



MERRITT *Minutes*

Raising the Standards of Education

Issue 13 • January 2011

SAVE THE DATE **Merritt and the Bee**

January 13 | k-5 Movie
3:30 - 5:15 in HS Music Room

January | DC Dress Down
\$1 - Wear your favorite color day!

January 21 | End of Semester

January 25 | DC Dress Down
\$1 - Wear your favorite color day!

January 27 | Donuts with Dudes
Dudes dine in the cafeteria

January 27-28 | Parent Conferences
27th: After school from 4pm - 8pm
28th: Conferences from 1pm - 4pm

January 31 | Character Assemblies
9:00 and 9:45 in the HS Gymnasium

Congratulations to the 30 students who participated in Merritt Academy's 2011 Spelling Bees on Tuesday, January 4. The 12 students, listed below, who competed in the 6th - 8th grade division and the 18 students, listed below, who competed in the 3rd - 5th grade division, had all placed in the top two or three spots in their individual classroom bees which were conducted in December.

In Tuesday's school bee, the top two finalists for the middle school were Alex Schmalzel, an eighth grader, who finished in first place, and Cody Lawrence, a seventh grader, who finished in second place. These boys beat out their competition in the 3rd



round of words. For the upper elementary division, Mary Telly, a fifth grader in Miss Ketelhut's class finished in first place, and Jenna DeLong, a fifth grader in Mrs. Peck's class finished in second place. These two fifth graders competed against each other for 40 minutes before a winner was declared. Way to go!

MISSION The mission of Merritt Academy is to instill in its students academic excellence, character development, a love for life long learning, and service to others.

All four students will have the chance to compete in the 7th Annual Michigan Charter School State Spelling Bee on February 11 at Trillium Academy in Taylor, Michigan. So, when you see them in the halls or class, **wish them luck!**

Congratulations Inductees!

On Tuesday, January 11th eight young ladies were inducted into the Merritt Academy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. These students have displayed excellent character, citizenship, scholarship, leadership, and service. They will be working to promote these character traits throughout the school.

The new Merritt Academy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society members are: Kylee Cielecki, Georgina Gill, Angeliah Hannah, Meghan Murphy, Gabrielle Nelson, Nicole Raulston, Lauren Riggs, Sydney Wilcox. Congratulations ladies!!!



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Seiferlein's Scoop ...

A message from our Principal, Nate Seiferlein

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!!! The teachers and students are back giving it their all in the classroom! It is an amazing sight to see all of them on task and working so hard on a daily basis. Last winter the administration made it a point to call or contact every family at Merritt Academy to see how we were servicing your children. The positive and negative feedback from this was great and a lot of the suggestions that were made about how we could improve our school were put in place. Well, this year we want your feedback again and feel it is more important than ever. We are, in fact, all in this together! :) There are a couple of different opportunities for you in the upcoming month to make your voice heard. First, we will be doing parent surveys at the January parent-teacher conferences again. More information will be provided on the surveys when parent teacher conferences draw closer.

Secondly, we are going to start having parent/administration meetings on a bi-monthly basis. **The purpose of these meetings will be to create a forum that parents can express concerns about certain areas of our school and I am hoping that some common misconceptions parents may have about Merritt can be cleared up then. Also, I hope these meetings can be brainstorming opportunities for the parents and administration to work together to plan new activities for our students and to organize upcoming events.** I think it is so important to keep an open line of communication between the school and parents. **This meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 5:00 in the high school cafeteria.** Another reminder will be sent home when this date gets closer.

Other important dates to remember:

- MEAP Scores released sometime in February or early March!!!
- Family Fun Basketball Nights @ Merritt on 1-18-11, 1-21-11, 1-27-11, 2-11-11, 2-14-11, and 2-18-11
- 3rd-12th grade dances on 2-18-11
- Parent-teacher conferences 1-27-11 from 4:00-8:00 and 1-28-11 from 1:00-4:00
- Science Fair 2-3-11 @ 3:30 in high school gymnasium
- Donuts with Dudes 1-27-11 @ 7:20 in high school cafeteria
- Mid Winter Break 2-7-11
- Count Day 2-9-11
- High School Exams 1-19-11, 1-20-11, and 1-21-11
- Character Education Assemblies 1-31-11
- Scantron Testing starts the week of 1-10-11

I hope to see you at one or more of these events. As always, my door is always open for you to stop by and ask questions or provide me with positive or negative feedback about your child's education.

Sincerely,
Nate Seiferlein
Principal

*Notes from the
Counseling
Department...*

This past month our character trait was "Goodwill". It was very special to see the generosity that our students showed this month in helping those in need.

I would like to extend congratulations to more of our Seniors that were accepted into the colleges where they applied. Dennis Hicks was accepted into Saginaw Valley State University, along with William Stoffel and John Alverson. William Stoffel was also accepted into Western Michigan and Aquinas College. Congrats to Kayla Burrell for her acceptance into Aquinas College as well. I am really proud of the effort that these students are putting in to their futures, and wish them all good luck on finalizing their college plans.

