



Adams' Advocate

Guilford, CT January - February 2012
Catherine Walker, Principal
Robert Loizeaux, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Adams students and staff closed 2011 on a very positive note. We participated in the town's annual "Toys for Local Tots" campaign which was coordinated by the Adams Peer Helpers, and collected toys for area kids, tweens and teens. The WildSide Club sponsored a "Purchases for Pets" drive which collected pet food that will be donated to the Guilford Animal Shelter. In addition, we answered a call from the Guilford Social Services Department regarding an urgent need for items for the Guilford Food Bank. Students and staff donated over 50 full bags of groceries for the holiday baskets. Thank you to every one of the students and their families who helped with donations. Participation in these activities truly exemplifies the "community" spirit that is part of our ADAMS CARES motto: Community, Attitude, Respect, Effort and Scholarship. Thank you to one and all!

As the New Year begins, we will renew our focus on effort and scholarship. The faculty will be looking ahead to the Connecticut Mastery Testing in March – which is just eight short weeks away! Last year the PTO helped us to launch a "diligence" initiative to reward sustained student effort and perseverance. PTO volunteers organized pre-CMT snacks for the students and the interdisciplinary teams recognized students who showed diligence each day during the testing. The initiative was a great success and we will plan to repeat the program this year. If you would like to lend a hand, please call PTO co-chair, Trish Thibault, whose contact information can be found on the PTO page of this Advocate.

The weather has finally turned colder. On sunny days, and if there is no snow on the basketball court, we will take the students outside for recess. However, we do not allow students to shoot hoops in short sleeves in frigid weather!!! Please remind your child to dress appropriately for the cold, and bring a coat or at least a sweatshirt to lunch if he/she wishes to go outside.

Happy New Year to all and welcome to 2012!

Thank you for your continued support,

Catherine Walker and Bob Loizeaux

AMS Concerts (weather permitting):

Thursday, January 11th, 7th Grade & Jazz/Band Concert, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7th, 8th Grade Band & GHS WE/ GHS Perc. Ensemble 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 29th, Chorus Concert 7:00 pm

CMT's February 28th - March 30th

GUILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC NOTICE - NONDISCRIMINATION

The Guilford Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices as set forth in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. Any person having inquiries concerning Guilford Public Schools' compliance with Title VI or Title IX should contact Anne Keene, Assistant Superintendent, Guilford Public Schools, 55 Park Street, P.O. Box 367, Guilford, CT 06437, telephone 203-453-8216. Any person having inquiries concerning Guilford Public Schools' compliance with Section 504 should contact Patricia Free Brett, Director of Pupil Services, Calvin Leete Elementary School, 280 South Union Street, Guilford, CT 06437, telephone 203-453-0128.

8/2011

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Guilford Public Schools will use the following means of communication during an emergency situation provided we can access power:

An ALERTNOW emergency message will be sent to all e-mail and telephone contacts provided to GPS by parents and guardians.

- Updates will be posted on our website at www.guilford.k12.ct.us
- Updates will be posted on our local access television Channel 19
- A voice mail message will be available at (203) 453-8200

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Please submit written requests to the school office for this information.

EMERGENCY PLANS



Ensuring the safety of students at Adams is a critical concern. Please take a few minutes to formulate an emergency plan with your child in the event that you cannot be reached through emergency numbers on your Pupil Emergency Information Form. Make them aware of who you listed as the responsible adult to be contacted if you cannot be reached. This will help ease the anxiety your child may experience if they miss the bus and cannot reach you.



E-MAIL AND POWERSCHOOL

At home or on the go, PowerSchool for Parents is available by logging on to the Internet. In addition to checking your child's grades/assignments and lunch balance you can also review and edit the phone number(s) and email address(es) that are on file. We ask that you keep your information current so you can be reached and your child's team can email you important information! **To obtain your unique Username and Password simply click on the PowerSchool/PowerLunch link located on your child's school website and follow the instructions.**



