



# OLSON PANTHER NEWS

Friday, December 8, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Dates to Remember:

Friday, December 8 – Mid-Quarter Progress Grades available on Parent Portal

Thursday, December 14 – 4:30 p.m. Site Council – All are welcome

Monday, December 18 – Kids Can Give Sale Sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs

## High School Open Houses:

Fair High School – Wednesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.

South High School – Thursday, January 11, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Winter Weather** – This is a reminder that scholars who walk to school or are dropped off should not arrive at school before 8:30 a.m.

Our doors open at 8:30 a.m. so scholars can get breakfast before going to Advisory class.

## Dr. Emerson, Principal -

We had a wonderful week of celebration at Olson!

First of all, we celebrated our students by giving them an opportunity to see a professional orchestra perform. The Minnesota Sinfonia performed two concerts on Wednesday afternoon. Our choir, led by Ms. Capistrant, performed with the Sinfonia.

Secondly, we celebrated our music program with a Band/Choir concert at our school on Thursday afternoon and a Band concert Thursday evening. Your students were amazing performers! I want to give a big shout-out to both Mr. Hadley and Ms. Capistrant for getting students so well-prepared for great performances.

Finally, we celebrated our students' academic success at our ceremonies on Friday. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were recognized for making the A and B honor roll. In addition, the teacher teams recognized students for excellence and outstanding improvement in a variety of academic areas.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to celebrate our students and work in partnership with you for continued success.

## Literacy Update –

### Mr. Wendelberger

These are exciting times for literacy at Olson Middle School. We are happy to welcome Mr. Luke Reiter to our literacy instruction team. Mr. Reiter will be teaching a Read, Write and Create class during our Explore and

Specialist time. He will see 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The Read, Write and Create class is designed to help students become critical readers and to also see themselves as authors and creators of text.

In addition, we are accelerating our school-wide literacy initiatives. Students are currently learning to control their own understanding by building the habit of using specific comprehension strategies while reading. The strategies we are working with now are visualizing, and making connections during reading.

You can support your student at home by helping them find time each evening and weekend to read for at least 20 minutes. In addition, talk

with them about what they're reading. A great question to ask is: "What does that part of the book make you think about?" Questions like these encourage students to think while they are reading.

Our goal is to always get students reading and thinking as much as possible. Lots of reading and thinking is their best path to high school and college success!

### **ASD – Mr. Walker and Ms. Teeter**

Autism Spectrum Disorder- ASD Programs 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades: During quarter two we continue to see great progress with student's individual goals.

We are practicing social-emotional learning to become caring communicators. By using these tools, we create an atmosphere of learning in our classroom and in the Olson community at large.

We are excited to inform students and families about the latest reading Programs that started in December. They are System 44 and Read 180. It will allow our students' needs to be individualized, working at their own pace, and ultimately learning how to read with enjoyment.

As we move ahead, we will explore our diverse population traditions and how we celebrate them. Students will tell their stories through art, food, and writing. Students will also read about different

traditions comparing and contrasting.

Our students look forward to community outings in 2018 where they can practice real world skills, such as working with money, nutrition, transportation, and self-advocacy.

We have been practicing our dance moves for a city-wide dance on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Edison High School.

### **CLASS**

#### **Mrs. Joy Lash**

The scholars in my class are working hard to increase academic skills in the areas of reading, writing and math. They also stand out as great examples of the 4R's (Respecting Learning, Respecting Property, Respecting Themselves and Respecting Others).

We start each Monday by gathering in a circle group to build our classroom community. This is a place where students share about their weekends and talk about events happening within the school. It is a time that students show respect for others' ideas and beliefs.

We use two reading programs from Houghton Mifflin called *System 44 and Read 180*. These intensive reading programs are used in all MPS middle schools. The programs are designed to help students

become fluent, independent readers of grade-level text through instruction in phonics, close reading, academic vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

My scholars read both nonfiction and fiction books, and stories that are informative and inspirational. They work together in small groups to improve their reading and writing skills. Scholars receive data, which shows their current skills, so they can work together with staff to monitor the progress they are making.

Scholars write daily in their journals about current events and other environmental and social concerns. They are working on grammar and paragraph writing skills.

In math, my scholars use a variety of books, curriculum, and online programs to work on a variety of math standards. They are currently working on place value, decimals, percentages, and geometry (area, perimeter, and identifying angles). We have a variety of online programs that students can work on at home, as well.

A new program that was just introduced is a math program called ALEKS. The scholars take a pretest and then the program intuitively moves them through the sequence of lessons that they are to work on. The program periodically

assesses the scholars to make sure they are on track and making progress.

### **Featured Teacher –**

**Ms. Amy Bakkum**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education  
Resource Teacher

This is my first year here at Olson Middle School and I am very excited to be here!

I received my undergraduate degree teaching social studies from the University of Minnesota Duluth and I am currently working on getting my master's degree from St. Mary's University through an online program. I plan to complete my master's in 2019.

I teach one section of math and two sections of reading here at Olson.

In our math class, we have been reviewing our multiplication facts and the order of operations. The students are also using a math program called Dreambox Math where they are able to play games and complete activities involving math.

In my reading classes, we are using two different programs called Read 180 and System 44. These programs involve whole group instruction, small group instruction, independent reading time, and computer time. Within the program there are videos we watch along with our

readings; we also learn new vocabulary every week.

I have very much enjoyed working with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students here at Olson and look forward to the rest of the school year!

*Mid-Quarter Progress  
Grades will be mailed the  
week of December 11,  
2017.*

### **MPS High School Requests**

This is a reminder that the online high school request center is open mid-December through February 3. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students/families should request a high school at <http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/> or on a paper application.

I am available to help students and families individually with any questions you may have in requesting a high school.

Thanks!

Marin Thuen, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School  
Counselor - 612-668-1643  
[marin.thuen@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:marin.thuen@mpls.k12.mn.us)

### **KIDS CAN GIVE SALE**

This is an opportunity for students (6 yrs to 18 yrs) to shop for gifts. Each child can purchase (3) gifts for \$5.00.

Your child must be a Club Member. If you are not a Club Member, please see Tony or India to join. There are free

memberships through the month of December.

You must sign up before Friday, December 15, to schedule a 15-minute shopping time for your child. You may call between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. **BEFORE DECEMBER 15.**

### **Day for Shopping:**

**When: Monday, December 18**

**Time: 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

**Where: The Beacon's room at Henry High School (Please use Door 1 to enter)**

A parent or guardian must accompany the child.

### **For more information call:**

Olson – 612-272-9479

Henry – 612-695-7921

Donations go to support the Olson/Henry Beacon Boys and Girls Club.