

# CANDLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL



## Message from Principal Andrew Greene

4th Quarter 2013

With the year coming to an end, we hope that it has been a successful one for you and your child. As you know it has been a very busy year. We have experienced many changes during the school year but both students and staff have done a great job focusing on what is important.

My suggestion for the summer is to make sure that your child builds on their strengths and works on their weaknesses in order to be prepared for the next level of schooling. With the emphasis on the Common Core and the demand that students read for information, I would highly recommend that you encourage your child to read newspapers, journals, or other kinds of informational texts that they show interest in. One of the keys to being successful for "college and careers," is to develop the ability to make sense of the text and while expanding your vocabulary. There is no shortcut for doing this: reading often and widely is a must.

With regards to mathematics the same principle applies. Have your child carve out some time to review the math work that they did during the year. There are many excellent free resources/web sites that they can use to help enhance their understanding of mathematical concepts.

The partnership that has always existed between the family and school must be stronger than ever if we are to get our children to be successful.

On behalf of the entire faculty at Candlewood, we hope that the summer provides you with some quality time with family and friends.

Have a wonderful Summer!!



## CANDLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Andrew Greene, Principal  
Michael Abrescia, Asst. Principal  
Traci Roethel, Asst. Principal

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We're on the Web!

[hhh.k12.ny.us](http://hhh.k12.ny.us)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 2013

- 3 Spring Concert at 7:30 pm  
7th Grade Band/Jazz Band/Treble Choir
- 4 Spring Concert at 7:30 pm  
6th Grade Band/6th Grade Orchestra
- 6 PTA Meeting/Installation at 10:00 am
- 6 Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation at 7:00 pm in  
Candlewood Auditorium
- 10 BOE Meeting at 8:00 pm at Candlewood
- 11 Last day of Regular Classes-The Final Exam and  
Regents Exam Schedule is posted on the Web
- 19 Moving up Ceremony at 6:30 pm at High School East  
8th Grade Dinner Dance at the Watermill in Smithtown
- 21 Last Day of School!

### 8th Grade Dinner & Dance

#### Attention 8th Grade Parents:

At the conclusion of the Moving Up Ceremony on May 19th buses will take all 8th grade students that are attending the Dinner Dance to the Watermill in Smithtown.

Pick up is at 10:30 pm at the Watermill located at 711 Smithtown Bypass in Smithtown. In order to ensure a safe pick up procedure, please park your car in the lot and come into the Watermill to pick up your child.

On May 31, 2013, the Nassau County Victory Challenge (aka Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged) will take place at Mitchel Field in Uniondale. The following students will be representing Candlewood:

Sydney Alper  
Nicole Silverman

## Candlewood PTA News and Reminders

The end of the school year is fast approaching, great job to all our Candlewood kids. At this time we would like to thank all our volunteers for helping us through out the year.

**PTA Committee Sign-up Sheets** for the 2013-2014 school year -

Please consider joining us next year by volunteering to work on a committee...whether you have only an hour or two to help out or maybe you want to chair a committee, we'd love your help! It's a great way to stay connected and meet new people. It truly takes a village! Sign-up sheets will be available at our June PTA meeting and you can also print one from our CW PTA website.

Our final PTA Meeting of the year will be on **Thursday, June 6 at 10 AM**. Please join us for the installation of our new officers and to say thank you to those that are leaving us.

Candlewood will be hosting the Board Of Education Meeting on **Monday, June 10 at 8 PM**. Everyone is welcome to join us.

New Parents Tea on **Thursday, June 13 at 7:30 PM**. Please encourage any New Candlewood families to attend and meet other incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents & ask current Candlewood families questions about Candlewood.

Congratulations and Welcome to the PTA Officers for the 2013-2014 School Year:

President – Amy Stone

Vice President Fundraising – Diane Orlando

Vice President Membership – Elyse Rafal Epstein

Treasurer – Carrie Goldman

Recording Secretary – Michele Garaffa

Corresponding Secretary – Alyssa Abulencia

Delegates to Council – Caryn Landow, Ilyse Flattau

Past President – Tina Shek

**On a personal note**....as my two year term is coming to an end I wanted to thank the current executive board and countless volunteers who have made these last two years successful. It has been my privilege and honor to work with the most amazing students, parents & staff. Thank you! Have a safe and fun filled summer.

Warmest Regards,

Tina Shek

Candlewood PTA President

**VISIT THE CANDLEWOOD PTA WEBSITE:** <http://candlewoodpta.org/>

where you can find all PTA contacts, order forms etc.

### Sixth Grade Team 3 Updates

Team 3 students continue in their role as journalists writing for the Kidsday portion of Newsday. David Bromberg, Nick Vasconcellos, Kaitlin Chang and Chi Chi Ejikeme recently visited Blondies's Bakery in Centerport. Students interviewed the owner, Jess Kennaugh and were able to go into the kitchen and bake one of the specialties known as "ugly brownies" with her. Look for their article which should be in Newsday soon.

Julia Jassey and Jessica Felber will be going to Manhattan to interview Shake it Up star, Zendaya. This will be happening just a few days after Zendaya took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Dancing with the Stars. They are bringing questions from the whole team to discuss with her.

Be on the look out in the Sunday, September 22 issue for Team 3's official Kidsday production. There is also a future story on Radio City Music Hall by Cisco Chong and Kaitlin Chang. They will be interviewing a Rockette and taking a backstage tour as well.

