

# ILLING MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal: David A. Welch Assistant Principals: Ann Fuini, Keith Martin and Uyi Osunde

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Today's Learners,  
Tomorrow's Leaders

## The Iling Connection



### Iling Newsletter September/October 2013

#### *Words from Welch...*

#### Welcome!

Another school year is upon us. I must admit – our students look eager, cheery, and filled with anticipatory joy. For the most part, they have been well-behaved, focuses, and driven.

In my second year at the helm, I continue to embrace meeting with students, parents, and community members as often as possible. Education for our young people is everyone's business, so please accept this offer to visit our school regularly and let us know what we are doing right and/or what we can do to make things better and more effective for your youngster and you. If there is anything I can do for you, don't hesitate to call or email me.

It was a busy summer hiring numerous new staff members to join our Iling Middle School family. We are happy to welcome: *Sabrina Cody* – Registrar, *Tammy Sue Willey* – Main Office Secretary, *David Neff* – Security, *Ellen Swider* – Building Substitute Teacher, *Alison Cianciolo* – Speech and Language, *Uyi Osunde* - Grade 8 Assistant Principal, *Nelson Diaz* – Language Arts on Team Yale, *Sarah Burdacki* – Language Arts on Team Dartmouth, *Greg Morsbach* – Language Arts on Team Central, *Matt Walsh* – Advanced Math Teacher, *Claudia Millette* – Literacy Coach, *Sarah Zalewski* – Grade 7 School Counselor, *Sarah Walton* – Student Support Services Counselor, *Jon Anger* – Grade 7 Social Worker, *Michelle Lesisko* – Special Education Teacher for Team Yale, *Joy Tierney* – Language Arts on Team Syracuse, *Mike Dunning* – General Music Teacher, and *Rachel Cocola* – Language Arts on Team UCONN.

We look forward to an exciting and enjoyable year. As you may already know, we have a great faculty and staff at Iling Middle School and with your input and commitment to involvement it can only be better. I am excited to be a part of a second year and helpguide to the students that I worked with while at Iling Middle School. I wish every student a successful and happy school year!

Sincerely,

*David A. Welch, Principal*

### Assistant Principal's Corner

This year Iling Middle School has added two new roles to support improving our school climate, building community partnerships, and growing our parent-school relationships. Our new Student Support Coordinator, Sarah Walton and Student Support Administrator, Ann Fuini, will ensure that our school-wide initiatives are adequately supported and monitored for success. Currently, this new student support duo is working to tighten our structures when it comes to how we respond to school discipline. This year we aim to embed a restorative approach in our interactions with students, as well as empower our students to have a restorative response with each other. We look forward to sharing more on restorative discipline and how it offers a more meaningful response to our students than traditional approach to school discipline in future newsletters.

<b>Counselor</b>		
Ms. Scholtz	<b>Guidance Secretary</b>	647-3417
Ms. Cody	<b>Registrar</b>	647-5085
Mr. Anger	<b>Team URI and Dartmouth</b>	647-3420
<b>Social Worker</b>		
Ms. Owen	<b>Team Princeton and Syracuse</b>	647-3421
<b>Social Worker</b>		
Angella Manhertz	<b>School Psychologist</b>	647-3414
Sharon Goodwin-Griffin	<b>Community Outreach Counselor</b>	647-3400
Loren Conlon	<b>Community Outreach Counselor</b>	647-3400

### FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE



If your student is feeling ill or needs to be absent or late for any reason, PLEASE contact our attendance secretary,

**Mrs. Barbara Stufflebeam**, at 647-3413

### SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

Iling Support Staff members support efforts to meet students' academic, social and emotional needs. They also serve as a resource to staff and parents/guardians to assist in students' successful achievement in academic, extracurricular and future planning.

Iling Support Staff Members are available by phone and scheduled appointments.

In addition to inviting you to Open House on October 2<sup>nd</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and October 3<sup>rd</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> grade), we would like to invite you to our upcoming High School Fair on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Iling Middle School cafeteria from 6:30pm-8:00pm. We will have representatives from our regional magnet, vocational and private high schools, as well as a MCC representative on site to share information on the high school application process and college preparation. We look forward to seeing you there.

### School Counseling Center

Ms. Zalewski	<b>Team Central and Tufts</b>	647-5087
<b>Guidance Counselor</b>		
Ms. Petito	<b>Team Cornell and UCONN</b>	647-3418
<b>Guidance</b>		

### LITERACY CORNER

What is a Literacy Coach?

This year, Iling Middle School is fortunate to have two Literacy Coaches in the building. Our primary focus is to provide teachers with additional support to implement various instructional practices, in particular, those that relate to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This will include facilitating Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), looking at student work, analyzing and disseminating data, providing resources, and working closely with teachers to embed literacy strategies for better student understanding of text and content material. Ultimately, this approach can be viewed as on-going job embedded training to help support teachers in the school to build capacity. At this time, coaches will also be working with small groups of students implementing interventions which help students acquire effective reading skills and strategies.

Presently, students are participating in our district benchmark assessment, NWEA, for math and reading. This testing will occur three times over the course of this year in the months of September, January, and May. It will serve as a tool to drive instruction to better meet the needs of all students.

We are very excited to be working with the staff and students at Iling Middle School and feel we are very lucky to be a part of such a dynamic learning environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 860-647-3400.

Danielle Maguire and Claudia Millette

## Team Tufts



Team Tufts would like to welcome all our new families and some familiar families to Illing Middle School. This year, we welcome Mr. Dee, who is our team math teacher while Mrs. Peralta is on maternity leave. We look forward to meeting Team Tufts parents at the Open House and working with each and every one of your children throughout the school year. Always remember that you are your children's most important teacher. We appreciate all your support.

The student agenda is a valuable source of communication between home and school. Please check it daily when possible. You may also communicate with any of the Tufts teachers by calling the main office phone. Thank you ahead of time for your support throughout the year. We have a great year ahead of us!

Social Studies Mrs. Dudzik - Team Tufts geographers are focused on fine-tuning their map skills. Textbooks have been distributed and should remain at home in a convenient place for homework reference. Please remind students to keep a well-organized social studies notebook. Notebook checklists will be given at the end of each unit. They will include the social studies guidelines, notes, handouts, homework assignments, classwork, and quizzes. Don't throw anything away!

*Math* Mr. Dee – New in this role until Ms. Peralta returns in November, students were administered a pre-assessment to gauge their current math aptitude. The first unit to kick off the year was "Accentuate the Negative." Exploration in integers, comparing positive and negative numbers was the focus. In addition (on pun intended) different methods of adding and subtracting integers was included in this unit. Approaching mid-October, students will review a compilation of topics before taking the comprehensive unit test.

