



November 20, 2008

Wolverine Wire

Dear Parents,

As students and staff leave for the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to share with you some of the things I, and perhaps you, can be thankful for.

I am thankful for the loving wife and children I have been blessed to call mine. They are my source of love, pride and support. They give me strength to continue in my chosen profession as an educator.

I am thankful for the honor and privilege to serve as the principal of Zachry Middle School. Over the past twelve years, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some great students and equally great parents. While we have not always agreed on issues, I believe I have earned the trust of parents in this community. I can assure you I know, understand and value your trust when you place your child in my care.

I am thankful for the wonderful students at Zachry. I take pride in them because they are ours. While a few occasionally provide us with a challenge, the vast majority are fabulous kids who demonstrate the upbringing and values of their family each and every day. I know they are a blessing to you and it is my privilege to serve as their principal.

I am thankful to have an outstanding staff to work along side me. The cafeteria, custodial, teaching, counseling, clerical and administrative staff at Zachry are dedicated individuals who routinely go above and beyond for our students. If you don't already know it, people who choose to work with middle school age children are a rare breed and should be treasured. When you get a chance, let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. They will welcome your kind words.

Lastly, I am thankful to live in the greatest country in the world. A country where people of all races, religions and cultures live side by side and recognize that our diversity is one of our nations greatest strengths and should not only be recognized, but celebrated. A nation where dreams can become a reality because we believe in the promise of our country.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Javier Martinez
Principal

Dates to Remember:

- November 24-28 Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 7th—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- December 22— January 2 Christmas Break
- January 16th—End of 1st Semester.
- January 19th—MLK Jr. Holiday, No School

ATTENDANCE NOTES

A few reminders to parents and students regarding absences and doctor appointments. When a student is absent the parent must provide a note stating why the student was absent, date of absence, signature and phone number. Please be as specific as possible on reason for absence. Reasons such as emergency, family matter or personal is not sufficient. If the reason for the absence is one that needs to be addressed by the administration, we request that you please call the school.

When a student is signed out at the front desk for early release, a note must be brought in the following day stating reason for absence. If the student is signed out for a medical appointment, eye appointment or dental appointment the note from the attending physician must be brought in to receive an excused absence. School begins at 8:30 am each day. Please help your student to be on time and ready to learn.

COUNSELOR CORNER

On November 20, 2008, Zachry Middle School will recognize **National Stop Smoking Day** to encourage people who are smoking to STOP and to discourage our students from ever STARTING.

Did you know that Tobacco can kill you? Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in this country. More than 400,000 Americans die from tobacco-related causes each year, and most began using tobacco before the age of 18 (CSAP, 2006).

Illnesses such as lung cancer, coronary heart disease, stroke, chronic bronchitis and emphysema are associated with tobacco addiction.

Smoking can also cause shortness of breath, yellow teeth, premature aging, continuous coughing, and smelly hair, clothes, and skin. Because cigarettes contain **nicotine**, a powerfully addictive substance, people who use tobacco daily find it extremely difficult to quit (National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, 2004).

Know the facts and talk to your kids about the dangers related to using cigarettes and other smokeless tobacco products. You can learn more by logging onto www.Texas-STEP.org, NISD's own <http://parent411.nisd.net>, or simply talking to the school counselors for more information and resources.



PLANNERS

At the beginning of the year, all students were issued a planner. Students are expected to pay for that planner. The cost is \$3.50 and needs to be paid in the front office. Please make sure it is taken care of **before the Thanksgiving break**. Students who have not paid will not be allowed to attend any school dances.

CAFETERIA UPDATE

Zachry is a no charge school. Students that have to pay for their meals, must have money in their accounts at all times. There are no exceptions. Also, middle schools do not have alternative meals as in the elementary schools, if children do not have money they will not be allowed to charge meals.

YEARBOOKS!

The Yearbook staff is hard at work on putting together a great book for you. Yearbooks are now on sale for \$33.00 and can be purchased online at www.smart-pay.com. It's fast and convenient! Wouldn't a yearbook make a great Christmas present?! Please call Ms. Faucher at 397-7442 if you would like to order a book for Christmas or if you have any other questions about yearbooks.

Photographs!

Parents, if you have been taking pictures at any events, and are willing to share them, we would love to have copies! We would especially welcome sports pictures. Please email them to Jacquelinefaucher@nisd.net. Thank you!

