

# The Middle Connection

## School Newsletter



[www.lodi.k12.wi.us](http://www.lodi.k12.wi.us)

Term 2, 2019-20

### UPCOMING DATES:

#### Forensics News:

Lodi Middle School Forensics is in full swing. In January, practices were organized, with approximately 65 students getting ready for our first meet in March. We have a great group of students ready to develop their speaking skills with prose, poetry, group interpretation, plays, and solo acting pieces this year.

Our coaches, Sally Chapman, Michelle Howe, Alicia Raisbeck, Carl Nordstrom and Susan Torgerson, are working each week to help these students gain the confidence and skills they need for our two away meets.

We travel to Poynette for our first meet on **March 9th**, and our second meet is in Columbus on **March 17th**. Scores are given to the students at our first forensics meet, coaches from other participating schools are taking on a second role as judges at that time. We use those scores to focus on particular skills that may need to be addressed at practice. At the second forensics meet, students will receive ribbons, and certificates of participation which are awarded by their coaches at a later ceremony.

We hope that as parents/guardians, you are involved in the practice of the forensics pieces at home! Each week I tell my groups that they should practice in front of mirrors, or with family members to get the skills they will need to succeed. The forensics program in this school district is one we are proud to be involved with, and the success we have at the middle school is reflected at the high school level as our students continue with this co-curricular.

Susan Torgerson, Advisor



- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Overture Trip
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>  
iPod/Hat Day
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3:30-7:30 Scheduled
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
No School – Staff Collaboration
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>  
District PAC Meeting  
6:00pm HS LGI
- Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>  
District Solo & Ensemble  
@ Lodi HS
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 7<sup>th</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Trip
- March 9<sup>th</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Drug Education Day
- March 16<sup>th</sup>  
MS/HS PAC Meeting  
6pm HS LGI
- March 20<sup>th</sup>  
No School/Staff Collaboration
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Break
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
End of Term 3
- April 10<sup>th</sup>  
No School – Good Friday

## SUPER 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HAPPENINGS:

The recent science unit involved learning about the environment and “Engineering an Urban Landscape”. Students learned the Engineer Design Process steps, learned about ways that environmental engineers landscape cities and then were environmental engineers themselves and engineered their own city landscape to prevent water runoff. 6th grade science students have also been exposed to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities. STEAM events are planned for the rest of the school year.



Students will soon be learning about variables and how they affect outcomes. Students will be conducting controlled experiments titled “Swingers,” “Lifeboats,” “Flippers,” and “Airplanes” and finally completing their own controlled experiment. This is in preparation for the upcoming Lodi PTO sponsored Science/STEAM Fair on April 14. All students are encouraged to participate and will receive extra credit in science class plus a chance to win fabulous prizes! Information on the science fair will be given out in class and is also available in the main office.



In December, 6th grade students made their way to elderly care facilities in Lodi including Haven Hills, Lodi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Our House and Settlers Trail. Students sang holiday carols and visited with the residents. It was a very enjoyable morning. In January Cascade Mountain welcomed us for an awesome day of skiing and snowboarding. The weather was perfect and as students said, “We had a blast!” “It was an awesome time learning how to do something I have never done before.”



Librarian Paula Tonn and library assistant Laurie Gwynne worked with Ms. Dean to come up with this engaging way to introduce books to our 6th grade language arts students. Students came into the “restaurant,” the Book Café, in the LMC, ordered books from the menu, and left with a book that connected with their interest area. What a great way to engage students!



# Stupendous 7th Grade News:

## Rendler - Language Arts

### Amazing Authors -Children's Books

Our second quarter creative writing project began mid-October. Students began the long and tedious process of writing, editing, revising, and illustrating an original children's story. While each student spent time revising their own work, the most impressive part of the unit was the peer editing process. Students collaborated on a daily basis to provide feedback to each other and eventually learned that the writing process requires many revisions and a lot of patience. A new component was the addition of our online Ebook. Students uploaded the completed hard-copy into a program called Book Creator which also records their voice. I can honestly say that listening to their stories brought the creativity and enjoyment to an all new level of "incredible!" I do hope you enjoy both reading and listening to these wonderful authors!



] Amazing Authors!  
HARD AT WORK!



"Start writing no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."  
-Louis L'Amour

In addition to writing, we continue to work on the basics: grammar, vocabulary, annotating, and argumentative writing. Our STEMS program has begun and students have easily transitioned into their new routine. Understanding the Greek or Latin prefixes increases their ability to comprehend unfamiliar words, by knowing the meaning of the word parts.

