

# MMSA NEWS

YOUR PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

## FOURTH QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

### NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MMS Families,

This is the final newsletter for the 2015-16 school year. As we wrap up our work for this year, there are many initiatives underway as we are already preparing for next year.

**Communication:** As we have met with the families of incoming fifth graders at our annual *Getting to Know You* evening, we have emphasized the importance of good communication between school and home. The most effective way that we have found to get information home is our Q-Notify email system.

If you are not receiving our emails, please go to this website to register: <http://mansfieldct.qscend.com/qnotify.aspx> . Please click on the boxes for *Mansfield Middle School* AND for *Mansfield Middle School Priority & Emergency Notices*.

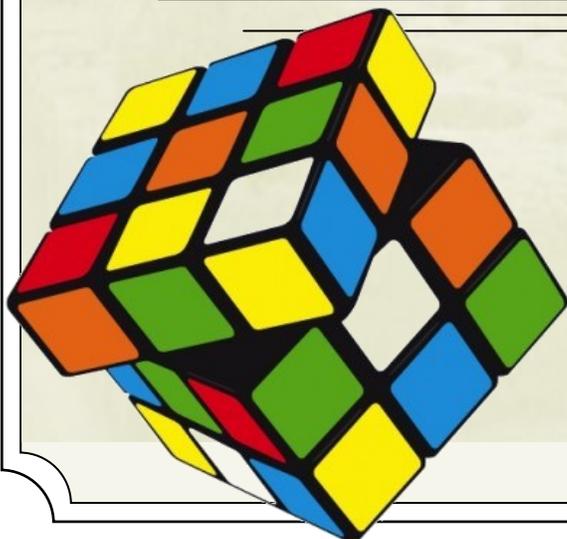
The email system, of course, only works if you can reliably receive emails. If you don't have an email account, or if you are between accounts, or if your account is on the fritz, please call the MMS Office and ask to have QNotify messages printed and sent home. We will print and send the messages to you.

Best wishes for a successful end to the school year.

Sincerely,

Candace Morell  
Principal  
[morellcv@mansfieldct.org](mailto:morellcv@mansfieldct.org)

Larry Barlow  
Assistant Principal  
[barlowlw@mansfieldct.org](mailto:barlowlw@mansfieldct.org)



### MMS Students Perform Well in the Rubik's Cube Challenge

On May 14th MMS students participated in the Rubik's Cube Challenge at Clark Lane Middle School. The team, lead by Jerome Shangold, placed first in the solo competition. This team out-solved the other 7 teams at Clark Lane Middle School with a winning time of **3 minutes 7 seconds**.

Students enjoyed their experience and look forward to future competitions.

## FOURTH QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED . . .

**State History Day**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 27 of students competed at the State level of Connecticut History Day. Just to give you an idea of the level of competition, 266 middle schoolers competed at this event, all of whom placed in the top three at a regional event. A few of our students received special recognition for their work:

- Outstanding Entry in Early American History through 1812 (sponsored by: The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution): Jerome Shangold (for his documentary on Alexander Hamilton).
- Mathew Chandy and Porter Mitoma also received a special prize for their documentary on New Orleans Jazz.

The following students have qualified for the National Competition at the University of Maryland in June:

- Hunter Dale and Noah Vasington: First Place, Group Exhibit
- Dorothy Zhang and Yasmin Andalib: First Place, Group Website



We would like to extend our appreciation to the parents and teachers who have supported the work of the many students who have participated in this year's History day Competition.

**MMS Field Day**

**Student council is presently working on plans for field day scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**If you are interested in volunteering to help out on this day please contact Jean Johnson ([jeanmmsa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanmmsa@sbcglobal.net)) regarding your interest in volunteering.**

**Next MMSA Meeting**

June 7<sup>th</sup>  
7pm

**Lion King Jr**

We welcomed spring with three excellent performances of the Lion King Jr. We extend our congratulations to the entire cast and crew of the Lion King Jr. The audience was mesmerized by this magical performance of the cast. Producing a musical such as this does not happen without the creative vision of the director, Mrs. Zawodniak and the teamwork of many behind the scenes collaborators. First a round of applause for all of those who worked behind the scenes on set building and design, lighting, costumes, choreography, vocal coaching, makeup, student monitoring, sound, and set placement. None of what occurred for the audience could have happened without all of you. We would also like to extend a round of applause to all of the actors. Every member of the cast played an important role in the success of this production. The commitment and focus of the entire cast and crew over the past several months was evident in the final product. Thank you to all of the members of the cast and crew for creating a captivating experience for all of us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

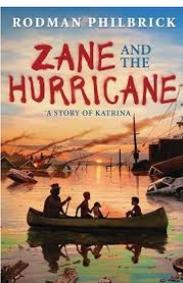
June

- 7— MMSA Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 9— Last Day for Late Buses  
Medieval Faire, 3:00 pm
- 10— 8th Grade Class Night, 5:30 pm
- 13— 8th Grade Class Picnic
- 14— Field Day
- 15— 8th Grade Closing Ceremonies, 7:00 pm
- 16— Last Day of School (Half Day)
- 23— Report Cards Mailed



One School One Read

MMS students and staff participated in One School One Read. For three weeks students were organized into small groups that met daily to read the book, Zane and the Hurricane written by Rodman Philbrick. A highlight of the three



week event was the One School One read special lunch. On April 13th the MMS cafeteria was transformed into the city of new

Orleans complete with decorations, music and food from the region. All students enjoyed samples of Jam-balaya, Red Beans & Rice and Cane Sugar Cake. Students purchasing lunch also enjoyed additional regional favorites. Thank you to Dr. Robinson for spearheading the OSOR experience. We also extend deep gratitude to the many other adults who lent a hand to prepare for the OSOR special lunch. This was a very memorable experience for our students and staff.

Spring Music Concerts

The spring music series has concluded at Mansfield Middle School. On May 11<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a well attended band concert. All ensembles performed extremely well. We are very proud of the growth and progress students in the band program have made this year. On May 18<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed another evening of music. On this night the orchestra showcased their work. The music series concluded on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Choral Concert. Students were diligent in their preparations for their concerts. We always look forward to the opportunity for students to showcase the results of their hard work.

Message from Food Services

The Food Services Department would like to remind families that as the 2015-2016 school year comes to a close, **effective 5/31 there will be no more charging into the negative** of your student's lunch account. Please make sure that your student has money on their account ahead of time, send them to school with money for their meals (cash or check) or use the convenient online payment system at [www.mansfieldct.gov/lunchmenus](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/lunchmenus). Please allow 1 business day for online payments to be entered. If you have any questions regarding the school meal program, please feel free to contact Food Services at 860-429-7824.



Facilities Updates

Plans have been established to replace the aging tennis courts at MMS with new field space. This year we have been working with town engineers to develop a plan to replace the outdated tennis courts with much needed additional field space. Creating additional field space will enable us to expand our after school offerings to include intramural sport offerings in 5th and 6th grades.

We are currently working on plans to fully renovate the gymnasium during the summer of 2017. Our present gym is fifty years old and the floating cork floor has reached the point where it can no longer be repaired. Plans are underway to replace the floor and update the existing area to current standards. We will continue to provide updates as the project moves forward.

*First Day of School for the 2016-2017 school year is August 31st!!!*