

# ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Deborah Escobar, Teacher



September, 2011

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**September 23**—*School Newspaper Editorial Meeting, Room 101, 7:45 AM*

**October 3**—*Debate/Law, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M*

**October 4**—*Math Olympiad, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M*

**October 4**—*Johns Hopkins CTY Talent Search Meeting—Learning Center, 7-8 pm*

**October 5**—*History Club, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

**October 6**—*Enrichment Open House, 6:30-8:30 p.m., see article on page 2*

**October 11**—*Math Counts coaching begins, Activity Period, Room TBA*

**October 13**—*Verbal Challenge begins, Learning Center, 7:45 a.m.*

**October 13**—*Parent/Student Info Night for Odyssey of the Mind Competition, 6:30 p.m.*

## ENRICHMENT AT FMS

FMS offers a variety of enrichment opportunities to students. The Enrichment Program, taught by Mrs. Escobar, is located in Tawasentha 101. This newsletter highlights some of the opportunities that are available. The FMS enrichment website is located at:

<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/FMSEnrichment/>

This site has information on course descriptions, recommended books, summer opportunities, etc. An exciting feature of the site is that it gives students the ability to sign up for courses online (Go to the "Forms" section), and automatically e-mails the sign-up to Mrs. Escobar. Students may still sign up, as always, by handing in the form included with this issue of the newsletter or by writing a note to Mrs. Escobar, and leaving the form or note in her Tawasentha House Office mailbox.

## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Interest has been expressed to form an Odyssey of the Mind team for FMS. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Last year, Voorheesville School won the World Cup!

This contest requires parent coaches to receive training from BOCES and meet with students

throughout the year as they prepare their problem solution and presentation. Parents are also needed to be judges. The regional contest is usually held on the last Saturday of March. Students who are involved in History Day competition should be advised that this contest usually conflicts with the History Day regional competition, so students should not attempt to do both programs.

A parent/student information meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, at 6:30 pm. In the Learning Center.

## UP ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALL 2011

SIGN UP AT [HTTP://TEACHERSITES.SCHOOLWORLD.COM/](http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/)

**DEBATE AND LAW CLUB:** *Monday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center, October-January. First meeting October 3.* Do you like to argue? Do you want to learn how to win your arguments and prepare your case? Do you want to compete in a debate tournament? Do you think you'd enjoy being an attorney or a witness in a mock trial? Come and learn the basics of argumentation and logic as you compete in a debate tournament and perform in a mock trial. The mock trial will be held in the Spring, at the Town Court.

**MATH OLYMPIAD: (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Only):** *Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. Begins on Tuesday, October 4.* This team (limited to 35 students plus a few alternates) meets in weekly coaching sessions to build math word problem-solving skills in preparation for once-monthly "meets." Students are invited to attend the first few coaching sessions. The team of 35 students and alternates will be determined by the results of the first Olympiad test. Attendance and task commitment will also be considered.

**HISTORY:** *Wednesday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. First meeting October 5.* In this course, you will choose a topic, research, and create a product for National History Day competition. The product can be a paper, exhibit, website, performance, or documentary. This project requires a lot of effort, but will teach you research and presentation skills that will lead you to success! Many of our students have made it to the national level of this competition. This year's theme is "Revolution, Reaction, Reform."

**VERBAL CHALLENGE:** *Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. First meeting October 13.* This course will prepare you to take the Verbal SAT. You will learn hundreds of new words, and Greek and Roman roots that help you guess the

**ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALL 2011 (CONTINUED)**

Sign Up at <http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/FMSEnrichment/>

**FUTURE ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS:** *Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL FEBRUARY.* You will learn basics of architectural modeling and some basic engineering principles. This class is a hands-on experience building parts and components of a city out of recyclable materials, but also designing and creating a SimCity “city of the future.” **TRYOUT MAY BE REQUIRED** – *Information will be sent out in November to those who sign up.*

**NEWSPAPER CLUB:** *Editorial Staff meets Friday mornings at 7:45 a.m., beginning September 23,* Students who are interested in being a reporter for the school newspaper may submit an article to the editorial staff by bringing it to Room 101, leaving it in Mrs. Escobar’s Tawasentha House mailbox, or emailing it to [escobard@guilderlandschools.org](mailto:escobard@guilderlandschools.org).

