

Kenny Loosvelt PRINCIPAL

Number 6

Volume 6

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

MARCH 2021

Greetings YMS Parent(s):

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on February 3-5. Your attendance proves that you are making your child's education a priority. If you were unable to attend for any reason and would like to speak with your child's teacher you can call the school at 402-362-6655 option 1 or you can find the teacher's e-mail by searching www.yorkpublic.org

As I write this letter we have ZERO students at YMS who are either on quarantine or isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19! This is fantastic news. We are going to continue with the majority of our safety measures. We have relaxed on a few. For example, we are allowing ¼ of the Student Families to attend Friday Assemblies in person in the gym while the other ¾ watch on a live feed. Having our assemblies back has been a terrific addition to YMS.

On February 12th we were also able to reward students for growth and achievement for our winter MAP testing. Students who grew from Fall to Winter in BOTH Reading and Math, as well as students who achieved the 90th percentile in Reading OR Math, were rewarded for their hard work. We gave them a certificate, a treat, and played some games. Please remind your child that the NWEA MAP tests that they take are extremely important to their learning and for teachers to improve their learning. Our next round of tests will be at the end of the year.

In my office, I often get student issues with social media. Parents here are some tips on how you can keep your child safe and a responsible social media user from the National Crime Prevention Council and Parents.com

- Keep your home computer in a busy area of your house.
- Set up email and chat accounts with your children. Make sure that you know their screen names and passwords and that they don't include any personal information in their online profiles.
- Tell your children not to respond to any cyberbullying threats or comments online. However, do not delete any of the messages. Instead, print out all the messages, including the e-mail addresses or online screen names of the cyberbully.
- Regularly go over their instant messenger "buddy list" with them. Ask who each person is and how
 your children know him or her.
- Talk regularly and specifically with your children about online issues. Let them know they can come to you for help if anything is inappropriate, upsetting, or dangerous.
- Build trust with your children. Set time limits, explain your reasons for them, and discuss rules for online safety and Internet use. Ask your children to contribute to establishing the rules; then they'll be more inclined to follow them.
- If there are threats of physical violence or the bullying continues to escalate, get law enforcement involved.
- Tell your children that you won't blame them if they are cyberbullied. Emphasize that you won't take away their computer privileges this is the main reason kids don't tell adults when they are cyberbullied.

With these few simple tips, you can help your child be safe and responsible users of social media. If you would have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Badura or Mr. Loosvelt.

Kenny Loosvelt, Principal

Working Together for School Success

A to-do-later list

Here's a clever way for your tween to stay

focused while he works. When he finds himself tempted to do something unrelated to his assignment, encourage him to write it on a to-dolater list. Examples: "Check Twitter." "Daydream about summer." Moving his thoughts onto paper may get them off his mind and help him concentrate on his work.

Math in the garden

Gardening can sharpen your middle grader's math skills. Consider letting her plant flowers, vegetables, or herbs in a container or the yard. Ask her to calculate how many cubic inches of soil will fit in a planter box. She could also measure and graph her plants to compare growth rates.

Starting the day in the sunshine helps to regulate

the body's biological clock, making it easier to feel alert in the morning. On sunny days, suggest that your teen eat breakfast outside or by a window. Bonus: Sunlight is a great mood lifter!

Worth quoting

'Find something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it." Julia Child

Just for fun

Q: What do you feed an alligator?

A: Anything it wants!



Word up! Fun vocabulary boosters

A good vocabulary will make your tween a stronger reader, a better writer, and a more confident speaker. Try these activities to expand her world of words.

Play a game

Have each family member choose five unfamiliar words from textbooks or the dictionary. Write each word, along with its definition, on a separate index card. Illustrate your words on another five cards. Shuffle and deal the picture cards evenly to players, and stack the word cards facedown. Now take turns picking up a word card. Keep it if you have the matching picture card, or return the word card to the bottom of the stack if you don't. Match all your cards first to win.

Write poems

Encourage your middle schooler to get creative with words she's learning in school by writing a silly poem that defines each one. For electron, she might write, "Around the nucleus you zoom / Being so negative / Why all the gloom and doom?" She could read her poems aloud to study the words.

Make a word jar

Suggest that your middle grader label a clear jar "My Word Jar." When she comes across a word that's new to her (on a billboard, in conversation), have her write it on a slip of paper. Later, she can look up the definition, write it on the back, and drop the slip into her jar. Idea: Ask her to share the coolest word she finds each week. Challenge everyone to use the word in a sentence.

