

LAMOILLE UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL

736 VT 15 WEST
HYDE PARK, VERMONT 05655
(802) 851-1300
FAX (802) 851-1397



CHRIS HINDES
PRINCIPAL
AMIE CONGER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

“Building a Community Prepared for the Choices and Challenges of Life”

January 28, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy 2011!

As we end the first semester, we celebrate the many accomplishments of our students and staff, and we prepare for many exciting successes and changes to come. Our faculty has been busy both in and out of the classrooms as they participate in a number of professional development opportunities; including curriculum coordination, continued studies for effective instructional practices, graduate programs, and peer-coaching. All of this work transfers into increased student support and more effective classroom practices. We are lucky to have such a talented group of faculty.

News from Lamoille Union Middle School

Notes from the Band Room



7th grade general music students are hard at work! They have been composing songs in theme and variation form and are practicing their own compositions on guitar! They are also learning about the history of jazz and rock and roll.

Also, an after-school string orchestra will be starting in February! Students will pay to rent their own violin, viola, cello, or double bass and will meet after school once a week to learn to play their instruments and perform. There will be a letter coming home with more information very soon. If you have questions or would like to express interest, email hfinlayson@luhsvt.org – Thanks!

On a different note, voice and piano lessons will be offered to interested students as part of the after-school *Connections* program starting in February. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to learn to play piano and/or gain vocal skills on a more individual level!

Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Our school will be participating in the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education and the Vermont Department of Health. The survey gathers information about health risk behaviors of 7th and 8th grade students. The survey includes questions about nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, physical exercise, injuries, and sexual behavior. Schools, communities, and state agencies will use the results of the survey to evaluate programs, plan new programs, and secure future funding. The survey is anonymous and the survey procedures were developed to protect our students' privacy. If you have questions about the YRBS, please contact Diane Lepikko at 851-1287.



Geo Bee

Danielle Dennis, an 8th grader, won the Lamoille Union Middle School competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 10th. The school-level Bee, where students orally answered questions about geography, was the first round of the 23rd annual National Geographic Bee, which is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Congratulations Danielle!

New York City News

Little Caesar's Pizza Drive to support the NYC trip ended on Friday, January 21st. All pizza orders should be picked up on Tuesday, February 1st, from 3:15 until 6:00pm. at the Athletic Building, which is located at the end of the Middle School/GMTCC parking lot. (Look for signs.)

The next New York City payment for 8th graders will be due February 11, 2011.



Cricket Hill Trails - Did you know that we have some of the best cross-country ski trails around? For the past few years a group of volunteers has been working on cutting trails, building bridges, and perfecting the grooming so the school ski team and local ski enthusiasts have a place to play and train. There are now over six miles of trails which are groomed daily and are used to host events over the course of the winter.

Last year the GMTCC Building Trades and Electrical Programs completed a new building on Cricket Hill. It is used to store grooming equipment, records for the school, and maintenance tools. The building was designed to be equipped with solar panels, several of which were installed last spring. The power they produce actually helps turn back the meter that records the school's electrical use. The trails are a great resource and the Friends of Cricket Hill encourage you to check them out. More information and a map can be found at www.Crickethilltrails.org. If you have any questions feel free to contact Marc Gilbertson at mgilbertson@luhs18.org.

Thank you for supporting us and your students. As always, please call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Chris Hinds, Principal, Amie Conger, Assistant Principal, and the entire L.U.M.S staff