**MATH COUNTS:** *Tuesday activity periods, Room TBA. BEGINS ACTIVITY PERIOD, OCTOBER 11.* This course consists of weekly coaching sessions that will build skills/concepts to handle the challenging math content in the Math Counts Competition. This course will take you “a step above” what you thought possible in math. Homework will be required to prepare you to compete to become a member of our school’s team. A runoff will be held in December to choose the four team members and four alternates who will represent our school. Once team members have been chosen, coaching sessions will be expanded to 3:30-5:00 during January, February (and part of March if we make it to State level).

**PHILOSOPHY:** *Access period and/or tutorial.* This course is guaranteed to be an eye-opening, thought provoking experience. You will engage in discussions about the nature of the universe and the meaning of concepts, ideas, or words that you have always taken for granted. It will make you think harder than you ever thought possible! *Teacher consultation required.*

**SIXTH GRADE MATH:** *Access period and/or tutorial. CLASSES BEGIN after December break.* This course will take you beyond classroom math to explore topics that are above-grade level. You will learn some basic algebra, challenge your problem-solving skills, and develop a geometric eye through completing projects in origami and polyhedron-building with manipulative kits. *Teacher consultation required.*

**SIXTH GRADE READING:** *Reading class.* Students will be selected for a gifted reading group that will be pulled out from Reading class for a six-week period. We will read a novel and will focus on critical reading skills and response.

**SEVENTH GRADE MATH:** *Access period. CLASSES BEGIN after December break.* This course will challenge and surprise you. You will learn problem-solving strategies, algebra, and practice other math concepts.

**SEVENTH GRADE READING/WRITING:** *Access period.* Classes scheduled throughout the year. Students will read science fiction stories and use what they have learned about the genre to create their own story.

**EIGHTH GRADE READING/WRITING:** *Access period.* This course will focus on nonfiction reading and writing skills needed for state and classroom assessments and essays.

**CHESS:** *Thursday activity periods, beginning in November.* This club involves everyone from beginning to expert, and is coached by Mr. Flynn, with a tournament at the end of the year.

**SPELLING BOOTCAMP:** *Thursday activity periods, beginning in October.* *If you are determined to make it to Regional or National Spelling Bee, this is the place to get the coaching to get you there!*

**2011-2012 ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS**

Once every quarter, there will be an in-school workshop opportunity for students to be engaged in curriculum-related, hands-on learning. Plans for the year include workshops in:

- **MYTHOLOGY:** Students will become acquainted with specific Greek myths, engage in games and learning activities and write their own version of a Greek myth which will be presented as a skit.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Students will learn how to photograph a por-

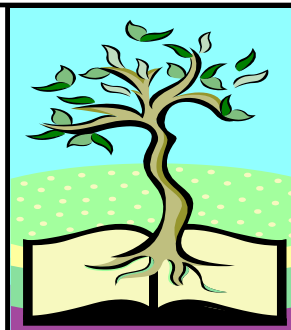
trait, edit using Photoshop, and create a photo story.

- **CREATIVE WRITING:** Students will work on character development, setting, and dialogue in a “Superheroes” theme.
- **PUBLIC SPEAKING/IMPROVISATION:** Students will hone their presentation and improve skills. Especially recommended for those students participating in the mock trial in Debate/Law.

To express interest in being considered for any of these opportunities, sign up on the Enrichment website (address above).

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM,  
PARENTS ARE INVITED TO THE  
ENRICHMENT OPEN HOUSE, IN THE LEARNING CENTER,  
ON OCTOBER 6!**

**SIXTH GRADE SESSION: 6:30-7:00 P.M.  
SEVENTH GRADE SESSION: 7:10-7:40 P.M.  
EIGHTH GRADE SESSION: 7:50-8:20 P.M.**



*“Happiness lies in  
the joy of  
achievement and the  
thrill of creative  
effort.”*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt