

▶ May 2009



Kennedy Clippers Newsletter



Principal News

Happy Spring! I hope everyone enjoyed their spring break. I was able to spend valuable time with my family and catch up with some old friends. Kennedy Middle School looked a little different when we returned on Monday. Construction has started and our main entrance is no longer accessible, it has been temporarily relocated to the doors by the gym. Throughout the bond construction process the building will undergo some changes but the safety and security of our students will always be intact.

The Kennedy Middle School annual "Honors Program" recognizes students that exhibit hard work, determination, and a will to succeed. We honor academic success, citizenship, attendance, sportsmanship, extra-curricular clubs and activities. If your child is receiving an award, an invitation will be mailed home. If students are unable to attend the program they can pick up their awards at school the following day. Please mark your calendar for this exciting and important event.

Sixth Grade Thursday, May 28, 2009
Lake Shore High School Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.

Seventh Grade Tuesday, June 2, 2009
Lake Shore High School Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.

Eighth Grade Wednesday, June 3, 2009
Lake Shore High School Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.

With the end of the year approaching we will continue to hold high expectations for academic output, behavior, and attendance. Teachers will expect hard work and assign homework, we still have much teaching and learning to do.

I want to thank you all for your help and support this year. I very much appreciate your support as well as your feedback and suggestions; among other things, we can't always tell how our actions and responses to issues are perceived by students or parents, so your input is very important to us.
Pam Vermiglio

Students of the Month – February 2009

6th

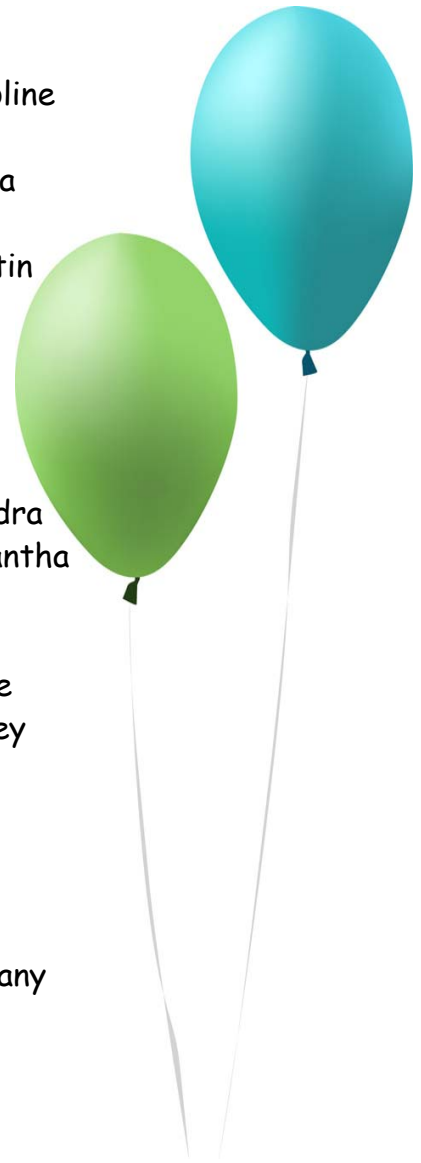
Boyd, Desiree
Jankowski, Caroline
Malicsi, Ryan
VanAcker, Stella
Wiegand, Ryan
Zagummy, Quintin

7th

Belknap, Alyssa
Butler, Leahna
Kler, Jacob
Matusz, Cassandra
McCauley, Samantha
Preston, David
Taylor, Andrew
Wilkins, Maurice
Williams, Shaeley

8th

Cowart, Eric
Garon, Jessie
Gierman, Rachel
Lopetrone, Tiffany
Rothe, Warren
Snay, Autumn
Willmer, Rachel
Zielinski, Zac



