

The Bulldog Bark



Important Dates

- April 1-11 Spring Break
- April 12 School Resumes
- April 22 "Earth Day" Community Service Project
- April 26-30 7th Grade Boater's Safety Lessons with Macomb County Sheriff's Marine Division
- April 29 "Reading Buddies" Community Service Project
- May 5 Early Release Day
- May 21 Sailing Field Trip
- May 31 No School Memorial Day
- June 8-10 Half Days of School

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Technology: Your Tax Dollars at Work!

With the last bond approval by voters, the Mount Clemens Schools received a variety of technology updates. Input was provided by administration, teachers and students as to which technology would be beneficial to the educational environment.

At the Junior High level, each classroom is now outfitted with a projection/voice amplification system, a Smartboard, an Elmo document projector and internet access. Students have access to two different computer labs and Science students have a designated laptop cart for frequent use. Spanish students also have a language lab in the classroom. In addition, several kits of "clickers," otherwise known as "ActivExpression devices" keep students actively engaged during class activities.



8th Grader, Joseph Huggins, works on his Earth Day informational podcast in Mr. Slack's Technology class.

Students have been working on all kinds of technology projects within every subject area. In fact, the Technology classes are in the thick of podcasting! Most students are proficient at creating a professional sounding recording that can be informative or entertaining. All students are creating short podcasts on environmental awareness that includes a musical introduction and conclusion. The podcasts will

be posted on the class blog: www.edublogs.misd.net/slack

Q. What is Podcasting?

A. Podcasting is the online (on the Internet) distribution of audio or video files, like radio broadcastings and music videos, to listen to on mobile devices and computers. It is possible to download free podcasts online to listen to on your mobile device but the big (continued on pg.2)

Dr. Bilbrew's Buzz (continued on pg. 2)

It's Spring, and we are doing wonderful things at the Junior High School. We just finished collecting pennies for Haiti. The Penny War started Monday, March 22, and continued until Friday, March 26, 2010. The Penny War was between the 7th and 8th grade students. The

7th grades students won!!!!!!

We also had Lucky Lockers. Lockers were randomly chosen and when students opened their lockers, they found a certificate granting them a prize at lunchtime.

On March 17, we had 6th graders from the elementary schools visit the Junior High building. The students were informed about our International Baccalaureate programs, sports programs, the clubs, and the curriculum of the Junior High.

Technology...Your Tax Dollars at Work! (continued from page 1)



ActiveExpression device

difference between radio on demand and a podcast broadcasting is the possibility of an automatic feed to your mobile device or computer. The best podcasts are usually the ones that you can subscribe to, after which you receive new content that is automatically delivered to your device without you having to do anything to get it.

Source: www.onlypodcasting.com

tivExpression allows students to work at their own pace and level.

The study, "Evaluation Study of the Effects of Promethean ActivClassroom on Student Achievement" found that **students taught using the Promethean ActivClassroom achieved an average of 17 percentile points higher** than students taught by the same teacher, teaching the same content, using traditional methods. An experienced teacher can expect even greater results.

individuals on exactly what they need, or identify individuals who need to be challenged further. With the ability to combine the progression of questions with an increase in difficulty; differentiation is achieved on a per pupil basis, enabling students to work at their own pace and level.

(source: www.prometheanworld.com)

Students are also highly engaged during lessons that teachers plan which utilize the "clickers." These devices resemble television remotes but they allow the student to send data and text responses to teachers' questions, requiring every child to respond...not just the vocal students.

Q. What is an ActiveExpression device?

A. The ultimate collaborative learning tool, Ac-

With Self-Paced Learning, ActiveExpression provides real time, immediate response details for each student per question. This facilitates immediate intervention enabling teachers to support

"...students taught using the Promethean ActivClassroom achieved an average of 17 percentile points higher..."



8th Grader, Mercedes Palm uses the internet to design a travel brochure in Spanish class.

Dr. Bilbrew's Buzz (continued from pg. 1)

The 8th grade students were given the opportunity to visit the High School building. Mr. Bruce welcomed the students and discussed the 9th grade Small Learning Community concept. He also talked about the renovations the High School will be going through this summer. The students talked to the counselors about their schedules, credits, and colleges. The counselors also discussed career choices with the stu-

dents. The students were very excited about the new High School opportunities!

