

The Lycoming Valley Middle School



A Tradition of Excellence
MARCH 2007

We Have School March 5

Roosevelt and Curtin Middle Schools have an Act 80 teacher in-service scheduled for Monday, March 5. However, Lycoming Valley Middle School will be having a normal school day. Please make sure your child is in school on March 5.

Third Quarter IPR'S Issued

Third quarter interim progress reports were mailed on Wednesday, February 28. They should arrive via the US Mail to your home by the time you are reading this or at the latest by March 5. If you have any questions regarding the IPR's, please contact the teacher issuing the IPR at 494-1700 or by e-mail by going to our website at wasd.org. All teachers have voice mail and will return your call at their earliest convenience. The third marking period ends March 23.



SNOW MAKEUP DAY

Wednesday, February 14, the Williamsport Area School District was closed due to weather-related conditions. Due to the closing of school, *Friday, April 13, originally scheduled as spring break, will now be a school day.* Please make note of this on your calendar.

PSSA Testing: March 13, 14, 15

All students in sixth through eighth grade will participate in the PA System of School Assessment (PSSA) in reading and in mathematics each morning Tuesday through Thursday, March 13-15. Parents can help during the testing week by encouraging their children to get a good night's rest, to eat breakfast, and to give the tests their best effort. With the help of the PTO, we will be providing the students with juice and a breakfast snack before the testing begins. The snack will be a nutritious breakfast bar or similar food item. *Please avoid late arrivals to school or appointments these mornings because all students must make up any missed parts of the tests to receive a score.*



Middle School Grade Retention Policy

You should anticipate receiving your child's third quarter report card on Friday, March 30. It will be sent home from school with your child. We would like to inform you of the retention policy for middle school students.

Any student failing more than two courses taken in the following areas...English, mathematics, social studies, science...or any student failing either English or mathematics twice in two consecutive school years...or any student failing more than half of all courses taken during a given school year, shall be retained at that level for the next school year. A student may be retained no more than one time at any grade level during the middle school years.

Students failing the English or mathematics requirement for promotion will be offered a summer school program to make up the deficiency. Lycoming Valley counselors have already notified parents if a child is in danger at this time. Students still have time to address this issue with a concentrated effort.

Summer school will be offered at the Roosevelt Middle School. Dates and times for summer school will be announced in a future edition of the *ECHO*. There is a fee for each course taken in summer school and transportation is the parents' responsibility. Please contact your child's teacher at 494-1700 if you have any questions concerning his or her progress. You may leave a message on the teacher's voice mail. Your phone call will be returned at the teacher's earliest convenience.

8th Grade Scheduling

There are some important items and dates for parents to know now that high school scheduling is beginning. Parents are an integral part of this process, and need to be informed of all aspects.

1. Miss Hanna and Miss Skipper will be meeting students individually starting Thursday, March 1st. The students will receive their course selection sheets during this appointment, and an explanation of the next steps in the process.

2. The signed and completed course selection sheets must be returned to Miss Hanna or Miss Skipper by March 22nd. This will give students time to discuss their options with their parents. The course selection sheets must be in by March 22nd due to deadlines at the high school. If the selection sheets are not in by that date, students will be scheduled anyway, and they will not have a choice in their electives.

3. There is only one summer course available for 8th grade students. That course is Civics and Multiculturalism Honors. Registration for the summer course does not begin until May. When your child registers for this course, then he or she may also schedule an extra elective for the regular school year, not before. When more information about the summer course is made available to Lycoming Valley, it will be made available to parents and students.

If you have any questions or concerns about the scheduling process, please feel free to call Miss Christine Hanna or Miss Kate Skipper at 494-1700.

All-District Band Concert

Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 PM is the All-District Band Concert at WAHS. The concert will feature nearly 500 band students from throughout the district. Each year, a different group (band, chorus, orchestra) is featured. All band members from Lycoming Valley will participate in this grand event. Please look for permission slips and information that was sent home with all band students.

On Tuesday, March 6, all band students will be going to WAHS for an All-District Band rehearsal. Students will be leaving the building at 9:00 AM and will be arriving back at LV around 1:30. Only students returning the permission slip will be allowed to attend the rehearsal. Students have been instructed to speak with all teachers involved IN ADVANCE and to prepare AHEAD OF TIME for any missed work, assignments, etc.

Thanks for your continued support of the program! If you have any questions regarding this concert, please call Mr. Fisher at Lycoming Valley or email dfisher@wasd.org.

Youth Art Month Show

The art department wants to congratulate the following students for having artwork accepted into the Youth Art Month Show for the month of March at the District Service Center in downtown Williamsport: Cassie Moore, Natalie Hume, Sierra Dowell, Sarah Andrew, Jillia English, Nicole English, Morgan Smith, Hillary Mundell, Josh Chenault, Alec Gardner, Chanel Doebler, and Terryanne Barbour. The opening reception is Friday, March 2, at the District Service Center. The art show will be held the whole month of March and the public is invited to stop in and view the artwork on display.

