

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

October 15, 2014

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our first quarterly marking period! Every day I am impressed by the positive behaviors and attitudes of Illing students and the degree to which they strive to achieve excellence. Our teachers have been busy preparing lessons and activities to engage your children and prepare them for the rigor of high school and beyond. We are striving to grow as a learning community and have been working to:

- update curriculum to more closely align to national standards
- improve instructional strategies and differentiate lessons
- utilize Chromebooks to engage students by using technology as a tool to enhance instruction
- acknowledge student accomplishments and behaviors through our STARS and student of the month programs
- prepare for student/parent/teacher conferences on November 12 and 13
- plan a variety of experiences intended to spark your child's creativity, curiosity and passion to learn

It's been a great school year so far!

I hope you enjoy reading our first bi-monthly newsletter of the 2014-15 school year. Your involvement and input in your child's educational program is critical to the success of our partnership as we strive to ensure that Illing Middle School is excellent in every way. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

With warm regards,

Beth Hayes, Interim Principal

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Team News
- ◆ PTA News
- ◆ Students of the Month

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Dine-Out Night at Dairy Queen!



## TEAM CENTRAL

Hello and welcome to the Illing Community. My name is Mr. Morsbach and I am excited to be 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, and trying to answer the essential question "What makes a story great?". 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 seek to instill in my classes this sense of teamwork and togetherness by having them recite the warrior ethos every Friday. More than just a warm-up, I want it to inspire them throughout the week. Thank you again for the opportunity to make a positive difference in your child's life.

### LANGUAGE ARTS!

MS. BURDACKI'S CLASS IS STUDYING THE ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY THROUGH GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY. WE WILL BE WRITING OUR OWN MYTHS AS THE CAPSTONE OF THE UNIT. IN ADDITION, WE ARE STUDYING VOCABULARY THROUGH GREEK AND LATIN ROOT WORDS, AS WE WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO A DECEMBER FIELD TRIP TO HARTFORD STAGE TO SEE "A CHRISTMAS CAROL".

In Mr. Menefee's World Geography class they 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 and Africa. Keep encouraging your child to do well and participate in the many extracurricular activities Illing has to offer.

### *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.*

IN SCIENCE YOUR CHILDREN CAN SEE THEIR GRADES ANONYMOUSLY POSTED IN MR. MENELEE'S CLASSROOM AND UPDATED EVERY FEW DAYS. PLEASE CHECK HOME ACCESS AND YOUR CHILD'S GRADE RECORD IN THEIR SCIENCE FOLDER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT LOW GRADES OR MISSING WORK, ASK YOUR CHILD TO SHOW YOU THE ASSIGNMENT AND DISCUSS IT WITH HIM/HER.

Team Central science students are becoming experts at collecting and graphing data. When you look in your child's neatly organized science folder, you will see small rubrics stapled to all of their graphs. These will tell you exactly where points were earned or lost on the assignment. We are starting physical science and the metric system as well. The physical science unit entails a lot of math. (Yes, math in science!) Students will be required to write formulas, show their work and have a unit after each answer. It is really important to do these steps as it focuses them on the problem.

Most parents received my letter home about remind.com, and 42 people have signed up (as of 9/30) to receive texts or emails from me regarding science homework. If your child did not give you the letter, please ask them for it or have them get another copy from me. It is a great tool, in addition to the planner, for

Mr. Moore's math class is wrapping up the first unit on integer expressions which includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and the order of operations. We will begin work on our next unit involving equations and expressions shortly! Mr. Moore is very happy with the progress and attitudes thus far!