STUDENT RECOGNITION

ADAMS C.A.R.E.S MOTTO
COMMUNITY, ATTITUDE, RESPECT
EFFORT, & SCHOLARSHIP

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

TEAM 7-1

Corey Gambardella
Eryn Murtagh
Olivia Sommo
Brody Ulrich

TEAM 7-2

Ben Cousins
Tommy Larkin-Wells
Emma Putnam
Mikayla Zeitlin

TEAM 7-3

Jack Hodgson
Fran Ibarra
Camryn Makula
Jake Moscarelli

GRADE 8

TEAM 8-1

Bella Grimes
Pauline Kalta
Jack Oman
Chris Yerxa

TEAM 8-2

Grace Clancy
Victoria Giovanniello
Cole Horton
Tyler Rogers

TEAM 8-3

David Haig
Tessa Mackey

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

TEAM 7-1

Ana Blanchet
Grace Lemon
Josh Stern
Gregory Sullivan

TEAM 7-2

Chrystina Bonelli
Ava Provolo
Jacob Sabol-Low
Juliana Tedeschi

TEAM 7-3

Finn Anderson
Aileen Du
Claire Veitch
Ryan Xie

GRADE 8

TEAM 8-1

Hugo Bachaumard
Matt DeRose
Morgan Fields
Frankie McGill

TEAM 8-2

Liam Doolan
Alex Fitzgerald
Jackson Inchalik

TEAM 8-3

Cassidy Bell
Ben Rattet

**The names of some "Students of the Month" may have been omitted as per parental request via the Privacy Policy.



STUDENT RECOGNITION WORLD LANGUAGE

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

Luke Accardi
 Chris Burger
 Cara Eilbott
 Lauren Hutchinson
 Jordan Krause
 Conrad Poole-Wysopal
 Addie Raiti
 David Standrowicz
 Teddi Stanley
 Brody Ulrich
 Alexis Wainer
 Abigail Yerkes

GRADE 8

Korey Carregal
 Matthew DeRose
 Michael Greco
 Mark Healy
 Pauline Kalta
 Caroline McGowan
 Jake Newman
 J.J. Secki
 Lily Singleton
 Samantha Shank
 Tristan Patino
 Kaelee Zajac

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

Ben Cousins
 Matthew Crispi
 Kelly Dellacave
 Jack Hodgson
 Hank Huhnke
 Molly Kosh
 Catherine Lawrence
 Emma Lim
 Eryn Murtagh
 Damien Signore
 Juliana Tedeschi

GRADE 8

Olivia Bucci
 Jae Cooper
 Amanda Curseaden
 Seve DePina
 Evelyn Ferrall
 Morgan Fields
 Kyle Langel
 Madisen Panagoulas
 Cody Recanati
 Ben Siciliano
 Grant Silverman
 Hannah Wang



STUDENT RECOGNITION UNIFIED ARTS

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

Mary Beames
 Orlando Diaz

GRADE 8

Sarah DeLucia
 Keegan Dostie

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 7

Emma Magee
 Brody Ulrich

GRADE 8

Kelly Mordecai
 C.J. Vanacore

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CURRICULUM FOCUS

The **Physical Fitness Awards Assembly**, held in November, was a very successful event for our eighth grade students. Students were tested using four test events including the P.A.C.E.R. test, curl-ups, 90 degree push ups, and the back-saver sit and reach. This years eighth graders showed improvement in all four test areas from their seventh grade scores. The following are the 2011 class results.

<u>Test Items</u>	<u>Percentage Meeting Health Standard</u>
Endurance (P.A.C.E.R)	88%
Abdominal Strength (Curl ups)	98%
Flexibility (Sit & Reach)	93%
Upper Body Strength (Push ups)	85%
Students Passing All Four Tests	76%

Students were recognized for their achievements on two levels:

Health-Related Fitness Zone: A range of fitness scores associated with good health. Students who perform at this level demonstrate a healthy level of fitness related skills for their age.

High Performance Zone: Fitness test performances that exceed the top score of the Health Fitness Zone. Students who perform at this level demonstrate exceptional fitness-related skills for their age. Students must attain the Health or High Performance level in all four test items to receive that award.

Recipients of the Health and High Performance awards are listed below. Congratulations to these students and to all the students that participated in the fitness challenge!

HEALTH -RELATED FITNESS

Amble, Dylan	Clyne, Brittany	Fields, Morgan	Hullihan, Liam
Anderson, Seth Jesse	Connolly, Zachariah	Fikrig, Logan	Ignoto, Andrew
Auffant, Jason	Conroy, Mackenzie	Filley, Michael	Inchalik, Jackson
Bachaumard, Hugo	Cooper, Jae Hyuk	Fitzgerald, Alexandra	Jankura, John
Bedell, Ethan	Corso, Alex	Friel, Taylor	Jewett, Emma
Bonito, Maximilliam	Cox, Cody	Gallimore, Jefferson	Johnson, Kyle
Bright, James	Curseaden, Amanda	Gebauer, Emma	Kaisen, Rogan
Brocksieper, Colin	Dacey, William	Germaine, Adam	Kandic, Arijan
Brown, Steven	DeLucia, Sarah	Ghatpande, Aboli	Kegel, David
Bryant, Jehiel	DeRose, Luke	Giordano, Francesco	Kegel, Jacqueline
Buchanan, Anna	DeRose, Matthew	Gonzalez, Orlando	Kellaher, Aidan
Cappelli, Drew	Deshpande, Benjamin	Guerra, Samuel	Kelley, Nicole
Carbone, Michael	Despres, Christia	Haig, David	Kesselring, James
Carmona, Oscar	Dinauer, Kate	Healy, Mark	Kinney, Emily
Carregal, Korey	DiNoia, Morgan	Hill, Rebecca	Kornitsky, Matthew
Castellani, Kurtis	Doolan, Lim	Hoban, Calvin	Kronengold, Daniel
Chiu, Cameron	Dostie, Keegan	Horton, Cole	
Ciardiello, Michael	Duda, Skyler	Horvath, Julian	
Clark, Justin	Fasano, Molly	Howell, Gaelen	
Clayton, Samantha	Fazzina, Benjamin	Hristov, Rebecca	
Clifford, Brenda	Ferrigno, Alexander	Huffman, Casey	



