



MUSTANG ROUNDUP

Shawsville Middle School

Volume 4, Issue 2

December 2011

Dear SMS Families,

Happy Holidays! The end of the semester is near and it is always a hectic time for our students. The crazy winter weather, late openings and snow days do not help at all! The best way for parents to make it through the winter craziness is to make sure that you stay informed of the numerous closings and delays as quickly as possible. MCPS notifies all the local television and radio stations as soon as school closing decisions are made. TV and radio alerts are the most common way of staying informed. However, if you would like to receive an email or phone call when MCPS has a closing or late opening, go to www.mcps.org, click on Parents and School Closing and Delay Announcements and sign up. This is a very helpful service.

In the spirit of the holidays, SMS sponsored a Spirit Week December 12th through the 16th to raise money and canned goods for the local Food Pantry. Students brought in a canned good or paid fifty cents each day to participate and raised an incredible \$203 and over 275 cans of food.

Thanks to all of our SMS families for your continued support of our students and programs. On January 13th, we will be sending home information about this year's 8th grade Washington, D.C. field trip. Last year over twenty parents volunteered to join the 8th graders on the trip as chaperones. It was a long day but we had a great time. I hope that you will consider coming along this year! Remember that communication is key, and staying connected with the school as a parent is a great way to advocate for your child's success. I would like to continue to encourage all of our parents to be active members in the school community.

Dave Dickinson

Principal, SMS

Go Mustangs!

Affordable Holiday Gifts Ideas

BY: Dillon Waldron

Here are some cheaper gifts that won't cost you a lot of money, guaranteed to make your family happy.

- CD's
- Children's books
- Christmas candles
- Christmas cookies
- Christmas ornaments
- Gift cards
- Holiday cards
- Puzzles
- Scrap book
- Stocking things
- Stuffed animals
- Candy canes
- Candy





Life Science News

We learned a great deal about cells, cell processes, and cell reproduction this past six weeks. We had **some great “edible cell” days in the classroom where we examined and then ate all the edible plant and animal cells brought in by the student teams.** We filled up on frosting, candy, and cake on those days.

Next we learned about the processes which take place inside a cell. There were some strange words like osmosis, endocytosis, exocytosis, mitosis, yourtosis meiosis, and yes, we know about photosynthesis. Miss Conway, our science student teacher from Virginia Tech did a great job explaining some cell processes to us and we did a pretty neat experiment with baking soda and vinegar. We are going to be the cell experts of Montgomery County!

Next up: genetics and heredity.

We have also been enjoying Bill Nye videos and Brainpop with Tim and Moby as we learn about science.

Agriculture News

During the month of December, each agriculture student will be given the opportunity to learn about the floral industry through lessons in the classroom and instructions on the basics of floral arranging. They will then practice the art and skill of floral arranging by completing a holiday arrangement

made of white pine, holly leaves, red and white carnations, and glass ornaments for added sparkle. The students will be completing this activity the week before winter break so that they may have a beautiful, festive arrangement to enjoy with their families over the holidays.



Weight Lifting By: Nathan Booher

Weight lifting will be starting the week we return to school from our winter break. We will be doing a lot more power lifting this year. Weight lifting is right after school from 3p.m. to 5.p.m. So all you seventh and eighth graders come out and

start weight lifting to get ready for next year's football season.





SMS Bookmark Design Contest

It's time for the **SMS Library Club's bookmark design contest**. This year the theme is: **"Get Wrapped up in Reading."** The prize is a **\$25 Gift card to Wal-Mart**. Bookmarks will be judged on:

- Originality
- Creativity
- Neatness
- How well your design reflects the theme.

All artwork must be your own, no clipart or pictures from the computer. Bookmarks should be on **cardstock and measure 2.75" x 8.5"**. **Blank bookmarks are available in the library or from a Library Club member.**

Be sure to include your **full name** on the **back** of your bookmark! The deadline to enter is January 12.

Staying Healthy and Safe During the Winter Months

By: Alexis Richardson

To stay safe and healthy during winter, winterize your home. Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows. Insulate winter lines that run along exterior water lines. Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks. To stay healthy you should always wear appropriate clothing such

as warm clothes, gloves, hats, scarves and waterproof shoes. To keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow and ice you could always use **CLEAN** kitty litter. When outside shoveling snow, work slowly. Also carry a cell-phone with you. Stay safe!



Junior Beta Club Field Trip

By: Daesha Manns

Some lucky students got the chance to visit Radford University and see a wonderful play called the "Ice Wolf". The Junior Beta Club also toured Radford University Campus and learned about college life. I really enjoyed the trip and the

play. I had a lot of fun with the Junior Beta Club members and I want to thank all the teachers that made it possible for us to go and enjoy the college visit to Radford University and the play.