## TEAM PRINCETON

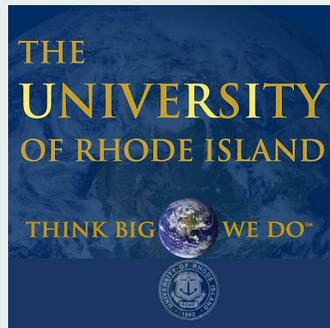
Here on Princeton we are very busy indeed! In social studies, students are beginning their studies on the American Revolution. In math the majority of kids will be studying the Pythagorean Theory and in algebra they will be solving equations and inequalities. Science is very exciting right now, with everyone exploring how mitosis and meiosis works and how genes combine to form a new individual. Finally, in language arts, Mr. Naidorf and Mrs. Reilly are finishing up the unit on short stories and will be giving a final assessment on what the students have been taught. October will begin a unit on analyzing and creating poetry.

As well, permission slips and money should have been handed in for our Boston trip on October 20, 2014. Mrs. Reilly will be joining the students who stay behind. Our next trip, to NYC (which will be on November 7, 2014), is in the works and parents should keep their eyes peeled for the permission slip for that. There will be no charge and we want to thank Mr. Axler for coordinating the details of this trip. He is an amazing asset to our team!

Lastly, we need all students and parents to be accessing grades on our Home Access system! It is vital for everyone to see if grades are dropping so students can be proactive in getting them up. The quarter will be drawing to a close in a short few weeks. Please contact Ms. Cody at 860-647-5085 if you are having difficulty logging in or navigating the site.

### PTA FUNDRAISER AT DAIRY QUEEN!!!!

Dairy Queen Dine Out Night on Monday, November 10, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Dairy Queen at 684 Hartford Road in Manchester will donate 10% of ALL sales between those hours to Illing Middle School PTA. Come and enjoy some great ice cream and meet other Illing families. Remember—there is no school the following day!



## TEAM URI

The first URI Team Day will be October 22, 2014. The day will focus on activities that help students learn about the University of Rhode Island and the programs available. Each activity will be tied to the subject matter of the team teacher.

Congratulations to our Student Council Representatives:

Austin Palmer

Oswaldo Valerio

Aliya Condry

And Student of the Month

Sarah Turley

Our first field trip will be October 28th to the Connecticut Science Center.

## TEAM CORNELL

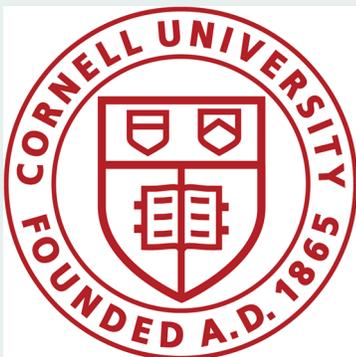
**Ms. Botting's** language arts class is focusing on using our Chromebooks to better understand how to write short stories, dialogue and other fiction writing skills. Remember to encourage your student to read every school evening.

We are looking forward to our Boston trip. Hopefully, it will be good weather and a lot of fun and learning! Check the team website for details of the trip and hopefully a few great pictures, too!

**Mrs. Schneider's** science class is studying math and motion!!! Ah, physics. Math is your best friend in SCIENCE because the answers are ALWAYS correct. Keep all papers to study from; and prepare for an outside project in Motion. Please check the Cornell website for updated every night assignments. Questions? Email Mrs. Schneider at [b21vschn@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21vschn@manchesterct.gov) SCIENCE RULES!

With having just finished their first units, **Mrs. Brisee's** math classes have a foundation to build upon. We are moving on to solving inequalities in the algebra class, and the Pythagorean Theorem in math. It is important that your student has the skills and understanding to move ahead. If your student is having difficulty with a concept or skill, Mrs. Brisee encourages him/her to come in for assistance. Sometimes all it takes is a little extra help.

**Mr. Bebyn's** social studies classes have been exploring the settling of the 13 colonies. Students completed a DBQ (which is a document based question) where they answered the question: Why did colonists die at Jamestown? We have been having students distinguish between primary and secondary sources as we go further into our study of American History.



# TEAM CORNELL CONTINUED

**Mrs. Gohla's** language arts classes have been exploring the making of a good story by learning about plot elements, dialogue, character traits, point of view, and mood/tone. Each student should be reading at least 20 minutes every night and recording their reading on their bookmark. Bookmarks are due every other week.

