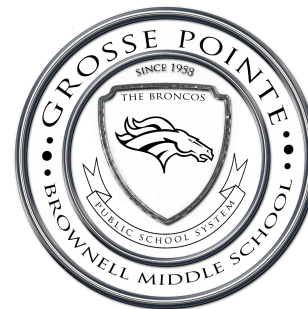


# BROWNELL REPORTER



## A NEWSLETTER FROM SAMUEL MILLER BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

<http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/gpbrownell>

313-432-3900

Volume 52

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Issue 4

Mr. Rodger W. Hunwick, Principal

Mrs. Holli McNally, Assistant Principal

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

#### Happy Holidays: A Time to Reflect and Give Thanks

The Holiday Season is a time to be thankful and reflective of the wonderful friends, family, and community we have in our lives. Here at Brownell we honor the opportunity each day to work with the happy, respectful, and dedicated student body. Our student success is attributed not only to hard work in the classroom it's also the result of active, supportive, and communicative parents, as well as, strong PTO involvement. The learning culture here is second to none and this is due to the professional, caring, and enthusiastic teachers and support staff. Together we celebrate the continued commitment to collectively inspire engaged learning for each and every student on a daily basis here at Brownell Middle School.

#### Working with Students to Problem Solve: It's a Team Effort

At times we all accidentally leave items at home. This is a situation that knows no age limitation -- it happens to all of us. Learning to problem solve, cope, and/or manage through the day after having left something behind is important for adolescents to learn. In the first card marking there were over 375 (almost a dozen per day) instances of items left at home such as lunches, homework, folders, planners, instruments, etc. that were brought to school and dropped off in the main office. Please

help us to help all adolescent learners to problem solve these situations.

Conduct conversations with your child(ren) on how to handle situation/s when something is left at home. For example, establish a backup plan for a left-at-home-lunch. Use the MiStar Parent Portal payment center to place emergency funds for your child(ren) in case a lunch is left at home. Regardless, no student will ever go without a lunch at Brownell -- we will ensure each student has a meal.

Additionally, when a school item is dropped-off in the main office for pick-up, the student name is written on the notice board (located outside the main office door). Students will then come to the main office to obtain their "item(s)." Once again, we refrain from calling classrooms unless it's an emergency in an effort to not disrupt the learning process.

Let's all respect the sanctity of the learning environment in each and every classroom.

#### Communication Updates and Notifications on Social Media: Follow and Like Us

Brownell is using an assortment of methods to better communicate and promote the goings on here at school. To keep up with important upcoming meetings and events follow our official [Facebook](#) page

(<https://www.facebook.com/BrownellMiddleSchool/>) or [Twitter](#) account (<https://twitter.com/BrownellGPPSS>) and ensure your email address is up-to-date to receive our monthly *Brownell Reporter* (electronic newsletter) and the mid-month parent group email titled the *Bronco Bulletin*.

If your email address has changed, then please update it in the MISTAR ParentPortal. If you forgot your PIN and password or you do not have an email address registered with the district, you can email [parentconnect@gpschools.org](mailto:parentconnect@gpschools.org). Please provide your name, child's name, school name, and your email address.

**GPPSS Diversity Calendars produced with Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors: On Sale Now**  
100% of the proceeds from the *What Diversity Looks Like 2018 Calendar* will go to the GPPSS Diversity program. All artwork was created by GPPSS students. Calendars are \$10 each and only 500 copies will be printed. Reserve yours today with your credit card using this [secure order form](#) on the district website. Orders must be in by December 8, 2017.

### **Grosse Pointe Parents for Unity in Diversity Council**

All parents and community members in the Grosse Pointe Public School District are welcome to participate in the meetings led by the Diversity Council. Quarterly meetings are part of this learning community's outreach program that works together with our school community to help ensure all of our students experience success. The group is led by Ms. Ginni Winters, a consultant from Wayne County RESA. All meetings are held at predetermined Grosse Pointe Public School locations at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is January 18 at Maire Elementary. Future meeting dates for

the 2017-18 school year are March 22, 2018; April 26, 2018; and May 24, 2018.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please call my direct line at (313) 432-3904 or email me at [hunwicr@gpschools.org](mailto:hunwicr@gpschools.org).

Sincerely,



Rodger W. Hunwick

### **FROM THE DESK OF MRS. MCNALLY**

#### **PBIS: Positive Results**

Now that the first card marking is completed, the final data on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) has been compiled. Between September 5th and November 3rd, 95% of the Brownell Middle School student body maintained less than 8 signatures in their PBIS planner. This proves that, the majority of the time, our students are consistently prepared for class, have their assignments completed, are on-task and engaged in the classroom, arrive to class on time, and are respectful with their electronic devices.

On Friday, November 17th, Student Council (Student Life) hosted a celebration for all students who earned less than 6 signatures during the first quarter. Students had the opportunity to win over 35 prizes (thanks to Student Life and our Lifeskills Department), play games, chat with friends, and play basketball. Students thoroughly enjoyed the recognition and were certainly deserving! Thank you for your continued monitoring of the PBIS pages in the student planner and encouragement to meet the Brownell expectations.

