

Middle School Messenger

Cazenovia Middle School - A Great Place To Be

March 2001

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We are hoping that March's Roar will bring warmer weather in the near future! I can only hope!

Our Middle School Shared Decision Making team has initiated a study of homework practices and procedures. Many of you will receive a log sheet asking you to document how long your child spends on daily homework. Your careful attention to completing this log and returning it in the envelope provided will greatly assist our study. The Team will be looking at research on homework and asking other middle schools about their practices. If you have any questions or comments regarding our study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our school is continuing our focus on preparing students to meet the New York State Learning Standards and providing them with parallel assessments. Each student took a mid-year math exam which was designed to test student progress and give them an experience similar to the Math 8 test. Each student is also writing at least three papers that are scored by rubrics reflective of the English/ Language Arts 8 test and they are being exposed to specific listening activities similar to those they will encounter on that test. Students are writing Document Based Questions (DBQs) in Social Studies which are essay type questions that require students to read and analyze historical documents. If you would like to see your child's progress on any of these, please ask your child's teacher. This summer our Science teachers are redesigning our curriculum to better articulate learning

outcomes based on the Science Core Curriculum. Our teachers are working hard at preparing students for high school.

We are very proud of our fifth graders who graduated from the DARE program on February 16. The ceremony was well attended by parents and we are most appreciative of Deputy Eric Howard's efforts in working with our students.

Our next Parent Conference Day is Friday, March 9. Students will be excused at 11:00 a.m. If you would like a conference, please contact your student's homeroom teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please contact us.

Think Spring!

Jean J. Regan, Ed.D.



2001 Drug Quiz Show Highlights

The team from Mrs. Kelly Nourse's 6th grade class captured third place in the Madison County Playoffs of the Eckerd Drug Quiz Show at Cazenovia College on February 13th. Team members Emily Call, Tom Lawrence, Nick Paben, Brian Regan and Erin Tatum won three of the four games they played in the competition. In the "total points" format of the playoffs, the students tallied 68 points to trail only champion VVS and runner-up Canastota for county honors.

Mrs. Nourse's class had won the Cazenovia Middle School championship by defeating Mrs. Webber's team (Nathan Dewey, Zed Shavaliar, Jaime Becker and Shane Card) in a close match. Both teams had prepared well for the final game, and demonstrated their knowledge of the information and ideas in fine fashion.

All sixth graders participated in the Drug Quiz Show at the Middle School, and learned information about various categories of drugs as well as topics such as decision-making, stress management and conflict resolution. Study sessions in class and at lunch time helped the students prepare for the competition. Study guides and materials were provided by the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grant.

Again this year, a big THANK YOU goes to the Middle School PTA for providing prizes for all students, and for purchasing t-shirts for the champions. The PTA's support of the program is invaluable, and the students benefit from it in many ways.

Vocal Hour at Cazenovia Public Library

On Saturday, March 10th at 2:00 pm, Concerts in Cazenovia will feature a vocal hour with Gayle Ross, soprano, Phil Eisenman, baritone and Susan Martin Crocker on piano.

The March 10th program will be a collection of solos and duets that represent some favorite composers and their compositions. There will be early Italian songs by Caccini, Gluck, Durante, Pergolesi, and that perennial favorite, Anonymous. Following these will be some delightful songs by American composers Aaron Copland and Ernst Bacon and will include some of Copland's Old American Songs based on folk songs and some equally wonderful pieces by Bacon. The third section will be composed of a few favorite opera arias, and the last group will be a selection of top-drawer Broadway favorites.

This program is part of the popular monthly concert series sponsored by the Friends of the Cazenovia Public Library. The performance begins at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 10th in the Library Community Room. Refreshments will be served after the concert.





Health Office Hype

Welcome back from winter break. I hope everyone had an enjoyable, restful time, I know I did. The many illnesses that were present before vacation seem to have slowed for now. School attendance has improved and the children appear well rested and healthy. Keep up the good work of early bedtimes and good breakfasts!

All students in 6th grade should have their first Hepatitis B injection by now. If your child has not started the series, call your physician or the Madison County Clinic at 363-1014 today! New York State law requires that the 6 month series of three shots be completed before your child can enter 7th grade. Please have your physician send me the dates of each injection your child receives so I can keep my records up to date.

