From the Principal’s Desk

As we begin the second trimester, I encourage our families to celebrate their child’s accomplishments and successes since the start of the school year. Take time to replenish school supplies and set new goals and expectations for the start of a new semester. The academic program will continue to present new and increasingly difficult challenges as students will encounter and be exposed to new content and learning experiences. Often, middle-level students rise to the occasion and become invigorated when presented with a new and challenging curriculum. However, not all students are alike, and understanding how your child learns and manages new learning can be the start of a great discussion at home. As parents, one of the best things we can do is listen and ask questions about what your child is learning and how it may impact the way they think. These conversations are a great way to connect with your child as you can then share your own school experiences “When I was in seventh grade I...”

The holiday season is right around the corner, and this time of year always presents an opportunity to extend to others an act of kindness. We are fortunate at LMS to have many students and families who embrace kind-heartedness for others in our community and beyond. The holiday season presents numerous occasions for students and their families along with the faculty and staff at LMS to reach those who need support this time of year. We encourage and recognize students for their acts of kindness throughout the year and recognize them for their thoughtfulness. I want to extend and ask our families to help us recognize students who demonstrate compassion for others in our community. If you witness an act of kindness by a student that extends beyond the walls of LMS, please send us an email. We know that many of our families devote time to help those in the community during the holiday season, and we would like to a moment to recognize these acts.

I would like to extend warm wishes to all our families this holiday season.

As always, my door is open.

William J. Van Bennekum, Principal
wvanbennekum@londonderry.org
432-6925 ext. 3300

**Forgotten Items at Home**
We are seeking the assistance of LMS parents to help reinforce two procedures we have at the Middle School.
Forgotten Items at home: We do not permit items forgotten at home to be brought to school. We set aside a grace period to help students to adjust and to emphasize the components of Self-Direction through ownership and responsibility. If your child forgets an item at home, we are asking that you please not bring the item to school during school hours.

**Student ID**
We require that all students have their student identification on them at all times. This is a safety measure we enforce at the Middle School and is a simple way of identifying LMS students. Also, student badges are used in the cafeteria to purchase lunch and other items through the automated system. If your child has misplaced their student ID, please have them check the main office.

**School Counseling Services @ LMS**
The role of a school counselor continues to expand to support the families in our community. At LMS, we are fortunate to offer a wide variety of services to our students and parents as they navigate the middle school years. The School Counselors at LMS are highly trained professionals whose skill set specifically aligns with middle-level education. These services include:
- Crisis Intervention
- Individual & Small Group Counseling
- Classroom Lessons
- Collaboration with families, teachers, and school administration
- Networking with local and state community agencies
- Educational and career planning
- Positive leadership
- Support student & family advocacy
- Sustain systematic change through social-emotional learning

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s counselor if you require assistance. All three of our counselors are here for you and happy to assist with any concerns.
Grade 6: Ms. Kate Denby ext. 3290
Grade 7: Ms. Heather Newman ext. 3180
Grade 8: Ms. Sharon McCarthy ext. 3144

**LMS PTO**
To find out more information or how you can get involved, please check out the
Facebook page "Londonderry Middle School PTO" or contact the school. They are always looking for people to attend meetings and share new ideas. This is a great way to get involved at LMS.

**Student Management Procedures**

Mistakes. Failures. It happens to all of us. Impulses. Lack of judgment. Acting on our emotions. We are all human, and we are all susceptible to making poor choices. As we work with middle school students, their actions and choices sometimes rise to the level of a teacher-driven consequence, communication home, and working with the assistant principal. When students arrive at the assistant principal's office, first and foremost, we are looking for one thing: ownership. The appropriate consequences will work itself out, but that is not the end of the process. What comes out of the entire scenario are the lessons learned:

- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Empathy
- Reflection
- Safety
- Open communication
- Transparency

The list goes on. What matters most is that moving forward, our students are applying what they learn.
**Mattress Fundraiser**

Thank you for getting the word out for the mattress fundraiser. Thanks to your help, we were able to raise $3,000 for Storm Pride, including funds that will go towards a new mascot for the Storm. Thank you for getting the word out about this fundraiser and helping make it a success.