Bronco PBIS data		
Students with 0 signatures	Students with 1-4 signatures	Students with 5+ signatures
40%	55%	5%
<p><b>Our Student Life representatives have opened up our Rewards Room and students are able to pick from many different rewards for earning 20 stamps:</b>  <b><i>The Stable</i> coupon, private lunch room w/friends, private gym time w/friends, Hungry Howie's coupon, minute-2-win-it contestant, WBBC interview, play a song during passing time, front-of-the lunch line pass, front-of-<i>The Stable</i> line pass, breadsticks, raffles, gift cards, miscellaneous items.</b></p>		

### **Eighth to Ninth Grade Transition**

The registration process for eighth graders moving on to high school will start by meeting with counselors in January. At that time, counselors will review with students the High School Program of Studies and course requirements. Materials will be sent home that will include all deadlines for the submission of scheduling information.

### **Preparedness & Organization**

Preparedness and organization continue to be one of the biggest contributors to PBIS signatures-particularly with being prepared for class and completing homework. Now is a great time to evaluate current organization methods and take the time to find out what works best for your child. In an organization information session, presented by Dr. Niforos and Mrs. Fachini-Kurily, students shared their own success tips for organization:

- Reduce the number of Trapper Keepers/binders if possible
- Color code folders, binders, and notebooks
- Have one homework folder for all classes
- Stock extra supplies in your locker

No one strategy is good for all students. However, if you notice there is an issue with organization, please give some of these student-tested tips a try.

In addition, we have a growing population of students who are not prepared for school by forgetting their homework, lunches, instruments, athletic gear, and other items. We strongly encourage students to be proactive and prepare as

much as they can the night before-as we all know mornings can be hectic.

### **COUNSELORS' CORNER**

We will be teaching career exploration lessons to the 8th graders this month through the new program, Naviance. Naviance is a college and career readiness program that helps students explore their strengths and interests. The 8th graders will be taking a Strengths Explorer Assessment which will help guide them into thinking about their high school course selections. The Naviance program will continue throughout high school.

Students will be participating in the Naviance Career Program during math class on the following days:

Tuesday, Dec. 5th - Mrs. Miller's classes

Thursday, Dec. 7th - Ms. Bubeck's 8th grade classes

Next month, the high school registration process will begin. Please save the following dates:

- Thursday, January 11, 5th hour, HS Presentation to all 8th graders in the Multi-Purpose Room
- Friday, January 12, 8:30 am, HS Presentation for 8th grade parents in the Multi-Purpose Room

If you have any questions about Naviance or the high school registration process, please feel free to contact us.

Marie Fachini-Kurily (A-F) Angie Niforos (G- Z)  
(313) 432-3914 (313) 432-3915

## KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

### December

- 4 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball @ Kennedy Middle School, 4:00/5:00 pm
- 7 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball @ Pierce Middle School, 4:00/5:00 pm
- 8 Jazz Band Concert @ Grosse Pointe South, 7:00 pm
- 11 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball vs. South Lake @ Brownell, 4:30 pm
- 13 Deadline to submit articles for the January *Brownell Reporter*
- 14 Art 2D/3D class field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- 14 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball @ Parcels, 4:00/5:00 pm
- 15 Grade 8 Vocal Music field trip to Detroit Opera House, 9:30 am-3:18 pm
- 18 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball @ Jefferson Middle School, 4:00/5:00 pm
- 19 Band-o-Rama @ Grosse Pointe South Main Gym, 7:00 pm  
All Brownell band students should attend
- 20 String Extravaganza @ Grosse Pointe South Main Gym, 7:00 pm  
All Brownell string students should attend
- 21 Grade 7 Vocal Music singing tour to Grosse Pointe elementary schools, 9:30 am-3:10 pm
- 21 Grades 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball vs. Kennedy Middle School @ Brownell, 4:00 pm
- 22 Winter Vacation begins at the end of the day

December 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### January

- 3 School reopens after Winter Vacation, 8:20 am

## SIXTH GRADE

### Narrative and Honors Narrative ELA

#### Mrs. Garland and Mrs. Lovelace

Thank you to the many parent volunteers who transported students to and from Meadow Brook Theatre and then out to lunch to complete the experience! This was a rich opportunity for students to compare the novel and the live play of A Christmas Carol.

In addition to essay writing, classes will be practicing strategies which add interest, humor, and style to writing. Smiley Face Tricks include The Magic Three, Specific Details for Effect, Purposeful Repetition, and more. Classes will also be reading, judging, and writing stories that follow the format of the district writing assessment. Students will also be using their letter-writing skills for the annual Letters About Literature writing contest that involves writing about an influential book from their literary experiences.

### Informational ELA

#### Mrs. Garland, Mrs. Kifer, Mrs. Lovelace, and Mrs. Shellnut

The focus for second quarter is comparing and contrasting. Classes focus on two organizational patterns: block and point-by-point. Students will be comparing various texts and comparing topics of their choice in a variety of ways such as essay, infographic, Venn Diagram, t-charts, etc.

### Honors Informational ELA

#### Mrs. Garland and Mrs. Lovelace

The genre for second quarter is comparing and contrasting with a focus on presentation style such as graphics, sentence fluency, word choice, detail, and creativity. Classes focus on two organizational patterns: block and point-by-point. Students will be comparing various texts and comparing topics of their choice in a variety of ways such as essay, infographic, Venn Diagram, t-charts, etc.