*Science* Mr. Watson - It's been a great beginning to the 2013-2014 school year for our Team Tufts scientists! We have a terrific bunch of problem solvers. The students have been focusing their attention on the qualities that make someone a good scientist. First impressions of what a scientist at work looks like have been shared by each of the students. Many think that a scientist has to look a certain way and be in a certain place. One of our

discoveries so far has been that anyone can be a scientist. It just takes through three curious words, "I wonder if..." to get the ball rolling!

One of the most important skills that we review at the beginning of the year is safety in the science lab. Our scientists are practicing good safety skills as we begin to investigate mysteries. Make sure you have seen and sign the Student Safety Contract.

The scientific method is the process (many of them) that scientists use to solve problems and test their hypotheses. Team Tufts scientists are reviewing this process and their measurement skills as we dust off the equipment and get ready for sciencing.

Did you know that there is a Team Tufts science website? Go to Illing Middle School on your search engine. Click on "Teams" then "SchoolNotes." Click on Mr. Alan Watson. You can also email Mr. Watson from this site. Look here for calendar events, websites that will supplement our class, and updates on field trip information.

Remember, "Science is Everywhere!"

*Language Arts* Ms. Gill - Ms. Gill's language arts class started the year by examining the format of the memoir and reading a memoir about the first day of middle school. We have already begun familiarizing students with the Team Tufts laptops and learned some word processing tips and tricks. The students are also learning important grammar skills through practice and word games. We have just begun to examine the plot structure of stories. Students recently read Rudyard Kipling's "Rikki-tikki-tavi" and examined how the bravery of one little mongoose in the face of adversity serves as an inspiration for any modern reader. The students will continue to identify the elements of the short story next week as we read multiple short stories in the next month, including Mildred Taylor's "The Song of the Trees."

The students are also developing their vocabulary through the exploration of Greek and Latin word roots. Students receive a new word root every Wednesday. Please make sure that your child studies for the vocabulary quizzes and has an SSR (sustained silent reading) book with which to complete the required homework reading of 30 minutes per night.

*Language Arts* Mrs. Bombria - Welcome to our 2013-2014 school year. I look forward to getting to know your sons and daughters over the next many months. As this is just the beginning of school, so much is ahead of us. I will do my best to guide your child to keep you apprised of special events, assignments and projects through the use

of their agenda. Please check your child's agenda frequently to help them with time management skills.

In addition, it is very important for each student to come to class prepared to work, listen and to contribute. Please help your child come prepared for the school day. Now is the time to stock-up on pencils and pens, check planners/agendas, pack backpacks the night before, and provide a healthy breakfast and a good night's sleep. Your child is also expected to come to class with an SIR book. Routines will help to keep students on track and organized. Also, students should be reading a *minimum* of 20 minutes every night. Your child's number of minutes reading each night should grow every month.

Thank you for completing, signing and sending the school forms back so quickly, along with my classroom welcome letter and reading letter. Should you have any questions as the year goes along, please contact me through the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Our class is especially fortunate to have Ashley Okwuazi join us for her student teaching experience. She is a former student of Manchester schools and is currently finishing her course work at Southern State University. Ms. Okwuazi will be with us through December 13<sup>th</sup>. We welcome her to our team.

I am looking forward to spending this school year together with you and your child.

### *Team Dartmouth*

## **“The Big Green”**

Welcome to Team Dartmouth! We've had an exciting and positive start this year amongst the flurry of forms, new lockers, and adjusting to new routines. Thank you to all parents and guardians who have helped make our opening days so successful. The students have been provided with an agenda/planner, which will be a critical tool in keeping our middle schoolers organized and successful, please try to review as often as possible. If your student brings in his or her agenda signed (by you) on Fridays, he/she will be awarded 5 planner points to use on ANY assignment. Also, feel free to communicate with us through notes in the planner, via e-mail (using the staff directory on the Illing Middle School website), or by phone through the main office.

Mrs. Avakian reports that in Social Studies we have started to hone our map skills with our initial unit studying general world geography. One upcoming skill focus will be to gain an understanding of latitude and longitude. During the course of the year we will take a tour of the

world focusing on the Eastern hemisphere with units on Africa, Middle East, Russia, India, China and Japan.

Mr. Schardt reports that in Science students are reviewing their mastery of measuring and graphing skills. Those skills will be required by all students as we begin a unit on energy, work, and power. We then explore the mechanical advantages of simple machines in the classroom. On a lighter note, ski season is just around the corner so encourage your child to join the ski/boarding club for great winter fun.

During the first quarter, Ms. Burdacki's and Mrs. Nobilio's English Language Arts classes are studying the elements of good short stories and reading several examples. In addition, they are learning how to integrate text evidence into their writing. Soon, they will begin learning vocabulary through Greek and Latin root words, all in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. An on-going assignment in ELA includes bringing an appropriate young adult novel to school every day and as homework, reading 20-30 minutes each night. The marking period goal is 125 pages per week and includes all reading done during our daily sustained silent reading (SSR) time.

In Ms. Levenduski's Math class students began the year expanding the number line and discovering the world of integers. After an extensive study of operations with integers, students will learn to make inferences about populations and analyze data. There is no text book for this class so please make sure your student has a folder to keep ALL their math worksheets and class notes.

Team Dartmouth has homework club every Thursday after school for any student that wants a quiet place to work or would like extra help in any subject. Your children can easily check their own progress using the grade wall posted in every classroom. Keep your eye out for our first field trip permission slip. We will be taking the team for a day outing on, October 22 (rain date is 10/24) to observe nature at the height of the fall foliage season. Students will make observations using their senses and record them in journals. They will share this information in a writer's workshop. Students will then continue to write about their experiences in their language arts classes. Can you chaperone? We'd love to have you join us.

## Team URI



Team URI is very excited for this upcoming year. As we settle into our routines, we want to remind parents that students should be filling-out their planners in every single class. This will help them to keep their homework and assignments organized. So far this year students have done amazingly well and exemplified S.T.A.R.S. behavior during school organized fire drills and lockdowns. The students have done so well, that they've even earned a period of teambuilding kickball outside. Team URI has many fun activities planned for this year.

## Team Yale



Helloooo Team Yale Family!!! How lucky are we to have a brand new school year to do something amazing? We feel so very lucky to be working with our new awesome batch of 7th and 8th grade YALE students and we are excited to meet all of their guardians at our October 3rd Illing Open House!

