

THE MABELLE B. AVERY INFORMER

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Clay Krevolin, Principal

Principal's Message--Clay Krevolin

As we find ourselves in the "heart" of Winter, I would like to take a few moments to remind parents of a few things. On days when we have ski trips, traffic has been getting backed-up on Vision Boulevard and onto 9th District Road. It would be very helpful if parents could pull past the front of the school towards the Central Office entrance. This will allow more cars into the drop-off area and give us the ability to have multiple students unload ski equipment at once. Please be reminded that students are marked late when they arrive after 7:35 a.m., when homeroom starts.

Each morning, we are having an increasing number of students that are late, missing announcements on WMBA and marked absent. For students to go to their locker, organize books needed, put away Winter clothing and arrive to homeroom, we should be allowing about five minutes time. Students should be here no later than 7:30 a.m.

Recently, we have had some extremely cold mornings and days. I remain concerned that we have a significant number of students arriving to school that are not dressed appropriately for extreme Winter weather. I see students arriving with tee shirts, light duty sweatshirts, shorts and shoes that are more appropriate for summer. I realize that many of these students go from their house, to the heated car and then right into school. My concerns arise in the event that we have an emergency situation and I have to evacuate the school. If this were to occur, students may have to be outside for an extended period of time, may be relocated to another building on campus, or have to ride a cold bus to another location. All students should have a warm coat, hat and gloves readily accessible.

ShopRite Act of Kindness Award Recipient

The 8th grade team nominated Alex Diaz as the January recipient of the award. The owners of ShopRite made the presentation to him on Friday, 2/1.

NURSE - Mrs. Fry

As we approach the middle of the flu season, it helps to remind ourselves and children how important proper and frequent hand-washing is in the prevention of spreading germs. In fact, it is one of the most helpful and easiest ways to prevent the transmission of many ailments that can strike, especially during the winter months. So far this season, I am pleased to report there have only been a handful of students at MBA that have communicated and provided documentation of being sick with the flu.

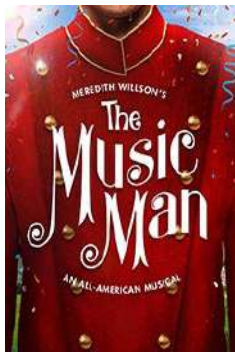
While our school community was hit hard with the flu last year, efforts implemented, which included hand sanitizer in the classrooms and stressing handwashing, have surely been beneficial and will be continued throughout the remainder of this school year. Unfortunately, handwashing is not the only way to prevent the spread of illness and even in the best scenarios we are all bound to fall ill from time to time. If your child does become ill and will be absent, please notify the school via the attendance line.

Music Department

Things are busy in the MBA Music Department! 7th and 8th grade students are preparing for the upcoming Music After Dark Concert (M.A.D.) which is scheduled for February 13th at 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Around the World" and musical selections include music by Shawn Mendes, songs from "Pirates of the Caribbean," songs from Disney movies and "The Magic of Harry Potter." Admission is free. We hope you will join us and support our fabulous students.

On April 24th, the 7th and 8th grade Music Department participants have the opportunity to see this timeless classic, "The Music Man", at the fabulous historical

Goodspeed Opera House! The things the students are the also excited about...the coach bus and lunch at the Gelston House!



We want to take a moment to say THANK YOU to everyone who supports our students in their music making. Learning to perform music in an ensemble helps students become lifelong learners and better human beings. We see our students learning kindness, problem solving, teamwork, curiosity, perseverance, and a whole host of other skills. Studies have shown that learning music can actually change a person's brain structure, when they are exposed during this developmental stage. Thank you to the parents, staff, and community members who support our students to make this opportunity possible for them.

Tech Ed

The sixth grade Tech Ed classes are now in the middle of their robotics unit. They are learning how to program in two different "languages"; Lego NXT Mindstorms and VEX IQ.



Lego NXT



VEX IQ



I have been very impressed with how well the students are becoming 'bilingual' in this to introduction programming. Much of the 6th grade Tech Ed experience is, in fact, *introductions*. We started the term with an introduction to coding and creating an online computer games using *Scratch*. Next, the students had an introduction to the wood shop. This, in itself, included many more introductions, such as, using a scroll saw, using a miter saw, measuring and marking accurately on wood, cleaning (a heads up to parents and guardians, many of the kids enjoyed vacuuming and sweeping up). And, of course, shop safety is a running theme throughout our time in the shop. I think many of the students, after completing the letter project, have a new idea of what it takes to make something from design to completion.



After the Robotics unit, we will try some construction projects using only paper and tape: it's amazing the strength you can get if the geometry is right. We will end the term with one more

wood project which will involve making a small box with symmetric sides. This will be an introduction to simple assembly and the cordless drill. All of these skills will be reinforced and expanded on during the next two years. I particularly enjoy watching the creativity that comes out as the students become comfortable with the different skills.

MBA Intramural Basketball 2019

Mr. McCarthy is proud to announce that 40 boys and girls, representing 6th, 7th and 8th grade, are participating in after-school intramural basketball. Students drafted and organized their own teams. Some students are even officiating games when their team is not playing. Each of the 5 teams will play a 12 game schedule and conclude with playoffs and a tournament championship. Basketball meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:30-3:30.

Sixth Grade's January Star Students

Top Row: Mannaut, Sebastian, Sydney, & Ava
Bottom Row: Nicole, Yanni, and Jack



Our Star Students for the month of January have shown outstanding character and continue to showcase their leadership skills. Each one of these students has demonstrated tremendous empathy for their fellow classmates, and our staff also appreciates their sense of humor. Thank you!

