

MINERAL POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Scoop

April 2014 🐾 Education... That's the Point.



By Owen Stephenson

Ancient Egypt: A Sixth Grade Adventure

Mrs. Soper's sixth grade social studies class began uncovering the mysteries of Ancient Egypt.

Students discovered the magnificence of Egypt's past while uncovering the Egyptian's contributions to our world today. Students "excavated" information in order to create 3-D models of various artifacts that were important to the ancient Egyptians. Student projects are currently being displayed in the IMC until the end of April. If you have the opportunity to check out these projects, "walk like an Egyptian" to the IMC. As the Ancient pharaoh psychiatrists stated to their patients, "Denial isn't just a river running through Egypt." 🐾

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 28

Parent/Teacher conferences,
4:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

Track meet at Darlington with Cuba City

Tuesday, May 6

Track meet at Dodgeville with Platteville

Tuesday, May 6

M.S. Spring concert, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

Meeting in the cafetorium for 8th graders and parents for high school registration, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

Track meet at Dodgeville with Platteville

Thursday, May 15

Track at Lancaster Invitational

Tuesday, May 20

Track at Darlington Invitational

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day – No Classes

Band to march in Memorial Day parade,
10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4

M.S. Awards program, 1:00 p.m.
Grade 8 Graduation, 2:00 p.m. –
reception to follow

Thursday, June 5

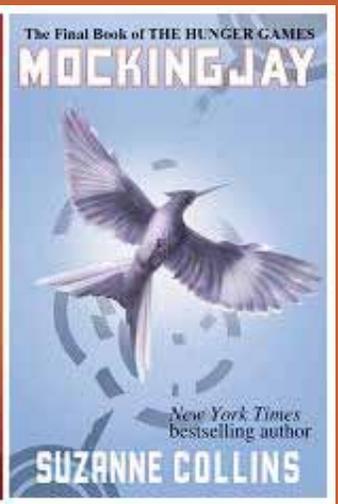
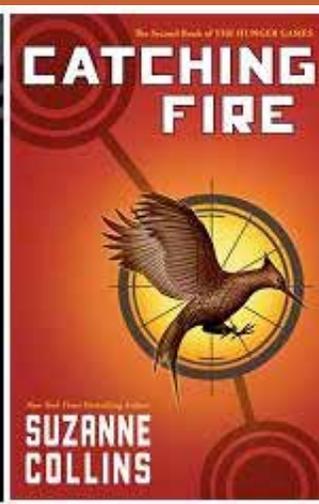
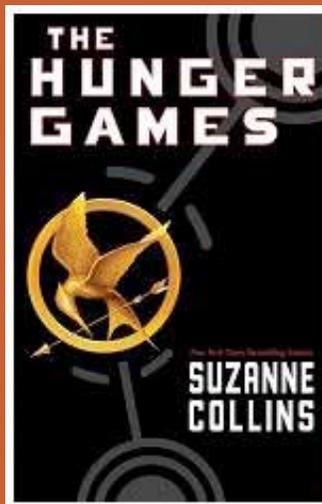
6th grade field trip to Dodger Bowl
and Blackhawk Lake
7th grade field trip to a movie and
Gov. Dodge State park
8th grade field trip to Mount Olympus,
Wisconsin Dells
Last day of classes for students.

MARCH MADNESS: Tournament of the Books!

Wanting to hone in on the excitement of March Madness, Mrs. Brown, with the help of Mrs. McCoy, organized a tournament of books. Books were picked by popularity which was determined by the number of times they were checked out of the school library over the last two school years and the number of Accelerated Reader quizzes taken. Students then voted weekly using the online tool Edmodo or paper ballots. The sound of “persuasive book talks” given by students as the voting occurred was the highlight of the tournament.

