



FOCUS



SPRINGMAN & ATTEA

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1



Dates to Remember

September:

28 NO SCHOOL
Yom Kippur

October:

- 6 PTA Meeting & Turning Points Presentation at Springman @ 9:15am**
- 20 Turning Points Presentation—7pm Attea**
- 22 Fall Conference Day – No School**
- 23 Fall Institute Day —No School**

Springman/Attea PTA Schedule

Oct. 6 - 9:15 am	Springman Turning Points
Nov. 3 - 9:15am	Attea
Dec. 1 - 9:15am	Springman
Jan. 5 - 9:15am	Attea
Feb. 2 - 9:15am	Springman
March 2 - 9:15am	Attea
April 6 - 9:15am	Springman
May 4 - 9:15am	Attea

From the PTA President

Dear Middle School Families:

Welcome to a new school year at Springman and Attea Middle Schools. We are a combined PTA serving the students, teachers, staff, and parents of both Springman and Attea Middle Schools. I am extending a genuine invitation to all of you to attend our monthly meetings which are listed in this issue of *Focus* and can also be found on our PTA website, www.glenview34.org/spatpta.

Everyone is welcome and wanted at our meetings. In this forum you are free to discuss concerns, ask questions, and become familiar with our middle schools. You will also have the chance to connect with other parents. To help us all stay informed, the principals of both schools attend each meeting, deliver a report, and participate with us on a vast array of topics ranging from student achievement to current events, to grading policy, to new initiatives. You'll want to be informed too.

Our next meeting is at Springman on Oct 6th, at 9:15. In lieu of our regular meeting, please come and listen to "Turning Points for Middle School Parents". This is a very (cont. page 2)

From the Principals

By the time you are reading this first edition of the FOCUS for the 2009-10 school year, we will have completed our twelfth day of school! While still early in the year, it is no less a cause for celebration that our students have made the transition to their new grade level in fine form. Students are busy getting about the business of school, learning and growing, supported and nurtured by our dedicated staff. It is exciting to write to you in this shared PTA newsletter for the middle schools. Throughout the year we will join forces and write a single letter with updates and information that represents both Springman and Attea.

While your children continue to make adjustments to the start of a new school year, there is much you can do from the home front to increase their comfort level. Students who return to school with a positive attitude and have a family that is enthusiastic about education are well on their way to a successful school year. The first weeks of school are so important that we need to reassure our children that school is the privileged business of childhood. A POSITIVE message from all the significant adults in a child's life, is not only important, but is very much appreciated. The following are some tips to make the start of the school year a good one from children:

Middle graders often have a tough time getting back into the swing of school. Balancing homework, co-curriculars, chores, and a social life can be difficult for kids this age. What can you do? Work together to set up daily routines. They help kids feel more secure and self-confident.

Talking it over. Your middle grader will be more likely to follow routines that she helps set. Together, talk about what would work best. Discuss things like bedtime on school nights, when friends can visit, and what time homework will be started. Try to compromise and reach decisions you both can live with.

Trying it out. Once you've agreed on the basics, try a test run. For a week, encourage your child to keep track of how long tasks really take. *Examples:* getting showered and dressed in the morning, cleaning up the table after dinner, tackling homework. Then adjust the routines if necessary.

(cont. page 2)

From the PTA President, cont.

informative presentation, filled with advice and tactics, for parents who are navigating the transition from grade school to middle school and for those preparing for the transition to high school. Mark your calendars now. Don't miss it. For those who are unable to attend a daytime presentation, we will offer the same presentation again at Attea at 7:00PM on Tues Oct 20th. Log on to our PTA website for more details.

All students should have received their **Sally Foster wrapping paper packets, due back September 23rd**. This is our one and only fundraiser for the middle schools. All money raised goes back to Springman and Attea through our Wish List grant program. This program provides teachers with materials needed to enrich your student's classroom experience. So please be generous and support our schools! Over the summer we updated our Spirit Wear offering. Your kids are sure to find something they'll like. Photos and order forms can be found on the PTA website, at the offices of both schools, and in this issue of Focus. The deadline is fast approaching so get those orders in today. Samples and limited inventory will be available at curriculum nights for both schools.

If you are looking for a way to get involved but have minimal time available, consider volunteering for an event such as curriculum night, book fair, Sally Foster wrapping paper distribution day, or canned food drives. Please contact Kristen Borth, our VP in charge of volunteers, at kborth@sbcglobal.net. Your support of Springman and Attea will help ensure your child's success in Middle School.

Sincerely, Candy Pullano, Springman Attea PTA President

From the Principals, cont.

Sticking with it. Make it a family goal to keep routines on track. For instance, try limiting errands that take your middle grader away from home on school nights. Also, post a large calendar in a central spot. Ask family members to write down any special events. That way, everyone can plan ahead and avoid last-minute surprises.