Our Junior High teachers are continuing to work on International Baccalaureate units. Please refer to the article "What's Up With IB?" for all the exciting details!

Dr. Pamela Bilbrew
Dean of Students
Mount Clemens Junior High



Student Council Happenings

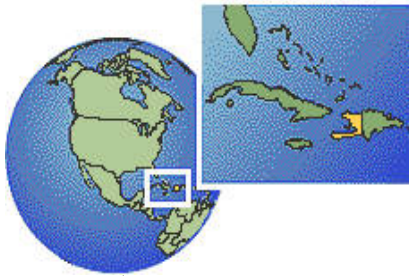
The Mount Clemens Junior High Student Council is busy with all kinds of activities! The Student Council sponsors our monthly birthday breakfasts and our upcoming Honor Roll Ice Cream Social.

Student Council is currently holding a "Penny War" to raise money for the Red Cross. The money will be donated to the over one million men, women and children left homeless by the January 12, 2010, 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

Some upcoming events to look forward to...

Staff vs. Student Volleyball Game and Earth Day "Fact of the Day" Announcements

"The monologues acquaint students with the language and thoughts of many different writers throughout history, thus providing them with a springboard for the study of the historical periods."



Students are donating their spare change for the homeless in Haiti.

In addition, the Student Council is keeping the school environment fun by sponsoring "Wacky Wednesdays" through the end of the year. Some of the fun activities are "Name that Tune" and "Lucky Locker."



Ms. Monarez has fun at the Student Council's Halloween dance.

What's Up With IB?

Students have been working on many different IB Units this quarter. Some of the units are:

***Mrs. Rissman's Math:** Students just finished a unit on statistics and graphing using data from the Mount Clemens community. Students wrote a description of their graph and how it could help others make better choices about the future.

***Mrs. Jackson's ELA:** Students are currently presenting their book report projects. They were able to select the format for the presentation and some students even chose to present puppet shows which enabled them to experience script writing as well! They are also writing "Magical Mystery Cures" in conjunction with their study of the short story, *What Do Fish Have to Do With Anything?*

***The Unit Question in Art classes is:** "In what ways do we affect our environment?" Students designed and illustrated houses. They then created their designs from clay and lighted the inside with small electrical lights. **Mrs. Cusenza** is very proud of the student's progress on this project!

***Mr. Conger's Physical Education** classes are excited to finally be getting back outside for fitness activities. They are now working on Track related lessons.

***"Quien y como soy yo"** (Who am I and what am I like?) has been the Unit Question that **Ms. Mohler's 7th and 8th grade Spanish** students have been focusing on. The students learned to use adjectives to describe themselves

and others.

During the final quarter of the year, Spanish students will begin a unit entitled "A comer!" (Let's Eat!). The students will learn basic food and restaurant vocabulary. They will also research food from around the Hispanic world.

***Mr. McHaney's 6th hour Humanities** students are working on "Monologues for Aspiring Actors." The class will perform a school-wide performance. The monologues acquaint students with the language and thoughts of many different writers throughout history, thus providing them with a springboard for the study of the historical periods.



Allie Matuzak practices her monologue.



7th Grade Science students, **Jazzmin Hunter and Cheyenne Vermander** write and carry out their own original experiment in the Unit, "The Scientific Method in Action," in **Ms. Pankotai's** class.



Mrs. Kirkland's Science classes are researching earthquakes. **Mrs. Geiger, the librarian,** is assisting the students with research techniques and citations.

(continued on pg. 4)

HELP WANTED!

We need your help!

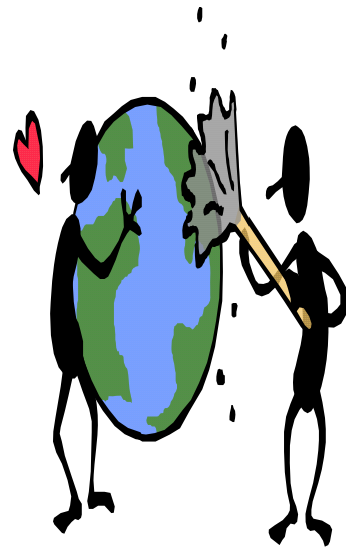
Our students are working on a variety of community service projects and could use your help!