CURRICULUM FOCUS

Lamberton, Erin
 Langel, Kyle
 Latella, Dylan
 LeGrant, Molly
 Letourneau, Emily
 Lonergan, Bronagh
 LoRicco, Robert
 Lynch, Cory
 Madenski, Morgan
 Mahoney, Danielle
 Maio, Brandon
 Malafronte, Paul
 Marchand, Jane
 McCartney, Brian
 McGill, Francesca
 McGowan, Caroline
 McLain, Tyler Joseph
 Melillo, Samantha
 Merrithew, Olivia Jade
 Messercola, Sabrina
 Miranker, Abigail
 Misbach, Brooke
 Mordecai, Kelly
 Moscato, Nicholas
 Murphy, Lilah
 Naccarato, Samantha
 Nelson, Tyler
 Nero, Nicholas
 Newman, Jacob
 O'Callahan, Aidan
 O'Callahan, Lukas
 Oman, John
 Page, Stephen
 Palumbo, Anthony
 Patton, Mitchell
 Peters, Connor
 Pierson, Tyler
 Pinchbeck, Eleanor
 Pomeroy, Michelle
 Porretta, Nicholas
 Powell, Evan
 Prinz, Arianna
 Puchini, Amy
 Rand, Amy
 Riccio, Rosalie
 Richmond, Cadence
 Risse, Isabelle
 Rogers, Tyler
 Rojas, Juan
 Rook, Colin
 Rosado, Kyle
 Russello, Nicholas

Schimmel, Justin
 Sejourne, Mark
 Shank, Meredith
 Sharpe, Christian
 Shields, Riley
 Shoff, Margaux
 Shutak, Kayla
 Siciliano, Benjamin
 Silverman, Grant
 Simhoni, Julian
 Singleton, Lily
 Skapczynski, Justin
 Snow, Michael
 Sogge, Eric
 Song, Emily
 Spinnato, Michael
 Surgenor, Sam
 Sweasy, Katherine
 Tamayo, John
 Tepley, Nathan
 Terwilliger, John
 Tischer, Andrew
 Tolnay, Cameron
 Ulrich, Alexander
 Vaccaro, Dana
 Vanacore, Christopher
 Vilaseca, Luke
 Volf, Nathanael
 Wall, Kevin
 Wang, Hannah
 Weber, Katherine
 Weidman, Eric
 Westgard, Samuel
 Wirth, Heather
 Xie, Guanee
 Yeomans, Jennifer
 Yerxa, Christopher
 Zajac, Kaelle
 Zhang, Laurel
 Zuse, Hadley

HIGH PERFORMANCE
 Barber, Christopher
 Burke, Kathryn
 Clancy, Grace
 Clayton, Alexandra
 Cole, Anna
 Giovanniello, Victoria
 Grimes, Isabella
 Haak, Bailey
 Hackett, Sean
 Ignatowski, Ashley

Jillson, Christopher
 Mackey, Tessa
 Montesano, Melissa
 Panagoulas, Madisen
 Pocock, Isabel
 Rattet, Benjamin
 Rusconi, Emma
 Shank, Samantha
 Spiggle, Jia



For the Most Current Athletic Schedules go to www.casciac.org

- Click on: *CIAC (Athletics Division)* on the left side menu bar to reveal options.
- Select: *View Schedules & Results*
- Scroll down to Schedules, Results & Rankings by Sport/Season and select: Season
- Scroll to the *Sport* your inquiring for and select: *Regular Season Schedules/Results*
- Select the *Name of the School* to see the sports schedule options
- From here a schedule can be printed/viewed in multiple ways.

Please remember that games/meets may be postponed or cancelled due to weather.

CURRICULUM FOCUS

TEAM 7-2 NEWS

Team 7-2 continues our program begun last year of C.A.R.E.S. which stands for cooperation, attitude, respect, effort and scholarship. We conducted lessons on team building day to emphasize these positive traits. We continue to reinforce and practice these positive behaviors each day in our academic classes.

Social studies classes have begun an interdisciplinary unit with the library-media center which helps students build a foundation of research skills. They researched several United Nations organizations, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the World Food Program. As a culminating activity, the students worked in groups to present a news broadcast to share their findings.

In language arts classes, students have finished a unit on short stories, including the stories for our theatre trip on Thursday, December 8th, to Lyman Auditorium at Southern Connecticut State University. All students are working on expanding their vocabulary with challenging new words and some are participating in the National WordMaster analogy challenge, which began in December. In addition, students are continuing to improve their persuasive writing skills and are finishing a group study of the novel "The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle" by Avi.

