



# The Scot Times

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## *Dear Parents,*

The Life Principles that our students and faculty have focused on recently are “thankfulness” and “giving”, and what better time to think of these qualities? We all have much to be thankful for and an attitude of gratitude goes far in making us happier people. This same gratitude can make the joy of giving even more rewarding during the holiday season.

As a school, MacArthur Middle School is grateful for the outstanding people who teach our children every day. In particular, we want to thank Mrs. Shelby Lippold, Mrs. Jennifer Cheek, Mrs. Michelle Cruz, and Dr. Jeff Seright for their selfless dedication to our students. These wonderful individuals will be leaving us at the end of the semester, either through retirement or relocation, and MMS is a better place because of their service. We wish them the best and pray they know how much they will be missed.

One of our goals this time of year is to help our students look outside themselves and realize how rewarding giving to and helping others can be. Our annual canned food drive for the Lawton Food Bank, which began November 30 and runs through December 13, is one way to meet this goal. Additionally, some students will get up close and personal experience as they travel to the Food Bank to help store the items.

As the semester draws to a close, you should be aware that semester tests will take place the week of Dec. 12-16. We also hope you will join us on Dec. 6, for our band concert and Dec. 9, for our vocal music concert as we celebrate the Christmas season. Both performances begin at 7 p.m.

Congratulations to BIG MAC'S Highlander football team for their outstanding season and Class 5A runner-up finish this year. We know these young men have been working hard for many years to reach a “championship” level, and we are very proud of them. Once again, our students show that “Hard work, Pays off!”

We thank you for supporting the teachers and staff of MMS. Working with the students and families of MacArthur Middle School is a blessing. We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

*Mark Mattingly*

## Canned food drive runs through Dec. 13

MacArthur Middle School's annual effort to assist the Lawton Food Bank continues this month with the school-wide canned food drive. The effort, which accounts for a high percentage of the total donations received by the local organization each year, began Nov. 30, and continues through Dec. 13.

Students are seeking donations for the program during this time, with classroom and grade-level competitions providing incentive to gather as much food as possible to help this worthwhile charity.

MMS continues to be one of Lawton Food Bank's largest contributors through the generosity of our students, parents and staff. Please consider donating to help this drive be successful once again this year!



*Eighth grader Yoshika Thomas assists MMS teacher Michael Anderson at a balloon-animal booth at this year's Fall Fest. The annual event, which serves as a school-wide fundraiser, provided lots of entertainment and games for children of all ages last month and raised nearly \$1,500 for school programs and initiatives.*

## Semester test week is Dec. 12-16

Students and parents are reminded that semester tests will take place during the week of Dec. 12-16. Specific test schedules may differ among grade levels and teams. Please check with your child's teachers if you have any specific questions regarding semester tests and encourage students to consult with teachers regarding their specific schedule for the week.

Semester tests represent a significant portion of a student's overall grade for the semester in each class. Please be sure that your student takes steps to adequately prepare for each exam and comes to school each day that week rested and ready to do their best. Hard work pays off!

## MMS well-represented in All-Region band

Several members of the MMS band recently were selected to the Southwestern Oklahoma Band Directors Association All-Region Band.

Congratulations to MMS seventh graders **Kaitlin Luzanta, Kerra Meraz, Nicholas Howard, Ben Bolin and Ian Haddox**. Also named All-Region were MMS eighth graders **Hannah Hamill, Whitney Martin, Lauren Guthridge, Jennifer Woehl, Taylor Woehl, Destinie Miranda, Chantalle Mooney, Matthew Shelton, Renee Lusher, Jared Sanders and Maddie Monroe**.

As a reward for their selection, All-

Region performers will participate in a two-day clinic and perform a concert on Feb. 3-4, 2012, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Please join all of our band members on Tuesday, Dec. 6, for the annual Holiday Concert at 7 p.m., in the MMS auditorium. Warmup will begin at 6:30 for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 6:45 for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Band members are asked to wear their band t-shirt. Students also may dress up their outfits with a Santa hat or something similar. The concert will be counted as a grade for band students and attendance is required.



