



Middle School Newsletter

Engagement, Assessment,
and Reflection—



creates the pathway to our
learning success!

From: Dr. Flaherty
Week of: February 11, 2019
dflaherty@masconomet.org

February 2019

Monday , February 11	D Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m.
Tuesday , February 12	E Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Sandpipers & Tribesman 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Old School Video Games 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Winter Workouts 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Knee Hockey 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday , February 13	F Day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Risk 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday , February 14	A day	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Magic the Gathering 3:00-4:00 p.m. Old School Videos 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Creative Writers' Club 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Math Team 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ping Pong 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Friday , February 15	B day Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game	

Messages from Principal Flaherty: Join Us on Twitter @Masco_Principal

EXCELS

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.

8 Red Student Led Conferences Cancelled

Due to the impending storm, the 8 red student-led conferences will be postponed until March, tentatively the week of March 11. A new sign-up will be sent out after vacation with definitive dates.

Information to share regarding Pepe the Frog

We had a situation arise on Friday afternoon that we thought was important to share with you and to provide some background information to your child if you deem he/she may need to be educated. We had two boys sent to the office because they drew a cartoon character, Pepe the Frog, as part of a class assignment. An adult who saw the drawing was aware that Pepe the Frog has been associated with Hate Groups and with anti-Semitic connotations. Only a few people we spoke to were aware of this association. We spoke with the students, investigated further, and we are confident that neither student was aware of the negative and hateful manner this meme has been used by some. I am enclosing information below provided by the Anti-Defamation League in regards to this specific meme. This information confirms that the majority of people who use Pepe the Frog are unaware of a hate connotation and do not use it with any ill intent.

We believe that giving parents/guardians this information is the most prudent way to disseminate information to those who may need it. We chose not to make an announcement about this issue in order to avoid student concern and conversations among all when few, if any students are aware of the hate connotations.

If you feel sharing this information with your child is appropriate, please do so. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

From the Anti-Defamation League Website:

"Pepe the Frog is a cartoon character that has become a popular Internet meme (often referred to as the "sad frog meme" by people unfamiliar with the name of the character). The character first appeared in 2005 in the on-line cartoon *Boy's Club*. In that appearance, the character also first used its catchphrase, "feels good, man."

The Pepe the Frog character did not originally have racist or anti-Semitic connotations. Internet users appropriated the character and turned him into a meme, placing the frog in a variety of circumstances and saying many different things. Many variations of the meme became rather esoteric, resulting in the phenomenon of so-called "rare Pepes."

The majority of uses of Pepe the Frog have been, and continue to be, non-bigoted. However, it was inevitable that, as the meme proliferated in on-line venues such as 4chan, 8chan, and Reddit, which have many users who delight in creating racist memes and imagery, a subset of Pepe memes would come into existence that centered on racist, anti-Semitic or other bigoted themes.

In recent years, with the growth of the "alt right" segment of the white supremacist movement, a segment that draws some of its support from some of the above-mentioned Internet sites, the number of "alt right" Pepe memes has grown, a tendency exacerbated by the controversial and contentious 2016 presidential election. Though Pepe memes have many defenders, the use of racist and bigoted versions of Pepe memes seems to be increasing, not decreasing.

However, because so many Pepe the Frog memes are not bigoted in nature, it is important to examine use of the meme only in context. The mere fact of posting a Pepe meme does not mean that someone is racist or white supremacist. However, if the meme itself is racist or anti-Semitic in nature, or if it appears in a context containing bigoted or offensive language or symbols, then it may have been used for hateful purposes.

In the fall of 2016, the ADL teamed with Pepe creator Matt Furie to form a [#SavePepe campaign](#) to reclaim the symbol from those who use it with hateful intentions."

<https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/pepe-the-frog>

Junior District Middle School Winners

Congratulations to the Middle School students that qualified for Junior Districts.

Jonah Backstrom; Drum Set (Jazz)
Jackson Belanger; Snare Drum
Ava Beringer, Girls Soprano I
Kylie Cusack, Girls Alto
Luke Dumouchel, Snare Drum
Georgia Ferrigno, Girls Soprano I
Ruby Learmond-Criqui, Girls Soprano I
Molly Lodge, Girls Soprano I
Eleanor Posanka, Girls Alto
Elton Rines, Boys Tenor
Connor Thompson, Boys Bass
Aiden Venckus, Tuba
Daniel Voner, Trumpet

Scholastic Art Awards

The following students have been recognized in the Scholastic Art Awards for their art work. Masconomet Middle School won more awards than any other middle school in the Commonwealth. Congratulations to all the winners!

