Dear Smith Families,

I enjoy coming to school each day because the growth of our scholars is an amazing thing to observe. The frustrating thing about growth is that it's not easily seen daily or even weekly. It happens a little bit at a time every day, but the thousand little positive efforts that our learners and teachers have made over the course of the year so far have made this a great year. Today is the day...Be the difference! February was started with a lot of fun with our school talent show, mid-year parties, and school spelling bee--congratulations to Emma Kline and Raif Groves for qualifying for the county level of the competition! Thank you Mrs. Lee for organizing this wonderful event at Smith! A couple weeks ago was our annual student vs. faculty basketball game. I must say that this was one of the most challenging games I have ever played, but you know what? We still won! With interims being sent out at the beginning of this month as well, please be sure to check up on the homework hotlines and PowerSchool regularly to ensure you are up to date on all of your scholar's information and responsibilities.

The third marking period actually comes to an end during the first week of April as well, which means that the state PSSA tests are upon us! The first week of testing will be the week of April 9th. The most important thing that we can ask of learners for the rest of the year is to be in school as much as possible. Attendance is so extremely important for a child’s success, and remember that scholars need to be in school 90% of the year in order to qualify for the Hershey Park incentive trip at the end of the year as well. Lastly, I want to mention that with our political climate, there are many different concerns regarding safety. We have continued to implement our safety drills and procedures and plan to have another later this month. As always, if you have any concerns about your child’s well-being, in any capacity, please let us know so we can offer assistance. If learners’ social and emotional needs are not being met first, it's difficult for them to focus on academics. We want to create an environment where children thrive, and we come to school every morning just for that purpose. Speaking of great looking environments, if you have not had a chance to see our lobby, make sure you do. We are planning for Spring sooner than later at Smith! I have twin boys that started Kindergarten this past fall, and I know how badly I want for them to learn in an environment that protects them, challenges them, and leads them to be great people. That desire motivates us to do what we can to help your children every day as well. Thank you for allowing us to get better with your scholars every day!

-Dave Beard, Assistant Principal

G.A. Smith Middle School Enrollement Report
6th Grade = 143 7th Grade = 156
8th Grade = 130 Total = 429

Scholar Recognitions

February’s Scholar of the Month
Kara Armstrong
Chosen by the 8th Grade Team

Principal’s Breakfast Club for January
Recognized in February

Front left to right: Kara Herr, Cassie Howell, Kyrsten Byers, Holly Grube, Adam Wyatt, Brooke Trager
Back left to right: Isabella Myer, Alyssa Schlaghauber, Doug Simpson, Jada Dow
PTO Update:
The next PTO Meeting will be March 21 at 7:00.

Counselor’s Corner
A topic that I have been talking about a lot with students is SLEEP. How much sleep is enough? How do we establish good sleep habits? Why is sleep so important?

During the weeks of February 28th through March 2nd, the students at Smith will have the opportunity to participate in a sleep challenge to focus on how sleep affects their focus, their productivity, and their overall moods. Students will get to log their sleep and observations over a week’s time, and they will have a chance to earn prizes for participation.

Some tips for encouraging better sleep habits:
1. Teenagers should aim to get around 9 hours of sleep. On average, most teenagers are only getting around 7 hours of sleep per night.
2. The bedroom should be a place designated for sleep and relaxation.
3. Screen time (tv, video games, cell phones, computers) should end about an hour before going to sleep.
4. Limit or eliminate sugar and caffeine throughout the day, especially later in the day.
5. Get exercise throughout the day.

Upcoming Events from the Guidance Department:
2/28-3/2: Sleep Challenge
3/15: 8th Grade Construction Trades Trip
3/27: 8th Grade Healthcare Expo Trip
4/6: 8th Grade Brownstown CTC Trip
4/10: PSSAs Begin

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached by email: Lindsay_capoferri@solancosd.org, or by phone: (717) 786-2244.

“When you know better, you do better.”
-Maya Angelou

Language Arts – In Language Arts scholars will begin working on their narrative writings. Students will develop their own fictional story by using all of the components of fictional narratives that we have learned and discussed throughout the previous unit.

LEAD – LEAD scholars will continue working on their communication skills through working on TDA’s. They will also work on using mnemonics and improving their memory.

Math – In math, scholars will be calculating the volume of various three-dimensional shapes. We will also begin looking at different forms of data collection and analysis.

Science – Scholars will begin looking at the structure and function of cells and organisms. Scholars will use their knowledge to create fully functioning organisms.