With the addition of Chromebooks, students have been set up in Google classrooms for many of their classes. Chromebooks can be a great tool to use in the classroom. Please remind your student about appropriate use with their Chromebook and what is expected of them. Your support at home is extremely valuable to us at school.



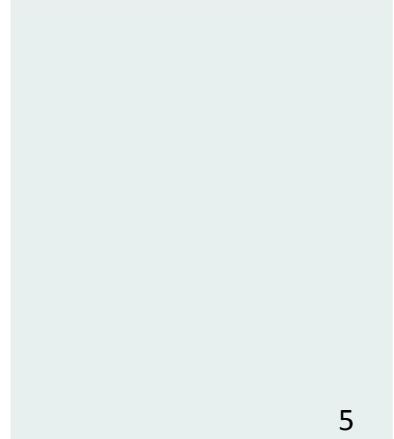
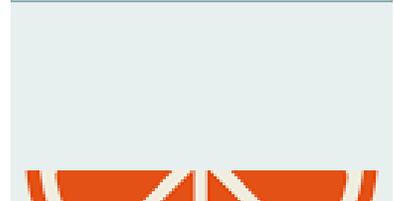
Some reminders: Team Cornell runs a Homework Club three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday). Your student can check in any team teacher's room to see who is staying after school that day. Staying for Homework Club can earn them bonus points! Also, be sure to check your sons/daughter's planner. Students should be utilizing their planners to stay organized and build those necessary skills for the future.

# TEAM SYRACUSE

Thank you to each and every parent for lending your children to us! It is an honor and a privilege to work with each one of them, and I know that together, we can help every team member to grow and advance academically and socially over the course of grade 8. Please know that we may attempt to contact you for many reasons, and more often than not, it is not because your children are "in trouble", but because we have some information that we would like to share with you. Likewise, please do not ever hesitate to contact any of us to ask a question or to share information pertaining to your child.

As of this writing, both Boston and Washington, DC permission slips have gone home, so please ask if you haven't seen them. Also, ask your children about Google Classroom and know that this is a resource, easily accessible from home, where your students can access both homework and classwork assignments. This, along with your home access site, is a powerful tool for home/school communication.

Team Syracuse teachers look forward to working together with you to make this year the BEST year for each and every child!



# TEAM TUFTS



**Team Tufts** would like to welcome all our new families and some familiar families to Illing Middle School. We enjoyed meeting Team Tufts parents at the Open House and look forward to 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!

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. The students have already begun utilizing their Chromebooks and learned some word processing tips and tricks. The students are also learning important grammar skills through practice and word games. We have examined 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 continued to identify the elements of the short story the following week in Mildred Taylor's "The Song of the Trees."

Math- Mrs. Peralta

The mathematicians on Team Tufts just finished wrapping up the unit on operations with rational numbers. We are starting a new unit on expressions and equations. We will be learning how to write algebraic and verbal expressions, solve one-step and two-step equations. If internet access is available at home, students can check out their math google classroom for practice/review games and worksheets on topics we learned in class.

We will continue to work on multiplication and division facts through Madd Minute Mondays. They are keeping track of their progress on a chart which they will share with you during conferences.

Please contact me at [b25sbori@mpspride.org](mailto:b25sbori@mpspride.org) or at the school contact number if you have any questions or concerns.

# TEAM TUFTS CON'T



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.

Mrs. Bombria's classes have begun their study of figurative language within their SIR books. The students also are identifying and having fun with figurative language in other sources of text as well as creating their own examples. This is a form of literature that will be studied and applied throughout the year. In addition, students will begin to create their Integrated Language Arts portfolios in order to self-assess, set academic goals, and prepare for their conferences. Be watchful for information pertaining to conferences.

