



Middle School Newsletter

Engagement, Assessment,
and Reflection-



creates the pathway to our
learning success!

From: Dr. Flaherty
Week of: January 9, 2017
dflaherty@masconomet.org

January 2017

Monday, January 9	B day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Old School Video, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 10	C Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Ping Pong 3:00-4:00p.m. Learn Italian 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 11	D Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Knee Hockey 3:00- 4:00 p.m. Risk 3:00- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday January 12	E Day	After school help 2:20 – 2:50 p.m. Handy Crafts 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Old School Video 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ping Pong 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Writers' Club 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Friday, January 13	F Day	Volleyball 6:00- 7:00 a.m. RC Car 2:30- 3:30 p.m.

Messages from Principal Flaherty: Join Us on Twitter @Masco_Principal

Attached below is the January 2017 Middle Years newsletter. It is also posted on our website.

MCAS Testing Schedule

The Massachusetts Department of Education recently released a new statewide testing schedule for MCAS. Please note the updated Masco Middle School testing schedule below. **Please disregard the dates listed in the School Calendar in the Calendar Handbook.** The website calendar has been updated and the testing dates are also listed below:

Grade 7 MCAS Testing Schedule

Date	Subject	Session
Tuesday, April 4	ELA	Session 1
Wednesday, April 5	ELA	Session 2
April 10, 11 & 12, *24 & 25	ELA	Make Ups
Tuesday, May 2	Mathematics	Session 1
Wednesday, May 3	Mathematics	Session 2

May11-17	Mathematics	Make Ups
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Grade 8 MCAS Testing Schedule

Date	Subject	Session
Thursday, April 6	ELA	Session 1
Friday, April 7	ELA	Session 2
April 10, 11 & 12,*24 & 25	ELA	Make Ups
Thursday, May 4	Mathematics	Session 1
Friday, May 5	Mathematics	Session 2
Tuesday, May 9	Science, Technology & Engineering(STE)	Session 1
Wednesday, May 10	Science, Technology & Engineering(STE)	Session 2
May 11-17	Mathematics; Science, Technology & Engineering(STE) STE	Make Ups

*April 24 & 25, if needed

Masco Excels, Session II

Excel programs begin this week and unless otherwise indicated, they run from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. See the above calendar as a reminder of the day your child’s activity will run. It is important that students are picked up at 4:00 p.m. A staff member will wait until students participating in Excels are picked up or a note is sent in allowing the student to walk or ride their bikes home. As such, any student that is repeatedly not picked up by 4:15 p.m. may not be able to continue to participate in their activity.

Middle School Drama Club Auditions

Please see the flyer below with details for the upcoming auditions for *Seussical Jr.* in late January.

NAEP Testing

Masconomet Regional Middle School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 7, 2017. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessment because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation’s Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Approximately 50 Masconomet Middle School students have been randomly selected by NAEP. If your child has been selected to participate, a letter was sent home (via backpack) last Friday. Students will be taking a mathematics or reading assessment. The assessment also asks students questions about their daily routine and their educational experiences. For

example, students are asked if there is a computer at home and about the amount of reading they do. Student responses are anonymous, and they provide context and meaning to the assessment results. Please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp> to review sample questions.

The assessment takes about 90 to 120 minutes for most students. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347).

The information collected is used for statistical purposes only.

- Your child’s grades will not be affected.
- Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.
- While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify Mr. Gavin Monagle in writing by January 13, 2017.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Contact Mr. Monagle at (978) 887-2323X 6119 or at gmonagle@masconomet.org if you have any questions.

Tri-Town Council

Please see the attached flyers from Tri-Town Council for upcoming events.

Free MIT Science Event

See the attached flyer for information about a free learning opportunity.

