

SEVIER MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Sevier Middle School

From the Falcon's Nest

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 5, 2011

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

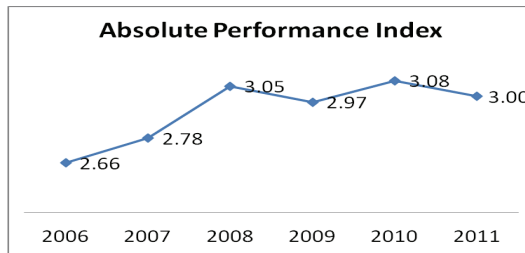
- 12/5: Basketball @ Home
- 12/6: Band and Strings Concert 7 p.m.
- 12/9: Spanish I to Columbia
- 12/9: SIC Meeting 12:30-1:30
- 12/9: Winter Dance 3:15-5:15
- 12/15: Orchestra to Paris Elementary School
- 12/15: Basketball @ Home
- 12/16: Winter Concert 9:00 a.m.
- 12/19-12/30: Winter Break
- 1/10: PTA Skate Night
- 1/12: Second Quarter Ends
- 1/13: Teacher Workday
- 1/16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 1/19: Report Cards
- 2/1: 8th Graders to Bonds Career Center



A Note from the Principal

State Report Card Results Reflect Stability in Student Achievement

Sevier Middle School achieved an Absolute Rating of **Average** and a Growth Rating of **Average** on the recently released State Report Card. The Absolute Rating is based on results of PASS tests in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Writing scores were included at 8th grade. This rating also includes End-of-Course results in Algebra I and English I. Student scores are measured against target levels of performance, and averaged to an Absolute Index for overall school performance. The Growth Rating indicates the progress of each student when compared with their own test results for the prior year.



Academic Excellence is our greatest mission at Sevier. Our teachers deliver instruction directly aligned to state standards with a strong focus on college preparatory academic strategies. Please join us in the daily encouragement of your child's highest achievement, and congratulate students and teachers on their performance in 2011.

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Book Club Buzz

The boys book club, "A Few Good Men", meet last month with their sponsors Jay Grady, Assistant Principal; Dave Gibbs, Resource Officer; and Eudes Rodriguez, Spanish teacher. The men enjoyed their coffee and conversations about what they were reading.

This week the girls will have their first opportunity to meet and form a book club exclusively for girls. They will be naming their club at their first meeting and discussing their current faves. Sixth grade ELA teacher Vicky Gill and Career Teacher Vickie Sims are co-sponsors for the girls book club.

Students have requested a book club for students who like to read Anime or Manga books. This club will have their first meeting next week and will be opened for boys and girls. All book clubs are meeting at 7:45 before the start of the school day.

Top Media Center Check-Outs

The top books checked out by Sevier students are:

1. Unsigned Hype: A novel by Booker Mattison
2. Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
3. Twilight by Stephanie Meyer
4. The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Ninth Grade Slays by Heather Brewer
5. The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Readers are Leaders!

Science News

The 8th grade science classes had a guest speaker on Monday, November 28th. Mr. Jay Marett, the Deputy Director for Emergency Management in Greenville County, spoke on how to be prepared for earthquakes (he told us to have bottled water at home just in case). He taught us that South Carolina is a "high risk" state for earthquakes, by informing us about recent earthquakes; he compared the Charleston earthquake of 1886 to the Union County earthquake of 1913 (this is recent in geologic time!). We really appreciate Mr. Marett's presentation and knowledge as we continue our study of earthquakes, and as we get ready for our research project on the Charleston Earthquake of 1886.



Submitted by: Rachel Robinson and Rebecca Taylor, 8th graders

Career Connections

ATTENTION 8th Graders.....



It's time to start thinking about Job Shadowing. February 2012, is Groundhog Job Shadowing Month. Who will you shadow for a day?

Parents must arrange a place/person for their child to job shadow. Informational packets will go home before Christmas break for all interested students.