Talk about rules and consequences. Middle school is a crucial time for discipline. Your child may test every limit and rule you've set for her. Let her know that you're still in charge. Enforce the rules. Your child may have fewer rules now, but she still needs to experience consequences if she breaks one. Don't make excuses for your child. In most cases, middle schooler should be accountable for their words and actions. Expect your child to contribute to the family. Don't pay her for doing regular chores. Her allowance should be a separate issue.

A positive start to the school year is important for parents too! Navigating the teen years can be a formidable task but surveys of teens show that they want and expect their parents to play a key role in their lives. They are listening to you and they remember your advice – even when it seems like they're not paying attention!

Need more guidance? Attea and Springman Middle Schools are partnering once again with Glenbrook South High School to present *"Turning Points for Middle School Parents."*

Due to the positive feedback from last year's audience members, this presentation will be offered twice this fall: Tuesday, October 6th at 9:30 a.m. at Springman Middle school and again on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 p.m. at Attea Middle School. The presentations are open to all middle school parents in District 34. Your middle school principals, along with Brian Wegley, Principal of Glenbrook South High School, Mark O'Brien, Asst. Principal at Glenbrook South High School, will share tips and strategies for raising a safe, healthy, and happy adolescent. Please join us for this important and valuable conversation.

Your positive support and encouragement is much appreciated. We look forward to greeting you during your curriculum night visit, and also at a *Turning Points* presentation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Hopkins, *Principal*
Springman Middle School

Mr. Jim Woell, *Principal*
Attea Middle School

From the Health Office:

We're off to a healthy start this school year. Please remember that all absences, tardies and early dismissals should be called in by a parent before 9:00AM each day. The Health Office direct line is 1-847-998-5025 (Springman) and 1-847-486-7712 (Attea).

Students requiring medication of any kind (including over-the-counter) during the school day must have a Medication Form (including doctor and parent signatures) on file each year. No student may carry medicines in backpacks, lockers, or on their person unless it is an inhaler for asthma, and only if the paperwork is in place. Unused medicines from last year have been disposed of, so please be sure your student has the necessary medication.



The 6th Grade students are required to have physicals, and all students participating in interscholastic sports must have physicals on file as well. The 6th Grade students are also required to have Dental Exam Forms on file. These forms are available on the website. If you have any questions, please contact the Health Office.

Finally, please remember that Fall is bee season. The bees are attracted to perfumes, hairspray, and the scented body sprays that are so popular. Going light on the scents, and washing hands after eating will help keep the bee stings to a minimum.

Jean Gray, Attea Health Coordinator

Cheri McNish, Springman Health Coordinator

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip—1/15-1/18

Information will be arriving through the mail during the first or second week of school that describes the sign-up procedure for the eighth grade Washington D.C. trip. Eighth graders travel to Washington DC on a four-day, three night, tour. The trips are organized and chaperoned by Springman and Attea teachers, but are not school sponsored. Arrangements are made through Educational Tours, Inc. which is located in Deerfield, Illinois and is one of the leading student tour operators in the United States. Educational Tours has been arranging the Springman trips for over 35 years.



The Washington DC trip is scheduled for the weekend of January 15-18. Monday is a holiday, so no school is missed for the trip. The group departs from O'Hare by scheduled airlines Friday afternoon and returns home Monday evening. Touring is provided in luxury coaches. Students choose their roommates (4 students per room) and can room with friends from either school. All admissions, accommodations, transportation and food are prepaid. The only additional cost for participants would be incidental purchases and souvenirs. The cost of the tour is paid with an initial deposit and installments leading up to the time of departure.

Since the tour is not sponsored by the school, registration takes place through the mail and on line. Materials for the DC trip arrive in an envelope marked "Educational Tours" which contains details of the tour and instructions for registering.

Mr. Scott Buzard, Springman teacher (sbuzard@glenview34.org), is the sponsor of the tour and Ms. Theresa Jasonowicz (tjasonowicz@glenview34.org) is the coordinating teacher at Attea. Mr. Dave Tosh, Springman athletic director (datosh@glenview34.org), is the coordinating teacher at Springman. Feel free to email them with any questions.

