



Grizzly Gazette

From the Desk of the Principal

Important Dates

10/1—10/6	Parent Shadowing
10/8	No School—Columbus Day
10/9	PTSA Meeting
10/10	Market Day
10/24	8th Grade Band Concert @ WVHS
10/25	8th Grade Orchestra Concert @ WVHS
10/26	End of 1st Quarter
11/1	6/7th Grade Band Concert
11/2	Getaway Dance
11/7—11/15	LMC Book Fair
11/7	Market Day Parent Conferences
11/13	PTSA Meeting
11/21—11/23	Thanksgiving Break

Please also see the detailed calendar at the end of this newsletter

The 2007 – 2008 school year is off to a wonderful start. I am amazed every year at how quickly the whole school settles in to the routine of learning. By the end of the first week, everyone knew how to navigate their schedules, how to open their lockers, and how to maneuver the lunch line. The first day was especially smooth when you consider that 1170 students came in the building starting at 7:40 a.m. that morning without even knowing where their first period classes were, much less the rest of their schedules. In addition, 7th and 8th graders came in without knowing where their lockers were. Students quickly picked up their schedules and locker assignments, and by 8:25 all students had put their things in their lockers and were sitting in their first period classes. The school year had begun.

Granger's 6th day enrollment was 1170, which was very close to our projected number of 1190. We are using every available space but are still comfortable. We have redone our traffic pattern and switched our "up" and "down" stairs from last year. There is a Velcro strip down the middle of the hallway to remind students to walk to the right to relieve congestion in the hall. Bus routes are always a particular challenge. While things are steadily, improving, we are

continuing our annual effort to make any needed adjustments in seat counts and route stops. I hope that starting back went well for your children, and I encourage you to contact your child's counselor if they are not yet comfortable with middle school routines.

Since we are well into the business of learning, it will soon be time to prepare midterm progress reports. All middle and high school teachers in District 204 use a computer software grading program called *Pinnacle Online Grading*. This system calculates grades and allows teachers to print out individual student progress reports at any time. Progress reports will be delivered in a new way this year with the *Pinnacle* system. This year no progress reports will be mailed home. On September 27, all grades from teachers' grade books will automatically reflect the student's progress. Please check the *Pinnacle* grade book to see your child's grades on this day. This will give you a measure of how your child is doing in each class. Things to watch out for are missing assignments and low grades. You can check your child's grades whenever you would like and view grades on every assignment and see a current cumulative grade.

Remember the purpose of the progress reports is to let you know how your child is doing while there is still time to make an improvement. If you have any ques-

tions or concerns, the quickest way to get feedback is to call the counselor. You can also call any of your child's teachers directly and leave a message if they are not available at that time. Please be aware that the initial first quarter progress reports are very difficult to use as a standard for the year. Progress reports come at a time when students have only attended for about 20 days. At that point teachers have very few grading opportunities and some grades can be skewed high or low by a single item. This is particularly true for students in band or orchestra who may have missed a technique class that will need to be made up with practice.

Remember: The purpose of the progress reports is to let you know how your child is doing while there is still time to make an improvement. If you have any questions or a concern the quickest way to get feedback is to call the counselor. You can also call any of your child's teachers directly and leave a message if they are not available at that time.

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...District 204 News...

District 204 Middle School Service Project

The goal of this fund raising event is to raise enough money to build one house in Pass Christian, Mississippi, a town that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Granger Middle School is proud to join the other five middle schools in District 204 in a joint service project. On Friday, October 19 at 4:15 p.m. the middle schools will pair up for three simultaneous faculty softball games at Frontier Park (behind Neuqua Valley Gold Campus). The goal of this fund raising event is to raise enough money to build one house in Pass Christian, Mississippi, a town that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. All students and their parents are encouraged to come and cheer on the teachers from their school as they make an attempt to gain a victory on the softball field.

Funds will be raised in two ways. Representatives from each school's PTSA will be running concession stands during the game. All proceeds will go towards the fundraiser. In addition, each school will hold "Penny Wars" where students collect loose change by team. Friendly competitions between teams will be encouraged as well as friendly

competitions between schools. These "Penny Wars" will begin on Thursday, October 11th and end on Thursday, October 18th. The following day all schools will report the total amount of money collected, and the school that has the highest amount will be declared the district winner.

I can see many benefits to this service project. As I have said many times, there is a sense of community spirit and care at Granger that is unparalleled. Our students continue to amaze me with how they "think globally and act locally." The second advantage to this project is the school spirit that will get built by all of us working together. Finally, there is a family in Pass Christian that will be getting a new home and they don't even know it. This will be made possible by our middle school students. I hope to see you all at the softball game on October 19.

The Indian Prairie Parents' Council First Annual Scholarship Celebrity Basketball Game

The Indian Prairie Parent's Council (IPPC) will host a new event this coming school year – the Scholarship Celebrity Basketball Game on Friday, Nov. 16, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the Waubonsie Valley High School main gym. The event is a fun-filled family evening of "Globetrotters" style basketball where 1 teacher/staff from each of our District 204 schools (Schools/ Team) will play local area celebrities (Celebrity Team). This game will be preceded at 7:00 p.m. by a Middle School Basketball Game in which four students from each of our six middle schools will unite to play each other. Entertainment will be provided by our own District 204 students, and delicious food will be available via our high school's Athletic Booster groups. Proceeds will benefit the IPPC Scholarship fund which provides scholarships for college for our graduating Neuqua and Waubonsie Valley High School students. Information about how to buy a ticket will be distributed at school during October and November. This should be a fun-filled, fabulous night of family entertainment, and a great expression of parent/school/student/ community unity.

WAUBONSIE VALLEY FOOTBALL FANS

Although we have been running this information about middle school students' attendance at WVHS football games on our List Serve and sharing it in our daily announcements, I would like to include a letter from Jim Schmid, principal of Waubonsie Valley High School. In this letter, he states that middle and elementary students are not allowed to attend the middle school football games without a parent or adult guardian.

Future Waubonsie Valley Warrior Students and Families,

Friday night football games are one of the great traditions of high school. At Waubonsie Valley, that is no different. We celebrate both the performance on the field and the enthusiasm the community continues to show toward our school.

We encourage future Warrior families to join us on Friday evenings to enjoy the games, the Grammy award winning marching band, and the performances of our cheerleaders and pom squads. These are great opportunities to experience a part of the Waubonsie Valley culture as a family.

As many of you know, attendance at our home football games grew to record numbers last year. In order to provide an environment in which all spectators can safely enjoy the game and half-time show, *no elementary or middle school students will be admitted to high school football games without an adult chaperone.* Though it is expected that elementary students will be chaperoned by a parent/guardian while attending a game, we will continue to ask middle school students to sit in a designated place in the bleachers if they are not sitting with their adult chaperone during the whole game. We thank those students in advance for their respectful compliance to our policy and of our requests of them at our events. We have received the support of our middle school colleagues in spreading this message and thank them and the parents in advance for reinforcing appropriate behavior and compliance to our expectations at Waubonsie Valley events.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community and for our goal of providing a fun and safe environment for all of our fans.

GO WARRIORS!

Jim Schmid

Principal, Waubonsie Valley High School

We celebrate both the performance on the field and the enthusiasm the community continues to show toward our school.

A Class for Families: Digital Images

Would you like to take a class with your child and learn more about digital photography?

For the first time, Granger Middle School is offering an evening class for 8th grade students and their parents. Mrs. Judy Reed, computer teacher, will be presenting a five session class in the use of digital cameras and how to take good photographs. This class will be offered twice this year, once in the fall and in the spring. Additional classes will be offered if interest indicates the need.

Parents and students who are interested are invited to attend an introductory meeting in our school library on October 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. At that time, they will see a PowerPoint of photographs taken by previous students and hear an

overview of what will be learned in this class. At this meeting, parents will be asked to commit to coming with their students and will have the opportunity to sign up for the Digital Images class. There is no fee for the class.

At the end of the class, the family will have developed photographs that they will hopefully frame or store in safe ways to preserve them. Class photographs will be displayed at Granger Middle School. Please join us for our first ever parent/child evening class.

Dates and topics are:

October 1 – Initial meeting and sign up

October 15 – The various types of digital cameras and printers

October 22 – Elements of taking good photographs

October 29 – Editing photographs and electronic storage

November 5 – Methods of printing and displaying photographs.

*Assistant
Principal
Carlin*



Please Leave Valuable Items At Home & Personalize Your Property!

Students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to leave their electronic listening/viewing devices (i.e. iPods, MP3s, CD/DVD players, walkmans, radios, video cameras, still cameras and like media equipment) or game playing gadgets (Game Boy, PSP, and similar video game-type items) at home. Granger middle school staff members are not responsible for lost or stolen items of value. Students bring these items at their own risk and against the expectations outlined in the Granger Middle School student handbook.

Here at Granger we encourage students to leave their fancy gadgets and gizmos at home. In fact, Dr. Harris and I will be meeting with every student in the building and highlighting many of the expectations we have for them here at Granger. This includes the expectation that electronic devices are left at home.

We do realize, however, that some are needed or are useful to have during the school day, such as, calculators. As many students have these devices, many of which are the same brand, model etc., be sure to write your child's first and last name on all of their supplies, especially the more expensive tools. Students are also encouraged to write, in permanent marker if possible, their name in several places for identification purposes. Try marking in a few inconspicuous locations as well. This may be on the batteries & inside the battery compartment. We do warn that parental supervision may be required. Be sure to follow manufacturer guidelines at all times. If you can program your name into your machine, do that as well. It is important to record any identifying numbers such as serial numbers, make, and model as well. If we come across a lost item, we will find your full name and you will be able to identify your property. If there are any questions about ownership, you should have your serial number and other pertinent information on hand at home.

Again, we ask that students not bring apparatuses such as iPods, MP3s, PSPs, Game Boys etc., however, the tip above may be useful for these mechanisms too, when used outside of school and school-related events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Carlin @ mark_carlin@ipsd.org.



~ The higher we reach, the more we achieve

PARENT SHADOWING AT GRANGER

The sixth grade teams at Granger have designated the week of October 1st as "Parent Shadowing Week." During this week, sixth grade parents are invited to come in and spend some time shadowing their child in class. Students' sixth grade year marks the beginning of a wonderful transition into young adulthood. Sixth graders switch classes every thirty-nine minutes, have many more teachers than they are accustomed, and are accepting new responsibilities with each new day. We would like to offer parents of sixth graders the opportunity to experience this exciting time in their child's life first hand. Beginning on Monday, October 1, 2007 and continuing through Friday, October 6, 2007, sixth grade parents are cordially invited to "shadow" their children as they participate in their school day. Along with their children, parents will open lockers, attend classes, take notes, and try to make it from class to class with the appropriate materials in three minutes. The purpose of Parent Shadowing is to gain first-hand experience and knowledge of students' daily schedule and interactions. A form will be sent home in September for parents to sign up to visit their students' classes. Please join us so you can see what your child's day at Granger is like.

**From Assistant
Principal Dr. Harris**

A new school year has started. Transition from summer vacation to school to school can take some time and effort on everyone's part. The following suggestions could make life easier for your children, their teachers, and YOU! Let's set the stage for a positive 2007-2008 school year.

Establish routines. Setting a specific time and location to do homework, encourage earlier bedtime schedules doing school nights. Organizing needed school materials, such as, packing a lunch the night before may alleviate the morning rush.

Make Sure your child has all the requested supplies and materials on the school supply list. Everything should be labeled with her name. Color-coding folders and spirals for the same class can make identification easier. Every student is issued a Granger assignment notebook when school starts. Insist that this be brought home each night. Use it as source of information as to what homework has been assigned, and as a way to communicate with teachers in the space provided.

Talk to your child. Discuss school activities and events with your child. Ask them what they learned in school. Asking questions is a good way to engage your child in a conversation. Listen to your child carefully. They may be trying to tell you something important.

Set goals. Talk to your child about her long-term goals for this school year. What does she want to accomplish this year, about what she does at school each day? Help her develop short-term goals that will help her reach her long-term goals. Students will be writing goals at school each quarter. Ask her to keep you informed of what her quarter goals are and how she plans to achieve them. The assignment notebook provides a place for recording goals. Of course, the ultimate goal is for students to be responsible for their own homework, but as your child is working toward that goal, let her know you are interested in her accomplishments.

