

MACARTHUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCOT TIMES

Volume 31, Issue 2

September , 2011

MMS—HARD WORKS, PAYS OFF!

Dear Parents,

The 2011-2012 school year kicked off without any hitches. Those of you who chose to attend the grade level Meet and Greet Nights were able to hear from the teachers and learn the expectations for your students. This, combined with staff efforts to assist the students and make them feel welcome each day, made for a very good first two weeks of school.

Last year we began a partnership with Comanche County Memorial Hospital to implement the LIVE program. LIVE focuses on “Eight Healthy Habits” and will be highlighted through our advisory program, physical education classes, and Scot Talk. On September 22, at 6:00 PM, you are invited to an Open House and Health Fair to kick off the program for another year. For information about the LIVE program go to <http://intermountainlive.org/sites/live/Pages/home.aspx>.

Parent Portal is now active. Visit our parent page at www.lilmac.org to go straight to the log in screen. Unless your student has changed buildings this year, your password should still be valid. If you cannot access your account or have never had an account, you will need to stop by the main office and see Mrs. Vanessa Burris to receive your information. You will be required to present identification and sign for the password. Only a parent or legal guardian may sign for this information. To learn more about Parent Portal visit <http://www.lawtonps.org/>. Click on Parents and scroll down to Parent Portal.

Please visit our reconstructed website at www.lilmac.org to learn more about our school. You can access schedules, email addresses, newsletters, and much more, as well as, learn why MacArthur Middle School is a Great Expectations Model School. Monthly newsletters will be posted at the site and they will also be sent via email to patrons who have given us their email addresses.

We believe it is going to be a tremendous year and look forward to working with parents, students, and community to help every student achieve excellence in living and learning. Our goal is to have no person pass through our doors without having added value to their life.

Sincerely,

Mark Mattingly

TrailBlazer News

The Trailblazer Team would like to welcome all of our students and their parents to MacArthur Middle School. We look forward to working with you this year.

The school year has started, and our students seem to be transitioning well into middle school. There are a few areas that we still have concerns, and we could use your help. We need our students to show up for class with the necessary supplies. Please ensure they have supplies, and that the supplies are replenished as needed. Secondly, please use parent portal to keep up with your child's progress. You can get your password for parent portal at the main office at school. Finally, check your child's planner and trapper to ensure they are staying organized and doing their assignments. Thanks ahead of time for your help.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Ms. Morrow's "Current Events" class would like to give a big shout out to CHRIS VAJGRT for sponsoring the class for Newspapers in Educa-

SHADES Team Happenings

The SHADES Team would like to thank all of the parents who came to Open House. If you were unable to attend, your child should have brought home a letter outlining the topics we discussed.

In an effort to further involve our parents, SHADES teachers are planning a Pot Luck dinner for October 10 from 5:30- 6:30 in the school's commons area. The theme is Italian. SHADES will provide the main course, and parents and students may bring side dishes or desserts and join us for an excellent meal and pleasant conversation.

We are looking forward to meeting all of our parents in an informal setting.

Please e-mail us your e-mail address, each of us has a web page where we post assignments, announcements, and activities that are going on in our team. For parents to have access to this, we have to put in your e-mail address first.

e-mail addresses:

dholland@lawtonps.org

pfremin@lawtonps.org

droberts@lawtonps.org

skoll@lawtonps.org

pjunghaas@lawtonps.org

dbarry@lawtonps.org

Special Olympics...

There will be a Back to School Picnic at the Goodyear Pavilion on **Saturday, September 10, 2011**. All Special Olympics athletes and their families are invited. Anyone interested in joining Special Olympics is welcome too. There will be free physicals at this event. We encourage Partners Club members to come also.

Our Bottle Auction/Spaghetti Dinner will be **October 4, 2011**, at MacArthur High School from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We have changed the location of this event due to the closing of Douglass Elementary.

Our Special Olympics athletes are looking forward to participating in Bowling **September 30, 2011**, at Twin Oaks Bowling Alley on Ft Sill. We will also be participating in Unified Bowling on **October 1, 2011**, at Twin Oaks. We will be needing partners for the bowlers on that day. If you are a student in the regular classroom and would like to participate with our bowlers on a team on **October 1**, please see Ms. Couger, Ms. Lippold or Ms. Seals by **Friday, September 9**.

Champions Team

The Champions team has had a wonderful start to the school year, and we are already looking forward to the weeks to come. Over the next month in **Reading** class, the students will begin reviewing the elements of plot and working with literary genres. The information that they learn and review will be applied to various short stories that include both fiction and non-fiction texts. In Ms. Armstrong's **Geography** class, your student will be using the globe, as well as reading maps and using skills such as latitude, longitude, directions, and a map scale. They will also be covering landforms, natural disasters, and population patterns. In addition, Ms. Armstrong would like to remind you to continue keeping up with current events for the monthly projects. Tons of writing will be taking place in Ms. Breeze's **English** class. Throughout the next few weeks, your child will be working on two five paragraph essays. One essay will be a personal narrative, and the other a descriptive narrative. In **Math**, the students will be working with integers, exponents, perfect squares, and square roots. Finally, in **Science**, students will be diving head first into the metric system. As a quick reminder, please remember to purchase any school supplies that your child might be missing. He or she will need a three ring binder with dividers for each separate class. Champion teachers would also like to stress e-mail as being a main source of communication. Each teacher's address is located below.

