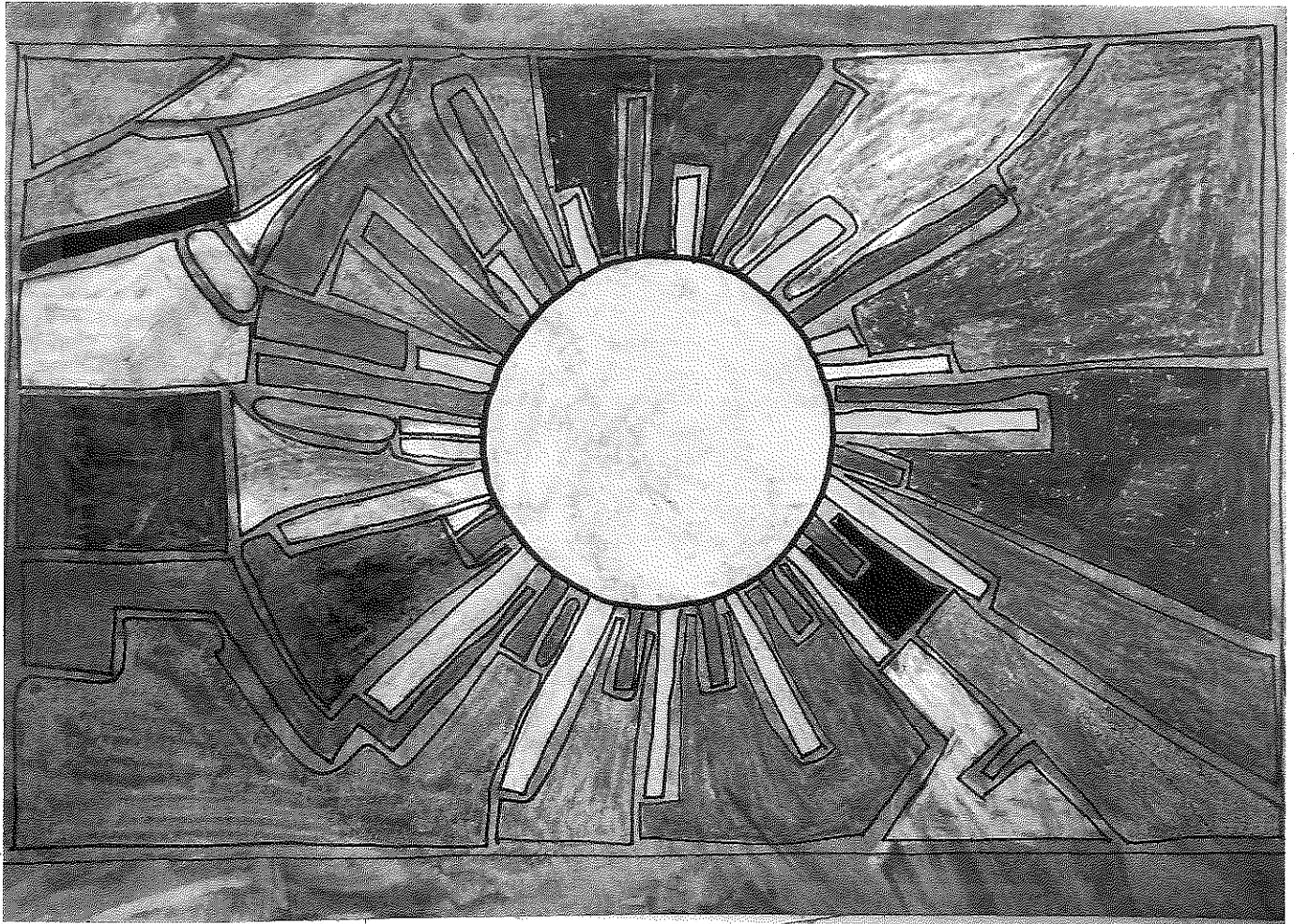
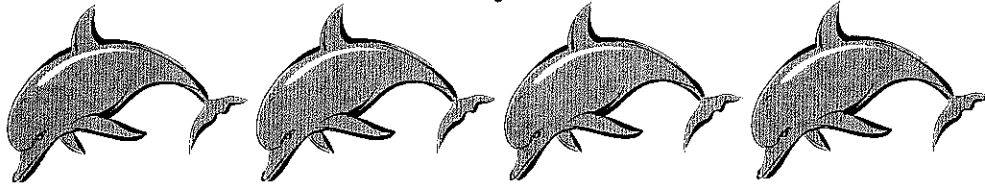


