



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 4, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 10—
Indianapolis International Festival (Global SLC Only)
- November 11—
Veterans Day Program—8:00am—Gym
- November 23-25—
Thanksgiving Break—
NO SCHOOL

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Welcome back! These first two weeks coming back from Fall Break have been fast and furious!! As you can imagine, there are several topics that I'd like to share with you this week.

- As you know, school attendance is so important for your child. Without your child at school, our teachers are unable to fulfill our core mission to the fullest. As a school we have set a goal of 97% student attendance for the entire school year. As of right now, we are sitting at 96.21% for the year. While that is a very good percentage, I know that we can do better! With the changing of the seasons upon us and the cold/flu season around the corner, I just wanted to share this goal with you in hopes that you would ensure that your child is here every day.
- We have teacher and staff attendance goals too! We know that it is so important for our students to have their teachers facilitating their learning every single day. Of course, as adults, we have responsibilities that sometimes cause us to miss school. Monthly, we recognize a group of teachers who have the best attendance in a given week. So far, this year has been dominated by the staff of the Explorations SLC. They are your three-time attendance award winners!
- The Decatur Middle School PTO is meeting on Monday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the DMS Media Center. Part of our meeting that evening will be a presentation by our Guidance Director, Mrs. Lori Voss. Mrs. Voss will be presenting on the different diploma tracks that are offered in high school. It certainly is not too early to be thinking about that. We hope to see many of you here on Monday evening!
- Since many of us live in the digital world, this isn't as big of a deal as it used to be, BUT on Sunday, November 6 our clocks fall back one hour. So, if you have an alarm clock that doesn't automatically change, be sure to move your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

Have a great weekend!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal



The core mission of this school is the creation of highly engaging activities, materials, and settings for learning that are too good—too interesting—for students to resist AND increases student achievement.

The MSD of Decatur Township is *Student Invested, Community Connected*. We prioritize *Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service*, fostering a support system for our families.

Apex SLC News

7th Grade

Since returning from Fall Break, the 7th grade APEX students have been working hard to wrap up their Consider Your Culture project. Students are using the Book Creator app on their iPads to write and design a book for elementary students. Their task is to incorporate parts of culture from an Asian or African country into an engaging, educational story. We were fortunate enough to have Kamal Kaur (originally from India) and Katrina Hsu (from Vietnam and

discussed China) talk to the students about their experiences and help ensure that cultural accuracy of our students' books.

8th Grade

Learners are examining current issues facing the nation in our project Advocating an Amendment. They are asked to answer the question, "What should be the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?" As they are uncovering the way that the U.S. was founded and

the way that it functions today, students are also researching some current controversial political issues. They will soon select an issue that they believe is the most important and will create a speed pitching their proposal for the 28th Amendment. The learners with the top speeches will present in front of a special panel that includes members from the Indiana Congress, Indianapolis City-County Council, and other legal experts.

Explorations SLC News

Explorations teachers have had the highest attendance at DMS for the third month in a row. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

Students in Ms. Lay's 7th grade Global Studies classes have been learning about various governments and the procedures that are in place to determine leaders or elected officials within these governments.

8th grad ELA students have been experiencing *Tune Tuesday* in Ms. Basham's class. Each Tuesday, she selects a song to share with her students. In groups, students analyze lyrics of the tune to cite evidence that supports the point of view from which the song is written. Students participate in other ELA skill-based activities incorporating the selected song each Tuesday. The students are exposed to all music genres from various decades. Ask your 8th grader about his/her favorite Tune Tuesday song!



Student's in Mrs. Rudisill's Health classes are learning about the effects of bullying. They have shared their most impactful learning on poster boards. These poster boards will be displayed throughout our building.



iTime:

Explorations students have activated their Gagle email accounts. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who signed and returned permission slips to allow your child the opportunity to learn how to responsibly use an email account. Keep in mind, these accounts are monitored. Students will be using their email accounts to communicate with professionals regarding iTime projects. Some students have already taken advantage of this opportunity to contact experts

seeking suggestions for or help with their projects. Students are really enjoying iTime!