Please assist us in reminding your child to read a minimum of twenty plus minutes a night. Also, your child may need your assistance in finding a time and place to read each day. Your encouragement and modeling will help foster your child's success with reading. Reading Logs are maintained daily by your child using an honor system. According to the article "Our Greatest Challenge," "Students in the top 5 percent of national reading score read 144 time more than students in the bottom 5 percent" (pg 6). Furthermore, "Time spent reading during SSR and otherwise also correlates highly with [standardized reading exams]" (pg 6 & 7).

<b>Percentile Rank</b>	<b>Minutes of Text Reading per Day</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Words Read per Year</b>
98	90.7	4,733,000
90	40.4	2,357,000
70	21.7	1,168,000
50	12.9	601,000
20	3.1	134,000
10	1.6	51,000

("Our Greatest Challenge" pg 7)

It was a pleasure to see and meet so many of our families on Team Tufts at the open house. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child's education! I look forward to the months to come.

## Team Tufts Science

Our Team Tufts scientists have been exploring what it takes to be a good scientist. We have been practicing our metric measurement skills and are currently solving a problem using a triple beam balance. The final product will be our first lab report typed on our new Chromebooks.

We will then be solving problems with simple machines. Why do machines make work easier? What is the mechanical advantage of a machine? How do you calculate the mechanical efficiency of a machine? How can we make machines more efficient? These are all questions that will be addressed.

We are excited about our upcoming field trip to the Boston Museum of Science. There will be more details soon. Keep a lookout on Mr. Watson's School Notes page.



## TEAM YALE

Hello, Yale families! What an AWESOME start to the year!!!

In Ms. Kotlers' science, Team Yale students, both 7th and 8th grades, have finished reviewing the metric system and measuring. Now, both are learning and/or reviewing the Scientific Method. We are putting the Chromebooks to good use in class and utilizing Google Classroom to do activities pertaining to the Scientific Method.

In Mr. Diaz's English language arts, grade 7 students are reading short stories; and defining and identifying elements of literature within the context of the short stories.

In Mr. Diaz's English language arts, grade 8 students are reading excerpts from a novel, which takes place during World War II, and students are defining and identifying elements of literature within the context of the novel.

In Ms. Hoynes' math classes, we are currently starting our second units. Eighth graders will be focusing on the Pythagorean Theorem, while 7th graders will be identifying and solving algebraic equations.

In Mr. Parker's language arts classes, students kicked off the year with building and practicing active reading strategies! Students are now deep into their short story unit and have recently been studying characterization. Along with our short story unit, students are studying the Holocaust through a variety of literature and film analysis. As we move forward, we will soon be immersing ourselves in the study of figurative language! Please keep your kiddos reading 35 minutes every night and be sure to check those agendas! Peace. Love. Parker.

In Mr. Vickers' 8th grade social studies classes, we will be starting the American Revolution next week. In the next few weeks, we will be examining some of the formative American writings: the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

In Mr. Vickers' 7th grade social studies classes, we will be finishing landforms this week and starting our study of Africa very soon.

## TEAM UCONN



The students on UCONN have gotten off to an excellent start this year. They are doing a great job following the STARS program. Read below for updates from each subject area.

In science we will be studying forces of motion through a variety of fun labs and hands on activities. We are also going to use our brand new Chromebooks to write up our first lab reports.

Social Studies classes on Team UCONN are exploring the beginnings of the American nation and preparing for our trip to the Boston Freedom Trail on October 29.

In Ms. Cocola's class, we are working on studying the elements of short stories. After that, we will be beginning our poetry unit. We are looking forward to a great year!

In math, we are completing our work on exponents and scientific notation. In the coming weeks we will be studying the Pythagorean Theorem.