Clippers Activities Calendar

May KMS Activities

- 1 Pop Tab Collection Turn in
- 4 KMS Visits Elementaries
- 5 Talent Show Try Outs 3:30-4:30
5th Gr. Parent/Student Orientation 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Early Release—1:59 Dismissal
Violet 5th Gr. Visits KMS 9 a.m.
- 6 M. H. 5th Gr. Visits KMS 9 a.m.
Talent Show Try-outs 3:30
- 8 Math Adventure Day
Rodgers 5th Gr. Visits KMS 9 a.m.
- 11 Assembly—Living w/HIV 1 & 2 p.m.
- 12 Sports Physicals @ KMS
\$25 CASH ONLY 3:30—7 p.m..
- 12-15 8th Gr Pinery Trip
- 13 Band Concert—\$2 LSHS 7 p.m.
- 14 Walk-A-Thon (tentative)
- 15 LSHS Choir Tour Day 9-9:40 a.m.
Dance (Ski Club) 3:30-5
Spirit Day-Sports Day
- 18 Talent Show Rehearsal 3:30-5 p.m.
Board of Ed Mtg. 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Talent Show Rehearsal 3:30-5
Walk-A-Thon (rain date)
- 20 Early Release—1:59 Dismissal
Choir Practice @LSHS 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m.
Choir Concert -\$3 LSHS 7 p.m.
- 21 Talent Show Full Dress Rehearsal 3:30-5 p.m.
Assembly—Mean Girls 9 a.m.
- 22 NJHS Memorial Park Clean-up
Girls Career Math/Sci/Tech-ISD 8:30am - 2:30pm
Talent Show am/afternoon
- 25 **NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day**
- 26 PTC Mtg. 7 p.m.
- 27 CIMI/CIMO FT- Friendship Circle 8:45-1:15
NJHS Induction 6 p.m. -KMS Café
- 28 6th Gr. Honors Night LSHS 7 p.m.
- 29 Assembly - Student Council Officer Speeches 2:15

June KMS Activities

- 1 Jazz Ensemble @ Firefly/Ann Arbor 8:30 p.m.
NJHS Picnic 10 a.m.
- 2 7th Gr. Honors LSHS 7 p.m.
- 3 Early Release 1:59 Dismissal
8th Gr. Honors Nite LSHS 7 p.m.
- 4 6th/7th Gr. Bands to Kalahari/Ohio 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
CIMI/CIMO FT—Friendship Circle 8:45 a.m. -1:15 p.m.
- 5 8th Gr. Cedar Point Trip 6:30 a.m.—10 p.m.
- 8 Bulldogs FT—Shore Lanes 9:30 a.m.—1 p.m.
7th Gr. FT—C.J. Barrymore's
- 9 Warriors FT—Shore Lanes 9:30 a.m.—1 p.m.
8th Gr. Farewell Dance 5-8 p.m.
- 10 6th Gr. FT—Memorial Park 9-11 a.m.
Last Day of School—Half Day Dismissal 11:50
- 15 Board of Ed Mtg. 7:30 p.m.

**Clip and
Save
Calendars**



Sixth Grade News

Ferris State Bulldogs



Wayne State Warriors

Bateman, Malloy, Geise/McGuire, Duetsch

Ciolino, Pellerito, Dunlop, Usher

Language Arts

As the 2008/09 school year comes to an end, the language arts classes will be completing their final novel and articles /stories in the Language of Literature book. It is also time to re-take The Gates Reading Test. This test gives each student a grade level for vocabulary and comprehension skills and will show any growth. In addition to this test, students will take an End of the Year Test. These results will be sent to each student's seventh grade teacher. They will reflect how students have mastered skills in writing, grammar, mechanics, spelling, and reading.

As students embark on summer vacation, it is our hope that reading and writing will be part of their summer plans. A time to read should be set aside daily and the keeping of a summer journal each night before bed will help to enhance a student's communication skills. The more they practice reading and writing the more successful students will become in the years ahead.

Wishing both parents and students a happy summer break!

Ms. Duetsch – hduetsch@lsps.org

Mrs. Paye- tpaye@lsps.org

Ms. Ciolino- giolino@lsps.org



Mathematics

In Math, we are currently wrapping up a unit on integers. The next book we will be starting is "Variables and Patterns." This unit will focus on algebraic concepts. Your child will calculate rates, use variables to write expressions and equations, and represent linear functions using tables, equations, and graphs. We will end the year with a unit on geometry.

Please remind your students that if they do not receive a satisfactory grade on their assessments, they are able to make corrections to them. Students have two days to return the assessment with corrections made. Also, if your child is having difficulty in our class, please encourage them to ask questions in class and see one of us for extra help during Enrichment time.

You can see what is for homework on our blog site that is linked to the school site. www.visitmyclass.com/blogs/kms.

Mrs. Geise – Bulldogs jgeise@lsps.org

Mrs. McGuire – Bulldogs mmcquire@lsps.org

Mr. Pellerito – Warriors tpellerito@lsps.org

Mrs. Paye – Warriors tpaye@lsps.org

Science

As the school year draws to a close the 6th graders will be finishing their unit on ecosystems and learning about magnetic earth including the following:

- Interactions between various organisms
- Interactions between organisms and the environment
- How human activity impacts the environment
- Magnetic forces in and around the Earth

Some of the activities we will be doing include an animal project, "Good Buddies" activity, food webs, pollution poster, and the use of compasses in a scavenger hunt.