Girl's Basketball

DATE

12/3	WED	7th Home/8th Away	Jones
12/10		7th Home/8th Away	Rayburn
12/17		7th Away/8th Home	Rudder
1/7		7th Home/8th Away	Hobby
1/14		7th Away/8th Home	Jefferson
1/21		7th Away/8th Home	Stevenson
1/28		7th Home/8th Away	Rawlinson
2/4		7th Away/8th Home	Connally
2/9		7th Home/8th Away	Stinson

All Girls and Boys basketball games start at 5:00pm. Please remember that there is no food or drink allowed in the gyms. There is NO flash photography allowed during games.

Entrance fees for all games is \$2.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for students with ID. Small bills are much appreciated!

Thank you and enjoy the games!

BOYS ATHLETICS

Football season ended on November 4th with the 7th grade teams winning both games against Connally. The 8th grade split against Connally teams: B team won, and A team lost. In the overall football standings, 7th grade B team finished 2nd in the district with a 7-1 record!!

Boys Basketball season starts on December 4th against Jones Middle School. 7th grade will be at home, and 8th grade is away! See you on the courts!!

8th volleyball

Although the 8th grade volleyball team had a tough time pulling out victories, they fought hard the entire season. Most of their games were within 10 points and several matches went 3 games. After having a rough regular season, they won the first game of the Northside end of season tournament against Luna whose record was 7-1. The Lady Wolverines played a hard 3 game match against Rawlinson in the second round of the tournament to end their season. Way to work hard Lady Wolverines!

The following students earned recognition in the Region 11 Honor Choirs. These students competed against over 550 other students to earn a place in the Honor Choirs. Only 160 students were chosen. All Zachry students who auditioned represented our school well...not only did they sing well, but we also got compliments on how well-behaved the students were. Way to go Zachry Choirs!!!

Tenor-Bass Choir

Tenor 1 Section: Daniel Mora

Tenor 2 Section: Carlos Zamora

Bass Section: Kris Tondre and Joseph Redgate who earned 1st chair.

SA Choir:

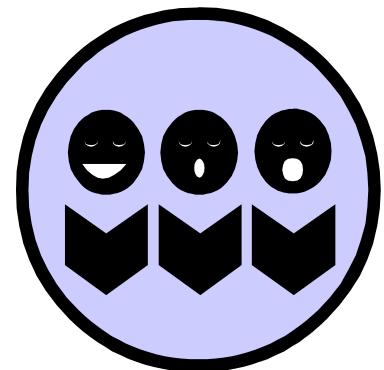
Soprano Section-Zone 1: Kaylan Mussey (1st Chair)

Soprano Section-Zone 2: Kayla Martin (1st Chair)

Alto Section: Sarah Averitt

SSA Choir:

Soprano 1 Section: Michaela Marshall



A Parents' Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas
when all through the house
I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.
Instructions were studied and we were inspired,
In hopes we could manage
"some assembly required."

The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds,
While Dad and I faced the evening with dread:
A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot!
And, thanks to grandpa, a train with a toot!

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat...
Let no parts be missing or parts incomplete!
Too late for last-minute returns or replacement;
If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement!

When what to my worrying eyes should appear,
But 50 sheets of directions, concise but not clear,
With each part numbered and every slot named,
So if we failed, only we could be blamed.

More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out,
All over the carpet they were scattered about.
"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there!
Slide on the seats, and staple the stair!

Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."
"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact
That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact
To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night
With "assembly required" 'til morning's first light.

We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work,
'Til our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt.
The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin
Before we attached the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest,
We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.
But I said to my husband just before I passed out,
"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt."

"Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring,
And not have to run to the store for a thing! We did it!
We did it! The toys are all set
For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland and sweet repose
I gratefully went,
though I suppose there's something to say
for those self-deluded...
I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!

Libraries Can Save Families Money and Add Entertainment Value

Has it been a while since you and your family ventured into your local library? The 21st century library has made some ground-breaking changes, and you can benefit from all the new user-friendly services and products available there. The best part about it--all these new technological and digital enhancements can be yours free.

Of course, the library still has lots of books. But did you know many modern-day libraries now have online access to many of their offerings? You can download books-on-tape right from your home or business computer. You can then download the books to your own MP3 or iPod. Some libraries are even offering books-on-tape already downloaded into MP3 players. When you're done listening, bring back the player and get another of your favorite books-on-tape.

Libraries also offer free rental of movies; music CDs; and instructional videos for exercising, cooking, camping, or whatever else you'd like to learn.

If you belong to an organization such as an investment or book club, libraries may offer free meeting space. They also bring in informational and educational speakers from time to time, along with entertainment for the kids.

Why spend money on magazine or newspaper subscriptions? Now you can get free access to numerous online subscription services through your library. There are also many databases on library computers that include trade magazines, encyclopedias, research and business information, and more.

As the cost of living goes up, it's great to have a no-cost option for entertainment. And it can all be yours with just a library card.