

News from the Middle School

The Principal's Pen

Dear Parents,

The end of the year is nearly upon us with May and June tending to be very hectic for our students and their parents. It is also a challenging time for the teaching staff. A well-deserved Teacher Appreciation Week begins May 3. I know you share with me our appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our teaching staff. We at Ichabod Crane Middle School are truly blessed to have such a talented team. If you get a chance, please thank a teacher for their positive contribution to your child's success!.

On a separate note, as we begin to look forward to next school year, we are working diligently to develop class/team lists. Determining class lists is a very intensive process and one that we take very seriously. Making this time even more challenging are the anticipated cuts to our staffing.

Many factors, such as gender, student achievement levels, student/teacher personalities, special needs, and management needs are taken into account to create balanced classes. Therefore, **regretfully, parent requests for a particular teacher/team cannot be honored.** It would be impossible at this time to accept requests and still maintain our goals of balance and effectiveness. Remember, each child is unique. What may have been an ideal class/team for one child may not be the best for another child. Please trust in us to place your child in the appropriate classroom/team that will benefit him/her the most. If you have a unique situation that needs to be addressed, please contact me via e-mail or letter.

As a reminder, the students **will not** have school on Friday, May 14 and May 28. Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,
Tim Farley
 Principal

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall Sports	2
Seedfolks	3
FACS	4
Birds of Prey	4
Technology Club	5
Upcoming Events	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Class/Team Lists
- Memorial Day Weekend

From the Nurse's Desk:

FALL SPORTS

FALL Sports Sign-ups have begun for Modified, JV and Varsity Sports. Permission forms may be obtained from Mrs. Sweeney or Mr. Nordgren. All permission forms must be returned to Mrs. Estabrook- Pollack, MS School Nurse, by **May 21, 2010.**

A sports physical is required to participate in the athletic program. Physicals are valid for 12 months. Students will be notified by the school nurse should a sports physical be necessary. The School Nurse will conduct a preliminary exam during the school day which consists of height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse and urine sample. Sports physicals will be conducted by a School Physician. Students requiring physicals will be scheduled by the nurse and given an appointment to meet with the School Physician. Sports Physicals will be conducted in the High School on **June 8 and June 9 from 6-8 pm.** If the student fails to keep the appointment, he/she must schedule an appointment with a District Physician at their own expense prior to try-outs.

Students with valid sports physicals will be interviewed by the nurse to update the health history and determine eligibility.

Middle School students interested in signing up for a sport that is higher than the modified level (i.e. JV or Varsity) must pass the NYS Selection Classification test prior to trying out.

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to remind students to submit all permission forms to the School Nurse prior to the May 21, 2010, so that appointments for physicals may be scheduled with the School Physicians. Parents will be expected to transport their children to the ICC High School for their scheduled appointment time.

Please contact the School Nurse if you have any questions or concerns. (518) 758-8018.

Team 6R:

Team 6R has been busy with their Seedfolks Community Garden project. This is an interdisciplinary unit, funded by a grant we obtained from the *Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*. We are reading the book *Seedfolks*, by Paul Fleischman, and doing activities in all core subject areas to promote the themes in the book. On April 20th we took a field trip to Columbia County Cornell Cooperative Extension, where students participated in six garden related stations. They included the Butterfly Garden, Blueberry Garden, Forestry Station, Vegetable Garden, Living Structures, and Community Watersheds. We will continue our studies in May with in-service garden science labs conducted by the Cooperative Extension's master gardeners. Although retired, Mr. Valentine has already come in to plant seeds with all of the students. During the month of May, we will be constructing sundials to measure the sun our garden plots receive, planning gardens with scaled drawings, creating photo stories, poetry, and sequel chapters for *Seedfolks*. Through this unit, the students are seeing how a cooperative project, such as a garden, can bring a diverse group of people together to work as one, overcoming fears and stereotypes of each other. We will plant four garden plots near the main entrances of the Middle School early in June. This summer, come see how the flowers beautify the campus. Many of these meaningful activities would not be taking place without the funding received through the *Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*.