Read to your child and have them read to you. One of our district goals is to "increase academic rigor." Research has shown that increase opportunities to read significantly increase a child's academic abilities. Research also highly supports that good reading skills are critical for academic success in all disciplines in education. Therefore, both the school and home environments that surround our children are important to their eventual success as accomplished readers and writers.

Classrooms here at Granger are stocked with diverse reading materials of interest to your children. Encourage them to look for and use them on a daily basis. As the year progresses we will display lots of writing and examples of students' written work on Granger walls. Students will be challenged to be one of those who have had their articles and/or written assignments "published" at Granger. Time will be devoted during each school day to reading books, discussing them, and writing summaries of learned experiences. This will be a learning environment where students can learn from peers as well as from their teachers.

At home, your children should be encouraged have their own personal books to read, have writing materials close at hand to capture those thoughts that often escape before they are written, and a lamp for reading in bed. Reading is fun. Make it a fun activity for your children and watch their overall achievement skills and confidence rise. Newspapers, magazine subscriptions for children and adults, dictionaries, and the Atlas, and many other informational reading materials add to the message that reading everyday is important if only just to know what others in their own age groups are doing.

Nonetheless, as most of you already know, just having reading materials available in the school and at home is not enough. Parents must protect their children's time from over indulgences in television and other activities so that they can have time to read and do other things that reinforce their reading skills: For example, such as playing word games, working crossword puzzles, completing all of their homework, reading aloud to each other or having them read to younger children, and having meaningfully conversations with other family members.

To be successful readers, children need to read. Parents can make reading fun for children by having a regularly scheduled routine for their children to read something interesting before they go to bed each night. For some families there are other times that may work better than nighttime, like after dinner or before school. The important thing is that your children begin to read regularly and that it is always a positive experience.

Talk to your child about her long-term goals for this school year. What does she want to accomplish this year, about what she does at school each day?

After School Program Coming to Granger in January

The goal of the after school program is to engage the city's pre-adolescent students in positive activities beyond the school day in the areas of academics, fine arts, and recreation.

Starting January 7, 2008 Granger Middle School will be offering an after school program four days a week (Monday through Thursday) from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a free program funded through a partnership with the city of Aurora, the city's Communities in Schools program, Aurora University, and various Aurora businesses and organizations. Currently, there are five middle schools in Aurora with this after school program; eventually, all nine middle schools will have after school centers.

The goal of the after school program is to engage the city's pre-adolescent students in positive activities beyond the school day in the areas of academics, fine arts, and recreation. Aurora University undergraduates are the workers in the program, under the guidance of two certified teachers who direct the program. Each after school session begins with a snack and homework time followed by a recreation time that may include activities provided by different community groups in the areas of fine and performing arts, sports, or science.

Any student attending a participating school is allowed to register for the program. In the beginning of November enrollment forms will be sent home for parental consent. Once registered, a student is allowed to attend the after school program on any or all of the days it is offered. There is no cost to the students or their parents. Watch the newsletter and the list serve in the beginning of November for the registration materials.

PTSA Apparel Sales

Watch for details on Granger Apparel at the start of the school year. All clothing fits the dress code at Granger!

What Happens If...

...my child receives a detention? When your child receives a detention, the expectation is that it be served within 3 school days. If the detention is not served, the student will be required to serve a FULL DAY in-school detention. **The student will remain in ISD until the detention is served.**

Who? & Where?

It is imperative that parents/guardians keep our school apprised of current contact information. **Please**, contact our main office @ **630-375-1010** when your address, workplace phone number, mobile phone number, or home phone number change. In the event of an emergency we must be able to contact you.

From Assistant
Principal Dr. Harris

(Continued from page 5)

Give your children the golden opportunity to read, read read. The more children read, the better they begin to like it in school and at home. The best way to enhance your children's reading skills at home is to be sure the opportunities are there for him/her not only to read, but also to talk about what he has read.

Math is important too. Provide your child with many opportunities to practice her newly acquired math skills, by having her assist with the household budget, and /or projects, let them shop for needed household items. Remember practice makes perfect.

Get involved. Get involved in your child's educational life. Take time to call and introduce yourself to you child's teachers, join the PTSA, volunteer at school events, or attend evening functions at Granger.

Mark Your Calendar:

Benchmarking For the 2007-2008 School Year

This Benchmarking (screening) of students will take place take place once during Fall, Winter, & Spring of the school year, using the Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM) for the purpose of finding "high achieving", "at risk", and other groups for intervention.. CBM is time efficient, standardized assessment procedures that provides research-based indicators of basic skill acquisition and are sensitive to subtle changes in student performance over time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Diana Harris at 375-3591, or your child's grade level counselor.

PARENT CONFERENCES:

Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is an essential part of a student's success. The communication may be in the form of a note, phone call, or a meeting held during the year. Special days are set aside each year by the district for conferences. Fall conferences are being held on Thursday, November 15 from 4:30pm – 8:00 pm; Friday, November 16 from 8:00 am to 3:00pm. This time does not allow us to have parent/teacher conferences for every student. Parents will be notified by the first week in November if a conference for their children is needed. Parents can also call team offices November 12-14, to request a conference. Some teams will have student-led conferences; other teams will have the traditional conferences. The student-led conferences actively involve students in sharing their work at school, and the student presents a profile of themselves as a learner to their parents. These schedules will be directly sent home to parents.

In preparation for your conference, please write down any specific questions or concerns you may have before coming to your scheduled conference. After your conference, discuss the results and your impressions with your child. Point out his/her strengths and identify areas that you and your child agree upon that need improvement. I suggest that you follow-up with your children with a specific plan of action to encourage improvement in those areas.

Make sure that your children know that you and their teacher are working together in their best interests. Your children should know that you and the teacher are in a partnership together with the sole purpose of providing children with best education possible.

REMEMBER:

**EFFORT BREWS SUCCESS AND BRINGS FORTH
HAPPINESS! LET'S ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL
AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR!**

Meet the Staff

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

Administration



Mary Kelly, Mark Carlin, Diane Harris

Pace

Kimberly Richmiller-Zinn

I grew up in Quincy, IL with my parents and brother. I went to Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO to college for undergraduate (earning a B.S. in Communication Sciences & disorders and a B.A. in psychology) and graduate school to earn my master's in science for speech language pathology. I met my husband while attending Rockhurst, we have been married 3 years. We lived in Lawrence, KS for 3 years while my husband completed his Ph.D in Chemistry at KU. During that time I worked in Ottawa, KS with K-12 as a speech language pathologist. Then we moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where my husband completed a postdoctoral fellowship and I worked in an In-patient Rehabilitation Center working with individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury. We moved to the Naperville area in July. I am excited to be back in IL and so far love working in the self-contained PACE program here at Granger.



Kim Richmiller-Zinn



*Andrea Lawler, Diane Bakken,
Susan Sarkaustaus, Stephanie Ware*

FACS



Julie Alsirt, Ginne Gates

Ginnie Gates

Did you know that everyone's favorite FACS teacher taught P.E. for 9 years before she decided to come into the kitchen? Mrs. Bogdan has been teaching FACS full time for 7 years now and is loving every minute of it!!! The FACS curriculum includes kitchen safety and sanitation, manners, nutrition, hand and machine sewing, ethnic food studies, kitchen management, and of course cooking. Students agree the best part of FACS is eating what you make! Some of the favorite recipes include pizza, pasta with homemade sauce, quiche, soup, desserts and more! When Mrs. Bogdan isn't at work she likes to spend her time "scrap booking", going for long rides on the back of her husband's Harley, reading a good mystery, or playing with her big, black, Newfoundland dog, Jake.

Julie Alsirt

Mrs. Alsirt is happy to be back for her 8th year at Granger. This year you will find her in the FACS Dept. teaching 8th Grade Sewing, 8th Grade Foods, and 6th Grade FACS. She is a graduate of The University of Iowa, but in her quest for lifelong learning she has actually attended 8 different colleges. Mrs. Alsirt has 2 children, Steven and Laura. Steven is a junior at Loyola University and Laura is attending the Frontier Campus for her senior year in District #204. In her free time Mrs. Alsirt enjoys cooking, sewing, and kayaking with her husband.

Lauren Davies

I attended North Central College and just graduated in June, 2007. My degree is in Art Education with an endorsement in FACS. I teach at Scullen periods 3-8 before arriving at Granger to teach 7th Grade FACS during 10th. Love to play golf in my spare time and sew my own clothing. I am a 25 year resident of Naperville.

Meet the Staff

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

Foreign Language & Art



Erin Wash, Gary Hoskins, Cindy Nahin, Claudia Portillo,

Erin Wash

Erin Wash has been an art educator for three years. She is originally from St. Charles, where she attended St. Charles High School. Upon graduating from Northern Illinois University in 2003, she received a position as a teacher's aid at Hill Middle School. The following year she was offered an art position at Washington Middle School in Aurora, where she taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade graphic art, as well as lead Builder's club and Yearbook. This is her second year at Granger Middle School. In her free time Mrs. Wash and her husband enjoy skiing, hiking, cooking, traveling, and hanging out their dog Gizmo.

Cindy Nahin (Chejfec)

This is Cindy's 6th year teaching at Granger. This year, she is teaching 7th grade Foreign Language (French, Spanish, German), 8th grade Spanish and 6th & 7th grade Art. She earned her BS in Art and Spanish from UW-Madison, and the University of Madrid-Spain. She also completed a master's degree in Art History from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in teaching from National Louis University. She has taught K-8 Bilingual Spanish, Hebrew, ESL, 6th grade in the Chicago Public School system and worked as an educational program developer for the Kohl Museum and the Field Museum. After thirteen years of producing TV commercials, she couldn't be happier about returning to the classroom full time! She enjoys time with her husband David and six kids, family and friends, swimming, gardening, traveling and scuba diving.

Claudia Portillo

Hi, my name is Claudia Portillo-Chipol. I am one of the 7th grade Foreign Language teachers here at Granger Middle School. I travel between two schools. In the morning, I start my day out at Scullen Middle School but then I end my day here at Granger. I graduated from Aurora University in 2001. I live in Sandwich, am married and have 2 children. I have a daughter whose name is just like mine but we call her "Claudita", which means little Claudia in Spanish and she is a

freshman in college. I also have a son and his name is Ramiro and he is a senior in high school. We have a German shepherd named Lunar, which means a mole or birth mark in Spanish because she has them on her face, which her type of breed is known for this. We also have a Cockapoo, whose name is Lulu. She is a puppy still and is only about 10 weeks old. My favorite past times are dancing, going to the movies, reading, talking on the phone, playing cards or board games, and spending time with my family and friends but my all time favorite place to be is on my patio in the spring/summer time. This is my third year here at this school and I am really excited to be back as a part of this community as well as being a grizzly.

Gary Hoskins

is entering his 7th year of teaching Industrial Technology Education at Granger Middle School. Mr. Hoskins is originally from a small farming community in west central Michigan, from where, after high school he pursued a career in aviation, earning his private license with instrument and commercial training. Gary and his wife, Ann, spent 12 years in Northern Wisconsin at a year-round youth and family camp serving several thousand people a year as a program director. Gary moved back to Illinois in 1993 to go back to school and received an English degree with teacher certification from Aurora University in 1999. Because of extensive hands-on background, he also decided to earn an endorsement in Industrial Technology Education where he currently enjoys working with 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, teaching them tool use and developing their love technology and the creative process of woodworking. Gary and Ann have 4 children, Chris 21, Alison 18, Jake 16 and Lauren 13.

P. E.



Kelly Lalko, Valerie Wood, Laura Jones, Robin Reder, Rob Woolwine, Doug Burson

Meet the Staff

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

Laura Jones

Welcome to Granger Middle School!! My name is Laura Jones and I have been teaching physical education for the past 11 years; and have spent the last 5 years at GMS. I am married and have two very energetic children who keep me busy in during my free time. I am in my sixth year coaching girls golf at Waubonsie Valley High school and also have been coaching 7A girls basketball at Granger. Two years ago, I started a special olympics track team that meets in the spring and prepares for the regional meet at North Central College. I am very blessed to teach at a wonderful school and I am looking forward to having a successful school year with your child.

