

# JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

## Important Dates

**Nov. 3**—Early Release (12:10pm)

**Nov. 9, 14**—Parent/Teach conf.

**Nov.10** —Veteran's Day Ceremony

**Nov. 21**—End of Tri-core 1

**Nov. 22-27**—No School

## Mission Statement

“Educating and engaging the whole student”

To create a stimulating, caring and socially responsible environment that encourages students to reach their individual potential

## Contacting JC McKenna Middle School Main Office Hours

7:15am-3:45pm

### Telephone Extensions:

Principal, Mrs. Dobbs.....882-3302

Attendance Voicemail .882-3301

School Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Holm.....882-3304

School Social Worker:

Mr. Mike Czerwonka...882- 3356

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Evansville, WI 53536

**Fax:** 608-882-5744

**Website:** [jcm.ecsdnet.org](http://jcm.ecsdnet.org)

## Principal Message: Joanie Dobbs

September and October certainly flew by. The students had a wonderful time celebrating Homecoming with dress up days, attending the Homecoming parade and having a pep rally prior to the parade. The Middle School Band did a fantastic job. This is the first opportunity for our seventh and eighth graders to march together and they certainly did not disappoint.

Fall sports have ended and we have moved on to our winter sports. This was the first year that our sixth graders were able to join Cross Country and they certainly made their mark on the courses. Congratulations to all the sports teams for their dedication to the sport. We hope that each team felt challenged, learned from mistakes, celebrated successes together as a team and always put their best effort into each practice and each competition. It is not about the wins and losses but more about what you learned and gained along the way. I am looking forward to watching the athletes on the basketball courts and then the wrestling mat.

I am also looking forward to our band and choir concerts but need a little more patience as this is further away. Mrs. Proper and Mr. Harsevoort certainly have their hands full with the sheer number of students but they do an amazing job with our musicians. Just last week I stood on the steps during chorus and just listened to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir and was disappointed when the bell rang after a couple of minutes of me being there. I needed those few minutes to appreciate our amazing kids and the amazing things that they are capable of attaining.

Speaking of attaining things, conferences are coming up soon and we hope you are able to attend to hear about the grades your child is attaining. Each grade level team will be sending out conference information soon. If you are unable to attend, please contact your child's Team Time teacher to set up a

Continued on next page...

## Principal Message cont...

different time. The conferences are student led so you will finally have a chance to hear from your child about what they are learning instead of hearing “nothing” when you ask what they did today.

Thank you to all of the families that sold or donated money towards the JC McKenna fundraiser. We still have Tervis Tumblers available in the office for \$25.00 if you are interested. The funds go towards student activities such as field trips, special events, PBIS (behavior) celebration days, recess playground balls and more.



Thank you to those that attended or helped with the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree. This K8 PTO event is the largest fundraiser for the school year and it takes a lot of work and volunteers to make it happen. The PTO uses the funds in a variety of ways such as supplementing field trips, purchasing flexible seating, purchasing an iPad for classrooms and so much more.

### Tips for October:

How do I support study habits?

- ◆ Don't allow procrastination! Show your child how to divide big projects into smaller, more manageable parts.
- ◆ Study a little each night by reading notes, doing flashcards or talking about what was presented that day in class.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use their assignment notebook and check it over each night. Is there a test coming up? A large project? Be informed and ask questions.
- ◆ Set expectations. When should homework be completed? How long do you expect your child to study each night?
- ◆ Turn off the television. Make sure homework time is free from distractions.
- ◆ Help your child stay organized by color-coding, using their assignment notebook and making sure all papers are in their correct location and not crumpled up in the bottom of their backpack.
- ◆ Encourage healthy eating habits.
- ◆ Set a reasonable bedtime and set a screen time curfew. Studies show that watching TV or using electronics 90 minutes before bedtime delays sleep.

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other basis protected by law.

# 6th Grade News

## 6th Grade Team

**Mr. Tom Bethke** 882-3328  
Math  
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**Mr. Tristan McKittrick** 882-3330  
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**Mr. Greg Vossekuil** 882-3329  
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**Ms. Jo Ann Mumm** 882-3339  
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**Ms. Paige Baxter** 882-3314  
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- Parents please continue to sign and check over your child's assignment notebook. This helps everyone stay informed about what is being assigned for homework as well as any upcoming tests or projects. Team Time teachers check for signatures daily.
- Grades are posted online. Please use Family Access to find your child's grades. It takes about 1 week turn around time for teachers to post grades. If you have not signed-up for Family Access please contact Melinda Molloy at the District Office.
- Parent /Teacher Conferences are November 9 and 14 from 3:30 to 8 pm. (information regarding conferences will be sent home the week of October 30)

## Homework Help!

- 6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. This club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child's Team Time teacher if you have any questions. We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work or even skill work.

