DECEMBER 2024// VOL. 6.3

THE MADISON MONTHLY

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HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Can you believe that we are one full trimester into the school year! November learning and activities featured a few additional alternative high school visits for the 8th graders, a wonderful Veterans' Day assembly for all grades, our second round of parent-teacher conferences and school pictures (order your yearbook!), an advisory day featuring the theme of "gratitude", and the start of our basketball season and holiday concerts (String Fling!). Coming back from Thanksgiving Break, this is the point in the year where parents and teachers have a strong understanding of how students are performing from an academic and social-emotional perspective. We continue to offer supports for such a high percentage of students as there are intervention classes in reading, math, and executive functioning, extra-help sessions offered by every core academic teacher, and extra-curricular groups such as the Period 8 Club, which includes peer tutoring and time after school for homework help or test prep. The three weeks in December are a whirlwind as holiday concerts highlight our school events and a student performance/pep rally sends all of us into the holiday recess full of school and seasonal spirit. The MMS PTA is full of the holiday spirit and has already started awarding both mini-grants and 'Panther Perks' to teachers looking to enhance the teaching and learning experiences in their classrooms! This generosity is all possible because of the successful Fun-a-thon fundraiser and your support for the Madison family!

A WINDOW INTO THE STUDENT'S WORLD



(left) It's always special when our veterans connect with their former teachers!

(right) Every year during our Veterans' Day Ceremony, the VFW honors students that were selected based on their "Patriot's Pen" Essay entry.





(above) Sharon Draper, author of "Out of My Mind" joined Madison students via Zoom for a Learning Commons book talk.



(right) Students in Ms. Baillargeon's class use candy to learn about molecules.

(left) KARE students were busy knitting blankets for those in need during World Kindness Day.



(right) The Learning Commons MakerSpace provides opportunities for students to create and innovate!



RECOGNITION & CELEBRATIONS

Book Talks in the Learning Commons

Thank you to Mrs. Dwyer for facilitating a book talk with Sharon Draper, author of "Out of My Mind". Students tuned in via video conference.

Local Veterans come to Madison

Mrs. Cerulli organized another Veterans' Day ceremony, with assistance from Mrs. Cranston. All of our veterans have local connections with several being Madison alum!

Trumbull Community Theatre

We celebrate our very own Mr. John Congdon, as he reprises his role as Ebenezer Scrooge in the production of "A Christmas Carol". Many Madison students will also be on stage.

NJHS Food Drive

Our NJHS students have been busy fulfilling volunteer hours and making a difference through a canned food drive for the Trumbull Food Pantry.

Binky Patrol on the News

KARE advisor, Mrs. Malgioglio, was featured on a WTNH news segment about her work with Binky Patrol and involvement of students.

Trumbull Rangers

Many of our cheerleaders and players for Trumbull Rangers can be celebrated for championship seasons and even a trip to cheerleading nationals in Florida!

Gift Packages to Soldiers

Students put together donated items such as toiletries and comfort items in holiday boxes for deployed soldiers around the world.

SAVE Promise Conference

Several of our SAVE Promise members were accompanied by advisors Ms. Mancini and Mrs. Durand to a Sandy Hook SAVE Promise conference.

String Fling Performers

The holiday concert season kicked off with our orchestra players, led by Mr. Elkins, performing with the rest of the district at Trumbull High School's String Fling.



(below) Coach Iassogna with Madison athletes at the Middle School State Cross-Country Championship.





(above & right) A special bond has been forged between student teacher Ms. Shapinko and Mrs. Malgioglio's students!





(above) Mrs. Pfohl's class incorporates Thanksgiving celebration into the classroom.

(right) Mrs. Dancho celebrates student art and creativity through the decorations in our Guidance Suite.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER

With a late Thanksgiving celebration, the December Calendar feels more compact than in recent years. Trimester II has kicked off and students are settling in to their new Unified Arts classes. Report Cards are available in IC Campus Backpack on December 7th. There are also many opportunites to get involved in clubs and activities, many of which participate in seasonal community programs or activities. Students should always be encouraged to stay after and check out one of the **growing number of clubs** that are meeting in the immediate after school hours, including the Madison Makeover Club, Crochet Club, SHADES, Rubik's Cube Club, Makerspace, Model Club, Science Club, ESports, Pantherchat Podcasters, and Pokemon Club (to name a few). Learn more by checking the **Daily Notice** on the MMS Website. Most groups meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays when the **Late Bus** is available. Our holiday concert schedule is upon us and students have been preparing to inspire you with a selection of musical pieces. Boys and Girls Basketball have had a busy home/away schedule and Panther superfans are always welcome to cheer on our athletes. The next PTA and PTAC meeting will be held in January. Connect with the **PTA** and **PTAC** for public meeting dates and participation!

DECEMBER 2024

December 5 - Chorus/Madison Singers
December 6 - Trumbull Tree Lighting

December 10 - 6th Band/Strings Concert
December 12 - Advisory Day
- 7th/8th Band & Jazz Concert

December 20 - Legal Day
- Blizzard Bash Pep Rally



(above) SAVE Promise will be selling candy grams in the cafeteria. Students can send each other sweet messages (and treats)!

FEATURED CLUB/ACTIVITY:
MakerSpace

At Madison, the Learning Commons hosts Makerspace sessions every month for all grade levels. The purpose of Makerspace is to encourage students to create, imagine, and play. Coding challenges, circuitry, 3D printing, and robotics are some of the activities that are offered. Our seventh grade students were the first to use the 3D printer and it proved to be the most popular station so far! Let's keep creating, Panthers! Next sessions are for sixth grade students December 10, 12, and 13. Check the Daily Notice or contact Ms. Dwyer for more information.

SHOUT OUT OF THE MONTH...

Shout Out: Three middle school ESports teams are advancing to the semi-finals in this season's Rocket League competition. All the best as you work with your Hillcrest counterparts to outwit and outskill teams from around the region and country!
Want to submit a shout-out for staff, students, parents, or community members? Email Mr. Coppola!

GRADE LEVEL, TEAM, OR TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

The World Language Department gets this month's shout out for incorporating the school "morphology" goal into units of learning. Through the study of roots, prefixes, and suffixes, as well as cognates and other grammatical features, students have made connections with words that share similar origins in English, helping students to recognize word meanings more easily.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Student government reps have a busy this December, promoting both the Toys for Tots campaign (12/9-12/16) and the Blizzard Bash Pep Rally on 12/20. Students have opportunities to participate by purchasing penguin tokens, celebrating with pajama and hat day, and decorating homeroom doors. The Pep Rally will feature our three musical groups and include faculty and student games to send us off in the holiday and New Year spirit! Please see your child's homeroom teacher, Mrs. D'Addario, or Ms. Moriello for more information on student government events and parent participation.