
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2001

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and to share an update of our activities.

Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday 17th December between 2 - 6 p.m. As it is first report time I would like to congratulate students who have received good comments and grades and at the same time ask for your support if your son or daughter needs to improve his/her academic performance.

Once more Middle Years Program Area Leaders are joining me in describing some of their activities. I am also including an update of our Athletic events.

Happy New Year to all and do not hesitate to communicate with me on any Middle School issues.

Lucy Corsi
Middle School Principal



SPORTS NEWS

The Middle School students are actively involved in the TASIS Interscholastic Program.

- ❖ A Soccer Program for the Middle School girls takes place every Monday from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ The U-13 Soccer Team had the opportunity to play a friendly game with St. Catherine's at our field. The score was 3-3. The boys continue to practice every Tuesday.
- ❖ The JV Boys Soccer Team received the second place trophy at the A.C.S. tournament. Our grade 8 boys, John Bothos and Milos Doncic were members of the team.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The 2001 - 2002 Middle School Student Council has begun to organise itself. The members Nadia Grigorova, Anna Maria Gueorguieva, Sofia Berkhout, Amalia Mermingas, Nathan Akkad and Chris Mermingas have been meeting regularly since their election. They are making plans to decorate the Middle School for the holidays, especially for the Holiday Festival, which will take place on Friday, December 21.

Future plans for the New Year, include offering their support to a charitable organisation from the funds they will raise through a "tag day". These students are very enthusiastic and full of energy. Our council is in good hands. (Meg Matsaganis, Advisor)

Health and Social Education

During this year's Health Awareness week, students participated in presentations given by the following people:

Dr. C Kostogianni. Clinical and School Psychologist: Presentation on Diet and Eating Disorders.

Ms. I. Koryzi. Pediatric Trauma Care Organisation: Presentation on Accident Prevention.

Dr. Maragoudakis. Anti-Cancer Society: Presentation on the effects of smoking.

Ms. Z. Piriohos, Physical Education Department: Presentation on First Aid.

Students also took part in making an AIDS quilt with the help of the ESL department and the resource team, completed health activities, quizzes on the computer, and also participated in lunchtime sports activities.

I am happy to report that our students were all respectful, attentive and enthusiastic throughout the whole program. They actively took part in all activities and asked relevant questions during the presentations. Well done to all!

Finally I would like to add that though this year's Health Awareness week program has come to an end, health issues will continue to be covered throughout the year. Some examples of things we will be looking at include stress reduction, hygiene and puberty.

Thanking you all for your support,

Helen Tzaros

Health and Social Education Area Leader



HOMO FABER

What makes Homo Faber so exciting is that it is found in all areas of study where students are developing across the curriculum as inventors and creators. In the first trimester students *created*; it was an opportunity for them to invent and construct their own original ideas for a Recycling Box which were distributed throughout the school building. And all students produced Holiday cards in their Art classes.

Expressive writings and role-play based on bullying, conflicting emotions, decision making and a Greek play, as well as health related skits, allowed students to express and interpret their thoughts for their audiences.

Friendship and Health posters not only decorated our bulletin boards but also gave students opportunities to appreciate the capacity and drive to invent, create, transform, enjoy and improve the quality of life over time.

The 9th grade has been working hard on the newspaper in which the students interviewed their teachers and shared some of their studies.

Students were encouraged to recognize and appreciate some of the Nobel prize winners of the year 2001. Some other geniuses that were studied in class subject areas were: Christian Barnard, Mr. and Mme. Curie, Geiger Muller, and James Prescott Joule.

Maria Voulgaris

Homo Faber Area Leader

SEASONS GREETINGS



APPROACHES TO LEARNING

With the first trimester coming to a close, our students are anxiously awaiting their report cards. They have worked well and hard in organizing themselves. Academic diaries are being kept more faithfully and according to subject teachers, work is being completed with good success.

Earlier in the trimester, students took part in a library orientation designed for each grade level. Ms. Metaxa, our school librarian, was wonderfully helpful in preparing activities that were grade appropriate for each class. This was very beneficial as many classes have begun research investigations and learning about the variety of resources in the library has helped broaden their base of information.

As a measure in helping our students become more technologically aware, the English classes, are going once a week to the computer lab. Information Technology is an important tool for academic work. The ability to both research information responsibly on the Internet and to prepare documents and graphic, have become necessities in our modern way of life.

As exams in January will arrive far more quickly than most students anticipate, ATL will be preparing some activities and tips for using time studying in a careful and concise manner. These activities will begin upon our return from Christmas holidays.

Meg Matsaganis
Approaches to Learning Area Leader

COMMUNITY SERVICE (November)

Students' participation in the Community Service activities continues, with a deeper understanding of it's purpose, the development of a sense of community and service to others. They display commitment, enthusiasm and consistent participation.

Their presentations on bullying (6th grade), anger (7th grade) and decision making (8th grade) along with the awareness posters on "healthy nutritional habits" and "self-image" "smoking or drug prevention" and "physical fitness and self-esteem" were very successful as our students showed creativity, originality of thought, self awareness and good cooperation!!!

The Recycling Box Competition organized by the 9th grade Environmental Club and Ms. Krause was a great success. Many students participated with creations that reflected thorough understanding and insight into the idea of recycling!!

A lot more things to follow in the month of December as the new trimester begins and Christmas vacations approach!!!

Maria Protopapa
Community Service Area Leader