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins | vs. | Maze Runner Trilogy by James Dashner |
| 2. <i>Football Champ</i> by Tim Green | vs. | <i>Stolen Bases</i> by Jake Maddox |
| 3. <i>39 Clues: Maze of Bones</i> by Rick Riordan | vs. | <i>Vanished: True Tales of the Missing</i> by Marc Tyler Nobleman |
| 4. <i>Happy, Happy, Happy</i> by Al & Phil Robertson | vs. | The Total Outdoorsman Journal by Field & Stream |
| 5. <i>Oogy</i> by Larry Levin | vs. | <i>Warriors Into the Wild</i> by Erin Hunter |
| 6. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> by Jeff Kinney | vs. | <i>Middle School the Worst Years of My Life</i> by James Patterson |
| 7. <i>The Princess Diaries</i> by Meg Cabot | vs. | <i>Princess in Love</i> by Meg Cabot |
| 8. <i>The Underdogs</i> by Mike Lupica | vs. | <i>Bystander</i> by James Preller |

And the winner is...The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins! 🐾



Schwans Fundraising Campaign

The Student Council has started a fundraising campaign called **Mineral Point Middle School Fundraiser**, through Schwanscare.com. This fundraiser replaces the fall and spring fundraisers of the past. Any order placed from April 25, 2014 through June 9, 2014 earns the middle school 20% on food products and 40% on e-certs. (E-certs are sold only during the first 45 days.) After June 9, every purchase on Schwanscare.com, using the school code, earns us 5%.

All funds earned will help defray costs of field trips, speakers, classroom supplies, and various activities for the middle school throughout the year.

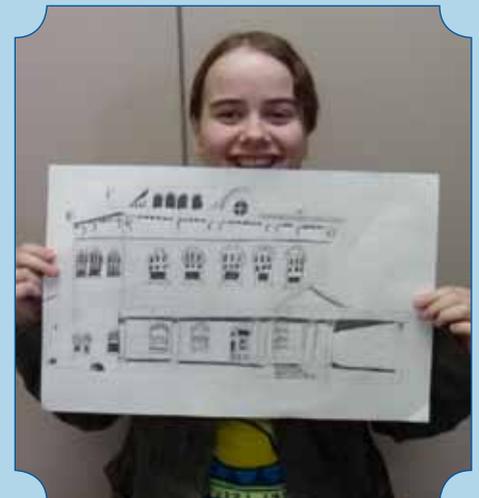
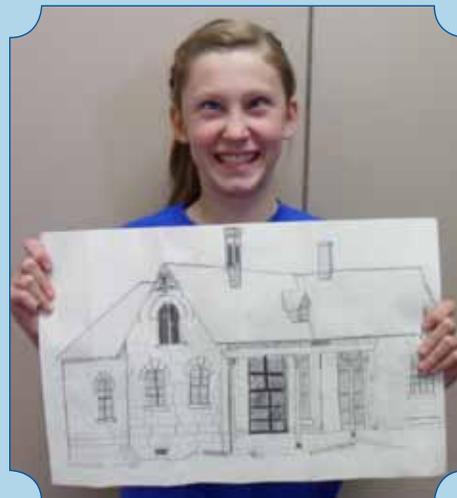
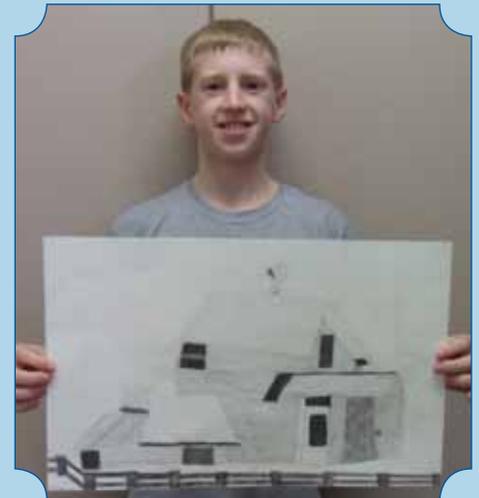
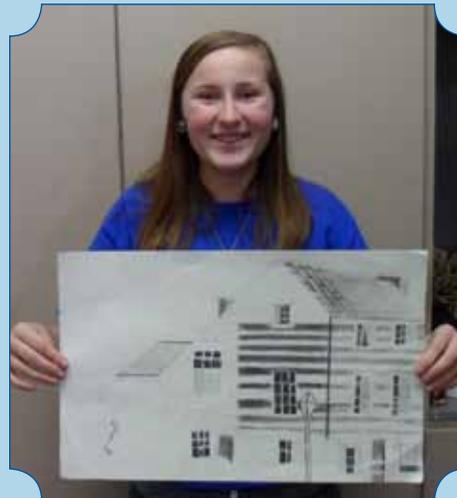
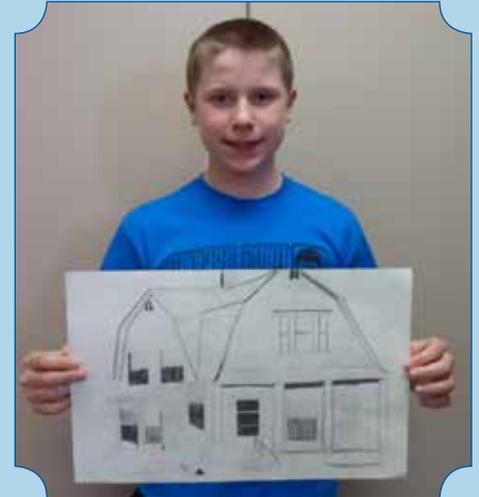
If you have any question on Schwanscare.com, please call: 1-855-870-7208.

