



Dear 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Many thanks and kudos due to everyone who contributed to the international food festival that capped off our January Identity Unit -- especially our PA reps! What a wonderful celebration. And a "shout out" to all the sixth graders for also completing their beautiful 3D tile relief projects. If you are on campus this month, be sure to swing by the display cases outside Schneck Auditorium to see their work.

February has been buzzing with many new unit launches. As we are coming up on spring break, students are preparing for assessments and major assignments in just about every subject. This is typical for the time of year in middle school, and the academic ramp up coincides with a new sports season starting and the continuation of rehearsals for the MS spring play. Maintaining structure with homework routines at home, and avoiding unnecessary absences, should be helpful for students during this exciting and challenging time.

#### **Dates of Interest**

- **Monday-Tuesday, February 17&18 -- No School: President's Day Weekend.**
- **Tuesday, February 25th -- Sign Up for Spring Clubs:** Advisors will go over with students the descriptions of available clubs during the activities period on the 25th and ask them to fill out the usual google form selection. (Students inventing new clubs should have been in touch with Mr. Larowe as per his recent email to the student body.)
- **Monday, March 3rd -- Spring Sports Try-Outs Start:** Mr. Vettoso has e-mailed a google form sign up to all the students, which they can use to indicate their interest to join a sport. However, It's not too late! Practice and try-out schedules will be posted on the athletic page of the school website, and students can still fill out the interest form or show up at try-outs on the first day.

- **Wednesday, March 12th -- Rome Presentations in History Class:** Parents are invited to attend student group presentations of their research projects for this History class unit. See the e-mail from Mr. Wallman for your child's presentation time slot and RSVP form for parking.
- **Thursday, March 13th -- Diversity Day:** We have a special day of programming (for students only) on Thursday, March 13th, organized by our own DEIB department. Students will be offered a choice of workshops prior to the day and also participate in some full-division celebratory experiences.
- **Saturday, March 15 -- First day of Spring Break.**

#### **Around the Dinner Table...**

- **Submitting to *Open Roads*** -- The middle school literary magazine accepts both writing and artwork, and everyone is encouraged to submit work! February and March are good times to do this. Interested students can ask Ms Sanford for details.
- **Independent Reading** -- The spring break, with its hiatus from daily homework, is a great time for students to get in some self-selected reading. During Independent Reading time, Ms Sanford will be presenting some ideas for new books to students, and she also will send them a list of suggested titles curated with Mrs. Macone. Family read-aloud, anyone?
- **Admissions Guests** -- This month, students newly admitted to DE have been visiting and shadowing some of our sixth graders who have stepped into the leadership role of "Admissions Ambassadors". Has your child noticed and enjoyed meeting these potential new community members? Later in the spring, students will be offered an additional opportunity to volunteer to be "buddies" over the summer for new students joining the grade. We generally increase the class by 15-20 students moving into 7th grade, so everyone can look forward to meeting some new classmates next year in their classes.

#### **Reminders**

- **Medical Forms** -- for students planning to participate in spring sports are due before students can participate in practices.
- **Planning an Absence?** -- If you know in advance that your child will miss a day of school, please email your dean A WEEK IN ADVANCE. This will allow us to help your child plan ahead, get extra help, and often lessen the burden of catching up by completing some work before they go. (Starting in middle school, students are responsible for catching up both missed classwork and homework on time for planned absences, and extensions are not generally granted for absences that extend a school holiday. See the [student handbook](#), pages 11-14 for more details about the attendance policy.)

Have a happy long weekend,

Tasha Urbanowski