### Reading Essentials

#### Mrs. Kifer

The class study of Narrative Nonfiction was a slam dunk! Students are celebrating their reading of Left

for Dead with a “Bloom Ball” book project. In addition to the Informational ELA study of compare and contrast, students are “mapping” a book using all structures of nonfiction text.

It was great to see so many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. We are grateful for your help and support.

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Berschback-Moyer**

**Grade level:** During the month of November, students learned a new language: the wonderful math language of algebra where “*numbers become letters and values are unknown.*” Students were taught how to translate phrases and real-world situations into algebraic expressions using middle and high school methods to make for an easier transition for future algebra classes. In addition, students made many real-world connections involving algebraic “like terms.” Please ask your son or daughter to sing our song “*plug it in, plug it in... whooo!*” This jingle helped us to evaluate expressions at specific values for their variables.

During the month of December, “*Pure Math*” classes will finish their investigations on expressions, applications of the distributive property to expressions, equivalent expressions, solutions of equations, solving equations & inequalities –whew!– all while intertwining decimal computation too!

I enjoyed meeting with many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences to share your child’s progress. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a Merry Holiday Season and go math!

**Honors:** During the month of November, students successfully mastered both decimal and fraction computation using both positive and negative numbers and applying GEMDAS for multi-step exercises. More importantly, students were able to solve real-world application problems using these skills. Great efforts were exerted during higher level thinking applications in number theory and inverse operations. Ask your child to share with you my favorite strategy called “*bloop bloop*”!

During the month of December, students will learn a new language: Algebra “*where numbers become letters and values are unknown.*” Students will write and solve single and multi-step algebraic equations plus solve and graph inequalities. In addition, the class will explore like terms, distributive property, and algebraic relationships.

I enjoyed meeting with many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences to share your child’s progress. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a Merry Holiday Season!

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Drew**

**Honors:** It was great to see so many parents last month at conferences. If you were unable to make it or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [drews@gpschools.org](mailto:drews@gpschools.org).

In December, the class will start with the introduction of important terms and vocabulary for solving equations and take a first look at solving equations using algebraic methods, emphasizing showing work and balancing equations. Students will continue the unit on *Algebraic Expressions and Equations* by focusing on simplifying algebraic expressions, and then solving two-step and multi-step equations. Students will apply their equation and problem skills by a culminating real world project to end the unit.

## **Math**

### **Miss Scott**

Students are currently studying decimal operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) and one-step algebraic equations involving decimals. Upon completion of this unit, classes will begin the study of fractions, ratios, rates, and proportions. All students should continue to maintain their math notebooks throughout second quarter.

## **Science**

### **Mr. Charuba**

Classes are starting the *Astronomy Unit*. Students had a solar system walk as a primer. They will be given their major moon phases assignment. Some of the labs in December will include charting the

moons of Jupiter, gravitational effects on other planets, and graphing the amount of sunlight around the earth. There will also be a major project for the students to use their creative and organizational skills. It should be an exciting assignment!

## **Science**

### **Mrs. Jordan**

During the month of November, classes started the *Hydrologic Unit*. During this unit, students learn about the different states of matter and properties of matter such as density. They completed several simulations and hands on activities to understand these concepts. Next, students explored the relationship between the sun, moon, and planet earth as it relates to seasons, tides, and eclipses.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mrs. Callaway Burke**

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at conferences! We really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules this time of year to meet with us.

October/early November were all about economics. Mid-November brought us to the study of geography and that theme continues into December and January. So far, classes have learned what geography is and why it matters. They have also learned to use some tools geographers use. Students will be studying the Five Themes of Geography, which is a system for organizing geographic information. They'll examine the earth's physical geography and its wide variety of physical features. Next, students will learn that there are two main branches of study: physical geography and human geography. Classes will also explore various climates throughout the world as well as environments and natural resources.

Once physical geography is wrapped up, students will learn about human geography including culture, population, government, and economy. More specifically, classes will discover what culture is; what social groups are; and take a look at language, religion, and economic and political systems, and what roles they play in various cultures and societies.

Once classes have completed the study of planet earth's geography and tools geographers use, they will begin to focus on specific regions of the Western Hemisphere beginning with our neighbor to the north, Canada! From the perspective of the Five Themes of Geography, students will take a look at the physical geography of the country and how it affects life there. They'll also learn about aspects of Canada's human geography, such as its history, culture, and government.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mr. Dettlinger**

Classes have continued to learn about numerous aspects of geography using the Five Themes of Geography as the framework. After discussing the impact landforms have upon our lives, students studied one of the greatest of them all; Mount Everest. Standing over twenty-nine thousand feet above sea level, it is both beautiful and treacherous. Then, classes researched weather and climate. Emphasis was placed upon how climate affects people and cultures. Finally, classes begin the study of various nations, beginning with the North American country of Canada. Canada is a vast and beautiful nation comprised of mountain ranges, lakes, and ocean shoreline. It is a nation that is often misunderstood by so many of us living in the United States. Students will gain a greater understanding of the history, cultures, economy, and people of Canada. It should be a fun unit.

Trivia Question: What is Canada's national sport?  
Hint: It's not hockey!