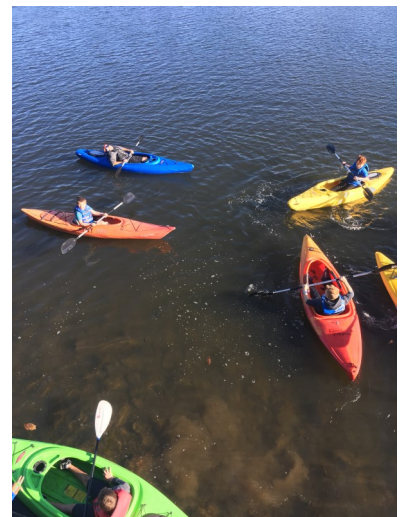
## Science

In science we are still learning what help our new textbook can give the students. Students now know how to locate review and tutor videos as well as online practice quizzes. Our next upcoming chapter will be about the periodic table of elements. Also in early November members of the SPARK Curiosity Team from Sigma-Aldrich will come in do teach some chemistry labs to our 6th graders. This is their second year joining us!

Please continue to help and encourage your student to study for 15 minutes a night.

## 6th Grade Outdoor Education Day was a success!

Students spent most of their day at Lake Leota Park in Evansville on Sept 29. Activities included kayaking, fishing, a scavenger hunt, bocce ball, soccer, spiderball and a history lesson on Lake Leota. See more photos at the end of this newsletter. We want to thank the



many community members that join us and make Outdoor Education Days possible. There will be 2 more Outdoor Days in June 2018.



## Language

### Arts

Sixth Grade students are reading like crazy! Every student has read at least three novels already this year while they have practiced a variety of skills including characterization and growth or change, inferencing, use of textual evidence, identifying conflict and author's message or theme.

Students also just finished their Personal Narrative where we focused on writing in paragraphs with a strong lead; a logical sequence of events, elaboration with details, action, dialogue and internal thinking that reflects the "big idea" of their small moment story. Look for students to share these stories at conference time. We are currently working on a responsive unit where students will do some free choice writing where they will practice skills relating to verb agreement, correct punctuation and cap-

italization with dialogue, identifying and addressing run-ons, while writing more complex sentences correctly. Thank you for your support with encouraging your child to read at least 20 minutes each night, even if they have finished their book club reading assignment at school. Although we do realize it is not always easy to find this time to read, the pay-off for establishing the habit and love of reading will truly make a huge difference in your child's growth and learning in all areas.

## Math

Regular math classes are currently completing Chapter 2 of Big Ideas. This is the study of fractions and decimal operations. Up next in Chapter 3 of Big Ideas, students will be working on algebraic expressions and properties. Area of polygons will be the next unit of study. Ask your child if they have done any math extra credit.

### Math 24

Math 24 has been introduced to all 6th graders. This is using the 4 basic operations along with integers to get to 24 or -24. There is a grade level tourney coming up in February. The top 6 students will go on to compete later in March at a regional tourney.

### Advanced Math

Students have just started Chapter 3 of the "Red" Big Ideas Series. This is the study of expressions and equations.

Highlights of this chapter include solving equations with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Students will also solve some 2 step equations.

KhanAcademy.org is a website that all students can use as a resource. Students can watch videos for grade level math, practice problems and play games. Please encourage your child to use Khan Academy outside of school. Students have computer access at JCM if needed. This is a wonderful, free resource for all students and parents. Please have your child show you this valuable website.

Mr. Bethke's website has a variety of math resources including YouTube video lesson from the current chapter for regular and advanced math classes. <https://sites.google.com/a/ecsdnet.org/bethke-website/home>

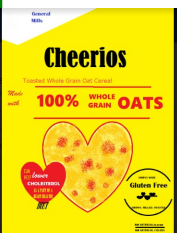
### Social Studies

In Social Studies, sixth graders are wrapping up their quarter with the end

of Unit 2: Our Government. They are getting a good grasp of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and we've been having some good discussions about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the different parts of our government. Students had the chance to simulate the three branches by creating a school lunch menu. Through this activity they learned about checks and balances and the ways our government tries to avoid anyone having too much power.