Some things to remember:

- After school homework help is on Tuesdays! Late Bus is available!
- Pencils are required in all classes!
- Homework is assigned every night in most classes! Please check you student's planner!
- We are always here to help and talk! Give us a call anytime!

In Mr. Parker's Language Arts classes students have kicked off the year with getting to know each other through games and discussion and have also teamed up with one another to design expectations for teachers and students that will allow for success. We also began studying adjectives along with internal and external character traits and have applied our learning by creating

poetry that reflects who we are. In addition, we have dug deep into our plot unit and have begun defining, identifying and analyzing the elements of short stories. As we move forward we will work on building our summarization and reading analysis skills and will continue practicing active reading of both fiction and nonfiction text. In terms of homework, please be on the lookout for vocabulary assignments paired with at least 35 minutes of reading every night. I am super excited and honored to be your child's teacher and I am so thankful that we get to work with each other for the rest of the school year! Peace. Mr. Parker

In Mr. Vickers Social Studies 7th grade classes' students will be focusing on our geographic connections to where we live and our connections to other countries. Our first unit is basic mapping skills, location, and climate. In 8th grade, American History, we are learning about colonization of America by Europeans and the clash of three cultures - European, African, and Native American. We will be talking about the different colonial experiences in the north and south and how those experiences continue to reflected in American culture.

In Ms. Webster's 7th grade Math classes students are exploring integers. They are examining patterns to develop rules to multiply, divide, add and subtract integers and then applying those rules to solve real world problems about money and temperature! In 8th grade, students are using patterns to develop the laws are exponents and understanding how to write numbers using scientific notation. They will make connections to their science class as we discuss how we can calculate the replication rate of bacteria in a Petri dish.

In Mr. Diaz's 7th grade English Language Arts classes, students are reading a short story by Richard Wright called "The Man Who Was Almost a Man." They are working on appropriately summarizing the story and finding evidence of characterization and categorizing the evidence as belonging to each of the five common ways authors use characterization. In Mr. Diaz's shared 8th grade English language Arts class, students are reading a short story by Alice Walker called "Everyday Use." They are working on appropriately summarizing the story and finding evidence of characterization and categorizing the evidence as belonging to each of the five common ways authors use characterization.

In Ms. Brown's science class we have been working diligently on our measuring and scientific method skills. 7th grade students are diving into their energy and energy transformation unit. The 8th graders are gradually move into their forces and motion unit.

David Lee our Enrichment program teacher here at Illing is very excited to be working with all of the Team Yale students again this year. We'll work on developing our

kids' creative and critical thinking skills and do fun, engaging, and thought-provoking activities that help them approach problem-solving in all kinds of different ways!

Sarah Walton is the new School Counselor for team Yale. Please feel free to call her with any questions regarding:

- High school planning
- Student success plans
- Questions with your child's schedule
- Information about school counseling or clinical referrals for support services outside of school
- Community programs and resources
- Assistance with school uniforms and/or school trips

You can reach Mrs. Walton at 860-647-3521 x70405. Her office is located to the right of the main office.

We are amped for another amazing school year with our team Yale Family!

**“Don't gain the world and lose your soul, wisdom is better than silver or gold” -Bob Marley**

### *Team Central*



Hello and welcome to Illing Middle School. I hope you and your family are enjoying this new school year. It has been a pleasure to get to know your child these past few weeks. I am Mr. Menefee, your child's World Geography teacher and we have a nice adventure to embark on. Currently, we are beginning to review geography fundamentals. Students are learning about longitude and latitude, physical and cultural characteristics of the earth, climate and vegetation, land use, and resources. We will use these concepts to explore the regions of the Eastern Hemisphere, with a particular focus on Japan, China, Southwest Asia, India, Russia and Africa. We'll keep encouraging your child to do well and participate in the many extracurricular activities Illing has to offer. Open House for seventh grade is October 2 and I hope to meet you there. Enjoy this fall season and I will see you soon. Mr. Menefee.

Mrs. Kalt's Language Arts classes have started learning Greek and Latin prefixes. Students can earn bonus points when they find a new vocabulary word in their

independent reading books. They've also taken a reading comprehension pre-assessment in preparation for their first reading unit. The unit will focus on the elements of great stories. We start with "Rikki-tikki-tavi", a story set in India. Benchmark testing of student reading ability begins at the end of the month. This testing is now done on computers and is un-timed.

Team Central students are brushing up their measuring and graphing skills as we head into our study of scientific method and then simple machines. The seventh grade science curriculum is divided into units on Physical, Biological, and Earth Sciences. The skills we are learning and practicing now will be in use throughout the year so it is very important that they be mastered. We are also emphasizing how STARS behavior is important in the science classroom so that everyone stays safe and can learn to the best of their ability. Keep up the good work kids! Mrs. Werner

Math-Welcome back to you and your student! It has been a great start to the year. We have almost completed our first unit of math that includes adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers. This includes temperatures, checkbooks and a lot of everyday life applications. Ask your child about it!!!

In math students are required to bring *pencils* to class everyday with their complete homework, notebooks and folders. You should expect to see your child working on about 30 minutes of homework a day. I try to give them a little time during the day, but they should never say they have completed it at school – there is just not enough hours in the school day to do so. If your child is spending more than a usual amount of time on homework, please feel free to contact me. It is usually easiest to reach me my email.

I look forward to working with you and your students this year! Any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to let me know! Mrs. Hock

Hello and welcome to the Illing Community. My name is Mr. Morsbach and I am excited to be spending my first year here at Illing Middle School teaching Language Arts to your children. It is a privilege and an honor to be entrusted with the safety and education of your students, and is one that I take very seriously. So far this year, we are off to a great start! The students have been reading short stories, non-fiction articles, and even comic adaptations of short stories. The students are learning about plot structure, conflict, themes, and other literary devices as they read. In a wider sense we have been learning about working together as a team and collaboration; skills that will be particularly useful to the students throughout their lives. Coming from a U.S.

Army background myself, I sought to instill in my classes this sense of teamwork and togetherness by having them recite the warrior ethos before each class. More than just a warm-up, I want it to inspire them throughout the day. Thank you again for the opportunity to make a positive difference in your child's life.

### Army Warrior Ethos

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Mr. Morsbach

### Team Princeton



Princeton Tigers Rock!

In Mrs. Francoeur's Social Studies classes we are fully engaged in studying colonial life in America. Students are looking critically at the three colonial regions: New England, Middle, and Southern, and are determining where specific groups of people settled and how that location influenced their way of life.

We are lucky to be joined by **Ms. Jessica Dean**, our student teacher who has been working hard with our students. Ms. Dean is from Central Connecticut State University and will be with us until December

As we continue our study of American History, students should be keeping a **comprehensive notebook with notes, vocabulary and assignments**. Ask your son or daughter to show you what we have been doing. Be sure to check out our web site where important information can be found, especially the postings of daily homework assignments.

