

Dear Parents,

I would like to congratulate our Star Students for the month of December: Johnny Li, Jonah Jammal, Roman Sergeev, Siena Christo, Christina Thorne, Juliana Sosa, Mason Dinardi, Julia Ghergurovich, and Aelyn LeVesque.

Star Students are nominated by any staff member who recognizes a student performing an act of kindness toward another student or staff member.

Student ID's

All students have been issued new student ID's. We ask parents to work with us to make sure that the student ID's are worn in school every day. The new ID will be bar coded for students to use at lunch. In addition, we have provided three phone numbers on the back of the ID card, our school number in case the card is lost, a Samaritan Suicide Prevention Hotline and a Substance Abuse Hotline. These phone numbers are listed to provide students and parents any additional supports that may be required.

FOOD DRIVE

Congratulations to our middle school community for donating 167 boxes of food to our local food pantry. The homeroom that brought in the most food was Mr. Crowe's seventh grade homeroom 203. Mr. Crowe's students collected 1,240 items. Ms. Turnbull room 255 and Ms. Peterson 245 tied in grade six. In grade five team Viking and team Phoenix tied. The 8th grade combined their efforts and donated 1,178 items. Special thanks to Dilan Patel, Wyatt Romanowski, Kelly Auterio, Rheetika Bhagadia, Nicole DiSouza, Dayanara Del Rosario, Ty Baker, Julian Jules, Maddie DeLeo and Connor Day. These students packaged up and delivered the food to the food pantry located in the basement of the First Congregationalist Church in Stoneham.

Winter Concert

In June of last school year, the music department experimented with separating the choral and instrumental Spring Concerts. The Chorus performed first, and the Band (and other instrumental ensembles) performed the next night. The experiment was deemed a great success, for it removed all the stress of making the difficult transition between the different performing groups, and meant that parents and their children could go home at an earlier hour. The practice of separating the concerts has now been officially adopted, which means that the concerts coming up in the New Year will be the first Winter Concerts in which the choral students and instrumental students will perform on different nights. As before, the Chorus will perform first (the theme is "A Night At The Opera"), on Tuesday, January 14, and the Concert Band, the Jazz Band, and the Flute Ensemble will perform two nights later, on Thursday, January 16. Both concerts will be held in the Cafeteria, beginning at 7:00 PM. Please come and support the kids who have worked very hard to prepare their music for your enjoyment. Thank you

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to the Stoneham Central Middle School! During the week of January 27th, the annual book fair will be held in the library. Each grade will have a dedicated day for shopping:

- Tuesday, January 28th: Grade 5
- Wednesday, January 29th: Grade 6
- Thursday, January 30th: Grade 7
- Friday, January 31st: Grade 8

The book fair will also be open after school until 3:15 for any student who wishes to stop by!

Additional features available this year:

- Parents can set up an **eWallet** for their students as early as two weeks before the book fair begins. This is a secure, cash-free, digital payment option that allows parents to create an account for their students and set a spending limit.
- Beginning 5 days before the fair and open for a total of 14 days, parents and students can order online while still supporting their school! Links to online ordering will be available through the book fair website.

More information on these features, including links, will be available before the book fair in January. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our librarian and book fair chairperson, Mr. Taber.

Grade 5 News

Team Viking in Grade 5 with Ms. Verrocchi, teamed up with our technology coach Mr. Serino to complete a Hyperslides for the Colonial America Unit in Social Studies. Students then presented in the Library (thank you Mr. Taber and Mrs. Bayer) last week where fellow peers and staff members were invited to visit each colony along their walk, viewing and commenting on each project!

Math Team News

The math team competed in Wakefield, they kept their score at 48 with harder problems, very impressive! Konstantina Hantzia, Jason Wong, and Ariela Gjerji were our top scorers in the mystery round while Zhenkang Wu, Pulkit Saini and Arnav Saini were our top scorers in the algebra round. Kira Kozlemiakina, Sam Campbell, and Latisha Chopra helped score points in number theory and arithmetic, and everyone worked together to score eight points for Stoneham in the team round. Way to go Stoneham math team for our fifth place finish and representing Stoneham. The math team is sponsored by StonehamBank.

