

THE TIGER TALE



News from Dexter Middle School November, 2007 Edition



SCHOOL HOLIDAY

There is no school on Monday, November 12th, in observance of Veteran's Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, November 13th.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thanksgiving Break is the week of November 19th to November 23rd. There is no school this week. Classes will resume on Monday, November 26th. The staff at Dexter Middle School wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday!



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Student Led Conferneces will be held on Tuesday, November 13th and Thursday, November 15th. Appointments may be made via students who will be bringing paperwork home. If you do not hear from your child's teacher, please contact the school at 924-5571.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Photographers will be at school on Monday, November 5th, to take school pictures. New order forms should be arriving soon and will be sent home with students. All students will be photographed regardless of whether they buy a package or not. Pictures are needed for student ID cards, for student folders, and for our year-book. If you are purchasing a picture package, please be sure to insert the correct change into the order envelope. Many times students will ask the office to make change, but we do not keep money in the office and are not able to give change.

RANK CARDS

Grades close for rank cards on Friday, November 2nd. Please remind students to have all work completed and turned in to teachers by this date. Rank cards will go home with students on Friday, November 9th. If a student has a failing grade, a copy of their rank card will be sent home in the mail the week after rank cards go home with students.



WINTER SPORTS SEASON BEGINS

Try outs for basketball and cheering will begin the week of November 5th. Try out schedules and paperwork will be passed out soon. Any students who have not previously played a Middle School sport must have a physical before they will be allowed to participate in practice. Cheerleaders will need to purchase items which are not provided by the school. The items and their approximate cost are as follows: Body suit - \$20.00, Socks - \$4.00, Sneakers - \$45.00, and Bloomers - \$10.00, depending on the style.



MORNING BOOK SALE TO BEGIN

The Morning Book Sale, which is held in the Library, will be held on Thursdays this year. Students may visit the Library on Thursdays between 7:40 and 8:00 AM to purchase books. All books are priced at \$1.00, \$2.00, and a book with a tape is \$5.00.

ABBOTT HILL ACOUSTIC MUSIC PROGRAMS WELL UNDERWAY

Our district's three Bluegrass/American Roots music ensembles have begun rehearsing, and in the case of the Abbott Hill **Ramblers**, even performing. The **Ramblers** played for a full and enthusiastic house at the Exeter School on Saturday evening, October 20. They were the featured act at the town's Harvest Days celebration. Seven new members are in the **Ramblers** mix this year (16 total). The **Ramblers** will play at the high school open house on Wednesday, November 14th. They will also entertain at a Lion's Club supper on December 14th at the Chatterbox club in St. Albans. The mostly-middle-school **Wanderers** have had a few Monday PM sessions, and they number around 23. The multi-age **Meanderers** are working on new material each Thursday morning. On Thursday, December 19th, at 7:00 PM in the Middle School gym, all three groups will perform their annual pre-Christmas concert. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. Come and check it out!

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

All parents/guardians have the right to request the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. By law, we are to remind you of this right. In order to make such a request, please contact our office at 924-5571, and we will be happy to provide you with that information.

PRE-ALGEBRA REPORT

This year, Dexter Middle School added a Pre-Algebra course in the 7th grade. So far, Pre-Algebra is going great! The students are intrigued about learning harder concepts. They are handling the harder work like "troopers". They are working hard and are always ready for the next challenge. Mrs. Thomas would like to thank the students for their dedication and commitment to the class. Comments about Pre-Algebra from the students are as follows:

"Pre-Algebra is complicated but fun. It's good to have a challenge. I like the fact that we have to work harder without it being too hard."

"It gives some kids an extra boost. You get more homework and sort of difficult. It is fun - you learn a lot. Math comes easier in the future."

"I think it is really good to have a Pre-Algebra class because everyone is at a different level. I think it is good that I am in the Pre-Algebra class because it is sort of harder."

"I like Pre-Algebra because we learn more. If I was in the normal math, it would be easier and that's not fun sometimes. Hard stuff is fun. Having a Pre-Algebra class is fun - it's cool!"

For homework assignments, remember to call the Dexter Middle School Homework Hotline

924-7663



ALGEBRA REPORT

A necessary step was made in the Math Department this year with the addition of Algebra. Having an Algebra class available for middle school students is essential for getting to a higher level of mathematics in high school. I feel that our Algebra class is going well. Everyone seems to be excited to be in the class, and the students are putting in an honest effort in the class. I think that their major motivation for succeeding in Algebra is the fact that they won't have to take it in high school. For whatever reason, these students are succeeding, and our Math Department is moving in the right direction. Comments from Algebra students are as follows:

"I really love being in Algebra because that means I don't have to take it in high school. Even though I don't get a credit for taking it, I still like it because it's my level."

I feel good about being part of an Algebra class. It is harder than our regular classes would be. It's pretty cool and I like it because the class is almost fun. I think I am doing good in the class."