**What's Happening on Teams Around the "Storm"**

**Monsoons**

The Monsoon team would like to thank all of our wonderful families who donated to our Veterans baskets. Because of your generosity, we were able to send three amazing baskets to the High School breakfast as a thank you to our town Veterans! Also, thank you to everyone who came in for conferences! We loved meeting you all!

As we head into the second trimester after Thanksgiving break, we would like to remind you that the students will begin Art on 12/2 and should come to school that day with their 9x12 spiral bound sketchbook. Please continue to monitor Aspen and the assignment notebook for missing assignments and encourage your child to advocate for themselves when they need help! It has been so wonderful to see our Monsoons grow throughout T1, and we look forward to seeing them continue to prosper!

**Tsunamis**

The students have wrapped up a very successful first trimester. They did a fantastic job transitioning from elementary school and adjusting to the new expectations for middle school students. They have become much more independent learners and are ready to take on the higher-level challenges for trimester 2. Tsunami students will have STEM during Trimester 2. (Science Technology Engineering Math). This is a very hands-on class and offers opportunities to work together and come up with creative solutions to solve a variety of problems.

The Tsunamis are looking forward to the upcoming team auction just before the break. The auction is a great opportunity to reward students for their hard work and positive behaviors throughout the trimester. Please look for the email regarding requests for auction donations. Your support is necessary to make the auction a success for our students. All donations are greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

**Hurricanes**

The Hurricane team is looking forward too many new units of study and special events as we approach the second trimester of the year. In reading class, students are learning comprehension strategies for fiction, while in math,
students are continuing to work with integers. Science classes will participate in a culminating project for ecology, while the “Voices of Europe” virtual museum project is planned for geography. In language arts, students have finished reading the dystopian novel, “The Giver,” and are now busy writing a persuasive letter inviting people to move to a community of their design. And while we celebrate our artwork from the first trimester, we’re also getting ready to move on to computer class for the second term. Finally, we have three exciting Hurricane events planned. We’ll be attending the theater production of “Little Women” on November 21st, hosting a live animal presentation from the Audubon Center on December 18th, and celebrating our own “Star Wars” day on December 19th. Happy holidays to all our Hurricane families!

of the year, and others been designing a kindness awareness bulletin board. At least five of our students tried out for the school musical and are busy practicing for the spring. Our athletes have just finished their fall sports, and many have joined the Student Council to share their leadership and service. We are so proud of these young adults as they balance their studies with their personal growth!

World Language @ LMS

All language students did a great job creating our “Thanksgiving Turkey” where they expressed what they are thankful for in Spanish or French. Ask your C.P. Spanish 1 students what they do in winter months, and they can tell you in Spanish! Storm time has seen students make Mexican style hot chocolate and coming soon, students will have the chance to make their piñata.

Students in the two-year Spanish program are comparing and contrasting their bedrooms and learning about unique cultural Christmas traditions in the Spanish-speaking world.

French 8 students are doing a fabulous job transitioning to a 90% French immersion environment. French 7 students recently finished creating and reading a booklet they each made on anthropomorphic classroom objects. We also have been talking about some unique French Christmas traditions and the cultural aspects. French CP 1 M students

Tornados

Tornados have finished their Art trimester and are moving on to TechEd or Creative Media. We had great team participation in our student T-shirt design contest with over 20 entries, and our t-shirts look awesome! Our community service projects have been geared to local animal shelters and veterans. We have been creating handmade toys for animals, collecting canned goods, designing cards for veterans, and participating in the basket drive for the Veteran’s breakfast. A group of volunteers has already begun planning our EdVenture Day for the end
have been learning how to express what they do, like to do and dislike doing.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Join the LMS POP Stars and purchase a book on Friday, December 13th at the Manchester Barnes and Noble, or purchase online using the code on the flyer recently sent home. This annual event benefits the Literacy Committee through purchasing books for students and bringing in authors for classrooms. Visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from 12/13/19 to 12/18/19 and enter Bookfair ID 12557120 at checkout.