In science classes, students began the year by learning how to conduct and create experiments with microbes. Students studied the needs of living organisms, why bacteria can spoil our food and make us sick, and how we can prevent food borne illness. During the second quarter, we have explored cell structures and functions. After learning about cells, students will apply their knowledge of cells to studies of the structures and functions of human body systems. In addition to our regular studies, some students have chosen to voluntarily create independent science research projects to be entered in the Adams Middle School Science Fair.

In math, students spent the first part of the year creating and analyzing real life examples of tables, graphs, and equations. From there, students conducted a survey and created Venn diagrams and scatter plots, as well as a summary of their findings. Currently students are studying ratios, percents, differences, and scales as a way to compare data and make projections.

We look forward to an enthusiastic, successful 2012!

TEAM 8-2 NEWS

A core physical science unit on forces and motion provided the focus for an interdisciplinary project in November for Team 8-2. Students designed and constructed their own Rube Goldberg machines that demonstrated Newton's Laws of Motion. They incorporated simple machines which they learned about in grade 7. In social studies, students learned that Goldberg was an award winning cartoonist whose wacky multi-step machines inspired many modern inventors. Every student design team showed the mathematics of motion involved in the machines. The students' productivity and presentations were entertaining and informative.

In social studies students are learning about the economic and social issues which caused the Civil War. Additionally they will examine how this war affected people in both the North and the South. In March, students will investigate topics for the eighth grade research paper. This paper will incorporate lessons and skills in both social studies and language arts.

During December seasonal poetry by Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson was analyzed, then students composed their own poetry in cooperative groups. They enjoyed sharing their creative work with their peers as well as their teachers. Students have participated in literature circles in language arts. They are also reading, discussing, and broadening their understanding of literary classics.

Mathematics classes have been continuing to learn about applications of percents, fractions, and decimals into authentic problem solving. The students will be transitioning into the book, Moving Straight Ahead, which focuses on writing and graphing linear equations. The geometry students have been focusing on deductive reasoning and writing proofs. Currently, they are learning about the properties of triangles, and will be delving into quadrilaterals before their midterm. In algebra, students are learning about slope, writing different forms of linear equations, and graphing. The next unit of study after their midterm will be systems of equations.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

SAVING THE DOLPHINS



Each year the E.C. Adams Environmental Club chooses a project which supports peaceful and positive changes to our environment. Students learn what it means to be an active participant in solving the environmental issues on our planet.

This year we have chosen to join the Earth Island Institute's "Save the Dolphins" project. We will screen the Academy Award winning documentary, "The Cove" as a fundraiser for Adams students. This documentary has inspired students to bring the news to other students and members of the community: thousands upon thousands of dolphins are being needlessly and inhumanely slaughtered in the small fishing village of Taiji, Japan. Ironically, dolphins being captured for human entertainment in marine parks and "swim with the dolphin" parks are what spur on the slaughter.

The goal of the E.C. Adams Environmental Club is to increase awareness among fellow students and the Guilford community about this terrible tragedy. The club members will raise funds to support the efforts of the Earth Island Institute's activists who are on the frontline in the fight to save the dolphins and change policies regarding dolphin capture and slaughter. Students will be asked to take a pledge to boycott marine parks and "swim with the dolphins" parks. We will also begin a letter writing campaign to politicians to increase their awareness about public opinion regarding the inhumane captivity of dolphins in the United States. Tee-shirts will be sold to raise funds for Earth Island Institute later this spring.

We hope we have your support . Please encourage your child to become involved in this project and to sign a pledge to boycott dolphin parks. For more information about Earth Island Institute and their "Save the Japan Dolphins" campaign, please go to <http://www.savejapandolphins.org/>. If you would like to become involved, please contact Ms. Stevens, Environmental Club Advisor at E. C. Adams Middle School, (203) 453-2755.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPONSORED BY GUILFORD YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Mother & Daughter Night Out

WHEN: January 19th
TIMES: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
WHERE: GY&FS, 36 Graves Avenue, Guilford, CT



Join Guilford Youth & Family Services in an informational night designed to give girls a better understanding of the changes their body will go through during puberty. A limited number of seats are available, please call GY&FS at 203-453-8047 to register for this program.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Nuts & Bolts of Special Education
WHEN: March 7th
TIMES: 12:00 - 1:00 pm
WHERE: GY&FS, 36 Graves Avenue, Guilford, CT

A limited number of seats are available, please call GY&FS at 203-453-8047 to register for this program.

SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Mrs. Fran McGrath & Mrs. Carolyn Vanacore,
School Counselors**

Phone 453-2755 Ext. #132 and #134

7th Grade News – The new semester begins the end of January and those students who have had Classroom Guidance the first half of the year will have Health class with Mrs. Riggio. Seventh graders who have not yet been in Classroom Guidance will be with Mrs. Vanacore in place of Health. In Guidance class, students will be exploring topics like self-awareness and character, school success skills including study skills, time management and test-taking strategies, career exploration, harassment and bullying, interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Students also switch between two other courses, Computer and Technology Education, at the semester break.