Beach Sweep Service Project—Springman

Each year Springman students have the opportunity to participate in an international environmental project on the third Saturday in September. Under the auspices of the Center for Marine Conservation, volunteers all over the world visit their local shorelines to gather up beach debris. As part of the clean up, each item of debris is counted and categorized, creating a detailed annual data base that is used to study the changing nature of beach pollution and the impact of programs enacted to combat it. Springman students each year provide the human connection needed to individually gather and tabulate debris at Gillson Park Beach in Wilmette, Illinois. The activity is voluntary and sponsored by Springman teams and teachers who chose to participate. Students report to the beach at 9:00 AM. The beach is divided into marked grid areas to facilitate the collection and the Great Lakes Federation and Friends of Lake Michigan organizations provide the tally sheets, pencils, collection bags and work gloves. The Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club coordinates the paperwork and training of volunteers. About 11:00 AM the "sweeping" is completed and the student and teacher workers celebrate with a pizza picnic and play games on the beach. Swimming is not allowed. In order to participate, students must have a signed permission slip, contribute to the cost of the pizza picnic, and provide their own transportation to and from the beach. This year's Beach Sweep takes place on Saturday morning, September 19. Participating teams will provide students with sign-up materials in early September. Students on non-participating teams can join up with a team that is providing teacher supervision.



Local School Council (LSC) - Grading in our Middle Schools

Dear Parents,

We are writing to you to share information on the topic of “grading” at our middle schools. Last winter, the Middle School Task Force made recommendations aimed at improving our middle school program to the Board of Education. The recommendations contained six “high priority” items, one of which is “grading,” and four additional priority items.

The Springman-Attea Local School Council (LSC), a group of parents and teachers from both middle schools along with both middle school principals, was organized last spring as outlined by the district’s Constitution. The LSC sets goals that address the needs of our students and supports the objectives of the district. Currently, the LSC has focused its work on “grading.” We are pleased to write to you in this issue of the FOCUS to help you understand the issues around grading and also share how grading practices will evolve over the course of this school year. The LSC is committed to high levels of communication with parents to help you navigate the middle school program and support your child’s growth.

The Middle School Task Force recommendations came after a 10-month study of best practices related to teaching and learning, gathering feedback from all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, administrators, Glenbrook South High School, experts in 6-8 education) and analyzing school and district data.

The Task Force recommendation on grading is stated this way: *There is urgency for communicating and consistently following grading practices that encourage and support learning.* To implement this recommendation, the middle school staffs at both schools, and the LSC, have been studying and discussing best practices and research on grading. One of the resources we are using is the book *A Repair Kit for Grading; 15 fixes for broken grades* by Ken O’Connor. Mr. O’Connor explains the need to examine grading practices this way:

The two essential questions that all educators should ask about their grades are, “How confident am I that the grades students get in my classroom/school/district are consistent, accurate, and meaningful, and that they support learning?” and “How confident am I that the grades I assign students accurately reflect my school’s/district’s published content standards and desired learning outcomes?” In most schools/districts the answers these questions, especially at the middle and high school levels, range from “not very” to “not at all.” Because of this I believe that, very often, grades are “broken” and that teachers and schools/districts need a “repair kit.”

Grades must communicate useful information to students and parents. Teachers are currently examining their grading practices to determine how clearly the grades they assign students reflect a clear and accurate indicator of what a student knows and is able to do – proficiency. If a grade is going to signal a student’s mastery of skills and concepts, we need to make sure they reflect only student performance and knowledge of identified learning goals.

Traditionally, teachers have combined achievement with other variables such as behavior, effort, and/or participation into grades for several reasons. If we include these other factors into grades we run afoul of our intent to keep grades as accurate indicators of student proficiency.

Student “effort” has often been included in grades and again, is one that muddies our understanding of a student’s level of mastery. When we purchase an item, let’s say a new piece of furniture, we are spending a good deal of money and we want quality for our money. We don’t ask how much did the carpenter TRY, how much effort did he or she put into making this table? We look only at the work to

Local School Council (LSC) - Grading (cont')

appraise it because in the end, that's what's going to determine whether this table remains standing, doesn't tilt, or become wobbly. In the end, it is the achieved result that matters and the same should be true about grades. Definitions of "trying hard" vary greatly from teacher to teacher and lead to a great deal of subjectivity. The more we can remove subjectivity from grading, the more accurately the grade will represent student proficiency.

Participation is a difficult quality to assess. What do we agree will be our standard of excellence for participation? Is it how many times a student raises his/her hand in class? Is it coming to class prepared? Is it using class time wisely? Often, participation can be a personality issue - some students are naturally more assertive while others are naturally quieter. Should we really be including something in a grade that can be beyond a person's control?

We want to recognize students for their growth in other areas, particularly those that contribute to their learning such as willingness to stay with a problem until solved, ability to review and revise their work, teamwork, etc. We know that effort and behavior are important to a person's lifelong success and we want to help students' develop these traits. We shouldn't include them as part of a grade intended to represent proficiency.

A practical solution to the problems associated with these different learning criteria is to report separate grades or marks for students on each set of criteria. In this way, grades or marks for learning skills, effort, work habits, or learning progress are kept distinct from

assessments of achievement and performance. The intent is to provide a better, more accurate, and much more comprehensive picture of what students accomplish in school.