"I am happy I get to skip Algebra my Freshman year. I feel like I am doing good in Algebra. It is easy at times and hard at times."

"I think that being in an Algebra class is fun. There is a lot more work that you have to put in to it, but I still like it. I like having it this year so that next year I can go right into Geometry."

DMS STUDENTS TO ATTEND HONORS FESTIVAL

Seven Middle School students have been chosen to attend the District V Middle School Honors Festival, which will be held on November 3rd at the Glenburn School in Glenburn. Congratulations students!

DEXTER RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Rollerskating started on October 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Town Hall and will continue on Saturdays through the winter season. Admission is \$1.00, and skate rental is \$1.00 as well. Concessions are available and volunteers are needed. Please call 924-3438 if you're interested in helping.

The Town Hall will be open for walking beginning on November 12th from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Recreation Basketball sign ups will be held on November 17th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. This program is for students in grades K-6 and the fee is \$15.00. The program will begin on Saturday, December 1st.

There will be a Recreation Department Dance for students in grades 5 through 8 on Friday, November 2nd, from 7:00 to 9:30 PM at the Town Hall. Steve Pratt will be the D.J and refreshments will be available. Admission is \$2.00.

OPERATION GRADUATION NEWS

The Operation Graduation Committee at the High School is teaming up with Will O Way Tree Farm in Garland again this year to sell Christmas Trees. If you would like to support Operation Graduation in this fundraiser, you simply buy a tree certificate for \$25.00, the same price as the tree. When you are ready to tag your tree, take your certificate to Will O Way and redeem it for your tree. Certificates can be purchased from Cathy Beaudry, Valerie Cote, Brenda Crane, and Gayle Peirce. They will also be available at the High School Open House which will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and from members of the senior class.

Operation Graduation is also partnering with the Hands of Hope Thrift Store in Bangor. They would like to raise 10,000 pairs of jeans by January. The jeans can be any size; they must be blue, have working zippers and buttons/snaps, and have minimal holes. Current drop off sites are at the High School office, the Dexter Redemption Center, Dexter Middle School, Exeter School, and Bud's Shop 'n Save in Dexter and Newport. If you would like more information, contact Brenda Crane at 379-3641 or Cathy Beaudry at 924-3742.



PTO NEWS

Great job students and parents!! Our Fall Fundraiser was once again a huge success. Thanks to all for your work and support. Fundraiser orders will arrive on Monday, November 12th. This is Veteran's Day and the students do not have school, but the PTO will have the school open for pick up. Details on the place and time will be sent home with students before the 12th.

Class participation was wonderful this year. The winners of the Ice Cream Parties were Ms. Regan's 5th grade homeroom with 73% participation and Mrs. Sherburne's 6th grade homeroom with 75% participation. Several classrooms were close behind in the 50% participation range.

The PTO and the Dexter Recreation Department have joined together to bring you Movie Night on Friday, November 16th, at 6:00 PM, at the Dexter Town Hall. We are very excited to try out our new projector and screen that was donated by the Dexter Masonic Lodge. This system should give us a movie-theater quality showing of Shrek the Third. Hope to see a large turn out for this hilarious movie!

Log on to www.msad46.org for district information, including Dexter Middle School information.

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of Dexter Middle School Students,

Life at Dexter Middle School is busy, very full and packed with student energy. Students are well into their studies, and we are only three weeks away from the end of the first school quarter. A few program updates will be of interest to you.

- Students in grades 7 & 8 will be able to take their computers home with them once you give your permission! We ask that parents attend a one-time presentation to outline both the care of computers and guidelines for their use at home. The computer presentation is about 15 minutes long, and we will offer it following the athletic awards October 30, at 6:45 in the Middle School Cafeteria and again November 5 & 8 in the Middle School art room.
- Students are progressing well in the new Algebra and Pre-Algebra courses. Mr. Gudroe and Mrs. Thomas report students are working hard and have adjusted well to the challenging new math curriculum.



- Parent Conferences are set for November 13 and 15. Please feel welcome to drop by the main office or schedule an appointment with me by either calling Mrs. Towle at 924-5571 or by e-mail jrichard@sad46.org.
- Dexter Middle School needs interested parents and friends to join a Middle School Advisory Team. The Advisory Team will have representation from parents, community members, faculty and students and will meet monthly. The job of the Advisory Team will be to explore and discuss issues which can impact the climate of the middle school. People may volunteer for the Advisory Team by calling us at 924-5571.



SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

School Board Meeting -

Wednesday, November 7th, 2007, 7:00 PM, Exeter School.

Negotiations Committee Meeting -

Wednesday, November 14th, 2007, 7:00 PM, Superintendent's Office.

Curriculum and Instruction

Committee Meeting - Wednesday, November 28th, 2007, 7:00 PM, Superintendent's Office.