8th Grade News – At the beginning of Semester two, those students who have been in Guidance switched to Health class. Eighth graders from Health class began Guidance class. The Classroom Guidance course will focus on self-identity, character development, internet safety, harassment, career exploration, stress management, conflict resolution, goal setting, and preparing for high school. Mrs. McGrath will also provide information on the transition to high school throughout the course, reinforcing information provided by our guest speakers from alternative high schools, and the Guilford High School counselors.

8 to 9 Transition/Parent Conferences – As we approach the high school transition for 8th graders, you may want to have a phone conversation or conference with your child's teacher(s) or Mrs. McGrath. Certain teachers (Math, Science, Language Arts and World Language) will be making preliminary high school placement recommendations by the end of February. These recommendations are based on your child's work to this point. Significant changes in an eighth grader's achievement and/or effort during the second semester will be noted and will affect the 9th grade placement recommendations. GHS guidance counselors will hold an informational night in March prior to registration for classes. Do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or concerns.

Small Group Discussions – Lunch group discussions continue for 7th and 8th graders. These discussion groups focus on a variety of teen concerns including self-identity, social skills, handling relationships, peer pressure, academic concerns and more. Groups are voluntary, and meet once a week during lunch. Because of the popularity of these groups, we now have a waiting list. If you would like your child to be a part of our lunch group discussions, you can contact the Student Support Services Office, extension #131.

REMINDER TO PARENTS OF EIGHTH GRADERS
APPLYING TO NEW HAVEN MAGNET SCHOOLS |
INCLUDING THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR
THE ARTS (ECA) PROGRAM:
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NOW.
**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A LOTTERY TICKET HAVE
YOUR APPLICATION IN BEFORE
FEBRUARY 15TH.**

CMTS FOR ALL SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS
WILL OCCUR FROM
FEBRUARY 28th—MARCH 30th, 2012.
THE DIRECT ASSESSMENT OF WRITING WILL
OCCUR ON MARCH 6th, 2012.
GOOD ATTENDANCE DURING THE TESTING IS
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
ANY CONCERNS, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT
YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

TIPS FOR CMT TESTING

1. Encourage your child to have a regular, early bedtime and get plenty of rest during the testing period.
2. Help your child choose healthy snacks.
3. Remind your child to do his/her best on the tests.
4. Help your child stay healthy during the testing period - students who are absent will have to make up missed tests after the regular sessions are over.
5. If your child is anxious about the testing, encourage him/her to talk about it with a counselor.
6. Try to avoid scheduling doctor's appointments during the testing period; if a child misses even five minutes of the testing window they will have to make up the test during regular classroom instruction times.

TRANSITION INFORMATION



8TH – 9TH GRADE GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2012 - 8th Grade teachers at Adams make preliminary recommendations for high school placement.

MARCH 2012 - 8th grade parents and students will visit Guilford High School for an overview of the scheduling process. Continued communication regarding the transition to Adams.— Districtwide CMT/CAPT Testing

APRIL 2012 - High School “On-Line” Course Registration.

JUNE 2012 - 8th Grade Counselor meetings with High School Counselor to discuss transition issues.

APRIL - AUGUST 2012- Updates of recommendations conveyed to Guilford High School personnel.

6TH – 7TH GRADE TRANSITION

JANUARY 2012 - Baldwin and Adams Counselors begin meeting to discuss the transition to Adams Middle School.

FEBRUARY 2012 - Baldwin teachers begin communicating with parents and students about the student transition to Adams.

MARCH 2012 - Continued communication regarding the transition to Adams. Districtwide CMT/CAPT Testing.

APRIL 2012 - Baldwin teachers complete Pupil Transition cards. Continued communication regarding transition to Adams.

APRIL 2012 - Baldwin Parent Orientation at Adams. Preliminary Music/ Language choices made.

MAY 2012 - Student transition cards turned in to Adams Middle School counselors. Algebra screening at Adams for qualified students.

JUNE 2012 - Initial team placements made. Final Team Placements will be sent home in mid-August.

Reminder: Parents, please complete the student profile for your incoming 7th Grader.

FROM THE COUNSELORS' BOOKSHELVES



This month we offer a resource that may be helpful to parents struggling to understand their teens. David Walsh's, “Why Do They Act That Way” (2004) New York, NY: Free Press is a wonderful guide to how the teen brain works. It will help parents understand the many changes in their teen's behavior, and offers many tips for getting through the tough teen years. Explaining in easy to understand language how the teen brain is developing, and using several examples, Dr. Walsh helps us to realize the magnitude of development occurring in adolescence. A great read!

PEER HELPERS



Our **Toys For Local Tots** campaign was a big success! Thank you to the staff and parent chaperones who helped us launch our campaign!

We donated over 440 new, unwrapped toys to needy children this holiday season. Toys were disbursed through St. George Church for families in Guilford and all along the shoreline. We sent approximately 100 pet supplies to the Guilford Animal Shelter. Thank you to everyone who participated in our campaign! Peer Helpers contributed \$400 toward the campaign from our earlier fundraising—great job!