As you can see, the issue of grading is a complex one that requires a great deal of study and consideration. The middle school staff is currently forming their new grading philosophy and practices based on the concepts above. The LSC continues to provide feedback and ideas to teachers that represent a "parent perspective" on the topic. As the teachers continue their work, we will share news of their progress via the FOCUS, team newsletters, and our school & district websites.

Sincerely, The Springman-Attea LSC

Amy Wattley, Jackie Lutz, Tammy Langas, Bonnie Buehler, Mary Witte, Heather Hopkins, Liz Price, Lisa Nathaus, Anna Cassorla, Yuko Aimi, Scott Buzard, Jim Woell

Spectator Expectations at Interscholastic Contests

As adults we have responsibilities to be positive role models for those around us. We need to continue to demonstrate that good sportsmanship is one of the fundamental principles of interscholastic athletes. As we begin our boys' and girls' interscholastic seasons, let us be reminded how we, as adults, need to conduct ourselves as spectators. We should always strive to show respect for our visitors from other schools. We need to be tolerant and understanding of officials and realize their job is difficult. Many of our assigned officials this year work a full varsity schedule and many have officiated post season tournament games.

Springman and Attea have always enjoyed a reputation of being one of the leaders in our athletic conference, with fair play and good sportsmanship. It is our hope that this excellent reputation will continue to flourish. Please keep in mind that our children learn best from our good examples.

Ms. Jasonowicz, Attea
(847) 657-2011

Athletic Directors

Mr. Tosh, Springman
(847) 657-2116



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

ART CLUB – Mr. Kolber

The art club will be meeting on Wednesdays again this year, in room 158 from 3:00 until 4:00 every week. The club is open to all Springman students from 6th to 8th grade. We will kick off the year by participating in the annual Glenview Police Department "Character Counts" poster contest. Some of the projects we will be continuing with throughout the year are ceramics, mural making, painting and drawing. Each year the art club works closely with Ms. Bergmann on the design of the set for the school play. This year will be no exception to that, and during the weeks and month prior to the play we will be meeting almost every day building the large props and creating the backdrops that help make the play a visual delight. Since the art club meets for the whole year, any student that is involved with another club or sport that conflicts with the art club's schedule are invited to attend when their club or sport is no longer in season. Any student who is interested in art club should see Mr. Kolber in the art room!

BUILDERS CLUB – Ms. Faermark

The Builders Club provides opportunities for working together in service to school and community. It is intended to develop leadership potential and strong moral character. All students are welcome to participate and may join at anytime throughout the year. All meetings will be announced during daily morning announcements. Attendance is open to all students.

DRAMA CLUB – Mrs. Bergmann

Drama club is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Drama club meets in the Wildcat Commons on Tuesdays from mid September through early June, 3:00 – 4:05. Students participate in improvisational activities and organized theatre exercises that encourage and strengthen both interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, while utilizing appropriate performance techniques. The ultimate goal is to establish improv troupes that will combine talents and interests of participants. Drama club is a tremendous opportunity to meet new people and have fun!

GLOBAL LANGUAGE CLUB – Ms. Hockman and Ms. Pyle

Global Language Club meets monthly from September through June. Students participate in hands-on activities that focus on the cultures of the Hispanic and Francophone countries. Students are encouraged to speak in the target language. In January, preparation begins for the National Spanish Exam (8th graders) and the National French Contest (7th & 8th graders). Students meet twice a week for preparation of the National Exams which are administered in the first week of March. Some of the important holidays celebrated are *Halloween/Día de los muertos*, *Mardi Gras/Carnaval*, and *the Cinco de Mayo*. All meetings are announced in advance during daily morning announcements.

Literary Magazine Club – Ms. Faermark & Mrs. Alonzi

Students interested in learning how to publish, select artifacts, and edit those artifacts are invited to join Springman's Literary Magazine Club. Students will also have the opportunity to design the cover, select the artwork for the publication, and decide what will be published. The final Literary Magazine will be available in the spring to all Springman students.

STUDENT SENATE – Ms. Keefe & Ms. Faermark

Student Council enables students to participate in governance activities, become actively involved in improving school climate and student morale and plan activities that benefit the student body and the community at large. Meetings are currently scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Student Senate members will be selected to represent the teams and the school by the end of September.

YEARBOOK CLUB – Ms. Myland

The members of the yearbook club this year will have the opportunity to learn all the steps it takes to put together a yearbook. Students will take responsibility for many of the jobs necessary for the publication from learning to use the digital camera to taking candid photos for all extracurricular events, to using the online program to layout the pages, to writing the captions and articles for the various team and club pages. Meetings are held once every two weeks, after school on Tuesdays, through November. Starting in December, the meetings increase to once a week until the book goes to print in late March. So if you have a love of writing, photography, or art, this is the club for you! I look forward to seeing you soon!