Mini Mustangs



Preschool

Thank you to all the parents for making our Class Party a success! All the kids enjoyed it and we hope you did as well.

We will be learning about Transportation and winter this month. We have many activities and projects to help us teach these themes.

Try this at home:

The children are going to be pouring their drinks at snack time. We have kid sized that they each will learn to pour from. great skill that kids need to learn. It helps eye-hand coordination and strengthens



own pitchers This is a build their

fine motor skill. It may take a few tries, but they will eventually be able to pour without help and spills. This is a great activity you can practice at home.



Pre-K

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful Holiday Break!

This month we will be starting a new project. We will post the details once the kids have decided on the topic.

We will be changing the names on our circle time spots and cards from our first names to our last. This would be a great chance to work on this at home. We will be recognizing and beginning to spell our last names.

Dear Parents,

The average cable bill in the community is now over \$100.00 per month and more people are looking at ways to save money on TV service. Complete Communications would like to take it a step further by donating \$50.00 to Merritt Academy for every new Dish Network sign up. Dish Network focuses on providing the lowest price for TV service. This allows you to receive your favorite channels, such as History, ESPN, Disney,

Lifetime, CNN, Fox News and many more, including local channels, for **only \$24.99 per month** locked in for 1 year!

Dish Network also offers more HD channels than any other TV service provider and 100% crystal clear digital picture quality and sound on every channel. With Dish you can also receive the latest DVR so you can pause, fast forward and record TV. This new DVR allows you to view your recording in multiple rooms.

There are many benefits to Dish Network. The remote control is easy to use. The onscreen program guide gives you push button news, sports and weather from all over the country. There are also parental controls so you can control what your children are watching.

To switch to Dish Network, call **586-439-2000, Ext. 115** **The first 20 orders** to mention **Merritt Academy** will receive HBO and Showtime free for three months as well as a \$50.00 cash donation for our Merritt Academy to put towards any one of their many sports or music programs.

By mentioning the Merritt Academy code **MER-AD-50D- 0720**, you receive:

Free Equipment

Free Activation

Free Professional Installation up to 6 rooms

Free Local Channels plus Over 120 Channels for **\$24.99 per Month on a 2 Year Agreement**

\$50.00 donation to Merritt Academy for each new sign up

***All new customers are subject to credit approval**

Lets get behind Merritt Academy and raise some money! Call 586-439-2000 Ext.115

Yours Truly,

Gordon Zysk(Proud Merritt Academy Parent)

586-439-2000 Ext.115

Meet Your Staff



Miss Wilson has been teaching for six years, four of which are here at Merritt Academy. She loves the close knit, family environment that Merritt possesses. Her favorite thing about this family feeling is that students come to her about advice regarding their future educational endeavors. Being able to share in the college application process and celebrate with them when the acceptance letters come is priceless!

Outside of school, she loves to cook and bake with her family. She also loves to read, ski, and play volleyball when she has the free time.

She looks forward to leading many more Mustangs to graduation and into their collegiate careers.

Mrs. Witkowski teaches 6th and 7th grade math and 8th grade history. She graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a major in elementary education and minors in mathematics and social studies. She is currently pursuing her master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. She has taught 6th grade at Merritt Academy for the past two years. During that time, she has discovered that Merritt has incredible students and a very hardworking staff. She is SO proud to be a part of this school!

For the past two years she has also been one of the cross country coaches. She enjoyed this opportunity to motivate students to exercise, spend time outdoors, and show their competitive side, while demonstrating school spirit and sportsmanship. She has also been one of the faculty leaders for the Student Activities Committee, which she will continue to do this year.

When she is not at school, she spends time with family and friends. She has a large family that makes the most out of every moment together. They are always laughing and having fun while playing board games, card games, or just relaxing together. Her family means everything to her! She also enjoys running (when she has time), spending time outdoors (especially at her cabin up north), and reading (lots of Jodi Picoult books lately).



Mrs. Peck is in her third year teaching at Merritt Academy. In the past, she has taught for three and a half years at our sister school, Trillium Academy and she is very happy to have transferred to Merritt as it is a much closer to her home.

She went to Western Michigan University, earning a BA in Elementary Education with minors in Math, Science and English. This year she assisted Mr. Seiferlein and Ms. Cohrs with some of their administrative tasks for an internship through Eastern Michigan University. After this internship she will be finished with her Educational Leadership Master's Degree!

In her free time she enjoys playing or watching sports, camping, playing with animals, scrap booking and hanging out with her family and friends. She is happily married and has two sons named Jackson (two years old) and Benjamin (six months old). She also has a turtle named Sparty. Her husband graduated from Michigan State so they are definitely MSU fans.