Congratulations to the 35 newly trained Peer Helpers. Peer Helpers trained for eight weeks during lunch in communication skills, helping skills and leadership development. Newly trained Peer Helpers are eligible for all activities now that they have completed their training.

We will make food pantry purchases throughout the winter to help our locally needy families. Peer tutoring continues, and we will provide a study tips brochure for CMTs. We have already been asked to work at an upcoming children's festival in March. **Any community or school PTOs in need of Peer Helpers at upcoming events, please contact the advisor, Carolyn Vanacore at Adams (203) 453-2755 #134.**

If your child missed our initial recruitment in September, but would like to join us, please ask him/her to see Mrs. Vanacore, 7th grade Counselor and Peer Helpers Advisor. Two new trainings will be offered the second half of the year.

Next Peer Helper meetings:
after school - January 24th, February 28th,
March 20th - in the Library Media Center

The Placement Process at Adams Middle School 2012

In order to ensure that each student is placed appropriately for his/her individual needs, please read about our placement process.

March/April/May, 2012 Placement data is collected. Parents may complete a Parent Survey/Student Profile sheet for their child or write a letter about their child's strengths, weaknesses, preferred learning conditions and personality. ***In your letter do not make specific teacher/team requests or friend requests—these will not be considered in the placement process.*** * Current teachers will complete a Student Transition card for the child indicating the ability and effort of the child in Language Arts (English & Reading) and Math. All academic teachers may provide additional comments. Music choices are made with parental input; forms will be sent home in April/May. Algebra decisions are made based on the established criteria.

* Students with documented social/emotional concerns (documented by teachers, counselors, administrators in the previous grade or school) will be given some consideration in placement. However, the academic needs of the student is the overriding determinant in team placement.

May & June, 2012 Counselors will utilize all available information for students to make initial team placements. Placements will be made on one of three teams for each grade with the following considerations; (1) academic needs of the child, with a balanced representation of high, average and low ability students on each team, including accelerated math students and special needs students (2) balanced teams for gender, music choice, language choice (3) scheduling of classes with restricted schedules (4) reserved placement to allow for new student enrollments. August, 2012 Team placements mailed home the third week of the month.

FAQs

Do I really need to complete a Parent Survey/Student Profile for my child—can't I just call or let the sending school provide information? Parents are encouraged to complete the survey which will be included in the January/February and March/April Advocate, because parental input is important in helping us to know your child better. While we will obtain information from the previous year's teachers, do not rely solely on this information if there is something important you need to convey to us. Because each school counselor manages a caseload of approximately 300 students, it would be very difficult to handle a large volume of phone calls regarding placement, without it having a negative impact on our current students. We encourage you to give us your input in writing, and to restrict phone calls to urgent or critical matters only.

Why can't I request a teacher for my child? All of our teachers at Adams are highly qualified, and our teams are well-balanced to have a variety of teaching styles to meet individual student needs. We make every effort to find the right team match for each child, based on all the input received. It is unfair to make a request on the basis of others opinions, or from another child's experience. Each child is unique and may or may not benefit from having the same teacher(s) as a sibling.

I am concerned my child won't know anyone on his/her team—can my child be placed with friends? We realize that seventh and eighth grade can be a difficult time socially, however, it is also a good opportunity to encourage your child to develop new relationships. We do try to ensure that each student has peers they are **friendly with on their team. However, we can not guarantee placement with specific friends.**

What do I need to do to make sure my child gets his/her Music choice, and World Language choice? In late April, or early May, you will receive forms to sign regarding Music choices and World Language choice (grade 7 only). Please be sure to sign and return these forms as quickly as possible. If we do not hear from you, your child will be signed up for their current Music choice, and for an open section of World Language.

What if my child takes a full schedule and can't handle the workload? Can he/she drop a class? Most students who are having difficulties find that they are temporary and by consulting with the music teacher(s) and counselor these issues can be resolved without having to drop a class. If a child is experiencing academic failure, there may be a reduction in the music schedule. Students with learning difficulties may be exempted from world language study in order to address their academic needs, also.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Middletown High School Regional Vocational Agriculture Center

(860) 704-4599

A four-year high school agricultural school based at Middletown High School in Middletown with an enrollment of 120 students focusing on the agricultural sciences. The program includes instruction in plant and animal science, agricultural mechanics, food science and natural resources and the environment. Acceptance into the program is based on the students' career interests. The admission procedures require the student's grades and attendance for grade seven, the first marking period for grade eight, the Connecticut Mastery Test scores, and a personal interview. The deadline for applications is January 2012.

Vinal Regional Vocational Technical School (Vinal Tech)

(860) 344-7100

A four-year high school technical program in Middletown with an enrollment of 646 students focusing on both the academics and technological training. The school provides the students hands-on opportunities to experience eleven technology areas: Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Drafting, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, Hairdressing, Cosmetology and Barbering, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, Manufacturing Technology and Microcomputer Software Technology. The admission procedures require the student's grades and attendance for grade seven, the first marking period for grade eight, the Connecticut Mastery Test scores, and disciplinary record. The deadline for applications is January 2012.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) – New Haven

(203) 777-5451

With an enrollment of 269 students, this part-time high school offers programs in dance, instrumental and vocal music, creative writing, theater and visual arts in the afternoons. Students attend academic classes at Guilford High School in the morning and then transfer to ECA in the afternoons Monday through Thursdays 1-4 p.m.. Student auditions are required – call the school for more information and to arrange a Tuesday visitation. Parents pay a portion of the tuition along with the state and local school board. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2012.