Avoid the blame game

Excuses, excuses. If you're hearing them from your middle grader, these tactics can help.

■ Turn excuses into explanations. If your child tries to justify a bad grade by saying something like "The teacher didn't remind us about the test," he's putting the blame elsewhere. Instead, have him give an explanation that begins with I. ("I forgot to write the test in my planner.")

■ Applaud accountability. Say your tween isn't allowed to eat or drink in the living room and admits he spilled orange juice on the carpet. You could reply, "I'm glad you told me." Then, talk about what will happen next. ("Look up stain-removal tips online so you can clean the carpet.") \(\extstyle \)



Concerns about fitting in

It's natural for middle schoolers to want to fit in with their peers—and hard when they feel like they don't. Use these tips to help your child handle his worries.

Right-size the problem. Not being part of the "in crowd" can seem like the end of the world to your tween. Acknowledge his feelings ("It must



My son Patrick prefers to sit back and let others take the lead, while my daughter Eliza likes being in charge. When Eliza mentioned the leadership roles she was including on her college applications, I realized that Patrick could use some experience being a leader, too.

When his school astronomy club was canceled this year, I asked what he might do instead. He decided to start a new virtual club with classmates. So far he has led virtual "watch parties" for special events like International Space Station flyovers, a meteor shower, and a lunar eclipse.



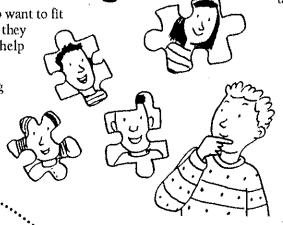
I also mentioned to Patrick that his younger cousins were struggling with distance learning, and he offered to lead virtual tutoring sessions. I could tell he was proud when one cousin got an A on a recent test—and I pointed out that taking the lead was really making a difference in other people's lives. ₹\

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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be tough to feel left out"). Then, let him talk to older siblings or neighbors who once struggled to figure out where they fit in. Knowing things will get better can take some of the pressure off.

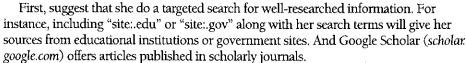
Take small steps. If your middle grader longs to join a group of kids, suggest making one friend at a time instead. It's easier to form a relationship with one person than a whole group. Or encourage him to create his own circle of like-minded people by joining a club or taking part in other

group activities that interest him. Idea: Ask him to imagine his classmates as pieces of many different puzzles. Not every piece fits every puzzle—and that's okay.

Site ed

Dig deeper for research

A There's a wealth of information out there beyond the first page of search results! Finding it can help your tween learn more about her topic—and write a better paper.



Also, encourage your child to use primary sources (personal narratives, photos, audio recordings) from the Library of Congress (loc.gov) and the Smithsonian Institution (si. edu). She may find it fascinating to take notes on an article written during the Industrial Revolution or from a news broadcast of the first moon landing. €

Crack the code

Learning to code can sharpen your tween's logical thinking skills. That will help her in any career, whether it involves computer programming or not. Get her started with these free resources.

Scratch

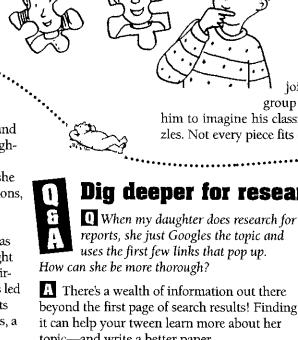
This coding community developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology includes instructional videos. Kids of all skill levels can learn to program interactive games, animations, and stories. (scratch.mit.edu)

Code.org

At this site, middle graders will discover different programming languages as well as how to create apps and web pages. Encourage your tween to keep an eye out for videos on timely topics like voice assistants and self-driving cars. (code.org)

The Pack—NYSCI

This app made by the New York Hall of Science teaches computational thinking and other coding skills through puzzle-like game play. (nysci.org/school/resources/ the-pack) ᇀ் ڬ



Get ready to celebrate National School Breakfast week, March 8-12! Did you know that studies have shown that students who eat school breakfast are more likely to:

- Do better in reading and math
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Be able to concentrate better and remember more of what they learn
- Be more alert
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Feel better







If your child does not currently eat breakfast at school, this would be a great week to have them give it a try! Also, just a reminder, YPS has been approved to offer free breakfast and lunch to all K-12 students through the COVID relief fund.