She has a lot of unique dreams in life. Some day she would like to have a pet pig, unfortunately her husband doesn't think this would be a great idea. Another dream would be to have a house with a big gorgeous palm tree in her front yard. Maybe some day these dreams will become a reality, but for now she will continue living in a city where pigs are not allowed and there are definitely no palm trees.

K - 2nd Updates

Mrs.
King

The month of December went so fast. I hope everyone had a restful holiday break. I just want to say thank you to all the parents who donated and/or volunteered with the party. The "Round Robin Party" would not have been as successful without your help. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

In other news, I hope all of you had a chance to look over the science materials that were sent home before break. If you have any question/concerns please feel free to stop in and see me. I will be placing examples of previous science fair experiments in the hallway for you to check out. Please remember science fair projects are due on January 31st and must be done with parental guidance at home.

The kindergarten science curriculum itself for the month of January will focus on the scientific method. In addition, we will be learning about number patterns and three dimensional shapes in math. We will also learn about wants and needs in social studies and review/learn about –at family words in English Language Arts. The –at family words include cat, bat, rat, sat, etc. Please help reinforce these concepts and remind the children that sounds blended together create words and carry meaning.

The First Graders have been very busy studying holiday traditions and doing daily writing in their journals. Writing is a large part of the First Grade curriculum, and is incorporated in all the other subjects (Social Studies, Science, Reading, Math, etc.). Instead of the ordinary rundown of what the students have been doing this month, we thought we would share some of the students' journal writings. We hope you enjoy these selections!

Topic Sentence: If I were one of Santa's deer...

"If I were one of Santa's deer I would sneak some presents. I would hide them so Santa would not see them. Then I would play with them. Then I would put the toys back."

"If I was one of Santa's deer I would ask one of the elves to decorate my horns. I would ask them to teach me to make toys. Then I would meet Santa and tell him what I want for Christmas. Then I would take a nap."

"If I were Santa's reindeer, I would fly. I would live at the North Pole. Santa would be my BFF. It was a great time."

"If I was one of Santa's reindeer, my name would be Sally. I would guide the sleigh. I would watch the sky."

Topic Sentence: Instead of a sleigh, Santa should ride...

"Instead of a sleigh, Santa should ride a race car. He could go around the world in one night. Then the reindeer could sleep. They could take a break."

"Instead of a sleigh, Santa should ride a dirt bike. He can tell the elves to build a big trailer. The elves will put some jet packs on the reindeer so they can fly. Then Santa would eat cookies ."

Topic Sentence: If I were an elf...

"If I were an elf, my name would be Tina. I would make all the toys. I would talk to Santa. I would make a toy bear."

Ms.
Francis

Ms.
Jondron

K—2 Spanish | Senora Wild

¡Hola from Señora Wild's class! I hope everyone had a feliz Navidad! Diciembre was a fun month. Your children learned how to say the seasons in Spanish. They also learned parts of the face so they could sing, 'Mi hombre de nieve' (My snowman in the tune of Frosty). In enero (January) we are going to have a busy month. The students will learn the days of the week, months, alphabet and some culture. Stay warm in this chilly invierno (winter). Also, don't forget to have your child teach you what they've learned in class so they can practice their Spanish at home and you can learn some, too.

Mrs.
Billings

Although December was a very short month, we managed to squeeze in a lot! We had tons of holiday fun with help from parent volunteers. 2nd graders were treated to an afternoon crafting session where they made three different ornaments to hang on their tree. I hope these ornaments bring back special memories year after year. A special thanks goes to Brian's mom and Skyler's mom and nana for designing and running the crafting session. 2nd graders also participated in the annual Round Robin Celebration. Lots of craziness, but lots of fun too! Thank you to all the parents who helped out and donated items to make this event a success.

We wrapped up our measurement unit and the test results were amazing! I really do have measuring experts in my classroom. Students measured to the nearest inch and centimeter and also got some practice with feet and yards. In reading, we worked on character comparison and sequence of events. 2nd graders continued to work with maps in social studies, as well as identifying key features of communities.

The Science Fair is quickly approaching. Please visit the classroom website for important due dates relating to your child's project. Thank you for helping your child at home with this project...I understand it's a huge undertaking!

Brian Bell was chosen as the Student of the Month for December. He is one of those students that a teacher is lucky to have because he is very bright and very well behaved. Congratulations Brian!



Specials Updates

Miss Kaufman | 5th - 8th Computers

Mrs. DeMeulenaere | K-4th Computers

5th Grade: The students will be finishing their PowerPoint presentations. For the rest of the month the students will be taking the Scantron Performance Series Assessment.

All students in grades 2 – 8 will be taking the Scantron Performance Series Assessment beginning January 11th. Parents, please make sure that your student eats a good breakfast for testing!

