

The Tiger Paws

Winter 2011 / 2012



STORIES	Meet the newest teacher to join the MAMS staff!	Turkey Trots and Robots . . . Oh my!	OLWEUS Kick-Off 2011	Art & Music Take Center Stage!
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INSIDE THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE MOON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

New Addition



The MAMS newspaper staff gets the inside scoop on the new face around the middle school!

"I love teaching in the Middle School!" says Miss Lorkovich. At the Middle School, I enjoy switching classes and coming in contact with even more students than I did at the elementary level. Also, the activities that have been planned so far have been really fun. The Olweus Kick-off was a great day and I was happy to be a part of it. Exploratory Time is also something that is new to me that I like. The hardest change going from Brooks Elementary to the Middle School is remembering all the new names! Luckily, everyone here has been so welcoming and helpful. Ever since I was in second grade I knew I wanted to be a teacher. My sisters and I "played school" all the time and I always got to be the teacher. I couldn't imagine doing anything else! "The best way to make friends is to always be yourself. I also think it is important to treat people the way you want to be treated. Another way to make friends is to involve yourself in extra-curricular activities where you have a chance to meet new people and build friendships."



Miss Lorkovich

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

After growing her hair long for several years, Mrs. McKenna decided to get it cut and, on November 4, donated 12" to Locks of Love, a public non-religious, non-political, non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Children who suffer from an autoimmune disorder called alopecia areata constitute their largest number of recipients. Alopecia areata causes the hair follicles to shut down. The hair loss is permanent in most cases and there is no known cause or cure. This disease has varying degrees and affects 4.7 million people in the United States alone. Alopecia areata affects both sexes equally. Cancer constitutes the second highest percentage of their recipients. Every year approximately 2,200 children under age 20 are diagnosed with brain tumors. Radiation treatment to the brain stem as a treatment for cancer can cause permanent hair loss. Chemotherapy may also cause hair loss to be long-term. Other recipients have been victim to severe burns or suffer from any number of skin disorders that cause permanent hair loss. While wearing a hairpiece is certainly not a cure for these children, it can help restore some of the normalcy to their everyday lives that most of us take for granted. For more information on this organization or how you can help, please visit www.locksoflove.org.



Tiger Paws Staff Box

Rachel Boward	Deja Bingenheimer	
Patrick Crago	Abby Keppel	
Olivia Lindstrom	Becky Mills	
Alexis Paige	Sophia Palmer	Desiree Stribling
Amber Wesoloski	Brooke Collifer	Michael Davignon
Robbie Goode	Jake Mckee	Rachel Muti
Noah Pinter	Elijah Ponce	Leah Blackwell
Chris Hartmann	A.J. Lounder	Micah Morton
Grace Reinsel	Kyle Wesoloski	Shaun Thompson
Lena Wilhelm	Mrs. Spinelli	Mr. Winner



Turkey Trot 2011

On October 28, 2011, the school hosted the second annual Turkey Trot. Each student donated five dollars to the West Hills Food Pantry to participate in the Turkey Trot. Though it was very cold, everyone seemed to have a good time. "It's a great chance for kids to get out and be active for a good cause," said Mr. Watts. During the activity, students walked laps around the track. Everyone had a great time. "It's a great experience. I will definitely remember about school education. After completing the Turkey Trot, students got one Olivia Campbell Medvid worked at the table, where students donated unwanted loop bracelets. Mr. Parees filled the helicopter and said. At the end, they did end up

Another activity taking place during the Turkey Trot was a face painting table hosted by the art club. Mrs. Griffin was proud of the group of students working at the table. "They are an awesome group of artists that came up with the idea to paint faces."

You can't have a Turkey Trot without a turkey! The sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Tidd posed in a very sweaty turkey costume until she was revealed at the end. "You all were freezing, and I was sweating," Mrs. Tidd laughed. Mason Bender was the sixth grader who guessed the turkey's true identity and won an iPod and iTunes gift card.

