

November

2011

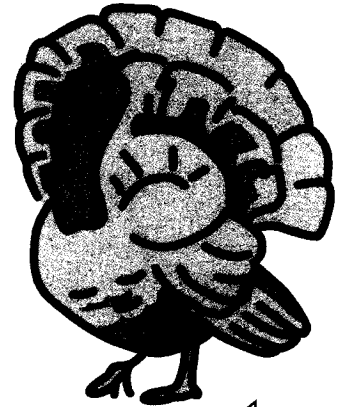
**Berlin Middle
School**

BASD

In The Middle

SKI CLUB

There will be a ski club meeting in November to pass out information on the costs, time and dates that the ski club will be attending Nordic Mountain. Due to the room needed on the bus for students with their own equipment only the first **40 paid** students will be allowed to go. On Sundays, we leave Berlin Middle School at 2:00 p.m. and we return at 8:30 p.m. There will be an added bus fee of \$10.00. More info to come. Any questions can be directed to Mr. Marshall at 361-2441 extension 2365 or jmarshall@berlin.k12.wi.us. This is an extra-curricular activity and therefore any behavior that is not appropriate will be grounds for dismissal out of the ski club. If you miss any dates the ski hill will give you a voucher that can be used within one year of the day you missed.



**Building
Maximum
Success**

Testing Dates for BMS

6th grade testing dates are: Mon., Oct. 24, Tues., Oct. 25, Wed., Oct. 26

7th grade testing dates are: Tues., Nov. 8, Wed., Nov. 9, Thurs., Nov. 10.

8th grade testing dates are: Mon., Oct. 31, Tues., Nov. 1, Wed., Nov. 2, Thurs., Nov. 3, Fri., Nov. 4

2 Early Dismissal dates in November

Wednesday, November 23 at 12:06 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30 at 12:06 p.m.

Parent Lunch

Wednesday, November 16

**Menu— Ham slice on a
bun
Macaroni &
Cheese
Green Beans
Raw Vegetables
Mandarin Oranges
Fresh Fruit**

6th gr. Eat at 11:03

7th gr. Eat at 12:16

8th gr. Eat at 11:47

Adult Lunch \$2.85



Allegro and Encore Band Notes – November

The second grading period ends November 30.

Four lessons and four one-hour practice reports are expected!

Upcoming events:

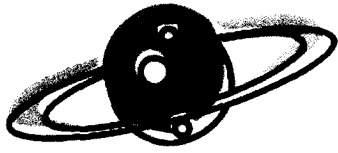
Veterans Day Program Friday, November 11 at 10:30. Wear band uniform (green band polo, khaki pants, socks and shoes) to school. (required)

Holiday Parade: Thursday, November 17. We will be marching with the high school band. Watch for a note home with more information, or check our website! Parade begins at 6:30. (required)

Food For Thought – from Mrs. Walheim!

With the holidays approaching I would like to share some ideas for musical gifts or stocking stuffers!

- 1. Song books – These books are written for specific band instruments and at a variety of skill levels. They contain melodies of popular music from Disney tunes to top 40 hits. Most come with a play along CD. They are available at most music stores, or we can get information at school. We do not stock these at school.*
- 2. Professional recordings – Listening to professional musicians is important to developing good sound and technique. Professional recordings of everything from solo tuba to flute choir or concert band are available on-line. If you need advice, just let me know.*
- 3. Instrument supplies – Instrument cleaning kits, extra reeds, mutes, music stands, neoprene neck straps, etc. are available at music stores or here at school.*
- 4. A new instrument – this is a big one, but if your student is serious about music and planning to play through high school or beyond, a step up instrument is a good investment. Our students begin on beginner instruments which are sturdy and easy to learn on. A step up instrument is of better quality, is capable of producing a better sound, and is technically more advanced. If you are currently renting or leasing there are sometimes deals to be had. Contact me or one of our music store representatives if you are interested in this.*
- 5. A trip to a good music store – you never know what you will find here, from musical clothing to flavored reeds (I don't recommend these) – it is a fun adventure for any musician!*



