



Calendar of Events

February

- 3 Report Cards Issued
- 7 8th Grade Dance Mtg. (Library) 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Sabre City 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Board of Education Mtg. (LGI) 7:00 p.m.
- 15 5th Grade Choral Musical (HS) 7:00 p.m.
- 20-24 Winter Recess No School
- 27 Board of Education Mtg. (MS LGI) 7:00 p.m.

March

- 1 Talent Show (High School) 7:00 p.m.
- 8 MS/HS Instrumental Concert (HS) 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Interim Reports Issued
- 9 Sabre City 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 12 Board of Education Mtg. (Jefferson) 7:00 p.m.
- 14 MS/HS Choral Concert (HS) 7:00 p.m.
- 20 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 21 8th Grade Orientation (HS) 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Staff Development Day No School
- 26 Board of Education Mtg. (MS LGI) 7:00 p.m.
- 28 6th Grade Orientation (MS Caf ) 6:30 p.m.

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents of 8th Graders,

As we move into the second half of the school year, we begin the transition process of our 8th graders to high school. This is a very exciting and special time for our students.

During the month of February, the middle school counselors will begin the process of meeting with each 8th grader. A four year plan for high school will be developed and sent home for your approval. This plan can be modified upon request. The high school guidance department will conduct orientations for 8th graders and their parents in the spring and in the summer during the week prior to the beginning of school. Parents and students will be informed of the dates, times, and location of the two orientations in the spring.

For many years, the 8th graders have celebrated the conclusion of their middle school years with a Class Night. This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd. The 8th Grade Class Night is composed of a Moving-Up Ceremony beginning at 6:00 P.M. followed by the 8th Grade Dance. In recent years, the 8th Grade Dance has been planned and chaperoned by the parents of 8th grade students. Any 8th grade parent who is interested in volunteering to help with the 8th grade is invited to a meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 in the middle school library. We need many volunteers to make this dance successful.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Michael Kondratowicz, Principal

Inside this issue:

Library News	2
Spelling Bee	3
PTO News	3

Insert: Middle School Years

LIBRARY NEWS

Upcoming Library Events:



Literacy Night, Thursday, March 29th in the evening
 Book Fair, crafts, games, prizes, refreshments, and all-around fun!
 Book Fair—Thursday, March 29th through Tuesday, April 3rd
 VOLUNTEERS needed for both events. Please contact Linda Fasano at
 lfasano@sabrenet.net or call 355-6255, ext. 2074.

Does your child have a public library card yet? The Schenectady Public Library is a great place to start (or Guilderland Public Library if you are in Albany County). If you prefer not to go to downtown Schenectady to the main library, the Rotterdam Library is just up the road at 1100 N Westcott Road.

Some great new reads for cold nights:

Titanic trilogy by Gordon Korman - Four of the most unlikely teenagers become friends aboard the Titanic... Paddy, a stowaway, Sophie and Juliana, wealthy girls from vastly different backgrounds, and Alfie, the young steward in training. And as much as we know how history unfolds regarding the Titanic, there are worse problems for these teens, including a brush with a notorious serial killer.

Gone by Michael Grant - Turning 15 is usually not a big deal, unless of course you actually disappear—cease to exist—into thin air. What happened to the adults and older teens? These children are left alone to deal with the new world in which they are trapped, apparently by a wall of unearthly materials holding them in so they cannot escape. And the dangers lie within, amongst those they thought they could trust...

The Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan - It's bad enough being a teenager, but being the son of a god? Now that's tough. Join Percy in his second adventure in the Heroes of Olympus series.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo - Joe, a farm horse who is sold to the Army in 1914, sees the horrors of battle but bravely carries out his duties as a war horse. He longs for his family and farm back home where life was a lot easier.

And some oldies but goodies:

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle - Meg Murry is very unsure of herself. And even more so since her father has disappeared while conducting an experiment that involved instantaneous space and time travel. The strange ladies who live next door reveal to Meg, Charles Wallace, her younger brother, and her friend Calvin that they know where their father is and how to get to him. But they must be courageous because they too must travel through time and space to save him from the dark planet.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech—Sal misses her mother so much and joins her grandparents on a trip to see her mother. In the meantime, her friend, Phoebe's mother, keeps receiving these mysterious notes that Phoebe is convinced is from a psycho-killer.

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (author of Hunger Games) - As Gregor's watching his little sister in the laundry room of their apartment building, she falls through a heat grate. In an attempt to save her, he ends up falling down... down... down, until they fall far below the earth's surface. And much to Gregor's surprise, there's a whole civilization living under the earth's surface, and they've been waiting for Gregor to come.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth Speare—Kit comes to the new world after her fun-loving grandfather dies in Barbados. Kit has only known a life of freedom and joy, until she finds herself living with Puritan relatives who not only disapprove of her lifestyle, but believe that she may be a witch. As history has shown us, those suspected of witchcraft were treated horribly, if not condemned to death...

Schalmont Middle School
 2 Sabre Drive
 Schenectady, NY 12306
 Office: (518) 355-6255
 Fax: (518) 355-5329

Michael Kondratowicz, Principal, ext. 2003
 Matthew Morgan, Associate Principal, ext. 2064
 Guidance, ext. 2001



SPELLING BUZZ!

8th grader Zackary Townsend emerged as the champion of the Schalmont Middle School Spelling Bee over runner-up Brian Thompson (6th grade). This was Zack's third year participating in the school bee. His championship word was luxurious.

The school bee was held on January 5th. Forty-four students from 5th through 8th grade participated in the bee this year. All the participants are to be congratulated, not only for their academic achievement in qualifying for the bee, but also for their commitment to participate. For many contestants, getting up in front of a large group can be more of a challenge than the spelling!

Zackary will represent Schalmont at the Capital Region Spelling Bee at Proctor's Theatre on February 7th at 5:00 p.m. The finalist from the regional bee will go on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. later this spring. Good luck Zack!

Mrs. Sinnott, SMS Bee Coordinator

PTO NEWS

► Thank you to Debbie Carlson for organizing the 99 Restaurant fundraiser and all that dined out to support the PTO.

► Thank you to Jodi Decker for organizing the Thanksgiving pie sale fundraiser, Emilie Decker and Eve Black for assisting and to all who purchased a pie.

► Thank you to all who volunteered at the PTO's gift wrapping fundraiser. It could not have been possible without your donated time.

A chairperson is still needed for the spring T-shirt sale. Please contact Amanda Aucompaugh at 887-5545 if you are interested.

Our next PTO meeting will be held in the middle school library Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

SMS PTO