

The Echo



Lycoming Valley Middle School—A Tradition of Excellence

Parent/Teacher Conferences Nov. 8&9

It's not too late! Make sure you have your appointment set! Lycoming Valley Middle School will have their first parent/teacher conference event on November 8 and 9. All homes were mailed an invitation with dates and times to visit with teachers. Families selected times that best suited them. We hope for 100% participation from our Lycoming Valley families. We are trying to keep to our tight schedule to meet with all our parents.

Please come, meet the teachers and learn about your child's progress in middle school.

Inside Our Classrooms-Learning Center

"How many of you know how many steps there are to washing one's hands?" asked Mr. Weaver, teacher in The Learning Center. A student raises his hand and after being called upon he replies, "There are eight of them."

The Learning Center students recently learned about the importance of hand-washing in their science class. They used special 'Glo Germ' lotion to simulate germs that might be on one's hand on any given time of the day. After the lotion was applied, the students put their hands under the blacklight and saw how many germs they had. The students then learned the eight steps involved in washing their hands. Then, after learning the proper techniques, they put their hands back under the glow light and saw the results. The results showed that washing hands thoroughly is a great way to reduce the amount of germs on their bodies.



Digging into Social Studies-

Grade 7

Miss Skipper's 7th grade World Cultures class simulated an archaeological excavation. The students in her class were studying terminology that is used to find out facts and information from previous periods in history. To further illustrate the term "archaeology," the students placed themselves 300 years in the future and were excavating the site that was once Lycoming Valley. The excavation site was the cafeteria of Lycoming Valley, and the artifact reconstruction laboratory was Miss Skipper's classroom. During the "dig," the students recovered many pieces of terra cotta pottery, and separated and matched the pieces for reconstruction. In the "laboratory," the students formed two reconstruction teams to try to piece the terra cotta pieces back together. See page 3



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Dates to Note

Nov 8/9- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 15-School Spirit Dinner at Bonanza

Nov 20 PTO Meeting 7:30

Nov 22, 23, 26 No School

Personal Items at School

The following is a quote from the student handbook found in the front of the student agenda under “general rules”.

“Valuables such as trading card collections, expensive leather jackets and jewelry, electronic games and large sums of money have no place in the school and should be left at home.”

This statement includes any type of popular trading cards which are not allowed on the bus or in

school. Although portable IPOD, MP3, and CD players are permissible on the bus only, the school will not be responsible or liable for theft or loss. All students must provide a lock for his



or her PE locker. This should be a combination lock and stay on the PE locker at all times. If a student chooses to use a key pad-lock on his or her locker, an extra key must be given to the gym teacher.

Cell phones are not to be used in the school building or bus at any time.

Red Ribbon Week At Lycoming Valley

Lycoming Valley Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon week October 24 through October 31. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a DRUG-FREE AMERICA. The Students were given red ribbons to wear which read : Show Your Good Charac-

ter by Being Drug Free”. The red ribbon celebration was a week of dressing up in an effort to show spirit and support of being drug free. Students were encouraged to wear red on Monday because of Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbons are the symbol of intolerance towards drugs. Other spirit wear included crazy socks, (sock

it to drugs), and clothing worn backwards (turn backs on drugs). Students donated canned food items as an effort to support local charities. Morning and afternoon announcements reminded students that Being Drug Free “Comes in CANS”, I can, you can, we can BE DRUG FREE.

We have the CARE team for students to refer others or themselves. Parents and teachers may refer also.

Common Reasons Why Kids Use Drugs

1. Kids use drugs because they are feeling bad about themselves.
2. They are afraid to say no.
3. They want to feel good.

These kids don't realize or care that they are hurting themselves. Once

they start using drugs it is difficult to stop.

At Lycoming Valley, we have the CARE team for students to refer others or themselves. We accept parent and teacher referrals. Team members: Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Bohnert, Mrs. Kreger, Mrs. Shellman, Mrs. Moore, Ms. Skipper, Mr. Killian, Mrs. Yingling, Mrs. Nicholson.

Inside Our Classroom– eighth grade

Eighth graders will soon be working on an interdisciplinary project with their teachers in language arts and Pennsylvania Studies. Each student will produce a five-paragraph persuasive essay dealing with a current event. The students will be expected to follow the steps of the writing process (brainstorming, pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing) to create their final

product. To get a good grade, the students will include information about their current event while expressing a personal opinion that persuades the reader to



the writer's point of view. Teachers involved in the writing project include Mrs. Cioffi, Mr. Gossner, Mrs. Hamm, Ms. Skipper, and Mrs. Steele. This activity will be taking place during the months of November and December. Ask your son or daughter to share his work with you at each step of the writing process!

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

The Office of Student Services mailed free and reduced lunch applications information in August. If this application was not completed and returned to school by October 1, the account will revert to full price meals. If you are still in need of an application, please contact the school office. The full price for second-

ary breakfast is \$1.00, reduced price is \$.30. A full secondary lunch is \$1.80. The reduced lunch is \$.40 and the price for

milk is \$.40

Free and Reduced lunch applications can be obtained by contacting the school office.