6th Grade: The students will be learning about plagiarizing, copyrighting, and ethics. They will be working on all of the functions and toolbars and working on the proper style to write a paper. The students will be working on citing sources from online newspapers and magazines, reference databases, professional, and personal websites. The students will create a school gmail account and learn the basic functions of email.



7th Grade: The students will continue their work in Microsoft Excel. We will work on creating a variety of graphs and the students will continue to work on formulas. We will be incorporating their social studies work in Mr. Girvins' class with our computer projects. The students will create a school gmail account and review the tools and functions of email.

8th Grade: The students will be creating a school gmail account and practice composing, replying, forwarding, and adding attachments to emails. The students will also create a weebly website with a blog. They will organize and keep their data updated on their blog for their science fair project. 8B will work on PowerPoint as well.

Mrs. Goldyn | Foreign Language

The **4th grade** is learning how to weave this month and they will be creating their own monsters. The **5th grade** will be finishing on Mi Comunidad and learning about transportation and shopping. **Middle school** is finishing El Pelo de Pepe and beginning El Hipo de la Llama. In the high school, **Spanish I** will be wrapping up El Mono y La Vaca and starting El Libro Perdido. They will finish capítulo 3 in Realidades 1 this month as well. **Spanish II** is acquiring vocabulary through the stories on La Chica Social. They will also be working in their textbook Realidades 2, capítulo 3. They are also reading their novels Patricia va a California, capítulos 8-12. **Spanish III** is working on Los Perros Olímpicos stories, Para Empezar in Realidades 3 and reading Pobre Ana Bailó Tango novel. After **French I** wraps up Le Singe et La Vache stories, they will be starting Le Magasin de Vêtements. They are still working on Unité 1 in Discovering French 2 textbook. **French II** is working on Unité 2. They are also reading their novels Fama Va a Californie, chapitre 8-12. High school language classes will also be reviewing for the mid-terms. Vocabulary for the elementary is posted on my website <http://thgoldyn.web.com>.

Mr. Kimsey | Music Education

The 4th and 5th Grade Music Students will be working on the concept of syncopated rhythms through the use of standard notation, songs, and movement. We will also begin working with recorders.

The Middle and High School Concert Band Students will begin preparing the music for the MSBOA District Band Festival.

The American Music History Students will finish the unit on "Soul", and begin our large unit on "Motown", which will culminate with our field trip to the Motown Historical Museum in Detroit.

Music Student of the Month - December: Gabrielle Nelson - Gabby, your consistent dedication to music has been wonderful, you are a great role model for your peers. Thank you, Mr. Kimsey

Mr. Gabridge | Art

Elementary students will be learning about patterns and proportion and ways that these techniques can be incorporated into their work.

High school students in the 7th and 8th grade are working on creating their animal op-art paintings while those in Basic Design continue are working on radial design Mandala's for their mid-term project. Drawing & Painting students are creating Mexican mola inspired paintings and Digital Photography students will be re-working famous paintings using the GIMP program.

Mr. Jagelewski | Physical Education

In PE we are just finishing our basketball unit. As we wrap up this the middle school will have PE for the rest of the year while the high school students will be switching to health class. The middle school students will be participating in Hoops For Heart this year. This year will be different than the previous. Make sure to keep a look out for the information to be sent home.

Mr. Wargo | Physical Education

The third through fifth grade enjoyed their throwing and catching unit. The classes practiced their skills in a game called "pass". The students had to move the ball down the court by throwing the ball to their teammates. All the classes enjoyed warming up with a fun game of Pac man or line tag and competing in a variety of relay races. warming up with a fun game of Pac man or line tag and competing in a variety of relay races.

3rd - 5th Updates



3rd Grade

Third graders have been super busy! Both classes have started to learn cursive, and they couldn't be happier about it! In addition, they were very busy with Mr. Battista learning all of the holiday music that they shared at the K-3 concert in December. They sounded fantastic! Ms. Wolicki has been busy with all of the third grade students helping them prepare and plan for their science projects. Mrs. Alexander's third grade students worked hard in December planning for the character education assembly. They shared with the elementary students how they have shown goodwill in their lives. Both classes ended the year participating in the Round Robin Holiday Celebration with the kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Both Mrs. Alexander and Ms. Wolicki are very proud of all that their students have achieved so far this year in third grade.

Welcome to 2011! It's going to be a great New Year in the fourth grade classrooms! We all enjoyed our holiday break and are ready to get back into the swing of things.

IMPORTANT NEWS – Please make sure that you are up to date on the Science Fair information. ALL STUDENTS at Merritt Academy must complete a science fair project. These projects will be completed at home, but your child should already know their topic and have a start on what they are going to do. Please see MR. DARIN if you have any questions about this. He is the science teacher for BOTH 4th grade classes.