Vision, hearing and dental screenings continue for 7th and 10th grade students. If a student does not meet the screening guidelines set forth by the state, a letter recommending further evaluation will be sent to the parent/guardian. If you have concerns regarding your child's hearing, vision or dental health, please follow up with a physician/eye doctor/dentist even if you do not receive a letter of referral.



Read Across America



Tuesday, March 2

NEA'S Read Across America Day takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and YOU CAN TOO! On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult. We encourage all of you adults to read with your children!

Buy a YMS Yearbook!

- Preserve great memories!
- Remember fun events!
- The YMS yearbook is loaded with school experiences, quotes, and candid photos.

Please make your checks payable to YMS. The yearbooks will be delivered in the fall.



Track season begins on Thursday, March 11.

Students must have a physical, and a parental consent form on file in order to participate!



YMS MUSICAL

Coming soon to the YHS Theatre the annual YMS Musical!

Thursday, March 18 and Friday, March 19 7:00 pm at the York High School Theater



Please join us for the YMS Musical *Matilda Jr!* A great cast of many YMS students promise a fun filled evening of entertainment!

Watch the story of Matilda (Alexis Davis), a gifted girl forced to put up with a crude, distant father (Charlie Van Gomple) and Mother (Lael Schwarz). Worse, Agatha Trunchbull (Sophia Becker), the evil principal at Matilda's school, is a terrifyingly strict bully. However, when Matilda realizes she has the power of telekinesis, she begins to defend her friends from principal Trunchbull's wrath and fight back against her unkind parents. You won't want to miss this talented group of York Middle School students!

The performance will be held on Thursday, March 18th & Friday, March 19th in the YHS theater at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults, *no passes accepted*. We will allow an audience up to 75% capacity of the YHS theater.

We will also be needing many parent volunteers to help with set, props, snacks, etc. Please be watching for more information and contact us if you are willing to help at jessica.wagner@yorkdukes.org.

Parents, just a reminder, if your child is a part of the musical cast they need to bring their \$20 in as soon as possible.

Please note that a mandatory dress rehearsal for **ALL** cast members will be held Wednesday, March 17^{th} in the YHS theatre from 2:30p.m.-4:30p.m. This allows them time to work with light, sound, and stage crews from YHS.



Be sure to check yorkffa.com and stop by the greenhouse to buy plants!

March Newsletter School Counselor Connection

Although it is hard to imagine, spring really is right around the corner! And with spring comes sunshine, rain, outdoor recess, and...state assessments!

This year's NSCAS testing will look a bit different. The tests are transitional and are designed to help Nebraska prepare for an improved approach to assessing grade-level performance in 2021-22 and beyond.

- The NSCAS ELA and Mathematics tests are pilot tests and will be much shorter assessments than the typical NSCAS tests from the past. Students in grades 3-8 will take these pilot tests. Since the tests are a pilot, parents will NOT be receiving a score report.
- The spring 2021 NSCAS Science assessment will be given to students in grades 5 and 8. The Science test will also look very different this year and is a field test. Since it is a field test, no score reports will be available.

YMS will be following the testing schedule below. <u>It is very important that your child be at school</u> <u>on testing days</u> and prepared to do their best so that the state has the data needed to make important assessment decisions in the future.

NSCAS Science **March 30** (during their science class)
NSCAS English Language Arts **April 13** (a.m.)
NSCAS Math **April 28** (a.m.)

To learn more about the statewide assessment system, feel free to access the Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System site https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska On this site, there is a Parent/ Student tab that you can go to in order to access the Online Student Tutorial to learn more about the NSCAS Summative test. There is also a link titled "Item Type Sampler" that shows you types of questions on the Summative test.



YMS Talent Show



The final performance for the YMS Choirs will be the annual Talent Show. It will take place on Thursday, May 6. Auditions will be held April 6 & 7. More details will be made available to the students during class time. We are looking forward to another great show!!





No School

MARCH 4TH, 5TH AND MONDAY, MARCH 8!!