Advanced Math 6 MR. RUDASILL'S CLASS

The year 2011 is winding down and the weather is turning cooler. However, math class is just heating up. We have covered a lot of material already; from ratios to exponents, equations to the co-ordinate plane, geometry to properties, we've even covered patterns. Now it is time for fractions. Every sixth grader goes to sleep with visions of numerators and denominators dancing in their heads. We are focusing right now on multiplying and dividing fractions, but when we get back from break we will start answering some practical questions about working with fractions. Let's not forget that fractions, decimals, and percents are basically the same thing with different wrapping. Speaking of wrapping, here's a wish that everyone gets 100% of all the things they need and want for the Holidays. One last thing, the sixth graders are working to solve some Mathematical Mysteries about Santa's List. Is what you want on the list?





Math Rustlers

Once again, you need to be on the lookout for some pretty ornery cowgirls. They have been known to spend some time hanging out in the **coordinate plane**. They have some **absolute values** and their **properties** have some unique **Identities**. So far, we have had four that have attained the notoriety of the **Most Wanted** list. They are:

Wanted

For Academic Achievement



Faith "The New Kid" Heslep
1st & 2nd Six Weeks High Avg.
for Third Period

Reward:
Success in Life

Wanted

For Academic Achievement



Maria "Smiles" Wilson
1st Six Weeks High Avg.
for Fifth Period

Reward:
Success in Life

Wanted

For Academic Achievement



Maria "The Quiet One" Pizano
2nd Six Weeks High Avg.
for Fifth Period

Reward:
Success in Life

Wanted

For Academic Achievement



Gracie "ACE" Jones
1st & 2nd Six Weeks High Avg.
for Sixth Period

Reward:
Success in Life



How Will You Spend Your Winter Break

By: Chrissy Bradford

How are you going to spend your Winter Break? Are you going to spend time indoors by the fire, drinking hot chocolate, and watching all the Christmas movies or are you going to be outside sledding and having snowball fights.

When you're outside other than go sledding and have snowball fights, you could make a snowman or snow bugs, like a giant centipede. You could fill a spray bottle with water that has food coloring in it and color your yard or you could have a snowball throwing contest.

If you plan to stay inside for Winter Break make sure you have fun. You could do things like, stay in your PJ's and watch Christmas movies. You could also, play board games or card games while drinking hot chocolate. Make some cookies if you like to cook.



Winter

By: Hailey Ferguson

The snow crashing down
So white
All around the Shawsville town
Glowing bright

Going sledding down a hill
Such a rush
You don't mind the chill
As long as you're with your crush

Snow ball fights are also fun
Maybe even tackle football
Either one you play you better
Run Run Run

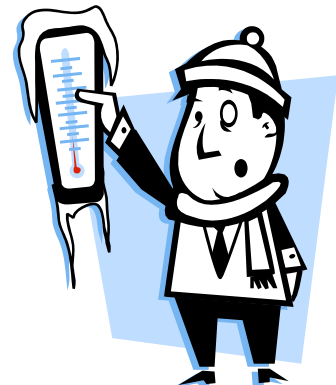
Christmas tree is also important
With all its lights and decorations
But make sure the tree isn't accelerant
And burns the whole nation



How To Treat Frostbite

By: Nathan Booher

- Move into a warm indoor location so you can treat the frostbite
- Take off any wet clothing and replace it with warm dry clothing
- Keep blankets wrapped around you at all times
- Warm the areas that have frostbite
- Avoid rubbing the frostbite
- Don't use dry heat such as heaters, fireplaces, woodstove, and heating pads





Winter Driving Safety By: Ethan Hetz

Winter driving can be hazardous so take a minute and review these tips for winter driving.

- When driving over snow or even over pavement be careful and drive slow.
- Even when driving over black asphalt watch out it might be covered with black ice so if you are driving fast you have a better chance to get into a wreck.
- When driving over snow make sure you have your 4-wheel Drive engaged to keep from slipping and sliding.
- **During the winter months it's even more important to wear your seatbelt and follow highway safety precautions.**
- During winter also make sure your car has the max amount of fluids to avoid any breakdowns while driving, including gas, oil, antifreeze, power steering fluid, and windshield wiper fluid.

Angel Tree By: Daesha Manns

Every year Christmas comes around and kids all over the world are wondering if they're going to have a Christmas or even gifts under a tree. If you want to be Santa's little helper and give a child a wonderful Christmas, go adopt an angel off the angel tree and help a child. You can find angel trees at many local grocery or department store. Let's help make some kids have an amazing Christmas!!

Snow Days!! Here We Come....By: Mason Bland

With the winter months upon us, I talked to some yearbook staff at SMS to see how they enjoy spending their snow days.

Nathan Booher spends his snow days riding his four wheeler.

Hailey Ferguson, goes to a friend's house, or plays football in the snow.

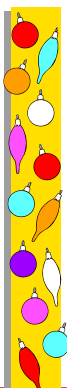
Alexus Richardson says she builds snowmen with friends and loves playing in the snow.

Dillon Waldron loves snow ball fights, building snow forts, and hanging out with friends and family.

