

Leonard J. Tyl Middle School

Tyl Talk

“Learning and Caring Beyond Oneself”

Tyl Student Ambassadors By Principal Dix

One of my goals for the 2019-2020 school year was to develop a student group that worked with me to promote student activities and community service at Tyl. This led to the birth of Tyl Student Ambassadors. Students from every grade level were invited to apply. They completed the application process and then were selected based on academics, attendance, and behavior as well as their written essay about why they wanted to be an ambassador.

Once selected, the students had a lunch meeting with me about once a month. At these meetings, they brainstormed ideas for one grade level event and one community service project. Below is a list of the students and the projects they created.

6th Grade Ambassadors are: Amelia Smarz, Rachael Johnson, Jackson Holmes, Calvin LaFrance, and Tristan Lambert. Since being selected, the 6th grade students have organized a pajama day and after school movie event. They are selling snacks at the basketball games to raise money for the Tyl student activity

account as well as selling cookies to raise money for the CT Children’s Hospital.

7th Grade Ambassadors are: Adam Gallagher, Hannah Lambert, and Keyra Huaman. They are organizing a Winter Wonderland Dance for February 7th. Ambassadors have met with our kitchen staff to plan an herb garden for their use. Students will be growing herbs, basil, chives, parsley, and oregano in large pots by the kitchen.

8th Grade Ambassadors are: Gavin DeLucia, Ryan O’Bern and Sara Azarjew. These students have sponsored an 8th grade Snowball Dance. They are planning on collaborating with the 7th grade ambassadors to create an E or electronic sports tournament in the spring with funds raised for charity. They have several ideas for an athletic tournament and a few smaller things that would just be fun.

It has been wonderful to spend time with these students and help them organize events for their grade level. Their skills, dedication and work has benefited many students and made Tyl a fun place to be.

Photo: Back: Keyra Huaman, Sara Azarjew, Rachael Johnson, Jackson Holmes, Ryan O’Bern
Front: Hannah Lambert, Tristan Lambert, Gavin DeLucia, Amelia Smarz, Calvin LaFrance
Not pictured: Adam Gallagher



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Helping Your Child Be Successful in School/Internet and Social Media Safety

By: Jason Daly, Assistant Principal



This edition of Tyl Talk finds us just a little past the halfway mark of the school year. At this point in the year, students should be well into an established routine, have a strong understanding of their teachers' expectations, and hopefully they are feeling secure and doing well in their classes. If your child is experiencing difficulty, we have a variety of supports in place that they can turn to for help and assistance in being successful.

One of the strongest features of Leonard J. Tyl Middle School is the amount of collaboration among teachers, guidance counselors and parents. Teachers meet regularly to discuss concerns and find ways to support students. When teachers notice that a student is struggling, they communicate with parents and work with the counselor to set up a parent meeting. There are

many of these meetings happening on a regular basis. If you have concerns about how your child is doing in school either academically or socially, I urge you to contact their guidance counselor, any of their teachers, or myself and we can meet and develop a plan to address the problem and help your child experience more success in school. Often the process of having everyone sit around a table and discuss the current situation and what needs to happen going forward is enough to really get a student back on track for a successful year.

Teachers stay after school once a week for extra help and we also have Homework Help Club available in the library afterschool Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Homework Help Club is staffed by several teachers and

the late bus is available on those days.

The topic of internet/social media safety regarding cell phones is always of interest to me as both a school administrator and the parent of a middle school student. I encourage parents to be involved and to periodically go through their child's phone with them. If your child is anything like my son, this will be met with all of the enthusiasm of having a painful dental procedure. Frankly, it is not something I look forward to doing either. It is not fun, the technology can be daunting (kids are almost always better with it than we are) and they do not really want you looking into their stuff even if it is all appropriate. My son sits and squirms and looks incredibly uncomfortable as we do this, but I think it is worthwhile. Many issues that we encounter at

school between students have an online component and it is important to be involved in that aspect of things.

**For
Safety's
Sake:**



Please send your child to school with warm outerwear in cold weather. We let students go outside each day after lunch and we hold regular fire drills. During fire drills students evacuate the building for about 10-15 minutes. I worry about unforeseen emergencies that would cause us to evacuate the building for a period time. I hate to see students out in the cold without some sort of garment to keep them warm.



