

The Jungle Journal

Lyndon Middle School

Mental Math

By: Kelbi Markham

In October a series of students participated in a league mental math competition. The competition includes the students in 5-8th grade that are best at math. This year the mental math competition included 7th graders Taye Kitselman, Jolie Hielscher, Graham Newberry, and 8th graders Trey Bazil, Jaden Parker, and Ali McClain. The alternates were Ryan Bones and Penner Unruh. The mental math competition usually takes place in Pomona every year. Mental math is a fun challenge for anybody that likes math.

"I really enjoyed the mental math competition because it helped me get better at working out my mental math problems quickly. Also, I'm really competitive so it was really enjoyable." Says 7th grade competitor, Taye Kitselman.

The mental math competition ended up being a huge success for the

Lyndon group. Many of the participants went to finals and Lyndon ended up placing 3rd as a school. Although, if you want to participate in mental math, you need to make sure to practice hard. The participants also need to make sure they're okay with competing in front of their peers.

"I thought all the people watching me was really nerve-wracking, it felt like there was a lot of people in there with me." Says Taye Kitselman.

The mental math competition is in honor of a former teacher that taught at Pomona grade school for 26 years, Vera Mae Schultz.

"I like that students get to compete at an academic activity. It gives students that are good at mental math an opportunity to 'strut their stuff'." Says mental math sponsor and middle school math teacher, Lori Catron.

Mental math is always a fun challenge for anyone that's willing to work hard and go

out of their comfort zone, and if they give their best effort, it'll be a huge success!

Winter Concerts

By: Liam Long

The winter concerts are soon, and the choirs are doing their best to get prepared for it.

Carol of the Bells is Ms. Knisely's favorite song to conduct with her seventh and eighth grade choir along with the high school choir, because it is exciting to bring them together and sing.

"It's a song that all of them are familiar with, so they can use that prior knowledge of the song so that they're not starting from scratch."

It can be a big surprise to hear that a choir is more superior compared to others.

"I honestly don't think I could pick between my two choirs because each group has a different song to sing, and each group has a different

skill set, so I'm excited to hear both."

From the middle school, singing at the concert are Kelbi Markham, Taye Kitselman, Tara Green, Jada Seyler-Harting, Emma McMahon, Marlen Long, Liam Long, Jayden Vela, Seven King, Preston Manning, Samantha Conger, Jolene Green, Katelyn Brooker, Aubrie Edington, Kali Moon, Mariah Fredricks, and Kylie Ratzloff.

"Out of the three songs that we are singing, I think I like, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas", it is my favorite. I like it the best because I grew up listening to this song and it brings good memories" responded Kelbi Markham.

"I like Carol of the Bells, because a lot of people seem to like that song so I like it too" said Marlen Long.

With all the preparation, the choir should be ready when the concert rolls around. A majority of the choir is excited about the concert, but the rest aren't "not excited" they're just nervous because it's in front of a big crowd of people. Personally I think that when the time comes to sing at the concert, they will be ready.

LMS Basketball

By: Maci Ramey

This year the Lyndon Tigers kicked off the basketball season with 3 out of 4 wins from the boys, and the girls were 0 and 4, though they put up a fight against West Franklin on the 9th of November and only lost by 6 points. While the boys had their first loss to Council Grove on November 12th, and their second loss to Osage City. It was a close game the entire time and only losing by 4 points both times.

"We just didn't do enough boxing out and we didn't run a good offense, with too many rushed passes. We also didn't play well against a zone. Though these last few games we've had better passes as well as running the ball more, and we've been working hard in practice. We've been keeping our eyes up more, as well as using our left side." Says eighth grade starters Trey Bazil and Toby Miller.

After a rough couple of games against Osage City and Central Heights, the teams came back with a fresh start against Mission Valley, using all the time they'd had over Thanksgiving break they should come back with a great offense.

"We've been working hard over break and have some new tricks to show Mission Valley. Hopefully it will turn out as good as it should, and we will finally get a win." Says eighth grade starter Kelbi Markham.

