

December

2011

Berlin Middle  
School

*In The Middle*

### Parents' Pride Shows at Berlin Middle School!

We've had an enormous response to the Pride Ads for this year's yearbook. While we'd love to take as many as we could, unfortunately we are limited to the first 30 ads. At this point, we have received 30 ads, so we are not able to accept any more.

Thanks for supporting the BMS yearbook and showing your child you love him or her!



### Girls Basketball & Wrestling

Girls Basketball & Wrestling will start when we return to school from Christmas break. They will need to have all of their WIAA paperwork turned into the office before they can participate. They need to have had a physical or alternate year card and an insurance waiver turned in.



### Parent Lunch

Thursday, December 15

**Menu**— Chicken & gravy over whipped potatoes  
Carrots  
Wheat rolls  
Peaches  
Fresh fruit

Adult Lunch \$2.85

**Lunch Times:** 6th 11:03—7th 12:16—8th 11:47





## Boys & Girls Phy. Ed. Classes

The Middle School PE classes will be swimming during the month of January (3rd- 27th). Students will need to bring a swimsuit from home and wash or rinse it after each use. However, towels will be provided. Anyone needing to be excused from swimming must have a note from their parents. Students will report to Mr. Schumacher in the library to do make-up work each day that they are unable to swim. Students will be expected to do make-up work for all absences excused or not. It is our expectation that students will swim daily and it is our goal to help all students become stronger and safer swimmers!



## Counseling News

Parents, 8th grade Individual Learning Plan Conferences will begin in early December. All students will be conferencing with a counselor for 30-45 minutes each sometime between December 5th and January 20th. Parents are invited and strongly encouraged to attend these conferences with your child and the counselor. These conferences are a very important step in your child's educational experience. During the conference we will focus on the positives of your child and his/her plan for finishing out middle school and making the transition to high school and beyond.

This is our second year conducting these conferences. Last year we have about 60% of our parents attend the conference with their child and counselor and over 90% of the feedback was positive. This year we'd like to push that number closer to 100% of our parents attending.

A mailing has gone home and you should have received a letter, brochure and information on how to set up your conference. If you have not yet scheduled your conference time, please be sure to do so as soon as possible.

Mr. Born and Mrs. Hansen look forward to sitting down with you and your child to discuss their future.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade World History

This month in World History we will be learning about the ancient civilization of the Greeks. We will learn about Sparta and Athens, the beginning of democracy, and much more about these fascinating people who helped begin the culture of Europe.

The test on this chapter will be given on Tuesday, December 20th. Notes to study and paragraph plans to fill in for the essay on the test will be taken home on Wednesday, December 14th.

Besides the chapter test on Greece, each student will need to learn the location of 25 countries in Europe. There will be three tests given on these countries during the month. The highest scoring test will be the one entered into the grade book. If your child has no assigned homework in World History, he or she should be studying these countries.

## Math 6

During December the sixth grade mathematicians will be completing a unit on interpreting and constructing many different types of graphs used to display data. Some of the graphs created will be bar graphs, double bar graphs, line graphs, double line graphs, histograms, and stem-and-leaf plots. The chapter test will be on Tuesday,

December 13<sup>th</sup>.



