



Family Journal for the Week of October 31, 2007

Music happens to be an art form that transcends language. - Herbie Hancock

Field Trip to Merrimack College for The Orchid Ensemble

Today's field trip to Merrimack College in Andover, MA to enjoy a performance by The Orchid Ensemble was a real thrill for both students and staff. For about an hour, the three piece group blended ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond. We learned about the Chinese instruments and a bit of history and enjoyed the melodious sound; some of our students even got to take the stage at the end of the performance to participate in their final arrangement. To learn more about the group, you can go to their website: www.orchidensemble.com. A great thanks to Peter Waldron, Director of Arts Programming at the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, for inviting us to this free musical and cultural event – it was truly special. Thanks to parent, Mary Gaynor, for making the connection to Peter for the school.

Catch up Day

Based on some of the feedback we received from students and parents regarding the challenge of transitioning to high school work, today we gave students four hours of time to work independently to either catch up on work, make revisions of work already completed or to do extension/honors work. Teachers posted lists of student work that was due and worked with students throughout the time. Overall, it was a great effort by students and staff. With progress reports due to be sent home on November 9th (please note this date change from the calendar), we hope that this day provided students ample time to get caught up. As we move forward students should recognize that a catch up day will not necessarily be provided in the future, so keeping up with the work as it is assigned is paramount.

MCAS Results

By this time, you should have received your child's Spring 2007 MCAS results in the mail. We are reviewing the results and determining any adjustments to the curriculum that need to be made to better meet the needs of the general student population. Additionally, we are determining steps that need to be taken in the case of individuals who are struggling to achieve a passing score in one or more areas. Please contact the school if you have not received your child's results.

Destination Imagination (DI)

Students, DI is about to begin! Let's keep the tradition of participation in DI going here at the high school. Please check the bulletin board in the hallway to sign up and get information. Any questions, please see Chantelle Somers.

Important Dates

November 8 – Fall Sports Banquet, 6-8 PM
November 9 – First School Dance
November 9 – Progress reports sent home
November 12 – NO SCHOOL in honor of the Veteran's Day Holiday
November 20 – Thanksgiving recess begins at the end of day

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Happy Halloween!



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