Thank you in advance for all your support! 🐾

Art and History

For the past couple of weeks the seventh grade art class has been rediscovering the town of Mineral Point by studying the old homes. The students started out the unit by developing a better understanding of the artist, Max Fernekes. In 1940, Max Fernekes and his wife became the first famous artists to settle in Mineral Point. He is remembered for his famous watercolor depictions of Wisconsin buildings and scenes.

Each student chose an old home of their liking to study and recreated its uniqueness. This project enabled the students to have a deeper understanding of how historical and beautiful some of the old homes from Mineral Point are. 🐾



Middle School Students Survey Results on Bullying and School Climate

by Carla Rand

In the fall of this year our 7th and 8th grade students took the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, along with students from most of the schools in the Cesa 3 area. The questions on this survey dealt with risky behavior, safety and wellness issues and the results are intended to help our counties develop programs to help teens navigate safely through these years. One aspect of safety and wellness is how students feel about how they are treated while in school.

To help assess that situation for our middle school students we pulled out six questions that related directly to bullying and school pulled out two additional questions that addressed depression and suicidal thoughts. Although there are a myriad of factors that contribute to depression and suicidal ideation, how one is treated in school and a sense of belonging is highly correlated.

We then asked the sixth graders the same eight questions to help create a total picture. 124 students responded to these questions. Below are the results of those survey questions. All results are reported in percentages and the data is for MP Middle School only.

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1. How often do you feel safe and secure at school?

	6th	7th	8th
Never	2.60%	2.30%	7.30%
Rarely	5.10%	2.30%	2.40%
Sometimes	7.70%	13.60%	4.90%
Most of the time	53.80%	50%	29.30%
Always	30.80%	31.80%	56.10%

This means that 19 of our middle school student don't feel safe most of the time in our buildings. Although I did not give you gender results they do show that boys feel less safe than girls.

2. Do you agree or disagree that harassment and bullying by students is a problem at our school?

	6th	7th	8th
Strongly disagree	7.70%	2.30%	17.10%
Disagree	23.10%	25%	36.60%
Not sure	33.30%	38.60%	36.60%
Agree	17.90%	22.70%	9.80%
Strongly agree	17.90%	11.40%	17.10%

This means that only 39 of our 124 students feel that harassment and bullying is NOT a problem in our schools. More girls felt it was a problem than boys.

3. Has anyone at school ever touched you, said something to you, or displayed a picture or photograph that was sexual in nature and make you feel uncomfortable?

	6th	7th	8th
Yes	23.10%	9.10%	2.40%
No	56.40%	77.30%	85.40%
Not sure	12.80%	13.60%	9.80%
Declined to answer	7.70%	0.00%	2.40%

This means that 14 of our middle schoolers have been made to feel uncomfortable in this manner. More girls reported this than boys.

4. Has anyone ever stolen or deliberately damaged your property such as a cell phone, clothing, or books while on school property?

	6th	7th	8th
Yes	25.60%	18.20%	14.60%
No	71.80%	81.80%	82.90%
Declined to answer	2.60%	0	2.40%

This means that 24 of our middle school students have had property stolen or destroyed deliberately. This behavior occurred more often to boys.

5. Have you ever been electronically bullied? (include e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, web sites or texting)

	6th	7th	8th
Yes	15.40%	18.20%	19.50%
No	82.10%	82.10%	75.60%
Declined to answer	2.60%	0	4.90%

This means 22 of our middle school students have been bullied in this way. This behavior occurs more often among girls.

