Malcom Bridge Middle School Lightning Newsletter

On the website at www.oconee.k12.ga.us/mbms

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From the desk of Amy S. Perry

It has been a wonderful beginning of the school year at Malcom Bridge Middle School. It is difficult to express how thankful I am to be a part of the MBMS family. As the new principal, I could not ask for a more wonderful group of students, teachers, parents, and community members with which to work.

We have been very busy the past couple of months. Our goal has been to focus on our Mission and Beliefs at Malcom Bridge Middle School which is as follows: "The mission of Malcom Bridge Middle School is to provide a safe and positive environment, recognizing and addressing individual differences that will foster emotional stability and encourage the intellectual growth and development of the students." As we work toward accomplishing this mission, we have worked to put actions and strategies into place through our School Improvement Plan which will keep student achievement and excellence at the forefront of everything we do.

The only way to accomplish our mission at Malcom Bridge Middle is through the continued efforts of all the stakeholders in the building. In addition to working with the faculty to create a School Improvement Plan which will challenge our students academically, we are also researching how to meet all learners needs by promoting student efficacy and creating a schedule to enhance instructional opportunities.

Another area of focus this year has been school spirit. Our PTO is sponsoring the first Friday of each month as a MBMS Spirit Day. Our students and faculty all dress up in their red, white, and gold spirit wear and receive a treat. The first Friday in September, the students received a popsicle during FIT time, and the teachers all received ice cream sandwiches. Everyone had a wonderful day.

The week of September 20-24 has been designated as Spirit Week at MBMS. We have several athletic activities and our annual friendly competition between our two county football teams—MBMS vs. OCMS. Each day of the week has a theme, and students are encouraged to dress-up to match the theme. PTO is hosting an event that will finish out the week—the first annual MBMS Big Bash.

Big Bash will occur on Thursday, September 23rd, after the MBMS vs. OCMS football game. We will have a DJ, face painting, spirit wear for sale, and fun activities for the family. The PTO will be providing a hotdog dinner for our MBMS family as well. There is additional information on p. 5 about this event.

As you can tell, we are having a wonderful year at MBMS. Thank you for all your support!

Curriculum Fair—Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 PM

On Tuesday, September 21, MBMS will host our annual Curriculum Fair at 6:00 PM. Our faculty and staff are excited about sharing with our parents the wonderful things that are taking place in the classrooms. We have designed the evening to be a time for parents to travel to all of their student's classes in one hour.

The evening will begin at 6:00 PM. Parents will pick-up their student's schedule in their homeroom class. Homerooms will be listed in the front of the building.

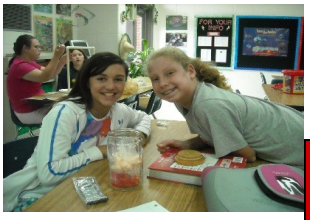
Accelerated Math—Prior to our classroom rotations, we are also having an information meeting about the accelerated math curriculum at the middle school level. The math information meeting will begin at 5:15 PM in the cafeteria for any parent interested in learning more about math course sequencing from middle to high school.

Rock Eagle—Another additional meeting we will have on September 21 is a question and answer session about the 6th grade Rock Eagle field trip. Parents are invited to come to the cafeteria at 7:10 PM, after the curriculum fair rotations, to ask questions and get additional information about the Rock Eagle trip.

As you can see, we have a great deal of information to share with our parents about our school year. We hope everyone will come out and participate in our Curriculum Fair on Tuesday night. We look forward to seeing you.

Important Dates

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday-Friday, September 20-24	M-Th—7:45 AM-3:30 PM F—7:45 AM-1:00 PM	MBMS Book Fair	MBMS Media Center
Tuesday, September 21	5:15 PM	Accelerated Math Information Meeting	MBMS Cafeteria
Tuesday, September 21	6:00 PM	Curriculum Fair	MBMS
Tuesday, September 21	5:30-7:15 PM	MBMS Book Fair Open	MBMS
Tuesday, September 21	7:10 PM	Rock Eagle Information Sessions	MBMS Cafeteria
Thursday, September 23	5:00	MBMS vs. OCMS Football Game	MBMS Football Field
Thursday, September 23	6:00-7:30	MBMS PTO Big Bash	MBMS—Next to the Football Field
Tuesday, October 5	8:00-12:00	Make-up Day for School Pictures	MBMS
Thursday, October 7	7:00p.m.	MBMS Chorus Concert	NOHS Auditorium
Monday, October 11	All Day	Teacher Workday/ Parent Conferences	MBMS
Tuesday, October 26	7:00p.m.	MBMS Band Concert	NOHS Auditorium



Calling All Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) FBLA is Coming to MBMS

The Business and Computer Science Department at MBMS would like to introduce a new club for the 2010-2011 school year. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is an organization that prepares today's students for success in business and computer science through leadership, community service, and competition. The FBLA advisors at MBMS are Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Dorsey. The FBLA meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:40 – 8:00 AM in Mrs. Burnett's room (614). Annual dues are $10/student and will be due no later than the October FBLA meeting (October 6).

Please visit the MBMS FBLA Moodle site for up to date information on upcoming meetings, activities, and events. If you are interested in signing up for FBLA or have questions regarding FBLA, you can either email Mrs. Dorsey (jdorsey@oconeeschools.org) or Mrs. Burnett (kburnett@oconeeschools.org) or stop by their classrooms for a chat.