Mr. Mack reports that nearly all special education services on Team Princeton are accomplished through an inclusionary model. Students who need special services or accommodations and modifications are educated with their peers, in regular classrooms. The teachers in the room, both special and regular, and paraprofessionals, provide educational supports.

**As the Common Core is now serving as our benchmark**, all students are being prepared for college and/or careers. *Students who require special education services will be held to the same standards as their non-disabled peers.* Therefore, it is important that inclusion be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Mack with questions or concerns. He checks his email several times a day, making it the most efficient means of communication. Please address email to [b25kmack@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b25kmack@manchesterct.gov) or use the staff directory link on the Illing website.

All math classes on Team Princeton are off to an amazing start! After a short review and/or pre-test, classes have begun unraveling the curriculum. All Connected Math students will be finishing up their first unit on integers, exponents, and scientific notation by the beginning of October and will be moving on to investigating the Pythagorean Theorem. The Algebra 1 class will be finishing up their study of converting different measurements and solving for specific variables by early October and will be moving on to solving multi-step linear equations and inequalities. Warm-ups are done daily to review 8<sup>th</sup> grade material and homework is given three to four times a week. As long as students keep up with their work and put in the effort needed on class work and assessments, all students are on track for a very successful year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math!

Language Arts classes have delved into a unit of study on "What Makes a Good Story?" Through short stories and videos, students are learning to identify the essential parts to a good story. As well, they are discussing literature themes, use of suspense by authors, how irony impacts a reader's understanding of texts, and will be planning and writing sequels to one of the short stories we've read so far. This writing will be rigorous in that students will be required to invent and use examples of irony and/or suspense the way that real authors do! We don't fool around! Students should understand that their writing will not be perfect and be willing to take risks with their writing. In Mrs. Reilly's and Mr. Naidorf's classrooms, everything they attempt will be respected and appreciated. In our classrooms, "It's all legit!"

Team Princeton Science classes are off and running! We are beginning the school year with an exploration of speed and velocity. This will lead us into Newton's Three Laws of Motion, and we will investigate how forces combine to affect the motion of objects. We will be completing our first formal lab report of the year when we research factors which affect the force of friction. Parents are reminded to ask students for the updated grade report every Friday - please take that opportunity to stay on top of your student's performance in science class!

### Team Syracuse



Now that we are settled into our school year, we want to thank all of the parents and guardians who have gone out of their way to touch base with us, be it in the community, at a school event, or through phone calls and emails. We on Team Syracuse truly work with all of our school staff and resources to support and develop a TEAM to encourage and guide each and every one of your children through their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, and we are so grateful to have you on that journey with us.

While we are always just a phone call or an email away, our next scheduled opportunity to meet you face-to-face (after Open House, of course) will be during conferences, scheduled for 11/12/13 and 11/13/13. Please - come on in, let's talk about your child. What can we do to support you at home? How can we help to make the 8<sup>th</sup> grade a successful year, leading to a great high school experience? While you are at Illing on that day, please complete the School Climate Survey at one of the computer stations that will be set up in the hallways outside of the classrooms. We want your feedback and suggestions.

In our classrooms, we are busy learning and growing in every way. In a sampling of what will be covered, Language Arts classes with both Mr. Lang and Mrs. Tierney, are reviewing and identifying the elements of a story, while at the same time working with roots, suffixes, and prefixes to prepare for the Common Core. In each LA class, our students should be reading for 30 minutes per night at home, with additional homework assignments being given 3 – 4 nights per week.

In Social Studies with Mr. Pohl, students will create a Colony-based persuasive brochure in Microsoft Publisher. Students will be assigned research-based reading or reading from the textbook 3-4 nights per week. Please note that Washington, DC information packets have gone home. If you think your child may be interested in this once-in-a-lifetime trip, please fill out all forms and return them with your initial payment to Mr. Pohl ASAP.

On the Math side of the corridor, Algebra students will be working with literal expressions and dimensional analysis.

Expect homework every night. In Connected Math, we will continue to study exponents and scientific notation during September, and the Pythagorean theorem in October. Homework is nightly. Remember – always try the homework because while we strive for accuracy, effort is also very important.

And finally, in Science Syracuse students are observing, experimenting, inferring and much more while learning what makes objects move the way they do.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call Illing or email us. Our team information can be found via the Illing website at: <http://illingschool.townofmanchester.org/IllingTeams.htm>

### Team Cornell



*Team Cornell's Math Corner* Greetings Readers. Currently, within the world of REAL numbers, our scholars are engaged in the unit of Exponents where we will learn and apply the properties of integer exponents to generate equivalent numerical expressions. Following this, we will explore the Pythagorean Theorem. Upon completion, it is expected that your student be able to understand and apply it in real world instances. Concurrently, we will continue to review and extend the knowledge of order of operations and the computing of integers. As suggested in the beginning of the school year, each student is urged to become acquainted with helpful resources available beyond the regular classroom hour. They are: homework club, websites such as, Khan Academy and Coolmath and, of course, my assistance when available. It is important that your student know that obtaining help does not require hourly sessions to strengthen or exercise math competence. The employment of daily visits, ranging from 15- 20 minutes, to either or a combination of the areas mentioned would prove substantially beneficial to one's academic development. Thank you for your time. Claim a Good-Day

*Mrs. Gohla's Language Arts* classes have been learning about reading think alouds, plot, theme, and what makes a good short story. Students have been working in cooperative groups and utilizing children's books, Pixar short films, and various short stories to meet daily class objectives. All students are expected to read for at least 20

minutes each night as their daily homework. Bookmarks are collected every two weeks and require a parent signature.

*Mr. Bebyn's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies* classes will begin the study of the History of the United States! We are first becoming familiar with our country by doing a variety of activities involving the use of Atlases and other resources. We are also doing a review of all the states and capitals. Weekly quizzes have been given with students assigned ten states a week. Also, we will be discovering a variety of reading strategies designed to increase reading comprehension of nonfiction material as students will be exposed to not only their student text but other outside sources as well. Looking forward to seeing you at our Open House on October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

*Mrs. Botting's Language Arts* classes are already off to a great start this year! Our focus for the first part of the year is on the elements of short stories and author's craft, with a slightly later focus on figurative language. Students will be reading excellent short stories and poetry, and writing stories of their own as well. Please encourage your student to stay on top of their nightly homework assignment: reading approximately 25 pages per school night in books of their choosing. (If they read award winning literature, they get double-page credit, while graphic novels or magazines get half-page credit. If they're going to read less, they should read the best, right?)