The team has been working very hard and according to most of the team Coach Hart and Coach Hamlet teach them how to be a team player and work together to get a win, and though they haven't got a win yet I have faith in them, and with what Kelbi said, they really have a chance.

If they work really hard our Lyndon Middle School basketball teams can come out on top, so please come out and support them. If anyone has any questions about when games are, go to the school calendar.

Red Ribbon week

By: Dylan Buckalew

Red ribbon week is a week where Lyndon Middle School has a variety of people come to tell all of the students about how drugs and alcohol affect lives, functions, and future. There were 8 different stations that students visited.

The first was texting while driving and in this group students texted on a phone while walking around the three-point line in a gym to show how hard it was to

focus on staying on the line, walk, and look at our phones all at the same time. This station was to show that texting and driving can have consequences.

The second station was drunk goggles. The goggles were used to show what people saw when they were intoxicated. Although, when you're actually intoxicated you will have much worse vision and your brain will have trouble making the right decisions. Students at this station had to put on the goggles and walk straight down a line and shoot a basket.

The third station was officer Forkenbrock explaining how drugs work. For example, there is a drug in Russia that is called "Krokodil" because it eats the user's skin from the inside out.

The fourth station was a firefighter that explained some of the accidents he has been to with kids the ages of middle school students, for instance, one of car wrecks he has gone to was a 14 and a 15-year old that were drunk and hit a telephone pole, both passed away.

The fifth station was where Judge Wine talked about what would happen if students our age got a MIP or DUI or anything that includes drug or alcohol abuse.

The sixth station was a retired meth addict, he talked about when he started doing drugs. He started at the county fair doing a line of cocaine. He then didn't do drugs for a long time till he was working long hours and was really tired so he decided to do some meth to stay awake. Then, he got hooked on it for about a year until he came to the conclusion that he needed help.

The seventh station was Mrs. Criqui. We looked at what drugs eventually make users look like. Students got on a website and looked at the consequences drugs do to you and your mental health.

The eighth station was Mrs. Griffin. They talked about not bullying students. Talked how bullying can affect other people's lives and what to do if you see bullying. Students also talked about how to talk people out of suicide if you know someone that is going to attempt it.

Extra Credit

By: Ryan Bones

Extra credit has been all around Lyndon's middle school student's tests! Students are all excited about extra credit points on tests.

Extra credit is mostly used in American schools. It's used to give kids extra points they can get to boost up their grade in that class. Extra credit is also used to allow a student to improve his or her grade after having a bad performance earlier in a quarter.

While in school, I stopped by to ask some teachers what their thoughts were on extra credit. Mrs. Green, a middle school language arts teacher, gives out hall passes that the kids can use if they have to leave the room at any time. At the end of the semester, the students could give back the hall pass and however many spots they didn't take up, that's how many extra credit points they got. "I figure if the students have been in class and are doing everything they are supposed to do, then the students probably deserve some extra credit." But Mrs. Griffin, a middle school science teacher, told me "I don't like extra credit because I offer so many options for achieving a good grade, and extra credit to me seems like taking the easy way out."

Ethan Kneisler, a seventh grade student, said he does like extra credit on tests because you can get over 100 on a test and it could bring your grade up. Brayden Marcotte and Carson Croucher, also two

seventh grade students, said they like extra credit because, "It will bring your grade up if you miss a question on the test."

Some teachers may not give extra credit on tests, but students sure do love it!

TIGER GEAR

By: Marlen Long

Fans notice the table at every home athletic game where students are selling Tiger apparel. This is a project run by the LMS Student Council Members. Members sell items such as hats, lanyards, shirts, sweatpants, and much more.

StuCo Member, Kelbi Markham, is happy with all of the options that are available. "I like the sweatshirts because more people seem to buy that kind of stuff. Or things like magnets because children are able to buy them and seem to love them." Sweatshirts are one of the most sold item that the Student Council sells.

StuCo sponsor Mr. Gales says that he finds most of his ideas off of the internet and in magazines. "This year we went through GTM (a Manhattan, KS based company.) In the past we've used FrontRow Sports and

other companies." Students and fans prefer different styles. "My favorite Tiger apparel to wear is the dri-fit shirts because they are my style and because they are comfortable. I also like to sell them because most people like shirts like that." said Penner Unruh

The money that the LMS Student Council gathers when selling Tiger Gear goes to the school's budget. They use the money for things such as: new laptops, iPad, books, tables, chairs, water fountains, etc.