Moodle/FBLA Site Link: http://moodle.oconee.k12.ga.us/course/view.php?id=439

PowerSchool Access

PowerSchool is an online portal which contains important information about students in our school system. Parents at MBMS have access to their student's grades, attendance, and schedule. PowerSchool is a wonderful communication tool between the home and the school. It is our hope that parents will check their child's performance on PowerSchool. In addition, we want the students at MBMS to check their PowerSchool information as well. There are two different log-ins to PowerSchool. One is a parent log-in and the other is a student log-in. We want to encourage everyone to use the correct log-in as it is recorded for data purposes.

Right now, our parent participation in PowerSchool is low. In an effort to increase use of the parental portal, we will distribute the parent access codes to PowerSchool at the Curriculum Fair. **Please bring a picture ID** so we can give parents their access information to PowerSchool.

Counselor's Corner

The counselors at MBMS would like to welcome everyone back to school. On August 20th the counseling department hosted a *Sip & Chat* for all new students. Students enjoyed refreshments and played a "Get-to Know -You" game to meet and connect with other new students at MBMS. A fun time was had by all!

The goal of the MBMS counseling department is to help all students focus on academic, personal/social and career development so they can experience success in school and beyond. Our counseling program includes individual counseling, small group counseling, and classroom guidance. We also work closely with parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure that as a team, we help provide the best education possible for every student.

Sometimes, students just need a supportive, non-threatening, and confidential environment to express what is going on in their lives. We want our counseling department to be that place for your middle school child. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you ever have questions or concerns.

Leah Mattison &
Pat Huff
MBMS Guidance Counselors

MBMS Welcomes
New Students !!

MBMS Launches Project Wisdom

Project Wisdom is a character education program that teaches concepts such as integrity, respect, confidence, courage, honesty, and diligence. Its messages not only impart new knowledge to the students, but also work to develop responsible and caring individuals. Project Wisdom's research shows that the program reduces incidents of disruptive behavior such as bullying and teasing and helps develop a more positive school climate.

Several days per week, MBMS students will hear a short message containing a quotation from a historic figure, celebrity, modern hero, or other notable voice that reinforces the topic of the day. These one minute messages will be broadcast school-wide by MBMS students.

For more information on Project Wisdom visit www.projectwisdom.com

FFA Kicking Off Another Great Year!

Malcom Bridge's most active student organization is looking forward to another great year. FFA is open to any/all students who have an interest in agriculture and environmental sciences. Students can join at any point during the year but are encouraged to sign up early to take advantage of the many activities throughout the year. Students will have the opportunity to participate in monthly chapter meetings, social events, and community service projects. FFA also offers students the chance to show the knowledge they have gained through their agriculture education class in a competitive atmosphere through Career Development Events (CDEs). MBMS FFA consistently ranks at the top of the region in student participation in CDEs. These events range from public speaking and parliamentary procedure to horse and dairy evaluation. Parents and students can stay up-to-date with what's going on by visiting our new FFA page on Moodle.

Each year the North Oconee FFA Alumni offer their support in assisting our FFA chapter with financial resources to help cover our state and national dues; meaning, the students can join for free! Any parent or community member interested in supporting the agriculture programs at Malcom Bridge and North Oconee are encouraged to join the FFA Alumni. This support organization is not just for former members as the name might imply. The FFA Alumni meet every other month at NOHS. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, please contact Mr. Allen at jtallen@oconeeschools.org.

The MBMS FFA will be kicking off their fall fundraiser program in September. Again this year, we are offering flower bulbs (tulips, daffodils, etc.) through Flower Power Fundraising. Flower Power has added on-line sales to the program. Parents and friends will now be able to support our organization no matter where they live. Orders can be placed on-line and will be shipped directly to the customers. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mr. Allen at jtallen@oconeeschools.org to be added to the e-mail family.

MBMS School Spirit!

MBMS is a school full of spirit this year! Our PTO has been working diligently to promote increased school spirit for the students. We have declared September 20-24 our Spirit Week for all the faculty and students. School Council has created themes for each day of the week, and students are encouraged to dress according to the theme. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, students will pay $1.00 to dress-up. On Thursday, we would like for all students to dress in the MBMS school spirit wear. The proceeds will go towards Relay for Life. The themes are as follows for the students:

Monday—Favorite Color Day
Tuesday—Favorite Sports Team Day
Wednesday—Twin Day
Thursday—School Spirit Day
Friday—Tacky Day

In addition, on Thursday, September 23, MBMS PTO will host our first annual "Big Bash." The event will take place after the MBMS vs. OCMS football game. There will be a free tailgate dinner and street dance to follow the game. We have over 20 local businesses that have sponsored the event as well. We hope everyone will come participate in our celebration of Malcom Bridge Middle School!

Let Our Spirit Shine

FCCLA, FBLA and FFA are teaming up to raise money and school spirit. The fundraiser will last from Monday, September 20th through Thursday, September 23rd. The fundraiser serves three purposes.

Support ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease" – a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord).

Support MBMS Career Technical Student Organizations (FFA, FCCLA, and FBLA). The funds will be used to develop our students' leadership skills through the organizations student activities (community service projects, school service projects, fellowship, and skill development).

Support MBMS as each link becomes one chain representing a school-community of learners that "Let their Spirit Shine."

Spirit chains will be sold in each student's homeroom at a cost of $.25 each or 5/$1.00. Our goal is for each student to donate a minimum of $1.00 to support our efforts and show off their homeroom spirit. Top homerooms in each grade level will receive a donut party as well as special recognition at the school-wide pep rally. Spirit chains will be on display at the football game on September 23rd as we cheer on the MBMS Lightning Football Team as they play OCMS. Support MBMS student organizations! Support ALS! Let Our Spirit Shine! Purchase Spirit Chains!