If you ever have any questions (or your student is stuck on something at home), feel free to e-mail me at [b25lbott@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b25lbott@manchesterct.gov). I will always respond! It's also handy for when the printer isn't working and an assignment is due.

**Science RULES** on Team Cornell! Please contact me with any questions/comments ([b21vschn@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21vschn@manchesterct.gov)). Students will be practicing at home (another word for homework) usually Monday through Thursday. There are projects on some Fridays. I look forward to meeting parents at Open House and getting to know your wonderful 8th graders. Please have students come prepared to THINK in my class!!!! Mrs. Schneider

### Team UConn



Everyone is really excited to welcome the students back here on team UCONN! Let's make sure the year gets started the right way.

We are happy to announce the arrival of our new Language Arts teacher Ms. Cocola to the team. Ms. Cocola has taught previously in Bloomfield schools and has already hit the ground running and with all her classes. Currently her students are working on different elements of short stories.

In Mr. Kienle's classes we are currently immersed in a reading short story unit. We have just finished "The Monkey's Paw." Students are currently writing and performing suspense plays right here in class. Students have been working very well together in groups, and adhering to the tasks. Social Studies classes on Team UCONN have been focusing on team and school procedures and techniques for studying and ultimate educational success.

As October dawns we will be beginning our investigation of the early American colonies. During the month students will also be exploring the historical significance of the Salem Witch Trials. As we move toward November, students will study the earliest forms of American government, the rise of trade in the American colonies, and the numerous conflicts that erupted on the American continent. All these events and happenings will help fill the powder keg toward the American Revolution.

Mrs. Brisee's connected math classes have made the progression from studying integers to learning about exponents and scientific notation. Algebra classes are studying unit conversions and will have their first collaborative assessment next week. Team Uconn is also scheduled to have NWEA testing next week. These are benchmark assessments given in September, January and May which follow the progress of students.

### Art Department

We have just finished welcoming our students and getting down to work. September in the Art Dept was a busy one.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students are finishing ceramic Piggy Banks as their Folk Art Projects and now are moving on to a Multi cultural project influenced by the Mexican celebration of The Day of the Dead, this celebration with its brightly colored design should produce fun projects. Some 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have just finished challenging illustrations of antique cameras and are now discovering the magic of point perspective and the wonders of drawing in three dimensions.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students are finishing up camera drawings. Some of our students have discussed their ethnic heritage and

influences of those ethnic backgrounds. Now, many students will be starting to look at Chinese culture and work to create fan designs that will be water colored and then mounted. Others of our students have been working on Japanese water color paintings and collage.

Mr. Atkins is now offering Art Cub on Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 – 4:00pm. Come and enjoy discovering your creative side.

The Art Department returned to an old tradition last school year, with our annual Student Art Show. Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Atkins will be saving art work throughout the year to be displayed at the Art Show. This exciting event will take place in the final weeks of the school year to give us the opportunity to squeeze all the creativity we can out of our students. Please be patient with us if we retain your students work. All art work will be returned after the art show. Students would just need to retrieve their work from the Art Department.

### **Enrichment Program**

I am thrilled to be back for another year as Illing's Enrichment Program teacher and am very excited to get our first project up and running. For all Enrichment parents, here are the basic facts for the beginning of the year that you'll need to know:

- Our fall/winter project is based on Emily Dickinson, her life and poetry, and the novel *Nobody's Secret* by Michaela MacColl.
- All projects this year will revolve around questions- students will learn how to develop an Essential Question for each project and generate the research questions that will support the Essential Question and lead the students to their creative project production.
- The students' project menu is available for you to see on the Illing website, and the Student Project Handbook that each student will work through will be available on the site very soon!
- Michaela MacColl, the author of *Nobody's Secret*, will be visiting our school on November 21<sup>st</sup>!
- Our first project showcase date is not set quite yet, but we're looking at early January 2014 currently. The official date will be mailed to you and on the website ASAP!

I'm looking forward to seeing what our students create this year!

### **Family and Consumer Science**

Family and Consumer Science are on the move! Come and visit our new sewing space in room 117. We are

connecting with our colleagues in Art when students sew their 3-D projects. Right now in Ms. Stepanski's class, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is finishing up their gym bags. They are strong and can hold books, wet swim suits or just plain stuff. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is working on their pencil pouches. These pouches are normally sold in the business supply stores for \$5-\$9! They can hold STARS coupons, pens and pencils along with the occasional eraser.

Both the seventh and eighth graders are winding down their time in the kitchens with Mrs. Pickett. We've learned about nutrition, measuring, kitchen safety and recipe reading comprehension. Did you know reading a recipe requires not only good reading skills but understanding of sequential order, proper measuring technique and science? A recipe is like a scientific formula! Ask your student about his or her journey through the IMS kitchen lab.

Cooking is learning! It is also a great way to bond with those you love! I enjoy hearing stories of my students cooking at home. Encourage your child to cook with and for you. You can make it an adventure from recipe search, to shopping, to preparation to eating! Here's a fun website you and your child can explore together: <http://www.cookingwithkids.com/part5/teen-recipes.html> In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mrs. Pickett's 8<sup>th</sup> graders made tamales! Tamales date back over 3 thousand years. They are a type of stuffed corn dumpling that is steamed (originally roasted) in cornhusks or bananas leaves, and are completely portable; no utensils required to carry or eat them! Tamales can be savory, plain or sweet. Since they can take up to an hour to steam we used a pressure cooker to get the job done in just ten minutes. This has been another connection to science and cooking. Interested in trying them? Here's a link to get you started: <http://mexicanfood.about.com/od/deliciousmaindishes/a/tamalefillings.htm>



### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Girls' Choir, Boys' Choir and Illing Singers all began the week of September 23rd, with Girls on Monday, Boys on

Tuesday, and Illing Singers on Thursday. Please see Mrs. Hilton on the stage if you didn't receive information about these groups, and are interested in joining. Additional information and rehearsal schedules are also available. (The late bus is available on those days.) There is also a Community Choir that meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 on the stage for parents, relatives and friends. Please email Mrs. Hilton for additional information: [B21chilt@manchesterct.gov](mailto:B21chilt@manchesterct.gov). Please save the date of Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, which is the night of the choir concert beginning at 7:00 pm at Manchester High's Bailey Auditorium. Concert dress has been included in the choir contract as black on the bottom, and white on top! Please email me with any questions! I look forward to seeing you on the 12<sup>th</sup>, if not before!!

