

EMS PTO Meeting 2/7/17

- Congratulations to Kristen Cumming on the birth of her son, Bentley in December!
- Congratulations to Mrs. Rodas who was named Faculty Member of the Month!

Principal's Report

- The Winter Newsletter went out and was posted to the EMS website on 2/7/17. There is an overview of all the things going on. Parents are encouraged to take a look!
- We are in our 2nd year of the current schedule at EMS (A-B days). There has been great feedback from students and staff and even from other districts. 4 people from a middle school in Paramus were here to check out the way we do things. Other schools are coming to use us as an example. There is much more time in every class...electives and core classes. The staff is working hard and quite proud of what they have accomplished with the current schedule. We have Math and ELA electives, etc. We are setting the Bar!
- For those parents who were surprised about the lack of a Honeywell Alert on Tuesday, 2/7: There was an emergency plumbing issue that occurred late in the day. The heat had to be turned off in order for the pipes to be worked on and we needed the building empty for safety. It would have been after 3pm by the time a Honeywell would have been able to go out and by then the students were already home, so the easiest way was to inform the students that there were no after school activities. Apologies for this but it was the best that could be done in the situation. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to use a Genesis blast anymore to communicate.

Winter Wonderland Fun Night and Dance

- Last Thursday, 8th grader Isabella Reilly and her mother, as well as a representative from the Valerie Center, spoke to the entire school about the "Treasure Chest" at Morristown Memorial Hospital. The students and teachers were very attentive as they explained how a small toy or prize from the treasure chest can really lift the spirits of a young patient who has just had a procedure done. Most patients, through the years, forget the pain and trouble of their procedures but remember the special toys they got from the Treasure Chest. Isabella knows first hand what that is like as she is a cancer survivor.
- The purpose of this dance is to raise awareness to our students about childhood cancer and to "Make a kid's really bad day a lot better"!
- The Character Education Committee, with Mrs. Rodas and Mrs. Roddy, as well as the PTO will be holding a Winter Wonderland Fun Night and Dance on Friday, February 24 to benefit the Valerie Center Treasure Chest at Morristown Hospital. This fun night will be similar to our past events but all proceeds will be benefiting kids with cancer.

- Admission is either \$5 OR a donation to the treasure chest. There will be raffles, a DJ, face-painting, basketball, Just Dance, snacks & drinks. Tickets will be sold during lunch periods on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 23 & 24th. Students should bring either the \$5 for donation or a gift, toy, game, etc. for the Treasure Chest to get their ticket during the lunch periods. This will help us estimate how many students will attend and get enough snacks to support the crowd. Of course, a student can always just show up with their \$5 or gift the night of the dance...we will NEVER turn anyone away!
- Here is what the Valerie Center Treasure Chest is most interested in receiving:
 - Small toys under \$10 (no stuffed animals). Favorites are Slinky's, Silly Putty, Barbies, Action figures (Batman, Spider-man, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Minecraft, etc.), Shopkins, My Little Pony, Strawberry Shortcake, Mash'ems/Fash'ems, Twozies, Grossery Gang, Trashies, Little People, Hot Wheels, play tools, play food/kitchen items, bracelets, nail polish, bubbles, balls (not tiny bouncy balls or big soccer balls, but like the character balls at the toy store), Imaginext, card games, Legos, art kits, Play Doh.
 - Older children prefer gift cards from the Treasure Chest. They like \$10 cards for Starbucks, Amazon, Chipotle, Target, Dairy Queen, Dunkin Donuts, iTunes, Barnes & Noble, Modells, Five Below, Michaels.
 - Families also appreciate gift cards for local restaurants when the child is spending an entire day or overnight.
- Any of these things will be greatly appreciated and the Character Ed committee will take care of getting all donations to the Center.
- Community sponsors are welcome to be a part of this too.
- We do need parent volunteers to make this event successful! If you can help, please contact Eileen DeFuria at eileen.defuria@gmail.com

8th Grade Step Up Dance

- We have a Co-chair for the step up dance, but WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! Please, please, 7th grade parents...we cannot do this without you! The more help we have, the easier it will be! And next year, when your kids are 8th graders, you won't have to do anything!!!!
- Reach out to any of the Board members if you can help!

Carolyn Perry carolynperry1@juno.com
 Christine O'Connor coconn@optonline.net
 Michelle Danielson mhdaniels@att.net
 Michelle Stein mldulys@earthlink.net

Box Tops

* Keep sending in those box tops! The next submission will be made by March 1!