Student of the Month: (Criteria: academic and behavioral performance, participation in clubs/activities and strong qualities such as helpfulness, respectfulness, kindness and improvement)

December: Grade 6: Jillian Saad, Ryan Hartman; **Grade 7:** Ashley Sanderson, Ryan Hochdorfer; **Grade 8:** Zach Kobyluck, Paige Terris

January: Grade 6: Darian Galan Morales, Valencia Osabutey; **Grade 7:** Preston Fort, Jada Cheung; **Grade 8:** Paul Beauchemin, Jasmine Chan

High School Registration for 8th Grade Students

Our eighth graders are beginning their transition to high school. In late February, they will register for freshman electives and their teachers will begin making placement recommendations for academic classes as well as electives. Students who applied to vocational high schools will start to receive acceptance letters. Our 6th and 7th grade students will fill out registration forms with their choices of music.

As you may know, our scheduling is computerized. We are able to dictate student placement by putting in course requests based on input from teachers, school counselors, academic progress, course needs, student and parent input. No one factor controls the placement of students. We work to balance the many needs, personalities and abilities of our students in every grade level so that all students can work in a nurturing, optimal educational environment. If you have concerns or recommendations for your child for next year, please contact the guidance counselors or email Mr. Daly at: jdaly@montvilleschools.org or myself at: mjdix@montvilleschools.org

The earlier you provide input,

the easier it is to factor it in. If you have concerns about your child academically or in any other context, we are always available. For academic concerns please contact the grade level guidance counselor for information or to set up a team meeting. Teachers and administration are always available by email or phone. Please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to be of assistance.



Important Dates

2/7: MHS Counselors meet with 8th grade to review courses.

2/17 & 2/18: Presidents' Day/No School

2/21: 8th Grade Course Registration for MHS

3/13: No School/Staff Development Day

3/27: Half Day/Staff Development

Notes from the Health Room

Since we're in the middle of cold and flu season I thought I'd put out a few reminders. If your child has a fever or has been vomiting due to illness, please keep them home for 24 hours. They really do need that time for their body to recover. Also, remind them to wash their hands frequently, use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available and to use tissues.

Sometimes students don't feel well during the school day. Please remind your student that per the student handbook, students must see the nurse for assistance in health matters prior to contacting home and leaving school.

Mary Byron
School Nurse

The Tyl Drama Production, *Orange is the New Glass*, will be held on February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss out on your child having a personalized **yearbook**.

Order online. Follow the link on the Tyl Middle School homepage. <http://www.montvilleschools.org/page.cfm?p=525>



News from the Music Department

By Judy Abrams

While it may be cold outside, students are warming the school with their beautiful voices in the Tyl Choirs!

Three students – Jasmine Chan, Ava Meislitzner and Meccai Venett have been selected, by audition, to sing in the CMEA Eastern Region Music Festival on March 6/7 at Enfield High School.

Four sixth graders - Shea Cullen, Cameron DeCoster, Alexis Irizarry and Tenzin Saldon have been selected to sing in the CMEA Elementary Honors Choir (grades 4-6) at the CT Convention Center in April.

In all Chorus classes, students are learning to “Think like musicians” and are taking their singing skills to the next level. Singers in all grade levels are working on more solfege (DO, RE, MI) and a capella singing (being inspired by groups such as Pentatonix and Straight, No Chaser). This Spring we will be singing in English, Hawaiian, Zulu, Swahili, and a song in the original language from Moa Island in the Torres Straits Islands off of Australia.

I am proud of each of my students and look forward to seeing you at the concerts.

Saturday, Feb. 15 – 6:00 PM: Tyl Chamber Choir performs for the Harlem Globetrotters at the XL Center in Hartford

Tuesday, Feb. 4 – 8th Grade Chorus and Chamber Choir Tenors/Basses visit MHS Low Voice Class (during the school day)

Thursday, Feb. 6 – 8th Grade Chorus and Chamber Choir Sopranos/Altos visit MHS High Voice Class (during the school day)

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:00-8:30 PM: First Tyl/MHS Combined Choir Rehearsal at MHS (dinner provided this night only) (8th Grade Chorus and Chamber Choir)

Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7: CMEA Eastern Region Music Festival

Tuesday, March 10, 5:00-8:30 PM: Final Rehearsal with Tyl/MHS Combined Choir (8th Grade Chorus and Chamber Choir)

Wednesday, March 11, 6:00 - 8:00 PM: CONCERT with TYL/MHS Combined Choir (8th Grade Chorus and Chamber Choir) – Concert begins at 7 PM

Saturday, March 21, 7:00 PM: Tyl Chamber Choir performs at “Star Wars Night” for the Providence Bruins Hockey Game at the Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, RI

Band News

By Vanessa Wudyka

Two band students were accepted into this year’s Eastern Region Music Festival Middle School Band, which is a group of auditioned instrumental students from all over Eastern Connecticut: Adam Sheridan on Trombone and Tyler Lawton on Timpani!