Kelly Shea-Lalko

This is Mrs. Lalko's 5th year at Granger Middle School. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse where she was a 4year Collegiate Swimmer and recognized as MVP and Team Captain. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her husband of three months and competing in triathlons. Mrs. Lalko will be teaching Physical Education, and coaching Cross Country, and Track. She is looking forward to the start of an exciting school year and getting to know all the new Granger students.

Valerie Wood

Valerie Wood grew up in Naperville and is a product of District 204. She attended Brookdale Elementary School, Hill Middle School, and Waubonsie Valley High School. This is Ms. Wood's fifth year of teaching, but only her second year at Granger. Ms. Wood graduated from Ohio University in 2003 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Physical Education and received her Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University this past summer. After teaching for three years on Chicago's south side, Ms. Wood made her way back to Naperville and became apart of the Granger family. Ms. Wood coaches the 7AA volleyball team and is the sponsor for Intra-mural Bowling and Volleyball. In her free time, Ms. Wood enjoys traveling, watching the Cubs, playing softball and shoe shopping!

Doug Burson

Doug Burson has been teaching physical education in Indian Prairie for 13 years. He received his Bachelors from Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle and Masters in Education from Chicago State University. Mr. Burson presently coaches heavyweight football and wrestling at Granger. He has been married for 9 years to his wife Julie. He has a son named Doug who is 4 years old and a girl named Anna who is 3 years old. Mr. Burson is proud to be a Grizzly!!!!

Rob Woolwine

Rob Woolwine has been transplanted from the Washington D.C. area to here in Naperville. He has been teaching Physical Education in the district for 12 years. He coaches Boys and Girls 8AA Basketball, and Track. Mr. Woolwine enjoys sports, fishing and spending time with his wife, and two daughters Payton 9, and Raegan 5. If he was not a teacher he would have been a neuro-surgeon or a game show host.

Health

Jennifer Torza, Scott Branson



Jennifer Torza

In 2000, Jennifer Torza made her way to Chicago from Albuquerque New Mexico just three days after she married her husband Daniel. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Aurora University. She has two sons, Derek who is five and Drew who is two. After teaching two years in the Oswego School District, and three years at Still Middle School in Indian Prairie School District, she made her way to Granger Middle School last year as the new Health Educator. Mrs. Torza is also one of the seventh grade volleyball coaches. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her family and friends, workout, go camping, work at her church nursery, and watch Cardinal baseball games, especially when they play the Cubs!

Scott Branson

Scott Branson grew up in nearby Batavia and is a lifelong resident of the Fox Valley area. He received his Bachelor of Science from Aurora University and his Masters in Education Degree from Chicago State University. This is Mr. Branson's 16th year in District 204 where he also coaches football, boy's basketball, and track. Mr. Branson has three sons, Luke, Zach, and Sam and a daughter, Leah. He and his wife, Kerri, have been married for 12 years. In his free time, Mr. Branson enjoys attending sport events, camping, fishing, landscaping and being with his family, and his friends.

Student Service

Dell Westbrook

an educator for over twenty years, has worked as a counselor at Granger Middle School for the past ten years. Although she has lived in Illinois for eleven years she is originally from Michigan and a devoted Pistons fan. Mrs. Westbrook and her husband have two children, a son and a daughter who are both in college. When she has down time she loves to read and watch old movies.

Meet the Staff

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008



Kathy Volk, Karen Muthler, Trish Carlin, Georganna Bramfeld, Diana Harris, Joy Bedell, Deb Gavras, Dell Westbrook, Colleen Wilken, Vicki Reagan, Laura Fontana

Joy Bedell

I am a Speech-Language Pathologist here at Granger Middle School. I work with many students with specific communication challenges, but I like to think that I work for increased communication skills in all of our students. I have been a speech therapist at Granger M.S. since 1998. However, after receiving my M.A. from Butler University, I have been a certified speech pathologist since 1983. Prior to my employment here, I had been in private practice, working in hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, and home health for many years. I thoroughly enjoy my job as I get to help students on an individual basis as we work for success in the classroom. On a personal note, I am married with one daughter who attends college. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, traveling and jogging/walking. I am active in church activities, as well.

Laura Fontana

..school psychologist at Granger is starting her 21st year as a school psychologist. She received her B.A. and M.S.E. in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Laura enjoys spending time laughing with her husband and daughter (4th grade). In her spare time she enjoys horseback riding, piano, gardening, and watching Packer games!

Georganna Bramfeld- School Social Worker

I earned my master's in social work from Aurora University. I have also earned the credentials to be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I have been at Granger for nine years and have enjoyed every minute of it. When I am not at work I love to cook, bike ride, read and go to the theater. During the summers I spend a lot of time at the Bramfeld family cottage in Culver Indiana where we do a lot of swimming, golfing and bike riding. I have been married for 26 years and have two children who are now in their twenties.

Vicki Reagan

I am happy to be returning for my second year as a speech-language pathologist at Granger Middle School. I am currently working with all sixth grade teams. I split my time between Granger and Prairie Chil-

dren Preschool. I have been with Indian Prairie School District for 8 years. Prior to working here, I worked in a pediatric hospital, clinics and in private practice. I have also worked as a teacher for the hearing impaired and as a director for a private school. I received my Master of Arts in Communication Disorders from Saint Louis University and Master of Science in Education for the Deaf from Washington University in St. Louis. I am originally from the St. Louis area. I enjoy traveling. Some of my favorite destinations have been Alaska, Ireland and South East Asia.

Computers



Judy Reed, Steve Mickelson, Mary Fitzgerald

Mary Fitzgerald

Mary Fitzgerald has been teaching computer classes in District 204 since 1994. She started at Gregory Middle School and transferred to Granger in 1995. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Northern Illinois University. She has a Masters Degree in Instructional Technology. In addition to teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, she is involved in teaching many staff development classes. She has two children. Her daughter teaches freshmen Algebra and Honors Algebra at Plainfield South High School and her son works for an insurance company in downtown Chicago. Mr. Fitzgerald is a computer programmer for a company in Naperville. She enjoys reading and doing anything and everything on the computer.

Judy Reed

Judy Reed can often be heard using a Southern phrase in her classroom because she grew up in Arkansas and lived in Louisiana and Mississippi before coming to Illinois. She is starting her thirteenth year in District 204. She has taught music, art, computers and Communication Arts at Granger. This year she will be teaching Com Arts II classes and sixth grade computers. She will also teach an eighth grade Design and Sculpture class second semester. Mrs. Reed's undergraduate degree is from Arkansas State University. Her graduate degree is from North Central College. Her favorite time is when her family is together. Spending time with her two grandchildren, Ashleigh, 4 and Paul, 2 is just the best. They now live in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin so she makes a lot of trips up north. She enjoys reading, sports, traveling and sewing in her free time. She is an avid Cardinals baseball fan.

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Steve Mickelson

Steve Mickelson graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He worked for General Electric as an engineer working on submarines installing and testing computer systems. He then went to Chicago-Kent Law School, and upon completion worked as an attorney for 25 years. He then had another career change and went to school again and obtained certification in high school math. He has taught math at Naperville Central High School and Hill Middle School. This is Mr. Mickelson's second year at Granger and is teaching 6th grade Computers, 7th grade Technical Arts, and 8th grade PA Math (Geometry).



Music Programs

Aaron Johnston, Katie Kryszak, Michelle Zwergel, Jason Dyhouse, Annette Cooper, Kelly Mielcarz

Katie Kryszak

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Mrs. Kryszak is in her seventh year of teaching in District 204, and her fifth year at Granger Middle School. She currently teaches 6th and 8th grade orchestra, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade technique classes, and directs Granger's honors orchestra, Select Strings. Mrs. Kryszak holds Bachelor's Degrees in Music Education and Cello Performance from Drake University in Des Moines and a Master's Degree in Music Education from Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. Prior to working in District 204, Mrs. Kryszak performed in the Des Moines Symphony as a member of the cello section. In her time outside of Granger Mrs. Kryszak enjoys performing in the cello section of the Joliet Symphony, cooking, exercising, and spending time with her family: husband Tim and Cocker Spaniel Zoey!

Annette Cooper

Ms. Cooper is a native Michigander, and a proud graduate of the University of Michigan as well as the University of Illinois. Ms. Cooper has been a band director for 14 years, the last 6 of those at Granger Middle School. Ms. Cooper became a band director because she loved playing the clarinet when she was in elementary school. Ms. Cooper still plays the clarinet in band, but now plays in the Fox Valley Concert Band. In addition to music she enjoys reading, computer games, and kayaking.

Kelly Mielcarz

I am entering my eighth year here at Granger Middle School teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade chorus. I graduated from North Central College, in Naperville, with a degree in K-12 vocal music education degree. In my spare time I enjoy reading, running and spending time with my family, especially my two children!!! I am really looking forward to another fantastic year with an amazing group of talented students! Welcome Back!

Jason Dyhouse

This is Mr. Dyhouse's fifth year at Granger Middle School. He is originally from Maryland and graduated from the University of Massachusetts. He plays percussion in the Fox Valley Concert Band and enjoys playing drum set in his church and going to Cubs games.

ELL

Heidi May, Matt Walsh



Matt Walsh

This is Matt Walsh's fourth year of teaching, and his second year at Granger Middle School teaching ELL/Bilingual classes. He graduated from Illinois State University in 2004 with his Bachelor's Degree in Education and Bilingual Education, and is currently working on a Master's degree in administration from Northern Illinois University. Mr. Walsh and his wife, Danita, reside in Aurora with their Westie puppy Clark. Mrs. Walsh works as a research analyst and project manager at Corporate Insights, Inc. in Aurora. Mr. Walsh is very excited about starting a new year at Granger (and about the Cubs eventually winning the pennant!) In his free time, Mr. Walsh enjoys watching Cubs baseball, gardening and landscaping, and riding his motorcycle.

Heidi May

Let me introduce myself: my name is Heidi May and this is my first year teaching English Language Learners at Granger Middle School. I graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1996 and another degree in History in 2000. I then went on to teach history at a Chicago Public High School for 5½ years. I am currently working on a degree in Bilingual Bicultural Education at DePaul University and I plan on graduating in June. When I am not teaching or studying, I enjoy spending time with my husband and daughter.

Meet the Staff

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Team 6-1



Melody Horyn, Liz Wong, Amy Lewis, Julie Prestegaard

Amy Lewis

Amy Lewis is presently teaching science, social studies, and connections on team 6-1. Mrs. Lewis earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Augustana College and her Masters degree from St. Xavier. She has taught pre-K up to seniors in high school and did medical research for Northwestern Medical Center. Her hobbies include walking, sewing, gardening, choir and spending time with her husband, son, and twin daughters. Last year her friends from elementary school and she traveled to Steamboat, Colorado. Each year they plan an adventure and go. Their next adventure will take them to the East coast.

Julie Prestegaard

Julie Prestegaard is currently teaching Mathematics and Social Studies on Team 6-1. Mrs. Prestegaard earned her bachelor degree from Illinois State University with her major in middle school education. In June of 2004 she graduated with her Masters degree from North Central College in Curriculum and Instruction. She believes students' attitudes make a difference in their grades, not necessarily their ability. When not teaching, Mrs. Prestegaard enjoys traveling with family and friends to Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, as well as Colorado and California.

Cindy Zamirowski

Mrs. Zamirowski is a member of team 6-1 and her specialty is English and Reading. This year Mrs. Zamirowski is teaching all Reading. Mrs. Zam, as many of her students call her, has been teaching for over 18 years. Mrs. Zamirowski is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and is married with three grown sons. Mrs. Zamirowski's outside interests include traveling (especially to the Rockies on the US and Canadian side), gardening, web design, and she is also a fashion coordinator and team leader for Weekenders USA. Mrs. Zamirowski's most favorite enjoyment is being a grandmother and spending time with her granddaughters, Kirsten and Natalie Rose.

Liz Wong

Mrs. Wong has been at Granger since it first opened 15 years ago. She lives in Schaumburg with her husband and two children, Alyssa (4 years old) and James (3 years old). One of her favorite things to do is run marathons. Mrs. Wong has competed in 7 marathons, and countless other races. Writing is another favorite activity. Some day, Mrs. Wong hopes to write a book. In addition to that, she earned her B.A. in English

at North Central College in Naperville, and she earned her Masters degree at Aurora University. In total, she has taught middle school reading, social studies, and Language Arts for 18 years.

