



December 2, 2010

# Backpack Mail

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## From the Principal...

Brrrrrr, it's cold outside! Winter weather is here and it's time to break out the coats, hats and gloves. Students in the PE classes should have sweats to wear for their outside activities. .

We are very lucky to have a supportive community, great students, dedicated teachers and staff at Madison! I am not sure we spend enough time publicly recognizing the positive aspects of our school. Our greatest assets are the people who walk through the doors of Madison on a daily basis. So, we are implementing our Student of the Month program to recognize students who display the pillars of Character Counts. Teachers have been busy nominating students who exhibit the characteristics of CARING. We will honor our nominees at a special breakfast on December 16, 2010. Likewise, we are also recognizing our Teacher/Staff Members of the Month. If you would like to nominate a teacher or staff member who has made a difference for your child please write a short paragraph and email it directly to me at [johnson\\_ml@aps.edu](mailto:johnson_ml@aps.edu) by December 10, 2010.

As part of our restructuring plan to improve student success we are required by the New Mexico Public Education Department to collect data via online surveys. The window for the survey to close is on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. You may access the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7FLMNPV>. Teachers and students will also participate in this process with a specific survey for their role groups. We will need some dedicated parents to help us develop our plan for improvement. If you are interested in being part of our team please email me. One of the ideas we are exploring is becoming the middle school pilot site for Education 360. We will be having Dr. Tom Ryan, Chief Information Officer for APS, speak with us about Education 360 on Monday, December 13 at 3:15-4:00 in the North Commons. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Battle of the Books is coming to Madison! Madison will participate in Battle of the Books in April, 2011. We have all the books on the list in our school library and the public libraries also have copies of the books available. You may visit our website to get the list of books. If your child enjoys reading this is a terrific opportunity for them to do something different with their talent. If you have any questions please contact Liz Minetos at [eminetos@msn.com](mailto:eminetos@msn.com).

The semester is almost at an end and that means it is time for final exams. Madison will be giving finals beginning on Friday, December 10 and ending on December 15. Report cards will be sent home with students the week of January 10, 2011.

Kudos to the talented musicians at Madison! We had a wonderful concert on Wednesday with the advanced groups. Tonight our beginning band will perform along with a special performance by the jazz band.

Enjoy the Magic!

Marcie Johnson

Principal

### *ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS*

Madison MS is selling Entertainment books for \$35.00, available in the office until Dec 10, 2010. Get them while they last!

–Mrs. Harper, secretary



### *SMITHS EARN AND LEARN*

Don't forget to sign up and earn for Madison!

<http://www.madisonms.org/userfiles/Smith%27s%20Earn%20&%20Learn.pdf>



Madison MS is participating in an ongoing fundraiser to help keep our environment cleaner by recycling old cell phones and inkjet cartridges with Planet Green. Toners and laser cartridges are *not* included. Collection box is at the front desk.

<http://planetgreenrecycle.com/info/index.php>.

–Mr. Baudino