# TEAM DARTMOUTH



GO 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 weeks 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. In addition to the wealth of information included (contact numbers, rules, subject area references, etc.) your student's agenda should become very familiar. This is a tool for recording homework every day for every subject, and we will be rewarding responsible students with planner points on Fridays if they obtain a parent/guardian signature. These points can be applied to assignments in all academic areas. Please check the planner regularly and see what's going on in your child's classes. 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. Our team of teachers are: Mrs. Avakian, Team Leader and Social Studies; Mr. Schardt, Science; Ms. Kalt, Language Arts; Ms. Nobilio, Language Arts; Mrs. Martindale, Math; and Ms. DiLeonardo, Special Education /Collaborating teacher. The team is already getting ready for an upcoming field trip to the CT Science Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The afterschool homework club has started and is Thursdays from 2:45-4:00. The afterschool busses are available on Mon., Wed., and Thurs. for students who do not walk home.

Mrs. Avakian reports that in social studies we have been honing 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, India, China and Japan. We also will be incorporating current events into these units.

In math, we are finishing up our unit on operations with rational numbers, and moving into applying that knowledge of rational numbers to solve and simplify expressions and equations. You should be seeing homework on a regular basis. In pre-algebra we finished operations with rational numbers and exponents. Pre-algebra will also be moving into expressions and equations next and will soon be able to solve equations with variables on both sides! I know that our pacing may seem very quick, and I am here after school for extra help every week on Thursdays.

Ms. Nobilio and Mrs. Kalt report for language arts and reading: No one can believe that fall is finally here and that we have been in school for almost a month now. September was a busy month that included several baseline benchmark assessment tests. The data from these tests and from future tests will be used to chart your child's progress in reading and writing and help us tailor our instruction.

We have been spending time getting to know each other and discussing routines and procedures, including daily reading. This on-going assignment 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. Students visited the IMS Media Center for the first time and look forward to going there again soon. Please visit Manchester's wonderful public libraries often and help your child choose appropriate books to read and enjoy. Also, please encourage your child to read a minimum of 30 minutes a night.

# TEAM DARTMOUTH CON'T

An instructional focus for September is forming a general understanding of what we read. This includes discussing the main idea and theme and identifying/infering important characters, settings, problems, events and relationships within various texts. We are currently reading an assortment of short stories as we explore the Common Core unit of *The Making of a Good Story*.

Mr. Schardt reports that Team Dartmouth science classes are off and running. 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. Please check your child's progress regularly in science throughout the year. Review this with your child. 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!

Thank you again and we look forward to your continued participation in your child's educational success.



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The Illing Music Department is busy preparing for our mid-winter concerts. Please reserve the dates and come hear our wonderful student musicians perform at Manchester High School's Bailey Auditorium. Admission is free.

**Thursday, December 4: Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 9: Band and Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm**

The Illing Conservatory has begun after school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. (Late bus provided.) Students can receive extra help, coaching on their music, or earn practice minutes all under the guidance of various Illing music faculty and MHS alumni music tutors. All your student needs to do is make an appointment with their music teacher 24 hours in advance and sign in right after school. Questions? Contact Mrs. Walsh at [b25mwals@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b25mwals@manchesterct.gov)

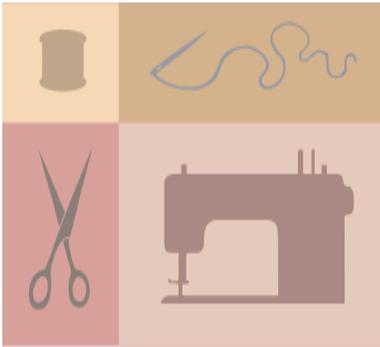
# FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

The Family and Consumer Science department is enjoying their newly renovated space in room 117. Mrs. Pickett has designed a Chrome Book Cover for some of her 8th graders to sew while Ms. Stepanski's students are sewing up gym bags for all their books and papers.

The 7th grade is either finished with their pencil pouches (if they are with Mrs. Pickett) or they are just starting (if they are with Ms. Stepanski). They can hold STARS coupons, pens and pencils, along with the occasional eraser.

In the kitchens, the grades are learning 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! 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>



ARTHUR H. ILLING  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home Access is Available to all Students!  
Make sure to show your parents and guardians.

Call 860-647-5085 for assistance if needed.

Access grades, assignments, progress reports and attendance.

