**Principal Message: Jason Knott**

E-cigarettes are being marketed as a safe alternative to smoking. But they’re not because e-cigarettes are still putting a highly addictive drug into the body.

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered smoking devices often designed to look and feel regular household pens. They use cartridges filled with a liquid that contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. A heating device in the e-cigarette converts the liquid into a vapor, which the person inhales. That's why using e-cigarettes is known as "vaping."

Electronic cigarettes were originally marketed as a way to get smokers to quit. Anyone using an e-cigarette still gets an unhealthy dose of nicotine and other chemicals. This is particularly harmful to adolescents. Companies marketing these devices put out flavors such as Smores, bubble gum, Fruit Loops, chocolate, and Swedish Fish, which tend to appeal to kids.

Nicotine doses affect the brain, nervous system, and heart. The larger the dose of nicotine, the more a person's blood pressure and heart rate go up. This can cause an abnormal heart rate and in rare cases can cause heart failure and death.

A recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that nearly seven in 10 middle school and high school students have been exposed to e-cigarette advertising. Please take the time to talk with your child about the immediate and long-term effects these vaping devices will have on their health!
Pupil Services News

From: Jen Holm and Mike Czerwonka

A few things are happening in the pupil services world. First, we will begin having a variety of student groups starting up here on campus. Many of these groups are educational and support-based in nature. Our role is to support the educational, social-emotional, physical and mental health of the students and one beneficial way to do so is to have groups where students can meet, make friends, discuss concerns and learn from others. Second, we will have some guest speakers coming into J. C. McKenna Middle School on Tuesday, November 15th. They are law enforcement agents from the Department of Justice—Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)-division and local Evansville Police Department Officers. The focus of these presentations (1 to students and 1 for parents) is to address responsible behavior in cyberspace. There will also be suggestions to parents on how to effectively monitor apps for any inappropriate activity, content, etc. and what parents can do to help their children be safe online. These sessions are scheduled on a night when parent-teacher conferences are being held and are free. Please look for more information and details coming soon.

Library Media Center News

New furniture! In early October the soft risers arrived to complete our new reading area. They are a big hit; students are able to read, collaborate and study in comfort!

Scholastic Book Fair

Mark your calendars for November 7–15, Monday thru the following Tuesday, for the Scholastic Book Fair at the middle school! JC McKenna will be hosting the book fair beginning Monday and ending eight days later on Tuesday. Regular book fair hours will be from 7:30 – 4:00. However, this year the book fair will also be open until 8:00 pm during parent-teacher conferences on Thursday 11/10 and Tuesday 11/15. Please come to the LMC to shop at the book fair before or after your child’s conference. We hope to see you there!

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.
Social Studies

6th graders finished up their first unit by showing off what they learned about the first Americans. Students studied the oral history traditions of the Lakota Sioux American Indian nation. They then spent time practicing their presentation skills to tell their own oral histories to the class. On their recent essay assessments, there were a number of impressive descriptions of how North America changed when Europeans arrived.

Currently, we are learning about American government and the upcoming Presidential Election: How do elections and the government work? What are the issues concerning our country today? What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and how does that fit into our democracy? Whatever your opinions, please have conversations with your 6th grader about these topics! Every student will have the opportunity to earn extra credit if they go to vote on Election Day with an adult. One final goal of this unit is for every 6th grader to be able to place at least 40 states on a US map. Please see Mr. McKittrick’s website for study help and more information about our units!
Language Arts

Sixth Grade Students have been busy reading many independent or guided reading novels. Each day, students have either read and discussed their novel in small groups, or written about a particular story element and how it relates to their particular story. Our current reading unit includes mysteries where students will again be asked to read independently at home. Students will get to meet in small literature groups daily to work on skills relating to inferencing, characterization, figurative language, higher level questioning, and conflict/resolution.

Recently, students completed writing their personal narratives and participated in a publication celebration. Students focused on organization with writing paragraphs purposefully, elaboration with details, and internal thinking. Punctuation with dialogue and appropriate use of commas were additional goals we will continue to work on. Writer’s workshop will also continue in November with a new emphasis on argumentative essays. Many students also submitted a story for the Eager Free Library’s “Spooky Story” contest. All entries are currently being put into an e-book available for checkout from our community library.

Mr. Langon & Mrs. Smith

Math

Regular math classes are into the third chapter of the GO MATH book. We have just finished working with fractions and mixed number and their operations. Students finished 4 short fraction quizzes last week. In chapter 3 students will be working with rational numbers—specifically positive and negative numbers. Ask your child if they have done any math extra credit.

Math 24

Math 24 will be introduced to all 6th graders this month. 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. Winners will go on to compete later in March at a regional tourney.

Advanced Math

Students have worked through the formula section of GO MATH. Currently the class is working on data and graphs from chapter 12 and 13. This the study of mean, median, and mode. More data terms like MAD, upper and lower quartile, and interquartile range have been introduced and practiced.

Khan Academy.com

All students have been given a user name and password for Khan. This free website is a wonderful resource for all students and many different subjects areas. There are videos and skills for students to watch and practice. Ask your child if they can get to Khan Academy on their own.

Thomas R Bethke Grade 6 Math

FACE

FACE students have transitioned into a sewing unit. Projects are here, we have made pincushions, wound bobbins and will learn to thread the machine in the next few days. Talk to your student about some of the charity sewing we will be doing before Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Herbers

Science

Science will be moving into its chemistry portion of the year. Students will start by learning the symbols of 35 elements. During our chemistry units we will be piloting a new textbook. Students will be receiving this soon and they all seem pretty excited about having the chance to use this new book. Please remember that all science students are to be studying their science notes or flashcards a minimum of 15 minutes a night.