Team 6-3 also participated in the 2013 Flame Challenge which is run by SUNY Stony Brook and Alan Alda. This year's challenge for scientists all over the world was to answer the question, "What is Time?" in a way that eleven and twelve year olds could understand. Students read short essays and watched videos sent from scientists from places such as Australia, California, New York, and Vermont. As a team they voted for the essay and video they thought best explained the difficult concept of time.

The actual winner will be announced on June 2, 2013 in Manhattan at the World Science Festival. Several students volunteered to participate in a debate on the essays and videos that was filmed and will be shown in part at the festival. Joseph Bender played the part of a young Alan Alda lighting a candle. Thomas Tricarico, ChiChi Ejikeme, Julia Jassey, David Bromberg, Felix Luo, Conor Travaglione, Jad Baajour, and Joe Bender have been invited to attend the Festival. They will be on stage with Alan Alda when the winners are announced. It will be another great story and memory for Team 6-3 to write about.





## Candlewood 6th Grade Band

The Candlewood 6th Grade Band will be debuting a brand new piece titled "Candlewood Overture", written by young composer Michael T. DeFillipis. Mr. DeFillipis is a composer residing on Long Island and has written several works for band, and has had his music performed worldwide. This piece will be premiered as a part of the Candlewood Spring Concert Series on Tuesday, June 4th.

Mr. Eric Van Cott  
6th Grade Band Teacher

## 8th Grade Band

On June 7th, the 8th Grade Band will be performing the pre-game warm-up music for the Long Island Ducks game and the 8th Grade Choir will be performing the National Anthem.

It will be a Fun Night!!!!

Mr. Michael Sydor  
7th & 8th Grade Music Teacher

## Team 6-2

Team 6-2 took a fantastic trip to the New York Hall of Science on May 3rd! Students learned the physics of sports in the Sports Challenge, engineered houses out of sticks, found their way through the maze, constructed molecules, generated tornadoes, and played on the science playground.

What a FUN time Team 6-2 had!!

## SCIENCE MOBILE DISCOVERY CENTER VISIT TO CANDLEWOOD

Discovering the wonders of science and math comes in many forms and can be accomplished in a variety of ways. When the National Science Center's Mobile Center (MDC) Van visited Candlewood from May 16th—May 22nd the 6th grade, 7th grade students and teachers alike were immersed in the excitement of hands-on science.

Housed in an 18-wheeler van and staffed by U.S. Army military and Department of Army civilian personnel, MDC van presentations showed young people that studying science, technology and math can be exciting and fun as well as essential to their future. The MDC presentation consisted of hands-on, interactive science demonstrations.

Mobile Discovery Center programs are made possible by a partnership between the U.S. Army and the National Science Center.

Mrs. G. Sundermier

In 7th Grade Social Studies Class students needed to pretend they were a member of the Cherokee nation during the Indian Removal. They created a poem describing their journey on the Trail of Tears." The following are poems submitted by students:

***"TRAIL OF TEARS"***

***By: Reeyad Baajour***

The Trail of Tears,  
Seemed like years over years,  
It's as if I was blind,  
Nothing but depression on my mind,  
I feel like we are always forgotten,  
Pushed aside, left alone,  
Don't they realize we have feelings of our own?  
Their ears are deaf unless to their satisfaction,  
Americans wanting to take our land,  
Such a huge fraction!  
They made promises that they broke and shattered,  
They made it seem like it didn't even matter,  
Now we are moving west of the Mississippi River,  
Trying to find land so that we can hope to expand,  
4,000 were gone on this deadly trail,  
It is as if their life was destined to fail,  
I will not give up,  
I shall persevere,  
On this never-ending Trail of Tears!

***"TRAIL OF TEARS "***

***By: Lindsey Dean***

I walked through the cold harsh weather.  
Trudging, with my shoulders sore from the supplies  
And my feet taking heavy steps while I balanced myself,  
Trying to keep from slipping on the cold ice.  
The last stop was ten miles ago and the next  
Won't be until another twenty.  
My legs are weakening and achy I feel as if I am going  
To collapse on the hard ice.  
Many of my friends have not made it this long of the way.  
The cruel white men forced us out of  
Our homes and we were left with nothing,  
Only the things we can carry on our back and poor  
Farming lands, for our future, just so they could get the good land.  
The hail is pouring down harder and harder,  
Its winter so the conditions have been tough.  
The Trail of Tears will be the death of me.

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On May 7th, some of the Rising Stars went for a hike on the Whitman Trail. Although students had been to the Whitman Mall, they were surprised to see this treasure of trails that exist just a few blocks away. They climbed Jayne's Hill which is 400 feet above sea level. It is one of the highest points on Long Island. Along the way, there was plenty of nature to observe such as a vernal pond filled with creatures. Students were also surprised to see all of the fallen trees that were a result of the intensity of Sandy Storm. It was a great adventure and most students hoped to share the experience with their families!



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Madame Ruggiero's 8<sup>th</sup> grade French class scored in the top 10 ranking on the 2013 National French Contest. The preparation and determination of Madame Ruggiero and her students certainly paid off. Felicitations!!!!

Jake Mayerson 4<sup>th</sup> place

Amy Geiger 6<sup>th</sup> place

Jessica Bailey 8<sup>th</sup> place

Gaetham Fils Aime 8<sup>th</sup> place

Christopher Jung 8<sup>th</sup> place

Tatum Ogata 8<sup>th</sup> place

Nicole Feledy 9<sup>th</sup> place

Cassandra Krill 9<sup>th</sup> place

Alice Wu 10<sup>th</sup> place