Visiting the blog sites will give you a better understanding of the daily class work assignments, homework, and when students will be assessed.

Mrs. Malloy – Bulldogs rmalloy@lsps.org

Ms. Dunlop – Warriors hdunlop@lsps.org

Social Studies

The month of May finds the 6th grade wrapping up the Latin America unit. Next, we will be piloting a short unit that covers modern Europe and Russia. This unit will be a permanent part of the 6th grade curriculum next year. Since our prospective 7th graders will not study this material in 2009/10 school year, we planned to cover portions of the material this year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the numbers below. Wishing you the best for a wonderful summer vacation.

Mrs. Bateman abateman@lsps.org 285-8825

Ms. Usher ausher@lsps.org 285-8824

Seventh Grade News

Northern Michigan Wildcats

Clow, Vigna, Malkovich, Spriet

NMU Mathematics - Malkovich



We began our algebra unit with an experiment to determine the relationship between the drop height and the bounce height of a ball. The patterns we observed allowed us to predict the bounce height of any drop height, whether it was dropped from a table or dropped from a plane! This is the big idea of our next unit: using tables, graphs and equations to make predictions, based on the patterns we observe. The last mini unit we complete will be geometry constructions. This will take place after Memorial Day weekend. The students have recorded all the big ideas of 7th grade math in journals. I highly recommend that the students hang on to the journals and review the material before the start of 8th grade. It will amaze them to see how much math we learned through the year!

NMU Social Studies — Spriet



Students are now studying Asia. We've begun the unit with an extensive look at China. (This topic is especially relevant as all NMU core teachers traveled there from 4/3-4/17.) Students will learn about Chinese history, its' current government, and its economic impact on the global economy. From there, we will shift our focus to the world's second largest economy- Japan. Students will explore Japanese history and its rise as an economic superpower after its defeat in World War II. Finally, we will investigate the world's largest democracy (and second largest population)- India. Students will learn about Indian history, its' growing economic contributions to the global market, and its' struggle of maintaining democratic principles in an ancient society still saddled with elitism and poverty. After Asia, we will then begin our unit on Africa. Students will study African history and geography. They will also explore the potential problems that are shaping modern Africa.

NMU Science - Clow



Did you know that everything is made of matter. From a scientific point of view, matter is anything with volume and mass. So it isn't a strange question when you are asked what you have in common with a toaster or a bowl of soup. Students have been working on discovering the many characteristics and changes that matter can go through. In addition to comparing and contrasting, we are classifying matter based upon its' properties both physically and chemically. Needless to say, we have had many hands-on labs to assist us in our explorations.

NMU Language Arts — Vigna



In March, the students read biographies of their choice and created informational posters, reports or Power Point presentations. Some learned new information, for example, Walt Disney was a real person. In class, we started a "Book Club" where students selected books that interested them and read in groups while completing daily tasks. We will end April with informational reading and begin May with inspiring poetry. There will be one more book report in May which is free choice. Finally, June will bring a review of grammar and more writing. Thank you for your wonderful students. It has been an enjoyable year teaching them! Happy spring and summer! Mrs. Vigna

“Hey Mom, I need a physical by Monday!”



Will be coming to Kennedy Middle School



Tuesday, May 12th

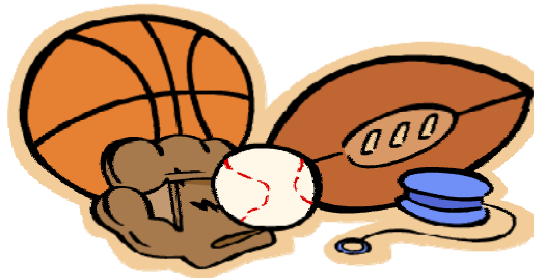
3:30 – 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25.00

(CASH ONLY)



The physical form can be filled out online at
<http://www.mhsaa.com/resources/physical.pdf>.



Parents must sign the physical form (in 3 places) if they are unable to attend.

If you would like to reserve a time for your child's physical please click on this link <http://www.doodle.com/nan2tvpbrgydc4xa> and type in your last name and the number of children getting a physical. After you have done this just click on the time that works best for you. (You will see my example) A number of students will stay after school to get their physical; therefore appointments will begin at 4:30.