As usual, our fifth graders are hard at work learning new concepts, as well as strengthening skills they acquired prior to entering this school year. This means that MULTIPLICATION is being used every day in math as we learn more about fractions, decimals and percents. In our Language Arts units, they are constantly using READING strategies to decode and learn new words in the genres of mystery and, soon to come, FANTASY!

Book Reports in our class have been a delight. The next, free choice, report is due on February 17th. Please encourage your child to do their PERSONAL BEST work on these reports. What exactly is personal best? It's your child's VERY BEST work - their *neatest handwriting*, their *best illustrations and coloring*, their sentences *written correctly - with all the correct punctuation and spelling*, and work that would represent a 5th grader. Personal best is NOT: *rushed, sloppy, or incomplete*.

The fifth grade teachers would like to congratulate the following students for their dedication, responsible choices and hard work

Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered their time and/or donated goods to make our Christmas parties a success! We couldn't have these special days if it wasn't for your continued support.



4th Grade

Also, thanks to all of the adults who drove and chaperoned for our field trip to the Detroit Science Center. It was a wonderful trip and the kids really enjoyed their day. We are lucky to have such a supportive group of parents this year!!! Thank you!

this January: Amy B., Kaylee G., Nolan K., Jennifer M., Josh O., Krista Q., Hannah S., and Mary T. WAY TO GO, KIDS!!! =)

These students impressed their teachers and classmates by turning in all their work ON TIME, making good choices and not receiving any RTC warnings or questions. Because of this, these students enjoyed FUN FRIDAY, a 30 minute free-time reward at the end of the week and a special breakfast - Banana Split Waffles!! Mmmm...

5th Grade

All students are eligible for these rewards by making good choices in class each week. Please encourage your child to strive for these rewards by being responsible for their work and behavior.



Mustang Athletics



Varsity Girls Basketball

Girls HS Basketball- has started the year 0-4. Senior Kayla Burrell is our team captain for the 2010-2011 season. The team is young and working on improving each day. Micaeh McGlaun is the team's leading scorer so far, averaging 5.25pts per game. Celia Norkus had a season high 10pts in a close comeback loss to Landmark Academy on Jan 4th.

Despite their 2-4 record the Varsity Boys Basketball team is striving to reach their full potential. The team is coming together and starting to play some good basketball. They are looking to perfect their skills in practice so that they may display them in the upcoming family fun nights! Every player on the team appreciates all of the fan support we can get and they are looking forward to the unveiling of the new student section! Coach Darin is looking forward to some players stepping up and taking this team to the next level.

Varsity
Boys

2010 TEAM ROSTER

Kayla Burrell	#50	Senior
Celia Norkus	#32	Senior
Erica Gross	#2	Soph.
Daria Vaughan	#4	Soph.
Felicia Wolfe	#12	Soph.
Amanda Cielecki	#23	Fresh.
Micaeh McGlaun	#24	Fresh.
Michelle McLaughlin	#45	Fresh.

The 5-6 grade girls basketball team had an awesome season. This season was not measured in wins and losses, but on effort and attitude. Through out every practice and game the girls learned more about the game of basketball. The improvement from the first day of practice till our last game was tremendous. Evidence of this was the team's 2nd place finish in the TRG Girls Basketball Tournament at Trillium. The 5-6 grade girls have a bright future ahead of them when it comes to basketball.

Girls 5th and 6th Basketball

Please come visit your Mustangs on game days and cheer them on. Admission for adults is \$2, students - \$1.

Game schedules can be found in the



Parent
Booster
Club

We are still in need of parents interested in helping out with the winter sports season including selling admissions, spirit wear, fundraising, and generally supporting our Mustangs should send an email to Ms. Tabone at stabone@merritt-academy.org. GO MUSTANGS!!

Any time you can donate to our young athletes will be GREATLY appreciated!



Middle School

Mrs. WITKOWSKI - Math & History

6th grade math students are jumping into algebra concepts. They just wrapped up a unit on functions and will now practice solving equations through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This is a lot of new content for 6th grade, but they are working hard to show off all the new skills they are developing!

7th grade math students will continue to demonstrate their knowledge of solving equations by now including multiple steps, fractions, and decimals in the process. These students are definitely working hard in middle school math!

8th grade history students are exploring Westward Expansion including the Louisiana Purchase, Trail of Tears, Mexican-American War, and Manifest Destiny. They will develop and present an argument based on the positive and negative consequences to expansion.

In the month of January, the 8th grade will be continuing our Algebra Unit by starting off with solving and graphing Inequalities. In addition to this Algebra unit we will be also reviewing for Scantron. Scantron testing will begin Monday, January 10, 2011. We hope everyone had a great holiday!

Mrs. ROOSE - 8th Math

Mr. GIRVIN - Social Studies

6th- Has been working on the geographic regions of the United States. We have covered the Northeast & Southern United States so far, and will be diving into the Midwest and Western US after break. So far we have discussed the political boundaries, culture, and other facts about each region.

