

# The Intermediate School News

Mr. Rich Marshall, Principal

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## For Parents and Friends of Gaylord Intermediate School

October, 2008  
Gaylord, Michigan

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### MEAP Testing Schedule

MEAP testing begins on Tuesday, October 14. All students in 4th through 6th grade will take the English language arts and mathematics tests. In addition, 5th graders will take a science test and 6th graders will take a social studies test.

Please make every effort possible to have your students present for the tests, as past experience shows us that students taking make-up tests do not perform as well on the tests. Most tests will be administered before the students go to lunch. The schedule, which is the same for every school in the state, is as follows:

- October 14 — Math Tests (two tests)
- October 16 — English Language Arts Session 1 (three tests)
- October 20 — Math Make-up Tests
- October 21 — English Language Arts Session 2 (two tests)
- October 22 — English Language Arts Session 1 Make-up Tests
- October 23 — Science Tests for 5th Grade (two tests)  
Social Studies Tests for 6th Grade (two tests)
- October 27 — English Language Arts Session 2 Make-up Tests
- October 28 — Science or Social Studies Make-up Tests

### Calendar of Events

- Oct. 3- School Pictures
- Oct. 14- MEAP Testing Begins
- Oct. 14- PTO Meeting, 3:30, GIS Media Center
- Nov. 6- Evening P-T Conferences, 5:00-7:30
- Nov. 7- NO SCHOOL—P-T Conf., 12:30-3:00

### Counselor's Corner

by

Darcy Schiller, GIS Counselor

We will once again be offering group counseling services this school year. Sandy Bandt, from Catholic Human Services, will provide group counseling services for students at GIS. Sandy offers support groups for students struggling with changing families/divorce, grief and loss, and life skills. The life skills group offers a separate curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Therefore, students can participate in this group more than once. Some areas addressed in this group include: organization, study skills, anxiety, anger management, and low self-esteem. If you are interested in having your child attend one of the groups listed above, please contact me by October 8<sup>th</sup> for more information. I can be reached at 731-0856, extension 1509.

### The Value of an After-School Conversation

Asking your kids about their school day is a good idea, according to Vanderbilt University researchers.

Why? The researchers say they already knew that children learned best with their mothers or a peer, but it wasn't clear whether this was because the children were getting feedback and help, or merely because they were explaining their solutions to someone. In the study, the researchers had mothers simply listen to their children without providing any assistance.

"The basic idea is that it is really effective to try to get kids to explain things themselves instead of just telling them the answer," says Bethany Rittle-Johnson, professor of psychology at Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education. "Explaining their reasoning, to a parent or perhaps to other people they know, will help them understand the problem and apply what they have learned to other situations."