*Donations are being accepted for the purchase of jerky. This is one of the few items that our troops are unable to easily obtain in Iraq, but it is very portable and stays fresh while

on maneuvers. We will be sending a care package towards the end of April. If you can contribute goods or monetary donations, please contact Ms. Burnett at burnette@mtcps.org or send your donation to the school with your child.

*Parent supervisors and laborers are welcome to assist during our Community Clean Up on April 22th. Please contact Ms. Pankotai at pankotaid@mtcps.org if you can volunteer!



What's Up With IB? (continued from page 3)

*Ms. Burnett's ELA students wrote their own children's picture books. Some of the Junior High students will accompany Ms. Burnett and Ms. Pankotai to the Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center on April 29th to read their books to the younger students. The students are very excited to be participating in the "Book Buddies" community service project and we hope to make it an annual event.



*Mrs. Farago and Ms. Volz are planning an interdisciplinary unit for ELA and Band students. Mrs. Farago will be working with the students on classical literature such as the Iliad and the Odyssey. Students will then be writing their own original myths. Ms. Volz will tap into the music of the times and help students construct their own pan pipes.



Burnett's Blog...

Ms. Burnett's 8th grade Reading classes finished their *Touching Spirit Bear* unit and are finishing up the unit on *Mississippi Trial 1955*. *Mississippi Trial 1955* is the story of the murder of Emmett Till in Money, Mississippi in August of 1955. The students learned that it was his death that actually started the civil rights movement. Prior to beginning the novel, the students watched the documentary *The Murder of Emmett Till* for background knowledge of the event. The students are now in the process of

writing summaries and personal reflections on what they have read and learned. Some of their writings are posted on our classroom blog, www.theclem.org. An open letter to the author, Professor Chris Crowe was posted and a student, Allie Matuzak even received a response from the author!

In Ms. Burnett's Writing classes, the students are completing their final drafts of a story called "A Day in the Life." The students chose a picture that does not have any text and created a story depicting what one day in the life of the

person in the picture might be. Their next project will be re-writing their favorite fairy tale from the perspective of one of the characters in the tale.

Also, a group of 8th graders are organizing a bake sale in order to raise money to purchase beef jerky. The platoon that has been adopted by our school let us know that beef jerky is the one thing that cannot be purchased in Iraq. We hope to be able to send the 501st MP Company a huge care package by the end of the month.



Did You Know?

Peer mediation services are available for Jr. High students! Contact Ms. Gendreau at gendreaus@mtcps.org for further information.

POETRY SLAM FARAGO STYLE!

Mrs. Farago's ELA students have been busy completing a study of the different forms of poetry. A favorite of students is the Diamante Poem. A few student samples are below:



Author: Katherine Jones

Flowers
Pretty, Bright
Planting, Potting, Digging
Rose, Daisy, Lily, Ivy
Picking, Growing, Watering
Colorful, Aromatic
Weeds

Author: Pharoah Nelson

Mom
Peaceful, Harmless
Pleasing, Helping, Shopping
Rhonda, Deja, Ruth, Beverly
Hauling, Opening, Playing
Awesome, Spectacular
Dad

Author: Emily Hofbauer

Nascar
Tough, Athletic
Watching, Driving, Entertaining
Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Carl Edwards, Kyle Bush
Turning, Steering, Crashing
Expensive, Televised
Basketball



Author: Dimitar Jakimovski

Panda
Cuddly, Slow
Eating, Sleeping, Crawling
China, Japan, Thailand, Mongolia
Climbing, Laying, Yawning
Soft, Elite
Wolverine

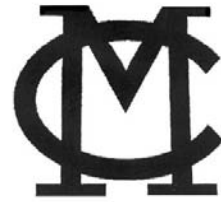


Author: Rachel Jones

Dogs
Enjoyable, Adorable
Loving, Caring, Playing
Yorkie, Poodle, Shetland, Boxer
Running, Sleeping, Eating
Noisy, Expensive
Cats



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Mission Statement

Mount Clemens Junior High is committed to challenging students to reach their maximum achievement as lifelong learners in a global community. Working as a team, students, teachers, and parents pursue excellence in a cooperative, trusting, and caring environment.

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Laws

It is the policy of the Mount Clemens Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, lack of English skills, or disability, be excluded from participation and be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination under program or activity and in employment; further the Mount Clemens Board of Education strictly adheres to provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Education policies and regulations prohibiting discrimination.

If you would like more information regarding this assurance, please contact:

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