Cheryl Hilton

### **Hello String Families!!**

I am already enjoying all of the hard work your orchestra students are putting in so far this year. They are making great improvements in the first month alone. We are working hard to build our musical vocabulary and apply it to the music we are playing. Make sure you mark your calendars! December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Manchester High School Auditorium is our first performance of the year. Students are expected to wear white on top and dark on the bottom. The Illing Uniform is acceptable. Please plan accordingly.

Please know that the Practice and Homework routine is in full swing. Your child is given a practice sheet and one written assignment at the start of every week. It is due to me the following week. After homework is collected, grades are updated. Please check in with your student to see how they are doing! If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can best be reached by email at [b57hsica@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b57hsica@manchesterct.gov), or by phone at 860-647-3400.

Mrs. Sica-Leonard

### **SCIENCE CLUB**



Thursdays beginning  
September 19, Science Club meets in room 226. Advisor: Mrs. Ginny Schneider. All are welcome to come every week or when the students' schedules allow. There will be field trips, visiting scientists, and competitions. Students can also choose the activities we do.

We welcome students who would like to do a little science for fun. You need to fill in a membership form posted in an envelope outside room 226. Members of the Illing community can try out for the Illing School Science Bowl Team (Check out the national website <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/nsb/middle-school/>) The competition is February 22 at University of Connecticut. A good candidate knows lots of science trivia and loves math!!! Contact Mrs. Schneider [b21vschn@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21vschn@manchesterct.gov) or leave a message on the school phone. SCIENCE RULES!!!!

### **World Language**

Sr. Ramos' 7th graders are working on their dialogues using introductions and greetings, learning necessary phrases, and practicing their numbers 1 – 1,000,000.

The 8th grade exploratory class is doing quite a bit of map work involving the Hispanic countries with their physical characteristics. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade High School class is reviewing their dialogues using introductions and greetings, learning necessary phrases, and practicing their numbers 1 – 1,000,000.

In Sr. Blanco's classes, 7th graders are counting numbers in addition to questions/answers expanding their conversational repertoire. 8th grade exploratory classes also continue to expand their conversational questions/answers including ¿De dónde eres? ¿Cuántos años tienes? ¿Cómo te llamas? Students are currently telling about themselves and asking about others. 8<sup>th</sup> grade High School classes are reviewing questions/answers in their basic conversational repertoire.

Sra. Alejandro's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish classes are working on their courteous dialogues in a restaurant setting, learning about the calendar, identifying the Hispanic countries and their capitals, and necessary phrases in Spanish! They have just learned their alfabeto, so, parents, quiz them! We will be learning lots of songs during this school year! Encourage your child to keep the "A" in the class! There will be homework for almost every night. 8<sup>th</sup> grade exploratory classes are preparing to become exchange students in a Hispanic country! They are working on the countries and their capitals, colors, numbers, and clothing! They are soon going to pack their maletas!

Sra. Alejandro's 8<sup>th</sup> grade High School Spanish classes are reviewing their basic conversations including greetings, introductions, birthdays, and the weather! We will be covering foods, family, clothing, vacations, and the house during this school year as well as learning more songs! There will be homework almost every night. Sra. Alejandro would encourage each parent/guardian to learn

Spanish along with your child, that way the student is teaching what he has learned! You can always email Sra. at [b21aalej@ci.manchester.ct.us](mailto:b21aalej@ci.manchester.ct.us) or use the child's planner to send a note. ¡Gracias y buen día!

**From all of us:** Parents/guardians: please remind your child that they have Spanish homework every day! There will be written homework on some nights and practice/review every night. To have the greatest success students should have a notebook (or section) exclusively for their World Language notes. Ask to see their notes and help quiz them at home. ¡Gracias!

### Hispanic Heritage Month

HMM is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 every year **Hispanic Heritage Month Tidbit:** Among the top 10 Countries with Most Spanish Language Speakers, the USA is number 6! Yes! The USA beats out 16 countries where Spanish is the official language!

**Are you smarter than a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader?** In what country of Africa is the official language ESPAÑOL? Please have your child write the answer in a complete sentence on a 3x5 card along with their name and home room and bring it to the World Language Office in the Media Center. The first five correct answers will win a prize.

### Tech Ed

Technology Education is a study of technology, in which students "learn about the processes and knowledge related to technology" in a hands-on approach.

As a study, it covers the human ability to shape and change the physical world to meet needs, by manipulating materials and tools with specific techniques.

We will instruct all students in the areas of Communication, Construction and Transportation in this fun, hands-on approach to education. We have much to teach you, so let's learn by doing...

The Technology Ed Department

### Class Trip

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip to Washington, DC

Are you an 8<sup>th</sup> grader? This will prove to be one of your most memorable school years ever! Why you ask? This is the year you will experience your **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip**. We have already begun the preparations for this amazing adventure and we want you to come along. We are scheduled to travel to Washington, DC on May 14-16,

2014. Some of the sites we will see include the Newseum, the Natural History Museum, the American History Museum, the Holocaust Museum, the monuments in DC and Arlington National Cemetery where Illing Middle School has been honored with the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is a once in a lifetime experience. You don't want to miss it! Packets of information have already been sent home. Partial scholarships are available for those in need. Applications for a scholarship will be available from your social studies teacher in October.

#### As a reminder the following is the payment schedule for this year's trip:

Initial Deposit	\$125.00	September 30, 2013
Second Payment	\$120.00	October 28, 2013
Third Payment	\$120.00	November 25, 2013
Fourth Payment	\$110.00	January 15, 2014
Final Payment`	\$110.00	February 19, 2014

**This year, in addition to the Illing Website, we have a new way for you to keep updated on upcoming events and due dates - our Text Message reminder system! To sign up, text number 475-529-2263 with the message @beaf5. You will receive a message about what to do next so that you can be a member of the text message blasts that we will periodically send out.**

**Don't forget the Can & Bottle Drive that will be held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8am – noon here in the Illing parking lot. We will have a blast and make some money at the same time! ☺**

### **MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public

School's nondiscrimination policies should be directed  
to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX  
Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil  
Personnel Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools

45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3452

or

Suzanne Valade, Coordinator of School Health  
Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3324

## Who You Gonna Call? (Not Ghostbusters!)

*It is confusing at times to decide who to contact when an issue(s) arises with your child at schools. With regard to a peer problem or an academic dilemma, who should you contact at the school to help with the matter? Well, your first and best recourse is always with the classroom teacher. Remember, Iling Middle School boasts strong "social assistance" in our school counselors: Grade 7 - Ms. Zalewski; Grade 8: Ms. Petito; Team Yale and Student Support Services - Ms. Walton. Remember, too, our school psychologist: Ms. Manhertz. Don't hesitate to call our incredibly talented social workers: Ms. Owen and Mr. Anger. Perhaps, the secretary in the main office can help guide you: Mrs. McFarlane. Ms. Lombardi and Ms. Strano, our school nurses, many times, work in concert with families in need, beyond the medical realm.*