Masco Million:

Masco Million Results: **All Team weekly** results **23,395** and the **Grand total: 550,520** pages. Remember this week’s total reflects both student and staff participation. Congratulations on the page total for the first week in January! Please continue to encourage your students to enter pages read from their textbooks, short stories, or any other reading they do. These figures represent the numbers logged in by 3:00 PM Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Team	Week Total	Total
7 Blue	0	67,595
7 Red	3,548	116,974
7 White	10,944	111,546
8 Blue	502	77,390
8 Red	176	90,556
8 White	8,225	86,459

Upcoming Dates of Importance

January 16, 2017	Martin Luther King Day, No School
January 17, 2017	MS Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m./Auditorium
January 20, 2017	Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
January 23, 2017	Staff Work Day, No School for Students
January 25, 2017	Trimester 2 Mid-Point
February 6, 2017	Early Dismissal; 12:20 p.m.
February 17, 2017	Close at Regular Hour for Winter Vacation

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Attendance counts

The better your middle schooler's attendance, the better chance that he will succeed academically. Remind him that he's expected in school every day unless he is sick or there is a family emergency. If your child asks to stay home for other reasons, explore why, and discuss solutions. If he says he's too tired, for example, work out how he could get more sleep.

Say no to sexting

Warn your tween about the dangers of sending or forwarding sexually suggestive pictures or messages from a cell phone or computer. Sexting is illegal among minors and can ruin a middle grader's reputation. Make sure your child realizes that once an image is sent, it's out there for everyone to see—forever.

Awesome electives

Encourage your middle schooler to use next year's electives to add variety to her core classes. Some may let her explore possible career paths, such as robotics or forensic science. Others might tap into a special interest like filmmaking or music. Suggest she make choices that challenge but don't overwhelm her.

Worth quoting

"There is no friend as loyal as a book."
Ernest Hemingway

Just for fun

Q: How many seconds are there in a year?

A: There are 12! January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...



Project success

In the middle grades, your tween will have to think about, develop, and present in-depth projects. Share these strategies to help her successfully manage them.

Set targets

To stay on track with a project deadline, suggest that your child set mini targets for completing each step. If she hits roadblocks (say, the computer is down or she runs out of art supplies), have her turn to another portion and keep going. She can get back to the other part later—and her progress won't be stalled.

Research carefully

Encourage your youngster to stay focused as she's researching. Say she's writing about medieval Europe. She may find great sources about continents during that era, but she should weed them out if they don't apply. *Tip:* As she's conducting research, recommend that she



list her sources so her bibliography will be done.

Plan the presentation

How does your middle grader want to present her project? Will she write a skit, create a photo collage, or use audio or video clips? When she finishes, let her practice with you to get ready for her in-school presentation. Then, ask how she thinks it turned out. Being satisfied with her work will get your tween in the habit of doing her best. 👍

To tell you the truth...

Being honest will help your middle grader earn trust from family, friends, teachers, and coaches. Foster truthfulness with these ideas:

- Explain that he's better off telling the truth. If he admits taking money from your wallet without asking, you might have him do odd jobs to pay it back. But if he denies it and you find out he did, he will have lost your trust—and he should know it will take time for him to regain it.
- When you're aware he's done something he's not being truthful about, state the facts. For example, tell him you saw him at one place when he was supposed to be at another. Allow him to tell you what happened, then enforce appropriate consequences (say, being grounded for a weekend). 👍



How to “help” with homework

When your middle schooler does homework, you can play a supporting role—but let him take charge. Here’s how.

Be available. As your tween works, he may need an “assistant” to listen to ideas, proofread a paper, make sure he understands directions, or quiz him for a test. Talk about who else he could turn to if you’re not available, perhaps a sibling or a grandparent.



Check in. Ask what he’s working on and how it’s coming along. If he is ready for a break, suggest an energy-boosting snack like apples and cheese, or hummus and cucumber slices. Or you could take a brisk walk around the block together to help him refocus.

Provide guidance. Encourage your child to find ways to get more information when needed. He might call a classmate for an

explanation of an assignment or a homework hotline about a math concept. He could also review his textbook and class notes. Have him consider what he’s tried already—and what he might try next. Working through frustrations will help your tween build problem-solving skills. 👍

Icy science

Why do we put salt on icy sidewalks? Your child can find out with this “chilly” experiment. Have her follow these steps.

