Dear Smith Families,

I know I speak for everyone when I say how much fun this year has already been. November has provided many more opportunities for students to shine. Mrs. Gagliardi and Mrs. ZB did a fantastic job bringing out the talent in our students that participated in the school musical at the beginning of the month. I had fun on our limo trip to Pizza Hut for students who qualified through the magazine campaign, which was organized by Mrs. Noll and Mr. Himmelberger. Mrs. Falduts, Mrs. Zellers, and the Student Senate raise a large amount of canned goods for families in need with our highly competitive and exciting dodgeball tournament. Mrs. Stump put together two fantastic events that brought in many of you for Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads. Lastly, several of our teachers (Mr. McDowell, Mr. Long, Ms. DeGrasse, and Ms. Falduts) showed their bball skills against the Harlem Wizards in a great event for a good cause.

I wanted to take time to mention the people responsible for these wonderful opportunities, because these people help make Smith Middle School such a wonderful place to grow and learn. These events revolve around helping students grow each day, and our staff is committed to doing whatever it takes to help with this process.

I also want to share that Smith Middle School will now have gluten free options available in the cafeteria during lunch for students with those needs/requests. Students may ask the cafeteria for more information about the options. Thank you for all you do for your students! We are partners in helping Smith students grow daily.

As always, please let me know if you need anything.

-David Beard, Assistant Principal
PTO Update:

Fall has come and gone with a quickness this year! We are fast approaching the winter months and all of the activities that go along with it. Stay tuned for alerts and needs coming up. Box Tops are working out great, we have raised over $800 since our kickoff in October. Keep clipping and sending them in, THEY ARE FREE MONEY!!!

A special thanks to Parisian and Sons for DJ-ing our 7th grade party and DONATING their time! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Colleen Davis,
Smith PTO President

Counselor’s Corner

We’re in the swing of Winter and with all of the crazy weather, maybe you missed a little of what’s been happening around here:

Our Coats for Kids drive was very successful! There were quite a few donations given! This ensures that kids and families will have warm hats, sweaters, scarves, and jackets for the cold wintertime. Thank you to all of you who donated!!

The Giving Thanks project kicked off with a lot of giving! Students and parents donated boxed stuffing, potatoes, and canned veggies so that people in our community, who may not be able to gather those materials, could have a plentiful Thanksgiving! Avery Hill, Solanco’s School Social Worker, was overwhelmed with the amount of support and donations. It is so heartwarming to see our kids coming together to support our community!

Pride Ambassadors have been feverously preparing the Swappe Shoppe! Any families with clothing needs are welcome to bring used clothing to swappe out for clothing in our Swappe Shoppe! We will also have dates coming up where families can come in during the evening to gather any items they may need for the winter. If you know of a family that could benefit from the Swappe Shoppe, please tell them about it or contact me!

Contact Mrs. Gallagher:
Lynnette_gallagher@solanco.k12.pa.us

6th Grade Team News

Language Arts- Students on Mr. McDowell’s class will be exploring the world of fiction text. Students will be using the text The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle as they learn about the different elements in fiction text. A general focus on reading strategies will be prevalent.

Students in Ms. DeGrasse’s class will also be reading the novel, True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle with an emphasis placed on theme, plot, and point of view. Additionally, students will be exposed to various genres of fiction for practice analyzing these same features.

LEAD- LEAD students will be working on vocabulary strategies that they can use in every class. We will also practice TDA (text dependent analysis) questions.

Math- Students will be working with fractions as they learn to add and subtract fractions with both like and unlike denominators. Multiplying and dividing fractions will also be covered.

Science- Students will finish up their poinsettia lab on Moodle this month. The students will have the opportunity to take their plant home for the Christmas holiday. We will also be learning about cells and the classification of living things this month.

Social Studies- Students will be learning about the civilization of ancient India and how they displayed the six characteristics of civilization: geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structures. Students will compare India’s civilization to ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt, the two civilizations learned previously.

Front: Mrs. Bracken, Ms. Ritholz, Mrs. Noll
Back: Mrs. S. Lee, Mr. Himmelberger, Miss Yeich, Miss DeGrasse, Mr. McDowell
7th Grade Team News

**Math/Math Extensions:** In December, students will be learning to solve basic one-step algebraic equations and apply them to real life applications.

**LEAD:** Students will be improving reading comprehension through the use of various strategies. The theme will be “Heroes.”

**Social Studies:** Students will discover how North America was impacted when Europe tried to get to the wealth and possibilities of the Far East. The inhabitants of North America would never be the same again.

**LA:** Students will begin reading *The Island of the Blue Dolphins, Tell-Tale Heart*, and *The Necklace* all as a part of our fiction unit. They will be reading a portion of the novel at home and the short stories will be read in class.

8th Grade Team News

**Language Arts:** In December students will be analyzing various short-story fiction pieces which include "The Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, "The Bet" by Anton Chekhov, and a few more!

**LEAD III:** During the month of December LEAD III will focus on reading skills as they are tested on the revised standardized reading test which will be given in the spring.