Beginning with our second quarter, we will tackle issues of slavery and the Civil War. Students will also be responsible for knowing the 50 states. As with any history unit, there are always connections with current events and various ways that the past is relevant today. I encourage you to talk to your sixth graders about what they are learning so they can keep making connections and asking questions!

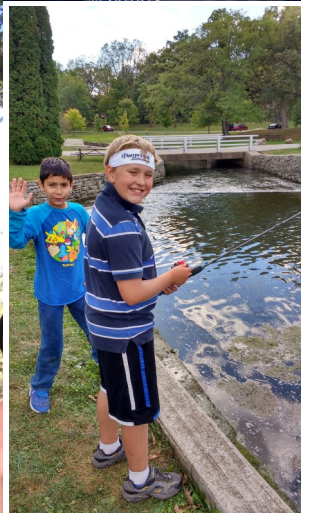
## Computer Applications



As our class enters mid-term in our Tri-Core, students have continued to work hard to master their keyboarding skills. The addition of timed writings assesses students for accuracy and words per minute. State standards require 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to be keyboarding at a rate of 30wpm. Some of our students are in excess of 70! Keep practicing!

October is Internet Safety month so students participated in an activity set up by the F.B.I. Depending on how well we did, an FBI agent could visit our school! We are working hard at our paint project, a replication of a cereal box. Students will showcase this during Parent Teacher Conferences in November!

# 6th Grade Outdoor Day



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# 7th Grade News

## 7th Grade Team

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We had perfect weather for our trip to UW-Madison's campus in early October. Students got to go on a tour of the campus, and also see Camp Randall. We heard many positive comments from those at UW about how great our students were!



## Science

We are finishing up our unit on Latin and are beginning our tour of the Human Body Systems. We will start with the study of cells, then move on to Bacteria and Viruses.

# 7th Grade News

## World History

We completed our unit on Archaeology and History, and are starting to learn about Early Humans, from the stone ages to the beginnings of civilization. As part of this unit, seventh graders are challenged to create a mud brick strong enough that it could have been used for buildings like those in the earliest civilizations. Watch for details on the Brick Challenge, coming soon!

## Spanish

Students in 7th grade Spanish have started the Friendship Unit. Students will be learning about how to describe themselves and others with adjectives. Students will also learn how to tell what they like to do and don't like to do in Spanish.

## Technology/STEM

The activities in this lesson will introduce the students to several mechanisms that are used to change speed, torque, force, type of movement, and direction of movement. These mechanisms have been developed over time to address the need for changes in machine tools, robots, automobiles, airplanes, etc. Students will build different mechanisms and discover how they are used in the world today. They will be introduced to the VEX® building parts and the proper way to assemble them. It will be important for students to correctly assemble and disassemble the parts so that they are not damaged.

## Math

Students will be learning about rational numbers. Rational numbers include fractions, decimals, whole numbers, and positive and negative numbers. They will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with rational numbers.

## Writer's Workshop

We recently finished our first unit of writing on realistic fiction. Our next unit will be on writing arguments.

## Composition/Literature

For our Survival Unit, students will have the chance to select the survival novel that they feel best suits their reading interests and abilities. There are thirteen different novels to choose from.

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulson

*Snow Bound* by Harry Mazer

*Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins

*Island of the Blue Dolphin* by Scott O'Dell

*Z for Zachariah* by Robert C. O'Brien

*Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

*Peak* by Roland Smith

*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

*Homecoming* by Cynthia Voight

*Cold River* by William Judson

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams

# 8th Grade News

## Composition/Literature

8th Grade ELA finished up their argumentative theme essays and will be proving their skills on a post on-demand assessment. Up next, students will be starting Reading Workshop for the first time. The unit will focus on a deep study of character and students will be reading multiple books in this unit.

## Science

In science class we've been working on our new earth science textbook series and simply loving it! The book is informational, scientifically accurate and has the very latest technology and support materials that make learning in the modern science classroom fun. Our next unit is Earth's structure and composition.

## Spanish

Students in 8th grade Spanish who have Sra. Fanta for Writer's Workshop have just finished their argument theme essay. We are still working on family members in Spanish. Students can now count well past 100. They also can say a family member's ago and describe him or her.

## World Geography

Eighth graders will be studying USA regional geography concentrating on the history of US National Parks.

## Math 8

Here comes Geometry! Students will be using different transformations to form congruent and similar figures— reflecting, rotating, translating, and dilating.

## Algebra

Algebra students will be working on all things linear: different forms of linear equations, graphing, and using lines of best fit. We will then solve systems of equations in various ways.