6. Do you agree or disagree that your school has clear rules and consequences for behaviors?

	6th	7th	8th
Strongly disagree	7.70%	2.30%	4.90%
Disagree	10.30%	2.30%	2.40%
Not sure	12.80%	20.50%	17.10%
Agree	41%	27.30%	46.30%
Strongly agree	28.20%	47.70%	29.30%

This means that 33 of our 124 students are unsure of our school rules and consequences.

7. Have you ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

	6th	7th	8th
Yes	15.40%	6.80%	14.60%
No	69.20%	93.20%	80.50%
Declined to answer	15.40%	0	4.90%

This means that 15 of our middle school students could be struggling with some degree of depression. This was true of more girls than boys.

8. Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?

	6th	7th	8th
Yes	10.30%	9.10%	19.50%
No	79.50%	90.90%	82.90%
Declined to answer	10.30%	0	0

This means that 16 of our middle school students have contemplated suicide. Boys reported a higher incidence of this than girls.

I find these results unacceptable and scary. We obviously have a lot of work to do in teaching our young people how to treat each other and also how to be resilient in the face of poor treatment. Just as a pebble dropped in water spreads ripples outwards, our treatment of others creates ripples that affect those around us and eventually come back to us.

Parents, please encourage your child to create positive ripples while at school and stop negative ripples with a positive comment.

Students, please spread ripples of kindness, those ripples will come back to you. Stop others from creating negative ripples.

Staff, lets make sure our students are aware of our expectations when it comes to how they treat each other and let's stop those negative ripples in their wake.

Together we can make a difference. 🐾

Get Ready for Summertime Reading!



New this year in the middle school library will be the opportunity for students to check out up to 10 books to take home over the summer. Watch for further information, including a parental permission slip/contract. 🐾

Faherty Recycling Talks Trash

On Wednesday, April 23, 2014, Ed Faherty, from Faherty Recycling, came to speak with the sixth graders regarding the importance of recycling. He explained the process from the pickup of our recycling bins on garbage day to the recycling center his company uses in Madison. A short video clip was shown explaining the steps of separating plastic, paper, cardboard, and glass...very interesting!

Would you like to know some of the products made from our recycled garbage?????

Recycled Plastic – boards for decking material, clothing, carpets, upholstery

Recycled Tires – mats, shingles, paving bricks

Recycled glass, cement, plastic – kitchen countertops

Recycled junk mail - furniture

Sunflower seed shells - furniture 🐾

Extreme Book Reports & Rockets:

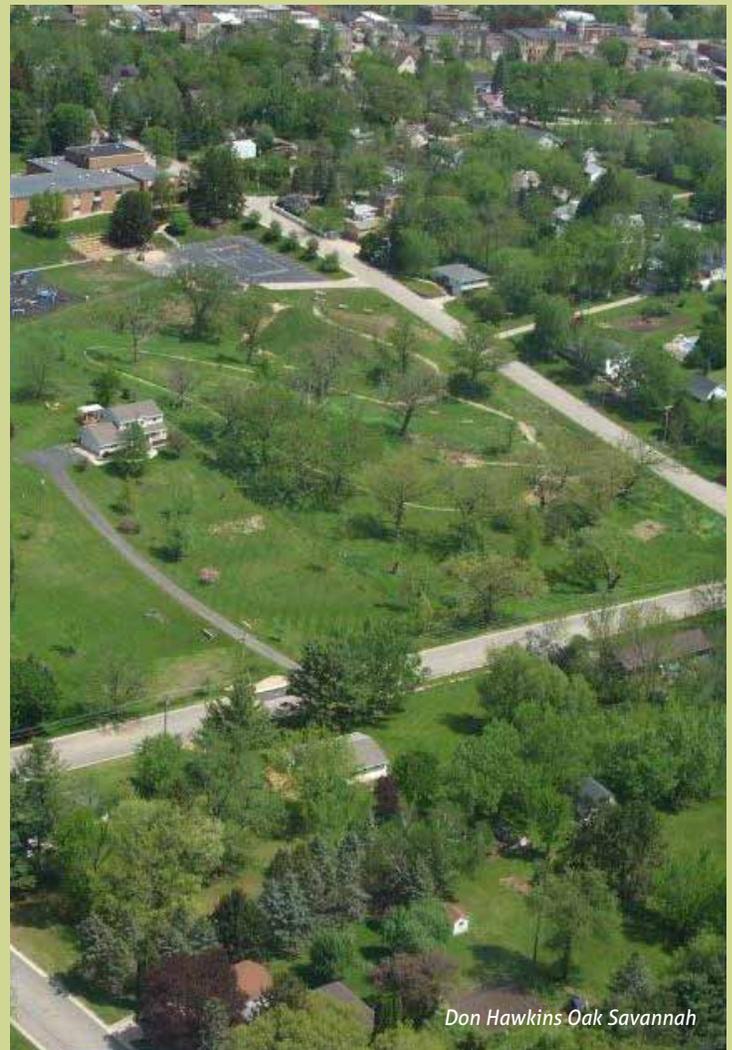
The sixth grade enrichment group did some extreme book reports. The sixth grade enrichment students divided into groups with the assignment to create the ultimate extreme book report. They designed three dimensional posterboards, showed videos, created their own videos with rap and created claymations. One group even used Minecraft to report from the Nether. Then they blew up their entire creation as a grand finale. Students did an extreme job reporting on some very interesting books. Additionally the sixth grade enrichment group also shot off some rockets. The rockets were fueled by water and sodium bicarbonate (antacid). Rocket's were made from plastic pop or water bottles with a cork. Students created many cool designs. Most rockets flew up about ten feet. 🐾



