CORVALLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS
The Week of March 8th

Thought for the week:
“Work saves us from three great evils: boredom, vice and need.
Voltaire, 1694-1778
French writer, poet and philosopher

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CRT testing continues Wednesday and Thursday this week. Please be sure your student arrives on time to school those days and has had a healthy breakfast. A good night’s sleep every night is very beneficial as well. Thank you for talking with your students about the importance of doing their best and taking their CRT tests seriously. We appreciate your support.

Middle School Vocal Concert - Monday, March 15th – 5th/6th Grades. 6:30 p.m. 7th/8th Grades 7:00 p.m. Old Gym Please wear nice “concert” clothing. No jeans!

Tetanus Booster: Reminder, Montana State Law now requires that all students entering 7th grade have a tetanus booster. This applies to all students over 11 who have not had a vaccine containing tetanus in the last 5 years. We need documentation of this vaccine in the office before the first day of school next fall.

From the Library:
✓ Four-volume sets of the red-hot series “Percy Jackson and the Olympians” are on sale through the library for $14/set. Parents sending checks to school to order a set of these books (in paperback) should make them out to “Scholastic.” Contact Helen Eden, librarian, you have any questions.

✓ Middle school students are currently reading, reading, reading to earn those free tickets to Silverwood, an amusement park near Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Reading contracts for students are due on Wednesday, March 31st. Contact Helen Eden, librarian, you have any questions.

✓ Fifth grade students have just completed their animal reports, and to replenish our vertical files, the middle school library can always use your donations of animal-oriented magazines, including National Geographic, Smithsonian, National Wildlife, and hunting and fishing magazines. Contact Helen Eden, librarian, you have any questions.
**Strings Concert**: The 5th Grade Strings Concert will be on Tuesday, March 23. A-day students need to report to the strings room at 6:15 pm; B-day students report at 6:40 pm. Nice school clothes are the dress for the students. If you have a schedule conflict, (i.e. sports practice, dance lessons, etc) please make arrangements with the coaches/teachers so students can attend their concert – it is a graded performance. Questions: contact Mrs. Ilgenfritz at 961-3007.

**Motivating Your Reluctant Teen**: Parent Education Nights with Jackie Johnson-Wirth.
For more info or to register Call Jenell Semple at 961-3007
March 23rd & 24th
See our flyer attached.

**2011 Spring Break Trip to France Offered**:  
Paris, Loire Valley Castles, Normandy & D-Day Beaches  
April 15 – April 23 (Spring Break), 2011  
Explorica Educational Tours led by Mr. Clairmont

Have you ever wanted to see the Eiffel Tower and the Mona Lisa? Have you ever wanted to visit and explore beautiful cathedrals, castles, medieval sites & the D-Day beaches? This will be the 7th Tour taken by CMS to Europe. To all students and their families interested in traveling to France next Spring Break 2011, please contact Mr. Craig Clairmont at the Middle School at 961-3007 or home at 363-0238. You may also e-mail Monsieur Clairmont at craigc@corvallis.k12.mt.us for more information. Merci beaucoup! Check out Mr. Clairmont’s French website for a detailed itinerary: [http://www.corvallis.k12.mt.us/middle/staff/craigc/french/index.htm](http://www.corvallis.k12.mt.us/middle/staff/craigc/french/index.htm)  
(See attached flyer)

**Cell Phone Recycling Program**: The Middle School French Club is collecting old, functional cell phones as a fundraiser for their trip to France. Please bring them to the drop box in Mr. Clairmont’s room #15. Not only will you be recycling but you will also be contributing to the French Club’s efforts for their trip to France. Thank you for your support.

**Thank you** to all the families who supported fifth and sixth grade movie night. We collected $324 in donations which will go towards helping victims of the Haitian earthquake. A special thank you to all the parents who baked goods for the concession stand and gave their time and energy. It was a wonderful evening.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**: (not school sponsored)

**Health Insurance for Children:**
FYI: There is no longer a CHIP program in Montana. It has been expanded to a new program called Healthy Montana Kids. The income to qualify is actually quite high. Follow the link to the State’s web site. http://hmk.mt.gov/aboutmk.shtml

ACADEMIC NEWS:

