



BOBCAT BULLETIN



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DECEMBER 16. 1:10 DISMISSAL

DECEMBER 2011

**IMPORTANT EVENTS: DEC. 7 AND 8: WINTER
CONCERTS AT 7 PM BOTH DAYS
DEC. 8-SSC AT 3 PM**

The 'Success Secret' of Hard Work at Savage

What's the most important factor in predicting a student's success in school? Many people think it's "intelligence" or "ability." Yet experienced educators know that *hard work* is the real key to success in school. Students of average intelligence often get better grades – and do better in life – than those with very high IQs. The reason? They have been willing to invest the time and effort it takes to succeed. That's good news for parents. It means that every stu-

dent has a chance to learn the "success secret" of hard work. Here's how parents can help instill this attitude in their child.

Too many students believe that only smart children will do well in school. Yet any parent can teach students that anyone can succeed...if they are willing to put in the work. When successful students don't understand something right away, they keep at it. The result is that 'hard working' students, regardless of their intelligence, often outscore other children on tests in



"Hard work is the key to success"

math and reading. As one parent recently explained to her student: "Smart is not something you just are. Smart is something you can get."

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Hard work is the Real Key to Success*
- *Counselor's Corner: see tips to help your son or daughter become successful*
- *Mid Valley Athletic League consists of schools North of Briggsmore Avenue.*
- *The more a student reads at home, the higher the grades in class. PLEASE HAVE YOU STUDENT READ DURING THE HOLIDAYS!*

PTC PLEDGE TO EXCELLENCE

We continue to need your help in the form of financial support, *anything from \$1.00 and up*. Please consider joining other community members by submitting a "PLEDGE TO EXCELLENCE" in your name or

your family's name to be displayed on campus bulletin board in the office, a beautiful certificate of appreciation, and the feeling of contributing towards supporting our wonderful academic climate while building a

culture of excellence at our school. All donations are tax deductible. Please see our Pledge to Excellence bulletin board and join our school's supporters. PTC supports our Renaissance program. (See Page 4.)

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Be sure to check your student's agenda daily to monitor homework that might need to be completed.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Undoubtedly, organization is a key factor in academic success. In fact, the extent to which a student is organized has a strong correlation with the grades that appear on his/her report cards and progress reports. Many middle school students struggle with keeping their backpacks, binders and folders in order. What better time to improve organization than the start of a new year? Consider these simple tips while assisting your student in developing and maintaining organization skills.

- **Clean out backpack regularly-** Develop a weekly routine of

removing everything from your student's backpack and going through any loose papers or items. In the beginning, this process works best when students and parents work on this together. As time goes by, students should begin to clean out their backpacks independently.

- **Throw away work no longer needed-** Students will often keep returned/corrected work for extended periods of time, beyond what is necessary. Although some corrected work should be kept for studying purposes, often assignments from the previous trimester can be thrown away or stored elsewhere. When students have a significant number of old assignments

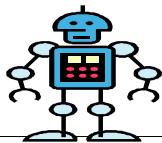
in their backpacks, it can often be overwhelming and challenging to find current homework.

Label folders, notebooks or dividers by subject- It is important that students have a specific place for their assignments. When students have folders, notebooks or dividers that are labeled by subject, it is much easier for them to find their work.

By following these three simple tips, students will surely find themselves feeling more confident and better prepared for class. Remember... consistency is the key.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - MR. MITCH WOOD

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ROBOTICS CLUB UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MS. MAYNE WHO QUALIFIED TO GO TO THE CAPITAL REGION COMPETITION LEVEL AFTER GETTING 1ST PLACE IN ROBOT DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING. BRAVO!