7th- We have finished our studies of Australia and the Pacific Islands. After break we will be entering a new continent; Africa. In this new adventure we will cover African culture, current events, history, and geography.

9th- US History has moved into the Progressive Movement of the early 1900s. We have discovered corruption in the big cities and how reformers tried to fix these problems. We will continue this era after holiday break.

Mrs. DERY - ELA

Our guided research papers were very successful and the students learned many new skills to incorporate into their own informational writing. The hope is that the students will use these strategies effectively to enhance their writing.

In January we will be working on a wide variety of writing projects. These will include both short and longer writings. We will also be reading shorter texts in class and having class discussions regarding those texts.

Students need to be diligent in turning in all assignments. Please make sure to check out the class website for up-to-date information regarding all assignment due dates. Also, in the student's planners they should also be writing down this information. Time management is a skill that many students are struggling with. Most assignments in this class have extended due dates. Make sure to be working on them when you do not have much other homework.

HAPPY JANUARY!

Science Fair is coming to a school near you! As you know our Science Fair event will be held on February 3rd in our high school gym from 3:30- 5:00 pm. This is an exciting time of year in science class! We have been developing an understanding that scientific inquiry and reasoning involves observing, questioning, investigating, recording, and developing solutions to problems. Middle school students have been designing and conducting scientific investigations. As they investigate they have been generating scientific questions based on observations. All of these skills are directly related to the skills needed to complete a super science fair project at home. Every day after school since the beginning of November I have been staying after school to work with students on their science fair projects. I am looking forward to continuing to work with students up until January 26th as the projects are due for me to grade by January 27th.

6th grade students are exploring the exciting world of soil as they participate in activities such as taking sandstone and place it in a glass jar of water to model physical weathering. Then after shaking the jar vigorously for one minute they will find that sediment is created and that the rock has changed. Many other earth models will be used to show these concepts. Sand will be blown with straws, water will be dripped through cups with holes in them, ice blocks will be used to model glaciers, etc.

7th graders have been learning about the periodic table of elements including the study of elements, molecules, mixtures and compounds. Ask them about the Alien Periodic Table of Elements. They will observe and investigate as many examples of elements, compounds, and mixtures as possible. These will include common household items.

8th grade science learners will make real-world application to the issues of water quality and the impact of humans on the environment. They will study the impact of human interconnections between the hydrosphere relating to agricultural practices, urbanization, and industrialization.

Mrs. ARCAN D - Science

News You Can Use ...

CONGRATS DECEMBER Mustangs of the Month

Elementary School

K - Joshua Lloyd

1 - Olivia Casper

1 - Tanner Geisler

2 - Brian Bell

3 - Aaron White

3 - Sarah Hood

4 - Bethany Ruczynski

4 - Brandon Shulock

5 - Sherry McIntyre

5 - Josh Oblander

Art - Melissa Murphy

Art - TaTayana Ashburn

PE - Scott Lent

Speech - Austin Christoff

Spanish - Natalie Smith

Middle School

ELA - Kylee Pepples

Math - Ronny Lohr

Science - Tim Shamblin

Soc. Studies - Cody Lawrence

Tech - Andrew Niemann

Music - Gabrielle Nelson

PE - Sarah Husketh

Spanish - Miranda Gordon

High School

ELA - John Alverson

Math - Angela Myers

Science - Michelle McLaughlin

History - Gabriel Montgomery

Resource Room - Kaitlyn Ramsey

These students exemplified
December's character trait of
GOODWILL!



The class of 2011 is collecting box-tops to help raise money for the school. We will send in the box tops twice a year. The first time will be around the holiday season. The winning class will win a very special prize. Each box top is worth 10 cents so it adds up very quickly! Please help us and send in your box tops. Encourage your friends, family and co-workers to help save and collect box-tops. They appear on the following items. You can also visit www.boxtops4education.com for coupons on these products.

Thank you,
The Class of 2011

ALPINE LACE Products

LAND O LAKES Products

Pillsbury Products

Wheaties Products

COTTONELLE Products

GOODNITES Products

HUGGIES Products

PULL-UPS Products

Betty Crocker Products

Bisquick Products

Fiber One Products

Nestle Products

Juicy Juice Products

General Mills Products

Hefty Products

Green Giant Products

Pillsbury Products

Totino's Products

Betty Crocker Products

Hamburger Helper Products

Old El Paso Products

Progresso Products

SCOTT Products

Avery Products

Each day seems like such a rush in our busy lives. Here are a few ways to help your child focus without feeling the pressures of the busyness around them:

- **Establish a quiet place.** Set up a room or area in your home that is free of distractions for reading, drawing or any other activities that require focus. They will begin to know that when they enter this area, they can focus on the subject at hand.
- **Teach them to take turns.** Play various board games or even tell stories. Encourage all family members to pay attention while others are talking or when it's not their turn.
- **Take silent listening walks.** Walk around the house or even the neighborhood pointing in the direction of sounds. This will help them strengthen their sense of sight and sound while focusing.
- **Identify an activity that allows your child to follow directions.** Pick games that change pace from fast to slow. This will give them practice at pacing themselves.