Congratulations to Mr. Manning and Mrs. Considine (Imagine SLC teacher) for earning a Decatur Township Education Fund grant. These two teachers applied for the grant money to help fund some needs for their Robotics Club. We are excited to see what students accomplish in the Robotics Club!



Follow us on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS to see daily activities that occur in Explorations classes.

Sign up for Remind to receive regular text message notifications about upcoming Explorations events:

* 7th Grade Explorations Families:
Text @7exp1617 to 81010

* 8th Grade Explorations Families:
Text @8ex1617 to 81010

Global SLC News

On Tuesday, November 1, 8th grade Global students volunteered alongside DCHS Choice Academy students for the Million Meal Marathon at Lucas Oil Stadium. Together, our Decatur students packaged 45,360 meals for food insecure Hoosier families! One lucky group even got to work alongside Colts safety Matthias Farley! Students demonstrated tremendous teamwork and represented Decatur well. Interested in they type of work students performed? Check out the following video clip: <https://vimeo.com/175424455>.



During 2nd quarter IDEA Time, students will delve deeper into the issue of hunger in order to discover how it affects our student population. They will, in turn, analyze existing programs in order to propose solutions that will work. Service-learning in action!

In Global social studies classes, students are objectively researching the presidential candidates in order to determine which candidate would best represent them. They are also learning about the election process along the way. With the election less than a week away, who would win if Global students voted? You'll have to



wait and see!

On Monday, November 7, 7th grade Global students will have a chance to meet with Aliya Wishner, Public Information Office for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Students will learn about Indianapolis' current sustainability efforts before researching alternatives during 2nd quarter IDEA Time. In Global, we encourage students to analyze real-world problems in order to propose real-world solutions—that's exactly what our 7th grade students and teachers are doing!

Looking ahead, on Thursday, November 10, the entire Global SLC will be attending the 40th annual 2016 Indy International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The mission of the International Festival is to provide students and educators with unique cultural and educational experiences that they might never otherwise experience. Students will be able to explore the sights, sounds, and even tastes of countries from around the world! Food and merchandise are available for purchase but are not required.



Imagine SLC News

This edition of our Imagine Newsletter will highlight our Social Studies teacher's in Imagine: Mrs. Ennis, 7th Grade Global Studies, and Mrs. Considine, 8th Grade American History!

Students in Mrs. Ennis' Global Studies classes are utilizing DMS technology. They are taking notes on major governments of the world from PowerPoint presentations on Canvas. Global Studies' students have also been sharing a lot of thought-provoking discussions, comparing and contrasting the United States government with other countries' constitutional rights which leads us nicely into next week's general election unit. Governments, such as North Korea's Dictatorship and China's Communist State have opened the student's eyes about the privileges they have.

Our U.S. History class just kicked off our unit on the American Revolutionary War. To help students comprehend the concept of "No Taxation without Representation" students took part in a taxation simulation. One student was selected at random to play the role of the British King. Six other students were members of the British Parliament and three were the king's dutiful tax collectors. The remaining students were American colonists given 14 pieces of candy. However, one by one, Parliament declared taxes on the poor colonists which resulted in them losing pieces of candy to the tax collectors, which were then passed on to the king. In the end, the King walked away with well over 30 pieces while many of the colonists were left with less than five. The irritation and frustration felt by the students playing colonists helped them to understand these same feelings in the American colonists just prior to the Revolutionary War.

As a reminder, don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@ImagineDms](https://twitter.com/ImagineDms) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dmsimagine/> to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

College Corner

You and your child need to start planning for college no later than middle school. In each of the newsletters, we will provide you with information to help begin the journey of college and career readiness.

Most U.S. parents expect their kids to go to college, and most students have the same goal. But they are not necessarily taking the practical steps to get there.