From FACS:

Adventures in Nutrition with Mrs. Kuhn

The 8th grade classes applied their nutrition knowledge to make healthy choices for culinary labs, modifying their recipes based on group preferences. Some students substituted soy sausage in their Breakfast Burrito, while others opted for lean bacon without nitrates or nitrites. All students incorporated vegetables or fruit as one of the ingredients. The rubric for labs included safety, accuracy, cleanliness, time management and teamwork.

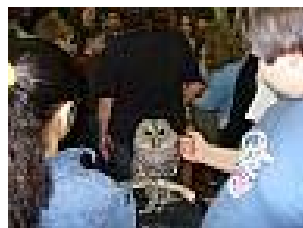
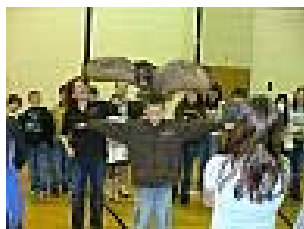
The 6th grade learned how to analyze food labels by reading the ingredient list and Nutrition Facts and comparing the saturated, unsaturated and trans fat in many popular products.



Talons! A Bird of Prey Experience:

COMING SOON!

On **Tuesday, May 11, 2010**, our 6th grade reading students will welcome Lorrie and Talon Schumacher along with their birds of prey. Lorrie Schumacher is a master falconer and her Talons! A Bird of Prey experience is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience as Lorrie, Talon and the raptors educate through entertainment in this fast-paced, highly engaging, interactive performance. Please join us as we meet Big Mama, a European Eagle Owl, Bella Luna, a Barred Owl, Jewel of the Nile, an African Raven and Machu and Pichu, two Harris's Hawks. Presentations will be going on during the course of the day from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This program is sponsored by the Ichabod Crane PTA and Student Council. Please contact Mrs. Rathke at prathke@ichabodcrane.org or call 758-7676 if you would like attend!



Technology Club:

Greetings from the Technology After-school Community Service wood working club. Students have been utilizing their woodworking skills this year to give back to the school. The after school club has been designed to allow students to help out the school and community using their kinesthetic wood working skills. Mr. Farley and Mr. Shine asked the club if they could design and build new wooden signs for the middle school office doors. We gladly obliged with this request. I am extremely proud of the dedication, abilities, and perseverance that the groups of seventh and eighth graders have shown.

The after school Tech. Community Service Tech. Club members: Brandon LaBelle, Michael LaBelle, Lenny Keyes, Brainna Shufelt, Jenna Jennings, Collin Gier, Richie Dorval, Caden Early, Robert, Justin Secovnie, Brad Mallinson, Tim Rossi, Sara O'Leary, David Mainville, Scott Kolowski



Pictured above: Collin Gier, Scott Kolowski, Brad Mallinson, and Justin Secovnie

The Crossing

On April 23, 2010, the 8th grade students participated in "The Crossing" from the Middle School to the High School. This day helped our students learn about the High School and allowed them to feel more confident about the transition into 9th grade. They participated in tours, ran through a mock schedule, heard from fellow peers about their current HS experience and had the opportunity to view the various HS clubs.

The grade 8/9 transition team looks forward to making "The Crossing" an annual event.

Ichabod Crane CSD

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Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement

The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Maureen VanDeusen, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184 (518) 758-7575. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Enjoy your Memorial Day!

Upcoming Events:

May

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| 4 | - | Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| | - | Staff Appreciation Day |
| 5-7 | - | NYS Math Test (Grades 6-8) |
| 6 | - | Shared Decision Making, 6:30 PM |
| 7 | - | Grade 5 Moving In Night, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM |
| 11 | - | BOE Meeting—Annual Budget Hearing |
| 12 | - | PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| | - | 8th Grade Field Trip—Bronx Zoo |
| 13 | - | Field Test (Math & ELA) |
| 14 | - | NO SCHOOL |
| 18 | - | BUDGET VOTE , 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM |
| | - | Spring Concert #1, 7:00 PM |
| 19 | - | Spring Concert #2, 7:00 PM |
| 20 | - | 4th Quarter Interim Reports Go Home |
| 24-6/3 | - | Grade 8 Science Performance Test |
| 28 | - | NO SCHOOL |
| 31 | - | NO SCHOOL , Memorial Day |