Ethan Hetz, play x-box and goes to a friend's house.

Jessica Reed says she catches up on her sleep!

Mason Bland, I snow board, have snow ball fights shovel snow, hang out with friends, build snow forts, and a make snow men.



Legend of the Christmas Lights By: Kassidy Boome

Hanging up Christmas lights all started in the late 1800's when electricity was invented. A lot of people just hung up the Christmas lights to make the house look cheery, and bright. A lot of

people put them up to show that God is the light of the land. Others since there wasn't electricity, had candles outside their house to show the way for travelers. Eventually the candles evolved into lights. There are many different myths

about why people put lights up, but these are just a few.



Resolutions for the New Year

By: Cassidy Broome

The Tradition of a resolution for the New Year came about in 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king, was put at the head of the calendar. A New Year's resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to a project, or the changing of a habit. Some of the popular New Year resolutions are, spending more time with family and friends, getting fit, quit smoking, quit drinking, and get out of debt. Starting a new year and making a resolution for a lot of people, make them feel like they have accomplished something. A lot of resolutions though are never carried out.



The Times Square Ball By: Hailey Ferguson

The Time Square Ball is dropped every year on December 31st. The ball is in New York City, This tradition started in 1904 and has been continuing since. The ball was originally made from iron and wood; now the current ball is made of Wa-

terford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds and is six feet in diameter! Thousands and thousands come to watch the ball drop. Some even get engaged while the ball is dropping. The times square ball is a very beautiful thing.

Happy New Year . . . By: Ethan Hetz

New Years is a special time of year when you should gather with your friends and family. Host a dinner, have your guest bring a dish to eat and have a great time with your friends and family. A good idea is to get your friends to bring other

friends so you can meet new people and create new friendships. New Years is a time of joy when you can be thankful for the past year and make resolutions for the New Year. **Don't forget family traditions** like watching the ball drop or

holding a backyard football game.



F N G X S Q A T M H K L E O W
 L G P Q V T H I N Y O L I V D
 C G H Q N H S N L E F L J K C
 E D V A E T F E O S M Z L I U
 Q M S B L O B M L U T A N Y C
 Z W E E C H D W J H M O N I U
 J C T Y H I S O G I F T S R J
 Q O C I R G H N O Q C H B S O
 E Y E O I A Y S Y E P B A N Y
 U R B I S R E E D N I E R O F
 S C W V T M C I K T M T M W A
 O A J G M K L U M O V I B T O
 G Y Z H A Z H S G D E I Q H V
 C K Z W S Z F S W Z M H F S Z
 R G C Q T M J D K F K N Z K F

Christmas Traditions Around the World

By: Maria Rufino

There are many different types of cultures and with many different cultures come lots of different Christmas traditions. Here are some of them. The children of Spain leave their shoes on the windowsills filled with straw and carrots for the horses of the Wise Men, who they believe reenact their journey to Bethlehem every year. One of the wise men is called *Balthazar*, who leaves the children gifts. They call Christmas Eve Noche Buena. Also in *China* the Christians in China light their homes with beautiful paper lanterns. Santa Claus is called Dun Che Lao Ren and children hang stockings just as we do. Finally in India some houses are decorated with strings of mango leaves and a star is hung outside and a sweet treat is made for neighbors and friends. So now you know that not all countries leave cookies for Santa.

CHRISTMAS ELFS GIFTS
 HOLLY MISTLETOE ORNAMENT
 REINDEER SANTA SNOW
 SNOWMEN

Homemade Food You Can Make For the Holiday

BY: Dillon Waldron

For a look at the recipe of these great foods go to ...

www.foodnetwork.com/holidays-and-parties/best-holiday-baking-recipes-pictures/index.html

- Peppermint sticks
- Peppermint pie
- Coconut cake
- Carrot cake
- Red velvet cupcakes with cream cheese frosting
- Brown butter tartlets
- Brownies
- Chocolate fruit cake



January, 2012

Upcoming Events

January 2nd – School reopens

January 13th – End of Grading Period

End of Semester

January 16th – School closed – Martin Luther King Day

January 17th-18th – Work/Staff Professional Development Days

Non-School Days for students

NBA Season....Finally.....By: Mason Bland

The NBA season is finally starting after the five month lock-out. The first five games of the NBA season are on Christmas Day. The first game is at noon and it will be Boston Celtics vs. New York Knicks. After that game will be the Dallas Mavericks vs. Miami Heat. This game is at 2:30P.M. Next, Kobe Bryant and the Lakers go head to head with the former MVP of the 2010-11 season Derrick Rose. This game starts at 5 pm. The Orlando Magic vs. Oklahoma City Thunder, with the 2010-11 season top scorer Kevin Durant, airs at 8pm. Blake Griffin and the Los Angeles Clippers vs. Golden State

Warriors, which has a new coach, Mark Jackson, will also be played Christmas Day. This season is going to be 66-game season instead of the normal 82-game. So tune in for the excitement!