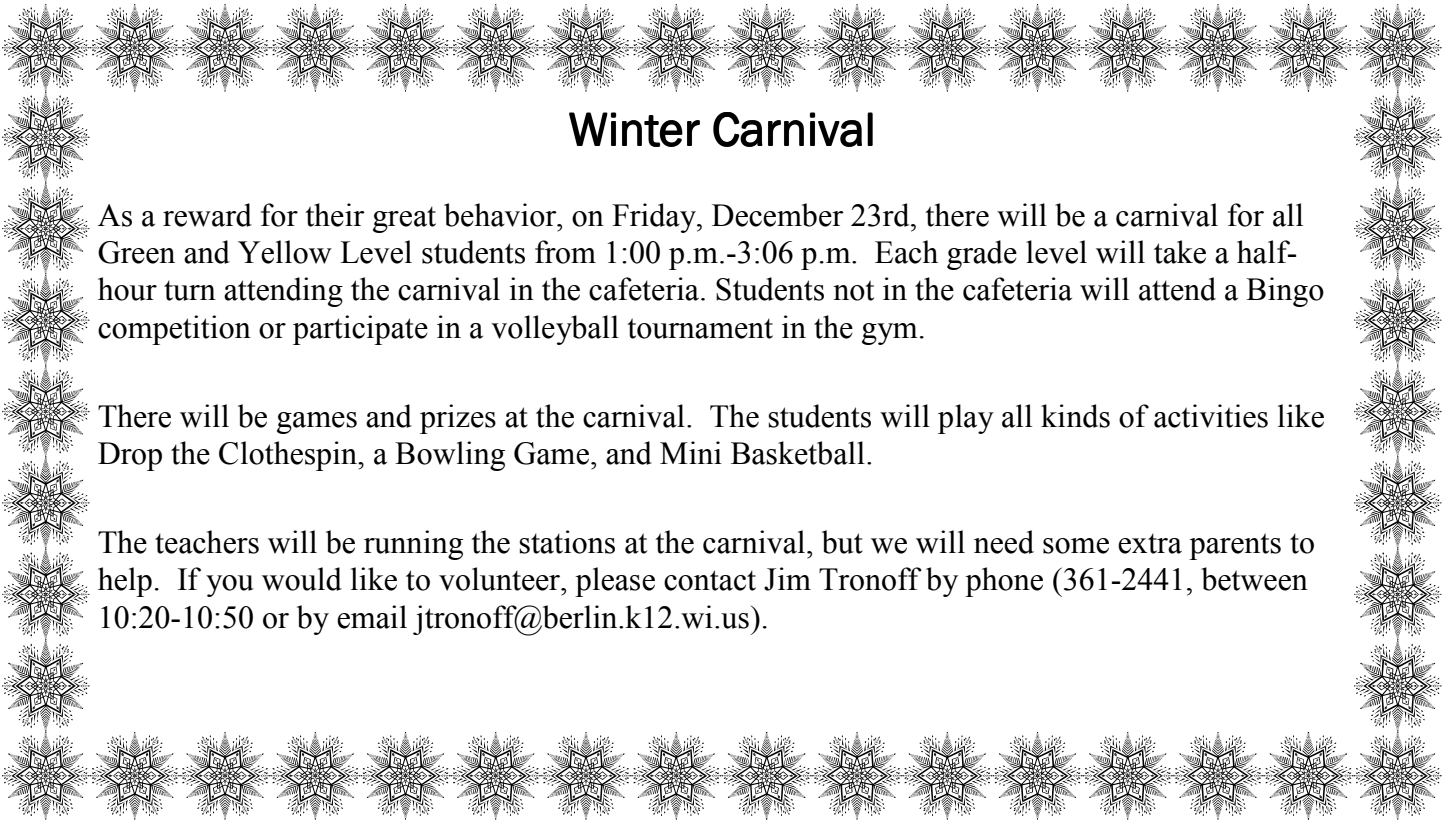
## 7th grade math

The 7th graders will be working on a unit dealing with ratios and proportions. The project at the end of the unit will be to draw a scale drawing of a house (Blueprint). Hopefully we will see some nice "dream homes" Mr. Clark and Mr. Kleinhans would like to wish you a happy holiday season.

## Seventh Grade Geography

It's amazing that we are now one third of the way into the school year. I wanted to take this time to let you know how impressed I was with the South America projects. We had so much fun taste testing the food in class and the soap sculpture displays were amazing! Thank you so much for your support!

During the third grading period, students will be expected to learn the location and spelling of the countries of South America. We will also be finishing up our unit on South America and then moving on to Canada!



# Winter Carnival

As a reward for their great behavior, on Friday, December 23rd, there will be a carnival for all Green and Yellow Level students from 1:00 p.m.-3:06 p.m. Each grade level will take a half-hour turn attending the carnival in the cafeteria. Students not in the cafeteria will attend a Bingo competition or participate in a volleyball tournament in the gym.

There will be games and prizes at the carnival. The students will play all kinds of activities like Drop the Clothespin, a Bowling Game, and Mini Basketball.

The teachers will be running the stations at the carnival, but we will need some extra parents to help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jim Tronoff by phone (361-2441, between 10:20-10:50 or by email [jtronoff@berlin.k12.wi.us](mailto:jtronoff@berlin.k12.wi.us)).



## 6th grade band

With one concert under our belt, we have a little breathing time before the next performance. Band students have a couple of Christmas tunes that we are working on. Students will also be getting a few more tunes for their black binders to practice. We will be learning new concepts out of our band book also.

Please be sure that the practice sheet is signed and **TOTALED** by you. If they turned it in, I initialed it. Also on the top of their practice sheet, they should be keeping track of how many lessons they have had. The week before Thanksgiving I will be telling them how many lessons they have had thus far and they should have marked it. If they didn't mark it, they didn't listen in class or were absent. Please keep that practice sheet in the black binder as kids are leaving it home and never bringing it back. If it doesn't come back to school in a timely manner, they will not get credit for their practice time. This is to make them responsible for turning it in.

Email or call if you have questions.



# Mini Course Day Parent Sign-up Sheet

Our eleventh Mini Course Day will be on Friday, February 17th, 2012. All students at the Middle School will be making their own schedules for that day. They will be attending eight hours of activities taught by teachers and adults from the community. The activities include hobbies, sports, games, and life skills.