CHESS CLUB – Ms. Kreiseder

Calling all chess players, and those who want to learn! Springman Chess Club is the place for you! Chess Club will meet two Tuesdays a month from 3-4 in the LRC. See the bulletin board in the LRC for specific dates. Or, check out the Springman Chess Club website for more details: <http://springmanchess.googlepages.com>. During Chess Club we will play games, have a school-wide tournament, and maybe send some members to a local tournament! We will also learn multi-player chess variants, such as Bughouse, Bosworth, and Four-Handed chess to name a few. Come to our club meetings to see what it's all about! All skill levels are welcome!

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY – Ms. Kreiseder

After 2nd trimester, all students in grades 6-8 with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 and higher will receive an informational letter about National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), which is an honorary society for middle school students who exceed not only academically, but also in citizenship, service, leadership, and character. Students who meet the GPA requirement will be invited to apply to the society. To be a part of NJHS, students will need to have been a member of three activities during the 2008-2009 school year. The activities must come from the categories of: sports, clubs, and other activities. Students also must include four hours of volunteer service to the community. You can pick up a copy of this list from Miss Kreiseder throughout the year or find more information on the Springman NJHS website at <http://springman.njhs.googlepages.com>. More information will be given to students who qualify in March.

SPRINGMAN CO-CURRICULARS 2008-2009, cont.

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

JAZZ BAND - Ms. Lindeman

Come "swing" into some fun musical tunes and audition for the Springman Jazz Band! The jazz band performs at Springman Band Concerts, school assemblies, and events throughout the community. The band also participates in the Northshore Jazz Festival at GBS and at the "Share It!" Food Drive at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Auditions take place during the week of September 4th. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 PM.

CLARINET CHOIR AND FLUTE CHOIR - Ms. Lindeman

Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Flute and Clarinet players. The choirs participate in band concerts, the GEF Recital Night, and in the community. The choirs meet Mondays from 3:05-4:05 in the band room.

UNITED MUSICIAN'S ASSOCIATION - Ms. Lindeman

Crash, boom, bam!!! The United Musician's Association (or UMA) is open to ANY Springman student that can read notes and rhythms! This ensemble performs unique pieces that utilize items like brooms, buckets, and more! UMA performs at all band concerts, at the GEF Recital Night, and throughout the community. The United Musician's Association meets Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 PM in the band room.

WINTER MUSICAL – Mrs. Bergmann

This year's winter musical is Charleston! February 5 & 6, 2010. Springman's musical averages between 190 – 275 students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members. Please consider joining this incredible group. Involvement in Springman's musical allows students to understand all aspects of a full scale theatrical production from publicity to the final curtain call.

Auditions are open to all Springman students (6th, 7th & 8th grades). In addition to acting, singing, and dancing, there outstanding opportunities for students to work on lighting, sound and stage crew, as well as stage manager, box office manager, designer, costumes, make-up artists and publicity coordinators. Also, students who are interested in building and designing the set should contact Mr. Kolber in the Art Department. A rehearsal clinic will be held Tuesday, September 22nd, from 3:00 – 4:05 pm in the music room. This clinic is an informational meeting to answer all your questions and prepare you for a successful audition. Auditions will begin Tuesday, September 29th beginning at 3:10, in 5 minute intervals, also on Wednesday, September 30th and Friday October 1st, auditions will be scheduled until 5:30 each day. Please see Mrs. B. to schedule a time. Once the cast/crew and management team has been selected, contracts and schedules will be distributed. Rehearsals take place after school, and last till 4:05, 5:00 or 6:00. The closer we get to public performance, the longer rehearsals will be. The musical is a terrific bonding experience and a chance for students to feel an awesome sense of accomplishment.

It's the vibrant 1920s, complete with Ziegfeld girls, raccoon coats, ukuleles, goldfish swallows and gangsters! Polly Pepper, a young flapper, is about to inherit an extraordinary diamond necklace on her birthday. She is planning a wacky birthday party and is inviting all her friends. Buck Wayne, Polly's new boyfriend, wouldn't miss the birthday celebration for anything, even if he has to land his private plane on the lawn of the polo grounds. But watch out, trouble's in the air! Mobsters are planning to grab the necklace and have devised a clever con to crash Polly's party. Thanks to Polly, they're defeated hilariously! Not only does Polly save the necklace, she also saves her aunt from losing money in a confidence scheme and becomes the star of the Ziegfeld Follies... all before she even cuts the cake! Meet terrific characters like Monica Woodsquirrel of Radio Station WWWW atop Hotel Times Square, crime fighter Lieutenant Fluke, Mona of the Crazy Cat Club and "flagpole sitter" Lenny Knickerbocker. The songs are sensational, the dancing phenomenal, sure to be the "Bee's Knees!" so come on in and take a step into the Roaring Twenties!