*MMS students (from left) Richard Fletcher, Lindsey Hodges, Matthew Underwood, and Jayda Taylor accept an award for having high spirits and energy during the Great Plains Vo-Tech VEX Robotics competition held recently in Lawton. Five teams representing MacArthur Middle School competed in the event. Three MMS teams made it into the finals and congratulations go out to all of the student participants, as well as club sponsor Michael Anderson.*

## G-T students will take trip back in time

Members of the MMS eighth grade Gifted and Talented program will visit the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Oklahoma Dec. 9. Students will tour the museum and participate in an Archaeology Lab.

Students will experience the process of scientific archaeology from excavation through data collection, identification of artifacts, interpretation and reporting. The “sites” excavated represent five cultures from Oklahoma’s past, ranging from the dramatic mammoth-hunting cultures of 11,000 years ago to the historic Wichita Mountains.

Students also will view some 3,000,000 prehistoric artifacts housed in the Robert E. Bell Collections area, which comprise the largest collection in the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. They also represent Oklahoma’s largest accumulation of evidence for the state’s prehistoric and early historic Native American residents.

Besides Oklahoma, small but notable collections come from elsewhere on the Plains as well as the American Southwest and such countries as Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, and Japan. The Oklahoma materials are organized by specific archeological sites identified in each of Oklahoma’s 77 counties.



## FCA shirts still available

The MMS chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has a limited number of club t-shirts available for purchase. The shirts feature an exclusive MMS logo and cost \$10 each.

For more information or to order yours, please contact club sponsor Jessica Smith in Room 13 or call the MMS office at (580) 353-5111.

## Yearbooks on sale this month

It’s not too late to get your copy of a book sure to inspire lasting memories! Order your MMS yearbook today from Mrs. Traylor in Room 46 or reserve your copy online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com)

Yearbooks ordered at the school by Dec. 16, are \$45.00, but online orders can be made at this price until Jan. 2. The deadline for any personalization is Jan. 2, as well.

Also, don’t forget you can buy an ad to tell your student how much you care and help sponsor a school tradition with a Jostens Personal Yearbook Recognition Ad! Share favorite childhood memories, photos, and more in a format that will be treasured for a lifetime. Cost is \$300 for a full page ad, while ½-page ads are \$160. A ¼ page ad is \$80 and a 1/8 page costs \$40. Contact Mrs. Traylor by e-mail at [ktraylor@lawtonps.org](mailto:ktraylor@lawtonps.org), or call the MMS office at (580)353-5111.

All proceeds from recognition ad sales are used to help support our school’s yearbook program. Create your own ad or let us work with you to create your memory today!

All pictures will be returned to the student.

## SHADES team news.....

Congratulations to the November Students of the Month. These outstanding students have exhibited effort, courtesy, and responsibility in the classroom and hallways. Teacher selections were as follows: Mrs. Koll - **Jennifer Woehl** and **Nicolas Runyan**; Mrs. Barry - **Shane Stoner** and **Kaitlyn Powell**; Mrs. Junghanns - **Kaylyn Smith** and **Bryan Burns**; Mrs. Fremin-Scott - **Lillian Phillips**; Mr. Holland - **Forest Foster** and **Justice Anderson**; Mrs. Roberts - **Taylor Woehl**

Teachers and students would like to thank Papa Johns for the delicious pizza provided for our Student of the Month luncheon. Honorees received certificates, treat bags, and their pictures are displayed on the SHADES bulletin board.

**CANNED FOOD DRIVE** Teachers will take eighth grade students into surrounding neighborhoods to collect canned goods on Tuesday, Dec. 6, and Friday, Dec. 9. Flyers will be delivered prior to our collection dates. Students may sign up in Mr. Holland's room and Mrs. Russell's room to participate. Students and parents are encouraged to donate nonperishable food items until Tuesday, Dec. 13. MacArthur Middle School has always been a large contributor to our local food bank thanks to the generosity of our community.

**SEMESTER EXAMS** Students on the SHADES team will take semester exams on Dec. 13-14. Students will take 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and ½ of 6<sup>th</sup> period tests on Tuesday, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and ½ 6<sup>th</sup> period tests on Wednesday. It is important that students prepare for these exams as they represent 20% of their semester grade.

## Champions news.....

Classes are winding down for the first semester wonderfully on the Champions team. Each class is finishing up units, but please encourage your students that it is still an important time to focus on their school work. These final grades will be great ways to bump their final semester grades.