We have also begun the second book of our Breadwinner Series, *Parvana's Journey*, and I continue to be impressed by their compassion and empathy for the characters in this series. Our assessment for the first book, *The Breadwinner*, was based on the importance of symbolism. Students chose a symbol to represent a part of the book that had a significant impact on their learning. The visual art was accompanied by a written response that explains and justifies their choice. Once again, they were quite impressive.



Finally, we are participating in the Snail Mail Relay which will continue throughout the year. Students chose a middle school and wrote a letter to the 7th grade English students hoping to get a response. We have a large map on the wall and used push pins to track where we sent our letters. The first responses have come back and students were very excited to learn about other schools.

I am looking forward to a new quarter!

## 7th Grade Social Studies:

At the beginning of the third quarter, we will complete a quick U.S. Geography unit that will include topics of regions, immigration, and poverty. Our next unit will be about Native Americans. Students will work in groups to complete a project about a Native American tribe with the emphasis on how the geography and climate affects how a tribe lives. Students will also be responsible for researching and presenting on two U.S. states during the second semester- one for the third quarter and one for the fourth quarter. We will also continue our Current Events discussions and analyzing editorial cartoons through the remainder of the year.

## 7th Grade Science

Students in science have just begun our new unit on Meteorology. This unit will take us through spring break.

Here are some learning targets students can expect to complete during the unit.

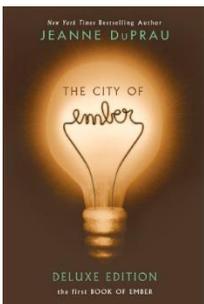
- I can measure weather parameters such as temperature, air pressure, humidity, wind speed and direction by using a thermometer, barometer, psychrometer, and anemometer.
- I can construct a cloud identification book by assembling pictures of the three main cloud types.
- I can make short term predictions in weather by reading current weather maps.
- I can find patterns that connect natural processes and human activities to changes in global temperatures by analyzing data.
- I can share tips for staying safe during severe weather by creating an informative poster.

Students crushing a soda can to demonstrate the power of air pressure.



## Torgerson - Language Arts

In Ms. Torgerson's language arts class we've just finished a unit on public speaking. During the month of December, students were asked to share a favorite holiday children's book with the class. After selecting their book, they practiced reading aloud, and were given multiple opportunities to listen and learn as I read aloud my favorite books, too. We all enjoyed hearing these stories, and we became aware of the variety of children's books that brought us joy throughout our childhood years.



Currently, we are reading a book by Jeanne DuPrau, *The City of Ember*. My classes are enjoying the discussions we have surrounding this city filled with problems. It is running low on resources, has occasional epidemics, with an unreliable power supply. There is also corruption in the government leadership, and the educational system does not encourage creativity or intellectual growth. One can only imagine how 7th graders creative minds may deal with situations such as these! It is a great book, and oftentimes helps us be much more appreciative of all the blessings we have.

Of course, we are also working on English (nouns), and writing an essay about recess...it's benefits and drawbacks! We've just started our unit on STEMS, which follows students throughout their high school years. We introduce 10 words each week, and take a simple quiz to show what we know!

This year is zooming by, and we have so much learning left to accomplish!

# EXCEPTIONAL EIGHTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

## Winter Activity Trip:

Every year the students of Lodi Middle School enjoy the opportunity to participate in our Winter Activity Day. During this day, the students are able to participate in skiing, skating, ice fishing, or tubing! This day provides the students with a new environment to learn and grow their skills outside of the classroom.

It is always a joy seeing our students engage in new skills and make healthy choices. While students are skiing, skating, ice fishing, and tubing, the students are building their independence and learning how to interact appropriately out in the community. At Cascade and while ice skating students are able to challenge themselves as they learn or develop a large motor skill. While ice fishing, the students are able to build connections with their classmates as they share and learn new fishing skills and techniques. This day provides the student with a new environment to learn and grow their skills outside of the classroom. Hopefully the experience inspires the students to continue to be active during the winter months.



## Around Our School:

### Learning Targets

As a district, much focus has been on developing a high quality curriculum for all students. John Hattie, educational researcher, highlights how important it is for teachers to be clear about what students are expected to learn each lesson. According to Hattie, *teacher clarity* is one of the most important factors of student achievement. Robert Marzano, another educational researcher, agrees; he includes *lesson goals* in his top five list of factors that affect how well students perform at school.

