A Message from Our Principal,
Ms. Mary Hart

Dear Parents and Students,

It’s hard to believe that we are half way through the third marking period. I am thrilled to see enthusiastic students engaged in challenging, meaningful activities designed by their teachers. The cooperation, leadership, creativity, and ability evident within our students are amazing! We are grateful to our teachers for their expertise, hard work, and commitment to caring for and challenging each student at MMS. Thank you, students and teachers, for the great work you are doing together.

Our students have been involved in many exciting activities so far this school year. Our talented art students, under the guidance of Ms. Robyn Kennedy, have participated in and won many area art contests. Mrs. Vickers has 20 students participating in District Honor choir this year. Junior Achievement Day will be held on January 29th for our 4th graders and February 5th for our 6th graders. JA Day helps to foster work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, and use of experiential learning to inspire students to
To Our Volunteers and Sponsors
WE THANK YOU!

Our volunteers and sponsors contribute to our school in countless ways. Volunteers help reinforce to kids that their education IS important. Sponsors make all the “extras” possible. You both reinforce the partnerships between MMS and the community.

Volunteers of the Month

December—
Danielle Bosse
Jennifer Cardinal
Chrissy Hagan
Jill Savoy

January—
Sundi Fortenberry
Amber Pittman
Stephanie Ruoss

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Silver Sponsors:
• Northshore Office Equipment
• Culinary Kids

Bronze Sponsors:
• Pelican Storage
• TCBY/Mrs. Fields
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• Miller Orthodontics
dream big and reach their potential. Please be sure to look at other classroom highlights in this issue! Spring pictures will take place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016. Students do not have to wear uniforms that day, but must follow parish policy for appropriate dress.

I would like to congratulate our TRT, Mrs. Laura Haggard, on being selected as Mandeville Middle School’s Educator of Distinction. She will be recognized later in the year at the annual PTA Reflections banquet. We are blessed to have so many fantastic teachers at Mandeville Middle School.

I would like to extend a thank you to all of our PTA volunteers who help us on a daily basis. Without your assistance, MMS would not be the awesome school that it is. Moms and dads can always be found on our campus working in the classrooms, library and front office. Your involvement in our school is invaluable.

Please join us for Mozzarella with Mom on Thursday, February 25th at 6:00PM. Enjoy some delicious pizza and bingo games with your child! Flyers for you to register for this fun event are being sent home soon.

I just want to remind everyone that when you arrive at MMS, you must sign in at the office and receive a name tag from the office. Your driver’s license will be required upon check-in. Check-in is required for all events. Thank you for your cooperation, as it is for the safety of our students.

Please take time to review the dress policy which can be found in the MMS and STPSB handbooks. Please ensure that your child is not wearing leggings, jeggings or any other tight fitting clothes to school. Girls should use the fingertip rule when wearing shorts. As the girls grow taller, this can become an issue.

I would like to thank all of our parents who are dropping off children in a timely manner in the morning. The car line seems to be moving faster, with fewer students being tardy. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 985-626-8778 or by email at mary.hart@stpsb.org.

Thanks for everything you do for us and your children.

Sincerely,

Mary Hart
Who is your Hero?

The fourth grade students have been learning about unique persons who have contributed their talents to improve our world. From Martin Luther King, Jr. to Galileo, we have taken a look at the influences that helped form these individuals into world changers. In social studies, we have learned about inventors and innovators whose ideas changed our daily lives. We considered the impact of the great minds of Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, George Washington Carver, and Benjamin Franklin as well as many others. We have also learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, and the challenges that are faced in obtaining equal rights for all. In science, our studies are out of this world, as we are learning about the moon and its phases. In math we are working hard to master our multiplication and division facts with quick recall by playing games and using computer games to practice. We are also learning about fractions as equal parts of a whole, and about mixed numbers compared to improper fractions. So the big idea for fourth grade is “Who is your hero?” From the genius mathematician Albert Einstein to the innovator Madam Curie, we are asking ourselves what we can do to help others.
It’s hard to believe the first semester of 5th grade is over! We had a great first semester: two field trips to Washington Parish Fair and Biz Town, PBIS celebrations, Field Day, and lots of learning! We are ready to start the second half of the year and are looking forward to exciting things to come.

This quarter, students will be reading *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowery. This is always the students’ favorite novel of the year. It is the story of two young girls and their friendship during WWII in Copenhagen, Denmark. Students are very curious about the history that this story centers around, and ask lots of insightful questions. This makes for great student discussions!

In Social Studies, students will study the European exploration of the New World, focusing on the British colonies. Students will learn about the birth of our country, and understand the influence of the French, Spanish, and British cultures in our country.

Fractions!! That will be the focus in math classes this 9 weeks. Students will compare, add/subtract, and multiply/divide fractions.

Students will be learning about the scientific classification of living things and ecosystems this quarter in science. Lots of hands on lessons, as well as projects will make learning fun.

We are excited about starting a new year and wish everyone a Happy Mardi Gras!
Sixth grade students are engaged in lessons which build knowledge of the Civil War, including the causes of the war and daily life during the war. This is in preparation for our next novel *Across Five Aprils*. The novel focuses on a young boy, Jethro Creighton, who comes of age during these five years of turbulent war. Students are also studying the way of life in Ancient Greek civilizations, including Athens and Sparta. They will learn about the Olympics, Greek mythology, the Golden Age of philosophy, and the beginnings of democracy.
WOW, it's 2016! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a restful break! Can you believe the first half of school has already passed?