All in all, it was a great fundraiser and we raised a great deal of money for the Food Pantry. Let's try to get even more for next year. Gobble, Gobble!



seventh grade student county key Trot. Each student do-Hills Food Pantry to partici- everyone seemed to have a for kids to get out and be Watts. During the activity, track. Everyone had a great

It's some- nity re- my middle tion." eight Kudla says. each lap, the loop bracelet. and Jackie the loop ta- dents do-

"Our goal is to get enough to break a world record," they with a pretty big ball.

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Moon Area Middle School Aquatic Robotics



Are you creative? Do you like to build? Do you like being challenged? If you answered yes to any of these questions aquatic robotics – "sea perch" is the right thing for you! "Sea perch" is an aquatic robotics program sponsored by the U.S. Navy which challenges you in an after school activity. It is led by Mr. Hilpert and Mrs. Spinelli. In Aquatic Robotics students from grades 6th – 8th build an underwater remote control robot! In the program, we break off into teams of 3 or 4 students. We meet on Mondays and Tuesdays for nine weeks. In the program, you get the chance to drill, solder, measure, cut, and seal your teams' robot. After you finish building the robot, you and the other members of your group will get to customize it the way you like! When all of this is finished, your team will take the robots to the Moon Area High School pool. At the pool, your team will compete with the other teams in different challenges. These challenges consist of racing, picking up rings and many more tasks. At the end of the nine weeks you and your team get to participate in a raffle for the robot you have built. This means one of the members of your group gets to keep it! If you would like to sign up you still can, for the third and fourth quarter of this school year. I hope you enjoy the program!



Attention Teachers:

Do you have a special event or special student accomplishment you would like to have published in The Tiger Paws school newspaper? If so forward your pictures with a brief description to jwinner@masd.k12.pa.us



Events From MASD

MAMS Book Fair 2011



The books are coming the books are coming! This year the Moon Middle School Book Fair is booming. "It's intense, all the kids are here at the same time, it feels like as if they were giving away free sandwiches and sandwiches at Armstrong's!" say Mr. Parees, the school librarian. Today, it is obvious what is selling and what is not, as I look around, I can see tons of empty places where tons



of books and other things have been sold, and there is still one more day to go!

Among the most popular things are the invisible pens, and the new Haddix book, *Torn!* They have been running out of these things constantly. Although it may only be the second year Mr. Parees has been in charge of the book fair, he does have a veteran to help him out. Mrs. Mayton proudly says, "I've been doing this book fair for 16 years, and I enjoy it a lot." This year's book fair has been great and has sold a ton. Not to mention that there is still one more day to go! Even though the book fair may be concluding for this year, remember its annual.

Moon Area Hockey

The Moon Area freshmen hockey team is a must see. They play at home in the Airport Ice Arena, which is across from Scally's Golf Course. The team has players from 6th to 8th grade. They play in the PIHL, which stands for Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League. Some players on the team are, but are not limited to, Joe Fortwangler, Logan Rosser, Joey Sell, and many more. Admission is 3 dollars for adults and 2 for kids. We hope to see you come down to support the Tigers as they have another victorious season.

Moon Area Sports Update

Not only did the 7th grade volleyball team go 12-1 and 8th grade having a perfect 13-0 season, one other team went 12-1 and that was the 7th and 8th grade Boys soccer team. Winning their recent two games, one against Quaker Valley the other against West Allegheny, one player was nice enough to answer a few questions. Adam Pannebaker #7 answered the following questions:

Q: Do you think your team had a good season? A: So far we have had a great season.

Q: Do you think you had good teammates to play with this season? A: I had great teammates. We are like a family.

Q: Do you think you had tough opponents to play against? A: Some were very tough, but some were easy games.

Q: Was playing soccer for Moon fun? A: Yes, very fun.

Girls soccer and lacrosse also had a great season. Boys football went 1-5 this season. A good attempt from the team, even though it was a slip-up this year. Next year, we will be even better.