Social Studies – Oracle you ready for the Ancient Greek civilization? Athens our scholars surmount the Great Wall of China, we will meet the Great Alexander of Macedonia, race the first Marathon, Spar-ta with the 300, and Troy around with Helen just as Zeus as we can.

Left to right: Mr. Himmelberger, Mr. Pontius, Mrs. Long, Miss Yeich, Miss. Pruskowski, Mr. McDowell, and Mrs. Lee
7th Grade Team News

**Math/Math Extensions:** During the month of March, 7th grade math students will complete a unit on statistics including frequency graphs, central tendency and predictions.

**LEAD:** Students will continue to brush up on during/after reading strategies as they prepare for the upcoming PSSA testing. Students will continue to maintain organized binders and effective use of the agenda book.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn how the Puritan experience has deeply influenced the America that they live in today. The early colonies would be as diverse as the folks who lived in them.

**Language Arts:** Students will continue to work on their non-fiction exploration through literary non-fiction with works written by Roald Dahl. Eventually we are segueing into a personal narrative writing unit stemming from information garnered throughout the non-fiction unit.

8th Grade Team News

**Language Arts:** Students will read and analyze the realistic fiction novel *Across Five Aprils*, set during the Civil War.

**LEAD III:** We will continue exploring reading strategies and begin preparing for the PSSA tests.

**Algebra:** Algebra I students will solve algebraic ideas based on exponents and powers and then solve algebraic ideas based on exponents and radicals. Intro to Algebra students will finish a chapter based on solving systems of equations and then solve polynomials in Algebra. Both classes began preparation for PSSA testing in April!

**Integrated Geography:** Students will begin analyzing the countries of North America. A major focus of this unit will be the 50 USA State/Capitals and a US State project.

**Science:** In March in Science the students will be finishing the ‘Atmosphere’ unit and will begin learning about Genetics and Cellular Reproduction.

**Science:** Students will begin their Units on Cell Processes. This will cover such topics as diffusion, osmosis, and cell metabolism.
**MUSIC** – Students in 8th Grade Music will complete their study of the Baroque Composers and begin the Classical Time Period. Students in 7th Grade Music will begin their study of the Romantic Time Period. Students in Grade 6 Music will be reviewing the parts of the music staff and begin their study of American Composers.

**HEALTH** – Students in 7th Grade will be wrapping up their Substance Abuse unit. From there, we will begin our Human Growth and Development Unit. This unit will cover the changes students will go through as they mature into the Adolescent Stage of their lives. We will also cover Pregnancy and Childbirth through this unit.

**FITNESS** – Students will be concluding Volleyball and begin with our Recreational and Lifetime Games Unit. In this unit, students in all grades will be learning how to play games such as Ping Pong, Shuffleboard, Badminton, Ladder Ball, and other backyard games. The weight room will also be utilized during this unit.

**COMPUTER TECH** – The 8th graders will be adding formulas to Excel spreadsheets. The 6th and 7th graders will be starting presentation software.

**ART** – 6th grade is learning the skills used to draw from life. 7th grade will be beginning a self-portrait in pencil using a photograph and a grid. 8th grade will be beginning still life paintings using a full range of values and different painting techniques.

**FACS** – On hiatus until the 4th marking period when Mrs. Almoney returns from Swift!

**STEM** – In March, 8th grade will present their research projects to the class. Then we will explore genetic engineering and medicines and the body. 7th grade will research clean energy and will complete a project. 6th grade will focus on architecture and will apply their knowledge to create a chair out of newspaper and tape.

**TECH ED** – 6th Grade is beginning work on the Mousetrap Cars, which will be “raced” for distance at the end of the unit. 7th Grade is learning about Manufacturing by building a Digital Media Center woodworking project. 8th Grade is learning about Electronics by building experimental circuits, examining the results, and forming conclusions about the function of basic Electronics components.

**MEDIA CENTER** – All grades will continue their book exchanges to provide students with leisure reading materials. Students may check out two library books at a time. However, if a student has any materials overdue, he/she will not be able to check out new materials, until all books are returned. Students were recently notified of any materials which are long overdue and the cost to replace the materials, if necessary.

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### SAVE THE DATE:

**2nd Annual Lock-in for Leukemia/Lymphoma**

**Start:** Friday, April 6th at 9:30pm

**End:** Saturday, April 7th at 7:30 am

More information to come!

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**Upcoming Dates:**

- March 5th – Interims will be sent home
- March 13th – NJHS Induction
- March 14th – UA Recognition Night
- March 20th – Movie Night Smith/QE