In December, we had our winter parties, and I know that our children had a great time. There were games, crafts, and good food. Without our room moms, and all the support of our children’s parents, we wouldn’t be able to have so much fun on one of our last days of school in December.

We also had pizza, salad, and desserts for our teachers and staff during their lunch break for the second quarter teacher appreciation. I would like to thank Jill Savoy for putting the lunch together. The teachers and staff really enjoyed it.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!! Congratulations to all of our PTA Reflections Contest winners that went on to the district level. Cora Bode, Victoria Bourlet, Breyden Magyar, Jillian Neal, Ian Pittman, Leah Savoy, Evan Schwartz, and Michael Woodie.

I am so humbled by the generosity of my PTA board, teachers, staff and our MMS community! This year we were able to help out many families during Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your contributions. I am so happy to be part of such a caring community.

Save the date for our Mozzarella with Mom that will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016. I hope you can join us for a fun filled evening. More information will be sent out at a later date.

We will also be having teacher appreciation week February 29th – March 4th. We will be sending out more information about this as it gets closer to the date.

If you have any questions about where you can volunteer here at MMS, please contact Chrissy Bourlet at cbourlet@charter.net. As always, please check the MMS website for any and all information regarding the PTA and school.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Bourlet

President MMS PTA
How You Can Help Our School

This year we will be emphasizing FREE money. This is money that companies are willing to donate to our school:

Boxtops - Please keep sending them in and go to www.boxtopsforeducation.com. You can enter our school for a contest and you can shop and earn e-boxtops for our school!


Campbell’s labels for education - Clip and turn in these barcodes so our school can earn free items. For a complete list of participating products, go to http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn-Points/Participating-Products

More information and collection sheets will be sent home with your child.

Don’t forget you can join our MMS PTA Facebook page or if you would like to receive emails about different PTA activities going on at school throughout the year, you can send your email address to cbourlet@charter.net and I will add you to the PTA email list. You can also visit our wonderful school’s website at www.mandevillemiddle.stpsb.org.

I’m very excited about this year because we have an awesome PTA board and wonderful volunteers, and I know this year will be successful! I am looking forward to working with everyone!

Sincerely,
Chrissy Bourlet
President MTE PTA
By now you might’ve heard your child talk about the AR Cart. This is one of the ways that we reward students for working toward their reading goals. When a student finishes reading a book, they may take a quiz and earn points in the Accelerated Reading (AR) system. Teachers set reading goals per quarter and then AR “bucks” are awarded based on the percentage of the goal reached. If a student reaches 100% of their goal, they earn 10 bucks. The most bucks that can be earned in a quarter are 15 (150% of their goal.)

At the end of the quarter, we set up a prize cart which students visit during their library time. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in working the cart, please contact one of us below. It is a lot of fun and you can sign up for the day your child has library.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact:

Brandi D’Angelo  brandidangelo@charter.net
Every year MMS 5th graders participate in a fieldtrip to Biztown, sponsored by Junior Achievement (JA). JA BizTown is a program that combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated city. During their simulation, students operate a bank, manage a restaurant, produce a newspaper, broadcast in a TV studio and manage the city's utilities, among other functions. Students manage their own finances by earning paychecks, making deposits and writing checks. During the classroom curriculum, the students elect a Mayor who presides over JA BizTown on their simulation day. The BizTown program helps students connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world and gives them an opportunity to explore the world of work and entrepreneurship while enhancing their personal economic literacy.
Dates to Remember:

- **January 29th**
  TCBY Sale
  JA Day 4th grade

- **February 3**
  Spring Pictures

- **February 4**
  Interims

- **February 5**
  JA Day 6th grade

- **February 8 – 12th**
  Mardi Gras Holidays

- **February 25**
  Mozzarella with Mom 6pm

MMS is proud of all the students who made the Honor Roll!!
Thanks to TCBY for providing coupons for the students for making the 2nd Quarter Honor Roll.
Congratulations and great job to all of the Honor Roll recipients!

MMS-Samaritan Center Food Drive

Thanks to all who participated in the January food drive for the Samaritan Center Food Bank in Mandeville! So far this year our school has collected an **5,163** items! WOW!!! This month you all brought in **942** items!

**4th grade** had 246 items, **5th grade** had 362, and **6th grade** had 303. Way to go 5th grade!

The classes that collected the most for each grade for January are:

**January**

- **4th**—Ms. Reinhardt’s class (103)
- **5th** – Ms. Barberi’s class (124)
- **6th** – Mr. Hartman’s class (125)

The Samaritan Center gratefully accepts any non-perishable food items you are willing to give but right now are especially in need of the following:

- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Shampoos & deodorants
- Powdered milk
- Toilet paper
- Canned vegetables (peas, corn, mixed, green beans, spinach)

Please give what you can -- this month and every month!
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FOR APPOINTMENTS AND AVAILABILITY
CALL ERIC (985) 859-9377 OR BLEX (985) 689-4344

1680 Highway 59 @ Hwy 1088, Mandeville
626-4770