We are now a month into our second trimester of this school year. Grades should have been received by you at least 3 weeks ago. If your son or daughter was struggling, this is an excellent opportunity to discuss those problems with them and to meet with or set up regular communications with teachers. This Newsletter provides some valuable information about how we can work together to help our students, your children, be successful, academically and socially. Please note the counselor corner information and please use the ABI Portal System to check grades. Grades reflect objective

and subjective judgments of professional educators. They are based on a large body of data that teachers have reviewed and recorded over the previous thirteen weeks. The objective part of the grade includes test, in-class work, and homework scores. A fair portion of the grade also includes subjective judgments of the teacher who must decide what material is most important to include in the grade, how much weight it receives and if the work reflects the students' best effort. What really matters is not grade of course, what matters is the content learned. Public attention and

political pressure has pushed us toward a careful examination of what learning is important and how successful students are in their efforts to master that learning. The State of California, like most other states in this nation, is placing a great deal of stock in the test scores (the grade) by which that success is measured. Like the report card grades however, these scores are a means to measure, not an end in themselves. The more important piece is the learning, or mastery, of the material. California has done an excellent job of outlining those expectations in documents called, "standards".

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



Know where, when, and with whom after of school

Want your middle school student to read more?

Try this idea: Offer reading as bedtime treat. Consider letting your child stay up 15 or 30 minutes later if he/she spends that time reading for pleasure.

After school communication is crucial. Why?

More than half of all serious juvenile crimes occur between 3 and 7 p.m.. Help your middle school student stay out of trouble after school. Ssvage offers a variety of after school activities such as sports, clubs, and peer tutoring. Know everyday where, when, and with whom your student will be with. Have them check in regularly – on the phone or in person – with a trusted adult.

Why does my middle school student seem different today?

If your student seems grumpy or bored, try not to take it personally. Middle School students are often very moody. Try giving them some space and respecting their privacy. They may not thank you, but they'll probably appreciate it.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - GIVING THANKS

For many of us, this season of Thanksgiving and the December Holidays are among the best times of the year. It is a time to slow down and reflect on the many great blessings of our lives. The families of the Savage community must have long lists to ponder. I can easily offer several items that should top your list.

We have the great fortune to be born in a nation dedicated to personal freedom. No doubt the United States is not a perfect nation, but the power to make changes rests with its people. The citizens of this nation also have material wealth that exceeds the imagination of a large share of the

earth's inhabitants.

Closer to home, Savage Middle School is a community of individuals with a deep commitment to educational excellence and exemplary citizenship. That community includes our students, their families, all of our school employees, and our supportive neighbors around the school area. This school seems to get better each year.

I often invite you to visit your school. Those who accept the offer often comment about our excellent students. Many of you know that your school administrators spend a lot of time outside with the students. We do this primarily to

monitor the welfare of the students.

Finally, as you count and give thanks for your gifts, I would remind you that the receiving of great blessings carries with it great responsibility. I'll focus on just one - your children. I'm often reminded that we do not own our children, but rather they are on temporary loan to us. We are entrusted with their welfare and sound upbringing. Give them some of your valuable time. Tell them that you count them among your greatest gifts. Share with them your hopes for their future. Instill within them your great appreciation for the innumerable blessings that we have received.



MID VALLEY ATHLETIC LEAGUE / MVAL

Daniel J. Savage Middle school participates in the Mid Valley Athletic League for all school sporting events. For the purpose of this information I would like to speak directly about 'Gym Events'. Gym events include Volleyball, Basketball, and Wrestling competitions. Each league competition concludes with a league tournament hosted by different schools each year.

Other schools within our league include: Ustach Middle School, Salida Middle School, Cardozo Junior High, Hart Ransom School, Oakdale Junior High, Somerset Middle School, El Portal Junior High, and Modesto Christian School.