**Algebra:** In December, Algebra students will be finishing the graphing chapter. Then later in the month, they will venture into geometric ideas in Algebra followed by probability in Algebra.

**Integrated Geography:** After discovering Southern Lancaster County we will begin examining Pennsylvania geography and heritage. Students will become familiar with a Pennsylvania road map and Pennsylvania’s 5 distinct regions as an introduction.

**Science:** During December in Science we will be focusing on different types of energy, and how energy is converted and transferred to other types.

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**Science:** In December students will be starting their Life Science Units. They will be first learning about the cell’s structure and function.

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From L to R: Mr. Freas, Mrs. McDowell, Mr. Cairns, Mrs. Stump, Mr. Koenig, Ms. DeCicco, Mrs. Vattelana

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Front: Ms. Fairchild, Mr. Novakoski, Miss Sangrey
Back: Mr. Tercha, Mrs. Parrish, Mrs. Zbiek-Beam, Mr. Kump
Unified Arts Team News

MUSIC - Music students in Grade 8 will continue their study of Rock Music. Students in Grade 7 will continue to work towards composing their own melodies. Music students in Grade 6 will study the music of Scott Joplin and create their own rhythm compositions.

HEALTH - The 7th grade health students started the fitness unit this week. They will be learning about the anatomy of the heart, circulatory system, target heart rate, and the 5 components of fitness.

FITNESS - All students will be completing the rest of our Presidential Fitness tests: ab curls, pull ups, shuttle run and sit and reach during November. After the Thanksgiving break, we will be starting our basketball unit.

COMPUTER TECH - The 8th grade students have begun the Excel unit by learning vocabulary and creating basic spreadsheets. The 7th graders will be completing their natural disaster brochures by adding bibliographies and thesis statements. The 6th graders will be learning new reaches O and T.

ART - Students in 8th Grade Art are adding the finishing touches to a pastel still life drawing, based on the composition stylings of Georgia O'Keeffe. They will then be constructing a piece of pottery using the coil method. 7th Graders will be looking at the logo as an advertising design element, and will be creating one of their own. Students in 6th Grade will be working with color and color combinations to paint a mandala.

STEM - 6th Grade students will be designing and building a crane arm out of balsa wood to test architectural principles. 7th Grade students will be wrapping-up their water unit and will start exploring alternate energy sources such as wind and solar power. 8th Grade students will start to investigate how medicines react with the body to make us feel better. We will then explore other areas of medical biotechnology.

TECH ED - 6th Grade classes have begun construction of their Mousetrap Cars. The cars will race (for distance, not speed) in January. 7th grade classes have researched and designed their bridges and will begin construction in the next few days. Grade 8 has been working on an Independent Study Unit for a couple weeks, and that will continue until the end of the marking period. The project choices are Shelf, Lamp, or Electronics Kit.

MEDIA CENTER – All grades will continue to have regular book exchange times through Lang Arts and LEAD classes, with the goal that all students will have a leisure reading book and a back-up book. 8th grade READ classes will begin research on important figures in the Civil War era.

BAND - All Band students will be continuing preparations for our upcoming Holiday Concerts. In individual and group lessons we are having each student (depending on grade level) focus on further developing better tonal and rhythmic accuracy in an effort to contribute to the full ensemble at a higher level. These are the roots of a quality approach to mastering any musical instrument and are also the essential building blocks to a lifetime of musical enjoyment!

Students in READ classes and small groups continue to keep busy with reading. Research projects were completed in 6th and 7th grade with investigations in inventions and Native American tribes. Teen Biz articles this month included articles for 6th graders on Egypt, and information on explorers for 7th grade. 8th graders are finishing up a reading unit focusing on character education which includes reading the book Wonder. Their final project will be creating an advertising campaign for the Wonder Project. Small groups have been continuing to work on fluency and reading skills, and have also been editing and re-thinking writing assignments from Language Arts. The annual book fair comes to Smith Library on December 8th! Students will have time to shop for themselves and for gifts throughout the week. School wide Title One is hosting a Book Fair open house on Dec. 8th at 4:30 to give parents an opportunity to shop. Gift wrapping will be available.

George A. Smith Middle School receives Title 1 funding and is included under the regulations of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that was signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002.

Under NCLB, parents have the right to request professional qualifications of their children’s teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about your children’s classroom teachers or paraprofessionals:

- Whether Pennsylvania has licensed the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Pennsylvania licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher’s baccalaureate degree major and whether the teacher has any advance degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

I am proud to say that all of Smith's teachers and paraprofessionals are 100% highly qualified under the NCLB standards mentioned above. Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts to provide the best education for your child.

Thank you,
Mr. Gladfelter

Upcoming Dates:
Nov. 24 - Breakfast Club
Nov. 27, 28, & Dec. 2nd Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 4th - Picture Re-Take Day 8:00 A.M.
Dec. 9th - Holiday Concert 7:30 P.M.
Dec. 11, 12 - Scholastic Book Fair
Dec. 22 - Breakfast Club
Dec. 24 - Jan. 2nd Christmas Break