Monte Vista Middle School

Our Mission..... To build a safe, achievement orientated, learning community for everyone

VOLUME: Jan. 2016

Principals Corner- New Year, New Beginnings

Happy New Year! As we transition to 3rd quarter we have a lot of information to share with you. First of all, included with 2nd quarter grades being mailed out this week are two reports on your students PARCC results in Language Arts and Math from last year if you did not opt out of the assessment last spring. Usually, the state results are given to school districts in July, however due to the fact that last year was the first year PARCC was given, it took until this December to get the results out to school districts across the state. As you may of heard through the media, the results of this new assessment appear to show that our students are not achieving at a high level statewide. Looking at the results, students dropped significantly statewide using this assessment. However, anytime there is a new assessment developed by the State, there is a period of transition that will show low scores until districts and schools adjust to the new measure.

For the first time, MVMS is partnering with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to facilitate Hunters Safety certification. Please refer to the article on page 2 for more information. We are always excited to bring in organizations from the community to increase the opportunities of our students to broaden their experiences and explore new interests. Please contact me if you have any ideas on bringing other community members into our school.

Thomas Tichy –Principal MVMS

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES-

January 18th– Report cards sent home. 3rd quarter begins.

January 22nd– Staff PLC day. No students

January 29th– MVMS Ski Trip.

February 5th– Staff PLC day. No students.

February 8th– MVMS SIT team meeting. 5pm school library

February 16-19th– MVMS ? DOW Hunters Safety class. See pg 2

February 25th– Home Knowledge Bowl meet.

February 26th– Last MVMS ski trip Wolf Creek

March 17th—end of 3rd quarter. MVMS

First Book Grant provides MVMS students with free books.

Mrs. Danielle Gibbs– 6th grade Language Arts teacher

Over the summer, I was given the opportunity to apply for a First Book grant that would help Monte Vista Middle School to receive BRAND NEW books for our students for take home to keep. First Book is a nonprofit social enterprise founded in 1992 that provides new books and educational resources to children from low-income families and districts that serve low-income students.

I was notified that we had been awarded the grant in July, and was sent to pick up our books in August. In total, MVMS was given over 1,000 FREE and brand new books. The books came in over 25 titles, some paperback and some hard cover.

Before Christmas break, each student was able to choose a book that they liked and would like to take home as a gift from the Middle School. All students in grades 6-8 were given a FREE book that they can read for pleasure and not academic purposes. We are trying to foster the love of reading in all students here at MVMS and with this wonderful and generous grant from First Book, we are beginning to head in the right direction! Since there are many more books to be given to the students, we are trying to think of ways to incorporate parents into a literacy night where we can send more books home with families and students! Please feel free to send us any suggestions you might have on how to partner with families and the community to increase the opportunities of our students to increase access to books on topics that they love to read about.

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MVMS/CODOW Hunter Education Course.

For the first time, MVMS is partnering with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to provide the opportunity for students to gain their hunter safety certification. The purpose of this course is to teach safe, responsible firearm handling in the field, in the vehicle, and at home after hunting. Through lectures, hands-on activities, and videos, students will learn about firearms and ammunition, firearm safety, shooting fundamentals, and wildlife laws. The final portion of the class will consist of a test and a short live-fire exercise where the students will shoot 10 rounds from a bolt-action .22 rifle. This **class will take place at MVMS from 3:30-6:30 on February 16th,17th and 18th and on Friday the 19th from 8am to noon at the Monte Vista DOW Service Center in Monte Vista.** Participation in this class will be limited to the first 25 students who pick up and return the registration paperwork to the MVMS office completely completed by their parent or guardian. Although we will start the classes during school, students will need to arrange their own transportation home from the Middle School at 6:30 as well as to and from the DOW field office (one mile south of Pizza Hut on Henderson St) on Friday February 19th. If you have any questions, please contact either the MVMS office or Luke Hoffman District Wildlife Manager – Monte Vista 719-850-6363

First MVMS Ski Day of the year was Awesome!

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Over 40 students and staff traveled to Wolf Creek Ski Area last Friday for the first MVMS ski trip of the year. Mr. Atencio, who along with Ms Glidewell is organizing the trips this year, described the trip as a fun day for all participants. Although a little cold, everyone represented Monte Vista well with Wolf Creek staff and administration giving our kids raves for their respectfulness and great attitudes.