Seventh Grade News

Michigan Tech Huskies

Feldman, Homic, Perakis, Tomer

Huskies Math Homic



In Math, the Michigan Tech Huskies have finished the *Comparing and Scaling* unit. The unit focused on the concepts of ratio, proportion, and percent. Students looked at problems involving many situations and learned to make comparisons using ratios, fractions, percents and rates. Students learned how to scale recipes up or down to make the desired amount. Many kids pointed out that this skill is especially useful when baking cookies during the holiday season. In April and May we will be busy covering rational numbers, as well as *Moving Straight Ahead*.

Rational numbers are numbers that can be written in fraction form. They can be positive, negative, or zero. This includes fractions, integers, terminating decimals and repeating decimals. Students will solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems involving integers, positive and negative rational numbers. Estimation skills will be used to test if our solutions are "in the ballpark".



Moving Straight Ahead is a unit that covers many of our grade level content expectations (GLCE's) as determined by the State of Michigan. In this unit, students will be developing skills in areas that are traditionally known as algebra. This unit introduces students to situations that can be modeled with linear functions and graphed with straight lines. Algebraic terms and concepts-like x- and y-intercepts and the slope of a line will be introduced. Students will encounter these and other ideas in real-world situations that can help them understand the concepts in a way that makes sense to them. *Moving Straight Ahead* is a very important unit that lays the foundation for 8th grade algebra.

Husky Language Arts with Mrs. Perakis

Our next unit of study is poetry! Elements of poetry are examined by students, including rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, imagery, figurative language, onomatopoeia. Students will be reading and studying classic American and English poets such as Robert Frost, Lewis Carroll, Robert Browning, Walt Whitman and others. This examination of classic poetry and poets will culminate in the very exciting student poetry reading, coming soon!

Vocabulary/Spelling units continue, as well as the extra credit book report opportunity. In addition, students will be creating a photostory for their final, fourth quarter fiction book report.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

Husky Team Science Tamer

For the remainder of the year, we will be focusing on matter. Students will be learning about physical and chemical properties of matter. They will learn the differences between a physical and chemical change. They will learn about atoms, elements and compounds, and they will briefly have some exposure to the periodic table.

Please take the time to visit my blog site. It has a lot of information about what is happening in science on a weekly basis. Mrs. Tamer



Seventh Grade News

Hillsdale Chargers

Glenn, Gough

Language Arts with Mrs. Gough

The school year is coming to a close and we have covered many different literary elements throughout language arts this past year. In May, we are moving into our unit on Poetry. The students will learn about different types of poetry and what exactly poetry is. The students will be able to understand the different forms of rhythm and rhyme by the end of the unit. As a result, each student will compose their own book of poetry using the different forms that are learned in class. This unit is going to open the door for each student's unique and individual creativity.

Social Studies with Mrs. Gough

Our field trip to the Arab American Museum in April was a huge success. The students were able to walk through several Arab exhibits that lay out the life of Arab Americans since immigration. We began our unit on Asia and the students took an in depth look at Asian culture, history, government, religion and geography. We will close our unit on Asia with a web quest that takes us back in time to ancient China and the beginnings of the Silk Roads and the building of The Great Wall of China. We are looking forward to our unit on ancient and modern Africa that will begin in the middle of May.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you have.

Mrs. Abigail Gough

agough@lsps.org

Math with Ms. Glenn

After completing a unit on ratio, rate, and proportion, students began their studies in pre-algebra. To begin, students understood and were able to apply the different properties of real numbers. We reviewed operations with positive and negative numbers, and finally began *Moving Straight Ahead*, our pre-algebra book. Students will learn how to recognize linear and proportional relationships using a graph, table, and an equation, and they will understand what slope is and how to determine the slope of a line.

Science with Ms. Glenn

Students recently began our first and only Physical Science unit in seventh grade—Properties of Matter. From the first day of this unit, we have been actively involved in learning. Students will be able to understand and differentiate between physical and chemical properties, physical and chemical changes; we will study atoms, elements, and the periodic table in this unit. The Chargers will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of labs and activities to learn these concepts. For example, our pre-test involved determining the mystery powder using several tests of physical and chemical properties. We will also have pH labs, flame tests, mass and volume labs, density stations, we will sing about the "Atom's Family," and create element trading cards—just to name a few of the activities. It will be a very fun-packed, informative unit to wrap up our year in science!

As always, please contact me with any questions you have regarding math and/or science.

