



February 2023

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 1. Februar 2023

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

Winter has settled in and families are tasked with finding things to keep their children busy, active, and healthy. TCGIS offered its first Basketball clinic this weekend. It was well-attended by our basketball teams. We plan to roll out more of these in the future and open them up to all. It was great to see our Sporthalle used on a cold Saturday. The first MS dance of 22-23 is next Friday with the theme "Winter Wonderland". We are expanding this event to include snacks in the cafeteria for purchase with proceeds benefitting our Capstone trip. Remember that sleepovers are preparing kids for Waldsee and Capstone and are a great way to increase social time with friends. And if you're looking for a great winter activity, Skateville in Burnsville was busy like it was 1987! I highly recommend it.

Stay Warm. Stay active. Stay healthy.

Yours in the work,

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, k-8 Principal

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What's Happening in our Middle School

Social-Emotional Feature–Be an Upstander

Our 5th-grade advisories are diving into being an Upstander this month. The CDC defines an upstander as “**someone who sees what happens and intervenes, interrupts, or speaks up to stop the bullying**”. When an upstander acts during a bullying situation, the person being bullied feels their peers are supporting and defending them, and it may help reduce bullying-related anxiety and depression”. (“Become an Upstander and #Stopbullying | Violence Prevention|Injury Center|CDC”) If you have a 6th grader and want to talk about being an upstander, here are some [resources](#) that are put out by stopbullying.gov.

Middle School Dance

The first dance of the year is next Friday. The 5th and 6th graders will have the gym to themselves from 6:00-7:15. Doors will open at 5:55. 7th and 8th graders will have their dance from 7:30 to 9:00. Dance is as fancy as your kiddo wants it to be! There will be a coat check area, a snack area, and a quiet zone. DJ Erwin will join us again and the disco ball will be back. Herr Tabisz and Frau Jacobson will be there to lead German group dances! Tickets are still available in the school store in Infinite Campus.



Family Handbook Feature

Every month I like to feature a reminder from our Family Handbook which is located under Family Resources on our TCGIS website. This month's feature comes after the coldest week of the year. Here are a few reminders about dress:

1. Outdoor items (jackets, mittens, boots, etc.) and extra clothes should be marked with the student's name to which they belong.

Please make sure that your student's belongings are labeled. Our students go outside even when it is cold, so make sure they are coming with appropriate clothing to stay warm outside.

Sportecke-Sportfans click here for our Sports Updates



Capstone Corner

A reminder that the next payment of \$500.00 is due February 15th.

Capstone Cafe at Middle School Dance

We are selling snacks and drinks at the Middle School dance on Feb. 10. This event has a bit of a twist: we'll be looking for parent volunteers to staff the cafe *instead* of the students. We're also opening this up to 7th and 8th-grade families so the 7th-grade families can get a taste of what's to come next year.

The cafe will be in the school cafeteria and students can take a break from the dance while having a snack. We need parent volunteers and contributions of prepackaged snacks, beverages, and homemade baked goods.

Parents can sign up for two-hour shifts, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., with the dance going from 6 to 9 (5th and 6th grades, 6 to 7:15; 7th and 8th grades, 7:30 to 9). Please sign up here <https://signup.com/go/gxxrcjW>.