Pittsburgh Penguins

It's just another hockey season to some of you, but for some it's more than that. Well for those of you who actually care about hockey, the Penguins to be exact, they have played 12 games with 5 wins, 2 lose, and 3ties with 18 points. With four players leading the scoring 2 players with 9 points, those players are Jordan Staal and James Neal. With 8 points each are Pascal Dupuis and Kris Letang. Still with injuries from Sidney Crosby-concussion, Tyler Kennedy-concussion, and Brian Strait with an injury we are not too sure of. A brief over view from the past four games of the season so far. One against the Montreal Canadiens winning with a score of 3-1. Goals scored by James Neal, Joe Vitale, and Aaron Asham. Another against the New Jersey Devils winning with a final score of 4-1. Goals scored by Jordan Staal who scored two goals one of them being his 100th carrier goal. James Neal and Chris Kunitz also scored. The latest game before the 27th is the away game against the New York Islanders winning 3-0. Goals scored by Pascal Dupuis, Richard Park, and Jordan Staal. A home game against the New York Islanders winning in shootout 3-2; goals scored by Chris Kuntiz, James Neal, Evgeni Malkin shootout winner.

In one game this season against the Washington Capitals, they decided to put a locomotive symbol on their jerseys and after the game, they decided to auction of their jerseys and give it to the highest bidder. All money raised from selling the jerseys and bracelets would go to families who lost the one that they love on that plane crash.

8 Great Ideas

Amber Wesoloski, Joe Sibeto, Anthony Tambellini, Alayna Trice, and Sophia Palmer are this year's eighth grade Student Council Officers. They have been working hard to come up with ideas for a fantastic year. The council has met several times already, and here are their ideas and if you like them or have a better idea contact Mr. Burgess in room 418. Remember, we need YOUR help to make it happen.

- Outdoor Dance Party
- Moon's Got Talent/Idol
- Spirit Week
- Pie In the Face Fundraiser
- Suggestion Box
- Semi-formal dance (8th grade only)
- No-Homework Day
- YOUR choice of a fieldtrip

OLWEUS Program 2011



On October 6, the middle school students and faculty joined as one for the Second Annual Olweus Bullying Prevention Kickoff. The events began on Thursday with an assembly that included

guest speakers Joyce Bender (Head of The Bender Lead on Team) and Gerald Homme (Chair Person of The Bender Lead on Team). They are a part of an organization, The Bender Lead on Team, which is for people with disabilities and those against bullying. On Friday, everyone took the afternoon off to join their advisor bases and Mr. Kopay in three competitive races. It was a chance for everyone to work together and make new friends. All in all we raised about \$1,800 from the games that everyone participated in afterwards. The school will put this money towards guest speakers and activities to promote the Olweus program. Yes, there has been some discussion about Taylor Swift showing up to play sometime in the near future. Her hit song "Mean" is our Olweus "anthem." It would be a privilege to have her play at Moon schools. As far as

anyone knows, our principals Ms. Kirchner and Mrs. Heasley will keep trying! As for now, remember, "We are what we repeatedly do...therefore excellence is not an act, but a habit." -Aristotle

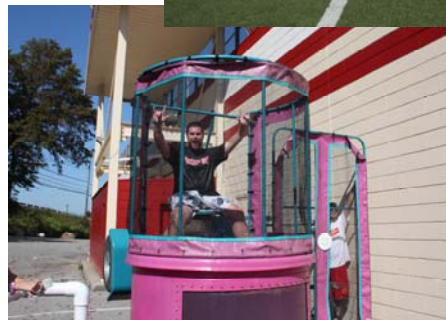


AIU Mural

If you have recently been to the new AIU water front building, then you will have seen the blank, bare wall in the lobby. It isn't anymore, thanks to the help of schools all around Allegheny County. The wall is now taken up by a beautiful mosaic. This piece adds a childish yet mature outlook to the room. Placed on a uniquely curved wall, this art gives you a sense of excitement and joy. Students from both Moon Middle and High school, including other districts, have made the room a better, happier place. If you haven't seen the new waterfront building, I would recommend going to check it and our art out.