Inside Our Classrooms– continued from page 1

From page 1

After the re-construction, the question that remained for the archeologists was: What do these artifacts tell us about the 2007 culture?

Art News-

Art Work Display

For the last few years, one student from our school has participated in Dr. June Baskin Art Camp which is conducted in the summer. If a student is interested in this art camp next summer, please see Mrs. Map-

stone. It is an honor to be chosen. Jillia English, a former student has participated the last two years. We are fortunate to have a couple of pieces of art from the camp in our showcase in the lobby area. Please stop by the lobby area and view these lovely, framed works of art. They will only be on display for two weeks.

Lycoming Valley Middle School—A Tradition of Excellence

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Sometimes there are certain situations or issues that arise in our lives that we can't control. Now and then students find themselves in situations where they could use some advice and direction from an adult. At school we have established a group of school personnel who've been trained to recognize high risk students. We call it CARE team. CARE stands for Concerns, Assistance, Referral, and Effort and those are the supports we try to offer students who are referred. Students may have problems that require an intervention or the situation may also interfere with their ability to be successful in school. CARE can help!

You can identify that they are a member by the emblem hanging on their name plate outside of their offices and/or classrooms.

Team members: Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Bohnert, Mrs. Kreger, Mrs. Shellman, Mrs. Moore, Ms. Skipper, Mr. Killian, Mrs. Yingling, Mrs. Nicholson.

A Tradition of Excellence

www.wasd.org
Click on Lycoming Valley

The CARE team has a referral box on the window sill in the main lobby and we accept referrals from students, teachers, and parents. Some example referrals may be for the following: high absenteeism, drug use, failing several subject areas, family turmoil, negative behavior, and many more. If you'd like to make a referral please fill out a referral form or see a CARE team member for help.

Bullying is Never Tolerated

If your child is **being bullied** at school, this can be a very painful experience for your child and your family. Here are some things you can do to support your child:

- Never tell your child to ignore the bully
- Don't blame your child for the bullying
- Allow your child to talk about the experience
- Empathize with the child.
- Don't criticize
- Do not encourage physical retaliation

- Check your own emotions. Think of the next steps carefully
- Contact a school counselor, principal, or teacher
- Work closely with school personnel
- Teach your child safety strategies such as telling an adult
- Make sure your child feels safe at home.

Here are some tips if you find that your child is **doing** the bullying:

- Make it clear to your child that you take bullying seriously and that it is not okay.
- Make rules within your family for your child's behavior.

Keep to nonphysical consequences, a loss of rights.

- Keep close track of his or her activities. Find out who your child's friends are.
- Share concerns with the school personnel.



PTO News

By the time you receive this NOVEMBER ECHO we will have just completed our FALL BOOKFAIR. We hope many of you took advantage of this varied selection of books. We thank those who supported us with their purchases.

We'd also like to thank Becki Moore (Bookfair Chairman) and those who volunteered at the bookfair this past week.

Mark your calendar for our SPRING BOGO BOOKFAIR April 28th -May 2nd.

We will be holding our second "School Spirit Dinner Night":

- At Bonanza Steak House
- On Thursday, November 15th
- Between 4-9pm
- Don't forget to bring your voucher located at the bottom of the "School Spirit Night" flier (needed to give our school credit).

Flier/vouchers are attached to this ECHO, will be available at Parent/Teacher Conferences and can be printed from our web site. Come join Lycoming Valley students, families, faculty and friends... enjoy a great dinner while supporting our school!

If you haven't already joined the PTO, it's not too late.

Envelopes will be available at Par-

ent/Teacher Conferences and can be dropped off in the office or sent in with your student. Remember our membership drive is the main source of income for our projects. We need your help in meeting our goal.

Please join the PTO today (just \$5.00 per person) and help to sponsor activities that benefit your child.

Our upcoming PTO Meeting will be **Tuesday, November 20th at 7:30pm** in the school dining room. Please stop by and join us! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Learn what's going on in our school, become better informed and take the opportunity to become involved.

Conference Time At Lycoming Valley

Prepare ahead of time for the parent/teacher conference.

- Look over recent assignments and test grades so that you know how your child has been performing in class. Look through books and see what your child is learning.
- Ask your child questions, such as what is their favorite subject, what are they having a difficult time with, what subject do they find easiest, and who are their friends at school.
- Write down questions you have for the teacher so you will remember what you wanted to ask.

List your child's strengths.

- Keep this in mind during the conference. Many times as we hear teachers talk about what our child is doing wrong, we forget their strengths. Remind the teacher about your child's strengths and ask how you can work together to further develop them.

Be on time for the conference, most are tightly scheduled. Being even five minutes late will substantially cut down on the time you have with the teacher.

Be open to suggestions from the teacher. Ask what you can do at home to help your child be more prepared for school.

Offer suggestions and insights into your child. You know your child best and you may be able to offer information that will help the teacher to better help your child succeed.

Ask about social interactions as well as academic. Children struggling with friendships can suffer from low self esteem which can cause additional problems in school.

If you find your child is struggling in school, ask to reschedule the conference for the following week. This way the teacher will be able to spend more time with you and you can both work together to develop a plan to help your child succeed.

