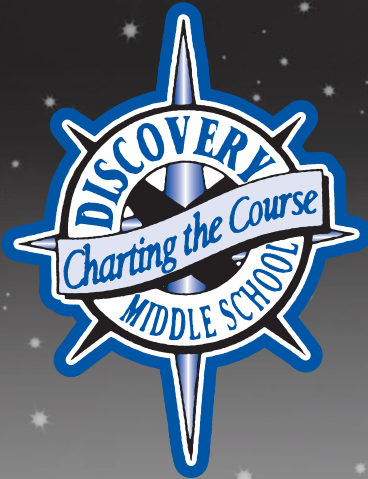


DISCOVERY DIGEST



DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

601 WOODBURY ROAD
ORLANDO, FL 32828

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MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:30 AM TO 4:30 PM



ISSUE 1 • FEBRUARY 2017

News from the ELA Department

Our English Language Arts (ELA) department has hit the ground running in 2017! We came back from the holiday break ready to take on the second semester. We kicked off the month of January with our participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at the school level. Mrs. Sarah Walsh organized the Discovery Bee and, together with Mrs. Holman, officiated the event on January 12. The winner is 6th grade student Hannah Huey. Hannah competes at the district level on February 2.

On January 19 we completed our second Discovery Writes. This practice writing assessment is a great opportunity to simulate the testing experience that will take place on February 28 for 6th and 7th grade students and on March 6 for 8th grade students. Please take a moment to discuss your child's writing strengths and weaknesses as the teachers have provided actionable feedback to each student.

During the week of January 23, ELA classes completed a district-provided Midpoint Check. The Midpoint consists of two parts – literary standards and informational standards. Like Discovery Writes, the Midpoint is an excellent opportunity for our teachers to analyze students' strengths and weaknesses in mastering fiction and nonfiction educational standards. Teachers are using the results of the Midpoint

continued on next page...

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ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Gloria Fernández, Principal & 7th Grade Administrator

Mr. Sanjay Brown, 8th Grade Assistant Principal

Ms. Kamille Leptz, 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Mr. Ramiro Borja, Administrative Dean

Mr. John Peters, Administrative Dean

NEWS FROM THE ELA DEPARTMENT

...continued from cover

to focus their instruction as we move toward the Reading FSA. Students may also review examples through the following link: <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>.

2017 is also off to a festive start as we celebrate Literacy Week. The week of January 23 was full of fun and productive activities. Each day of Literacy Week there was a literary-related trivia question on DTV, courtesy of Mr. Irwin. The first class to email the correct response won the day. The winning classes received lovely baskets of classroom supplies for both the teacher and the students. (Thank you, Dr. Fernandez!) Along with trivia, we also conducted a Book Drive. Students were encouraged to donate new or gently used books that will be given to a Rolling Hills and Orange Center Elementary Schools. (Thank you, Mrs. Hill!) For each book donated, student names were entered into a prize drawing. Prizes included Regal Cinema tickets, Barnes & Noble gift cards, books, posters, and more! (Thank you, Ms. Peterson and Ms. La Sala!) Other Literacy Week events included a classroom door decorating contest and Dress as Your Favorite Literary Character Day. All in all, it was a very successful week!

Remember to take time to read!



Discovery Digest
February 2017

Published Four Times Per Year
Discovery Middle School
601 Woodbury Road
Orlando, FL 32828
Issue 1

OCPS PARENT SURVEY SPRING 2017

In an effort to improve system practices, Discovery MS is conducting an AdvancED Parent Survey. This year we addressed concerns such as purchasing more laptops, had a schoolwide assembly addressing bullying, counselors recognizing students being kind to one another. You spoke and we listened. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this year's survey. The survey will be available on our website until March 17, 2017. Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

To take this survey, please visit our website at <https://www.ocps.net/lc/east/mds/Pages/default.aspx>.

REMINDER!

Just a reminder yearbook order forms are still available in the main office. Don't forget the price will go up to \$30 after April 1st.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/17 - Progress Reports Go Home
- 2/20 - Presidents' Day
- 2/21 - SAC Meeting
- 2/22 - ERHS Registration - Form Collection
- 2/22 - TCHS Registration - Form Collection
- 2/28 - FSA Writing for 6th & 7th grades
- 3/6 - FSA Writing for 8th grade
- 3/17 - Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
- 3/20 - Spring Break starts
- 4/7 - Beta Spring Dance

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6TH GRADE MATH TUTORING

There will be no Saturday Camps for 6th grade Math, however, teachers have worked diligently to ensure students still receive the additional reinforcement they need to be successful. 6th Grade Mathematics will conduct tutoring and reviews prior to the Florida State Assessment. Please contact your child's teacher regarding their progress in 6th grade math and for more information about tutoring.

FSA WRITING

The FSA Writing component for 6th and 7th grade will be on February 28th and is a paper pencil test. The 8th grade FSA Writing component will be on March 6th and is taken on the computer. The students are working hard to prepare and we know they'll do a great job!



SPELLING BEE WINNERS!

The spelling bee is complete. Out of 24 spellers, the top three are Hannah Huey, 6th grade (1st place), Awatif Alhawani, 6th grade (2nd place), and Jeevika Setzer, 6th grade and Lorena Sosa, 8th grade (tied for 3rd place). Everyone did a great job! Thank you to all the language arts teachers for holding their classroom spelling bees.



Pragnesh H. Patel, M.D.
Jose R. Arias, Jr. M.D.
Andrew S. Bagg, M.D.
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NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)

Membership into NJHS for the 2017-18 school year is open to current 6th and 7th grade students. Along with a current cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better, students must also meet additional criteria for membership.