If you have any questions please contact Ms. Vickie Sims, Career Specialist at 355-8377 or vmsims@greenville.k12.sc.us



Student Council

Student Council has been very busy! We sponsored a canned food drive the day before Thanksgiving break. The food collected was then donated to a local food bank to help families in need during the holiday. In addition, we have created a variety of posters and advertisements encouraging school spirit and support of our athletic and academic teams here at Sevier.

Winter Dance



The Winter Dance will be Friday, December 9th from 3:15-5:15. Permission slips for the dance will be given out to students in homeroom and tickets can be purchased at lunch and before school.

Pajama Day, 12/16, \$1

Come dressed in your pajamas on PAJAMA DAY at Sevier! Bring \$1 (all money donated will go to a local charity) on Friday, December 16th. Don't miss it!



(Event sponsored by Student Council)

Yearbook



Thinking about the holidays? Yearbooks make great presents for your children at only



\$35 each. Please email Mrs. Odom

at dodom@greenville.k12.sc.us if you would like a certificate that states,

"Surprise a yearbook has been purchased for you!" Wrap this certificate in a box and surprise your SEVIER student with an **ALL COLOR, HARD COVER** one of the kind 2012 yearbook.

Teens and Alcohol

Why do teens start drinking? You are probably wondering why somebody underage would start to drink. Well, there are several reasons behind it. In my opinion, curiosity is a big reason. Teens wonder how it feels, what it tastes like and what it does to you. Another reason why teens drink, is because of t.v. ads that show young attractive people drinking and having fun. Drinking is seen everywhere, at parties, grocery stores, gas stations and at sporting games. Teens also see family members drinking and friends. If a teen sees mom or dad drinking, they may think it is okay and try it.



Alcohol can have some real serious effects on your body as a teen. It has serious effects on your brain, which is still growing and developing until about the age of 21. Drinking underage can slow down brain function, and cause your brain not to be able to take in new information. Alcohol can cause unwanted, unexpected emotions such as rage, and anger, which could lead to an attack or an assault. Alcohol can make you feel sick and vomit. Imagine dropping off your date and you puke on them. You can say goodbye forever, and I mean forever. I hope you understand what I am saying and pick up a book not a beer.

Article Submitted by: Grant Kocaja, 7th Grade Health student

Accelerated Reader Top Point Earners

Nykia Williams 202.8 points
Karl Piepo 184.8 points
Donovan Green 171.3 points
Elaine Hege 143.3 points
Vanessa Reynoso 74.7 points

Congratulations to these readers! Keep up the good work.

Soaring Literary Magazine

Congratulations to those students who submitted entries for consideration for the Winter Edition of Soaring, Sevier's Literary Magazine. Student authors and artists whose work has been selected have been notified and will receive a copy of the magazine before they leave for Winter Break.

Band and Strings

The Band and Strings Winter Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy this great concert and get into the holiday spirit!



Darcy Storm #355-8203- School Guidance Counselor
Rena Howard #355-8485- School Guidance Counselor
Melinda Howard #355-8204- Guidance Clerk

Happy Holiday's from the Guidance Department!



Counselor's Corner

"All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind"

Martin H. Fischer

The National Junior Honor Society and National Junior Beta Club induction was a success. We had 89 new Beta Club members and 7 new National Junior Honor Society members inducted. This is a great honor and we are very proud of our new members. Beta Club meets the 2nd Monday of every month from 3:45-4:15pm and the NJHS meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of the month from 3:45-4:15. Please make sure that you attend your monthly meetings.

All 7th Grade students will be taking an on-line career assessment in December. Ask your student what career clusters their assessment indicated and discuss possible career interests with them. Your child's decisions will ultimately be their own - so you should be prepared to discuss potential careers that are different from those you've had in mind. Keeping an open mind will also encourage your child to keep you up-to-date with their career ideas. Remember that not everyone has a clear idea what they want to do from and early age - and your child's ambitions are likely to change as they get older.