Please remember students will be taking semester tests in each class throughout the final week of the semester. Each of these tests will be equally important, and it is very crucial that the students receive a full night's rest and a healthy breakfast each morning. The test schedule will be as follows.

- Mon., Dec. 12: Locker cleanout @ 12:45.
- Tues., Dec. 13: 2<sup>nd</sup> hour classes will take semester tests during 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> hour.
- Wed., Dec. 14: 1<sup>st</sup> hours will take semester tests during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> hour.
- Thurs., Dec. 15: 5<sup>th</sup> hours will take semester tests during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> hours.
- Fri., Dec. 16: 6<sup>th</sup> hours will take semester tests during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> hours.

Also, remember district-wide benchmark tests are scheduled for the month of January. Thank you all for a wonderful semester and we hope each of you has an outstanding holiday season!

## EXTREME team update.....

The EXTREME Team would like to announce its November and December Students of the Month. Selected for November were **Taccarra Jones**, **Logan Martin**, **Mary McCoin**, **Jayda Taylor**, **Dakota Weeks** and **Megan Bernal**. December honorees were **Cherish Hornbeck**, **Nathaniel Bearbow**, **Melissa Bates**, **Holly Trevino**, **Kasey Mizell** and **Moises Rosado**.

Congratulations to all of these students who exhibit academic excellence, courtesy and good citizenship both in and out of the classroom. Students were presented an award certificate, gift bag, and their pictures added to the team Wall of Fame. A lunch of pizza, drinks and dessert will be served to these very deserving students.

In other team news, Mrs. Phariss' Algebra I class is writing the equation of a line and math classes are exploring three-dimensional figures.

Mr. DeVilbiss' Science Club students recently had the opportunity to take a field trip to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Students learned about fire ecology at numerous locations from Ranger Deanna Mallow and hiked a trail built in the 1930s that was only recently rediscovered. Science Club will be taking five more trips during the year studying different aspects of the refuge. A letter will be sent home soon regarding ordering the airplane model kits for anyone who wishes to build a plane for the Wright Brothers Challenge.

As service and writing projects during the month of November, Mrs. Dixon's English classes wrote cards, letters and made placemats with their sentiments to the wonderful people who reside at the Lawton/Fort Sill Veteran's Center.

Deadline for submissions to the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest is Dec. 7. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration will be Jan. 13, at McMahon Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

The EXTREME Team teachers wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful 2012!



*MMS students take donations for the Wreaths Across America program at the recent Fall Fest annual all-school fundraiser.*

## JS2S program honors service of veterans

Mac Middle's JS2S and Builder's Club chapters recently completed fundraising efforts in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America program. More than 80 wreaths were sponsored and the clubs would like to express their thanks to all students, parents, family, and staff who participated in honoring our veterans.

As a result of the program's success, the clubs organizers have been invited serve as master of ceremonies at the wreath presentation at Fort Sill Old Post Cemetery on Dec. 10. JS2S and Builders Club members will travel by bus to the ceremony and parents of club members should be on the lookout for permission slips to come home.

Parents and the public are invited to attend the ceremony and are welcome to follow the MMS bus to the event or meet the group at the cemetery. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. For information, contact the MMS main office.

Happy Holidays!



## ED.gov offers homework tips for parents

Children need to know that their family members think homework is important. If they know their families care, children have a good reason to complete assignments and to turn them in on time. You can do many things to show that your child that you value education and homework.

### Set a Regular Time for Homework

Having a regular time to do homework helps children to finish assignments. The best schedule is one that works for your child and your family. What works well in one household may not work in another. Of course, a good schedule depends in part on your child's age as well as her specific needs. For instance, one child may do homework best in the afternoon, completing homework first or after an hour of play and another may do it best after dinner. However, don't let your child leave homework to do just before bedtime.

Your child's outside activities, such as sports or music lessons, may mean that you need a flexible homework schedule. Your child may study after school on some days and after dinner on others. If there isn't enough time to finish homework, your child may need to drop some outside activity. Let her know that homework is a high priority.

You'll need to work with your elementary school child to develop a schedule. An older student can probably make up a schedule independently, although you'll want to make sure that it's a workable one. You may find it helpful to write out his schedule and put it in a place where you'll see it often, such as on the refrigerator door.

