

# Middle School Guidance



January 2006

## Gearing Up for the P.S.S.A.

Volume 3, Issue 6

Welcome back to all students and staff members. I hope your holiday season was a joyous one. It is a season to spend time with friends, family and loved ones. Hopefully, everyone is ready for the big push toward the second half of the school year. With the arrival of the new year, students will begin to notice more of an emphasis on mathematics, reading and writing since we are very quickly approaching the P.S.S.A. (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) tests. The P.S.S.A. test is an evaluation tool for legislators, P.D.E. (Pennsylvania Department of Education) and the school district itself to evaluate how well the curriculum that is being taught locally matches up with the state standards that are currently in place. From these results, school

districts across the state can prescribe the necessary changes in areas that may be weak or need improvement. Parents are provided feedback about their child's progress through testing results. There are four possible scores for the math, reading and writing P.S.S.A.: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. The goal of every student taking the assessment s should be to achieve Proficient or Advanced. Students in grades five and eight will be taking the P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment starting on February 13 through February 24, 2005. The Mathematics and Reading P.S.S.A. will be given to students in grades five, six, seven and eight beginning the week of March 20th through March 31st. For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of

Education website by clicking on the link below:

[www.pde.state.pa.us/](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/)

### Quote of the month

"Forget about the consequence so failure. Failure is only a temporary change in direction to set you straight for your next success."



Happy New  
Year

### Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging in to the Logic House Parent Portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

Phone # 267-6931

E-mail - [msmith@bbsd.com](mailto:msmith@bbsd.com)

Webpage - <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/faculty/marksmith>



## Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

**January 1, 2006** - Happy New Year!

**January 2, 2006** - First day back from Christmas vacation.

**January 19, 2006** - End of the Third Six Week Grading Period.

**January 23 through January 27, 2006** - National No Name-Calling Week.

**January 26, 2006** - Permission slips for Winter Wonderland Dance are due.

**January 28, 2006** - Middle School Winter Wonderland Dance. (6:00 - 9:00)

**February 9, 2006** - Fourth Six Week Grading Mid-Term.

**February 13 through February 24, 2006** - P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment for grades five and

eight.

**February 14, 2006** - Happy Valentine's Day!

**March 6, 2006** - End of the Fourth Six Week Grading Period.

**March 20 through March 31, 2006** - P.S.S.A. Math and Reading Assessment for grades five, six, seven and eight.