"The world is not given to you by your parents. It is loaned to you by your children." ~ Kenyan Proverb

News You Can Use ...



Merritt's Got Talent!!!!

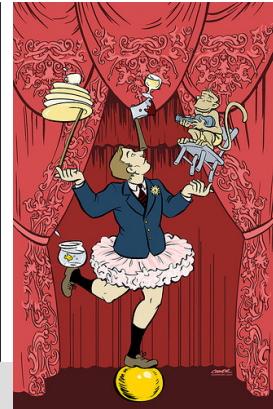
Auditions for Merritt's first ever talent show are:

9th-12th Grades January 18th @ 3:30

Kindergarten – 8th Grade January 19th @ 3:30

Both auditions will be held in Ms. Tabone's room after school. Acts can include, but not limited to singing, dancing, and dramatical acts.

The actual talent show will be: **Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 6:00** in the high school gym.



On December 20th the middle school students and staff at Merritt Academy wore red and green shirts in an effort to collect money for the Salvation Army. Together the students and staff raised \$150 that was sent directly to this worthy charity. Thank you to all who donated to assist others

Call To Duty!!

On Monday, January 17th, 2011, we will be celebrating the birthday of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This man's life passion was to help others, especially like the less fortunate that is among us. We remember the words from his "I Have A Dream" speech, but seldom do we live out the meaning of his dream. This year we need to do more than treat his birthday as a day off work or a day off school, or even a day just discussing his dreams. We need to tackle a cause that has plagued our community, our state, and our nation... We want to tackle hunger in our community.

The goal of the community of New Haven is to collect 5,000 lbs. of food for the New Haven/Lenox Food Pantry in remembrance of the message of unity. We are asking for all elected officials, residents, school students, churches and local businesses to help with this goal. Whether you donate a single can or organize a can food drive, you are helping a cause that is bigger than anyone of us and making a mark in history. What better way to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. than by taking on a cause that can affect any one of us.

Thank you,
Jammie Kincaid
New Haven Village President

Merritt will be collecting canned goods for this cause during the week of Dr. King's birthday– Jan. 17th through Jan. 21st.

Canned goods can be dropped off in the elementary or high school offices.

Help wanted

The Athletic Boosters are looking for help in the following areas dealing with Athletics:

Redoing the Soccer field – sod laying, planting, irrigation, leveling of the field

Painting the Gym floor

All those interested, please contact our Athletic Directors, Mr. Darin or Miss Tabone, at 586.749.6000 ext.254.

Don't forget about Merritt's very **FIRST** garage sale **May 21st**. The Senior class is still seeking your 'junk' that could be someone else's **TREASURE!**

Thank you for helping our Seniors and our school community!



Merritt High School

Mr. Sagan

The 8th graders are learning about how the American Colonists began to govern themselves through documents such as the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These are the historic events that led to the establishment of American governmental system.

In the 9th grade American History course we are learning about Progressivism and reform in the United States.

Our 10th grade civics class is learning about the roots of American democracy by examining such documents as the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The students will be translating the documents into their own words, explaining how they apply to their daily lives, and drawing a comic to accompany each. These projects will be displayed on the social studies bulletin board in the high school after the New Year.

The 11th graders are studying the empires of the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas. The students are working on a group project that they will teach as a lesson to their classmates.

The 12th grade students are working on their South American unit. The students will research a different aspect of culture from this region and share their research with their classmates.

Hello, Merritt Community. I hope everyone enjoyed the break that appeared to be all too short, at least to me. But I'm glad to be back and ready to go for the New Year.

9th Grade) Starting background information on Shakespeare, as well as his plays and other works, and understanding the ideas behind his famous play "Romeo and Juliet".

10th Grade) Finishing and analyzing the inner workings of character and the paradox shift in "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller.

11th Grade) Starting background information on Shakespeare, as well as his plays and other works, and understanding the ideas behind his famous play "Hamlet".

12th Grade) Continuing their study of scientific ethics using "House of the Scorpion" as well as editing any and all papers for content and fluency grouped with Ms. Wilson's science class.

World Comm.) Completing their short unit on public speaking and personal presentation with how-to, persuasive, and informative speeches.