March 2021

York Middle School, Grades 6-8 2020-2021 Breakfast Stop & Go Menu, Grades 6-8

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Entree * Breakfast Cereal Bar * Bacon & Egg Breakfast Pizza * Chocolate Filled Crescent Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Home-style Stuffed Potato Breakfast Burrito * Cinnamon Sugar Donut * Muffin & Goldfish Grahams Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Cheese Stuffed Pretzel * Strawberry Banana Yogurt Cruncl Parfait * Egg & Cheese Taco Roll Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Misc. No School	Misc. No School
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Misc. No School	Entree * Dutch Waffle * Monte Cristo Sandwich * Vanilla-Orange Poka Dot Parfait Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Chocolate Iced Long John * Egg & Cheese Omelet with Toast * Apple Filled Bosco Stick Fruit Cafe Fruit & Julce Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Fresh Baked Breakfast Pizza * Bagel with Yogurt * Cini Minis Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Mini Chocolate Chip French Toast Bites * Frosted Pop-tarts * Yogurt with Goldfish Grahams Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices
	15	6 1	7	8
Entree * Chocolate Glazed Donut * Bagel with Creamy Peanut Butte * Mini Maple Pancakes Bites Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	* Chewy Iced Granola Bar * Pancake Sausage Stick * Mini Chocolate Donuts Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Cini Minis * Vanilla-Berry Yogurt Parfait with Goldfish Grahams * Yogurt with Goldfish Grahams Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Fresh Baked Ham, Egg & Cheese Biscuit Sandwich * Min! Maple Waffles * Frosted Pop-tarts Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices	Entree * Monte Cristo Sandwich * Apple Filled Bosco Stick * Blueberry Muffin with String Cheese Fruit Cafe Fruit & Juice Choices Milk Milk Choices
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- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
 fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 email: program.intake@usda.gov.

	01	02	03	04	05
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Misc.	OB Entree	09 Entree	10 Entree	£ntree	12
No School	Fresh Baked Combo Sub Frork fritter Sandwich Soft Shell Beefy Yacos Vegetables Fresh Broccolf Florets Black Turtle Beans on Fruit & Veggle Bay Fruit Fruit of the Duy Milk 1% Unflavored Milk Chocolate Skim Milk Skim Unflavored Milk	* Frest Baked Turkey & Cheese Sub * Corn Dog * Baked Breaded Steak Fingers * Vegetables Fresh Baby Carrots * Marked Potatoes with Brown Gravy Fruit Fruit of the Day * Milk * 1% Undavored Milk Chocolate Skim Milk * Skim Unitarored Milk	Firsth Baked Ham & Cheese Sub Chricken Gessar Delf Wap Creenty Macaroni & Cheese Bacon, Egg & Cheese Biscult Sandwich Vegetables Fresh Broccoff Florets Calico Beans Fruit Futt of the Day Desserts Fresh Baked Carnival Cookie Milk 150 Unitaucred Milk Chocolate Skim Milk Skim Unitavored Milk	* Fresh Baked Ham & Yurkey Sub * Pizza Station; fresh Baked Pepperoni Pizza * Fish Nuggets Vegetables Fresh Baby Carrots Green Baans Fruit Fruit of the Day Mills t% Unflavored Milk Chocolate Skim Mülk Skim Unflavored Milk	
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Entree Fresh Baked Pam & Cheese Sub Fajita Dell Wrap Bacon, Egg & Cheese Biscult Sandwich Pitza Patte Bake Vegetables Fresh Baby Carrots Flesta Corn Salad Fruit Fruit of the Day Milk Chocojste Skim Milk Skim Unflavored Milk	Entree * Tresh Baked Compo Sub * Cheesteburger * Chicken Fanch Pasta Vegetables Frash Braccoll Florets Steamed Carrots Fruit Fruit of the Day Desserts Frosted Fumpkin Bar Millk 1% Unflavored Milk Chocolate Skim Milk Skim Unflavored Milk	Entree Fresh Baked Turkey & Cheese Sub Oven-Roasted Hot Dag Mexi Tots with Dinner Roll Vegetubles Fresh Baby Carrots Stesmed Stoccol Florets Fruit Fruit of the Day Milk 1% Unilevored Milk Chocolate Skim Milk Skim Unflavored Milk			

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- fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Track Mtg. @ 3:05pm	Read Across America	3 2:00 Dismissal B	4 NO SCHOOL —	5 Spring Break	6
7	8 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Board of Education Mtg.	9	10 2:00 Dismissal	11 Track Practice Starts G	12 End od 3rd Quarter	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Starts	15 G	16	2:00 Dismissal St. Patrick's Day G	18 YMS Musical 7:00 pm YHS Theater	19 Matilda G	20 First day of Spring
21	Board of Education Mtg.	23	24 2:00 Dismissal B	25 G	26	27
28	29 7 & 8 Coed TR @ GICC Quad 2:00pm	30 B	31 2:00 Dismissal			