Team 6-2



Carla Axt-Pilon, Cindi Dalsing, Nick Hurd, Susan Woxniak, Barbie Woolwine

Nick Hurd—Math

This is Nick Hurd's first year at Granger Middle School. Currently he teaches math, accel math, math plus and social studies on team 6-2. Last school year he split his time working at North Central College in Naperville, IL and teaching 6th grade math at Stratford Middle School in Bloomingdale, IL. Mr. Hurd graduated from North Central College and was part of the Nationally ranked cross country and track teams. During his free time Mr. Hurd enjoys spending time with his family, running and doing outdoor activities.

Carla Axt-Pilon—English

Carla Axt-Pilon teaches English, social Studies, and connections on Team 6-2. After graduating from Eastern Illinois University, Ms. Axt-Pilon traveled with a musical group called Up With People, worked at a travel agency, and worked at Chicago's Field Museum. She earned a Master's Degree at National Louis University. Ms. Axt-Pilon taught in Burr Ridge for eight years; this will be her seventh year at Granger. In the spring Ms. Axt-Pilon is an amphibian monitor for the DuPage forest preserve. When not recording frog calls, she loves participating in triathlons, gardening, and spending time with her family.

Barbie Woolwine—Reading

Barbie Woolwine is currently teaching reading and social studies on team 6-2. This is her fourteenth year at Granger. Mrs. Woolwine just loves District 204. She went to Clow Elementary School, Hill Middle School, and graduated from Waubonsie High School - but we won't disclose the year. Her children also attend school in District 204 and she also has a 6th grade child this year. Mrs. Woolwine graduated from Milligan Christian College in Tennessee and received her Master's Degree from North Central College. In her spare time Mrs. Woolwine enjoys reading, playing basketball, reading, running, reading, spending time with her husband and daughters.

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Susan Wozniak— Science

Susan Wozniak teaches Science and Social Studies on Team 6-2. A graduate of Trenton State College, she collaborated in the fields of medical and veterinary research. After an extended career in industrial safety, Mrs. Wozniak decided to share her excitement for science in the classroom after earning her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from National-Louis University. She delights in family time, obsessive gardening, and travel.

Cindi Dalsing— Support Facilitator

Cindi Dalsing is married with two children. She, her husband, and her 23 year old son, live in Yorkville. Mrs. Dalsing recently received her master's degree in reading and literacy at Benedictine University. Her 20 year old daughter is attending University of Illinois in Champaign, while her son is attending Waubensee Community College. Mrs. Dalsing has a wide range of teaching experience from teaching primary grades through high school. She previously taught in Bolingbrook, Oak Forest, and Sandwich before coming to District # 204. Mrs. Dalsing is proud to be starting her twelfth year at Granger Middle School. She truly enjoys teaching here at Granger Middle School where students learn in an inclusive environment.

Team 6-3



Kristin Panzarella, Rebecca Thompson, Kathy Budd, Gene Van Dusen, Sandra Baccus,

Kristin Panzarella

Kristin Panzarella will be starting her fifth year here at Granger. Kristin graduated from Elmhurst College and is a proud alumna of the school where one sister also graduated and the youngest is currently attending. This year, she is teaching Reading, Social Studies, and Connections for Team 6-3. During the winter season, she enjoys coaching the 8A Girls' Basketball Team. In her spare time, Kristin enjoys shopping, reading,

and hanging out with family and friends.

Gene VanDusen

Gene Van Dusen is entering his thirteenth year at Granger. Gene grew up in District 204 and attended Indian Plains elementary, Hill Middle School, and Waubonsie Valley High School. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Central College. Mr. Van Dusen teaches science, social studies, and physical education. Mr. Van Dusen also serves as boys' soccer coach, 7th grade girls' basketball coach, and girls' soccer coach. He currently lives in Oswego with his wife Jenny, a fifth grade teacher at East View, Lindsey his five year old daughter, and Lauren his three year old daughter.

Kathy Budd

Kathy Budd has taught for 28 years. Seven of those years have been at Granger Middle School in Special Education. She also is the Team Coordinator. Kathy graduated from Central Michigan University with her undergraduate degree and has a Masters of Education in Curriculum Development from Michigan State University. She has begun a second masters in Educational Leadership. Kathy and her husband have two children, her daughter Allison who has graduated in Engineering from the University of Illinois and her son is a sophomore at the College of Dupage. In her spare time she likes to read, ride bikes, travel, and go for hikes.

Rebecca Thompson

Rebecca Thompson is entering her fourth year at Granger! She graduated from Illinois State University with her Bachelors degree in Middle School Education and St. Xavier University with her masters degree in education. Miss Thompson teaches math, accelerated math, social studies and 8th grade math plus. She is originally from Chicago, and now lives in Naperville. In her spare time she enjoys shopping, spending time with her friends and family, planning her future wedding and cheering on the White Sox!

Sandra Baccus

Sandra Baccus is beginning her thirteenth year as an English/Social Studies teacher at Granger Middle School. Prior to teaching full time, she substitute taught for eleven years from grades kindergarten to high school in many different school districts including #204. Sandra was a "late bloomer" becoming a full time teacher much later than others. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English degree from North Central College in Naperville in 1981. Her graduate degree of a Masters in Teaching was earned at National Louis University in Lombard. Sandra, and her husband, Elmer, celebrated 39 years of marriage last May. They have two grown son and one daughter-in-law. Jeff, and his wife, Angie, live in Florida. Brent lives in Aurora. Both sons are graduates of Waubonsie Valley High School. Angie graduated from Bolingbrook High. Sandra is a sponsor of the afternoon Homework Club with Sue White in the LMC. Some of her hobbies are traveling, bowling, and attending movies.

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Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

Team 7-1



Lisa Ness, Kristen Walsh, Steve Gee, Suzi Ganger, Lynn White

Steve Gee

Mr. Gee is in his first year of teaching after spending nearly 15 years in the business world as a C.P.A. He received his Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and completed the teaching certification program at Oakland University. After spending his entire life in Michigan, he and his wife, of 17 years, packed up their 6th and 4th grade daughters this summer and moved to District 204 territory. He enjoys sports (which his wife would say is an understatement), reading, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Suzi Ganger

Mrs. Ganger is a 2002 graduate of Illinois State University. She completed her Master's degree this summer through National Louis University. This is her fifth year at Granger. Mrs. Ganger teaches math, accelerated math, and geography. She will also sponsor AM Homework Club, Geography Bee, and Yearbook. She enjoys reading, scrap booking, playing with her dog, and spending time with her family.

Kristen Walsh

Mrs. Walsh has been a reading teacher for 16 years, earning her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, her Master's degree from Governors State University, and her Reading Specialist certification from Northern Illinois University. Mrs. Walsh has sponsored the student council, yearbook, and coached girls' volleyball. She has five-year-old twins, a 2 1/2 year old, and a 15-month-old toddler. All of these girls keep her busy, busy, busy. Kristen loves to spend time with her family, read adolescent literature and spread her love of books, scrap book, participate in water sports, and is an avid sports' fan. Go Cubbies!!!!

Lynne White

This year marks Mrs. White's 15th year teaching seventh grade English and geography at Granger Middle School. She grew up in Michigan and received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Since moving to Illinois, she has earned her Masters from National Louis University and continuing education hours from Aurora University. Being an English teacher, Mrs. White especially loves crusading for the English language, creating power writers, and reading teen poetry. Mrs. White enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading (US Magazine and adolescent literature, just to name a few), watching reality television and cheering for various teams in all sports...GO STATE!

Lisa Ness

After graduating from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 1998, Miss Ness began her teaching career at Sandwich Middle School as a seventh grade resource teacher. Currently, Miss Ness serves as support facilitator for Team 7-1. In addition to working with seventh graders, Miss Ness coaches the 8th grade Lady Grizzlies on the volleyball court. She is also working on her graduate degree from Concordia University Chicago. During her spare time, Miss Ness enjoys spending time with friends and family, music, sports, reading, traveling, and she LOVES her coffeehouses and fashion!

Team 7-2



Jessica Breyne, Dwight Nelson, Megan Hawkins, Allison Alvarez

Megan Hawkins

Megan Hawkins is a May 2003 graduate of Northern Illinois University where she earned her bachelor's degree and a 2006 graduate of Saint Xavier University where she earned her Master's degree. Currently, she is working on obtaining National Board Certification. This is her fifth year teaching 7th grade math and geography at Granger. She enjoys cheering the Cubs, reading, and spending time with her eight year old daughter and friends.

Dwight Nelson

Mr. Nelson has been teaching for twelve years and is beginning his seventh year at Granger. He teaches science, geography, and connections. Mr. Nelson received his undergraduate degree from Northern Illinois University and his master's degree from Aurora University

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along with his Administration degree. He is married with a six-year old son (Collin), a four year old son (Eric), a third child soon to be one (Henry) and a cat (Alley).

Allison Alvarez

Ms. Alvarez is a third year teacher at Granger and is excited to be teaching reading, geography and connections. She is a 2005 graduate of Illinois State University and is currently working on her Masters in Reading Specialization at Aurora University. In her free time, she enjoys reading, seeing live music, traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Jessica Breyne

Ms. Breyne is looking forward to another great year at Granger! She is a proud graduate of District 204, where she graduated from Nequa Valley High School as part of the first graduating class. Ms. Breyne completed her undergraduate degree at Ball State University

Team 7-3



Donna Jackson, Pat Hoefler, Bryan Carter, Amber Bartelme, Anita Lyons

Bryan Carter

Bryan Carter teaches seventh grade English, Geography, and Connections. Mr. Carter is beginning his fifth full year at Granger. He graduated from Aurora University in 1999 after playing four years of football for the Spartans. In his free time Mr. Carter enjoys many sports, outdoor activities, reading, and movies. Mr. Carter also loves to spend his summer and free time at his parents' house along the Mississippi River. He is married to Arin Carter, not the singer, the first grade teacher. He is also the proud parent of Jack and Addison Clark (GO CUBS!). Mr. Carter also coaches the lightweight football team and the 8A Boys basketball team.

Donna Jackson

Obtaining a bachelor's of arts degree from Dominican University, Donna Jackson graduated with a major in English and a minor in Social Science. After several years of teaching, she went on to earn a master's degree in Reading Instruction from Concordia University. Ms. Jackson's teaching career has taken her from St. Linus in Oak Lawn to Roosevelt School in Broadview to our own Granger Middle

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

School in Aurora. Like a true Taurus, Ms. Jackson is loyal, stubborn to a fault, and generous to those she loves, (much like the beloved Golden Retriever). As with all former beauty queens, Ms. Jackson's one wish for the world is peace and if not then no-calorie hot fudge sundaes, would be her second wish.

Pat Hoefler

Mrs. Hoefler acts as a facilitator in the class to guide the learning in fun and productive avenues. Her philosophy in teaching is to have the students be active in their learning. Mrs. Hoefler has a bachelor's degree in science from Western Illinois University, Master's degree in teaching from Northern Illinois University, and an additional sixty hours of middle school, technology, and science classes from many local universities!

Anita Lyons

Ms. Lyons is a proud graduate of Michigan State University. Go Spartans!! She is also an avid Cubs fan. She has a master's degree in special education and has been teaching for many, many years, eighteen of them in district 204. Anita is an original Granger staff member, and has enjoyed working with Granger's dedicated and talented staff over the years.

Amber Bartelme

Amber Bartelme teaches 7th grade Mathematics and Social Studies. She is a PROUD graduate of Eastern Illinois University with endorsements in middle school mathematics and social studies. This past summer, she went back to EIU to begin her Masters in Mathematics Education. Prior to coming to Granger, Mrs. Bartelme taught 6th grade for 2.5 years at various districts. When not at Granger, she also teaches ACT test prep to local high school juniors and seniors. While still young in age, her husband Keith swears she is an "old lady," based on her TV loves of The Golden Girls, Murder She Wrote, and Columbo. She is trying to liven up her image by learning crochet and knitting, while curling up with a great book! She is excited to be back at Granger, on the best team in the school!

