you can then pick it up after school. Additionally, we would be interested in parental supervision. If you are interested and have a CORI on record, please contact NJHS advisor Jennifer Tellier at: [jennifer\\_tellier@wrsd.net](mailto:jennifer_tellier@wrsd.net).

#### Spots Still Available in New Summer Programs

8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher Jennifer Tellier is offering two PTA sponsored programs over the course of the summer: a book club and a writing club. Each club will meet on Friday mornings for one hour, and will consist of ten to thirty middle school students. Although there is no cost to the student, participants are expected to bring their own supplies and attend meetings regularly. All Mountview students received registration forms in their ELA classes last week, and twenty of the thirty spots have been filled; so, if you are still interested, be sure to submit your form to room 314 ASAP. Any questions can be sent to [jennifer\\_tellier@wrsd.net](mailto:jennifer_tellier@wrsd.net).

### **Eighth Graders Learn about Holocaust through Interdisciplinary Unit**

The eighth grade World History and Language Arts classes are learning about the Holocaust through history lessons, literature circles and several guest speakers, including two exchange students from Israel, and community members who have interest and expertise in the area of Holocaust studies. The unit will culminate with a final memorial project, during which students will design and build a memorial that commemorates some aspect of the unit. These memorials will be on display at Mountview for students to view during the school’s Diversity Day, and some will also be moved to the Jewish Community Center in Worcester to display to the greater community later this month. An aspect of the eighth grade class trip will also include a visit to the Holocaust Memorial in Boston.

#### ***From the Cafeteria Manager.....***

I would like to thank everyone who is supporting our hot lunch program. Hopefully we will see you all again in September. We are asking that all IOU’s be paid as soon as possible. **After Memorial Day, there will be no further IOU’s for this year.** Please be sure that your children have their lunch money each day!. Again, thank you and have a great summer!!!

## Important Dates

|                       |  |                        |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| June 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Baseball/Softball at Ayer<br>Grade 6 Blue Band & Chorus Concert                  | 3:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Grade 6 Gold Band & Chorus Concert   | 7:00 p.m.              |
| June 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Student Council Dance  | 7:00 p.m.              |
| June 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Art & Graphics Exhibit<br>Grade 8 Gold Band & Chorus Concert                     | 6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | Art & Graphics Exhibit<br>Grade 7/8 Wind Ensemble<br>Grade 8 Blue Chorus Concert | 6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| June 14 <sup>th</sup> | Grade 6 Field Trip Camp Harrington   | 8:45 a.m.              |
| June 15 <sup>th</sup> | Grade 8 Field Trip to Boston<br>(Return around 6:30 p.m.)                        | 8:20 a.m.              |
| June 16 <sup>th</sup> | Grade 8 Semi-Formal  | 7:00 p.m.              |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> | Grade 8 Graduation at WRHS   | 6:00 p.m.              |
| June 18 <sup>th</sup> | Last Day of School Half-Day!!!!!!  | 11:45 a.m.             |

**Have a great Summer!!!!!**