*It is strongly recommended that you go to and through the appropriate channels to communicate a concern before contacting an assistant principal or principal. This invariably creates a smoother and more manageable dialogue and collaboration for both school and family. Naturally, if the circumstance is extreme and unusual, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Martin for Grade 7; Mr. Osunde for Grade 8; Mrs. Fuini, Assistant Principal for Team Yale and Student Support Services; and Mr. Welch, Principal. If your child's bus is late to or from school or, in your purview, it is bus-related issue, please call Debi Levesque in transportation at 647-3476. Lastly, if a lunch payment or food problem emergences you can always call Nick Aldi, at 647-3461.*



*It is important to all of us that we remedy any problem as soon as possible so our kids will continue to have a positive middle school experience. Remember, we are*

*family here at Illing Middle School and will always continue to prepare "Today's Learners to be Tomorrow's Leaders!"*

### **Welcome to Uyi Osunde!**

Mr. Uyi Osunde will begin his tenure as our new assistant principal for grade 8 at Illing Middle School by October 1, 2013. We are excited to welcome him to our Illing Middle School family! Below is a message from Mr. Osunde:

Hello,

I humbly introduce myself as the newest member of the Administrative Team at the Arthur H. Illing School Community. At a recent faculty meeting, I had the opportunity to meet with many of my future colleagues. I am excited and encouraged to be working with passionate and enthusiastic educators who care deeply about the students they teach.

A little about myself; I was educated and trained at the University of Connecticut, earning a bachelor degree in Psychology and a graduate degree in Educational Psychology. I subsequently attained a second graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University. I feel honored to be back in the district where I began my career in education. In the years past, I have worked for New London Public Schools and most recently East Hartford Public Schools. Within those experiences, I have had the opportunity to work with many amazing professionals, parents, and certainly students.

My professional philosophy is embedded in concepts of teamwork, goal setting, and clear communication. I believe that when these elements exist, success and achievement are often near. I have made a personal commitment to myself to work tirelessly to aid in advancing the mission of Arthur H. Illing Middle School and Manchester Public Schools. It is our goal that your child achieves at the highest levels while gaining a first-class educational experience prior to their transition into the high school. I look forward to working with this community in achieving the goals set by Illing Middle School and the Manchester Board of Education. If you have any questions regarding your child's educational plan, do not hesitate call or stop by our school—our doors are always open.

Respectfully,

*Uyi E. Osunde*  
Assistant Principal  
Arthur H. Illing Middle School

### **Student Agenda**

As we continue to modify, standardize, and clarify the procedural structures at Illing Middle School, it is imperative that parents peruse the handbook with their son/daughter from time to time and be clear on expectations for success. Thank you for your attention in this regard.

### **SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

In response to both legislative and moral imperatives, all stakeholders at Illing Middle School will be invited to analyze the frequency of bullying and the general school climate of the school. A process is in place by which both acts of bullying and the general climate of the school are continually assessed and discussed. Additionally, an education and a response plan was created to create a proactive environment and a protocol that addresses incidents as they arise. The intermingling of “cyberbullying” and the resultant actions of students in school are also part of the work of this committee. The bill establishes a hierarchy of people within schools and school districts and makes them responsible for developing and implementing the safe school climate plans, biennial school climate assessments, and the bill's reporting requirements.

#### ***Safe School Climate Coordinator***

Starting with the 2012-13 school year, the bill requires each school superintendent to appoint a safe school climate coordinator from existing school staff. The Manchester School District *Safe School Climate Coordinator* is **Ms. Heidi Macchi**.

#### ***Safe School Climate Specialist***

Starting with the 2012-13 school year, the bill requires each school principal to serve, or designate someone to serve, as the safe school climate specialist for the school. Specialists must (1) investigate bullying reports according to the district's safe school climate plan; (2) collect and maintain records of the school's bullying reports and investigations; and (3) be the primary person responsible for preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying reports in the school. Illing Middle School's *Safe School Climate Specialist* is **Ms. Ann Fuini**, Assistant Principal for Student Services.

#### ***Safe School Climate Committee***

Starting with the 2012-13 school year, the bill requires each school to have at least one committee that is responsible for fostering a safe school climate and addressing school bullying. The committee must include at least one parent of a school student, appointed by the principal.

The committee must:

1. receive copies of completed bullying investigation reports;
2. identify and address bullying patterns;
3. review and amend school bullying policies;
4. review the district plan and make recommendations to the district coordinator based on issues at the school;
5. educate students, parents, and others about bullying;
6. collaborate with the district coordinator to collect data on bullying; and
7. perform other related duties as the principal determines.

*The bill excludes parent members from the first two activities and from any other committee activities that may compromise student confidentiality.*

## **Mean-Spirited Versus Bullying Behavior**



Connecticut's legal definition of **bullying** reads: ...*any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate, or intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a school bus.*” In other words the bullying must be a repeated event by the same student(s) and occur on school grounds, or at a school-related activity, or a school vehicle... Essentially, *bullying* entails an imbalance in strength between the bullies and the victim, what experts call an asymmetric power relationship.

Because the term *bullying* has become generalized, overused, and a “catch-all” term for almost any negative behavior directed at another individual, the State of Connecticut has recently embraced the phrase *mean-spirited behaviors* this school year to define inappropriate behaviors aimed at another student or group. Initially, whenever a student is repeatedly exposed to negative actions on the part of one or more other students, the perpetrator is exhibiting mean behavior. These negative actions can take the form of:

- physical contact
- verbal abuse
- rude gestures
- spreading rumors and excluding the victim from a group are also common forms of bullying

However, we all know what **mean** looks, feels and sounds like. And keeping with the tenor of the times, almost everything masquerades as *bullying* behavior. And, despite the legal definition, **true bullying is about abuse of power.** Therefore, when dealing with most situations in schools and at this age, the definition of *mean-spirited* is anything that compromises and hurts another, no matter how seemingly small. That is why discovering and genuinely recognizing and addressing the mean-spirited behavior is a more logical, definable and appropriate thing to do in practice rather than waiting until and invariably labeling incidents as real and/or true *bullying* – the statutory definition or merely an abuse of power.