Renee Breeze – rrbreeze@lawtonps.org

Megan Armstrong – marmstrong@lawtonps.org

Jennie Hanna – jlhanna@lawtonps.org

Julie Swofford – jswofford@lawtonps.org

Curtis Suits – csuits@lawtonps.org

Natasha Hagedorn – nhagedorn@lawtonps.org

X-Treme Team News

English—Mrs. Dixon---Welcome back to another great year in English! Students are writing and reviewing capitalization and punctuation.

History---Mrs. Russell---Students are off and running into a new school year. We will begin history with the study of the first Americans and exploration.

Reading---Mrs. Elam---We will begin with the literary elements of reading. The students are excited and in discussion reviewing and understanding the main parts of a story.

Science—Mr. DeVilbiss—We have been learning laboratory safety symbols and procedures and practicing our graphing skills. There is a lot of constructing and interpreting of graphs. We have begun doing conversions using the metric system. Shortly we will begin using SI units, the standard units used by scientists everywhere, and learning how the classification of all life on earth is handled. I will be heading the science club this year, which will begin meeting in September. More information on that later.

Math—Mrs. Phariss—We have been working on order of operation and integers the past few weeks and learned a cheer about the order of operations. Next we will study scientific notation.

Mini Mac Minutes

We want to welcome everyone to MacArthur Middle School. We have had a great beginning. After a few hectic schedule changes and sticky lockers everything has settled down and the students have worked hard at learning the Mac way of doing things. We have lots of fun activities planned for the year. Please send us your email so we can add you to our weekly update list. We have several web sites that will be valuable to use, for math FSFCU.MoneyIsland.com, for science red.msscience.com, for language arts freerice.com. We look forward to working with you this year.

ACE Remediation Saturday School

ACE Remediation Saturday School is available for 8th grade students failing to score satisfactory on 2010-2011 CRT tests. Dates for the Saturday school are as follows: September 17, and 24, 2011; October 15 and 29, 2011; November 5 and 19, 2011; December 10, 2011; January 14 and 28, 2012; February 11 and 25, 2012; March 10 and 31, 2012; and April 7 and 14, 2012. Lawton Public Schools will provide the necessary transportation for these students. A bus schedule is available in the main office at MMS. For more info, contact Mr. Eddie Williams, 8th grade principal. **Remember, your child cannot get a driver's permit until he/she has passed his/her 8th grade reading CRT test.**

D.E.U.C.E.S. - 7th Grade

We are so excited to be starting a new year with your students! We hope you all had a very relaxing and fun summer and were able to stay out of the heat as much as possible. The D.E.U.C.E.S. teachers for this year are: Kathy Plunk-math, Carrie Gonzalez-science, Tommye Ayers-reading, Kim Hopper-English, Charles Cook-geography, and Erin Sackett-Co-teacher. Please feel free to e-mail any of us at any time. Here are some of the things we will be doing in the near future:

In Geography for the month of September, we will begin with a chapter on Looking at the Earth. Our next unit of study will involve looking at the world's people and what makes up a culture, what resources the people have, how countries trade with one another and how technology is changing lives in many countries. We will begin assignments in class and if they are not completed, they will be completed at home.

Mr. Charles Cook will be taking T-shirt orders for D.E.U.C.E.S. Team T-Shirts. Students can get an order form from him. The price will be \$12 for S-XL and \$13 for XXL and XXXL. We will try to send these off as soon as possible.

In Mrs. Hopper/Ms. Sackett's English classes we are off to a fantastic start to this new school year! We have already been writing and 'revisiting' some of our vast English knowledge – i.e. the 8 Parts of Speech, the 4 Steps to the Writing Process, etc. These are things that we will see on quizzes and tests throughout the school year, so keep 'revisiting' them. We are working on our first writing project – a personalized license plate that will help introduce ourselves to our classmates! The finished products will be on display in the hall across from Mrs. Hopper/Ms. Sackett's classroom, so stop by and admire our work! We will begin 'dissecting' sentences and our first 'piece' to remove will be prepositional phrases. We will be learning a song to help us learn 49 of the most common prepositions, so ask us to 'sing' for you to help us practice!

In Mrs. Gonzalez's science class, we have been working on an Archaeological Dig Site. The students will create a model site and excavate artifacts. Next we will begin the Scientific Method Process and perform an experiment using goldfish. After Labor Day we will work on measuring using the metric system. Parents can help at home by asking their child to measure items at home using the SI format. Our next activity will be learning how to classify in many different ways.