## **SEVENTH GRADE**

### **English**

#### **Mrs. Dempsey**

**Grade level:** Students are completing The Outsiders, taking tests, writing characterization papers, and then moving on to the *Myth Unit* of study. Myths will begin in January, and usually end in a culminating celebration in February. Staff will be working as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade team to coordinate dates and send out requests for assistance. Please remind your child to read over the Winter Vacation - as their independent book report will be due before the end of the marking period.



**Honors:** Students are completing their study of Poe with Literature Circles, a test, and a written parody of one of Poe's short stories. Myths will begin in January, and usually end in a culminating celebration in February. Staff will be working as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade team to coordinate dates and send out requests for assistance. They read an introduction to the myths and then focus on The Adventures of Ulysses. Please remind your child to read over the Winter Vacation - as their independent book report will be due before the end of the marking period.

## **English**

### **Mrs. Duffield**

*"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The person who never reads lives only one."*

~ George R. R. Martin

Classes continue the close reading of The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by AVI. Students should make regular entries in their log located online. Essays related to the novel and a Socratic Seminar will keep us engaged in the unit and practicing important skills. Come mid-December, students will be the teacher as they launch Passion Project I. Guidelines and a rubric will be discussed in detail and posted on Google Classroom. The week of December 18<sup>th</sup>, classes will enjoy the seasonal novella, Twenty and Ten by Claire Huchet Bishop. Students write every day in class with the target being clear, organized, insightful, accurate, and joyful expression of ideas. VIP COWS (the seven traits of fine writing) is our guide. Students should read a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Oral book review (OBR) #3 is due on December 1<sup>st</sup> and OBR #4 is due on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Have a peaceful Holiday Season!

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Drew**

It was great to see so many parents last month at conferences. If you were unable to make it or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [drews@gpschools.org](mailto:drews@gpschools.org).

In December, the class will start with the introduction of important terms and vocabulary for solving equations and take a first look at solving equations using algebraic methods, emphasizing showing work and balancing equations. Students

will continue the unit on *Algebraic Expressions and Equations* by focusing on simplifying algebraic expressions, and then solving two-step and multi-step equations. Students will apply their equation and problem skills by a culminating real world project to end the unit.

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Fekin**

**Grade level:** December begins with a new unit on *Solving Equations*. Classes will begin with the basics of combining like terms and one step equations. By the end of the unit, students will master solving multi-step equations along with writing equations based on real life applications. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at [fekin@gpschools.org](mailto:fekin@gpschools.org) or voicemail at (313) 432-5602.

**Honors:** During the month of December, classes will be focusing on Functions and Slope. Students will spend time working with graphs, linear relationships, and linear equations. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at [fekin@gpschools.org](mailto:fekin@gpschools.org) or voicemail at (313) 432-5602.

## **Science**

### **Ms. Jordan**

During the month of November, classes continued the *Chemistry Unit* by learning about chemical and physical changes. Various labs were completed to explore this topic. Students began with a refresher on the various states and properties of matter. Classes will wrap up the month learning about atoms and The Periodic Table. The next unit will be *Cells*.

## **Science**

### **Mr. Sonnenberg**

**Grade level and Honors:** The first quarter is in the rearview mirror and students are well into the second marking period. Wow, has time flown!

Classes have completed the chemistry-focused concepts (how cool was the Personal Periodic Table Project?) culminating with chemical reactions, and have moved on to biological sciences: from

sub-atomic particles, atoms, molecules...to the much bigger (but still awfully small) cell, the building block of all living things. Students will use microscopes, unveiling the world unseen by the naked eye, focusing on the structure and function of the living cell. Students will use this new knowledge to analogize the cell to a real-life concept (e.g., a car, a supermarket, a restaurant, etc.). Please remember to look at your child's science binder or the Google Classroom stream at any time for a quick update – there's always a great deal to see!

If you would like to contact me, you may always do so via email at [sonnenm@gpschools.org](mailto:sonnenm@gpschools.org) or voicemail at (313) 432-5805. Remember that the Google Classroom stream shows many things, including weekly assignment plans, homework files, and a science binder "Table of Contents." Your son or daughter's Google Classroom page remains the #1 way to stay in the loop. So if you would like to receive Google Classroom "Guardian Email Summaries," please send me a request and I will add you to the account.

Finally, to be included in my *REMIND* app text updates send a text to 81010 with the message "@sonic99" OR please visit this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/sonic99>.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mrs. Corden**

It was great meeting with so many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you were unable to attend, but would like to meet before or after school to discuss your child, please email me to arrange a date and time.

Classes have completed the study of Russia's vast and varied landscape and history. Students learned what a totalitarian form of government is like by participating in a Communist/Command Economy Simulation, which they really enjoyed. Students are now taking an in-depth look at the Economic Principles and are seeking to build a solid understanding of the characteristics of different types of economic systems throughout the world. They have begun the study of Australia and New Zealand learning really interesting information about not only the countries themselves, but also

about the indigenous people of both countries. Students will view a film, The Rabbit Proof Fence which is a powerful, true story about the Aborigines of Australia.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Wishing all an enjoyable Holiday Season.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mr. Dettlinger**

Classes are deep into the study of the immense continent of Asia. They began by discussing the many physical characteristics of Asia and then branched off into the specific countries themselves. Much of our time will be spent discussing the similarities and differences between Asia and our own lifestyle here in the United States. Economics, population density, and technology will be large focus areas during this unit. If any parents have traveled to Asia for business or pleasure and would like to share experiences with your son or daughter's class, we would love to hear from you. Primary sources and first hand experience are always the best ways to help children understand different cultures and what makes them tick.