Team 8-1



Robyn Winters, Carol Coghlin, Samantha Sinding, Kristin Grapenthien, Lindsay Batzel

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Lindsay Batzel

is beginning her third year as a Reading teacher and will also be teaching a section of History. She graduated from Illinois State University, holds a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education, and has been taking classes towards a Masters degree in Reading Instruction. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Batzel is busy planning for her May 2008 wedding, enjoys spending time with her fiancé and family, and loves to curl up with a good book whenever she can find a few minutes to relax.

Carol Coghlin

is entering her thirteenth year at Granger. She earned both her bachelor's degree and master's degree in Special Education at the University of Illinois. She lives with her husband and two children, Patrick and Sarah. Her biggest passion is running. In her spare time she enjoys shopping, scrap-booking, and watching movies.

Kristin Grapenthien

is entering her third year at Granger!! She received her undergraduate degree at National-Louis University. She is currently working on her graduate degree from NLU. Miss Grapenthien teaches Science, Social Studies and Connections. Miss Grapenthien enjoys reading, shopping, playing softball, watching the Cubs, and spending time with her family.

Robyn Winters

is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and is beginning her eighth year as an English teacher and her first year as a Social Studies teacher at Granger. She really enjoys teaching eighth grade and being a part of the Granger family. When she's not grading papers J she likes to cook, shop, watch *What Not to Wear*, read, hang out with friends, and spend time with her husband and two boys – Ryan & Justin. She looks forward to an exciting and successful 2007 -2008.

Samantha Sinding

grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago. She earned her Bachelor's in Middle Level Education at Illinois State in 2001. Miss Sinding completed her student teaching in Honolulu, where she taught her first 4 years. You may recognize Miss Sinding because she taught on Team 6-2 last year. She is so excited to now be an 8th grade Algebra and US History teacher on Team 8-1. Miss Sinding enjoys reading, puzzles – especially Sudoku and Boggle, watching the Chicago Bears and Cubs, swimming, playing tennis, splunking, traveling, TiVo, painting her new townhouse, and being walked by her 4-year-old German Shepherd, Jake.

The teaching assistants on Team 8-1 are **Carol Hendler, Deval Bush, and Aysha Aslam**

Carol Hendler is entering into her 8th year at Granger. She earned a B.A. degree in Nutrition and a MBA degree in Business. Prior to coming to Granger she was in the corporate world. She lives in Naperville with her husband and two sons. She enjoys reading, traveling and walking.

Deval Buch is entering into her 3rd year at Granger. She has earned her Bachelor's degree in India. She lives with her husband and daughter in Naperville. In her spare time she likes to read, go shopping, and spend time with family and friends.

Aysha Aslam grew up in Bahrain which is on the south east coast of Saudi Arabia. She lived there for 23 years and then got married. She moved to the United States with her husband and two daughters in

Team 8-2



Tina Terrano, Sherry Thien, Amy Scott, Alicia Patrick, Rosemary Diamond

Amy Scott

enters her sixth year as a Granger Grizzly, and her fourth year as team coordinator. This year she is excited to be teaching Science and History on our team. Her two daughters, five year old Emily and two year old Rebecca, keep her busy at home! In her free time, Mrs. Scott likes running and playing outdoors with her family. She graduated from North Central College in Naperville and is continuing her second year in their Master's Program.

Alicia Patrick

is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and is beginning her first year as an English and History teacher at Granger. Currently, Ms. Patrick is pursuing her Master's degree at National-Louis University. Outside of school she enjoys running, spending time with friends and family, traveling, and reading.

Tina Terrano

is returning to Granger for her fourth year teaching 8th grade Reading, and is teaching 8th grade History this year as well. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Illinois State University and completed her Master's degree in Reading and Literacy at Lewis University in Romeoville. Prior to joining the Granger staff, Miss Terrano taught 7th and 8th grade Reading and

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English for four years in Berkeley School District 87. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, going to rock concerts, and watching movies.

Sherry Thien

is beginning her second year at 8th grade after teaching 6th & 7th grade math at Granger for 9 years. She is very excited with her 8th grade assignment and is looking forward to teaching History this year in addition to math. Mrs. Thien's educational background includes a Master's in Mathematics Education and she has served on many curriculum committees in this district. Just for fun she likes to go to the movies, play cards, eat dinner out and travel with friends to exciting places in the world. Two years ago her dream came true and she walked on the Great Wall in China. Several adventures that she is thinking about include going to Africa on safari and then also sailing down the Nile River or even someday visiting the Galapagos Islands. Mrs. Thien just knows that there are so many adventures to enjoy, but believes it is true...there is no place like home.

Rosemary Diamond

moved to Granger this year after working at the elementary level for 8 years. She worked at Owen, Young and Cowlshaw and is enjoying re-meeting many of her former students who are now bigger than she. Rosemary earned her Bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and is working on her Master's in administration from Concordia University. She has spent 20 years in the field of special education and learns something new from her students each year. In her free time Rosemary enjoys spending time with her four children and getting together with friends.

Team 8-3



Mary Mayle, Brian Klaft, Louisa Pappa, Suzan Bushy, Carolyn Loos, Kelly Mulhern, Emily Wagner, Glenda Gustafson

Emily Wagner

is a graduate of the University of Iowa where she received her undergraduate degree in English and Communications. Ms. Wagner began her teaching career in Phoenix, Arizona where she taught 7th & 8th English for 3 years. She is so excited to be back in the Midwest and starting her second year teaching 8th grade English at Granger. In her spare time, Ms. Wagner enjoys reading, writing, cooking, taking her dog, Gia, for walks, and hanging out with friends. She is looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2007-2008 school year!

Glenda Gustafson

starts of her 10th year at Granger Middle School continuing teaching Math. She also gets the satisfaction of teaching U.S. History this year to our 8th graders and performing the duties of Granger's Lead Teacher. Before coming to Granger, Mrs. Gustafson taught math and PE in Texas and Hinsdale, IL. She is an avid sports fan and loves to watch her children Kandice and Cody play softball, football and a variety of other activities. During any free time that is left, Mrs. Gustafson can be found with her husband and kids riding bikes, jet skis or skiing down the slopes.

Brian Klaft

is teaching Science and U.S. History on Team 8-3 after teaching 6th grade at Granger for the last eight years. He is a 1990 graduate of Concordia University-River Forest, IL. Before arriving at Granger he taught in Chicago and Berwyn for eight years. In addition to his teaching duties Mr. Klaft is also the co-faculty sponsor for Student Council, as well as the Granger Getaway coordinator. Away from Granger Mr. Klaft volunteers in the children's ministries of his church, serving as an Awana leader and story teller on Sunday mornings. During any free time Mr. Klaft can be found spending time with his wife of seventeen years, Linda, and his three children Tori, Jake, and Jack.

Louisa Pappa

is beginning her 21st year of teaching. She has served in a variety of roles in the district, including spending six years as a district behavior specialist. Her current role is that of a Support Facilitator for Team 8-3. She also teaches skills and strategic reading. Mrs. Pappa loves sports and enjoys watching her two grandsons, Will and Christian, play soccer. Prior to joining Granger, Mrs. Pappa taught in Texas and Louisiana as well as at Waubonsie Valley High School. She received her master's degree from Louisiana Tech University. Louisa is excited to be a part of Team 8-3 this year.

Kelly Mulhern

is thrilled to be starting her first year here at Granger Middle School. Ms. Mulhern teaches Reading and American History on team 8-3. She received her undergraduate degree in Middle Childhood Education from the University of Dayton. Ms. Mulhern is originally from the suburbs of Chicago. Her enthusiasm for Middle School can be seen everyday! Outside of the classroom Ms. Mulhern can be found reading, cooking and spending time with family and friends. She is looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year on Team 8-3!

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Mary Mayle

is a Teaching Assistant for team 8-3. This is her 12th year working with children in the education field. In her spare time, Mrs. Mayle loves traveling and spending time with her family. She is married and has three children. Mrs. Mayle graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Civil Engineering. She is looking forward to a wonderful school year.

Suzan Bushy

is beginning her second year as a Teaching Assistant for the eighth grade. She has an Undergraduate degree in Marketing, but is currently attending school to complete her Master's degree in Elementary Education. She is married and has one son named Drew. During any free time (HA HA) she has, she can be found at the sports fields cheering her son on to victory, socializing with her friends, or studying. She is very excited to be a part of Team 8-3 and is looking forward to a successful school year. GO GRIZZLIES!

Carolyn Loos

is starting her ninth year as a Teaching Assistant. This is her third year in eighth grade. Mrs. Loos has three children, two girls and a boy. She has one granddaughter who is almost four. Mrs. Loos enjoys a variety of activities. She likes to read, crochet, and cross stitch. Checking out places of American History is also a favorite pastime. Mrs. Loos graduated from North Central College with a degree in English. She is looking forward to the '07-'08 school year with a new group of eighth graders.

Project Arrow



Shawn White, Dave Luedtke, Michelle O'Malley, Mark Sadler, Andrew Peterman

Andrew Peterman

Andrew Peterman has been a Project Arrow Math and Science teacher for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. He earned his Bachelors degree from Michigan State University and this past summer earned his Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Aurora University. This is his ninth year working in the district. Six years at Granger Middle School and three years at Graham Elementary School. He is thrilled to be teaching on the Project Arrow team with new team members Shawn White and Dave Luedtke. Mr. Peterman is eager to implement the brand new Algebra 1 book and revamped curriculum. He is looking forward to another awesome year! Go MSU! Go Cubbies! Go Bears!

Shawn White

is beginning his thirteenth year at Granger Middle School. Mr. White is excited about being a new member of the PA team, teaching 6th and 8th grade Science and 6th grade Social Studies. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University and also has completed his Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction at National-Louis University. Mr. White is married and has two children, Caroline and Chayse. Mr. White enjoys spending time with his family, playing the guitar, rooting on the Cubs and Bears, and watching his favorite NASCAR driver # 48 Jimmie Johnson on race weekends.

Mark Sadler

This is Mark's second year at Granger having come from Oliver J. Kendall elementary in the district where, from 1999 until 2006, he taught fifth grade. Prior to teaching, Mark was a police lieutenant, D.A.R.E. officer, SWAT officer, and a K9 officer in West Virginia. Mark is a graduate of North Central College, and he is also a U.S. Army veteran. In 2004 Mark achieved National Board Certification as a teacher of middle-aged students. Mark and his wife, Tracy, have been married for 23 years, and they have two daughters: Kara and Kristin. Mark's hobbies include reading, spending time with friends and family and following the Cubs and the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Michelle O'Malley

is a graduate of Lincoln Christian College and Illinois State University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Bible from LCC and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in middle school education with endorsements in Reading, Language Arts, and Social Studies from ISU. During the fall sports season, she coaches 8th grade volleyball and in the spring she will be coaching for the track team. In Ms. O'Malley's free time she enjoys playing volleyball, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Dave Luedtke

Mr. Luedtke is entering his 17th year of teaching social studies. He earned his B.A. in History from North Central College and his Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from National- Louis University. Along with teaching, Mr. Luedtke coaches middle weight football, wrestling and track at Granger. His goal in the classroom is to make history "come alive" for the students. Mr. Luedtke is married and has two children, Jordan (10) and Josh (7). When Mr. Luedtke has free time, he enjoys traveling to historical sites, coaching his own kids, working on his house, spending time with family, and playing fantasy football with the guys.

Meet the Staff

Granger Middle School Team 2007-2008

Strategic Reading



Merial Gihan, Arlene Beslic, Julie Kiraly, Kathy Wiszrowski

Merial Gihan

Mrs. Merial Gihan begins her 10th year in District #204 and her 5th year at Granger Middle School as the 8th Grade Reading Specialist. She also teaches a class of 7th graders in Strategic Reading Plus, a class added this year to meet the varying needs of students at Granger. Mrs. Gihan enjoys working with students and gets excited seeing their academic as well as social growth. Her involvement with the Culture Connections Club in the past has allowed her and students in the club the opportunity to explore the diverse cultures at Granger Middle School

Julie Kiraly

Mrs. Julie Kiraly is beginning her 10th year at Granger. In her role as a reading specialist, Julie teaches 3 classes of 6th grade Strategic Reading. Julie has served on a number of school and district committees, which include school improvement planning and writing curriculum for 6th grade Reading and for Strategic Reading. Julie's interests include walking, biking, traveling, and reading. She enjoys being part of a couple of book clubs. Julie enjoys working with the parents and students at Granger and she looks forward to another great school year!