LMS Yearbook
Did you miss the early bird special for purchasing the LMS Yearbook? With the holiday upon us, we decided to offer a Black Friday special through December! Go online to https://yearbookforever.com/ and at checkout, enter Black Friday Special to receive $6 off, which includes the Spring Supplement or enter Black Friday No Supplement to save $14 and does not include the Spring Supplement. Hurry, the offer expires on 12/31/19! Any questions, please contact Sharon Kilduff at skilduff@londonderry.org.

Winter Athletic Programs
Information on LMS athletic programs, game schedules & related information can be found at https://londonderryathletics.org. The Middle School game schedule is located near the top of the webpage under (L) & (M) teams.
We have over 120 student-athletes involved in the winter sports programs that include Boys & Girls (L) & (M)

Parent Coffee Chat's with the Principal
In the library

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MAKE-UP DATE

| Social-Emotional       | 3/11 | 9:00 AM    |
| Learning               |      | 7:00 PM    |

| Grading                | 4/1  | 7:00 PM    |
| Competencies           |      |            |

Math Counts Club
The Math Counts Club meets on Wednesdays after-school from 3:00 - 3:45. Mrs. Tillotson is the club sponsor, and students solve fun and challenging math problems. The club is an excellent way for students to meet other math enthusiasts and share a common interest. The Math counts club has a Google classroom for club announcements and updates. Use the access code vo9nea to get more information.
basketball, wrestling, and the (L) & (M) cheering, teams. Good luck to all of our coaches and student-athletes this winter season.

**Kindness Celebration**
The Celebrities for our December Celebration of Kindness were the Student-Athletes from the HS with their advisor, Amy Downing. They did a fabulous job sharing their personal stories of kindness with the middle school students in attendance. Over 70 students attended, having either written a compliment for a peer or receiving one. There were also five teachers in attendance who were either giving a compliment to a student or receiving one from a student. As always, the dining services treated us with hot cocoa and holiday cookies. In a month, when we celebrate gratitude and community, we are very proud of all the students who took the time to acknowledge the good in others.

Being the second year of honoring this action, we are especially pleased with the quality of the compliments being given. In the first year, they tended to be a bit simple and surface. But there were many beautiful sentiments this month that were shared. Thank you to the staff who are working on modeling this for their students and are also providing the time to encourage students to write them!

Here are just a few... "Hi, this is Alyssa from your math class and the lunch table. I love the way you smile every day at lunch!"

"I saw Conor playing and being kind to Nate in the hallways. They were both giggling, and it made me smile."

"Sarah is always really kind and is a great friend. She always helps anyone that needs it and is an overall really great person."

**Grade 8 Washington D.C. Trip**
Just a quick reminder to those 8th-grade parents whose child is registered and signed up for the Washington D.C. trip this spring. Please take the time to review the trip expectations as we begin a new trimester. Also, check the important dates regarding the trip. Following the Winter Holiday break, health forms will be mailed home, and payment is due on February 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.
Londonderry Middle School Contact Information
432 - 6925

Mr. William J. Van Benekum, Principal                   Ext. 3300
Mr. David Sutherland, Assistant Principal,              Ext. 3004
Mr. Ross McLean, Assistant Principal,                   Ext. 3177
Mrs. Annie Collacchi, Curriculum Coordinator           Ext. 3278
Mrs. Joan Campo, Special Education Director            Ext. 3002

Mrs. Laura Lambert, Main Office                        Ext. 3276
Mrs. Lisa Boyon, Main Office                           Ext. 3005
Mrs. Susan Rouse, Office Assistant                     Ext. 3100
Mrs. Deb Conroy, Office Assistant Guidance             Ext. 3140
Mrs. Kathy O’Regan, Office Assistant, Special Ed.      Ext. 3001

Mrs. Lea Glickman, School Nurse                        Ext. 3102
Mrs. Kelly Boucher, School Nurse                        Ext. 3101

Mrs. Karen Magoon, Food Service Manager                 Ext. 3006