ART:
5th Grade Art: The fifth graders have begun their watercolor paintings of waterfowl and other wildlife. We are hoping to submit some of their paintings to the annual Junior Duck Stamp competition coming up this month! Parents: your child may be bringing home a Duck Stamp Entry Form, which requires your signature. Can you please sign it in the appropriate space and send it back with your child this week. The deadline for entries is March 15th. Thank you so much! Any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs. Leverton.
6th Grade Art: This week the sixth graders finished up their collages. Some students were gone throughout the week and checked out materials to take over the weekend. They will begin a brand new project this week!
7th Grade Art Enhancement: The work on the sculpture heads are coming to a close. After testing this week, I look forward to starting another fun and brand new project.
7th Grade Art: The seventh graders prints were due this week and we began learning about 1 point perspective.
8th Grade Art: Both classes are finishing up their clay pieces. We will learn about ink drawing, water color, and tattoos in the class periods to come!

5TH GRADE
CRT testing is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Please be sure your student arrives on time to school those days and has had a healthy breakfast. A good night’s sleep every night is very beneficial as well. Thank you for talking with your students about the importance of doing their best and taking their CRT tests seriously. We appreciate your support.

Social Studies: For the week of March 8th, we will be studying the effect of early European explorers on the Aztec s and Incas. We will also visit the Spanish movement into North America, which created some of the first conflicts between Native Americans and Europeans. Hernando Cortes and Hernando De Soto are two of the many figures to be explored in this week’s lessons.

Advanced Math: Students will be completing a metric CD design project, and working through chapter 9 on geometry.

Extended Studies: Students are finishing up a unit on working together and showing mutual respect in preparation for the jet-toy project which requires being part of a design team.

6TH GRADE
**6th Grade News:** CRT testing is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Please be sure your student arrives on time to school those days and has had a healthy breakfast. A good night’s sleep every night is very beneficial as well. Thank you for talking with your students about the importance of doing their best and taking their CRT tests seriously. We appreciate your support.

**Math:** We will be having fun constructing geometric shapes and perhaps creating some awesome tessellations. This will be an extension of the transformations we study on coordinate planes.

**Science:** We are just beginning the study of magnetism. Part of the study will be learning where the North Star is in the night sky. The students will also be learning other constellations in the sky. After exploring magnetism, we will be moving on to light and sound.

**Language Arts:** We will be finishing two poems during TEAM time this week. We will be watching the video of the novel, “Alan and Naomi”, discussing the differences that can occur when a novel becomes a movie.

**Social Studies:** To finish up our unit on China, this week students will be making kites. Ask your student to tell you about the significance of kites in Ancient China and what design they are creating on their kites!

**Advanced Math:** Students will be completing a metric CD design project, and working through chapter 9 on Geometry or pretesting for 8th grade Algebra.

**Extended Studies:** Students are building simple machines using K’Nex. They are also studying pre-SAT vocabulary words. Warm-ups review metric system conversions.

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**7th Grade**

**Language Arts:** The CRT tests are this week and each class will meet only one time. This will allow students to start writing their own versions of Cinderella stories.

**Jessop Math:** Math- A 5/6, B-5/6 & B-7/8 During classes this week students will have time to check grades, make up any zero’s, re-do any assignment and turn in extra credit. After this week, there should be NO reason students don’t have at least a “C”. Please encourage them to use this time wisely as I told them it is a “gift” from me! 😊

**Chaffin Math:** A1/2 Monday, we will prepare for CRT’s. Encourage your kids to do their best! Friday we will begin learning about mixed numbers and improper fractions in lesson 4.6. A5/6, B5/6 & B7/8 will finish Chapter 5 tests and catch up on missed work this week.

**Science:** This week in science we will be watching “Planet Earth: Caves” and discussing how Archeabacteria living in caves can start a non-photosynthetic food web. This will lead to our study of viruses and the two kingdoms of life: Archeabacteria and Eubacteria.

**Reading:** Due to CRT testing this week, students will not be reading much from *Shadow Spinner*. When we do have the opportunity to read we will continue our focus on literary elements and increasing reading fluency through active listening.

**Computers:** We will practice words with commonly used letter combinations such as: oil, ower, our & oy. We will also learn to use Google’s “I’m Feeling Lucky” to find “Alan Cooper’s Homonyms” web site with 1,529 homonyms. We will create a table
with homonyms from our Type to Learn Mission #9; copy/paste the definitions from the site; and then create our own sentences to show we know the meanings.

**Social Studies:** This week we continue to examine the events that led to clashes between cultures in Montana and also the eventual designation of Montana as a territory.