## MEDIA NEWS

As we rapidly approach the end of the first semester, students in Mr. Spada's class are beginning a unit in journalism/broadcast journalism. Students will learn journalist techniques, write a correctly formatted and clear news story and film their story as it would be broadcast on the news. During this unit students will also develop an awareness and appreciation of the First Amendment and various ethical issues in the media.

So far this semester students have received hands-on training in the use of media equipment and the application of production techniques. Students spent time in the various phases of production. For pre-production, they mastered script writing and storyboarding. For production, they learned camera and photography techniques, how to use microphones in the field, and how to conduct interviews. For post-production, students learned video editing, special effects, sound editing, and uploading/airing their final products.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:



Back Row - Dominique Duncan, Aliya Welborn, Sean Chambers, Anthony Beaulieu, Megan Kievman, Tracia Biswas

Front Row - Sarah Turley, Ashleigh Johnson, Denardia Amfo, LisMarye Cruz

Principal Beth Hayes is standing to the right.

Denardia Amfo

Nominated by Team Syracuse, Denardia is an awesome STARS student and displays all the amazing STARS traits throughout the entire school day and excels in high school level Spanish and algebra. Denardia has been involved in activities such as the Science Club, Multi-Cultural Club and looks forward to participating in track later this year. Denardia loves to play the piano and is a member of the Path Finders Youth Group at church.

Anthony Beaulieu

Nominated by Team Princeton, Anthony is an outstanding choir student. He is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir, Illing Singers, Boys' Choir and Community Choir. (He is also helping the 7<sup>th</sup> grade choir and is trying to find a way to sing with the Girls' Choir!!) He wants to boast that he is in EVERY choir that Illing has. Anthony is always the first to volunteer to help with anything that needs to be done, whether it is something in class or some event after school (he volunteered to help at Illing's Open House both nights). He is a leader in his choir class and an asset to the program. Not only is he a talented vocalist, but he is also a very talented pianist. He takes private piano lessons, but also spends his time sounding out music that he likes by listening to You Tube to be able to play pop tunes. He is an exceptional musician and a delight to have in the music program.

Tracia Biswas

Nominated by Team Central, Tracia exemplifies what it means to be a true STARS student. She is a wonderful addition to the Illing family, as she is always present and prepared to start the school day. Her extracurricular activities include a myriad of endeavors. She enjoys playing soccer and basketball in her free time. She loves art and math. She says she wants to do something big when she grows up. Continue working hard and she will!

Sean Chambers

Nominated by Team Cornell, Sean is a hardworking and respectful young man. He always puts in his best effort on class work assignments and has a positive attitude. Sean is kind and helpful to other students on the team. He works well within a group and assists others when he sees they need help. Sean uses a quiet, polite voice when speaking to adults and students in the building and the teachers are so impressed with his respectful behavior. Team Cornell teachers are proud to have Sean as a STAR student.

Lismarye Cruz

Nominated by the Elective Team, Lismarye helps new students with their classwork without having to be asked. She is completing all of her own work and then will assist others. She is an awesome STARS student!

Dominique Duncan

Nominated by Team Tufts, Dominique is an exemplary student scholar. She is always on task and prepared for class, and participates enthusiastically whenever given the opportunity. Dominique has been selected as one of Team Tufts' student council representatives. She is also a student athlete. She plays soccer for the Illing Rams and softball on the weekends. Team Tufts is proud to have Dominique as one of our STARS students!

# STUDENT OF THE MONTH CON'T

## Ashleigh Johnson

Nominated by Team Yale, Ashleigh has excellent grades in all of her classes and always works to her greatest potential. She participates in class discussions, completes all of her assignments (both inside and outside of class), and is a model student exemplifying all of the Illing's STARS qualities. Ashleigh was also recently elected by her peers to be one of Team Yale's representatives in Student Council. Team Yale is so very proud of Ashleigh and all her accomplishments this past month.