Sophia Ambrosina	Honorable Mention
Gabriella Darcy	Silver Key
Pearce Deal	Honorable Mention
Noah Demers	Honorable Mention
Lauren Foley	Honorable Mention
Julien Gonzalez-Palavicini	Honorable Mention
Amber Goudreau	Gold Key
Teagan Hill	Honorable Mention
Drew Howard	Honorable Mention
Evan Karcher	Silver Key
Faye McCarron	Honorable Mention
Else Mersha	Silver Key
Shaylee Moreno	Honorable Mention; Gold Key
Brooklyn Odoardi	Silver Key
Jaclyn Ryan	Honorable Mention
Brooke Saumsiegle	Honorable Mention
Sofia Solheim	Honorable Mention
Courtney Sullivan	Honorable Mention
Tracy Weener	Honorable Mention

Philadelphia/Washington DC Trip

The November 2019 Grade 8 Philadelphia/Washington, DC trip is filling up fast! **February 15** is the deadline to secure your 7th grade child a spot for the 2019 trip! (Note: Students may continue to sign up after this date but only if there is room on the trip.) Registration material are posted on the MS website. Contact Mrs. Calzini with any questions or concerns at rcalzini@masconomet.org.

Masco Millions:

Masco Million Results: **All Team weekly** results **942** and the **Grand total: 605,124** pages. Remember, the page total reflects that we need 394,876 more pages to reach 1,000,000 pages, but we are trying to beat the year-end total from June 2017. Congratulations on the page totals read. Please continue to encourage your child to enter pages read from their textbooks, short stories, or any other reading they do as a class. These figures represent the numbers logged in by 3:00 PM Thursday, February 7, 2019.

Team	Week Total	Total
7 Blue	0	79,634
7 Red	170	101,457
7 White	596	124,566
8 Blue	0	80,787
8 Red	176	117,051
8 White	0	101,629

Upcoming Dates of Importance

February 18 – 22, 2019	Winter Vacation, HW Free Vacation
March 4, 2019	Delayed Opening, 10:05 a.m.
March 14, 2019	Trimester 2 Ends
April 1, 2019	Delayed Opening, 10:05 a.m.



HORIZONS
Youth Programs @
Masco Middle School
Register HERE



Tri-Town Council is excited to introduce after-school enrichment programs for Masco Middle School youth!

BUDDAFUL SOULS @ Masco

GRADES: 7 & 8

Fee: \$100

MONDAYS: March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 3:00pm—4:00 pm 6 week program

Join **Elissa Shoreman**, owner of [Buddhaful Souls Yoga Studio](#) to breathe in the possibilities with the practice of Yoga and Mindfulness! This class is designed to build outer strength, inner strength, self-confidence, and compassion. Participants will gain kinesthetic awareness, flexibility as well as learn to control breath in order to calm and focus. We will use this ancient practice to help us recognize, process, and manage the body's response to stress, anxiety and "big" emotions. At the end of class, participants will leave feeling refreshed, relaxed, and a little more comfortable in their own skin! **Min 6/ Max 16**



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS & SELF – DEFENSE

GRADES: 7 & 8

Fee: \$115

MONDAYS: March 4, 11, 18, 25 April 1, 8 3:00pm—4:00 pm 6 week program

Practice defending yourself and avoiding potential danger from strangers. Learn effective techniques that will help you manage uncomfortable situations. Participants will do an assortment of drills and games to help them feel comfortable using their voice, develop environmental awareness, read and use body language, break free from a grab and maximize their physical strength and power if needed against an attacker. **Taught by Deborah Goldsmith of Goldsmith's Martial Arts and Fitness. Min 6/Max 16**



For more information or questions about these programs,
please contact dseymour@tritowncouncil.org or call 978-887-6512.

Register HERE

Middle School Horizons classes are carefully chosen to offer quality instruction, recreational and social opportunities which strengthen connections and learning for youth!



STAND STRONG!

A PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS (gr 7 & 8)

Join Julie Benson & Courtney Bush for a 2-part program focused on building a healthy relationship with yourself, friends, family, and your community.

**Confidence, Communication, Relationships &
Having the Courage to be Yourself!**

Saturday March 23 and 30 from 10:00am—1:30pm (lunch included!)

at 7 Grove Street, Topsfield

Registration Required HERE

(commitment to attend both sessions required)

Through discussion, role play, and fun activities you'll consider:

- ♦ Is the media effecting how I determine my value?
- ♦ What does it mean to be a good friend?
- ♦ How can I be myself while still being part of a group?
- ♦ What impact is social media having on my friendships, my school work, and my relationships with my family?



TOGETHER, we will discover new strategies to take care of yourself, build confidence, improve relationships and make connections that are positive, supportive and empowering!

Let's do Some Big Thinking Together!

Pre-registration is required. Register HERE or call (978) 887-6512

Scholarships are available to defray cost, please contact Dawn or Lisa at TTC.

Space is limited, please register ASAP—Attending both sessions is expected to get the full benefit.

Julie Benson holds dual Masters degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Guidance Counseling & Courtney Bush, Ed.S, NCSP, holds an Ed.S. degree in school psychology