Special congratulations go out to Nicole English. She has had her fish print design sent to Harrisburg for the Arts in Education

Day Art Exhibition at the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Risk Evaluation Tool for Parents

Good kids from loving families are not immune to danger at high-risk moments (high-risk events). Even in a community like ours, students are exposed to options that can be fatally dangerous. As parents and adults, we have an obligation to make sure our kids are safe. Use the following five questions as a tool to evaluate the risk associated with the activity in which your underage son or daughter wants to participate.

Caution: *Some students might suggest that these questions are none of their parent's business. They are! Remember: Parenting is not a popularity contest. Your kids have lots of friends – they need you to be their parent!*

1. Where will you be?

2. At what phone number can you be reached?

3. Who are the adults chaperoning the activity?

Consider the following:

- ✓ Do you know the adults chaperoning the activity?
- ✓ Are they the parent or guardian of a young person attending the event?
- ✓ Will they be present for the entire event?
- ✓ Are they responsible?
- ✓ Do they allow underage alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use?

4. Who is attending the event?

Consider the following:

- ✓ How old are they?
- ✓ What is the gender mix?
- ✓ Will they be classmates or are they from different schools?

5. What will you be doing?

Consider the following:

- ✓ Is this activity age-appropriate?
- ✓ Will young people be served alcohol?
- ✓ Will adult chaperones be drinking?
- ✓ Could young people sneak alcohol there?
- ✓ Will young people be coming and going from the event?
- ✓ Is the activity physically dangerous? If so, what precautions will be or have been taken? (For instance, wearing life-jackets while jet-skiing)
- ✓ Are you comfortable with this type of activity?
- ✓ Is any part of this activity illegal or immoral?

These questions are intended as a guide for parents. You must trust your instincts and intuition. Some absolutes are suggested, however. For example, never allow a student to attend an unchaperoned party. Never allow a young person to attend a party or activity where alcohol is served to minors.

If you would like more information about parenting or have further questions, please contact your student's school counselor at 494-1700. If you have any questions or concerns about your child using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, please contact any member of Lycoming Valley Middle School's CARE (Crisis Assistance Referral Effort) Team at 494-1700 for assistance. Team members at Lyco Valley include:

Sarah Bohnert, Teacher
Christine Hanna, Counselor
Robert Kreger, Teacher
Janet Linderman, Teacher
Debra Shellman, Health Room Technician
Kate Skipper, Counselor
Angela Steele, Teacher
Robert Williams, Assistant Principal
Lisa Yingling, Instructional Support Teacher

Musical to Take Center Stage

The cast of "Bugsy Malone" is busy practicing for their big show coming up on March 23 and 24. Set in the late 1920's, "Bugsy Malone" is a fun-filled musical comedy about two factions which control the sarsaparilla (root beer) market. It is a spoof on the famous gangsters of the 1920's. Tickets are \$4 each and will go on sale March 5th. Students will get to see the show in school on Monday, March 26th.

Students with speaking parts include:

Bugsy Malone - Thomas Dixon
Tallulah - Alexa Krautheim
Blousey - Julianne Kiess
Louella - Rebecca Kennedy
Lena - Kirby Bittner
"Fat" Sam - Morgan Smith
Dandy Dan - Joshua Whipple
Fizzy - Joshua Chenault
Tillie - Kathryn Jedrzewski
Ventriloquist - Ashley Paulhamus
Dummy - Sarah Mynczywor
Roxy Robinson - HeidiJo Sponhouse
Opera Singer & Radio Announcer - Linzy Silberg
Oscar DeVelt - Michael Reamsnyder
Knuckles - Tyler Weaver
Bronx Charlie - Mitchel Crain
Flash Frankie - Tyler Cochran
Waitress - Alicia Witt
Ma Becker - Shannon Barr
Maid - Becca Baier
Bangles - Brittany Persun
Papergirl - Corinna Cortright
Snake Eyes - Zachary Fitzwater
Louis - Michael Reamsnyder
Angelo - Tanner Wingrove
Barber - Kashiki Harrison
Doodles - Tylor Cochran
Yonkers - Zachary Diemer
Marbini - Zachary Diemer

The chorus members are the following: Sarah Andrew, Courtney Baer, Dimitra Beiter, Danielle Confair, Brittany Decker, Jamie Hepler, Jamee Klotz, Mariah Lundy, Lydia Mahonski, Ashlee McCarty, Cassie Moore, Brooke Pompeo, Elizabeth Rader, Desirae Richards, Kelsey Solomon, Mikhala Umstead, Katelyn Yost, and Heather Inners. Other students involved in the technical part of the production are Madelin Beatie, Andrew Kuzio, Eric Bowes, and students in Mrs. Ertel's costume production TEEP class.