A national survey released this year by Harris Interactive found that while 92% of 7th and 8th graders said they were likely to attend college, 68% said they had little to no information about which classes to take to prepare for it.

Counselors, colleges and organizations like the National Association of College Admission Counseling and ACT emphasize that parents should start planning for college no later than middle school. Their reasoning is simple: Your child needs strong preparation in middle school to take the high school classes that colleges require.

You need to do your homework to make college affordable for your family. There are lots of options to cut college costs—scholarships, low-interest loans, work-study, spending the first two years at a community college—but it takes time to research them and get the information you need to meet application deadlines.

College planning is important for all families, whether parents attended college or not. Rose Fabiszak, director of the College Board's program called College Ed, notes, "The college process has changed, even from four years ago—the forms have changed, there are web sites where you child can take a virtual tour of a college."

Over the next several newsletters, we will be sharing ideas that can help you and your child's preparation for college and career.

Here is step one that you can take to jumpstart your planning:

Talk About College

As a parent, your expectations have a huge influence on what your child expects of herself, even if she doesn't want you to know it. You can help her envision her future at a time when the social anxieties and opportunities of middle school loom larger than life after high school. This doesn't mean having an "I expect you to go to Harvard" conversation. Talk to your child about her interests, how they might translate into a college major and career.

Your student has access to Naviance. This platform helps students explore careers and post-secondary education options. Parents also have access to Naviance. If you would like login information, please feel free to contact your child's counselor at 317-856-5274 for more information. It's a great resource to help you start exploring careers together with your child and get the conversation going.

It's not too early for you and your child to visit a college so she can begin to picture herself there. Fabiszak tells the story of her own daughter's early visits to an out-of-state college that sounded like a great match. It wasn't. The visit helped Fabiszak's daughter realize she wanted to stay closer to home, which she did, commuting to a college in her city.

"You have to find a place that's comfortable," Fabiszak said. "She changed her mind. Because we encouraged her early, she had a chance to see what fit."

It is the Board's commitment to provide a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. Any individual who believes a student has been or is the victim of discrimination, bullying, or harassment should report the situation to the building principal or designee or complete the School District's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying report form, which is available online at www.msddecatur.k12.in.us.



Raffle Winners

At this year's Registration Days, we had a raffle drawing for \$50 Visa Gift Cards from the PTO to those parents who completed their registration.

This year's winners are:

- * Wanda Carroll
- * Nina Nunez
- * Todd Haynes
- * Trudi Bain

Winners must claim their prize in person with Donna Graham, Treasurer. Prizes must be claimed in person with a valid photo ID.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 6:30pm—PTO Meeting—Media Center	8	9	10 5:15pm/6:30pm—7/8 Boys Basketball @ Beech Grove	11 8:00am—Veterans Day Program—Gymnasium	12
14	15	16	17 5:30pm/6:45pm—7 A/B Boys Basketball @ Franklin Community 5:15pm/6:30pm—8 A/B Boys Basketball vs. Franklin Community @ DMS	18	19 9:00am/11:30am—7th Boys Basketball— Plainfield Classic @ Avon North 10:15am/12:45pm—8th Boys Basketball— Plainfield Classic @ Avon North

Santa at The Log Cabin

(5106 S. High School Rd, Across from Valley Mills Elem)

Saturday Dec. 10th 12-4pm / 6-8pm
Sunday Dec. 11th 12-5pm

Saturday Dec. 17th 12-4pm / 6-8pm
Sunday Dec. 18th 12-5pm

Framed Picture with Santa \$5
Warm, fresh cookies \$1
Hot chocolate \$1
Hand-painted ornaments \$1



Box Tops for Education

We are now collecting Box Tops for Education! The Box Tops Contest starts now & continues until Thanksgiving break. The winning Star class may choose pizza or donuts. Also 1st & 2nd place Star classes may choose an “Athletic Wear” day with Hats & Sweats or a Free Technology Lunch Pass.

All proceeds go directly back to students with treats for ISTEP etc.

Bring in those Box Tops!