Book Drive for Youth Services

Final Pick-up Monday, September 14th!!!

Please bring your new or gently used books and educational magazines for the library at the new Youth Services facility! If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Lyhus at lyhus@sbcglobal.net or 847-998-8486. Thank you for your support! **Drop-off Bins available at each school.**

ATHLETICS

INTRAMURALS

Intramurals are open to all Springman students. P.E. teachers, along with help from the staff, offer students a variety of activities. Games/matches are held 3-4 times a week, depending on the activity, against other Springman students. Usually Intramurals are held after school on Mon., Tues., and Wed. until 4:05 PM. A 4:15 PM bus will be available for students needing a ride home. Fall intramurals include flag football, golf, and tennis. Winter intramurals include basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer. Spring intramurals include badminton and soccer.

Tennis Intramurals are played after-school on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at Johns Park. Tennis players will need walk or ride their bikes to Johns. Tennis concludes at 4:00 so students will have time to walk back to school and take one of the 4:15 late activity buses home. Kate Leckenby(PR) is the Springman tennis coach and will work with each student to help improve their tennis skills. There is a cross-town tournament with Attea in early October. Students may choose different days each week, and sign-ups take place at the sports table near the main office.

Golf Intramurals are played on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday after-school at the Glenview Park Golf Club on Shermer Road. We have three guaranteed tee times beginning at 3:22 and ending at 3:35. Students wishing to play need to pay \$60.00 (three rounds @ \$20.00ea.) or have a season membership. On-course supervision is provided with some coaching. It is important that students have some basic skills before signing up. There will be a cross-town classic with Attea with nine holes being played at the Shermer Course and nine holes at the National Nine(Attea's home course). Anyone who has signed up for golf is entitled and encouraged to play. Students may choose different days each week, and sign-ups take place outside the main office at the sports table.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS – Mr. Tosh

Springman School is a member of the Central Suburban Middle School Conference. This Conference is made up of ten member schools. There are six interscholastic sports offered at Springman: girls' and boys' cross country, co-ed soccer, girls' and boys' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, spirit squad and girls' and boys' track.

Students are selected for these teams through try-outs or practices. Since cross country and track do not have roster limitations, attending daily practices are the requirement to be a member of these teams. The other sports teams require students to try out. Sixth graders are only eligible to be on the cross country and track teams as roster sizes are limitless. To tryout, practice or participate in a clinic for any team, a valid sports physical needs to be on file in the school health office. If further information is needed, please call Dave Tosh, Springman Athletic Director, at 847- 657-2116

BASKETBALL (Boys) – Mr. Buzard (8th) & Mr. Posner (7th)

Springman's boys' seventh and eighth grade interscholastic basketball teams compete against teams from other nearby middle schools. It is a program for boys with a high interest level and top skills or the athletic potential to develop top skills. The team practices or plays a game virtually every school day from the start of November until early February. Almost all practices run until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. and players must provide their own transportation home. Twelve boys are chosen for each team, following tryouts during the last two weeks of October. Players must register for tryouts in advance, including obtaining permission from their parents to participate. The necessary forms will be available from Mr. Buzard (8th) and Mr. Posner (7th) in mid-October. Each player is required to have an up-to-date athletic physical examination form on file at the health office before trying out. Boys who are chosen for the team are committed to attend practices and games, perform to their abilities academically, and to conduct themselves at school in a way that sets a good example for others. Players purchase their own uniform (\$40-50) and keep the uniform when the season ends.

BASKETBALL (Girls) – Mr. Stoltz (8th) & Ms. Partaker (7th)

Springman's 7th & 8th grade girls' basketball teams are interscholastic programs for girls with a high interest level and top skills or the athletic potential to develop top skills. The teams practice or play a game virtually every school day from the start of November through the first week of February. Almost all practices run until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. and players must provide their own transportation home. The improvement of skills, effort, and teamwork will be stressed in practices as well as in games. Tryouts for both teams will take place during the first week of November. Each player is required to have an up-to-date athletic physical examination form on file at the Health Office prior to tryouts.