At Illing Middle School, we take any type of *mean-spiritedness* (taunting, teasing, harassment, unwelcome/uncomfortable interactions, etc.) very seriously. Mr. Welch, Principal, and Assistant Principals, Ms. Fuini, Mr. Osunde, and Mr. Martin, meet with all the academic teams of students regularly to discuss the S.T.A.R.S. program, but also to talk to students about unwelcome and unwarranted actions which are, at their very core, *mean* and intended to annoy, hurt, and/or defame. Our discussions with our students focus on the fact that they need to make good decisions. Hurting someone can be accomplished through mere words not just physical aggression. The message is clear. First incident may merely be a verbal warning. But if the inappropriate behavior continues, it will lead to a severe consequence and possibly police action. **There is no place for *Mean-Spirited Behavior* at Illing Middle School!**

### **What is Cyberbullying?**

*Cyberbullying* is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. Once adults become involved, it is plain and simple cyber-harassment or cyberstalking. Adult cyber-harassment or cyberstalking is NEVER called cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is usually not a onetime communication, unless it involves a death threat or a credible threat of serious bodily harm. Kids usually know it when they see it, while parents may be more worried about the lewd language used by the kids than the hurtful effect of rude and embarrassing posts.

Cyberbullying may arise to the level of a misdemeanor cyberharassment charge, or if the child is young enough may result in the charge of juvenile delinquency. Most of the time the cyberbullying does not go that far, although parents often try and pursue criminal charges. It typically can result in a child losing their ISP or IM accounts as a terms of service violation. And in some cases, if hacking or password and identity theft is involved, can be a serious criminal matter under state and federal law.

**Preventing cyberbullying** - *Educating the kids about the consequences (losing their ISP or IM accounts) helps. Teaching them to respect others and to take a stand against bullying of all kinds helps too.*

### **How can you stop it once it starts?**

Because their motives differ, the solutions and responses to each type of cyberbullying incident has to differ too. Unfortunately, there is no "one size fits all" when cyberbullying is concerned. Only two of the types of cyberbullies have something in common with the traditional schoolyard bully. Experts who understand schoolyard bullying often misunderstand cyberbullying, thinking it is just another method of bullying. But the motives and the nature of cybercommunications, as well as the demographic and profile of a cyberbully differ from their offline counterpart.

### **What is the school's role in this?**

When schools try and get involved by disciplining the student for cyberbullying actions that took place off-campus and outside of school hours, they are often sued for exceeding their authority and violating the student's free speech right.

### **What's the parents' role in this?**

Parents need to be the one trusted place kids can go when things go wrong online and offline. Yet they often are the one place kids avoid when things go wrong online.

***Please remember to monitor your child's computer use as well as warn him/her about the legal ramifications to "writing on the net." It is imperative that they understand just how much they can lose if they use the internet in an inappropriate way!***

### **Who Are the Bullies?**

In this *Education Week* article, Nirvi Shah reports on a study published in the February 2011 *American Sociological Review* saying that middle- and high-school bullies are not usually social outcasts or the most popular students, but come from the middle of their schools' social hierarchies. "I think there's a simple explanation," says University of California/Davis professor Robert Faris, co-author of the study. "These kids view aggression as one tactic for gaining or maintaining their social status... Once they get to the top, they no longer need to be aggressive.

Aggression could be counterproductive. It could signal insecurity.” Faris stresses that there are exceptions, including some ostracized students.

Marlene Snyder of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (which has been adopted by more than 7,000 schools in the U.S.) agrees that educators need to let go of old stereotypes about who bullies. “We are very careful to teach our teachers that anyone can play any role,” she says. “It’s what group you’re with and what the situation is.”

Leigh Anne Kraemer of the Ophelia Project echoes this view. “It’s a myth that it’s just the popular kids that bully. It’s not the rich kids picking on the poor kids or the bigger ones picking on the little ones,” she says. “If you’re looking to gain power and status by pushing others down, that’s where we really see a problem.”

“Study Punctures Stereotypes About Social Status of Bullies” by Nirvi Shah in *Education Week*, Feb. 23, 2011 (Vol. 30, #21, p. 9) <http://www.edweek.org>

### **Illing Middle School S. T. A. R. S. Award Winners**

Congratulations to the following students who received a **STARS Award** at Illing Middle School: Anisa Vogli, Antoine Lefebure, Kristine Segovia, Tiarah Matticks, Nester Torres, Ivelyse Smith and Mitchell Bouchard. We are proud of our kids who make a conscious effort to *Reach for the STARS* at Illing Middle School! You will begin to see many more names and a picture in the STARS showcase as our staff continues to understand and embrace this new initiative.



## **student of the Month**

Central	Amanda Baranowski
Dartmouth	Anthony Cavallo
Tufts	Landis Douglas
URI	Jerry Harris
Yale	Brexton James
Cornell	Han-Yu Chung
Princeton	Lucy Colletti
Syracuse	Ben Mushinski
UConn	Aysa Dunne

**ILLING MIDDLE SCHOOL’s Nurse’s Notes:**



## MANDATED REQUIREMENTS FOR SPORTS

### ATTENTION PARENTS:

In order for your child to participate in sports/cheerleading at Illing Middle School, the following is MANDATORY:

You **MUST** have a Manchester Public School Athletic Participation Form completed and returned to the Illing Nurses **PRIOR** to tryouts.

### TWO (2) SIGNATURES ARE MANDATORY ON THE FORM:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Physician Signature

Your child will **NOT** be allowed to try out or attend tryouts without the above signatures—**NO** exceptions! Any questions, please call the Nurse's Office at 860-647-3416 or 860-647-5076.

### Bicycle Helmets – It's the Law!

Parents, please help me with this...I have a number of students riding their bicycles to and from school without proper head protection. If your son or daughter rides his/her bike to school, please be sure he/she is wearing a helmet. I have reminded students about this mandate, discussing the need for safety and obeying the rules. I ask for your assistance to require your child to be cognizant of the law. Quite frankly, a Manchester police officer can administer a ticket to any offending youth. Please help me keep our kids safe. Thank you.

### Helping Your Child Stay Out of Trouble and Succeed in School!

1. Establish regular bedtimes.
2. Subscribe to magazines and newspapers.
3. Limit TV time.
4. Talk about school and life-long learning.
5. Have maps around the house.
6. Celebrate big and little successes at school.
7. Make a real big deal out of reading.
8. Model patience and sticking to a task.
9. Talk about the values you believe in and live by.
10. Spend time in the classroom.
11. Don't stop learning yourself.
12. Show your children how mature people solve problems.
13. Model goal setting.
14. Communicate with teachers.
15. Show interest in your child's school work.
16. Support positive peer groups such as D.A.R.E.
17. Hug them and say, "I love you."