New Haven Regional Aquacultural/Agriscience Center (The Sound School)

(203) 946-6937

A comprehensive high school located in New Haven with an enrollment of 320 students focusing on the aquaculture and the marine sciences. Students who are interested in a career having to do with aquatic environments, from boat repair specialist to marine biologist, from fisher to pollution control engineer will benefit from this program. Contact the school to see if applications will be taken. Summer program applications are available April, 2012.



Helping your middle school child and teens stay safe on the internet is an important responsibility. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube, AIM, texting and all the technology which makes staying in touch so easy also opens the door for unwanted intruders into your child's and family's life. The following tips from the expert will help you make sure your child is safe on-line:

- Most social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter do have age restrictions, but do not believe that your child can not create an account because of this. Children often lie about their birth date to create an account, even basically honest kids, all in the name of social acceptance. Also, there are so many new accounts created every day, don't rely on the website administrators to catch it, they usually don't.
- If you do allow your middle schooler to use these sites, make sure the account is set up as private and frequently monitor it. Know your child's password, scan their friends list and make sure you look at what is posted on their page and their friends' pages. Even if their page is private, if their friends are public, they will appear on other's pages and be accessible to anyone who accesses that friend's account. Make sure your child knows how to block unknown or unwanted postings, and encourage them to report others who are inappropriate using the website—they can do this anonymously.
- What gets posted on-line is easily accessed by everyone. Never post personal information on the internet. Remind your child that whatever they say or do can potentially be seen by future employers, private school admissions counselors, and later colleges. Being mean or hurtful on line, making threats, can lead to police involvement, also. The intention of these sites is to network socially, keep in touch with distant friends, etc. and they should only use it for this purpose.
- Set time limits. Whether it is on-line gaming or social networking, middle schoolers have difficulty setting limits. Come up with a reasonable amount of time for your child to be on-line. You might even set limits on usage during the week (school work only Mon. through Fri.), or ban computer usage when you're not home. Most computers have a parental controls option under user accounts. You can set timers for the computer usage. There are also programs you can purchase to monitor websites visited by your young teen.
- Place computers in common spaces in your house, like family rooms and kitchens where you can see what your child is doing. If you can, preview sites ahead of time with your child, and discuss what sites are appropriate for them to visit.
- Remember that the internet is available on your child's cell phone. You will need to monitor all internet enabled devices, and your child should remember that the same rules apply on the phone as on the computer.

CELL PHONE USE AND TEXTING ARE PROHIBITED DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE IN CONNECTICUT

Over the last ten years, the state of Connecticut has expanded the range of public schools available to parents and students. Your options now include charter schools, magnet schools, schools in neighboring districts (the OPEN CHOICE program), vocational agriculture centers, and vocational technical high schools. Information on all of these choices is available in the booklet, "Public School Choice in Connecticut, A Guide for Students and their Families". The booklet is available on the web at www.state.ct.us/sde or you may request a copy from:

State Department of Education
Division of School Improvement
Box 2219
Hartford, Connecticut 06145
Alternative / Choice High Schools
(Contact the schools you are interested in directly)

MAGNET SCHOOLS

Student enrollment consists of 65% New Haven students and 35% suburban students
Magnet schools lottery deadline is February, 2012

Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School – New Haven (203) 946-5923

With an enrollment of 400 students, this full-time high school offers art-focused courses in theater, dance, music, visual arts and creative writing along with the regular high school academic subjects. No auditions are necessary, just an interest in Arts and Humanities.

High School in the Community – New Haven (203) 946-7022

With an enrollment of 350 students, this high school serves students by using a nontraditional approach to education. The focus of the day is a three-hour "block" class, which meets five days a week for one nine-week quarter and is team taught and interdisciplinary. Students are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills, participate actively in classes and learn individual responsibility.

Hill Regional Career High School – New Haven (203) 946-5845

With an enrollment of 800 students, this high school provides a rigorous academic preparation and career exploration program to prepare the students for entry into the fields of business/computers and allied health/science. Working relationship with Yale University and Yale New Haven Hospital.

Hyde Leadership High School – Hamden (203) 946-8121

With an enrollment of 200 students, this high school is significantly different than the traditional high schools. Families are enrolled rather than the students. It emphasizes the "Character First" philosophy that all students are capable of excellence and character growth. In addition to the college preparatory curriculum, each student participates in their five-part curriculum: all students are to participate in a competitive athletic program, a performing arts curriculum, community service and leadership training. Their acceptance criteria consist of: an application with a written essay, a personal interview including the parents and a mandatory new parent, freshman and new student orientation prior to the start of the school year.