Clearly, much is happening in this region of the world that is having a huge impact upon American society. With that thought in mind, I have been encouraging students to try and focus their current affairs assignments on the Asian continent. Any help you may give them at home in this area would be appreciated. It is my hope that our children will begin to understand, at an early age, just how important events in this region are to the future of our own lives.

Thanks for your support and giving me such fantastic children to work with!

## **EIGHTH GRADE**

### **English**

#### **Mrs. Duffield**

*"Either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing."*

~Benjamin Franklin





Classes continue the close reading of Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson. Students should make regular entries in their log located online. Essays related to the novel and a Socratic Seminar will keep us engaged in the unit and practicing important skills. Come mid-December, students will be the teacher as we launch Passion Project I. Guidelines and a rubric will be discussed in detail and posted on Google Classroom. Students write every day in class with the target being clear, organized, insightful, accurate, and joyful expression of ideas. VIP COWS (the seven traits of fine writing) is our guide. Students should read a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Oral book review (OBR) #3 is due on December 1<sup>st</sup> and OBR #4 is due on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Have a peaceful Holiday Season!

## **Math**

### **Ms. Bubeck**

Thank you to all the parents and family members who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. This was a nice opportunity to meet and speak with you on an individual basis. The month of December is the time of year when teachers begin working on recommendations for high school math placement. This month also gives families the opportunity to consider giving the gift of a scientific calculator to their child if his/her calculator is lost or broken. It is an expectation that students will have them in class each day. Please ask your child if this is a need for him/her.

Completing and turning in homework when it is due is also an expectation. Please check Pinnacle to see if your child is following through on this. Creating good homework habits now is a life skill that will benefit students throughout their educational career.

During the month of December and January, classes will be involved in a thorough study of mathematical functions. They begin by exploring the coordinate plane, learning how to demonstrate relationships between data sets by creating tables and graphs (linear functions). Students will also examine these relationships in terms of rate of change and learn how to determine if there is a constant rate of change (direct variation) situation. Continuing the study of linear equations will involve knowing how to find the slope and x and y

intercepts of lines, both from the graphs and the equations themselves.

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Miller**

Thank you for coming to conferences! It was great to see so many parents face-to-face. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child at [millerj@gpschools.org](mailto:millerj@gpschools.org) or my voicemail (313) 432-5515.

**Grade level:** The class is wrapping up work with one of the most important units of the year – *Functions and Linear Functions*. Last month, students studied the definition of function, proportional relationships, rate of change/slope, and began studying linear functions. In December, students will learn how to graph, compare, and write linear functions.

**Honors Algebra I:** In November, classes started the study of Linear Functions with *Chapter 4: Graphing Linear Functions* and *Chapter 5: Writing Linear Equations*. In Chapter 4, students learned about slope, intercepts, and graphing using different methods. In Chapter 5, students looked at how to write linear equations in slope-intercept, point-slope, and standard form. This month, classes will also focus on *Chapter 6: Solving and Graphing Linear Inequalities*. This unit includes solving multi-step and compound inequalities, absolute value equations, and graphing inequalities in two variables.

## **Science**

### **Mrs. Brennan**

Students are studying Newton's Third Law of Motion and will continue with the unit, *Forces and Motion*. The students will complete labs and activities on momentum, kinetic and potential energy, the relationship between work and energy, and comparing work done in different situations. Please make sure to check science binders frequently and visit Mrs. Brennan's webpage to find a weekly assignments calendar and other class announcements. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

## Science

### Mrs. D'Angelo

During December, classes will continue the unit on reducing the impacts of natural hazards. The focus areas for December will be 1.) Why do natural hazards occur in some places and not in others? And 2.) How can we forecast which areas a natural hazard is most likely to affect? This time of year is very exciting and busy, with many demands on students' time, both at school and at home. Please share with us, as soon as possible, if your child is going to miss school so the content or homework that is missed might be provided early. It was a pleasure to meet and see everyone that could make it to Parent/Teacher Conferences. To learn about classroom activities with links to classroom handouts and homework, please go to the Brownell homepage (<https://mi01000971.schoolwires.net/gpbrownell>), click on "Staff Websites," next click on "D'Angelo, Maggie," click on the [blue link](#), which will take you to the daily classroom calendar. After locating the date, click on "Classroom Happenings," next click on "more details" it will open the calendar window allowing you to see the day's activity, ELO/homework assignment, and printable handouts. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at (313) 432-5319 or email me at [dangelm@gpschools.org](mailto:dangelm@gpschools.org). I'm available daily during 4th hour **Monday**: 12 to 12:45 & **Tuesday – Friday**: 11:30 to 12:15.

## Social Studies

### Mrs. Shellnut

**Grade level and Honors:** The next challenge, after fighting the Revolutionary War, will be to write the Constitution due to the failure of those weak Articles of Confederation. At the Constitutional Convention, students will be assigned delegates (of actual participants) to role play. They will learn about that person's background and ideas. When the convention is held, students have to argue their person's point of view. Some will sign the Constitution and others will refuse. This convention is held by candlelight (battery operated) for authenticity. Classes also continue to complete current events every other week. Thanks to all of the parents who have communicated information and concerns about their child through email or conferences. Your child's education is my priority.