1. Get three bowls, and put three same-size ice cubes in each (with the cubes touching).
2. Quickly sprinkle $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt on one set of cubes, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. sugar on another, and nothing on the third. Refrigerate.
3. Check every 30 minutes until one set is about halfway melted. Remove the bowls.
4. Separately pour the water from each bowl into a measuring cup, and record the amounts.
5. Let the remaining cubes melt completely. Measure and record the amount of water in each bowl.
6. Now determine the percentage of ice that melted initially: For each bowl, divide the amount that melted at first by its total amount of melted water.



Did salt or sugar make the ice melt faster? Ask your young scientist if she knows why. (Answer: Salt, because it lowers the freezing point of water.) 👍



Q & A

Shift the responsibility

Q My daughter says I’m always “on her case,” reminding her to practice her clarinet, take a shower, or pick up her shoes. I don’t want her to feel like all I ever do is correct her. Help!

A It may feel natural to give your daughter reminders. But try making her responsible for reminding herself. Suggest she create a daily checklist that includes big jobs (practicing her instrument) and smaller ones (putting shoes away). Or she could list her to-do tasks in a daily planner to keep herself organized.

Giving her positive—and specific—feedback will also help. Rather than saying, “You’re so talented!” if she practices without a reminder, you might say, “I heard you practicing that tough part in your new clarinet solo. I know your hard work will pay off at your spring band concert.” 👍



Parent to Parent

Finding new friends

My son Justin had a core group of friends in elementary school. But when he started middle school this year, they grew apart. I noticed he was spending weekends alone, not hanging out with buddies. My heart broke for him because he felt like he didn’t fit in.

A friend told me she knew plenty of other kids who had to make new friends

at this age. She mentioned that her own son met his best friend when he started playing soccer in middle school. She suggested Justin might have the same experience if he tried an activity or a school club.

I shared her idea with Justin, and he decided to join the environmental club. He’s still getting to know the other members, but he seems glad to have a group to belong to—and some potential new friends. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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MIT Museum & Akamai present

MIT Science on Saturday



Your Developing Brain

Saturday, February 4, 2017

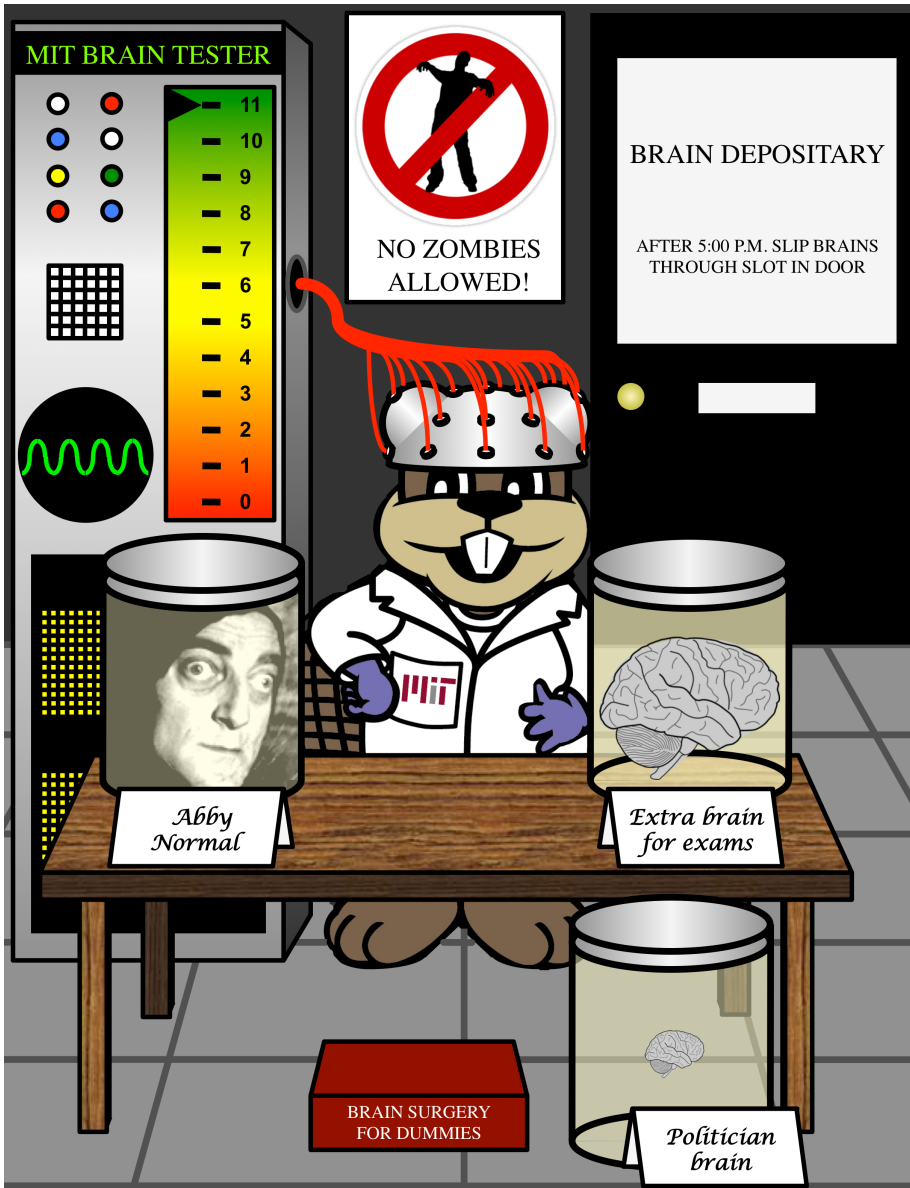
Main presentation 10:00-11:00 a.m.

