

# O' Rourke Middle School PTA



December/January 2010

## President's Post

The holidays are a time for giving thanks, sharing with our family and friends and looking forward to a new year with positive expectation. We have had a great start of the school year here at the PTA. I would like to thank Mary Beth Frewin and her volunteers for a day of fun and beauty at our Annual PTA Craft Fair. I also want to thank Carolyn Guyer who chaired the Book Fair and to all of her volunteers. The Book Fair is quite the undertaking and with the snow day in the middle, I am sure it was not any easier this year. Also, thank you to Sue Kudacik and her volunteers for making the School Picture days move along so smoothly.

Part of the PTA's mission is providing opportunities for our children to expand their horizons; to utilize their talents and explore new found interests. Thanks to Tim Sinenberg and Carin Gallinat for coordinating Reflections this year. It gave our children a showcase to display their talents. Congratulations to our winners and to everyone who participated! A thank



you to Lisa Read for giving our children another outlet for their creativity, by chairing Odyssey of the Mind.

There are far too many volunteers to mention, who help to make our children's school a better place.

Thank you to everyone for making my job a whole lot easier!!! Happy Holidays to you all!!!!

Warmly,  
Beth McKeone

## O'Rourke PTA Needs You!!!

We are in urgent need of someone to chair our Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for May 2010!! If interested please call Beth McKeone at 399-7024.

Thank You!!!

## Enjoy the City

Thank you to all who participated in this new fundraiser! We sold 290 books and were able to give away 22 books to our top sellers. A special Congratulations to Cassidy McCabe, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who sold 15 books and will receive a special prize from "Enjoy the City". Way to go

Cassidy!!!

A friendly reminder to families who have not received their books yet. Please call Beth McKeone at 399-7024, your books are waiting for you!!!



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## Principal's Corner

December 14, 2009

*Principal's Corner – Globalization and the Middle Level Child:* As you have all probably discovered, all too quickly, life in the middle can be very complicated and at times very disheartening. It is as if our children have fallen into this great void during their adolescent years, getting swallowed up at every turn with developmental issues that cloud their reasoning, place them on an emotional rollercoaster, force them to become disorganized or disoriented, change their eating and sleeping habits, and so much more. We often ask ourselves during this phase, "What

community service activities, listened to powerful motivational speakers on developing and maintaining good character traits, have been immersed in diversity and cyber training workshops, taken a trip back to medieval times, actively engaged in team building workshops, and so much more. These events and others like it help to build community, expose our students to broader and

to gain the competitive edge in the new world order.

Succinctly they are:

Global Awareness

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

Civic Literacy

Health Literacy

Environmental Literacy

Creative and Critical Thinking

Communication and Collaboration

has happened to my child?"

Somehow, most of them seem to gradually right themselves and crawl ever so slowly out of this malaise becoming successful, contributing, and responsible adults.

Middle level education has its roots in targeting its practices and principles toward servicing these unique needs. Traditional methodologies of education are modified to support the day to day machinations of early adolescents who are finding themselves. Exploratory opportunities expose students to a broad learning spectrum, to enable them to experience many things

more diverse learning experiences, and immerse them in practical life scenarios beyond the confines of their exploratory educational curriculum that will prepare them for the complexities of the global universe they will enter.

As we redefine learning into more complex global skills, it is imperative that students are exposed to educational opportunities that challenge them to

Information Literacy

Communications and Technology Literacy

Flexibility and Adaptability

Social and cross Cultural Skills

Productivity and Accountability

Leadership

As parents, you can provide opportunities to support these global interdisciplinary themes in your homes by encouraging activities for your children that

and then utilize that experience to make rational choices in their lives. More and more, as the global market demands diverse, flexible participants, it is our duty to provide middle school students with the skills necessary for them to complete their high school and post secondary training ready to enter a very competitive and diverse workforce.

A variety of extraordinary events have taken place in our school to give our students opportunities to explore learning on a broader spectrum. Students have participated in charitable and com-

apply 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to their overall developmental experience. Middle schools have inherently subscribed to this thinking in their well defined philosophy for some time. However, these concepts are being explored in the broader spectrum of development as the educational paradigm begins to shift. Mastery of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes, foundational literacy and developmental skill sets is

explore the skill sets in greater detail.

For a more in-depth look at these skills and the principles that drive them, please review the website – [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)

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Send PTA Newsletter info. to:  
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[www.bhbl.org](http://www.bhbl.org)

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## Principal's Corner

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*Good Tidings* – On behalf of the staff and students of the O'Rourke Middle School, I would like to wish each of you and your families a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

*Changing of the Guard:* The process for the hiring of a new Assistant Principal to fill the void left by the departure of Mrs. Robin Gawrys to become the Principal of Gowana Middle School, has been finalized with the development of a site based committee to oversee the selection of candidates for interviews. Interviews will take place over the next few weeks with the hope of having a new administrator on board by February. In the meantime, Mr. James Denney, former Pashley Elementary School Principal, has been serving as an interim administrator to help service the needs of our children and

staff.

*Nursing Services:* Recently, our school nurse Mrs. Colleen Ferlo procured a similar position in a neighboring school district. To fill the vacancy we have been temporarily utilizing a substitute nursing service. Commencing on January 4, 2010, Mrs. Kathy Greco will be leaving her position at the Charlton Heights Elementary School to assume the school nursing responsibilities here. We want to thank Mrs. Ferlo for her outstanding service to our school and welcome Mrs. Greco.

*Utilizing the Web:* There is a wealth of valuable information on the District and building website that can be accessed at [www.bhbl.org](http://www.bhbl.org). These sites offer a variety of links regarding school governance, calendars of events, ongoing school initiatives, and other pertinent information related to our exemplary educational

system. We encourage community members to visit our site regularly to remain informed about the broad "happenings" in our schools.

*School News Notifier:* The District offers a school news notification service through our website that can help to keep families informed about important school events, school delays and closings, and other related information. To subscribe to this free service, please sign up on the District main webpage.

Best Regards,

Don Germain

