

Panther Press

DMS Ranked # 48 by The Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO **SUN-TIMES**

Dunlap Middle School was ranked as one of the top 50 Middle Schools in the state of Illinois by the Chicago Sun-Times. The # 48 ranking is based on last spring's ISAT scores. Congratulations to all the D.M.S. students, parents, faculty, and staff for all their dedication and hard work. Being ranked in the top 50 Middle School is a wonderful accomplishment. Feel free to check out the article online at: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/education/1855047,top-100-middle-schools-1009.article>

Dec. 14th Fine Arts Extravaganza

On Dec. 14 the annual middle school winter concert will be in the auditorium at D.H.S. beginning at 7 p.m. In addition Mr. Hansen will have student art work on display that evening in the commons here at Dunlap Middle School. There will be refreshments available as you browse through the student work. The commons will be open from 6 pm until one hour after the last performance.

**DUNLAP
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

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Reminders:

- *Progress Reports Issued on November 13th*
- *No School on November 25th, 26th, and 27th, Fall Vacation*
- *End of 1st Semester is Friday, December 19th*
- *No School on December 23rd- January 3rd, Winter Vacation*
- *No School on January 18th, M.L. King's Bday*

Inside this issue:

<i>School Board Election</i>	2
<i>Student Council</i>	2
<i>Counselor's Corner</i>	2
<i>Class News</i>	3
<i>Live Homework Help</i>	4
<i>Special Ed. Parent Group</i>	4
<i>Medieval Dinner</i>	4

A message from Dr. Marino

I'm writing to announce that today the District is launching an interactive “[Blog](#)” to enhance and encourage 2-way communication through the use of [Web 2.0](#) technology. The District will use the blog to provide regular updates on issues related to our school district. We will use the blog to discuss the strategic planning process, share information regarding student achievement, communicate progress about future facility decisions, review data, celebrate accomplishments and seek your input on a variety of topics. We expect to post new information regularly and often.

The blog may include text, charts/graphs, graphical images and other multimedia include audio and video podcasts in the near future. We believe this format provides opportunities for staff and stakeholders to interact with the school district and encourages teamwork, collaboration and shared leadership. I would encourage you to visit the blog and sign up to receive email alerts when new content is posted (see: “subscribe by email” on the right side of the blog menu- <http://dunlapschools.edublogs.org/>). You can also access the blog through a link on the District web site (on the left hand side).

In our first “welcome” post, we’ve included a real-time poll where you can cast your vote and see the results displayed in real time (just hit “refresh” on the page). Your participation in the blog is encouraged and we value your comments and feedback. Sign up today!

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council started the past month by sponsoring a spirit week for the girls basketball team. Everyone had fun dressing in their favorite nerd outfits while promoting school spirit. We then had a dance on Halloween which included a pumpkin carving party. Student council helped stuff stockings for the marines and are going to ring bells for Salvation Army in December. We will be having another spirit week for the boys basketball teams in December.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

On November 12, 2008, Dunlap Middle School joined thousands of schools across the country for the 8th annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day. Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a simple call to action: take a new seat in the cafeteria. By making the move, students can cross the lines of division, meet new people and make new friends.



70% of students named the cafeteria as the school setting where social boundaries are most clearly drawn

40% of students admitted that they had rejected someone from another group

6th GRADE NEWS

Please take the time to visit the new and improved 6th grade website. <http://www.dunlapcusd.net/dms/dms6thgrade.htm>

The sixth grade students seem to have transitioned well to the middle school concept and are forming a community with their classmates, teachers, administrators and school staff. Students who were once from two elementary schools in Dunlap have now established Panther Pride in our one and only Dunlap Middle School. The sixth grade students have all created their own accelerated reader goals in literature this quarter in order to take ownership of their independent reading achievement and earn a place at our A.R. Party for the second quarter. In English classes students are working diligently on their persuasive writing. Sixth grade science students will be making a Periodic Table of Poetry. Students will be assigned an element and a poetry format. They will research some facts about the element and write a poem in the assigned style. The poems will be organized on a periodic table and it will be posted online under the Student Work section for the whole world to see!