Cursive Club is Alive & Well at MBA!

Trinity, Kate and Mei showcase their fine motor skills, along with the use of their newly acquired lined white board, fine-tipped marker, and ease-eraser. You go girls!



Kate, Trinity, Mr. Maciolek, Mei, Mrs. Fareira, Emma, Mr. James Rocket, and James enjoy a moment of levity, following our first, fun-filled session. We look forward to sending Pen-Pal Letters to fellow cursive writers from around the United States. We have plenty of cursive materials, and have already gained several new members for our next meeting.

Next Cursive Club Meeting is Monday, March 4th, Room 307, from 2:30 to 3:30, see Mr. Maciolek for a permission slip. Revising our Pen Pal Letters, reviewing our Aa, Bb, & Cc's...introducing Ee, Ff, Gg, & Hh...

GO OLD SCHOOL... GO CURSIVE!

Star Kid Society of Somers, CT

It's official: The very first Star Kid Society of Connecticut is underway. An even dozen students are the initial members, and we expect the number to continue to grow! Meeting in Mr. Maciolek's room for the first time, students began by designing their very own 2-inch pins, then with the help of Mrs. Russell & Mrs. Fareria, students moved on to actually making their very own pins! After minor technical difficulties, Star-Custodian Matt came to the rescue (below). Thank you Mr. Sarantakis!



Above: Star Kid Society members enjoyed creating and making pins, most of which made it into the hands of parents, teachers, para-professionals, and friends. Our group, as you can imagine,

is filled with kind hearts that love to give. T-Shirt decoration is on the agenda for our next meeting, February 25th.

Star Kid Club is open to additional members. We will be meeting approximately every three to four weeks, usually on a Monday. If you are interested, we'd love to have you join. Like Stargirl, from Jerry Spinelli's award winning novel, STARGIRL, we look forward to spreading good-will throughout our building.

We also look forward to Skyping and working with a school out in Ohio, 26 high school students who are part of the very first Stargirl Society in the United States. This group is now celebrating their 10th Anniversary.

We would like to sincerely thank the **Somers Education Foundation** for supporting our efforts!

MBA Drama Schedule: FEBRUARY 2019

We are still looking for anyone who enjoys singing and dancing! GROOVY is an incredible musical filled with several opportunities for students to showcase their love for music. Ensemble rolls allow for great flexibility in your rehearsal schedule, while providing an outlet for students to be creative and enjoy their friends company.

See Mr. Maciolek for details about joining.

Date	Time	Who Needs to Attend	Location
Tuesday, February 5th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble	MBA Chorus Room
Thursday, February 7th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble Also Set Construction & Costumes	MBA Chorus Room
Tuesday, February 12th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble	MBA Chorus Room
Wednesday, February 13th	2:30 to 4:30	SET CONSTRUCTION	DRAMA ROOM (BRING A PAINT SHIRT)
Thursday, February 14th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble	MBA Chorus Room
Wednesday, February, 20th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble	MBA Chorus Room

Thursday, February 21st	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble Also Set Construction & Costumes	MBA Chorus Room/ Drama Room
Monday, February 25th	STAR KID SOCIETY 2:30 to 4:00	SEE MR. MACIOLEK FOR DETAILS	ROOM 307
Tuesday, February 26th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble	MBA Chorus Room
Thursday, February, 28th	2:30 to 4:30	Full Cast & Ensemble Also Set Construction & Costumes	MBA Chorus Room/ Drama Room
Monday, March 4th	Cursive Club (Second Meeting)	See Mr. Maciolek for Details	Room 307

Mr. Hall will be in touch with anyone participating in Lights and Sound

Days and times are subject to change.

Student Government Events for February

Student Government has been busy decorating the school for Valentine's Day. Valentine hearts have been made and will be sold so students can purchase for one another.

We began the month with a spirit day on Friday, February 1st - Team Jersey Day.. Students and staff wore a Jersey or hat of their favorite football team. With Valentine's Day in the month of February, we will be doing some fun things to help celebrate. On February 4th, student government students will begin selling valentines during the lunch times. Students can buy a valentine heart for \$1.00. Each heart is decorated with a Valentine's Day lollipop. We will be selling the hearts from the Monday, 2/4, through Tuesday, 2/12. All the hearts will be delivered to homerooms on Valentines Day the 14th to be passed out at the end of the day to the students.

After school on the February 13th, Student Government will be decorating all the lockers with red hearts with positive messages written on them. Another fun thing we will be doing is hiding cupids throughout the school for students to find and receive a valentine treat.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs., 2/7	Parent Vaping Presentation - SES Media Center 6:30 PM
Fri., 2/8	Student Vaping Presentation - MBA Gym
Fri., 2/8	MBA Ski Club - Ski Sundown (Last Night)
Mon., 2/11	SHS Guidance Counselors visit Grade 8 students
Tue., 2/12	Grade 8 Parent Night at SHS 6:30 PM
Wed., 2/13	MAD Concert, MBA Gym 7 PM
Thurs., 2/14	SNOW Date - Grade 8 Parent Night, SHS 6:30 PM
Fri., 2/15	SNOW Date - MAD Concert, MBA Gym 7 PM
Mon., 2/18	President's Day - No School
Tues., 2/19	Professional Development - No School