Throughout the school year, teachers have been developing daily learning targets that align to their curriculum standards. A learning target is a “daily-sized” chunk of learning written in student-friendly language that states what a student should learn and how they will show that they have learned it. Learning targets are intended to provide clarity in communication so that students can become active agents of their own learning. As a district, our goal is to have learning targets shared with the community via the school website by the start of the 2020-2021 school year.



2019/2020

On November 1st, our language arts teachers received their lists for the 2019-2020 Spelling Bee! Each grade level determines how they will proceed with this information, knowing that we will host a “MS Spell-Off” in January. Students are encouraged to practice words, and challenge themselves with the lists they are given. Many classrooms hold multiple mini-spelling bees to help students practice.

On January 16th, our school wide spelling bee was held in the LMC, with Ms. Gwynne, Mrs. Cunningham, and Ms. Torgerson hosting the students who represented each of the three grades in our school. Twelve students competed to become our champions for the Regional Spelling Bee at Pardeeville High School on February 4, 2020. Two students, Norah Gruel (6th) and Adysen Young (6th), spelled their way to success, and represented us at Pardeeville. Mrs. Suzanne Schmelling accompanied these students as their chaperone. Congratulations to Adysen Young who finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! If the first place finisher is unable to make the State Bee in March, Adysen will take her place.

The winner of the Regional Bee will compete in March at the Badger State Spelling Bee. Top 3 winners of the State Bee will advance on to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in April.

Congratulations Norah and Adysen!



# Social Worker's Scene

## Term 2

February marks Black History Month. It is an annual observance originating in the United States. We honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. This month is a tribute to African American men and women who have made significant contributions to the United States and to the world in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, the arts, and many other fields.

*"We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience"*

*~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*



A "Big Shout Out" to our LMS Students that run our School Store!!!! Students from Mrs. Huisman's class operate our School Store, which provides students with the opportunity to purchase school supplies! The store is open Monday-Friday in the Commons Area prior to school starting! Thank you Mrs. Huisman and students!



*As a reminder, we want students to know about the "LMS See Something, Say Something App". The App allows students to report unsafe behaviors, issues of bullying, name calling, threats, etc. Students can remain anonymous. The app can be found on our District webpage and mobile devices.*

*Look for this Icon:*





# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll

## High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Makayla Burmester  
Brielle Burros  
Norah Gruel  
Noelle Haak  
Sophia Himes  
Marah Lane  
Andrew Lembcke  
Hallie Nolden  
Isaac Prosek  
Scarlett Reppen  
Beau Ripp  
Brody Ripp  
Sabrina Schmidt  
Sydney Schroeder  
Megan Smith  
Bailey Stark  
Mia Walstad  
Faith Wetzel  
Rylie Wilcox  
Olivia Woodburn



## Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Sophia Andrews  
Sawyer Baron  
William Bercher  
Lexie Bishop  
Karrell Branch  
Alexander Breunig  
Riley Browne  
Gracie Clary  
Ashton Clemens  
Mikayla Dachel  
Natalie Detert  
Ayden Fandrich  
Raina Frey  
Katherine Hall  
A.J. Hernandez  
Fayth Hesselberg  
Maya Houdek  
Chase Hunter  
Oscar Johnston  
Grayson Koeppen  
Adelyn Kopp  
Elise Krumpen  
Kyle Kurt  
Trevor Kutz  
Micah Lee  
Charlotte Leu  
Nathan Lichucki  
Briahna Lund  
Brayden Newcomb  
Collin Norland  
Taylor Reese  
Lucas Rehlinger  
Darla Ripp  
Jake Ryan  
Flor Salto  
Whitney Schoenberg  
Bryce Skalitzky  
Rowan Skarda  
Annika Smith  
Skyla Strangeway  
Noah Streit

## Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA) contin.

Anabelle Strong  
Theo Traeder  
Misael Valencia  
Madalynn Weber  
Adysen Young

## Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Tyler Anderson  
Keleigh Bannach  
Lilly Bartholomew  
Ella Best  
Jack Bozacki  
Everett Clemens  
Hannah Davis  
Malinaly Fernandez Aguillon  
Taylor Hoiland  
Zander Kellogg  
Madison McMorris  
Theodore Melland  
Grant Miller  
Alannah Moen  
Baley Monette  
Jakob Newman  
Weston Olsen  
Andre Pardo  
Vala Pollock  
Simon Ricks  
Caden Ripp  
Giselle Roekle  
Trenton Schlender  
Riley Smith  
Navaeh Statz  
Ava Stephens  
Kenneth Taylor  
Anna Thony  
Kelina Xiong