PAJAMA DAY

Congratulations to our middle school students as they raised over two thousand dollars for the PTO Holiday Helpers. The sixth grade was the winning grade as students raised 621 dollars in grade six. On pajama day students are able to wear pajamas if they make a five dollar donation. All donations go to the Holiday Helpers of the PTO. The donations are used to purchase Holiday gifts for Stoneham Middle School families who may be facing hardships during the holidays. Holiday Helpers and the PTO have been helping Stoneham families for more than thirty years.

LIBRARY

The Central Middle School library is open to all students! We offer a range of materials, from nonfiction books and online databases to help your students with their school work, to a collection of fiction and graphic novels for your child's pleasure reading. There's also work space and a tech lab where classes come during the day to receive instruction on how to best use the library's resources.

Homework Club: The library will be hosting an afternoon homework club for students of all grades! Encourage your children to take advantage of the library's space and resources to get class work done, including desktop computers that can be used to print assignments. The homework club will meet every Tuesday and Thursday in the library from 2:50pm to 3:20pm, starting the first week of October.

Below you will find a description of our clubs and the times they will meet.

Video Explorers	Mr. Daniels	Mondays 2:45-3:45
Tennis	Mr. Beltram	Mondays 2:50-3:50
Walking Club	Mrs. Belanger	Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Chess Club	Mr. Havican	Tuesdays 2:45-3:45
Jazz	Mr. Simboski	Tuesdays 3:00-4:00
Math Team	Mr. Drago	Thursdays 2:45-3:45
Band	Mr. Simboski	Thursdays 3:00-4:00
Flute	Ms. Sousa	Thursdays 3:00-4:00

Video Explorers- This class is 10 weeks from 2:45-4:15. The final class will be at Stoneham TV. Each session is limited to 14 students. Students must commit to all sessions . Please see Mr. Daniels for more details.

Intramurals with the exception of Robotics and Video Explorers will run 2:45-3:45

PLEASE NOTE ON EARLY RELEASE DAYS THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL DISMISS AT 11:45am.

PTO NEWS

The SCMS PTO distributes information, the PTO newsletter, and other school news electronically. If you would like to receive this information please sign up at: <https://www.groupvine.com/stoneham-middle-school/@@apply>.

The PTO could use your assistance at school events and with planning activities this year. There are many ways you can support the SCMS PTO. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us at: <http://stonehampto@gmail.com>

The Stoneham Central Middle School P.T.O. has a Facebook group. This is a closed group for families of current SCMS students. It is managed by the PTO, but open to all current SCMS families: <http://facebook.com/groups/StonehamCentralMiddleSchoolPTO/>

The SCMS PTO would like to thank those who have supported the PTO Donation Drive.

IMPORTANT DATES In January:

Tuesday, January 14th – Winter Chorus Concert 7 PM Cafeteria

Wednesday, January 15th – Grade 5 &6 Social 2:40-4:00

Wednesday, January 15th- PTO MEETING 6:30

Thursday, January 16th- Winter BAND Concert 7 PM cafeteria

Friday, January 17th - EARLY RELEASE 11:45 DISMISSAL LUNCHES WILL NOT BE SERVED

Monday, January 20th - No School Martin Luther King Day

Friday, January 24th – End of Quarter Two

Monday , January 27th- Start of Quarter Three

Tuesday, January 27- Friday, January 31st Book Fair in the library.

Friday, January 31- Report Cards Distributed in School

PLEASE VISIT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE TO ACCESS OUR MONTHLY SCHOOL CALENDAR. DAYS TWO and FIVE ARE DAYS THAT BAND AND CHORUS MEET DURING ACTIVITY PERIOD.

Mrs. Fulmer and I will continue to update you via email throughout the year. Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Christopher Banos

Principal SCMS