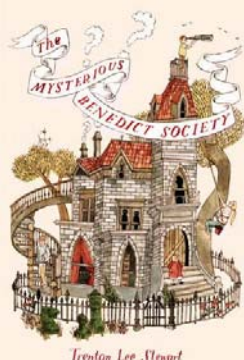
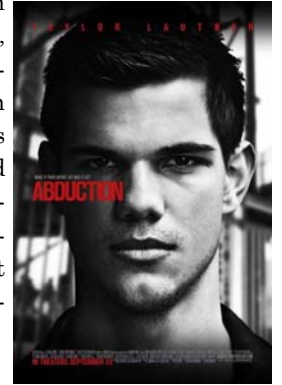
9/11 Remembered

Students in AB310 (under the direction of Mr. Snell and Mrs. McKenna) participated in the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance which was formally established in 2009 under federal law as a constructive way to forever honor those who were lost in the tragedy, the sacrifices made by many others, and to remember the remarkable way people came together under a spirit of unity, compassion, and service in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. In observance of this important and historic 10-year milestone, they joined millions of people to pay tribute to the victims of 9/11 by participating in the single largest expression of charitable service in American history. Each student in the AB chose their own charitable service project that they could do at home. Those who fulfilled their commitment were entered into a drawing for a monthly prize.



Movies & Book Reviews

Abduction is an action movie about a boy named Nathan (played by Taylor Lautner) that lives in Pittsburgh. When he does a project with his crush, Karen (played by Lily Collins) on missing children, he finds himself on a website and tells a person that apparently runs the site where he is. That person was a man working for Russian assassin that wants Nathan dead. Then when the assassin's men come to his house you see his "parents" were really CIA agents that were put into his life. Both his father and mother die in the process of fighting these men off. Now he is on the run with Karen and they stumble across an encrypted code that holds information that the government wants and they want Nathan in their custody. This movie had a well-thought out story line, but some of the acting in it was a little poor. All in all it was a pretty good movie and the fact it is set in Pittsburgh is cool. I would recommend seeing it.



The Mysterious Benedict Society is a wonderful book. It's about four resourceful children trying to stop the evil Mr. Curtain from brainwashing and mind-controlling everyone on earth. These four children are Reynie, the insightful leader, Sticky, a wary kid with a photographic memory, Kate, an adventurous girl with an ability to make anything useful, and lastly, Constance, who is a poetic three-year-old. I, personally, love The Mysterious Benedict Society. This book is also considered a New York Times bestseller, contains confusing puzzles, strange riddles, and deceiving poems (not including Constance's). This should-be classic is unfortunately a harder read. Some words, phrases, ideas, theories, and purposes aren't easy to grasp. But, all in all I'd give The Mysterious Benedict Society four stars and two thumbs up.



Puss in Boots was a good movie. In this family movie about a trouble making, dangerous cat, Puss brings back some childhood memories that he is not proud of. You will find that in this movie there is action, comedy, suspense and some romance. Puss goes on an adventure to find a lost dream, and ends up getting betrayed again! In his travels he meets a variety of characters and even comes across a town that is about to be destroyed. Puss saves the people and becomes the good guy as he restores pride in his town. I hope that if you watch this movie than you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Around MAMS Fall 2011



This Seasons Hottest:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| LEATHER | FEATHERS |
| LACE-UP BOOTS | SKINNY JEANS |
| PRINTS/PRINTED LEGGINGS | TIERED SKIRTS |
| FITTED BLAZERS | KNEE-HIGH SOCKS |
| BRIGHT BELTS | FALL NAIL POLISH (GOLD!) |

This Season's Featured Store: [Forever 21](#)

Poet's Corner:

Everyone is Different

Everyone is different,
Unalike,
Not the same.

If we *were* the same,
We may not even tell each other
apart!