Ms. R. Glenn

586.285.8842

rglenn@lsps.org

www.visitmyclass.com/blogs/kmshillsdalechargers

Eighth Grade News

Oakland Golden Grizzlies

Mackewich, Zolynsky,
Morell, Warehall

Language Arts with Mrs. Mackewich

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is fast approaching. At the beginning of May we will be completing our reading of the historical fiction novel, *Girl in Blue* by Ann Rice. The novel is set at the beginning of the Civil War. The story is about a young girl who runs away from home and disguises herself as a boy so that she can join the Union army. While in the army she is involved in the first battle of the Civil War and serves as a nurse. Once her true identity is discovered she is enlisted as a spy. This should be a novel that all enjoy. While reading this novel students will be working on creating their own Civil War newspaper. Each student will be responsible for reporting on a significant battle of the Civil War. Once our research and rough drafts are complete, Mrs. Blaskowski, our librarian, will help us put all of our writing into a newspaper format. Along with the article, students will work together in pairs to research a famous general or female spy from the Civil War. The pair will then come up with interview questions for their historical figure and answer their questions with the information they have found on their person. We will then work with Mrs. Blaskowski to record the interview. Students will be encouraged, but not required, to dress the part for their interview. This should be an enjoyable activity. The newspaper article will be due on Friday, May 22, and the taping of the interviews will begin on Tuesday, May 19.

Upon completion of the novel unit, we will read some various literature about the Civil War, as well as a play that portrays the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Once we have completed this we will look at reading for enjoyment. This will take us to the end of the year and summer vacation.

Math with Mr. Warehall

In mathematics, the Grizzlies' students will be finishing their polynomial and factoring unit, which are key benchmarks in order to be successful as high school freshmen. Following factoring, students will work with functions. They will learn to identify linear, exponential, inverse, and quadratic functions by working with number patterns in tables, drawing graphs, and writing equations.

Grizzlies Science with Ms. Zolynsky

For the last few weeks of school, students will study climate change, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, compare CFL bulbs to incandescent light bulbs, and learn how electrical circuits work.

On May 22, 100 middle school girls are invited to attend a career symposium at the Macomb Intermediate School District to investigate STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, and math). This is an effort by the MISD to encourage women to enter those fields, which is predominantly male oriented.

Grizzlies History with Mrs. Morrell

In U.S. History, students are concluding their study of westward expansion. In April, students will be beginning the unit on the Civil War. Some activities will include: oral presentations, biographies, and mini-projects. For current information on homework and upcoming tests, please refer to our blog site. I email weekly progress reports. If your email has changed or if you have a new email, please let me know: smorell@lsp.org. Thanks to all the parents that came to conferences in March!



Eighth Grade News

EMU Eagles

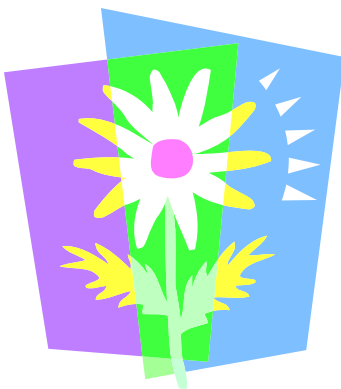
Morris,
Moore

History and Language Arts with Ms. Morris

The students and I partook in some wonderful learning experiences throughout the month of April. During our continuing study of slavery in the United States during the 1800s, including the Underground Railroad, the students had the opportunity to participate in a number of valuable activities. Some students performed in readers' theater groups, some read and shared a relevant book(s) with the class, others read a related comic and completed a journal activity, and everyone participated while reading an interactive book together as a class; some even chose to partake in more than one activity. It was wonderful to see students so actively engaged, as well as excited over their learning. With April behind us, I look forward to continuing to engage students with more great activities, focusing on the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction.

During the month of April, the students and I continued our novel and research unit, focusing on the Holocaust. We finished reading and discussing *The Devil's Arithmetic*; I was very pleased to see that many of the students really enjoyed this novel and learned so much. It was apparent that the students placed some thoughtful consideration upon the information learned. Students will be completing their journal projects this month. I cannot wait to finally read them, and I encourage you to do the same. We had a great April, and I am looking forward to a wonderful end to our year.

Thank you to all the parents and guardians for your support this year. The Eagles have had an awesome year! I look forward to seeing your student take the next step in furthering their education!