Each Gym event has an entrance fee. This fee goes directly to support student athletics in the form of equipment, uniforms, and cost of officials. No portion of this fee supports coaching

costs. Any MVAL school collecting fees at their gym door gets to keep 100% of the proceeds of those entrance fees and/or sales.. This year the following costs will apply to a Gym event competition at Savage Middle School: Parents \$3 Students \$1, Kids under 5 under Free. For more information on the MVAL go to our school web-site under 'student links' or directly to the MVAL website at <http://www.salidamiddleschool.com/>

Our GIRLS 7/8 BASKETBALL TEAMS have almost finished their seasons! **Our 7th grade girls had only two losses!** Our 8th grade girls improved all season, had 4 wins and **finished with a strong win over El Portal.** Both teams now start Tournament Play. Congratulations to our girls teams and coaches! Boys Basketball tryouts are underway now.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS NEED TO READ MORE AT HOME

Research has shown some interesting things about reading. First, kids who read a lot become better readers. Second, reading and writing skills complement each other. Third, parents influence how well kids read. For all these reasons – and many more – it's important to encourage reading at home.

Set a Good Example by reading yourself. Talk about the things you're reading and recommend interesting material to your child.

Keep magazines, newspapers and books around the house. Once in a while, surprise your child with a special book about one of his hobbies.

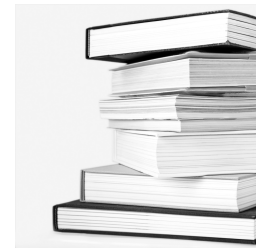
Plan activities that involve reading. Try a new recipe, build something that requires

instructions, or do research at the library.

Choose a regular time for family reading. You might let kids read in bed or set aside one night a week for reading.

Write notes to your child about a book you're reading. Ask her to write back to you.

Have your child pick a book to read to a younger sibling. Perhaps she remembers one she used to enjoy.



Substitute half of your students TV time with reading, and see what happens to their grades



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BOBCATS

SUCCESS IS A CHOICE

Yearbooks are on sale right now! Get an outstanding Yearbook to celebrate your memory of the 2011-12 School Year! Prices will go up soon to \$45.00.



RENAISSANCE

Academic Achievement Rewards Program

Renaissance Qualification is based upon a student's Grade Point Average (GPA) and the student may not have a grade of 'D' or 'F'. Only qualifying Renaissance students will attend the Renaissance Assembly. Instead of the Assembly, non-qualifying Renaissance students will attend a 'study workshop' where we will assist them in identifying strategies and build an academic plan to help them qualify for Renaissance next trimester.

****All Renaissance Rewards are a result of donations from our Parent Teacher Club's 'PLEDGE TO EXCELLENCE' program.***

Trimester I Renaissance Assembly is Friday, December 9!

The qualifying levels and associated privileges vary from level to level. The three levels of Renaissance are Platinum, Crimson, and Navy. Each Renaissance card and privileges expire at the end of the trimester in which it was received.

If you have any questions about your student's grade, please contact that class' teacher either by email or phone at 552-3300.

ATHLETIC EVENT DATES AND TIMES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL'S WEB SITE

ABI PORTAL INFORMATION

The ABI Portal will allow you to create an online account that will give you access to your student's academic information.

What You Will Need to Get Started:

1. Any computer with an Internet Connection.
2. An email account.
3. The Student Permanent ID Number and Verification Code (Contact Carolyn at 552-3300 if you do not have this information).
4. The home telephone number that you have provided the school.

How to Get Started:

1. Please connect to <https://portal.sylvan.k12.ca.us/parentportal>
 2. Click on the "Create New Account" link in the bottom left corner.
 3. Choose Parent and click next.
 4. Enter your email address and password you will remember for logging on.
 5. You will receive and email confirming your account from portal@sylvan.k12.ca.us. Be sure to click the "Confirm" link in email message.
 6. Continue by "Clicking Here"
 7. Enter your Student Permanent ID Number, home telephone number, and verification Code: Click "Next."
 8. Choose the correct contact, Click "Next" and then "Click Here" to go to the Login Page.
 9. On Login Page, use your email and password you created in step 4.
- If you have technical questions or are having problems logging in, please call your school office or email: portal@sylvan.k12.ca.us



School Attendance

"Every day counts, it pays"