## Megan Kievman

Nominated by Team Dartmouth, Megan is rocking seventh grade! She gave a rousing political speech and was chosen to be a team representative to Student Council. Megan plays saxophone in the school band. Her behavior is awesome. She helps other students and anticipates when her teachers might appreciate an extra set of hands. Her activities outside of school include: rock climbing, snowboarding and playing soccer. Megan is an excellent representative of Illing Middle School.

## Sarah Turley

Nominated by Team URI, Sarah consistently follows the STARS program. She is a conscientious student who applies herself 100% to everything she does. Sarah not only does her own work, but assists her peers and teachers when needed. Furthermore, Sarah participates in school extracurricular activities such as soccer. Team URI is lucky to have her on our team.



# IS NEXT MONTH YOUR TURN TO BE STUDENT OF THE MONTH?



Become a STAR

**S**—Scholar—*is prepared / works hard / follows direction*

**T**—Truthful—*practices honesty / respects others' possessions*

**A**—Aware—*uses an indoor voice / kind & caring words / keeps hands & feet to him or herself*

**R**—Respectful—*makes good decisions when responding to adults / treats all property with respect / uses appropriate language*

**S**—Safe—*behaves appropriately / walks quietly in the halls / follows the bus rules at all times / follows all the posted rules for inside & outside of the building*



ILLING MIDDLE  
SCHOOL PTA

PTA BOARD:

President—Jack Crockwell

Vice Pres—Sara Cleveland

Treasurer—Andy Kidd

Secretary—Richard Walsh

Membership—Mary Klotzer

MEETING DATES:

Tuesday—Nov 18, 2014

Wednesday—Feb 18, 2015

Wednesday—May 20, 2015

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN  
THE ILLING CAFETERIA  
FROM 7:00 pm TO 8:00 pm

DON'T FORGET  
THE  
DAIRY QUEEN  
DINE OUT  
NIGHT  
ON MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 10TH  
6 TO 9 PM

## PTA NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Illing Middle School PTA hopes you had a great summer and would like to welcome the new and returning staff & students back. We are excited for this upcoming year at Illing. We have a great year planned and would like to share it with you! Our meetings are listed on the left.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Joining PTA does not obligate you to volunteer or attend meetings. By joining you will support Illing Middle School, receive infor-

mation by e-mail on upcoming events and a monthly summary of the PTA meeting discussion. You will stay informed and involved. The cost is just \$7.00 for membership for one adult for the entire school year. \$12.00 for 2 adults (Dads Please Join). Students are welcome to join for just \$6.00

## CONTACT US

Email the PTSA Board at [IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com](mailto:IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllingMiddleSchoolPtsa>

Visit the Illing Middle School Web Site: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=612>



## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION NEWS

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.

Arthur Illing Middle School now has Robotics in its Technology Education Department where students are engaged in the designing, building, and programming of robots to complete specific tasks.

This exciting platform integrates learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Beyond science and engineering principles, the robotics curriculum encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving skills among groups and encourages communication skills. It also allows educators to easily customize projects to meet the level of students’ abilities. Students understand and develop skills in mechanical (gear ratios, locomotion, grabbing and lifting) as well as programming (output/motor activation, sensor use, and looping). This is an active, engaging and highly addictive way for all students to be engaged and learn.

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*“We cannot always build the future for our youth,  
but we can build our youth for the future”.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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## COACHES CORNER

Literacy Coaches: Claudia Milette and Danielle Maguire

Math Coach: Paige LePage

The following suggestions are intended to help increase your child’s understanding of reading and math and to develop his/her confidence in the learning process. Choose two or three of the following strategies to try with your child:

- ◆ Model good habits by reading in front of your child or problem solving together
- ◆ Check your child’s assignment notebook daily
- ◆ Provide a consistent, daily study period without distractions
- ◆ Limit TV and/or video games
- ◆ Use reading/math software or websites, if available
- ◆ Monitor daily work and discuss the content being studied
- ◆ Play games that emphasize reading/math skills together