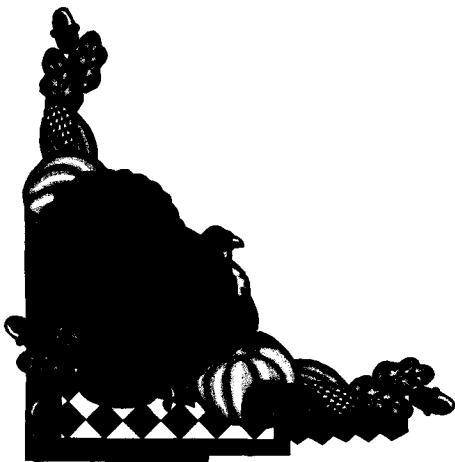
8th grade Science

We have just finished our weather unit, and are now headed into astronomy. We are learning about the history of astronomy, life-cycle of stars, our solar system, and other celestial bodies. Although the night-sky is a beautiful thing, we unfortunately cannot enjoy it during the school day. Please encourage your son/daughter to take a few minutes over the next month or two to step outside at night and take a look at the sky. Join them as they point out constellations, tell you about Galileo, the big-bang theory, how the moon formed, and how big the universe really is!

Parents, just a reminder...

Athletic practices here at Berlin Middle School are for coaches and team members only. If you need to pick up your child prior to the end of practice, please make arrangements with your child's coach. Also, players are expected to ride the team bus to and from events. If parents need to make other transportation arrangements for their child, a written request is necessary signed by the principal, at least one day in advance.


Thank you for your cooperation and support.

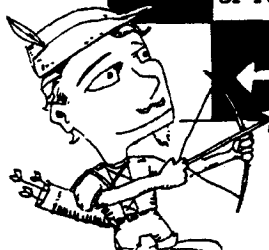


**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

READING FUN

DEAR PARENT:

?	→	→	PICK A CARD	→	BACK 6 SPACES		
↑	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Have You Played a Good Book Lately?</h2>						↓
PICK A CARD	<p>If your child enjoys playing Monopoly or other board games, you can turn that interest into an activity that will help him or her become a better reader. The idea is to create a board game based on a favorite story.</p> <p>A good starting point is for your child to make cardboard game pieces that represent the book's main characters. Your child should think about the setting of the story and how it could be represented on a game board. Then discuss the main idea of the book. Is the lead character trying to get from one place to another? Is there a mystery to be solved? This discussion should help your young game creator plan a path around the game board.</p> <p>The path should be divided into squares with some marked for the player to pick a card that has a message sending him or her forward or backward. Help your child make up messages that relate to events in the story and that either help the characters reach their objective ("move ahead" cards) or get in their way ("lose a turn" or "move back" cards). Write each message on an index card and place the cards somewhere on the game board.</p> <p>To play, use a die to tell how many spaces each character moves per turn. Not only will your middle grader get to discuss a favorite book with you, but the two of you will get hours of fun playing the game.</p>						?
↑							↓
LOSE A TURN							PICK A CARD
?							↓
↑							↓
↑							?
PICK A CARD							AHEAD 4 SPACES
↑							↓
PICK A CARD							PICK A CARD
BACK 4 SPACES							LOSE A TURN
↑							↓
←	←	?	PICK A CARD	BACK 3 SPACES	←	PICK A CARD	



Make Believe Ways To Think About Books



Looking for ways to encourage your middle grader to discuss the books he or she has read? Here are a few ideas your child might like to try.

- Make believe you're a publisher who wants to sell as many copies of this book as possible. Write one or two paragraphs about the book for the back cover that will get other readers interested.
- Make believe you're the book's author and this book is going to be part of a series. What will the next book be about?
- Make believe you are a bookstore owner. How would you decorate a display for this book?

6th Grade Math

Fractions! Fractions! Get your fraction knowledge here!

The month of November brings two fraction units in Math. Topics include equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions, and multiplying and dividing fractions. These topics can be challenging for some students so feel free to encourage extra practice. There are additional problems in the back of the math book as well as online at www.go.hrw.com If you would like a book to keep at home, please ask.

Some students who have a firm grasp of fractions will be offered an alternative project that will be done to reflect their fraction knowledge. Your child's math teacher will determine who is eligible for the alternative project.

6th Grade World History

During this month we will be finishing the Egypt unit and beginning the Greek unit. Remember that each student has an object (and a typed paragraph that explains it) for their Egypt Museum due on Wednesday, November 9th.

Later during the month of November and into December, each student will need to learn the location of twenty-five of the countries of Europe. Each student will be given a practice test to use to study for this test on Monday, November 14th. The students will be given three tries to pass this test. The best score of the three tests will be entered into the grade book. The first test will be given the week after Thanksgiving break.