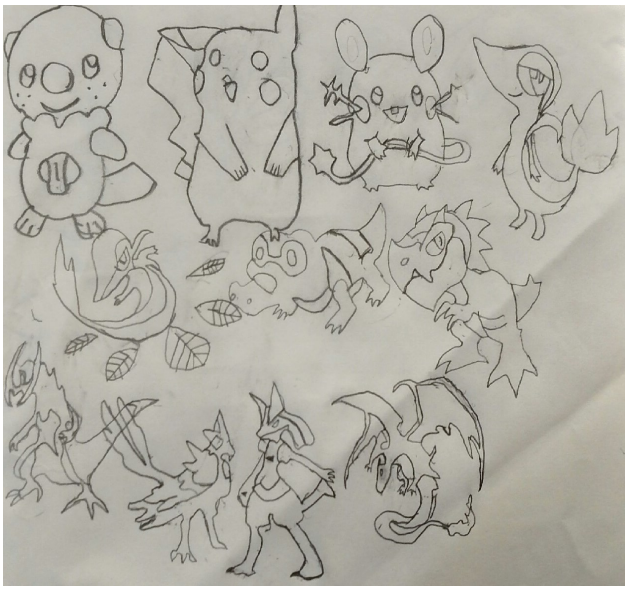
MVMS Ski Day's are open to all middle school students. Students can attend any or all of the three scheduled days. Once a student has their paperwork in, they just need to bring in the required funds in order to come along on any of the remaining days. Students who did not come along last Friday need to bring home paperwork for parents / guardians to sign. Cost to participate is $20 to ski and $40 to Snowboard. This cost include transportation, lift ticket, equipment rentals and a full day lesson. Students are responsible for bringing their own food and do need their own clothing including winter pants, eye protection, gloves etc.

We have two ski trip remaining in the 2015-2016 ski season; January 29, 2016 and February 26, 2016. Please have money and forms turned into Ms. Glidewell or Mr. Atencio by January 19th for the January 29th trip and February 16th for the February 26th trip. Money and forms must be turned in by the deadline to be included on that ski trip. Late money and/or forms will be placed on the next trip date or will be turned away if there are no trips remaining. If you missed any the school ski trips or just haven't had enough of the powder and the mountain yet, there are several opportunities for not only you, but your entire family to hit the slopes. Join Wolf Creek on one of their "Family Days"! For a very steep discounted price, you and your immediate family can enjoy ski/snowboard rentals additional cost for snowboard rental), lift tickets all around for the entire mountain, and a morning of lessons to sharpen your skills or teach you the basics. Mark the following dates on your calendar to enjoy a day hitting the slopes with your family:

- February 2 & 20, 2016
- March 19 & 27, 2016
- April 2 & 3, 2016

Artist of the Monte- Ivan Cordova

The MVMS Artist of the month is Ivan Cordova he is a 6th grader and is new to Monte Vista. He comes from Deming, New Mexico. Ivan does a great job in Art class always participating and enjoying class and loves to draw. His favorite thing to draw Pokémon. He says his favorite subject in school is Art. For Christmas he received a drawing pad that he enjoys working in. Ivan's favorite food is Pizza. At home, Ivan enjoys playing with his dog and drawing in his drawing pad .



Girls Basketball Finished STRONG!!!

"Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade girl's basketball teams for an outstanding 2015 season and fantastic finish at the Sargent Tournament! All the girls learned a ton of new skills this year, and worked hard on improving their play throughout the season.

Coach Rocha's 8th Grade team played two excellent tournament games and fought hard to the end; Coach Velarde's team finished in 4th place in the Yellow bracket, and Coach Johnson and Coach Harvey's teams both won the 7th and 8th grade Championships in the Yellow bracket!! A co-championship has not happened in several years, well done 7th and 8th grade MVMS teams! Fantastic job to ALL the athletes, and especially to the wonderful managers who helped us out at all the practices and games!"

Counselor's Corner

Greetings and Happy 2016! Our year is off to a busy and cold start.

We had a busy and productive December. The Red Cross Club started its first major project, in which the members chose to adopt a veteran for the Holidays. The students made cards and many made homemade goodies or bought gifts. Each of the grade levels went over to the Colorado State Veteran's Center and spent over an hour with their veteran, we even brought Santa! The veterans and staff **LOVED IT**! The activities director stated, "**Your kids are amazing. We have had a lot of kids over to visit with the residents, but none of them seem to be able to relate like yours do."** Many of the residents were so happy that they cried when we left. Many of them carried their gifts around and had a smile on their face from ear to ear. Our students asked to extend the project through the school year. It was an awesome week and Mrs. Gibbs and I are extremely proud of our students. Thank you for instilling such caring values in your children!

This week we will be taking our students over to the high school to listen to Quentin Whitehead, one of America's top leadership speakers. His theme is "It's Possible." For more information about Quentin and his message, visit: http://qwhitehead.com/. Please ask your students about their thoughts on his visit.

We are gearing up for an awesome last semester.

Thanks for all that you do!

Mrs. Shawcroft
MVMS Middle School Counselor

MVMS PBIS Incentive Trip– STAR WARS

Towards the end of the month, MVMS students who did not receive any office referrals since the beginning of 2nd quarter enjoy a FREE showing of Stars Wars; The Force Awakens courtesy of the MVMS PBIS team and the Monte Vista Ski High Theater. Students that have received office referrals since the end of first quarter will not be able to attend the showing and will be required to stay at school in a study hall. Succeeding in Middle takes resiliency and focus. We want to reward those students who have shown through their positive behavior that they can act respectfully and live up to expectations with this opportunity to enjoy the most successful movie of all time!

STAR WARS