Kathy Wisniowski

Ms. Wisniowski is starting her 7th year at Granger and her 16th year as an educator. She is the reading specialist for 7th grade for which she teaches 3 sections of reading, and she also teaches two sections of 6th grade reading. Ms. Wisniowski loves to get involved with extracurricular activities. She has co-directed the Spring Musical for three years and continues her responsibilities as a yearbook advisor. In her free time, Ms. W. loves to read, watch movies and complete Sudoku puzzles. She would like to wish everyone a happy and successful school year. Go Grizzlies!

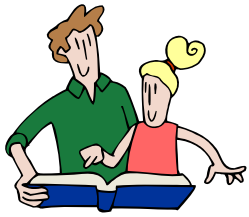
Arlene Beslic

has worked with the Indian Prairie School District for 20 years in the area of reading at some of the middle schools and as a fifth grade teacher at Patterson Elementary School for a number of years. She has worked on numerous curriculum committees in developing the fifth- and sixth-grade reading curriculums; she has been a part of the literacy committee for the district. This school year, Arlene is teaching two classes of eighth-grade Strategic Reading here at Granger. She enjoys traveling, walking, reading, and "playing" with her three grandchildren.

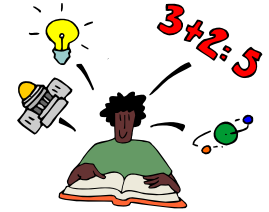
Our Staff

is

Awesome!!



Granger Homework Club



Homework Club is a supervised study opportunity that offers students a quiet and well-equipped study area with computers, textbooks, and library materials, plus a teacher who is available to assist as needed. It encourages students to get an immediate start on their homework and to organize assignments and materials for the school day. Homework Club is open to any student who has parent permission to attend and who would like to work on homework. Students must provide their own transportation.

Location: Granger's LMC

Morning Homework Club:

**When: Tuesday/ Wednesday
7:00AM until 7:40AM**

**Teachers: Mrs. Gustafson (8-3)
Mrs. Ganger (7-1)**

Afternoon Homework Club:

**When: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 3:05PM until
3:50PM**

**Teachers: Mrs. Baccus (6-3)
Mrs. White (LMC Director)**



Main Office Phone Number 375-1010

Our office hours are 7:15- 3:45 pm.

Our busy hours are 7:30 am to 8:00 am, and 2:30 am to 3:10 pm. These times are related to the rush of activity associated with student arrival and dismissal. If possible, call outside these times so we may serve you better.

Guidance Office Phone Number is 375-3441

Call the Guidance Office directly to:

- Change your student's address, phone number or emergency contact information;
- Request homework for your student after your child has been absent three days.

Use the Attendance Line to report your student absent or tardy.

Call 375-3412, you may leave a message anytime of day.

Please tell us the following:

Your name, your child's name and grade, the reason for the tardy or absence, and how long your child will be out of

school. Unless you have given us advance notification, please call us each day that your child will be out. A letter of advance notice of absences should be directed to the main office.

How to arrange to pick up you child for an appointment:

On the morning of your child's appointment, please write note indicating your child's name, grade, reason, and time for early dismissal. Your child should bring this note into the main office prior to first period. Your student will be given an early dismissal pass. This pass allows your student to be dismissed from class without interruption and will be waiting for you. You must sign your student in and out.

How to get message/items to your student:

Call the main office. Every effort will be made to get these messages/items to them. Please have your student also check with the main office if they are expecting something. You may also drop your items/notes/money with the greeter at the front desk.

VOICE MAIL: Every team has their own phone number extensions for voice mail for each teacher. You may call the team office and speak to one of the teachers if they are there at that time. You may also leave a voice mail message for the teacher you wish to communicate with. You will always be able to call the main switchboard and one of the secretaries will connect you to any staff member that is not listed.

MAIN OFFICE: 375-1010

ATTENDANCE: 375-3412

GUIDANCE OFFICE: 375-3441

Debbie Gavras (Student Alpha A-K)

375-3443

Dell Westbrook (Student Alpha L-Z)

375-3442

CORE TEAMS:

6-1 - Lewis, Zamirowski, Verda, Wong, Horyn	3557
6-2 - Woolwine, White, Axt-Pilon, Hurd, Dalsing	3167
6-3 - Budd, VanDusen, Baccus, Panzarella, Thompson	3559
7-1 - L. White, Gee, Walsh, Ganger, Ness	3595
7-2 - Hawkins, Nelson, Alvarez, Breyne	3670
7-3 - Hoefler, Jackson, Bartelmey, Carter, Lyons	3671
8-1 - Grapenthien, Sinding, Winters, Batzel, Coghlin	3937
8-2 - Scott, Thien, Terrano, Patrick, TBA	3817
8-3 - Klaft, Wagner, Gustafson, Mulhem, Papa	3792
Project Arrow - Sadler, Peterman, O'Malley, Luedtke, Vesta	3696
Reading Improvement- Gihan, Kiraly, Wisniowski	3567

PACE CLASSROOM: 3978

ENCORE TEACHERS:

Health:	Torza, Branson	3827
Computer:	Fitzgerald, Reed	3864
Boy's PE:	Reder, Burson, R. Woolwine	3208
Girl's PE:	Jones, Shea, Wood	3211
Shop:	Hoskins, Mickelson	3181
Home Ec:	Gates, Alsirt	3827
Art:	Wash	3827
Band:	Cooper, Dyhouse	3880
Chorus/Music:	Mielcarz, New	3875
Orchestra:	Kryszak, Liu	3871
ELL:	Howard, Walsh	3864
Spanish:	Chefec, Portillo	3864

School Communication Tips from the Office Team

Janet Musser:	Secretary to the Principal, Mary Kelly
Kathy Volk,:	Secretary to the Asst. Principal, Diana Harris
Judy Tortorich:	Secretary to Asst. Principal, Mark Carlin
Karen Muthler:	Guidance Department Secretary

Letter from the PTA President....

I hope everyone is enjoying being back to school. We've already had a busy start to the new school year. The PTSA board hosted a "Back to School Luncheon" for the teachers and staff. Many thanks go out to Patty Smith, Sandra Conti, and the many other volunteers who sold and distributed school supplies.

We are very excited to announce that all of our programs have committee leaders. There are still programs that could use extra hands if you would like to be involved. A list of our programs can be found in this newsletter, on list serve, and on Grangers website.

Our PTSA would like to say Thank you to all of you that have generously contributed to our donation fundraiser. Please keep in mind that the magazine drive is the school's activity fund and does not benefit the PTSA.

If you have not yet become a PTSA member we would like to invite you to do so. A membership form can be found in this issue. Fill out the form and have your student take it to the office. Our membership goal is to be 1,000 strong. Currently we are at 575, over half way there! Becoming a member gives you a voice and a vote in what Granger's PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) does for our students, staff and school.

Sincerely,
Christie Schepp
Granger PTSA President

Christie Schepp, President	820-5305	Schepps5@aol.com
Lynda Moresco, Vice-President	375-9869	bluiethedog@msn.com
Elyse Degen, Secretary	236-6060	toobusy923@yahoo.com
Jessica O'Bryan, Treasurer	820-3410	jessica_obryan@sbcglobal.net

New Phone Number?

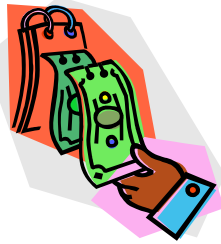


If you change your phone number during the school year, please don't forget to inform us. We pride ourselves at Granger on keeping in close communication with parents about what is happening at school. Increasingly, it seems that the telephone numbers we have for parents and guardians change after the school year

starts. We sometimes are unable to reach parents until we can get an accurate phone number. We don't like to delay sharing information under any circumstances, but in the case of an emergency or an illness it is especially important that we be able to get in touch with you. Please call us or send a note to the office if your phone number changes so we can update our records.

Save the Dates...

October 15-17. Why? Because Granger PTSA has once again partnered with Jewel Osco for Shop and Share. Look for the Shop and Share Vouchers after September 20 in the lobby. You will be able to turn in the voucher during the designated dates and Granger PTSA will receive a check totaling 5% of all purchases. Questions: Call Jessica O'Bryan at 820-3410.



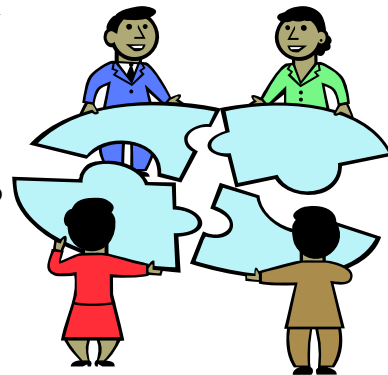
Student Council: A Place for Everyone

As the end of the summer approaches, Student Council is preparing for an exciting and rewarding year in our new building. We look forward to working with returning members as well as strongly encourage new members to join and help plan school activities. From the shyest to the most outgoing, any Granger student can join Student Council. Students serve in a number of capacities. In the past Student Council members have; broadcast morning announcements, decorated and sold concessions at Getaways, operated the school store, advertised upcoming events, planned and organized school spirit days, and raised money for community service projects. We plan to continue with these activities as well as

brainstorm new ideas as we plan out our year along with our 2007 - 2008 student council members.

All students planning to join Student Council can look forward to a planning meeting within the second week of September. The day and time for the meeting will be announced well in advance in order to give families time to make arrangements for transportation.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Student Council sponsors look forward to working with any students interested in participating.



Promoting a Safe School Climate

Granger Middle School strives to maintain a community where students, parents, and faculty feel safe and secure from harm or risk that can create anxiety in the educational setting. Our commitment to each individual's daily sense of personal security encompasses a number of initiatives.

First and foremost, we actively utilize middle school's best practices that focus on student-centered educational initiatives. We teach students first; not just departmentalized subject information. We are organ-

ized on smaller teams at each grade level and offer activities such as Connections, and Side-by-Sides as opportunities for students to link with adults in the school setting. The teaming structure is critical to a strong *student-first* focus.

Also, in addition to a grade level counselor that moves each year with students to the next grade level, our guidance/student services team includes a variety of support services in special education, speech, strategic reading, English as a second language, social work and nursing. These services are

key to identifying and providing support for social and academic challenges that can lead to frustration and lack of success in school.

Finally, we insist on a climate of mutual respect throughout all interactions and we have a number of proactive and reactive strategies in place to intervene when students engage in behaviors that undermine that positive atmosphere. Through Project Respect, Granger actively teaches the behaviors that are encompassed in the school-wide tenets of "Respect Yourself,

“Help us let all kids know that they have a right to expect a safe school in which they continually feel secure and comfortable.”

Food Donations

THE CHILD YOU HELP COULD BE YOUR OWN!!!!!!

Please help the Granger nurse's office by donating various items that can be used if a student feels ill, loses or forgets their lunch and cannot reach an adult at home. The following items are always welcome:

- Individually wrapped packages of crackers with cheese**
- Boxes of saltines**
- Granola bars**
- Fun Fruits**
- Applesauce or Fruit**
- Small boxes of cereal**
- Juice Boxes**

Just drop off donated items to the nurse's office any time it is convenient for you. Thanks for your support and generosity.

General Mill Box Tops for Education



It's easy to earn cash for Granger's PTSA by clipping box tops from any participating General Mills products, then turning them in during "Sweet Rewards" in November and March.

Watch for more information in upcoming editions of the Grizzly Gazette. In the meantime, keep clipping!

IMPORTANT Safety Concerns

In this newsletter, you will find two articles that address the student safety issues of bicycle safety and traffic patterns for dropping off and picking up students. There are two other safety issues that arose last year that I would like to address separately. The first one is dropping students off in the parking lot before school starts. Going through the circle drive and dropping students off from the right side of your car is the **ONLY** safe way to drop off a student. Understandably, that line in the circle drive can get long in the mornings and many parents try to save time by dropping their child off in the parking lot. The student then has to weave through a parking lot with cars coming down each lane looking for parking spots, and then cross the circle drive in between moving cars that are dropping off students. Several parents alerted me that they had had near miss accidents with these students. Please do not drop your child off in the parking lot in the mornings. The extra minute it takes to go around the circle drive could prevent an injury.