Your support and partnership is appreciated! If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know: [shellns@gpschools.org](mailto:shellns@gpschools.org).

## Social Studies

### Mrs. Cooper

As students complete their studies of the American Revolution in December, the eighth grade classes will learn about the challenges facing the new nation, as leaders created the Constitution. This month, classes will analyze the plans and compromises that the delegates of the Constitutional Convention debated and will compare the Federalists and Antifederalists. Then, students will study the seven democratic principles of the Constitution, such as checks and balances and individual rights, while focusing on the Bill of Rights and Amendments. In addition, class activities will center on the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our country as we grow close to Winter Vacation. Thanks for attending conferences and continuing to help your child study and keep up with assignments. Enjoy the Holidays.

## ART

### Mrs. Rose



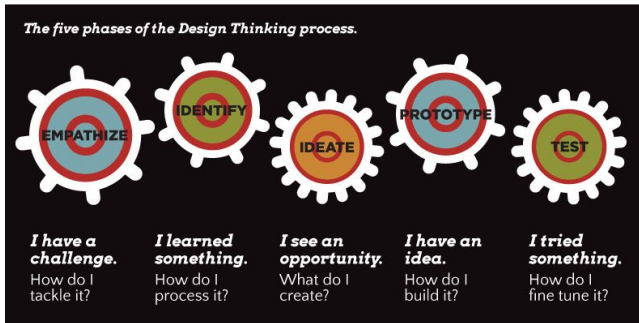
**Art 2D** students are just finishing their beautiful landscape paintings inspired by Impressionist and Post Impressionist painters. Students used the bottom of pencil erasers for pointillism and palette knives for impasto painting. Make room on the wall for these masterpieces when they make their way home. Next up: Printmaking!

**Art 2D/3D** students just finished their contour line studies and they turned out beautifully! We are now going to switch from line to form and introduce the artist Henry Moore and his abstract sculptures that rely on human form and nature for inspiration. Presently, students are creating Henry Moore-like sculptures in plaster.

**Art Club** will be meeting on back-to-back Mondays, December 11 and 18.

## COMPUTER EDUCATION

Mr. Whitefleet



**Digital Presentation and Design & Advanced Computer Skills** finished up with Photoshop by making an advertising campaign poster. The poster is based on a famous work of art and demonstrates what they learned about the elements of design. The next step is moving into the Design Thinking process and innovation (see image above). As a part of this unit they will ideating, rapid prototyping, and working on 3-D CAD modeling.

**Sixth Grade Computer Skills'** classes have been working on their research skills finding out about life in England during Dickens' lifetime, the end product being a presentation on Victorian England. During December, classes target the entrepreneurial spirit with a taste of design thinking, doughnuts, forms, and spreadsheets. Then, using online collaboration tools, they will be assessing people's online presence and the dangers of what is in your digital footprint.

**Programming** just finished up with Lego robotics, designing a bomb disposal bot and a Mars Rover! The Design Thinking process was used as part of the Battle Bot Competition. The student teams created the challenge, set the rules, and moderated the games. I provided tech and design support; the amount of on-the-fly design changes was at an all time high. To finish up the semester, students will be learning game design and creating their own games on Scratch (online program from MIT). Check out our page on Brownell's website.

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Abel

### Sixth Grade Technology

In December, students will complete the *Drafting Unit* which involves old-school mechanical drafting

where student use boards, t-squares, triangles, rulers, and a pencil to make orthographic drawings, also known as multiview drawings. Next, students will work in small groups constructing catapults out of plastic spoons and cups in order to launch large marshmallows. Both distance and accuracy will be important. After the catapults, students will begin an *Online Architecture Unit* using Floorplanner.com to end the semester.

### Woods and Metals -- Grades 7 & 8

In December, the Intro students will work on building their CO2 cars. Those who finish early will work on a third project for the semester. Some ambitious students will find time to make small gifts for the Holidays. After Winter Vacation, students will compete in a CO2 car drag race. The advanced students are working on projects of their choice which this year happens to be lamps and clocks.

If you happen to have furniture grade lumber collecting dust, we would be delighted to take donations. Please note that we are currently NOT looking for construction grade lumber such and 2x4s or 4x4s.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Mr. Doss and Mr. Gross

What a great concert on November 15<sup>th</sup>! Thank you parents for supporting your son or daughter with love and encouragement to play music. Studies continue to show many advantages for students involved with instrumental music. Playing an instrument creates and strengthens neuron pathways in the brain not only to become a better musician, but also a better student within other core areas.

Please mark your calendar for the following concerts:

- ★ Yule Be Boppin' Jazz Concert, Friday, December 8 at South High School, 7pm
- ★ Band-o-Rama Concert, Tuesday, December 19 at South High School Main Gym, 7pm. All Brownell band students should attend.
- ★ String Extravaganza Concert, Wednesday, December 20 at South High School Main Gym, 7pm. All Brownell string students should attend.

Solo and Ensemble students should continue working on their music over Winter Vacation, including getting together with their ensemble groups a couple of times. Don't let all the hard work go down the drain! Remember, Solo and Ensemble is Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Happy Holidays to all.