# 7th Grade Honor Roll

## High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Izabeth Bahe  
Ava Ballweg  
Kaden Ballweg  
Vivian Beld  
Mayah Bonafield  
Michael Cahalane  
Addison Crane  
Braedon Dorshorst  
Preston Follis  
Bailey Franklin  
Kaydeen Hall  
Natalie Hellenbrand  
Olivia Heyroth  
Alexander Jackson  
Ezekiel Jackson  
Isabelle Johnson  
Natalie Kelley  
Samantha Leatherberry  
Josephine Lincoln  
Tessa Pertzborn  
Summer Rake  
Nicholas Rentmeister  
Brianna Schmelling  
Christa Statz  
Abigail Strong  
Tatum Tatro  
Keegan Taylor



## Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Landon Best  
Grant Beyer  
Robert Boisen  
Dakota Franklin  
Jonah Giese  
Harlie Gjavenis  
Adrianna Gonzalez  
Nellie Hatch  
Jadyn Hellenbrand  
Fatime Ibraimi  
Hayden Johnson  
Samuel Jones  
Sadie Koenig  
Zion Kurtz  
Caleb Lister  
Caleb Lord  
Grace Morgan  
Liam Mueller  
Tyler Oberling  
Jackson Rentmeister  
Caleb Rotzoll  
Kathryn Schilling  
Elijah Schneider  
Sydney Simpson  
Chase Stanek  
Catherine Zajicek



## Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Addison Bakke  
Lexie Birchler  
Sabriyya Chaplin  
Benjamin Crary  
Audrey Dallman  
Cyan Erickson  
Rejanais Hansen  
Kyle Hoffman  
Aiden Johnson  
Matthew Lincicum  
Deanna Loewenhagen  
Alyssa Lovik  
Dylan Ness  
Amber Norland  
Michael O'Mara  
Tony Omosebi  
Dakota Pierquet  
Lucas Ripp  
Shelby Ripp  
Ryan Rolfe  
Connor Skrum  
Jamie Skrum  
Bentley Smith  
Ayden Trimble  
Abigail Wagner  
Amy Wenger  
Isabell Wipperfurth  
Dominic Wipperfurth  
Laurence Wood  
Mason Yates



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll

## High Honors (4.00 GPA)

Anna Balfanz  
Kogen Baron  
Camila Becerril  
Walter Beld  
Mason Breunig  
Lauren Burros  
Anastasia Etlicher  
Allison Gray  
Gabriella Guethlein  
Elaina Hatley  
Jayce Kolinski  
Brianna Kurt  
Gianna McMahon  
Hallie Miller  
Morgan Paulson  
Connor Pecard  
Miranda Risher  
Isabella Roen  
Madelynn Scherer  
Anna Stratton  
Alexis Wilcox  
Noah Winter



## Honors (3.5 – 3.99 GPA)

Hailey Braatz  
Zachary Brisky  
Gianna Burke  
Jocelyn Chambers  
Crew Clemens  
Kylar Clemens  
Samuel Clepper  
Brooklyn Endres  
Rylee Fandrich  
Anna Florin  
Zachary Frank  
Sarah Griffing  
Aiden Groskopf  
Rosalee Heidenreich  
Tyler Hellenbrand  
Noah Houdek  
Jameson Keichinger  
Evan Kite  
Joshua Klann  
Henry Koeppen  
Alexis Krakow  
Abigail Krey  
Brayden Kurt  
Mason Lane  
Thomas Lund  
Blake Meier  
Courtney Meitzner  
Ella Moran  
Samantha Nyffenegger  
Brady Puls  
Skyler Rose  
Owen Smith  
Lucas Thistle  
Grace Wetzell  
Paxton Wyman



## Honorable Mention (3.0 – 3.49GPA)

Mitzari Alvarez-Ortega  
George Breiwa  
Aryana Chaplin  
Evan Clary  
William Eckstein  
Sydney Erickson  
Dayne Flad  
Henry Fowler  
Alyssa Gag  
Alayna Graf  
Isaiah Groskopf  
Anna Kittleson  
Paxton Krugman  
Benjamin Lichucki  
Drew Lochner  
William Long  
Harley Mahlum  
James Miller  
Spencer Olson  
Quetzal Peterson  
Roman Richardson  
Trebtor Roddewig  
Owen Rosga  
Gavin Sargeant  
Benjamin Schultz  
Haylie Schwab  
Benjamin Skellenger  
Holden Smith  
Rowan Thistle  
Damon Toothman  
Lea Traeder  
Kaylan Warren  
Nicholas Week  
Lillian Yauch  
Nolan Zopfi