Yearbook News!

We have had tremendous response so far on ordering both yearbooks and Pride Ads. If you have not ordered your yearbook yet, please be sure to do so. You can either send in the order form that was included in your fall registration packet, or you can order online with a credit/debit card.

If you would like to order online, just go to the Berlin Middle School website and under the Yearbook link, click on "order your yearbook." This will take you to the Josten's website and you can create an account and order your book there. Books ordered online will arrive with the rest of the yearbooks at school and will be delivered to students in early June.

Pride Ad space is limited to the first 30 ads. We have about 24 ads submitted so far, so if you're considering this for your 8th grade student, please bring in your ad order form now.

6th grade Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts classes will start a unit on poetry during the month of November. We will be reading different types of poetry in class and discussing meanings and styles. Many of the students know Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky. They may have even heard of Robert Frost and Langston Hughes. Encourage them to read as many different poets' works as they can so they can have a true understanding of how poetry can be written. The students will also be writing some of their own poems during November. They will receive a packet with the layouts of different poems and will be drafting their own. Check with your student on their progress throughout the packet.

Also, don't forget to encourage your child to be reading their SSR books at home. Students are expected to read at least 25 pages a week (which they need to log on their bookmark) and to complete a weekly SSR assignment about their reading for the week. Happy Reading! :)

7th grade Math

The 7th graders will be working with fractions and decimals during November. I will have a student teacher that will start working with us in November and be with the students until mid January. His name is Mr. Kleinhans and he is currently a student at Ripon College.

Seventh Grade Geography

The second grading period will focus on North America. Students will be expected to be able to locate and spell the countries of North and Central America. He/she was given a map to study for the tests, which are given every other week. Your student may also log onto My Big Campus to find a page dedicated to North America and play some online games to help them study.

The first grading period students were able to use their books on tests. Your student will be expected to take notes in class and then will be able to use them on tests for this grading period.

COUNSELOR NEWS!

We are starting a Parent Lending Library. Mrs. Hansen has a section of books on many different topics in her room that can be checked out to help you on a variety of issues. Please check out the list of books available at the BMS Counselor's Corner website. You can access this website from the Berlin Middle School Webpage. Just go to Departmental Websites and click on the Berlin Middle School Counselor's Page, then click on the link for the Counselor's Corner site. This site is chock full of information relating to middle school children's development, middle school conferencing and other useful information.

Understanding and Raising Girls

Home » Girl Friends »

Middle School Survival

For many girls, middle school becomes a pressure cooker filled with power struggles, conflicting impulses, physical growth and strong emotions. At the same time, middle-school girls develop deep and close friendships, separating from their families and forming their own rewarding social universes.

"One of the best things you can do for your daughter is not to assume she or other girls are, by nature, over-dramatic, mean, or gossipy," says Lyn Mikel Brown. "Expectations matter -- ask any good educator. Avoid 'girls will be girls' or 'girls are so mean to each other' messages. Appreciate and support your daughter's best impulses, praise her when she takes risks, especially if they involve going against the social tide, support her individually, and downplay concerns about what other people think. Encourage her to be friends with a wide spectrum of people (without forcing the issue), and always, always assume the best -- so will she."

Here's how one 15-year-old remembers middle school:

"In sixth grade I went to a new school. I was really eager to make new friends but keep my old ones. But in a matter of weeks, my former best friend was spreading rumors about me, having her friends pass me notes saying she hated me -- someone even wrote something mean in my locker. I didn't tell the teachers and I begged my parents not to say anything. Finally, after a few months we talked about it and figured it out. But it was pretty weird for a long time."

Middle school is challenging. Here are some ideas about middle-school ups and downs and what parents can do -- and not do -- to help.

There's a lot that's cool about middle school.

While much is written about mean girls, it's important for parents to realize how much fun this time can be socially for their daughters. "In sixth and seventh grades, girls get excited about becoming preteens and having their own world," says Catherine Steiner-Adair. "It's a time when they develop their own set of interests and begin to think about the world around them."

The nature of friendship changes in middle school.

At this stage, when girls get together what they mostly do is talk. They talk in person about music and clothes and boys -- and then they talk online. "Parents get frustrated because they don't get to hear their daughters talk the way they did when they were in elementary school," notes Michael Thompson. "But we need to find ways to connect with our children other than being part of their social lives."