In order to keep our class sizes low, we ask parents to volunteer to teach their own class that day. Your class would be either one (45 minutes) or two periods (90 minutes) in length. You may teach your class once during the day or up to six times if you had a one period class or three times if you had a two period class. You would have 10-20 students in each class you taught.

If you are interested in offering a Mini Course class, please fill in this form and return it to the Middle School office by Tuesday, December 6th. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Tronoff for more information.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: --- \_\_\_\_\_

Mini Course Idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Length of Course:    \_\_\_ one period        \_\_\_ two periods

Number of times you would like to teach this class:

One Time \_\_\_\_\_ Two Times \_\_\_\_\_

Three Times (Most if you are teaching a two period class) \_\_\_\_\_

Four Times \_\_\_\_\_ Five Times \_\_\_\_\_ Six Times \_\_\_\_\_

Time you'd like to teach (Circle one):    AM            PM            Anytime!



## **The Book Fair Is Coming!!**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for Monday, December 5 thru Friday, December 9. We invite you to our school to share in this celebration of books and reading. Not only does this event help raise funds to purchase essential classroom and library resources, it encourages reading among our students.

As students grow older, it is so important to keep books in their lives. Students who remain readers now are more likely to be lifelong learners. Readers develop larger vocabularies, a greater knowledge of the world, and higher academic achievement. In fact, studies indicate that being a reader is a better predictor of success than intelligence, economic background, or gender!

Our Book Fair provides a wide variety of age-appropriate books specifically selected to appeal to middle school tastes and interests. Students will discover books that are fun, entertaining, inspirational, and a resource for dealing with real-life experiences and emerging emotions. In addition, our Fair will have bestsellers that adults will find interesting and useful.

The Book Fair will be open daily from the hours of 7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. On Tuesday and Thursday we will be open during the boys' basketball games also until 5:30 P.M. If for some reason you are not able to attend the Fair in person, we encourage you to discuss the Book Fair with your child to determine what books he or she may want to add to their personal collection. This year you can also order books online through our website located at:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/berlinmiddleschool> or just browse to see what the Book Fair has to offer.

This year we are raising money through the "One for Books" program. Our goal is to put more books into the hands of students and on the shelves in classrooms and in libraries. Students will be able to donate any amount, including change, to the program. The money raised will go to purchasing more books for our school and/or schools in need of books. Scholastic will also match the monetary donations raised with a donation of up to one million books to three non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need. The organizations include: Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., National Center for Family Literacy, and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at school.

Sincerely,

Miss Plato and Mrs. Mattice <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/berlinmiddleschool>

# Book Fair Volunteers

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

The Berlin Middle School is hosting the **Scholastic Book Fair**. **The Book Fair is being held December 5-9.** The fair will be open all four days from the hours of 7:30am-4:00pm. Classes will be in session during most of the hours of the Book Fair, so we are asking for parent volunteers to help us run the fair. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please fill out a time below and send it back to school with your student.

Choose any times that you would be able to help. Help is needed at these times:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, December 5, 7:30-12:00 pm

or put a specific date and  
time here:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, December 5, 12:00- 4:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, December 6, 7:30-12:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, December 6, 12:00-4:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, December 7, 7:30-12:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, December 7, 12:00-4:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, December 8, 7:30-12:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, December 8, 12:00-4:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, December 9, 7:30-12:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, December 9, 12:00-4:00 pm

We know these are large chunks of time. Even if you can't work an entire shift, please let us know what you would be available to work. We appreciate any help we can get.

If you would be interested in helping, please return **ASAP** to Mrs. Mattice or Miss Plato, or email or call either teacher with the time you would like to work. If you have any questions, contact either teacher.

Mrs. Mattice: [jmattice@berlin.k12.wi.us](mailto:jmattice@berlin.k12.wi.us)

Miss Plato: [kplato@berlin.k12.wi.us](mailto:kplato@berlin.k12.wi.us)

December Allegro and Encore Band Notes:

Go to: [bmsband.pbworks.com](http://bmsband.pbworks.com) for more information! Or find us on the middle school web page links!

Happy Holidays! Be sure to ask your musician to play some music for you over vacation! They have holiday music from class.

Congratulations to the bands for a great performance at the Veterans Day Program and Holiday Parade! Hopefully we will also be able to do some caroling with our instruments at Clay Lamberton!

**We are busy preparing for our next performance, the Winter Band Concert and Art Show, Monday, January 23. Mark your calendars, the concert begins at 7:00. It is going to be great!**

December marks the start of the third grading period. Check the BMS band website for current practice material. Remember, EVERYONE needs practice! We will also be starting to select solo/ensemble music.