The second safety issue involves the intersection of Stonebridge Boulevard and Indian Trail. Due to the opening of Indian Trail last year, there has been an increase in traffic through this intersection. Because the district has determined this to be an intersection too dangerous for students to cross on their own, bus service is pro-

vided for students who live north of Indian Trail, and a crossing guard is not assigned. Nonetheless, many students often walk or bike to school. If your children will be walking through this intersection, please remind them of proper crossing procedures and the need to wait for the crossing light to say WALK. Lynda Elmore, our city alderman from Ward 10, has been extremely helpful in assisting Granger and Brooks in keeping this intersection safe. In April 2007 she had the city traffic engineer do another traffic study on Indian Trail. As a result, the police continue to monitor Indian Trail, setting up radar speed checks and writing tickets. She is currently looking into the installation of "Count-Down" pedestrian crosswalk lights, which will actually count down the number of seconds, left in the safe crossing time frame. She is also revisiting adding the radar alert signs to the flashers on Indian Trail. We plan on reviewing traffic safety procedures with students who live north of Indian Trail in the beginning of the school year. Please help us by going over this important safety issue with your child at home.



~~~ Traffic Patterns ~~~

If you are bringing your child to school in the morning or picking them up after school, please follow these procedures.

SLOW DOWN Students safety is obviously the primary concern. Please drive safely, avoid double parking in circle drive, and never leave a running vehicle unattended.

BEFORE SCHOOL (in the morning): Parents choosing to DROP OFF their students by car are asked to make an *immediate right* and follow the one-way circle drive to the front entrance. All students when dropped off in the morn-

ing will enter through the main entry doors. **Please allow students to exit your car only from the RIGHT side, and on to the sidewalk!** This requires that *driving parents maintain a single file line along the curb*. Parents could then exit our campus through the single entrance on Stonebridge.

AFTER SCHOOL: The front parking circle is reserved from 2:50 PM – 3:10 PM for PAR-ENT PICK-UP of students. *No car traffic is permitted in the rear of the building during this time. Parents waiting for their students to exit the building must remain in their cars and maintain a single file line along*

the inside curb only. **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK ALONG THE OUTSIDE CURB.**

As with any busy public school, traffic in and out of our campus must adhere to strict safety guidelines so that all students, staff and visitors are secure as they move from the building to their vehicles. This is especially true at Granger, as one group of our students with significant special needs both arrives and departs with specialized busing. Please, Please, Please be attentive, safe and **SLOW** as you drive through campus, especially when those buses are present in the front of the building.

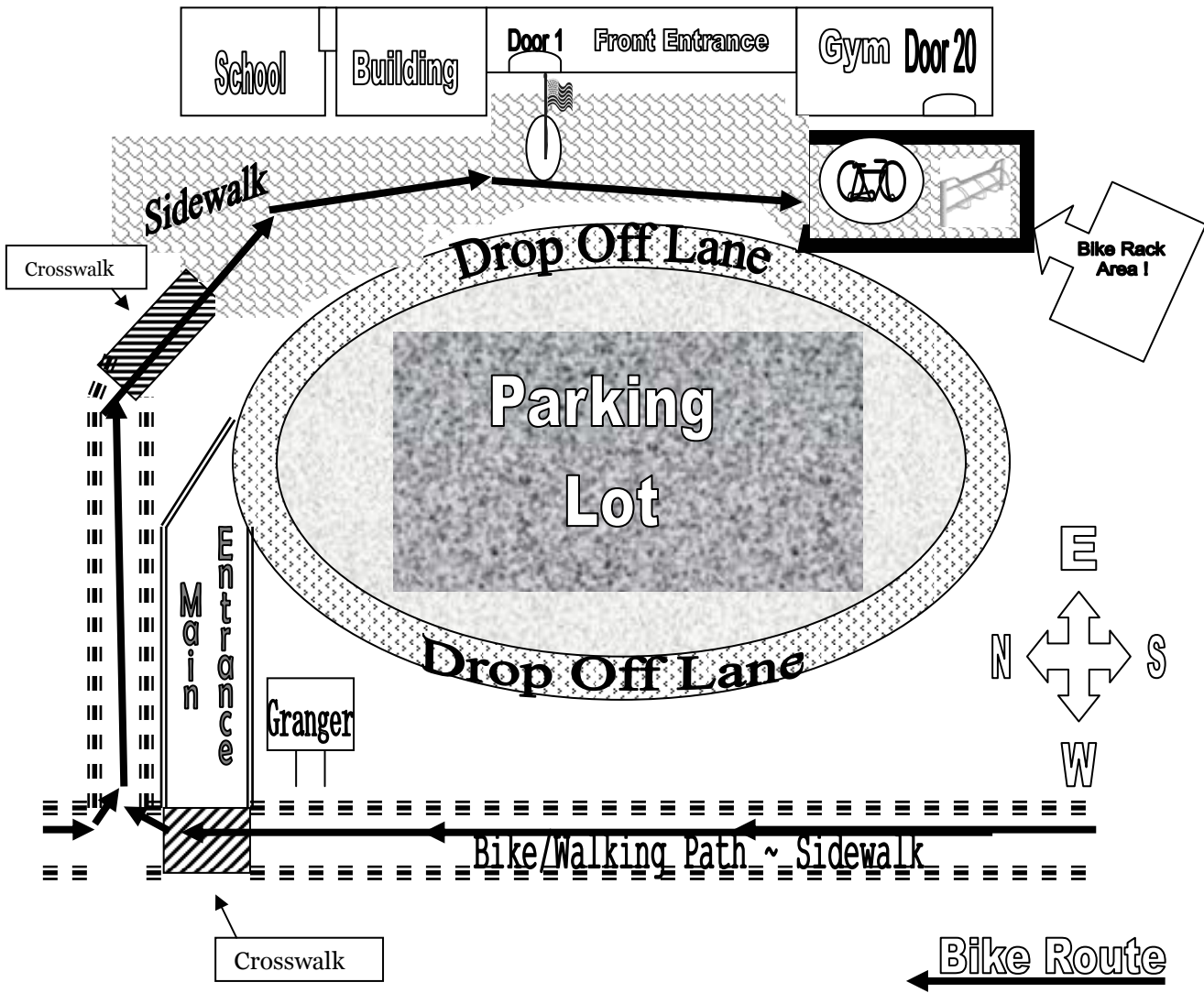
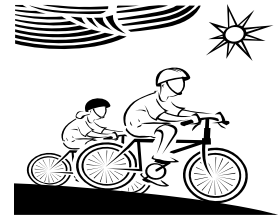
Bicycle Safety

If you plan to ride your bike to school, please adhere to following route that has been created for your safety. Please ride on the established bike & walking path/sidewalk that runs in front of the school and leads to the building's main sidewalk area. Be sure to use the crosswalks as well. Do *not* ride through the parking lot or grass areas. Please be attentive, safe and slow as you ride near and through campus. You may store your bike during school hours *only* in the new bike rack area located in front of the gymnasium. **LOCK** your bike individually with your own lock. Please refer to the

diagram below. Thank you for valuing the wellbeing and security of our school community.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests the following as part of the **Ten Smart Routes to Bicycle Safety:**

- Protect your head. Wear a Helmet. Assure Bicycle Readiness.
- Make Sure Your Bicycle is Adjusted Properly.
- Stop It. Always Check Brakes Before Riding.
- See and Be Seen.
- Avoid Biking At Night.
- Stay Alert. Always Keep A Lookout for Obstacles in Your Path.
- Go With The Flow. The Safe Way is The RIGHT Way.
- Check for Traffic. Always be Aware of The Traffic Around You.
- Learn Rules of The Road. Obey Traffic Laws.
- Don't Flip Over Your Bicycle. Wheels Should Be Securely Fastened.



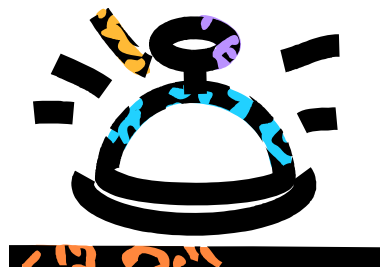
Do you have????



A Target **Redcard**? If so, have you designated a school to earn cashback rewards? Granger PTSA can earn cash for every purchase made at Target or Target.com paid for by a Target Visa Redcard. Simply designate Granger PTSA as the school for Take Charge of Education and we will receive a check for 1% of all Target purchases. Last year, another school in the district earned more than \$18,000 thru this program. You can designate your card by calling 800-316-6142. Any questions visit Target.com or call Jessica O'Bryan at 820-3410.

————— **To Be or Not to Be...Tardy** —————

Consistent and regular attendance is an important component of academic achievement. Any student arriving at school after **8:00am** will be considered tardy. Excessive tardies will result in appropriate consequences aligned with Granger's disciplinary step process. **The following, even with parental consent, are considered as unexcused reasons for absence/tardy:** truancies, working, missing the bus, oversleeping, shopping, car not starting, personal appointments, visiting out of town, child-care, etc. Medical documentation will be requested in the event of serious physical or emotional conditions causing a student's absence/tardiness. Your child will be held accountable for excessive tardies/absences, so please get them to school in a timely manner.



Guidelines for Middle School Students at WVHS Football Games



When the high school football season begins, many of our Granger students want to attend football games at Waubonsie Valley High School. It is wonderful to see students' school spirit for their future high school begin in middle school. However, there are a few precautions that parents should keep in mind so that they can be assured that their children are safe and that their behavior is a good reflection on both themselves and Granger. We have worked with the administration at WVHS to develop the following guidelines for students attending high school football games:

1. Remember that the Aurora city curfew for children 15 years old and under is 10 p.m. daily.
2. It is strongly suggested that parents supervise their children while at the game. WVHS football games are extremely popular events that draw a large crowd.
3. All middle school students must show their school ID when they are paying to enter the games.
4. Remember that all school rules apply while students are in attendance at WVHS football games. Failure to comply with these rules will result in consequences.

Following these guidelines will insure that your child has a safe and enjoyable evening at the Waubonsie football games.



As we begin the 2007-2008 school year, we would like to thank all of you who supported Market Day in the past. Market Day offers high quality food at very competitive prices. With every purchase, at least 10% of the price will benefit Granger Middle School.

The food at Market Day provides quick, healthy, convenient meals. The food is of restaurant quality, and is 100% guaranteed to your satisfaction!

Order forms will be sent home monthly with each child. Ordering instructions are on the back of the form. Order forms are due back to Granger's front office the Wednesday before each pick-up date. Alternatively, you can order online at www.marketday.com thru noon the Saturday before pick-up.

Granger has pick-up on Wednesdays between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. The fol-

lowing are the pick-up dates for this school year. Mark your calendars now!

- October 10
- November 7
- December 12
- January 23
- February 20
- March 19
- April 23
- May 21
- June 18

Market Day is always in need of volunteers to unpack the boxes from 2:15 pm to 3 pm on pick-up days. We are very grateful to anyone who can help, and will ensure that you will be the first to check out at 3 pm.!

If you have any additional questions, please call **Tammy Jacobi at 898-9399**

Appropriate dress for Granger Middle School

August means back to school, but the weather still says summer with students wearing short sleeved shirts and shorts. Remember, less is not best for school!

Skin-tight shirts, shorts, or pants, sheer garments, pants worn well below the natural waistline, as well as other apparel-related offenses will not be tolerated in Granger's classrooms and hallways.



When inappropriate clothes are worn to Granger, it becomes an issue that stops the educational process because students are reacting to a peer's choice in clothing instead of their responsibilities in the classroom.

Have a fashionable flare with a conservative edge. Many styles are acceptable, however, some may need a slight modification, while others must be worn only outside of any school activity. Consequences for wearing inappropriate clothing to school include, but are not limited to covering up or changing clothes and contacting the parent/guardian. Repeated offenses may result in further disciplinary consequences such as detention or in-school detention.

District 204's Policy Statement on Student Appearance states: " A student's dress and grooming must not disrupt the educational process, interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, modesty and decency as determined by the building principal, the Superintendent, and/or the Board of Education."

Be sure to review the Parent/Student Handbook and/or the Granger signment Notebook that your child will receive during the first days of school. These books outline the acceptable clothing policy so you may check your child's closet and separate those garments unsuitable for school.

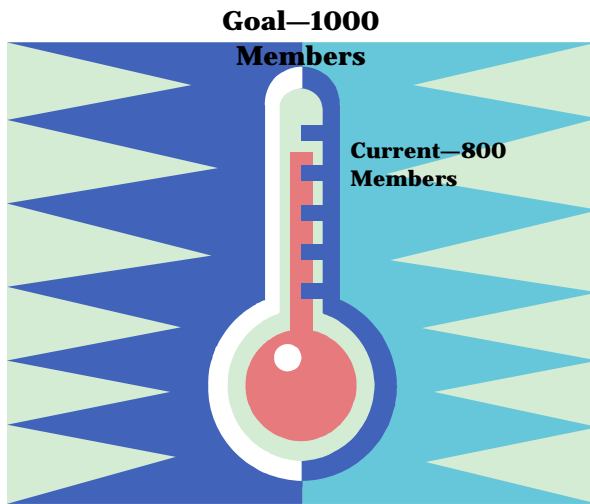


Questions or concerns may be addressed to the school's office at 375-1010.