**Pre-Algebra:** We will only have class once this week due to the CRTs. On Thursday, students will need to turn in their Lesson 13.6 and 13.7 Worksheets. We will create tessellation murals using translations of geometric figures.

**Robotics:** All groups will be working on completing the line running challenge this week.

**Extended Studies:** We will be starting a new unit of study this week! Students will have time in class to brainstorm and make a collaborative agreement on our next extended studies project.

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**8th GRADE**

The 8th grade **Promotion ceremony** will be from **6:00-7:00 PM** on June 3rd. The “time” has been changed because the high school senior awards ceremony is scheduled that same evening and we need to share the big gym!!

**Language Arts:** We will have Reading CRT’s on Tues & part of Wed. Ask your students about some techniques we have been practicing like: visualizing what we read, underlining important details & using UTEC when we write Constructed Responses. During our Lang Arts classes this week, we will be watching some BBC versions of Sherlock Holmes Mysteries. We will be acting like CSI Investigators as we watch these.

**Math:** During the CRT Week, all of the classes will work on a Geometry Design Project. The students will create a design using six basic shapes: square, rectangle, triangle, circle, trapezoid and parallelogram. Their design must include each shape at least once. They then will measure and label their designs to the nearest tenth of a centimeter. Using their measurements, the students will calculate the area and perimeter of each component of their design, and the total area of their design.

One of our Parent Volunteer’s, Jane Murphy, is available to tutor students for Math Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the 7th and 8th grade lunch and recess periods. She is available to work with students from 11:25 to 12:05. Please let Mrs. Stephani know if you are interested in having Ms. Murphy work with your student (phone: 961-3007, email: lindas@corvallis.k12.mt.us).

**Science:** This week in science, we’ll finish up the Mineral Unit test, then we’ll start the Rock Unit…and of course, CRTs!

**Social Studies:** When we are not taking the CRT test we will be watching the film *Separate but Equal.*

**Reading:** This week students will be connecting a classic poem to a contemporary song and analyzing them for qualities of imagery. This will be our only focus this week as students will also be taking CRT tests.

**Computers:** We will do some “Speed Clinics” to improve our typing speed. We may also start looking at the strengths and weaknesses of some of the major Internet Search Engines.
Robotics: All groups will be working on completing the line running challenge this week.

Extended Studies: The third (and final) round of our climate change debates begins this week.

2011 Spring Break Trip to France Offered
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http://www.corvallis.k12.mt.us/middle/staff/craigc/french/index.htm

Trip Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip length</th>
<th>9 days: April 15 – April 23, 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financing</td>
<td>Some Fundraisers, on-line payments, loan payment options or cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations</td>
<td>2-3 star hotels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eligible Travelers</td>
<td>Corvallis Middle School Students and immediate family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prices (minimum 6 to go for the group rate)</td>
<td>Total price: estimated $2455 student or $2790 adult (23 and older) which includes program fees, departure tax &amp; registration fees. The only two items <strong>NOT</strong> included are lunch (on your own to explore French cuisine) and your spending money (estimated around $300 minimum) These prices are good until April 1, 2010.</td>
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| All Prices include  | • Round-trip airfare  
|                    | • 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms  
|                    | • Complete European breakfast and dinner daily  
|                    | • Full-time bilingual Explorica Tour Director  
|                    | • 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide in Paris  
|                    | • 4+ sightseeing tours led by the Tour Director  
|                    | • 1 walking tour of Paris  
|                    | • 8 visits to special attractions: Notre Dame Cathedral, Louvre Museum, Chartres Cathedral, Loire Valley Castles, St. Malo seaport, Mont Saint Michel, D-Day beaches, Rouen with Joan of Arc sites  
|                    | • Seine River cruise through Paris  |
| Places to go        | • Day 1: Corvallis to Paris  
|                    | • Day 2-3: Paris  
|                    | • Day 4-5: Chartres Cathedral & Loire Valley Castles  
|                    | • Day 6-8: Normandy & D-Day Beaches  
|                    | • Day 9: Departure for home from Paris  |
SPRING BREAK TRIP TO FRANCE

Student Name___________________________________________________

_____yes, I would like to travel to France. Please deliver an Application to apply:
   Phone number________________________________

_____Contact me for more information on the program.
   Phone number________________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________________________

Parent or Guardian Names: ________________________________