Metropolitan Business Academy- New Haven (203) 497-7700

With an enrollment of 300 students, this high school provides opportunities for integrating academic and occupation related instruction in the area of entrepreneurial arts and sciences with courses such as finance, investment, research and development, quality control, sales and returns of investments. The goal is to prepare the students to manage and own business enterprises.

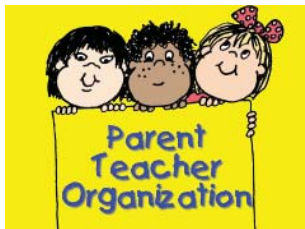
New Haven Academy – New Haven (203) 946-8995

With an enrollment of 195 racially, ethnically and economically diverse student body, this high school provides a rigorous education to prepare the students to succeed in college. This school works well for students looking for a diverse learning environment.

Charter Schools

Common Ground High School - New Haven (203) 389-4333

With an enrollment of 150 students, this school offers a team-taught, interdisciplinary curriculum; uses a farm and forest sites to promote active performance based learning. The school is shaped by an ecological framework; that all living and non-living things are connected and interdependent.



ADAMS PTO 2011-2012

PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents: Lisa Lelas, LisaLelas@aol.com
Trish Thibault, trishthibault@aol.com
Secretary: Linda McClintock
Treasurer: Lisa Carbone

PTO MEETINGS

All parents/guardians are welcome!
6:30 PM Room M-2
January 19, 2012
February 16, 2012
March 15, 2012

CMT Incentive Co-Chair: Trish Thibault, Trishthibault@aol.com

NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY FEBRUARY 3, 2012

February 3rd is National Wear Red Day for heart disease.

Did you know: "Congenital heart defects are the most common form of infant death from birth defects. While some kids are born with heart problems, others are at risk of developing them because of poor nutrition and lack of exercise.

AND

"80% of cardiac events in women may be prevented if women make the right choices for their hearts, involving diet, exercise and abstinence for smoking."

"Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops For Heart are national education and fund-raising events sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. These events engage middle school students with jumping rope or playing basketball while empowering them to improve their health and help other kids with heart health issues. " Students learn the value of community service and help other kids with special hearts. They learn how to develop heart-healthy habits while being physically active and they will learn jump rope and basketball skills they can use for the rest of their lives."

To exemplify ADAMS CARES motto: Community, Attitude, Respect, Effort and Scholarship, the staff and the student body will participate in a Hoops for Heart in February. The student body will have an opportunity to participate in this event during their gym classes. On February 3rd, National Wear RED Day, Adams Staff and Faculty members will make donations to wear RED and participate in the heart awareness day.

Thank you for your support to this important cause.



As Adapted from ©2010, American Heart Association, Also know as the Heart Fund



Box Tops for Education
are being collected by the PTO.

Donate your box tops to Adams by
dropping them off at the Main Office.

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 WINTER RECESS	3 SCHOOL BEGINS	4	5	6	7
8	9 BOE Meeting GHS Library 7:30 PM	10	11 JAZZ BAND CONCERT 7:00 PM	12 SNOW DATE JAZZ BAND CONCERT 7:00 PM	13	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL M.L. KING DAY	17 SCHOOL-WIDE WRITING PROMPT	18	19 PTO MEETING 6:30 PM ROOM M2	20	21
22	23 BOE BUDGET MTG ADAMS CHORUS RM. 7:30 PM	24 BOE BUDGET MTG ADAMS CHORUS RM. 7:30 PM	25 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:53 PM PROFESSIONAL DAY	26	27 QUARTER 2 ENDS Algebra/Geometry Mid-Term Exams	28
29	30 NEW SEMESTER COURSES BEGIN NJHS CARNATION SALES Jan 30 - Feb 6	31	1	2 REPORT CARDS	3	4
5	6	7 8TH GRADE BAND/ GHS WE/PE GYM 7:30 PM	8 SNOW DATE 8TH GRADE BAND/ GHS WE/PE GYM 7:30 PM	9	10	11
12	13 BOE MEETING GHS LIBRARY 7:30 PM	14 NJHS CARNATION DISTRIBUTION	15	16 PTO MEETING 6:30 PM ROOM M2	17 STUDENT/FACULTY BASKETBALL ASSEMBLY	18
19	20 WINTER RECESS	21 WINTER RECESS	22	23	24	25
26	27 BOE WORKSHOP BALDWIN 7:30 PM	28 CMT PRACTICE TEST	29 CMT PRACTICE TEST MAKEUP	1 CMT PRACTICE TEST MAKEUP	2 CMT PRACTICE TEST MAKEUP SOUTHERN REGIONAL FESTIVAL	3 SOUTHERN REGIONAL FESTIVAL
4	5 CMT	6 CMT DIRECT WRITING ASSESSMENT	7 CMT	8 CMT	9 CMT Snow Date SOUTHERN REGIONAL FESTIVAL	10 Snow Date SOUTHERN REGIONAL FESTIVAL

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