Dear Smith Families,

Spring has sprung!!! After all of the cold snowy weather, it is evident from the sounds and sights at Smith MS that your children were ready to get more active. Students ran the mile in April, helped beautify our campus for Earth Day, completed assessments that display all that they are learning, and participated in special programs in the arts.

Many schools devote time and attention in the spring months to providing students with the information to make good choices. The Drugs 101 Program at Solanco High School was well attended on April 29th. Parents heard from the professionals with the Susan Byrnes Center about how to recognize signs of drug experimentation in teens.

On Monday, May 5th, Smith Middle School hosted Tpr. Jon Smith, PA State Police Community Resource Officer. Tpr. Smith talked with our students about the importance of refusing substances and the choices that will ensure their future success. The presentations were well-received. Our students had great questions to ask and were inspired to be good examples for their friends and classmates.

The students of Smith Middle School have accomplished so much this school year. Celebrate with us the wonderful learning and achievements that characterize our students!

Sincerely,
Mrs. McLaughlin
Assistant Principal

Christina_mclaughlin@solanco.k12.pa.us

Student Recognitions

April’s School Board Student of the Month
Marvin Revolorio-Morales
Chosen by the 6th Grade Team

Principal’s Breakfast Club for March 2014
Recognized April 2014

Named to the Breakfast Club for March 2014 were:
Front left to right Adin Breckbill(6th), Natalie Cave,(6th), Jenna Fisher(6th), Kaitlyn Himelright(6th), Janessa Johnson (6th), Joshua Peinhardt (6th)

Back Left to right William Lehmann(8th), Emily Sidelinger (8th), Hannah Snyder(8th), Brianna Langley (7th), Katelyn Sheaffer(7th), Sierra Troop(7th), Alex Wright (7th), Austin Peinhardt(8th)

Smith Middle School Enrollment Report
6th Grade = 125, 7th Grade = 133, 8th Grade = 163 Total = 421
PTO Update:  

The PTO would like to thank everyone who helped to make the 2013/14 school year a success. We are looking to fill some officer positions next year, please contact Colleen Davis at colleendavis20@yahoo.com if interested. Have a fabulous summer!

6th Grade Team News

**Language Arts** - Students in Miss DeGrasse’s Language Arts class will be reading another class novel with an emphasis on vocabulary, interpretation of context clues, and application of reading strategies. Students will also review parts of speech. Students in Mr. McDowell’s classes will continue reading several different class novels with a focus on VIP’s, vocabulary through context clues, guided story questions, and plot analysis elements. Journal and formal writing will culminate with final pieces of writing.

**LEAD** - LEAD students will be working on public speaking including a demonstrative, persuasive and informative speech.

**Math** - Students will be discussing and analyzing aspects of rational numbers this month. We will be working in Chapters 28 and 29 of the textbook. Concepts covered will include: absolute value, comparing and ordering rational numbers, and using a coordinate plane.

**Science** - Students will be studying vertebrates and the environment this month. We will be using the outdoor site for these units. All information from student observations will be posted on Google Docs. Dates to remember: Friday, May 2nd Environmental Day and Thursday, May 8th Mother’s Day plant sale.

Social Studies - Sixth grade social studies students will be learning about ancient Rome this month. Geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics and levels of people in society will be discussed. Students will also compare the ancient Roman civilization to the other civilizations learned about this year. We will end the year by learning about the Middle Ages.

Counselor’s Corner

Walking into the building during May, it seems like the newest fashion trend is... casts! Yes! Tis the season for broken everything! Broken arms, wrists, legs, ankles, you name it! But one of the things that have been in the news recently when it comes to kids and getting hurt are: CONCUSSIONS.

What is a concussion? A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way your brain normally functions. Here at Smith, I am on the Concussion Management Team! We have this in place so that when a student is dealing with concussions, we can have supports and a plan in place so the student is better able to recover.

When the nurse or I receive a note from a student’s doctor alerting us that he/she has a concussion, we put into place our protocol. We look at the doctor’s orders and then make sure that a student has rest breaks, no physical activity (that can agitate or worsen symptoms), stays hydrated, and is able to withstand the rigors of the school day.

The nurse monitors the symptoms by doing check-ins with the student as they come in for rest breaks. Teachers fill out academic monitoring tools so that the Concussion Management Team can see if a student is struggling in a specific area or class.

After a student is cleared from their doctor, they are free to return to all school activities. For more info, please feel free to contact me!

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

Front: Mr. McDowell, Miss DeGrasse, Mr. Himmelberger, Miss Stermer, Mrs. Noll
Back: Mrs. S. Lee, Mr. Little
7th Grade Team News

Math/Math Extensions: We also began a unit on using real numbers and formulas for circles, prisms, and spheres. The final chapter will introduce students to some algebra concepts including slope, powers of powers, and solving complex equations.