CROSS COUNTRY – Mrs. Huck & Mr. Field

All Springman Students are welcome to join the team. There are no tryouts. Cross Country is not an individual distance running contest. Cross Country is a team sport. Team scores are determined by the finishing places of a schools first five runners. There will be at least four levels of competition. 8th grade boys, 8th grade girls, 6/7th grade boys and 6/7th grade girls. Everyone who practices will run at the meets. Practices will be held everyday from 3:15 until 4:05, except for Thursdays. There is no Activity Bus on Thursday. They will be released in time to take the Activity Bus at 4:15. Meets are scheduled to start at about 4:00 and everyone should be picked up before 6:00pm. Though the distances may vary from one venue to another, students will generally be required to run approximately 1.3 miles in a meet. Students will be expected to attend every practice. We real

SPRINGMAN CO-CURRICULARS 2008-2009, cont.

CROSS COUNTRY (cont')

ize that there are, occasionally, circumstances that will occasionally not allow some students to be at practice. When this happens they must inform one of their coaches in advance of the conflict. We are willing to make allowances but repeated absences will hize that there are, occasionally, circumstances that will occasionally not allow some students to be at practice. When this urt both them and their team. Students should not wear their P.E. uniform to practice. Cross Country shirts may be purchased for practice and meets. Any comfortable shorts are fine for meets and practice. All Runners must have a complete set of sweats (top & bottoms) everyday for practice and for meets. As the weather gets cooler they may want to also bring along a hat and gloves.

SOCER - Mr. Kieronki (7th), Mr. Garrison & Ms. Heller (8th)

7th and 8th grade soccer teams have both girls and boys playing together on one team. Tryouts begin the first full week of school and run for 2-3 days. With the exception of games, practices are everyday except Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Practices consist of conditioning, skill practice, team building, concepts discussion and mini-games. Games usually start at 4:00 (home and away) and consist of 2 halves of 30 minutes each. The 7th grade players meet and play on the south field and the 8th grade players meet and play on the east field. Each player is responsible for their own ride home from practices. Transportation is provided to and from school for the away games. Requirements for participation include: (1) up-to-date physical form on file (2) shin guards (3) purchase of uniform ~\$40 and (4) spikes. The soccer season ends the last week in October.

SPIRIT SQUAD – Ms. Gauvain & Ms. Golaszewski

The Springman Spirit Squad is an interscholastic sport that does cheerleading, gymnastics and dance. We “cheer” at most home games for both the boys and girls basketball team. The Squad combines both seventh and eighth grade students. Practices are held two to three times a week for 1-2 hours. The members of the spirit squad are dedicated to providing support for the teams as well as bringing spirit to our school. Come out and see a game and stay for the half-time show! Go Wildcats!

Girls Track & Field – Mrs. Huck & Mr. Field

The Girls Track Team is open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th grade girls. There are no try-outs or cuts from the team. Events include the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 and hurdles. The three field events are the high jump, long jump, and the shot put. The meets generally last two hours and begin at about 4pm. Every participant must have an up-to-date physical form on file in the health office. These physicals are good for one calendar year. No physical=no participation in meets. Practices will begin the first day we return from Spring Break. Any activity, especially jogging, that students do over spring break will be a benefit to them. Biking, swimming, aerobics, etc., will also help prepare them for the season. They will be expected to attend every practice and practices will take place every school day except Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. There may be days where practices extend beyond 4:30 for certain events. They will be notified of this in advance. There is always a place for any girl who is willing to practice and train.

TRACK & FIELD (Boys) – Ms. Partaker

The Track Team is open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th grade boys. There are no try-outs, & cuts from the team. The season runs from April 4th through May 27th. Events include the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 and hurdles. The three field events are the high jump, long jump, and the shot put. Practices are everyday, Monday through Friday, and last 1.5-2 hours. A series of 7-9 meets will be held throughout the season.

VOLLEYBALL (Boys) – Mr. Ginis & Mrs. Groesch

Tryouts will begin in February for boys' volleyball. Mr. Ginis will coach the 8th grade boys and Mrs. Groesch will coach the 7th grade boys. Once students are selected we teach the basic skills and strategies necessary for competitive games. We focus on teamwork and sportsmanship. With the exception of game days, practices are held everyday after school from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Students are responsible for their transportation home after practices. Each player is required to have an up-to-date athletic physical examination form on file at the health office. The volleyball season ends in late March.

VOLLEYBALL (Girls) – Mrs. Groesch & Mr. Ginis

Our season begins three days after school starts. The Girls VB tryouts are open to all 7th & 8th grade girls. Mrs. Groesch coaches the 7th grade team and Mr. Ginis coaches the 8th grade team. Our philosophy is to teach the girls the skills necessary to compete in the game while enjoying themselves. Practices are held everyday, other than game days, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Girls must arrange for their own transportation home following practice sessions and games.

Back by popular demand.....

Turning Points for Middle School Parents

Learn about the risks and choices facing our middle schoolers and how parents can influence these critical “turning points” for positive results.

Tuesday, October 6th

at 9:30 a.m.

at Springman Middle School



Tuesday, October 20th

at 7 p.m.

at Attea Middle School.