Looking for a good book? Feel free to checkout some suggestions from Mrs. Nelson's ReadBox in Read 180.

Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual day on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Earth Day is observed on April 22nd each year. The Mineral Point Middle School will be celebrating Earth Day the week of April 21st. Students are encouraged to wear green on Tuesday, April 22nd to show their support. With the help of Chuck Tennessen, staff will incorporate environmental activities into each grade level. The week will be kicked off with a banner and art pieces to announce the week and activities. There will be a display of Earth related books in the library for students to check out. On Monday, April 21st, students will track the number of plastic bottles that are used during the lunch period. On Wednesday, April 23rd, sixth grade students will listen to a recycling presentation from Ed Faherty of Faherty Recycling. Seventh grade students will engage in a climate change lesson led by Chuck Tennessen during their science classes on Wednesday as well. There will be a follow up to Mr. Tennessen's presentation with a "Cool It" Climate Change game on Thursday, April 24th in their social studies class. Eighth grade students will participate in prairie invasive eradication on Tuesday, April 22nd in the school's oak savannah with Mr. Tennessen and Mr. Don Hawkins. Eighth grade students are asked to bring garden tools to aid in the process. They are also asked to bring long sleeves, long pants, closed toe shoes, and gloves for the activity that day. We hope these activities and events will remind students to be conscious of the environment, not only on Earth Day, but everyday throughout the year. 🐾



Don Hawkins Oak Savannah

From the Desk of Ms. Dahl



On April 22, Earth Day was celebrated around the world. On Earth Day and throughout the week, Mineral Point Middle School participated with a variety of activities. Thousands of Earth Day actions around the world brought people together to plant trees and preserve forests, create cleaner, greener cities and safeguard wildlife.

Green Cities is the Earth Day Network's theme this year and through Earth Day 2015. Earth Day Network launched the Green Cities campaign in the fall of 2013 to help cities everywhere become more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint through three key elements – buildings, energy, and transportation. Many Earth Day events throughout the world are focused on trees and forests.

A highlight of the United Nation's Earth Celebration in New York City is the ringing of the Peace Bell, a gift from Japan, at the exact moment of the vernal equinox (the equinox in spring).

Since 1970 Earth Day celebrations have grown. In 1990 Earth Day went Global. Today, the Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. More than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities. Earth Day is every day! 🐾

Worth quoting:

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

– Native American Proverb

"The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is one thing all of us share."

– Lady Bird Johnson

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

Just for fun:

Q: What is the best way to stop a dog from barking in the back yard?

A: Put the dog in the front yard!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

FUNDRAISER FOR THE MINERAL POINT STADIUM PROJECT

SUPER BOWL 8 PIN TAP

SATURDAY MAY 3, 2014

\$15 PER PERSON

DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

SHIFTS: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 P.M.

MIDWAY LANES

1850 Midway Road
Mineral Point

**CASH PRIZES!
RAFFLES**

Early registration
is encouraged.
Email info@mpstadium.com
to register.

All proceeds benefit
the Mineral Point
Stadium Project.



For more info visit www.mpstadium.com