MBS NEWSLETTER

***MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL, 7 HASTINGS PLACE
MONMOUTH BEACH, NJ 07750***

January 2016



Cover Designed by Seventh Grader Sarah Whelan

JANUARY 2016

Greetings and Happy New Year to all MBS families! Each year when the calendar year ends and we return to school after winter break, I immediately begin to think about the school year being half over. Although the official end of the second marking period is not until later in the month, January is always looked at as being the midpoint of the school year. When the marking period eventually comes to an end and grades are posted for the second quarter, it is possible that students' performance may fluctuate from where it was in the fall. On the one hand, you may see an upswing in grades, which would be outstanding. Knowing that some students are "slow starters" makes it easy to understand that it takes some children more time than others to settle in and connect with the academic expectations for their grade level. On the other hand, it is also possible for student grades to drop to a certain extent after the first marking period. This can be the result of the curriculum getting harder, especially since teachers are breaking more new ground in the second quarter. A drop in grades can also be the result of students having difficulty managing their time while trying to meet their increased academic expectations. It is important for us as adults to remember that even our oldest students in eighth grade still need guidance to develop consistent study habits that will allow them to be successful. As a parent, I believe it is critical for us to remain interested and involved in our children's studies so we can provide them with the support they need to overcome obstacles and maximize their abilities.

The month of January also brings with it the increased possibility of severe weather. Despite the fact that it's winter, the students will go outside for daily recess as long as the temperature (including the wind chill) is above freezing, so please make sure that your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for this activity. As in the past, when snow is in the forecast, I will constantly consult with the Chief of Police in town to obtain the most current road conditions for our area to help make the decision about whether or not to open the school or have a delayed opening. The office staff will continue to utilize the Honeywell emergency notification system to notify families of school closings, delayed

openings, and early dismissals when necessary. This information will also be posted on the district's website as well. For these reasons, please remember to update your information in Honeywell if your emergency contact information should change for any reason during the year.

Looking ahead, I am excited about all that lies ahead in 2016! I have no doubt that our staff and students will continue to work together to achieve the learning goals set forth back in September. Additionally, this is also the time of year when many of our students have a chance to showcase their talents as basketball players and cheerleaders, so I encourage everyone to come out and support our Dolphin teams!

Respectfully,
Michael E. Ettore

Principal/Superintendent

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4 – School Reopens
January 12 - PTO meeting (8:45 a.m.)
January 15 - Talent Show (7 p.m.)
January 18 - School closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
January 21 - Board of Education meeting (7:30 p.m.)
January 27 - Spelling Bee
January 31 - 8th grade Pasta Dinner (details to follow)

SCHOOL REMINDERS

- Please remember to update your phone information in the Honeywell System, which is on the school website, so you receive emergency alerts regarding school closings.
- Remember to refer to the calendar found in your Parent/Student Guide for the dates of our school activities and events.
- Homework assignments may be found on line on each individual teacher's page or calendar created in Real Time.
- School Safety remains a number one priority and we ask that everyone continue to use the

front door to request admittance to the school – before, during, and after school. Please do not knock on any other door and ask a student, or a staff member, to grant you access. They have been told NOT to let anyone in the building. Everyone is asked to use the main entrance – even at 2:45 p.m. to gain entry into the school. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- To keep arrival safe and working effectively, please drop off and continue to move through the drop off zone. Students should always get out of the vehicle on the curb side.
- The “anti-bully” campaign is ongoing throughout the school year. The policy regarding Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (H.I.B.) is located on the front page of the website. Included is a “Hot Line” to anonymously report behavior that may be considered bullying. The Hot Line number is 723-222-6139 ext. 500.
- Be sure to visit our school website, www.mbschool.org for valuable school information, events, and dolphin news!
- **Be sure to activate your log-in on RealTime!**

PARENT CORNER

HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying)

As you know, the school has been taking major steps to ensure that bullying does not occur and your child feels safe. The NJ State Law mandates the school to investigate all instances where bullying may be present. This includes emails from parents, students saying that they are getting bullied, or teachers suspecting that bullying is going on. The necessary steps need to be taken and are as follows:

1. Written report from the person reporting the bullying.
2. Thorough investigation done by the HIB coordinator or specialist.
3. HIB team meeting to look at all the results to determine if the incident(s) are considered HIB.
4. Report to the Board of Education about the incident and the findings.

We strive to have our students feel safe and comfortable in the school setting. Please visit the school website for more information.

Attention Child Find

Each year the school district of Monmouth Beach seeks to identify and evaluate children ages 3 to 14 who may be experiencing physical, sensory, communication, cognitive or social difficulties. This search includes migrant and homeless students, two year-olds reaching the age of three within 120 days, preschoolers between three and five, and school aged children who are not currently receiving school services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Peter Bruccoleri at 732-222-6139 ext. 251.

ON THE COVER

On the cover of this month's newsletter is a stained glass design created by one of our talented 7th graders, Sarah Whelan. This project was a lesson in crayon resist. Although it is in black and white on the cover, the actual piece is made up of bright yellow, orange, red, green, purple and blue. All of the students colored and painted their own stained glass designs, each as individualized as the students themselves. Beautiful work Sarah and the 7th grade!