## JOURNALISM

Mr. Abel

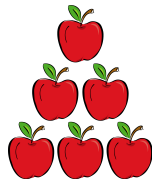
**Broadcast Journalism** students continue to produce daily video products, which include a WBBC introduction, the Pledge of Allegiance, daily announcements, promotions of school activities, the weather, variety segments, and an "outro," which is the concluding section of the WBBC production. If you would like to see some of the work, go to the Brownell Middle School page on YouTube.

### Journalism

Journalism is an independent study that meets the same hours as Broadcast Journalism. Journalism students write weekly stories and assist with video productions.

## LIFESKILLS

Mrs. Barczyk



Please make sure to check us out on Instagram or Twitter @BMSLIFESKILLS

**Sixth Grade Lifeskills:** Thank you so much for those of you who have so generously donated supplies to the program. With your donations, we were able to team up with Everyone Eats and cook turkeys for the homeless and provide them a meal for Thanksgiving. The focus in class was turkey carving with the help of your generous donations to our cause. The families of Brownell Lifeskills have enabled us to feed those in need. Thank you to the chaperones that joined us on the field trip to Blake's Orchard. Students were able to process the apples and apply the concept of farm to table. I hope your child(ren) are helping at home and demonstrating their skills in daily living.

**Lifeskills - Grades 7 & 8:** This month the focus is on completion. Students are completing projects and bringing them home to your family before Winter Vacation. Please be sure to compliment your children on their hard work and dedication to their projects. I have been so impressed by their work ethic. Thank you to the families who donated to the Everyone Eats partnership so that we could provide families in need with a turkey, canned goods, and preparation tools. Thank you to the chaperones that joined us on the field trip to Blake's Orchard. The overwhelming family support is what makes teaching at Brownell so amazing.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Francis

**Grades 7 & 8:** Classes just finished the *Swimming Unit* for the semester. Students were assessed based on the American Red Cross Learn to Swim Instruction Program. The swimming levels ranged from beginners using float belts to advanced. I enjoy watching how swimmers gain confidence and strengthen their skills, some with the help of our most advanced swimmers who share their love of the sport with their peers. I also ran a 10 minute timed assessment to have the students practice their skills and acquire some cardiovascular exercise. During timed swim assessments, students choose any surface stroke they like and switch strokes whenever they wish. Swimmers need to touch the end walls of the pool as many times as they can during the time allotment. Each student was individually assessed for his/her ability in the pool using one of the five differentiated grading scales. Students also spent time going over swimming and boating safety. Seventh graders also spent time in the pool working on water safety, which includes how to recognize and safely help a distressed swimmer as well as some "what should you do" scenarios while in the water. Next, I introduced the classes to Water Polo and my version of water tag.

Currently, the seventh and eighth grade students are completing the Michigan Boating Safety Program. This course is for seventh graders and for any of the eighth graders that want to take it. The blue boating certificate has to be carried by all boaters born after



1978 when operating a boat or a personal water craft. There are specific age and requirements boaters need to adhere to when operating a vessel. Check the Department of Natural Resources website or the booklet your child receives for more information. This test is extremely difficult, so I developed a study guide for students to complete in groups that they can use when taking the test. I do not grade them on their test score, just their behavior and effort on the work days leading up to the test.

Also in December, classes will begin the *Volleyball Unit*. Basics will be covered including forearm passing, overhand passing, setting, and serving. The level of play in volleyball games increases each year by adding overhand serve, spiking, blocking, and a 4-2 offense vs. a 6-2 offense. Often, eighth graders are formed in teams of three or four for competition. Staff members may even show up to challenge a class.

## VOCAL MUSIC

**Mrs. Gross**



Our choirs completed their first concert! They really worked diligently and had fun while preparing. All of the choir classes are now working towards singing and sight reading at MSVMA Choral Festival at Stoney Creek High School on March 14.

### Sixth and Seventh Grade Choir

In class, students are singing in small groups using holiday songs and then taking a turn singing on the Multi-Purpose Room stage for the class on the days before Winter Vacation.

The seventh grade choirs are also working towards their performances at Montieth, Kerby, and Richard on December 21.

### Eighth Grade Choir

The class is carrying out a comparison study of Handel's famous oratorio, "The Messiah," and other versions of the reworked choral masterpiece. Then, students are headed to the Detroit Opera House on December 15 to hear a production of The Rackham Choir performing Too Hot To Handel with Pierce Middle School's eighth grade choir.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

**Mr. Abel** - <http://tinyurl.com/bmsabel>

**Ms. Porvin** - <http://tinyurl.com/bmsporvin>

Please check our websites for the very latest news including daily homework information and weekly summaries of current activities.

### Noel Night is coming Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Midtown • Cultural Center area of Detroit.

This family-friendly, free event certainly has plenty of Santas and cocoa, but is also an opportunity to enjoy performances by international artists. See the full schedule here: <http://www.noelnight.org/>

### French Introduction - Grade 6

**Ms. Porvin**

How many hours a day do you spend on your device? – is a question students will be able answer in French now after the *Number Unit*. Also, how much they sleep. Good information to know. The next unit integrates expressing opinions, talking about activities, and favorite foods. This will build into a *Family Album Unit*.