Extra Credit: Is It Really Extra Necessary?

By: Joshua Moore

Many schools and teachers all around give out opportunities for extra credit. Be it someone liking to be a perfectionist and wanting that extra bit for a 100%, or just a student with underwhelming grades. Either way, it's quite established that most schools will have extra credit in the curriculum. So following up on that known commodity, a few teachers of Lyndon Middle School were asked about extra credit, if they hand out said credit, and how they choose to do it.

Mr. Beying is both a publications teacher, and a

6/8th grade Agriculture teacher. When approached with the question of what he does for extra credit assignments he responded by saying, "I don't offer extra credit. Everything is done in class, and [I] allow tests to be redone in class once." One question that may be asked when reading this response is "Well, isn't that still extra credit?" The answer to that is both a yes and a no. Mr. Beying, as he stated in the quote, does all work in his classroom. What this essentially means, is that if the class is to get say an average of a D on an assignment Mr. Beying will allow the class to retake that assignment. This also happens to fall in line with how he will let a student retake a test once. This policy makes it possible to make it so that your grade as a student is not failing, but there is also a limit to how much of your grade you can salvage, so as to not let the student cheat the test by taking it once and memorizing the answers. This shows the reasoning behind stating that the question of extra credit is both yes and no.

Now, how about we get a response on the math side of things. After reaching out to Mrs. Catron to get some information on the topic of extra credit in her class, she responded with the following quote, "I don't do whole assignments of extra

credit. There are random questions on a quiz or test that counts for extra credit on that assignment.” So this is yet another case of the extra credit being debatable in a way.

But to close this topic, Lyndon Middle/Elementary school would appear to simply not need extra credit. Based on the responses of the teachers that were reached out to, the students in their classes do not require extra credit due to their grades already being high enough. And for those who do happen to fall behind, seem to have more than enough chances to raise their grade back up if need be.

Success Celebration

By: Shelbie McCain

The success celebration is an elementary and middle school activity. The whole activity is about rewarding students for good grades, or good behavior. What happens first is Mrs. Hamlet will call a student’s name and the student will go up to her and take a paper from her. Then the student will shake her hand and walk back to the bleachers with the student’s class. The paper will say what the student did that is good. It might say something like A-B honor roll, attendance award, etc. A-b honor roll

means the student had A and B’s the whole semester. The attendance award means that the student went to school most of the time, or all of the time during the semester.

The success celebration is also available to the public, meaning family members. It is a fun and exciting time for students to see what they get from Mrs. Hamlet. People enjoy seeing what their children or grandchildren earn from doing things the school appreciates. People that come can also take pictures of the students, almost everyone does. Sometimes the student will not even get an award. The teachers will try there hardest to make a student earn some award, because almost every student does something that the school appreciates. Now they have teacher awards that the students of the teacher give to the teacher. The other new thing the teachers added to the success celebration, it is now that the students can win kindness awards, because they are kind to other students. Students can win kindness awards for holding doors for people, if a student drops his or her books and another student picks up their books for them, or students help other students through rough times. Just simple stuff like that can win a student a T-shirt and some candy.

Phone use in school

By: Katie Baker

For many years there has been an argument about phone use in school and if they are a tool or a desecration. In this article you will read about a teacher opinion on this matter.

For many teachers they think that cell phone are a huge desecration and other feel fine about the subject. When I asked Mrs. Hamlet about her opinion on cellphone use in school she responded with “I feel like it can be a great educational tool if everyone use it for an educational tool but most kids use it for cheating on test and things like that so I do not allow them most of the time.” Many different people can have different opinions about this subject. Many teachers can’t stand phone in their classroom and many people have quit because of it. For example, Miriam Morgenstern was a teacher at Lowell High School and she quit because kids in her class would not stop texting, tweeting and snapchatting in her class.

But overall phones can be fun on your time but when school is in session I suggest you keep them in your lockers.