Coffey, Coffey,
Karle, Kensicki

CMU Chippewas

Algebra- Mr. Coffey

In Algebra class we are finishing a unit on percents. We are doing mental math with problems dealing with 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%, 200%, etc. of a number. We are also looking at percent increases, decreases, mark up price, and sale prices. Our next unit of study will be working with Polynomials. Some of this will feel like a review, but new terminology will be introduced. We will also work on factoring or doing some of the problems backwards. It is nice to do this unit towards the end of the year for it reviews and strengthens their variable manipulation skills. And, finally we will finish the year with an introduction of functions. Functions are the study of how variables relate to each other and the patterns they represent. Function notation: $F(x)$, will also be used through this exploration of functions. We will look at graphs of these various functions and study the "formulas" that produce these patterns of change.

U.S. History- Mr. Karle

We have been working on the Age of Reform. Changes in American society required evaluation towards some of the perceived evils and inconsistencies of the United States; alcohol abuse, prison reform, mental illness, people with special needs, abolitionism, and women's rights. As that draws to a close, students will be working on an Inventions Project to begin the 4th Quarter. Students will use their developing research skills to work on this project. After the project, we will continue our study of the challenges and difficulties the U. S. faced as they moved closer to the Civil War.

Language Arts - Mrs. Coffey

During the month of May we will be reading the novel *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. This is a high interest novel that revolves around the power of friendship and loyalty. During the novel, we will focus on understanding how important characterization is to a story. The students will identify with particular characters and begin to relate the loyalty they have with their own peers. Another theme we will evaluate and discuss is the dynamics of family. The final assessment project for this unit will involve group work creating a life-size character from the book.

Science-Mr. Kensicki

For April we will be finishing our studies of Global Warming and the Carbon Cycle. In May we will be studying Electricity and Magnetism. We will be looking at how electricity is created and the interaction between magnetism and electricity. We will look at the relationship between voltage, electrical current, and electrical resistance.





Library News

Book of the Month Club Winners

Every month students have the opportunity to recommend a book for the Book of the Month Club. These recommendations are read and up to 3 winners are chosen for each grade. The winners are awarded a \$5.00 gift card to Borders Books and an invitation to the end of the year pizza and ice cream party. The entries have been GREAT, especially in Seventh Grade. Here are the winners for January and February:

January:

6th Grade: Austin Franco who recommended *Cirque DuFreak* by Darron Shan

7th Grade: Kelly Jenkins who recommended *Don't Die My Love* by L. McDaniel, Alicia Morales who recommended *Everlost* by N. Shusterman, Katelyn Snover who recommended *Cut* by P. McCormick and Katelyn Tomlian who recommended *Twilight* by S. Meyer

8th Grade: Marcus Barnett who recommended *Double or Die a Bond Adventure* by C. Higson

February:

6th Grade: Ashley Bell who recommended *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor, Erin Horn who

recommended *My Teacher Glows In The Dark* by Bruce Coville, Kelly Rayner who recommended *Magyk* by Angie Sage, and Joel Vangheluwe who recommended *The Dark Flight Down* by Marcus Sedgwick

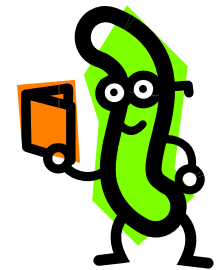
7th Grade: Abby Liuzzo who recommended *Thirteen* by Lauren Myracle, Kyana Rogan who recommended *All Night Party* by R.L. Stine, and Amanda Scanlon who recommended *Kit* by Jane Peart

READING IS
KNOWLEDGE

KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER!

In 8th Grade: Renee Alter who recommended *The Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer, and Eric Cowart who recommended the *Alex Rider Series* by Anthony Horowitz

Congratulations to all the winners!



Scholastic Book Fair A Huge Success

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. There were over 50 students that were part of the Student Crew as well as some super parent volunteers. I would like to personally thank Kelly Biondo, Tammy Crescent, Laurie Mocerri, Debby Fuchs, Sheri Rustoni,

Sharon Bartl and Michelle Alter for all their help. The book fair would not have been possible without the Student Crew or the parents. The money made from the fair was used to purchase new books for the library. The excitement for the Book Fair was great

to see. There were several popular titles that attracted much attention including Eighth Grade Bites, Ninth Grade Slays, The Boy Who Dared, Skeleton Creek, Twilight, New Moon, and Eclipse. If you see your child reading a book from the fair, ask them to tell you about the book.

KMS will be having a Buy One, Get One Free for the same price Book Fair in May. This will be a great time to stock up on summer reading materials without all the cost.