The media set the tone for middle school.

Girls this age are thrilled that they are about to become teenagers. "There is a whole cultural pulse that taps into what they are thinking and feeling, and (like it or not) it's really irresistible," notes Steiner-Adair. Girls live their lives online, doing homework, watching TV, and talking to friends simultaneously. While they can use the Internet in wonderful ways, they can sometimes use it to flame and shame each other, spread vicious rumors, and post malicious information behind girls' backs. (To learn more about how girls' social lives, shopping habits, viewing habits, and online lives intertwine, read *The Girl Net*).

Hormones can affect behavior in middle school.

It's hard to be a girl at this age and stage. "Hormones make many girls feel edgy, crabby, cranky, and teary," notes Steiner-Adair. "Everyone's bodies are developing and changing at different rates and this often makes girls feel uncomfortable with their own." Raging hormones and interest in boys can also disrupt the existing social order. "When boys hit the scene it can be tough to sort out just how to interact in the same old way with girlfriends," adds Meg White. "By the time your daughter is 10 or 11, it's time to open a conversation about sex and boys, but I recommend parents back off from too much boy talk. When your daughter mentions a boy, don't immediately jump to the possible attraction between them. It might or might not be there."

The social hierarchy intensifies in middle school.

Cliques get clique-ier, the need to be in power intensifies, and girls can get meaner -- and much of this behavior stems from the intense desire to belong, the need to feel powerful, and the conditioning that many girls have to not express their feelings directly. Some girls function as leaders, others as followers, and the rest live outside the groups. Some of these girls don't care, while others desperately want to belong. But there is hope: "By eighth grade, in a certain sense, girls are done being mean to each other. They now are collectively ready to focus their attention towards sex -- even if they're not ready to fully act upon it," says Thompson.

Next: How We Can Help Our Middle-School Girls



Supporting Girls through Middle School

"Middle school is a training ground for building resiliency for later years. Teasing and bullying do happen and we can't entirely prevent this. Parents can help their girls by talking on a regular basis, allowing time for sorting out problems but most importantly allowing feelings to be heard. This can take time and patience on a parent's part. Having a strong family support system, one where all feelings are valid and listened to can make a world of difference in helping girls 'hold it together' during the day at school."

Meg White, M.A.
Seattle-based psychotherapist

Peer Relationships: Middle School

Three Common Traits and Four Ways to Learn More About Your Child

Oct 30, 2007 Joe Bruzzese

Peer relationships in middle school frustrate parents and adolescents. Explore three common characteristics and four ways to learn more about your child.

Middle school peer relationships affect your child's ability to succeed. Positive friendships will bolster motivation. Negative friendships filled with emotional let downs and continued arguments work against your child's ability to succeed.

Three Common Characteristics of Middle School Peer Relationships

1. Best friends, mortal enemies. Friendships and social groups change from day to day in middle school, often without warning or explanation. Yet the effects of peer relationships on the developing psyche of middle school students can wreak havoc on their emotional stability and subsequently affect their ability to learn and achieve in school.
2. Five minute phone call fiascos. A five-minute phone call between friends can quickly mushroom into an evening of drama. Homework takes a backseat to any social problems.
3. Fitting-in, is first. Finding a peer group takes time. Moving between groups of friends isn't unusual in the first months of school. In an effort to fit in with the group adolescents often change their physical appearance.

Smart Sleuthing: Learn More about Your Child

Many middle schoolers develop and fine tune their ability to use selective silence when parents ask questions. Attempts at car-ride conversation are often met by one word responses or silence. As frustration grows, parents often settle for conversations that more closely resemble a game of twenty questions than a quality discussion.

Four Tips for Learning More

1. Wait and listen. In time your silence will be rewarded. Kids like to talk if given the opportunity. What they don't appreciate are rapid fire question sessions and the continued probing of nosy parents. During the car ride home from school let silence fill the air while giving your child the opportunity to share something important from their day. The silence can become unbearable for both of you. Hold out and wait for the moment your child starts the conversation.
2. Ask "How" questions. Questions that begin with "How" give ownership of the conversation back to your child. Asking, "How did you do that?" or "How did you find out about that?" sets the stage for your child to take control of the conversation.