Mr. Vossekui
7th Grade News

7th Grade Team

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Technology Ed/STEM

Students will use 3D modeling software Autodesk Inventor to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

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.

English Language Arts

After completing our first novel, a historical fiction book titled *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, we worked on an authentication process which involved research and reading of nonfiction texts related to topics from the novel. Our next reading unit will be on survival books.

World History

Seventh graders will be learning about early humans in the stone ages and early civilization. What is the difference between the old and new stone ages? What makes a culture civilized? Seventh graders will find out the answers to these questions and more! Also, watch for information on the Brick Challenge – coming soon!

Spanish

Seventh grade Spanish students have started the friendship unit. Students will learn how to talk about activities they like to do and don’t like to do. They will also learn how to describe themselves in Spanish.

Writer’s Workshop

We have recently finished our first unit of writing on realistic fiction. Students will begin our second writer’s workshop unit on argumentative writing. Write Tens will start up again with this unit. Students should be writing for 10 minutes a night Monday-Thursday.

Science

Students are beginning a unit on Bacteria and Viruses. As part of this unit, they will be reading one of four non-fiction books: *The Hot Zone, Terrible Typhoid Mary, American Plague, and Fatal Fever*. Be sure to ask your student about them! Lastly, we will be piloting new textbooks. Our classes have been given samples that we will be using for the next several months. Each student will receive a consumable textbook that will normally stay at school. This trial run will help determine what texts we will be purchasing for the upcoming years.
**8th Grade News**

**Composition/Literature**

Students in 8th grade Comp/Lit have been working really hard on producing a realistic fiction story and will be finishing up on Oct. 19th. They have put a lot of time into this writing - ask your student to share his/her story with you! Students are also just beginning their social issues unit and have gotten their novels to begin reading. All the novels deal with some type of social issue in society. Students divided their books into six reading sections and will use lit. circles as a means to discuss the text they are reading to improve comprehension and critical thinking skills.

**Science**

In November, 8th grade science will wrap up its chemistry unit and start on Taxonomy, the science of classification and grouping of living things into categories based on their physical characteristics and DNA material. Students will be creating a PowerPoint presentation about an animal of their choice.

**Spanish**

Students in 8th grade Spanish in November will be learning colors and clothing. They are finishing up a family members unit at this time. Also, students with Spanish on Day 1 have Writer’s Workshop every Day 1 and Day 2. They are just finishing writing a realistic fiction story and will be moving on to argument (persuasive) writing in November.

**World Geography**

Students in World Geography 8 are going to be studying USA regional geography with an emphasis and project on the US National Parks in November and early December.

**Math 8**

Here comes Geometry! Students will be identifying and analyzing different transformations, including reflections, rotations, translations, and dilations. They will use these transformations to describe congruence and similarity.

**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. Your student has a sticker with their username and the format of their password in their assignment notebook.

**Algebra**

Algebra students will be diving into the study of functions: linear functions, function notation, graphing, and transforming.

**Art**

In between working on their ceramic slab container project, students have also been drawing a self-portrait using the grid technique. The grid technique is a mathematical way of breaking down a detailed image into smaller squares of info so you can see and then draw each line or shape more accurately. They will be painting their portraits using a monochromatic color scheme (one color plus tints & shades).
MUSIC NEWS

Check out our first annual J.C. McKenna Music Department window cling! Congratulations to 7th grader Megan Klinger for having the winning design! Window clings are $5 and will be available for purchase soon.

Band ~ Students are continuing to practice their Concert Music for Winter Concert. Jazz Band (7th & 8th grade ONLY) has begun, and students are off to a great start! 6th graders continue learning your 5 notes!

Choir ~ All chorus students are working hard to learn their music for the December 9th concert. We are excited to perform for you! Please make sure your student has concert attire: nice black (or dark-colored) dress clothes with an optional "pop" of color. The 6th graders perform at 6:30 PM and the combined 7th/8th grade concert begins at 7:30 PM. Please consider bringing a treat for the bake sale in between concerts.

General Music / Music Appreciation ~ Sixth graders are creating a Google slideshow about the instrument families. Seventh graders are creating Google slideshows about the following genres: jazz, musical theatre, classical, opera, soundtrack, reggae, techno and blues. Eighth graders have learned about music from West Africa and the Caribbean and are now learning about Native American and Indian music.

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8th Grade Health ~ Nutrition

8th Grade Phy Ed ~ Speedball

7th Grade Health ~
Addiction in the Brain

7th Grade Phy Ed ~
Speedball/Indoor Soccer

6th Grade Health ~ Bullying

6th Grade Phy Ed ~ Soccer
EVANSVILLE YOUTH CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
November 2016

1—Foosball Tournament
2—Challenge Us!
3—Challenge Us!
4—1/2 day/NO EYC
Craft for Nov 7-11: rubber band bracelets
7—Movie & Popcorn
8—Library Alison
9—Let’s Cook
10—Minute to Win It
11—Minute to Win It
Craft for Nov 14-18: origami
14—EYC clue finders
15—Pictionary
16—Bowling
17—Learn to play Euchre
18—November Party
21—Just Dance Party
22—Karaoke
23—NO SCHOOL/NO EYC
24—NO SCHOOL/NO EYC
25—NO SCHOOL/NO EYC
Craft for Nov 28-Dec 2: felt animals
28—Ping Pong Tournament
29—Ping Pong Tournament
30—Ping Pong Tournament
1—Holiday Cards/Scrapbooking
2—Holiday Cards/Scrapbooking
JC McKenna Students and Staff raised $200 for Breast Cancer Research