We will be taking the Sixth grade students to the on a field trip to the Hult Center on the following days:

December 16th- 6th Grade boys to Hult Center

December 17th-6th Grade girls to the Hult Center



7TH GRADE NEWS

Just in time for the holidays, the language arts students will be reading Charles Dickens's *The Christmas Carol* and creating Victorian Christmas cards in Microsoft Publisher and designing their favorite scene in a diorama. Students are also finishing up their AR books to create poster reports due December 4th. Then the entire 7th grade will be watching the new 3D version of this timeless classic at the cinema! History classes are preparing for the Constitution Test, which will be December 17th. A separate parent newsletter will be sent home with students. Science is studying mitosis and meiosis as a segue to heredity. Finally, in math it is fraction fun for everyone!



Illinois Music Educators Association District #2

The following students will be participating in state completion this month. Caroline C., Rhett F., Rebekah K., Ellie S., Kirsten S., Tyler S., Annie W., Yoonjin M., Aamid A., Michael L.

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY-LIVE HOMEWORK HELP

Now your students can work on one on one with a tutor from any Internet-connected computer as long as they have a Peoria Public Library card. The service is available seven days a week from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and offers help for students from Kindergarten through Adult Education. Students work with a live tutor using instant messaging, a white board and file uploads. Help is available in math, English, social studies and science and in English and Spanish. Tutors don't provide answers, but help students find answers so that they never have to come to school in the morning saying, "I didn't get it." Live Homework Help is available when teachers aren't and is safe and free. All tutors are qualified, background checked and never exchange names or emails with students. Just log on to www.peoriapubliclibrary.org to try it with your Peoria Public Library Card! For more information, call 497-2142!

*Log on to the Peoria
Public Library
website for more
info:
www.peoriapubliclibrary.org*

DUNLAP SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT GROUP



Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 17th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Banner Elementary. Please come and meet other parents, caregivers and educators of special needs children. All are welcome, you do not need to have a child in the Dunlap schools. Susan Barnhart of the Illinois Association of Microboards and Human Service Cooperatives will be sharing great ideas relating to assuring the quality of life for the future of our special needs children. For more information please contact Laura Sniff at 678-0190 or send an email to dunlapspecialparents@hotmail.com

SPEECH TEAM

The speech team, coached by Miss Rogers, Mrs. Nelson, and Mrs. Ulrich, began their season at the Dunlap Speech Contest. Here the students received seventeen firsts, twenty-one seconds, and five thirds. A small group of students went to Stronghurst, and there they came home with ten firsts and five seconds. The final contest was state held at Williamsfield, and there the students were awarded twenty-five firsts, fourteen seconds, and one third. It was a great season for the speech team.

DUNLAP MIDDLE SCHOOL

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We're on the web!
www.dunlapcusd.net/dms

**GO
PANTHERS!**

Don't forget that the end of the first semester will again end prior to winter break. The change in the schedule was implemented two years ago. Previously, students would return to school after winter break and have two weeks to prepare for the conclusion of the first semester. It is important for families and students to plan accordingly for the scheduled changes. Please continue to check with your son or daughter and take the opportunity to view the parent log in from our home page to monitor their progress. The month of December is very important in the outcome of student grades and achievement.

Helpful Reminders to Parents...

1. If you want to get a message to your child, please call the office as early as possible. It is unlikely a message can get to him/her if you call after 3:20. Thank you!
2. We discourage any deliveries to the school, such as flowers and balloons, for these items have to be taken with the student on the bus which could create potential hazards.
3. When dropping off or picking up your child, it is imperative you follow the signs. Vehicles that ignore the bus arm with the flashing stop sign can be fined up to \$850 when a bus driver turns in the plate number. Remember – safety first! Thank you.
4. Don't forget to call or e-mail your child's absence as early as possible (before 9:00 AM preferably).