A 6th Grade band student, Jessica Joseph, was accepted into the CMEA elementary honor band,

which is a band of students selected from schools all over Connecticut who will perform at the Connecticut Music Educator’s Conference on April 2nd.

PTO NEWS

Happy New Year from the Tyl PTO! Even though things seemed pretty quiet through the holidays, the PTO has been busy planning new events and fundraising opportunities.

The PTO was also able to donate chrome books to Tyl using the funds from your generous donations and money from fundraisers. Those funds also allowed us to offer game night for free and a sixth grade dance for free. The PTO would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time, talents and funds to make this possible!!

Going forward into the new year, the students at Tyl can look forward to the following events:

Feb. 14: Valentine’s Day Flower sale at all lunches

Mar. 6: 8th Grade Larger than Life Game Night

Mar. 20: Game Night

TBD 7th Grade Activity

PTO Meeting Dates

February 11
March 10
April 7
May 12

6:30 PM in the Tyl Library

Tyl Basketball Update

By: Coach Landeck and Coach Mazerolle

The Tyl girls' basketball team had a slow start to the year, which was expected as the school was without a team for the last 3 years. After a 0-2 start, the team has played very well going 4-4 in the next eight, including hard fought wins on the road against Bennie Dover, West Side and Isaac. The girls have shown great improvements on defense, highlighted by a 4th quarter where they shut out West Side, outscoring them 17-0.

Allie Kondash and Katie Koning have provided great defense on the outside, while Emily Treat and Anna Bubucis have been a force down low. Jada Cheung has been dominant on the offensive side, averaging 19.6 points per game. The JV team continues to show growth, ready to step up next year.

After a three year absence from the Southeastern CT middle school basketball scene, the Tyl Middle School boys' basketball team is back! Although the team is going through some growing pains as players adjust to the level of skill, speed, and intensity of the game at this level, the boys have shown tremendous improvement. Their signature win came on January 13th, defeating rival Clark Lane by overcoming a 22-8 first quarter deficit to win by the score of 46-41. Julian Manson led all scorers with 18 points. Connor Gaughan played relentless defense, forcing over 10

turnovers, along with scoring 11 points. Dominic Pontbriant and Avery Sullivan hit two big three-pointers down the stretch to complete the comeback, while Madden Brown and Jack Bubucis played tough, physical defense inside. Our JV team has shown promise as they've competed well against more seasoned teams from the region, and are giving the Tyl basketball program a bright outlook for next season.



Here is a great photo from the Staff vs. Student Basketball Game on Friday, January 31.

National
Junior
Honor
Society



Congratulations!

The National Junior Honor Society held an induction ceremony on January 22, 2020. Congratulations to the following eighth grade students who were inducted.

Sara Azarjew, Alexa Beams, Grace Buecker, Leigh Church, Amanda Corrice, Gavin DeLucia, Emily Fennell, Taryn Feragne, Grace Fuchs, Ava Gero, Sage Gressly, Zach Kobyluck, Tyler Lawton, Ava Meislitzer, Paige Terris, Emily Treat, Gabriel Vogt

The selection of these students was based upon careful consideration of scholarship, leadership, service, and character by our faculty council. Members will be required to do additional community service, and NJHS sponsored service projects. The goal is to not only honor deserving students but to also continue to foster their service and leadership characteristics.



ROBOTICS COMPETITION

On Saturday, January 25, Tyl competed in the All Middle School Vex Qualifier at Mansfield Middle School. Tyl entered two teams and competed against 24 other robots from all over Connecticut.

Tyl's Team 4771C which was comprised of Adam Gallagher, Adam Sheridan, Ja-

cob Russell, Tyler Lawton and Alex Balkcom, did a great job all day making it into the quarter finals. This was their first year in robotics, yet they performed like a team with years of experience. Unfortunately, they were eliminated in the quarter finals after a hard fought match.

Tyl's second team 4771A made up of Jack Bowman, Chris

Baukus and Danny Zhong, had a number of problems throughout the qualifying rounds. It seemed no matter how hard they tried, they could not catch a break. After qualifying, Tyl was partnered with another school from Masuk which was having a similar day. Their chances of success in the elimination rounds seemed bleak and they were seeded 11th out of 13. In an

amazing turn of events, Tyl's 4771A and Masuk fought in what seemed like a series of David vs. Goliath matches beating team after team, eventually earning the title of Tournament Finalists! In a nail biting final match Tyl and Masuk lost to the number 1 seed by a mere 7 points. It was a fantastic showing by Tyl and one that will not be soon forgotten.