Your child will need a physical before entering 7th grade. This must be on the school form and Pop Warner physicals are not accepted. Please make this appointment for late spring or summer. If you do not have a physician, your child can see Dr. Osborn here in school in November. This will prevent your child from participating in fall or winter sports as the physical must be completed before trying out for school sports.

Attention parents of students participating in the Whale Watch. I will be sending home a Medical Release Form for you to complete and return to me before the trip. I will also need a note from your physician for any medications your child will need on the whale watch, this includes over-the-counter ones also. If you are a chaperone, you can be responsible for your own child's medication.

I received a flyer for Hidden Valley 4-H Camp in Watkins Glen, for campers 8-18. Please call Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schuyler County at 607/535-7141 for information or an application.

Please call me in the Health Office if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.

Diane Belton, R.N.

Rachel DeVrees Visiting Poet

Before Mid-Winter Break, Rachel Guido DeVrees spent a week working with our 6th Grade students in poetry writing workshops. The results of our students' endeavors were outstanding. We hope you will enjoy Ben Wightman's effort.

The Storyteller

When I want answers I go see the storyteller.

He is a wise being.

With a brown robe, long green hair, and hands that reach for the sky.

Sometimes I climb him and look around,

Sometimes he holds me in his arms.

He is my oldest friend,

But to hear him you must relax and listen.

He will tell you of war, of peace,

Of snow, of rain, of sun,

Of light, of darkness,

Of adventure, of fun,

He is the greatest teacher I have.

But one day he was approached by an army with

swords of chain,

too close to him they came.

He could not stand,

they cut him down and he died.

Later I came but I was too late,

He was gone.

I wept for my friend,

But I saw what he left behind his feet and some rings

I started to count,

1,2,3...488,499,500.

500 years, 500 stories all lost now,
buried in the past along with the story teller

My friends listen to me,

don't cut down that old tree.

For some day if you listen hard,

You may hear it confide to you the stories it's seen

Written on a tree

PTA News

Encore Appearance for Mike Lynch March 7th and April 11th

We are pleased to announce the return of family therapist, Mike Lynch, co-host of the popular "Teen Talk" radio program heard Sunday evenings on 93Q. Mike's topics will be "How Parenting a Teenager Affects Your Marriage" and "The Top questions called into Teen Talk". Both will be followed by an open discussion with question and answer time. This is a great opportunity for parents. Please plan to attend. We will have a short business meeting at 6:30 pm followed by Mike at 7:00 pm.

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to the following people for their dedication to our PTA and their willingness to chair these upcoming events:

- 7th Grade Breakfast -
Carol Buckhout & Sue Duffy
- 6th Grade Event
- 5th Grade Event - Josie Glos
- Bus Driver Appreciation -
- Custodian Appreciation -
- Cafeteria Staff Appreciation -

Did you notice the blanks? Please call so we can put your name in that slot!

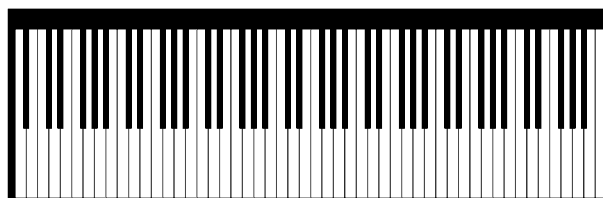
Many thanks to Lou Ann Turner for all that she does. Special thanks for organizing the return of Paul Goggi. What a great help he was to those of us who attended his talk.

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about how YOU would like to serve YOUR PTA

next year! We are in need of officers as well as committee chairs. Please consider becoming an active participant in OUR PTA.

And, as always, if you have any questions, concerns or ideas you would like to share, please feel free to call one of the following board members:

President	Luanne Spafford	655-3054
Vice Pres.	Ann Zinsmeister	655-3994
Secretary	Mary Beth Shust	655-9723
Treasurer	Kristen Byers	655-8779



Music Department Notes

March is Music in our Schools Month and to celebrate the Junior High Music Department is presenting a special Cabaret performance on March 18th at 4:00 pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. 7th and 8th grade students from Band, Chorus and Orchestra have formed small ensembles and are rehearsing jazz, pop and rock music for this event. Snacks will be served in an informal "Cabaret" atmosphere. This is largely a student-run program and our students are working hard to make it a success. Come and join us for a fun afternoon of music and food!