3. **Observe from a distance.** Observing is different than hovering. Helicopters hover. Parents observe. Observing casually from a distance will provide you with all the information you need about your child's social circle. By contrast, when a parent follows their middle school adolescent onto and around the school campus she may acquire the label of "helicopter parent. **Try This:**Linger (in the car) for a minute or two after dropping your child. In the time before school begins students typically gather in groups around the school campus. Does he gravitate towards a particular group of students? Kids with healthy peer groups will often rush out of the car to join friends. By contrast, a sudden reluctance to depart from the comfort of home might be a signal of the start of peer problems. Arriving a few minutes early for the afternoon pick up provides another opportunity to observe (from a distance) your child's social interactions.
4. **Make your home a "no cell" zone.** With the cell phone off limits, all social calls are made on the house phone. Listening in on your child's phone calls is not a practice that most kids welcome. However, parents should make an effort to listen long enough to find out who is calling and the general tone of the call. Rushed calls or raised voices may be indicators of trouble spots in your child's peer relationships.

If you are genuinely concerned about a specific call or series of animated conversations, talk with your child about your concerns. The statement, "Let me know if there is anything you want to talk about" may be enough to prompt a conversation after a troubling phone call.

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November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 A Day Picture Retakes 8:00 8th gr. Testing	2 B Day 8th gr. Testing	3 A Day 8th gr. Testing	4 B Day 8th gr. Testing	5
6	7 A Day Forensic Conference @ Wantoma	8 B Day 6th Band Concert 7:00 7th gr. Testing	9 A Day 7th gr. Testing	10 B Day BBB/Waupaca/8A-7H 7th gr. Testing Change Card	11 A Day VETERAN'S DAY	12
13	14 B Day	15 A Day BBB-Ripon 8A 7H	16 B Day Parent Lunch	17 A Day BBB/Winn./8A-7H Christmas Parade	18 B Day	19
20	21 A Day BBB/Ripon/8H-7A	22 B Day BBB/Omro/8H-7A	23 A Day Dismiss @ 12:00	24 THANKSGIVING	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 B Day Change Card	29 A Day BBB/Waupaca/8H-7A	30 B Day Dismiss @ 12:00 Inservice P.M.			

November 2011 Menu-Elementary&Middle School

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	ELEMENTARY \$1.95 Daily MIDDLE SCHOOL \$2.20 Daily	1 Chicken Patty on a Bun Shredded Lettuce Lattice Fries Green Beans Peaches Fresh Fruit	2 Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Carrots Pineapple Fresh Fruit	3 Breakfast for Lunch	4 Chicken Nuggets Honey or BBQ Sauce Potato Smiles Corn Wheat Roll Cranberry Sauce Fresh Fruit
Week 2	7 Corn Puppies Baked Beans Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Fresh Fruit	8 Hard or Soft Shell Tacos Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Corn Fiesta Rice Pineapple Fresh Fruit	9 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Green Beans Strawberries Fresh Fruit	10 Pizza Lettuce w/ Dressing Carrots Pears Fresh Fruit	11 Chicken & Gravy over Whipped Potatoes Peas Wheat Roll Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit
Week 3	14 Cheeseburger on a Bun French Fries Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Fresh Fruit	15 Breakfast for Lunch	16 Ham Slice on a Bun Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Raw Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit	17 Chicken Strips over Whipped Potatoes Corn Wheat Roll Peaches Fresh Fruit	18 Stuffed Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Dipping Sauce Lettuce w/ Dressing California Vegetables Jello w/ Pears Fresh Fruit
Week 4	21 Hard or Soft Shell Tacos Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Carrots Muffin Fruit Cocktail Fresh Fruit	22 Pizza Lettuce w/ Dressing Peas Pineapple Fresh Fruit	23 Chicken Patty on a Bun Shredded Lettuce Sun Chips Green Beans Strawberries Fresh Fruit Early Dismissal	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	26 NO SCHOOL
Week 5	28 Chicken Nuggets Honey or BBQ Sauce Lattice Fries Corn Wheat Roll Peaches Fresh Fruit	29 Ham Slice on a Bun AuGratin Potatoes Peas Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit	30 Stuffed Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Dipping Sauce Lettuce w/ Dressing Green Beans Jello w/ Pears/Fresh Fruit Early Dismissal	Menu Subject to Change without Notice 1/2 Pint Milk Included with Each Student Meal	Peanut Butter Offered as an Alternate to the Entrée Daily at Elementary and Middle School Salad Bar Available at Middle School Daily