Some families have a required amount of time that their children must devote to homework or some other learning activities each school night (the length of time can vary depending upon the child's age). For instance, if your seventh grader knows she's expected to spend an hour doing homework, reading or visiting the library, she may be less likely to rush through assignments so that she can watch TV. A required amount of time may also discourage her from "forgetting" to bring home assignments and help her adjust to a routine.

*Reprinted from the US Department of Education website's "How to Help: Show That You Think Education and Homework Are Important." For more tips on helping your child succeed in school, log on to [www2.ed.gov/parents](http://www2.ed.gov/parents).*

## DEUCES team news.....

The DEUCES Team sincerely hopes that everyone had a very blessed and fulfilling Thanksgiving break. My how time flies, here we are down to the final push before semester tests and Winter break. Here is what you can expect your child to be working on from now until the semester break:

Mr. Cook's Geography class: During the month of December we will be studying Europe's modern history and Western Europe today. We will have a test over each chapter as we complete it. The last week we will take a comprehensive semester exam that covers the first twelve chapters in our textbook. Students will receive a study guide for the semester exam and will need to study in order to do well.

Mrs. Ayers's and Ms. Sackett's reading class: We are just finishing up our second novel, *The Outsiders*. Their novel project is due on December 8<sup>th</sup> and all projects will be presented to their class on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This project is worth three hundred points. They have been given a choice as to which particular project they would like to do. There are ten separate choices. The student is to choose only one. After the projects are presented we will review for the semester test. The semester test is worth 15% of their 1<sup>st</sup> semester grade.

After the winter break we will jump into another novel "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" which deals with the Holocaust and World War II. The students will have the opportunity to do some research on the topic in their English class before reading the novel, but this is difficult and often sensitive subject matter. Please encourage your child during the holidays to do some research at home and talk with them about this very important time in our history. Mrs. Ayers and Ms. Sackett wish everyone a safe and blessed holiday season!

Mrs. Gonzalez's science class: We will be learning about Mitosis and Meiosis. We

will learn about DNA and make a beaded name codon pull to attach to a jacket. We have learned that some organisms can grow from pieces of a cut up organism! COOL! Make sure you ask your child how this can happen and let them explain it!

Mrs. Hopper's and Mrs. Sackett's English class: Wow the semester is almost over and semester tests are right around the corner! Please help your child review for their semester exams. In English, students need to have put to memory their prepositions, linking verbs, helping verbs, being verbs, the eight parts of speech, each parts' definition, three examples for each part, and the four steps in the writing process. They will also need to be able to 'dissect' those sentences by removing the prepositional phrases and verbs, and labeling all the parts! They now know three different songs to help them with prepositions and verbs. One of them is a Christmas song, so have them give you a mini-recital as they study! Thank you for all your support! We wish you and yours a very happy holiday season!

Mrs. Plunk and Ms. Sackett's math classes (honors and regular): We are learning to work with percentages. The students will be figuring sales prices, simple interest, sales commission and other applications of percentages. Please take advantage of those opportunities you have to instill your own experiences with percentages in everyday life. Let them go Christmas shopping with you to help you find those bargains! Our SEMESTER TEST will be comprehensive. The Semester tests will be given the week of Dec. 12-16. Please make sure your student is at school during these dates.

The DEUCES team also would like to congratulate the following students on their selection as the team's November Students of the Month: **Lindsey Hodges, Seana Hagel, Laura Weilbacher, Daneja Dubose, Ronnie Kimble, Caleb Holt, Homer Thomas, Marlia Thomas, Hunter Martin and Tyrese Miller.**

## Trailblazers team happenings

The holiday season is right around the corner, and that means that this school year has reached the half-way point. As we look back and reflect over the first half of the sixth grade year, we are compelled to offer the following comments for consideration:

- Some of our students have found the transition from elementary school to middle school requires a bit more work than originally expected.

- Maintaining and using an organizational tool (planner) is very beneficial with assignments and homework.

- Learning to complete assignments and study for tests is important to good grades.

Congratulations to the following student on their selection as Super Scots for the month of December: **Tevin Lee, Andrea Domenico, Danielle Wilmore, Cristina Rosado, Justin Rasmussen, Rylee Jo Nix, Gabby Sanchez and Ethan Chain.**