## Art

Students are designing and creating a ceramic container that includes a lid and a handle using a variety of hand building techniques with a focus on using the slab technique. A slab is an evenly rolled out piece of clay. Their design for the container will be based on a theme of their choosing. Glaze techniques will be explored and applied to their finished creation.

## 8th Grade Team

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**Mr. John Hanson** 882-3340  
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**Mrs. Gretchen Kopf** 882-3343  
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**Mr. Trent Schmick** 882-3335  
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**Mrs. Brittany Shottliff** 882-3315  
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**Note: Both Math 8 and Algebra students** have online access to their textbooks as well as bonus features like tutorial videos and online quizzes to help them. See [www.bigideasmath.com](http://www.bigideasmath.com). Your student has a sticker with their username and the format of their password in their assignment notebook.



# Specials Classes

## Specials Team

**Mr. Kendall Buttchen** 882-3316  
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**Mr. Darren Demmin** 882-3309  
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**Ms. Leslie Ferrell** 882-3320  
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**Mr. Bob Harsevoort** 882-3334  
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**Ms. Cathy Kruckenberg** 882-3308  
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**Mrs. Meghann Proper** 882-3332  
6th/7th Vocal Music  
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## CHORUS NEWS!

Don't forget that our winter chorus concert will be here soon - Friday, December 15th! Sixth graders will perform at 6:30 PM and the combined seventh/eighth grade concert begins at 7:30 PM. Both concerts will take place at the high school PAC. Students should wear their nicest black clothes with an optional pop of color. Since Chorus is a participatory class, attendance at the concert is required.

Stay tuned for information about our annual Butterbraid Fundraiser!

## GENERAL MUSIC/MUSIC APPRECIATION NEWS!

Sixth graders are in the middle of their Instruments Unit. They are finished a google slideshow of the instrument families and then we will begin a huge project: making a musical story!

Seventh graders are finishing their Genre Unit by creating a google slideshow of a lesser known genre such as jazz, opera, classical and blues. Then we will review and have a quiz.

Eighth graders are getting close to the end of their World Music Unit. We have listened to songs from all over the world, but focused a lot on West Africa, India, Caribbean, and Native American communities. Students will create their own google site featuring the music of a country of their choice.



7th Health: Focus on how alcohol impacts the brain, drunk driving and how binge drinking is dangerous.

6th Grade PE: Soccer skills, rules and game situations.

8th Grade PE: Football skills, rules, terminology, game strategies and situations.

# Persistence, Resilience, Grit—it's all about rebounding from setbacks

From Ms. Holm and Mr. Czerwonka

## Resilience for teens: Got bounce?

The ads make it look so easy to be a teen - everyone seems to be laughing, hanging out with friends, wearing exactly the right clothes. But if you're a young adult, you know that life can be pretty tough sometimes. You may face problems ranging from being bullied to the death of a friend or parent. Why is it that sometimes people can go through really rough times and still bounce back? The difference is that those who bounce back are using the skills of resilience. The good news is that resilience isn't something you're born with or not - the skills of resilience can be learned. Resilience - the ability to adapt well in the face of hard times - is what makes some people seem like they've "got bounce" while others don't. Read on for three tips that can help you learn to be more resilient. As you use these strategies, keep in mind that each person's journey along the road to resilience will be different - what works for you may not work for your friends.



**Get Together.** Talk with your friends and, yes, even with your parents. Understand that your parents may have more life experience than you do, even if it seems they never were your age. They may be afraid for you if you're going through really tough times and it may be harder for them to talk about it than it is for you! Don't be afraid to express your opinion, even if your parent or friend takes the opposite view. Ask questions and listen to the answers. Get connected to your community.

**Take Action.** Even in the midst of tragedy, you can move toward goals one small step at a time. During a really hard time, just getting out of bed and going to school may be all you can handle, but even accomplishing that can help. Bad times make us feel out of control - grab some of that control back by taking decisive action.

**Put Things In Perspective.** The very thing that has you stressed out may be all anyone is talking about now. But eventually, things change and bad times end. If you're worried about whether you've got what it takes to get through this, think back on a time when you faced up to your fears. Learn some relaxation techniques, whether it's thinking of a particular song in times of stress, or just taking a deep breath to calm down. Think about the important things that have stayed the same, even while the outside world is changing. Make sure you talk about good times as well as bad.