Mr. Rellias

All of the students in the math courses are preparing for their midterm exams. Students are working in cooperative groups to review topics learned since September. The 8th and 9th graders in Algebra 1 will be reviewing number classification, solving one-step and two-step equations, solving inequalities, and graphing various equations. Recently, the Algebra 1 students began studying polynomials and as soon as second semester begins, they will graph solutions to larger polynomial equations. In the 10th grade, the Geometry students have wrapped up their latest unit on quadrilaterals and will begin reviewing geometric proofs, triangle similarity, and proportions. The 11th graders in Algebra 2 will be reviewing linear, quadratic, rational, and inverse equations; both solving and graphing are on the plate for all of those equations. In the 12th grade, the seniors are continuing their work for Terrific Tuesday as well learning trigonometry. They have a lot on their plate and many topics to study for on their midterm, but the largest ones are matrices, rational functions, trigonometric equations. Wish all the students luck on the midterms!

Miss Tabone

In the high school science classes we are finishing up with science fair projects. The final due date for them is January 27th. Parents, please remember that these projects can not be turned in late. It is very important that they are meeting their weekly objects to ensure a well planned and scientific project. Please watch for the weekly objectives to come home for science fair assessment. If you have any questions there are links as well as copies of the documentation on my website. Please visit <http://www.freewebs.com/merritt-wilson/> for all the information.

January is also the month in which Mid Terms take place. All high school students will be taking Mid Term January 19th - 21st. Please watch for that schedule to come home. All classes have their study guides and are working to prepare for the tests in school, however additional studying at home is highly recommended.

Miss Wilson

SCIENCE FAIR!

* Save these dates *

Science Fair 2011

Week 5 – Jan. 3rd

Week 6 – Jan. 24th

Projects Due: Jan. 27th

Science Fair Feb. 3rd



Activities & News

Coming Soon to Merritt Academy: Fall Festival & The Spooky Hallway!

When: Friday, October 29, 2010

Where: Merritt Academy High School

Time: 6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.

Cost: **\$3.00 per person/\$12 per family** (parent/guardian & children) **by Oct. 22***

\$5.00 at the door* (For All Ages)

Includes: Crafts, donuts, cider, and games.

Students are encouraged to wear their Halloween Costume!

Make sure to save the date! It's going to be a **GREAT** time!

*Students must be accompanied by an adult.

STUDENT DANCES: Middle School 6:30—8:30 High School: 9:00—11:00

Items Needed: 6oz. foam cups, small dessert plates, white lunch bags, sprinkles, containers of frosting, plastic table clothes, Caramel cubes for melting, ping pong balls, string, google eyes, medium size cups, small black pom-poms, Blow Pop Suckers or Tootsie Roll suckers, pie pumpkins, and bags of candy.

Please bring in all items by Friday, October 15, 2010.

NHS

The Merritt Academy chapter of National Honor Society is entering its third year. We will be beginning our service project this year, which we have decided will be to organize and start our high school library. We will also be looking at inducting new members this fall. If a student has a 3.0 grade point average; is a sophomore, junior or senior; and has been a student at Merritt Academy for a semester or longer, then he/she will be candidate considered for induction to NHS. We also evaluate students on their character, service, and leadership qualities. We are looking forward to a very exciting year!

SCHOOL STORE NOW ONLINE!!!

Our school store has officially opened!!! Students in all grade levels have been accumulating Merritt Money and were given their Merritt checks last Thursday. We encourage the parents of younger students to stop by after school to help their child purchase items from the school store. Families that want to purchase Merritt Apparel without using their Merritt checks or dollars can do so. Just stop by the high school office and pick up an order form or go online to our school store website at <http://merrittacademyestore.com> We have all new items for sale in our school store like: Merritt water bottles, Merritt pocket folders, Merritt pencils, Merritt stuffed mustangs, Merritt pom poms, Merritt Jackets, Merritt Sweatshirts, Merritt T Shirts and much, much more!! So please check it out!!! Items can be purchased by using cash, check, or credit card.

Newspaper

This is the 4th year for our high school newspaper, *The MHS Exclusive*. Even, though we have a small staff, we do our best to report on issues and events going on around our school and in the world that are important to our high school students. Our first meeting will be next Wednesday, October 6, after school. We will be working on our first issue of the year that will be available for viewing the last week of October. We are looking forward to continuing and expanding our high school newspaper tradition!

SPIRIT WEEK for 9th -12th graders from 10/18— 10/22.

There will be a school wide (k-12) spirit week in December.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS!

Each Tuesday the students in k-12 will have the opportunity to purchase an extra treat at their lunchtime. We have purchased the materials to make four different treats for our students: cookies, nachos, pretzels, and ice cream. Please look at the calendar to find the treat that is available each Tuesday. The price break down for each treat is as follows:
Cookies 2 for \$1.00 Nachos \$1.00
Pretzels \$1.00 Ice Cream \$1.00

The seniors in Ms. Tabone's class will be in charge of all aspects of the Terrific Tuesdays. They will be doing the ordering, selling, and budgeting in order to raise money for their senior trip and prom. We think this is a great learning opportunity for them! Thanks for your support in advance. Terrific Tuesdays officially start on October 19, 2010.