Mrs. Plunk's and Mrs. Sackett's pre algebra classes have been working diligently on operations with integers. Mrs. Plunk and Mrs. Sackett are very impressed with the responsibility our math students are displaying. They have been on task and working hard to learn their facts. Great job DEUCES! In September, we will be investigating square roots and memorizing the squares of the numbers 1 through 15. We will then learn scientific notation and be able to simplify numerical expressions with integers, exponents, and parentheses, using order of operations.

The Honor's Math class is off to a great start. What a great group of mathematicians! They are stepping up to the challenge of tackling the 8th grade math curriculum. In September the Honor's Math will represent and interpret large numbers and numbers less than one in exponential and scientific notation. They will then learn to solve problems using scientific notation, exponents and integer exponents.

In Mrs. Ayers/Ms. Sackett's reading class during the month of September we will start our first class novel, "Where the Red Fern Grows." We will do a "mini research" on the state of Oklahoma at the turn of the 20th century and hunting dogs. We will also do skills that are related to the CRT pass objectives as well as the district pacing calendar. We are excited about this year and all of the wonderful children on our team.

Please keep in mind that all of our teachers are available 8th hour to tutor students in any subject they may need help with. Please take advantage of this opportunity any time you think your child may need it. Also, please try your hardest to make sure that your child has all of his/her needed school supplies for this year. It really makes their lives easier (and ours too) when they have everything they need to be successful.



THE INCREDIBLES

Welcome Back!!! The students of "The Box" are excited to be able to bring you featured news of The Incredible's Team. To begin the students of "The Box" would like to introduce you to one of our wonderful teachers. We were lucky enough to be able to catch a moment of time from Mrs. Michelle Cruz. Mrs. Cruz is Little MAC's new Reading and English (DI) teacher. "The Box" sat down with Mrs. Cruz and asked her a few questions.

The Box: "How old are you?"

Mrs. Cruz: *laughs at our blunt question "29."*

The Box: "Are you married and why?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"Yes, I am married. I have been married for 8 year and because I love him."*

The Box: "Do you have any children, and how old are they?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"Yes, I have a son. He is 5 years old, just started kindergarten and he loves it"*

The Box: "Where were you born and did you grow up there?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"I was born in Kentucky but was raised all over the world as a military child. However, I now call Lawton home."*

The Box: "How long have you been teaching and how long do you plan on teaching?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"I have been teaching for a year and plan to teach for at least thirty years before I am lucky enough to retire."*

The Box: "Where did you go to college?"



Mrs. Michelle Cruz
macruz@lawtonps.org (580) 353-5111
 Favorite Color: Purple
 Favorite Animal: Monkey
 Pit Boss or Not: NOT

Mrs. Cruz: *"I went to Cameron University."*

The Box: "What type of personality do you have?" Mrs. Cruz: *"Happy, I love to be happy" She says this with a great big smile.*

The Box: "Besides Little Mac have you taught anywhere else?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"Yes I also worked at Carriage Hills."*

The Box: "What type of house do you keep?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"A very organized one, I do not like clutter!!!" Her desk behind her demonstrates her statement.*

The Box: "What teacher has inspired you?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"My first grade teacher, Mrs. Bucker. She taught me how to read and helped me when I was struggling."*

The Box: "What are your future goals?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"To get my master's in reading."*

The Box: "Do you like to watch sports and what are your favorite teams and why?"

Mrs. Cruz: *"I absolutely love watching the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Cowboys. I have been watching these two teams since I was a little girl. It's a family tradition."*

"The Box"



THE INCREDIBLES

Mrs. Suttles 7th grade Science class is already working on their first project. They are learning about the plant cell and are comparing and contrasting a plant cell to an animal cell. They have to create a diagram of a plant and animal cell, labeling specific parts and giving a brief description. They will present their projects in class on September 9, 2011. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning the project.

Mrs. Suttles 7th grade Geography class is getting ready to embark on a new year by "Stating a case for his/her State." Each student will choose a state and have to present its case as to what the state is about. Students will be researching facts about their states and creating a presentation about their state. The majority of the work will be completed at home.

Mrs. Suttles 6th grade World Studies is learning the difference between latitude and longitude. We will begin exploring different maps such as: political, population, and thematic maps. Students will also learn how to use a map scale to find the distance between two known points on a map. Please, if you have any old maps at home, we would love to put them to use.

Mrs. Suttles 6th grade Science class will be conducting their first experiment "Float sodas in water" experiment. Students will learn how density of the soda effect its behavior in water.

Mrs. Suttles 8th grade Science & US History classes have taken off with a huge plunge. Students have plunged right into their textbooks. We began the year by each student choosing a past president and within the next few weeks each student will have to present their president to the class. However, the most exciting thing about the students presenting a president, each one is required to wear something that symbolizes their president. Each student is excited and has both feet on the ground ready to run.

I would like to thank each of my parents for making sure their students have the supplies needed for my classes. Look for homework! They will be doing various assignments and projects during class and outside of class. If at any time you have questions, contact me in the main office. I look forward to a wonderful and adventurous year with your student. Thank you for the privilege to educate them!