You can learn resilience. The skills of resilience you learn during difficult times will be useful even after the bad times end, and they are good skills to have every day. Resilience can help you be one of the people who've "got bounce." *Excerpt taken from APA article at: <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/bounce.aspx>*



For more information you can contact Ms. Holm at [holmj@evansville.k12.wi.us](mailto:holmj@evansville.k12.wi.us) or Mr. Czerwonka at [czerwonkam@evansville.k12.wi.us](mailto:czerwonkam@evansville.k12.wi.us)

# News from the LMC

Dear Parents,

The LMC is open from 7:30am-3:30pm on school days. Students are always encouraged to check-out books from the LMC and hopefully you have noticed your student coming home with a book (or two) that they are reading. Ask them questions! Discussing books is a great way to help your child with reading comprehension skills.

Please also help your child care for their library books and remind them to return them on time. Overdue notices are sent via email directly to students once each week. If your child has anything overdue they will have received a notice, to either return the item or pay the replacement fee. Please ask your child if they have anything overdue. Your help is appreciated!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to JCM on November 6th-14th! We hope that you will be able to make some time to attend the Book Fair. It is a good opportunity to find books that will encourage your child to read for pleasure. A home filled with books is one of the best ways to support your child's growing ability to read, and to succeed at school.

The Book Fair also offers an easy way to make a contribution directly to classrooms. Team Time teachers have created a Wish List of books that they think will add to student knowledge and enrich their classroom library. When you visit the Book Fair, please consider donating a book to one of your child's classes and look for the Classroom Wish List display at the Fair. Every gift will be recognized with a bookplate identifying your family or child as the donor. Your generosity can make our classrooms more exciting and stimulating to young minds.

Book Fair hours are a half hour before and after school November 6th-14th and during Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 9th and 14th. If you are unable to attend the Book Fair please visit our online Fair at [www.scholastic.com/fair](http://www.scholastic.com/fair). Additional titles are also available online.

We hope to see you then!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Beyerl, Library Media Specialist and Mrs. Zastoupil, Library Clerk

P.S. Our Book Fair accepts credit cards! Discover, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and secured debit cards (with MasterCard or Visa logos) are all welcome.

## ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Go to:

<http://www.rockvalleyconference.org/public/genie/245/school/7/>

**for up to date  
schedules.**

**You can also  
access the  
schedules from the  
school website.**

Go to [www.ecsdnet.org](http://www.ecsdnet.org)

Click on Schools/ JC McKenna Activities/  
Athletics/Sports Schedule



## School Lunch

For monthly lunch menus please visit:

<http://www.taherfood4life.org/schools/evansville/menu/>



### Things to Remember:

- ◆ Students may be on the playground at 7:30 a.m. The bell to enter the school will ring at 7:45 a.m. and school will begin at 7:50 a.m. Students that come after 7:50 a.m. will be marked as tardy. Please make sure to call the office at 882-3301 to report an absence or tardy.
- ◆ To help us keep our students safe, anyone coming to the Middle School should enter through door 15 (off the Liberty Street parking lot) and check in with the office staff. Please bring a valid ID with you.
- ◆ You may pay for lunch either online or by sending in a clearly marked envelope with student name and the word lunch money written on it with the money inside.
- ◆ Students go outside daily, please remind them to dress for the weather.

Evansville High School

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

2017  
FALL  
PLAY



# Brothers Grimm! Spectaculathon!

## PERFORMANCES

Friday, November 3                      7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 4                    7:30 p.m.

## TICKETS GENERAL ADMISSION

At the door only/one hour before show time:

ADULTS.....\$10.00

*Fairy Tales  
like you've  
never seen them  
before...*

# EVANSVILLE YOUTH CENTER

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2017

Craft of the Week Oct 30-Nov 3

Football Turkeys

30—Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest

31—Crossword Puzzle

1—EYC Clue Finders

2—Simon Says

3—Half day/NO EYC

Craft of the Week 6-10

God's Eye Weaving

6—Minute to Win It

7—Mario Kart Tournament

8—Mario Kart Tournament

9—Karaoke

10—Card House Contest

Craft of the Week 13-17

Pine Cone Turkeys

13—Computer Draw

14—Party!

15—Library Alison

16—Dance Party

17—Charades

THANKSGIVING WEEK

20—Positive Notes & Challenge Us

21—Positive Notes & Challenge Us

Craft of the Week Nov 27-Dec 1

Leaf Projects

27—Professional Development Day/NO EYC

28—Let's Cook

29—Spoons

30—Movie & Popcorn

1—Learn a Game