Presenters:

Heather Hopkins, Principal, Springman Middle School

Jim Woell, Principal, Attea Middle School

Brian Wegley, Principal, Glenbrook South High School

Mark O'Brien, Asst. Principal, Glenbrook South High School

7th Grade Springfield Trip—March 12-13

Attea and Springman seventh graders are invited to participate in a two-day, one-night, tour of Springfield, Illinois. This year's trip is scheduled for early morning departure by bus on Saturday, March 12, and a late afternoon return on Sunday, March 13. Registration will begin in early winter and will be announced in the Focus and in team newsletters. Although this is not a school-sponsored trip, it is organized and chaperoned by Springman and Attea teachers and coordinated by Educational Tours, the leading student tour operator to Springfield in the entire United States. Contact Mr. Buzard or Mr. Tosh at Springman if you have any questions at this time.



Your PTA needs your support!!!

It's not too late to register for the Springman/Attea PTA. Parent support for our schools enhances the education that our children receive. Please visit the Springman/Attea PTA Website today and print off a registration form, or you can register at our upcoming curriculum nights!

Where does your \$20. PTA membership dues go???

PTA offers the Focus Newsletter to parents

School Directory

The Wish List, which pays for educational supplies and equipment

National and State Membership dues

Cultural Arts Events for our children

Roy Terry Needy Family Fund

8th Grade Graduation Party and other grade level events

In addition, your PTA hosts monthly [meetings](#) for parents learn about current topics and what is happening in our schools! A list of the meeting dates can be found on the website as well! Please join your PTA today!

Questions about membership or volunteering?

Please contact Kristen Borth at kborth@me.com.

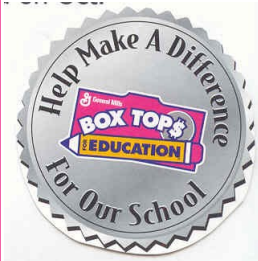
Even if you recycle



disposable bottles,
every one you toss
is a waste of about

this much petroleum.

Stainless Steel Reusable Bottles are available for \$5 in the school store, or return your order form by September 30th. Visit www.TakeBabySteps.org for details.



CLIP BOX TOPS

Earn Cash for our schools every time you shop for groceries. Clip Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite products. Please have your child bring in box tops to each school by the end of **October**. Any questions, please call Andie Wells (Attea) at 847-998-0864 or Sarah Schneider (Springman) at 847-729-3919.

Ask the Principal

Q: WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE GIFTED ENRICHMENT PROGRAM IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS?

A: In previous years middle level students were identified as either being in the top 3% or 4-15% in their respective grade levels. The process of student identification is a two-step process in which, during the first step, parent & teacher feedback, group administered standardized assessment and NWEA scores are plotted on a matrix. Based on student performance on the initial matrix, some students move to the second step in identification, which includes individual testing with a school psychologist. The data from this individual testing and NWEA scores in Reading and Language Usage are plotted on a separate matrix. Students meeting the cut score for 3% or 4-15% service are then identified for service in the Gifted/Enrichment program. Students identified in the 3% category received at least 50% of their Language Arts instruction from a Gifted Enrichment teacher. Those students who were identified at the 4-15% level received enrichment as needed from the Gifted Enrichment teacher.

Over the past year, under the guidance of Debbie Lubeck, the district's Director of Support Programs, much work has been done to evaluate the gifted enrichment program at the middle school level. The work continues this year with the formation of the K-8 Gifted Enrichment Task Force. As a result of the initial work completed over the past year and thanks to the support of the Board of Education in District 34, a third Gifted Enrichment teacher was added at each middle school. Some of the other changes to the program include a 100% Reading/Language Arts replacement program for those students identified at the 3% level and a 50% Reading/Language Arts replacement program for those students identified at the 4-15% level. In addition to the direct support that middle school Gifted Enrichment teachers will provide to identified students during Reading/Language Arts, the Gifted Enrichment teachers will provide support to teachers across content areas to provide differentiation related to the skills of Reading/Language Arts in classes such as Social Studies and Science.

It is our hypothesis that students in this program will achieve a higher level of academic growth as indicated by our growth measurement instruments, NWEA and ISAT. We will also continue to track their academic success as they transition to the high school level. Throughout the course of this school year, the K-8 Gifted Enrichment Task Force will complete more evaluative work, will report their findings and potentially make recommendations for changes to the appropriate decision-making bodies for action and implementation. If you have any questions regarding the Gifted Enrichment Program, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal or Debbie Lubeck at the district office.

The following web address will help you take a quiz on how to distinguish myths from realities regarding gifted students. Simply type the address below in your web browser's address line and hit enter. Enjoy!

<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt/newsletter/inter98/wintr983.html>