PTSA Wants You!!!

Striving for 1000 Members

Join PTSA now and help us achieve our goal!



PTSA Meeting Schedule

The success of our PTSA relies on your parental input, ideas, and involvement. We encourage to attend the following PTSA meetings. All meetings are on Tuesday at Granger. Evening meetings meet in the LMC. The location of the morning meetings will be posted at the Greeter Desk on that day.

October 9, 2007	7:00 p.m.
November 13, 2007	9:30 a.m.
No December Meeting	
January 15, 2008	7:00 p.m.
February 12, 2008	7:00 p.m.
March 11, 2008	9:30 a.m.
April 15, 2008	7:00 p.m.
May 13, 2008	7:00 p.m.

GRANGER PTSA

“There Are Too Many Fundraisers!”

Donations

Thank you to the following PTSA members for their generous donations. This is our only PTSA “Fundraiser” for the year; the School, NOT the PTSA, runs the Magazine Drive.

Donations as of September 5, 2007

Remember, it is never to late to give!

Silver

(Up to \$24)

Nita Gade
Amy Biegelmann
Jennifer Earley
Marty Biemer
Frech Family
Radhika Gupta
Kolzow Family
Manfre Family
Sally Reeves
Tracey Douville
Loffredo Family
Jeannine Allen
Dickerson Family

Nora Gomez
Wood Family
Mulaikal Family
Rose Brandenburg
Green Family
Koeppen Family
Lopez Family
Detra Putman
Julie Reiner
Jindrich Family
Leticia Espinosa
Sharon Colarusso
Amy Liang

Gold

(\$25 - \$49)

Allison Family
Maryann Baker
Barsotti Family
Denise Bradley
Pam Briesath
Paula Dam
Nadene Eisner
Lisa Fortsch
Kia Fuller
Teena & Michael Gilloffo
Paula Granger
Kathy Jachimiec
Anitha Katragadda
Kniec Family
Stella Kreiner
Joell Loutsis
Sharon Maxwell
Janine McDonough
Carrie McWhirter

Arndorfer Family
Annette Barker
Babette Beninati
Bratland Family
Lisa Byrne
Sonjanya Dharmasankar
Ben & Peggy Fields
Frasca Family
Geniesse Family
Diane Goehring
Brenda Hockenberger
Kathleen Jensik
Kline family
Karen Koronkowski
Janice Lack
Diane Patrick
Diana & Mark McCoy
McKay Family
Kathryn Melone

Gold (cont.)

(\$25 - \$49)

Milheron Family
 Kelly & Randy Nelson
 Karri Novak
 Susan Cornell-Ohl
 Colleen Ortlund
 Sally Pike
 Manjuri Ramaiah
 Philip Rehmer
 Cindy & Andy Robertson
 Renee Schleiter
 Vidhya Shanker
 Lori Stark
 Sherry Tater
 Scott Thayer
 Eileen Vickers
 Zahour Family
 Coleman Family
 Rachell & Dennis Kitchen
 Deanna Sommers
 Guerrieri Family
 Diane Glowienke
 Linda Wickman

Laura Nagy
 Donna Nicholas
 Karen Novak
 Laurie Olesky
 Heather Pasztor
 Plese Family
 Elaine Raymond
 Timothy & Diane Reiter
 Allison Schleining
 Sedovic Family
 Michelle Simmons
 Jane & Steve Tabisz
 Peter & Suzanne Taylor
 Theilen Family
 Peggy Wenstrup
 Greg & Allison Taylor
 Renee Glassgow
 Weisenberger Family
 Terri Daniels
 The Schweiger family
 Angela Aspinwall
 Elias and Minerva Guerrero

Platinum

(\$50 or more)

Peggy Bourg
 Libby Calderone
 Christy Dubbins
 Phillippa & Garth Hamilton
 Kimberly Karas
 Kasper Family
 Steve & Margaret Laney
 Luk Family
 Kathleen Moriarty
 O'Bryan Family
 Plass Family
 Mike & Cindy Steele
 Trotter Family
 Sheila & Casey Woodruff
 Sandy Musachia
 Lee Family
 Doug & Betsy Nardi

Astrid Bullock
 Cronin Family
 Gilmore Family
 Diane Heintz
 Karesh Family
 Kuehn Family
 Beth Lisauskas
 Scott & Lynda Moresco
 Kim Norman
 Molly Peterson
 Christie & Blaine Schepp
 Thompson family
 Turner Family
 Abha Gupta
 Filipek Family
 Theresa Pape
 Ana Rodriguez

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Please make checks payable to Granger PTSA

How to Check Your Child's Grades Online

As you may be aware, teachers in District 204 are using a new online grading program called Pinnacle. One benefit to this program is the ability for parents and students to view their grades and assignments at any time from the Internet.

Please remember when looking at grades that you are viewing a "live" grade book. The final grade changes as more grades get entered into the grade book. Also, be aware that teachers correct assignments with great care to provide as accurate an assessment as possible. Large assignments such as projects, research, and lengthy writing assignments may take a significant amount of time to evaluate. Therefore, an assignment may not appear in the grade book immediately after it is turned in.

The site to view your son/daughter's grades is: <http://gradebook.ipspd.org/> When you get to the site, click on the "Parents Pinnacle Internet Viewer" on the left side. This takes you to the login screen. To log in:

- Enter your student's ID. The student's ID must be a 12-digit number with zeroes in front of the ID number.
- Example: If your child's ID number were 12345, you would enter 00000012345 (Seven zeroes in front of the ID number to make a total of 12 digits).
- Password is your son/daughter's computer login password. Ask them for the password since teachers do not have access to that information.
- Select "Granger Middle School" from the pull down box.
- Click "login."

On the next screen a grade summary by class will appear, and then you can drill down to individual classes and assignments. Here is how you do this:

- On the upper left, you can select a class.
- In the middle left, the most useful pull down is either "category progress summary" or "student assignments." Please note that attendance and discipline are inactive.
- On the lower left, you can choose the grading period.
- Once you've made those choices, click on "Get Report" to view your selection.
- Further down on the left is an option for you to sign up for an automatic email notification if a grade drops below or rises about your desired percentage.

As always, please contact the teacher if you have any questions about your child's grades.



GRANGER PTSA's

"THERE ARE TOO MANY FUNDRAISERS!" DONATION FORM 2007/2008



Your support of this PTSA monetary donation is crucial to the continuation of the many benefits your children receive from Granger's PTSA. All Magazine Drive Funds go directly to the Granger Activity Fund; Not PTSA.

A donation of \$25 per family is suggested.

A list of contributors will be published in the newsletter and the directory to show our appreciation of your generosity.

\$50 or more PLATINUM Donation:	\$ _____
\$25 – \$49 GOLD Donation:	\$ _____
Other dollar amount SILVER Donation:	\$ _____

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!
Please make checks payable to Granger PTSA.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade in Fall: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade in Fall: _____

Granger PTSA provides the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Testing Breakfast | Spring Fling | Staff Appreciation Activities |
| Getaway Chaperones | School Supply Kits | 8 th Grade Career Day |
| Granger Greeters | Granger Apparel | Dept. Funds to enhance curriculum |
| In-school Volunteers | 8 th Grade Picnic | Concessions |
| Student Directory | Market Day | |
| Grizzly Newsletter | LMC Volunteers | |

Thank you for your donation!

Please return form to school office.

GRANGER PTSA MEMBERSHIP 2007/2008

We would like to extend an invitation for you and your student to become a member of a group that is working hard to make Granger Middle School the best it can be -- your school's PTSA. Please show your support by completing the form below. Your membership will entitle you to receive one student directory at no charge (available late fall).



_____ \$8.00 1st membership _____ \$4.00 each additional membership
\$ _____ total amount paid

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade in Fall: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade in Fall: _____

Phone Number: _____

Make checks payable to Granger PTSA. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Granger PTSA, it would be greatly appreciated. (All donations are tax deductible.)

Please return form to the school office.

2007/2008 PTSA MEMBERS ONLY ADDITIONAL STUDENT DIRECTORY FOR SALE

If you have paid the PTSA Membership above, you will receive one student directory in the fall. However, if you would like to purchase an additional directory, you may do so below. The cost for PTSA Members is \$3.00 per additional directory (covers publishing fees).

Parent's Name: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade in Fall: _____

Phone Number: _____

Make checks Payable to: Granger PTSA.

Please return form to the school office.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6
	6th Grade—Parent Shadowing					
	4pm—Fball vs. Crone HA/MH/LA 4pm—Soccer v. Hill	4pm Soccer @ Stuart Complex 4pm—VB v. Scullen 8H/7A	4pm Fball v. Gregory HA/MH/LA 4pm IMEA Orch Aud @ Scullen 4pm Xcntry TBA	4pm Soccer @Stuart Complex 4pm VB v. Gregory 8A/7H		8am IMEA Band Aud @ Franklin 4pm Soccer
7	8 NO SCHOOL Coulumbus Day	9 4pm Soccer v. Gregory 4pm VB v. Lincoln 8H/7A 4pm Xcntry @ Washington 7pm PTSA Mtg	10 8am Teams/club Pic Day 3:30pm Market Day 4pm Fball v. Washington HA/MH/LA 4pm VB v. Washington 8A/7H	11 4pm Soccer @ Crone 4pm VB v. Hill 8A/7H	12 8am—Walk-a-thon Team 7-2	13
14	15 4pm Soccer Playoffs TBA 4pm VB v. Jefferson 8H/7A	16 3pm Wellness Fair 4pm Soccer Playoffs 4pm VB v. Kennedy 8H/7A	17 No School PM 4pm Fball v. Scullen HA/MA/LH	18 8am Picture Retakes 4 pm Soccer Playoffs TBA	19	20
21	22 4pm 1st Round VB Tm. TBA	23 4pm XCntry Conf. Meet TBA	24 4pm 2nd Rd VB Tm. Host 7:30pm 8th Gr. Band Concert @ WVHS	25 7 pm 8th Gr. Orchestra @ WV	26 End First Quarter	27
28	29 4pm Host 8A Semi-Finals VB	30 4 pm VB Finals TBA	31	Nov. 1 7:30pm 6/7th Gr. Band Concert	2 6pm Getaway Dance	3
4	5	6	7 3:30pm Market Day 4:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences	8	9	10
11	12 4pm Boys Bball v. Still 8A/7H	13 8am 6th/7th Gr. Candid Pics 9:30 PTSA Mtg 4:30pm Bball v. Crone 8A/7H	14 8am 8th Gr. Candid Pics 4pm Wrestling v. Hill	15 4:30 Parent/Teacher Confer-ences	16 No School 8am Parent Teacher Confer-ences	17
18	19 4pm Wrestling @ Jefferson	20 4:30pm Bball v. Crone 8H/7A	21 No School—Thanks	22 giving Break	23	24
25	26 4pm Bball v. Still 8H/7A	27 4pm Wrestling v. Crone	28 4:30pm Bball v. Madison 8A/7H	29 3pm Winter Sports Pics	30	

Published by the Granger PTSA

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Aurora, IL 60502
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**Getaway Dance
Nov. 2nd**

Look inside for:

- PTSA Information
- Parent Shadowing
- Staff Bios
- Homework Club Information

and much more!

Grizzly Gazette