The standards for the national organization require that a student demonstrate the qualities of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship and Character before he/she can be accepted into the organization. To determine if qualifications in these areas are met, please complete an application packet. A completed application should include the following:

- Application Form
- Letter of Verification
- 1-2 Page Essay
- Community Service Log
- Two Teacher Recommendation Forms

Applications are available here or in the main office. In order to be considered for membership, your completed application packet must be returned no later than Friday, February 17, 2017 to room C-218.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Charles Gentry (NJHS Faculty Advisor) at charles.gentry@ocps.net.



YMCA AFTER SCHOOL



Advantages of Before and Afterschool YMCA:

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Art Club

Cooking club (Melting Pot)

Girls Club

Homework (Offered Daily)

Khan Academy

Minute to Win It! (one minute to solve problems or games)

Movie Club (with popcorn!)

Percy Jackson Book Club

Rec Room (board games & ping pong)

Retro101 (old video games)

Sports (Offered Daily)

TryIt Club (each week try different things)



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- Nelson Mandela

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION: SPREAD THE DREAM

Students around the county were invited to a special Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on February 2 called "Spread the Dream." Some of our very own Explorer were selected to attend this celebration at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center. It was fantastic! What a great opportunity!



OCPS TRAVELLING FOOD SHOW!

On March 28th Food Nutrition Service of Discovery will be hosting a traveling Food Show for a second year. Our School will partner up with 4 vendors to sample about 12 items. A group of 50 students will be chosen to participate in the testing. Our students with 20 other schools input will decide what will be used on next year's menu. Go Discovery!

ALL-COUNTY GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Congratulations to Gabriel Belanger for being accepted into the Orange County All-County Guitar Ensemble! Gabe will join 40 other students from around the county for rehearsals and a concert on February 3, 2017 with a guest clinician. This concert is free to the public and will be held at Winter Park High School starting at 6:00PM. Congratulations Gabriel!

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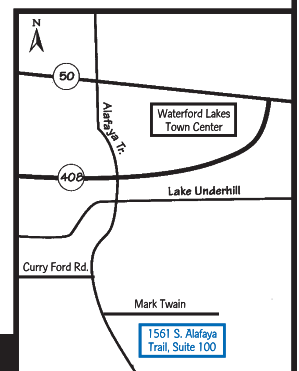
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7TH GRADE GOES TO KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

On January 5th and 6th, 7th graders had the opportunity to visit Kennedy Space Center. The students (and staff) had a full day of educational fun – learning about living on Mars, space travel, the Space Shuttle, and more. Some of the students even had an opportunity to meet an astronaut! Thank you to Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Cayo, and Mr. Edminster for organizing the trip.



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DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2017 FSA/EOC TESTING CALENDAR

Monday, April 10	Tuesday, April 11 6 th Grade ELA	Wed. April 12 6 th Grade ELA (Full Day Wednesday)	Thurs. April 13 7 th Grade ELA	Friday, April 14 7 th Grade ELA
Monday, April 17 8 th Grade ELA	Tuesday, April 18 8 th Grade ELA	Wed. April 19	Thurs. April 20 6 th Grade Mathematics	Friday, April 21 6 th Grade Mathematics
Monday, April 24 7 th Grade Mathematics	Tuesday, April 25 7 th Grade Mathematics	Wed. April 26	Thurs. April 27 7 th & 8 th Grade Alg. 1 8 th Grade Geom.	Friday, April 28 7 th & 8 th Grade Alg. 1 8 th Grade Geom.
Monday, May 1 8 th Grade Science	Tuesday, May 2	Wed. May 3	Thursday, May 4 8 th Grade Math	Friday, May 5 8 th Grade Math
Monday, May 8 7 th Grade Civics EOC	Tuesday, May 9	Wed. May 10	Thursday, May 11	Friday, May 12
Monday, May 16	Tuesday, May 17	Wed. May 18	Thursday, May 19	Friday, May 20



A few spots are left!
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Jennifer La Sala
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Discovery Middle School



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2016-2017 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Practice days: non game days, from 4:00 – 5:30pm

Games will begin at 5:00pm, or as soon as the visiting team arrives. Boys play first, followed by the Girls after a 10 minute warm up.

Date	Opponent	Location
Wed Jan. 25	vs. Corner Lake	at Discovery
Wed. Feb. 1	vs. Lake Nona	at Discovery
Wed. Feb. 8	vs. Union Park	at Discovery
Thurs. Feb. 9	vs. Arbor Ridge	at Discovery
Wed. Feb 15	vs. Avalon	at Avalon
Thurs. Feb. 16	vs. Wedgefield	at Discovery
Wed Feb. 22	vs. Legacy a	t Legacy
Basketball Fest: Wed. March 1, Mon. March 6, Wed. March 8, Mon. March 13, Wed. March 15		

Girls Coach: Coach Charles Gentry
Boys Coach: Coach Larry Kelly

SATURDAY CAMPS AT DISCOVERY

Here at DMS, we are providing a variety of academic camps to ensure that your child performs well on our end of year assessments and end of course exams. All students will benefit from these engaging camps. We have Saturday Camp for the following subjects:

- 7th Grade Math
- 8th Grade Algebra
- 8th Grade Pre-Algebra
- Calculus Project
- Civics
- Geometry
- Science

For more information, visit our website at <https://www.ocps.net/lc/east/mds/Pages/default.aspx>.