+ hands-on activities 11:00 a.m.-noon

MIT Kresge Auditorium

48 Massachusetts Ave.

Cambridge, MA 02139



Presented by
MIT Department of
Brain & Cognitive
Sciences

FREE!
Open to all
elementary,
middle, and
high school
students,
as well as
their parents
and teachers

No preregistration
required, but
seating is
limited—
first come,
first seated

Half-price, same-day admission to MIT Museum for SoS attendees.

Map & parking information at

<http://mitmuseum.mit.edu/program/science-saturday>

Any questions? Email Dr. Todd H. Rider, thor@mit.edu



MIT Museum & Akamai present
MIT Science on Saturday



**Upcoming shows (all on
Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon):**

October 15, 2016

December 3, 2016

February 4, 2017

March 4, 2017

April 1, 2017

All shows in MIT's Kresge Auditorium

**\$8 parking with credit card in
West Garage (closer but may fill up)
or Albany St. Garage (further)**

**MBTA buses to Mass. Ave (closer) or
subway to Central or Kendall Sq. (further)**

<http://mitmuseum.mit.edu/program/science-saturday>

Dr. Todd H. Rider, thor@mit.edu

Half-price, same-day admission to MIT Museum for SoS attendees



Masconomet Regional Middle School

Drama Club Auditions



Friday, January 27th

2:30-5:00pm

Auditorium

Registration and Audition Forms are available in the Main Office and
with Ms. Richards

**Registration Forms and Payments are Due by
Friday, January 6th**

Please Bring Your Audition Form, Comfy Clothes, and Water with you
on Audition Day! You will be Acting, Dancing, and Singing!

If you have any Questions or Concerns please contact Ms. Richards
(crichards@masconomet.org)



Tuesday
January 31, 2017
Masco Auditorium
7pm
Followed by panel discussion

Watch the Trailer [HERE](#)

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span?

Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the **average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens**. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well.

In **SCREENAGERS**, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

This is a FREE Program—[REGISTER HERE](#)

For Parents/Guardians & Educators of youth K -12
students age 12+ are welcome to attend



Under Construction! What Every Parent Must Know About Your TWEEN/TEEN'S Brain Development

Dr. Ruth Potee will discuss teen brain development, its impact on risk-taking behavior, including the use of drugs and alcohol, and what this means for parents of teens. Come learn more about what parents and the community can do to keep our teens safer, healthier and substance-free throughout their middle (5th grade and up) and high school years.



Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:00pm—Masconomet Auditorium
[REGISTER HERE](#)

This program is free & open to the public.

Dr. Potee practices family medicine in Greenfield and was honored by the Franklin District Medical Society as the 2015 Community Clinician of the Year. She is Chair of the Healthcare Solutions Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and has addressed professional and community audiences on related topics throughout the state.