### Spanish Introduction - Grade 6

**Ms. Porvin**

How many hours a day do you spend on your device? – is a question that students will be able to answer in Spanish now after their *Number Unit*. Also, how much they sleep. Good information to know. The next unit integrates expressing opinions, talking about activities, and favorite foods. This will build into a *Family Album Unit*.

### Spanish Introduction - Grades 7 & 8

**Mr. Abel**

Hopefully you enjoy seeing the family albums. Perhaps you didn't know that your family was so interesting. During the second quarter, students revisit and expand upon three topics from the elementary program: the calendar, telling time, and weather. This is an opportunity to expand vocabulary, refine language skills, and work on study habits. These units are vocabulary-driven which means plenty of written practice to study. Students have S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G boot camp as part of these lessons. Please check with your child to see which strategies they are finding most effective.



## Spanish Enrichment - Grades 7 & 8

**Ms. Porvin**

The Emperor's New Groove allowed us to integrate the description work students accomplished with animals and the verb work they will continue to return to throughout the semester. After the *Clothing Unit*, students will begin the three-part unit that includes architecture, art, and muralism, leading to our field trip in January. Stay tuned and join us! (We will need chaperone-drivers.)

## Spanish I

**Ms. Porvin**

The next unit is about *School!* Yay! Our favorite subject. It's also an opportunity to integrate all of the work done so far this year, which is important as the midterm in January approaches. The midterm features themes that the classes have been engaged in throughout the year.

## ATHLETICS

**Mrs. Francis**

**Boys' basketball** is underway. Rob Wozniak and Robert Banks are the 7th and 8th grade coaches. Both have experience coaching and are looking forward to working with our student/athletes. Please support the teams by coming to the home games. The dates and times are listed on the website. The teams play side by side at home, but play one after the other at all of the away venues. Some of the away venues may charge at the door.

Seventh and eighth grade **girls' basketball** and **wrestling** will begin...Ah first; is your child's physical card turned in? You can't think of tryouts until your child's up-to-date physical card (dated April 15, 2017 or later) has been submitted for this school year. Please make sure I have it. If you are unsure whether there is a current physical on file for your child, then email me and I will check. Girls' basketball tryouts will begin January 18 and wrestling will begin late January. The wrestling team will be joined with Pierce Middle School. All practices and meets will be at Pierce. Watch the website for announcements.

## BROWNELL BRAG

### Grosse Pointe Public Schools Open House: Showing off the Broncommunity

We want to thank the many BMS staff and students who volunteered to showcase our school during the district-wide open house on Sunday, November 12th.

### National Junior Honor Society

Members of NJHS have been busy fulfilling service opportunities both inside and outside of school. Members have recently served by providing tours to community visitors during the recent Brownell Open House, helping teachers throughout all sessions of Parent/Teacher Conferences, and along with other Brownell students, raising over \$600.00 to donate to the UNICEF charity. Many service projects are in the works for the Holiday Season and we look forward to the many opportunities members will have to learn and grow throughout the year.

### The Stable

*The Stable* staff will be selling cookies every Friday after school in the lobby. Students can purchase two cookies (sugar or chocolate chip) for \$1. We would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Karen Lawrence, Mrs. Maggie Veneri, and Mrs. Kathryn Kaspzyk for taking the time to freshly bake the delicious cookies every week. All profits go back to Brownell to fund programs and student needs.

The Loose Change Drive is continuing to collect money for Covenant House Michigan throughout December. Covenant House Michigan is a nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth ages 18-24. Covenant House provides shelter, educational, and vocational programs, as well as other support services to help overcome hurdles such as homelessness, unemployment, inadequate education, violence, drugs, and gangs. The Brownell staff also hosted a Jeans' Day to add to the donations for this charity.

*The Stable* is continuing to collect Box Tops for Education. Please drop off your Box Tops at *The Stable*.

Thank you for supporting your school store.

## STAND

Thank you to STAND students who helped brighten up Thanksgiving for participants in the Services for Older Citizens Meals on Wheels Program. In December, we will be working on projects to help residents of Southwest Solutions Piquette Square, which is a residence for formerly homeless veterans. The entire Brownell community will be invited to contribute and participate.

## Drama Club

Brownell Middle School presents DISNEY'S

## THE LITTLE MERMAID

February 8th-9th

We are excited to bring The Little Mermaid to Brownell this year. All parts have been assigned and rehearsals have begun. We practice a no-cut policy and have nearly 100 students participating in the production. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this family favorite. For more information, see the school website or Mrs. Duffield's webpage.

Susan Dempsey-Director

Carolyn Gross-Musical Director

Tammy Duffield-Producer





# Parents for **UNITY** in **DIVERSITY**

## **ATTENTION: PARENTS OF GPPSS STUDENTS!**

You're invited to meet with us and participate in the conversation about topics related to diversity and learning in our schools!

Join us as we discuss and reflect upon real situations our students are encountering on a daily basis, and how we, as parents and educators, can guide our children toward a greater awareness and appreciation of diversity in our community and beyond.

Each meeting will be held at a different school. All GPPSS district parents are welcome to attend.

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

November 30th at Defer

January 18th at Maire\*

March 22nd at Mason\*

April 26th at Trombly

May 24th at Ferry\*

All meetings will begin at 6:30pm  
and end at approximately 8:00pm



\*Discussion for these meetings led by Ms. Ginni Winters of Wayne County RESA