JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025// VOL. 6.4

THE MADISON MONTHLY

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"CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS AT MMS"

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HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Coming back for the New Year, students and teachers arrive refreshed and ready to continue their studies and remain involved in all things Madison. Our 8th graders hit the ground running, taking various high school placement exams and all grade levels take the iReady progress monitoring assessments (January 15th-16th for Math and January 22nd and 23rd for Reading). These online assessments provide valuable data on student growth and also allow teachers to focus instruction on specific standards. School spirit is always very positive and lively following our December holiday pep rally and continuation of the boys and girls basketball teams (as both prepare for their big matchup against crosstown rival Hillcrest). All students and families are encouraged to attend the games, held at Trumbull High School on January 25th, which always includes halftime entertainment involving some of our faculty/staff and a well-stocked snack bar hosted by the PTA. During the winter months, we want kids to stay involved in extracurriculars and remain active with many of the clubs and activities that are running and always accepting new members. We highlight the Mathcounts team and tryouts which look to assemble the most competitive mathletes for an upcoming regional meet at Fairfield University later this winter. We also know that this year's PTA Ski and Snowboard club has record numbers of participants. We always look to partner, in as many ways as possible, with our PTA to provide healthy outlets for our students to socialize with others inside and out of school. We hope your student will take advantage this year and you will stay up to date with all of the PTA communications as events are planned for the remainder of the school year.

A WINDOW INTO THE STUDENT'S WORLD



(above) Mrs. Cranston was honored by our local VFW as a result of her promotion of patriotism at Madison

(right) The "Thirsty Travelers" cart is up an running as a refreshment and snack cart which allows students the opportunity to practice skills with a cash register and customer service.

(below) Students in Mrs. Marini's class created a bulletin board entitled "one word project" which portrayed New Year's Resolutions tied to academic behaviors.







(above) KARE is collecting Valentines for Seniors as part of their community outreach!





(above) Boys' and Girls' basketball continue competition with a recent games at home against local middle schools.

RECOGNITION & CELEBRATIONS

Trimester I Honor Roll

Congratulations to those students that have made the Tri1 Honor Roll. We send our list to the local newspapers and GPA thresholds are published in the student handbook

ESports Winners

Shout-out to Lucas W. (Grade 7) who won 1st place in the middle school generation esports championship bracket. This competition included 93 teams from around the USA!

Door Decorating

Mr. DeNuzzo, Ms. Gatto, and Mrs. Cerulli raised the most money through the door decorating program which fundraises for local charities such as Toys for Tots.

PTA Panther Perks

Our PTA has awarded $1500 in "Panther Perks" for classroom enhancements with every penny benefitting students in the classroom!

1 Million Words

Ms. Mancini's classes are taking part in the Million Word Reading Challenge, as each student keeps track of their overall reading throughout the winter.

Period 8 Club

Each week on a day after school, the Learning Commons is filled with students taking advantage of Period 8 Club which provides a cozy space for homework and study.

NJHS Holiday Cards

NJHS students designed and delivered hand made holiday cards for the Maefair Health Care Center.

THS Cheer, Dance, and Chamber Singers

Thank you to the THS Cheer team for joining us at our pep rally and to THS Dance for hosting a clinic for middle-schoolers in mid-Janaury! Chamber Singers also put on a concert for our 8th graders!

Candy Grams

Our SAVE club had a successful fundraiser with candy grams which raised money for Sandy Hook Promise and other initiatives associated with their work.



(above) Madison faculty and staff have helped to create a New Year's Resolution bulletin which highlights some goals for 2025!

(below) Our Binky Patrol group, led by Mrs. Malgioglio, produced 153 blankets to be shipped to those in California that are victims of recent wildfires.





(above) Students have learned about astronomy from Mr. Mastrianni (who gets credit for this picture of the moon).

(right) Students in Mrs. D'Addario's class design protective casings for their annual "egg drop experiment"



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JAN/FEB

Events in January and February provide many opprotunities for students and families throughout the Winter. 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 French Club, Dungeons&Dragons Club, Broadway Babies (cast and crew), Makerspace, Madison Literary Magazine Club, and Madison Make-over 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. We also want families to attend the Crosstown Showdown on January 25th at THS and continue to encourage 8th grade parents to submit baby pictures for our yearbook. Our PTA Ski Club hits the slopes for 5 Friday sessions starting Janaury 24th. Stay tuned for additional PTA events throughout the school year. The next PTA and PTAC meeting will be held February 19th. Connect with the **PTA** and **PTAC** for public meeting dates and participation!

JAN/FEB 2025

January 15 - PTA Meeting
January 15-16 - iReady Math

January 20 - No School, MLK Day
January 22-23 - iReady Reading
January 25 - Crosstown Showdown at THS

February 13 - Panther Play Day
February 14&17- School Closed Long Weekend
February 19 - PTA Meeting



(above) Get ready for another Panther Play Day on February 13th as teachers and students enjoy an afternoon of excitement around shared interests.

FEATURED CLUB/ACTIVITY: MathCounts

MathCounts is a competitive math club that welcomes all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have an interest in the world of mathematics! Students challenge their way of thinking in a series of practice competitions that all deal with different types of puzzling math problems. The math-letes with the top scores can earn a spot on the official Madison Middle School MathCounts team! These students get to go on to represent our school in competition at Fairfield University on February 1st. Contact Ms. Dwyer for more information.

SHOUT OUT OF THE MONTH...

Shout Out: Thirsty Travelers is a student managed cart of beverages and snacks that provides students with experiences such as customer service and positive social interactions as well as other responsibilities around this mini-business operation. Teachers love seeing the cart and cash register rolling down the hallway!
Want to submit a shout-out for staff, students, parents, or community members? Email Mr. Coppola!

GRADE LEVEL, TEAM, OR TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Through the Learning Commons, Panther readers will participate in a March Madness book tournament for students to engage with books and find new favorites! Students can get a head start on reading the titles in the tournament bracket by checking the school or town collection. See Ms. Dwyer with any questions. Bracket sheets will be in grade level Google Classrooms and in the Learning Commons. Student voting for favorite books begins in March! Read on!

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MMS Homepage
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PHYSICAL FITNESS UPDATES

The CT Physical Fitness Assessments are four State-mandated physical tests that are performed in grades 6 and 8 in PE class. Students are tested and evaluated on the mile run, push-ups, curl-ups, and sit-and-reach physical assessments. The State has developed healthy fitness standards for students that can be found here. Students train and participate in a variety of fitness lessons prior to being tested, and all PE teachers stress the importance of students giving their personal best effort. We report our aggregate results to the State and look to celebrate health and fitness at Madison!