But we are uniquely different.
Different handprint,
Eyes
Voice
Talent

Even twins aren't the same.
Some people like to sing,
Some people like to dance,
Some feel they have no talent.
But you were made different
Made different from
Skin tones, Eyes, Brains,
Talents than everyone else

Everyone is different

Nobody will *ever* be the same.
Boys and girls get similar
We do compare
But, not exactly the same

Some people are bullied
Because of the way they are.
But its WRONG!
People start to hate themselves
And lack the courage they need.
Or just like a popular person
But we are different
Don't follow other people
Be yourself
Everyone is
Courageous
Shy
Sad
Happy

But we are uniquely different

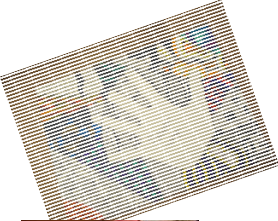
World Series 2011




The St. Louis Cardinals beat the Texas Rangers in the World Series in game 7. With Allen Craig making the last catch of the game to get the last out of the game at the top of the 9th inning, and he also had a homerun and another catch that would have been a home run if he didn't catch it. Both teams beat the other two teams they had to beat to get to the world series along winning all regular season games they needed to win. The Cardinals took game 1 with a score of 3-2. Game 2 went to the Rangers as they took that game 2-1, both games were at St. Louis. St Louis took game 3 in a 16-7 blowout! Albert Pujols had 3 homeruns in one game tie with a MLB record for the most homeruns in a single playoff game! There was also one other player who batted in the first run for the first 3 games and that player was Allen Craig and in the World Series he hit three homeruns. Game 4 was won by the Rangers 4-0. Game 5 went to the Rangers by two runs they win 4-2. An exciting and nerve-racking game 6 was won by the St. Louis Cardinals by one run in the 11th inning as David Freese scored a walk off homerun to win the game for the St. Louis Cardinals 10-9. The Cardinals were in the bottom of the 9th inning and the Rangers were one strike away from winning the game when the Cardinals scored to tie up the game. After 10 innings the game was tied. The 11th inning came and the Rangers didn't score, but the Cardinals did. Allen Craig and Lance Berkman both hit homeruns in this game. The Cardinals forced a game 7. The St. Louis Cardinals won game seven 6 to 2 to win their 11th world series. The Rangers made the World Series two years in a row and lost it both years. After the Cardinals won the World Series, their coach Tony La Russa retired after 16 seasons and three World Series' with the Cardinals. So congratulations to the 2011 World Series champions the St. Louis Cardinals.





Art & Music Take Center Stage



Homes were filled with flickering pumpkin faces or scary pumpkin candy holders this Halloween season. Miss Gasior's 1st and 2nd period 7th grade art classes made clay pumpkins the first 9 weeks. The students started the project around October 5th. They constructed hollow, round pumpkins by joining two pinch pots together. These were then carved into jack-o-lanterns or candy bowls. A few students made theirs into piggy banks that would hold coins. The pumpkins were left to dry and at this time were extremely brittle. They were then fired in the kiln for the first time. The dull, ugly, gray clay had turned into a crisp, white pumpkin and the next step was to glaze them. This was a tricky job to make sure all the sides had an even coating. Also, some green glaze looked blue before the firing, and students couldn't be sure of the actual color unless they looked at the label, which Miss Gasior urged them to do. If they didn't, they could have ended up with a purple pumpkin! The glaze was similar to paint, but after the kiln, it became a glassy coating.



Other projects that followed the pumpkins were the Zentangle and landscape drawings. Zentangle is a series of varied patterns or designs that focus strongly on line and shape. Miss Gasior's classes made their designs around an outline of their hand. This became their sketchbook covers. The landscape drawings were an introduction into the ideas of using perspective. The assignment was to create underwater or underground scenes where things farther away are higher on the page, and things closer to the viewer are lower on the page. This makes your average drawing look a little bit more advanced. These are only the beginning of many interesting assignments and projects that are to come this year.



Even though the band program is offered to all grades of middle school, only 7th and 8th graders are eligible for marching band. At this point, you will either say, "Woo hoo!" or "Aww!" depending on which grade you are in. The marching band had been meeting Tuesday evenings where they march around the high school and middle school campus. The marching band played at the Halloween Spectacular Parade at Moon Park on October 26th where they performed in costume. Some very extravagant and creative costumes were worn for sure! They led a parade of little children in costume from near the entrance down to the amphitheatre where the high school band played a few tunes. Then the two bands, high school and middle school, joined together on stage where they played a few songs together. First, the fight song and then the middle school's Boom Boom Stomp were performed for the audience. Overall, it was a great night and a fun experience for everyone from the musicians to the the audience.