LEAD: Students will be completing their ‘Life in a Bag’ project.

Social Studies: Students will be discovering how the French and Indian War affected the settlement of North America. Students will realize that the results of this war will lead to the causes of the American Revolution.

LA: Students will be writing biographies, autobiographies, and a personal narrative. They will also be reading a historical account.

Science: Students will be finishing their Unit on Genetics and will begin their Units on Earth and Space.

8th Grade Team News

Social Studies: In May the students will be learning about the Gilded Age of the late 1800’s with a focus on immigration.

Language Arts: To conclude the school year, focus in English class returns primarily to literature. Students will study the short story “Of Missing Persons” and E.A. Poe’s poem “The Raven.” Students will be given a comprehensive final exam.

LEAD III: During the month of May, LEAD III classes will be working on a unit on speech and communication in which the students will have opportunities to present a variety of presentations to their classmates.

Algebra: In May, the students will start the exponent and power chapter. In the middle of May, we will take a short break to take the KEYSTONE EXAM for Algebra as per graduation requirements for the state of Pennsylvania. Then we will finish the chapter on exponents and powers and head into solving quadratic equations. We will prepare for the final exam at the end of the month with the final tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 4th and Thursday June, 5th.

Science: In Science in May we will be learning about ‘Biological Energy Transfer’. This will include topics such as the cell, differences between animal and plant cells, osmosis, diffusion, active transport, photosynthesis, and cell respiration. We will end with food chains, food webs, and the energy pyramid.

Integrated Geography: In May Integrated Geography students will be expanding the focus of their physical geography, history, economic, and demographic study to the countries that make up Latin America. Having completed the political map portion of the unit, students will focus on the exploration, colonization, and development of Latin America and the people of the region.

Summer Reading!!!

Isn’t summer a great time to bask in the sun, reading a great book?

All Smith MS students will be assigned a reading book to be taken home this summer. The book will be provided by the school. Once they return to school in August of 2014, they will be engaging in activities and assignments regarding their required summer reading book.

We are planning exciting activities at the school and through technology over the summer to ensure that your child receives the support or encouragement that is needed.

Sixth graders will be reading Peak by Roland Smith. Seventh graders will be reading Wonder by R.J. Palacio. Eighth graders will be reading Fever 1793 by Laurie Andersen.

Stay posted for more information!
MUSIC – 8th grade students are finishing the Baroque Time Period and will begin studying Classical Music. 7th grade students will complete Instruments of the Orchestra. 6th grade students will finish the music of Aaron Copland.

HEALTH – The 7th grade students are just finishing up the Alcohol, Tobacco, & Drugs Unit and will be moving into the Human Growth and Development Unit.

FITNESS – All students are currently finishing up the presidential fitness testing unit. Next up for fitness classes is the track and field unit!

COMPUTER TECH – Eighth grade students are sorting Excel spreadsheet data and learning to create charts and graphs. The seventh graders are creating documents with enumerations. The sixth graders continue to master more keys on the keyboard.

ART – Eighth grade students in Art are completing the construction of a clay pot using the slab method and featuring Nature as a theme. They will then begin looking at the work of American artist Georgia O’Keeffe. Students in Grade 7 are cutting a mola design from layers of colored paper. Sixth graders are constructing and painting an object using various wooden shapes.

FACS – 6th graders will complete sewing projects using hand sewing and the sewing machine. Then they will learn about healthy snacking. 7th graders will use recipes to make fruit quesadillas and mini pizzas. Later they will learn about etiquette and budgeting. 8th graders will finish the nutrition unit and learn about microwave cooking, meal planning, and advertising, and make mug cake and taco salad.

TECH ED – Sixth Grade will be racing their Mousetrap cars. Seventh Grade will be assembling their Digital Media Center projects. Eighth Grade has recently begun their Independent Study Unit.

MEDIA CENTER – All grades will continue book exchanges throughout the month in an effort to support Language Arts and LEAD book projects and assignments.

Upcoming Dates:

Spring Orchestra Concert - May 6th at 7:30 p.m.
6th Grade Field Trip - May 21st
8th Grade End of Year Party - May 23rd - 3-5:00 p.m.
Memorial Day Holiday (No School) - May 26th
Be Wise Exercise - May 30th - Rain Date June 9th
Solanco Night at the Barnstormers - May 30th
8th Grade Awards Night - June 5th
Hersheypark Incentive Trip - June 10th
High School Graduation - June 11th
Last Day for Students: June 11th