

**Grassland Middle School**  
**Home of the Generals**

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# General's Dispatch

October 2009

Volume 6, Issue 2

Looking Ahead

10.21.09

Soccer season begins

Boys @ WMS 3:45

Girls vs WMS @ GMS 3:45

10.27.09

Wrestling begins @ HMS

11.21-22.09

Showstoppers Production

11.25-29.09

Thanksgiving Break

11.30.09

BB season begins vs Harpeth Middle

12.3.09

Open Mic Night

12.4.09

7th-8th grade Dance

12.7-8.09

Band Concerts

12.10.09

Chorus Concert

## Fall Update

As the first quarter comes to an end, life at GMS continues at a hectic pace. In the past week we have enjoyed our first Open Mic night thanks to Ms. Keith and some very talented students, a wonderful choral concert thanks to Mr. Lambert and his 6th, 7th, and 8th grade chorus classes and a football banquet thanks to Shaun Patterson and a lot of football moms. Today the whole 8th grade is off for the day. The Red and White teams have gone to the State Capitol and TN State Museum while the Blue team is viewing the works of Edgar Allan Poe at the Belcourt Theatre.

As I mentioned at Open House we are working on Formative and Summative Assessment and helping students develop proficiency in each content area. We will be making a couple of changes for the second quarter regarding retakes. We have set a limit on the number of times a student may retake a summative. If a student fails to show proficiency on the initial summative, that is he makes 71 or lower, he may retake the test one time. If he does not show proficiency the second time, he must attend some type of remediation before he is allowed to try again.

After the remediation he will take the test for the final time. If he still does not score above 71, he will receive the score he makes, and the teacher will continue to work on that target with him as the year progresses. Please encourage your child to keep up-to-date on his formatives because that is when the teacher can see whether or not he is un-

derstanding the concept.

Be sure to look at the **Life Skills Report** attached to the report card. This provides information that may help you understand why your child is struggling academically.

Susan Curtis, Principal



5 STAR CARD—1ST NINE WEEKS

Name: Samantha Student

VIP LIST

LIFE SKILLS

NO INCOMPLETES

NO DETENTIONS

ABSENT 3 DAYS or LESS

## Thanks a Million

I want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to all of the parents who have worked so hard to support GMS already this year. Thanks to: Patsy Brown, Ansley Douglas and Patty Weatherford for presiding over our Parents' Board and Grassland Athletic Booster Club, not many want to take the lead role and we appreciate you so much; to Denise Smith and Deb Trophauer for organizing the **Invest Campaign**, we are so grateful for that financial support; to Carolyn Mac-

Cord for organizing and working so hard on our grounds, a small group did a mountain of work; to Kim Wixted for keeping the daily announcements at your fingertips; to Sunny Williamson, Anna Whalen and Martha Hagaman for having fabulous GMS clothing and supplies in the **General Store**; to Sharon Prince for making sure we had school supply kits available; to Raquel Babb and all of her volunteers for providing food for our faculty meetings, our teachers love you; to Beth Koehler and Ginny Berry for keep-

This is the card that is replacing the Alpha Card. It will be given out quarterly to those students who meet the qualifications listed on the card. Students will receive special privileges if they are carrying a **Five Star Card**. Students who make all As or all As and Bs will still make the Honor Roll, but now all students will have the chance to receive a **Five Star Card** because they are demonstrating characteristics that we value here at Grassland Middle.

ing important dates on the **GMS Marquee**; to Julie Heimendinger for organizing our **box top campaign**; to Julie Fly for the **Parent Newsletter** on the other side; to Leigh McGinty and Tracey

Myers for the **Info Fair**; to Lauran Heckman and moms who helped with the **magazine drive**. We are so appreciative of your dedication to GMS. We love all of you and your kids.