



# Ram o Gram

December 2008

www.mvths.org

Dear MVTHS Parent/Guardian,

Before the District cancels school this year due to inclement weather, I wanted to let you know the process the District uses when it decides to close school. Our primary consideration is for the safety of your students. If at any time the District does not cancel school and you believe your child's safety is being compromised due to the weather conditions, please do not risk your child's safety. Since our school district covers over 250 square miles, parts of the district may be safe to travel while other parts may not. Prior to our decision, we talk to the bus company and other area superintendents about the condition of the roads and the weather patterns that seem to be developing. Based on that information, we make the decision to cancel school, begin late, or allow school to start on time. Obviously, it is not an exact science. Again, we try to err on the side of safety.

Once school has been cancelled, we alert the local media so that they can broadcast the news. The following stations should carry any school closing messages:

TV: Channel 3  
Channel 12  
RADIO: WMIX AM/FM

If your information is correct in our system, you should receive a phone call by our new notification system called **School Reach**. You can also go to [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com) and type in the zip code or school name to see any cancellations posted. If you have any questions about the above, please feel free to contact me at my office.

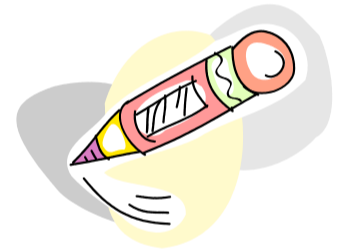
Sincerely,  
Terry Milt

## Semester Exam Schedule First Semester 2008-2009

Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>  
Semester Exam 2 8:20 – 9:55  
Semester Exam 4 10:00 – 11:35  
LUNCH 11:35 – 12:20  
Semester Exam 6 12:20 – 2:00  
ELO 2:00 – 3:00  
Buses will run at 2:10 and 3:10.

Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Semester Exam 1 9:00 – 10:40  
LUNCH 10:40 – 11:25  
Semester Exam 3 11:25 – 1:00  
ELO 1:00 – 2:00  
Buses will run at 1:10 and 2:10.

Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Semester Exam 5 8:20 – 9:55  
Semester Exam 7 10:00 – 11:35  
Students are dismissed for the day at the end of Block 7.  
Buses will run at 11:45.



### Jessa Hawkins DAR Award Winner

Jessa Hawkins has been selected to receive the DAR Award this year.

The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizenship Award goes to a senior student who is nominated and voted on by the faculty and staff, and who best exemplifies outstanding qualities of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism in school, at home, and in the community.

As the local winner, Jessa has the opportunity to enter the DAR National Scholarship Competition.

*Hooray!*



### Christmas Vacation/Break December 22—January 2

School will dismiss at 11:35 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2008, to begin the Christmas break.

School will resume at 8:20 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2009, for students and staff.

Catch the Rams in the Centralia Holiday Tournament December 29-31 or the Lady Rams at the Mascoutah Tournament December 29-31.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*

### Attention Senior Parents/Guardians

Letters were mailed in November reminding senior parents/guardians that payment for cap & gown sets is due by December 16th. The Balfour Company cannot guarantee availability of caps & gowns after December 16th. The cost of the cap and gown set is \$35.00. Checks should be made payable to **BALFOUR**. Also listed in the letter are student names as they will be printed on diplomas. Please contact the Main Office if the name on your letter was incorrect. You are also reminded of our new policy effective this year— **In order for any student to participate in the commencement ceremony, all school debts must be paid.** If you are the parent of a senior student and did not receive your letter, please contact the Main Office at 246-5912.



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## FFA Fruit Fundraiser

The Mt. Vernon FFA will be taking fruit orders for oranges, grapefruit, apples, mixed fruit, pears, and baskets. We have 227 FFA members selling fruit for \$17.00 to \$24.00 for the full case. Orders are being taken until December 2, 2008. The fruit is due to be delivered in the agriculture room December 15, 2008. The fruit must be paid for on or before December 18, 2008.

## October Students of the Month

Kelsey Allen	Amelia Avery	Rylie Bruce	Amanda Chambliss
Kali Echols	Tessa England	Cody Ferland	Kathryn Hurst
Emmalee Jones	Daniel Kniffen	Dena McCowen	Andrea Neal
Carter Scarbrough	Emma Smith	Mallory Nichole Smith	Amanda Stewart
Karleigh Turrentine			

## Junior Class Fundraiser



The Junior Class is selling adult, youth, and toddler Ram Pride Wear. Prices are as follows: Crew neck sweatshirts (\$18), hoodies (\$22), long-sleeved shirts (\$15), and short-sleeved shirts (\$10). You can place an order by calling Mrs. Boldt at 246-5809, or Mrs. Tieffel at 246-5305. We will be taking orders through December.

## Student Fees

Second semester at MVTHS begins on January 5, 2009 and fees are due at that time. Fees are \$50.00 per semester. Any fees for first semester should have already been paid. Please call 246-5909 if you have any questions regarding those.

Some of the upcoming fees you might expect are physical education (bowling or skating) \$17.00, Driver's Education Behind the Wheel Training \$50.00, music fee \$25.00, Occupational Design supply fee \$25.00, sports participation pay to play fee \$25.00, an academic team pay to play fee \$25.00 or any dual credit courses \$15.00. The Board of Education capped the sports, music, and academic fees to no more than two per student.

A reminder to all parents and students; all fees must be current with no previous fees due before a student can attend dances or take Driver's Education class. Please make checks payable to MVTHS and mail them to 320 South Seventh Street, Mt. Vernon, IL. 62864 Attention: Shirilyn Holt.

## From The Nurse

The flu season is fast approaching and I hope you have received your flu shot. Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day **before** symptoms develop and up to 5 days **after** becoming sick. **That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.**

Parents, please encourage your child to get plenty of rest, eat healthy, drink plenty of fluids, avoid eating and drinking after others, practice frequent washing of hands and if ill, please stay at home to prevent infecting others. Also, a reminder to parents and students – If you are taking a medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, a signed doctor's authorization form and a parental consent is needed for **all** medications that are taken at school. These medications must be kept in the nurse's office and not carried in book bags, purses and pant pockets. If you have any questions, please call the nurse's office at 246-5832. Thank you, your school nurse Judy Knolhoff, R.N.

## Hi-Tri Planning Sweetheart Dance

The Hi-Tri Council and members are busy planning for the Sweetheart Dance to be held on Saturday, February 7. The dance will be held from 8:00—11:00 p.m. in the Changnon Gym. The theme and decoration plans should be finalized soon.

The Sweetheart Dance is a semi-formal to formal occasion and appropriate dress is expected of those attending. A copy of the dress guidelines will be given to students at the time of ticket purchase. You may also get a copy from Mrs. Hutchison in the Library or Ms. Lovin in the Guidance Office. The cost of tickets is \$13 for Hi-Tri members and \$15 for non-members. Girls have until January 15, 2009 to join Hi-Tri and receive the discounted price. Tickets will be sold **after school only** during the week of January 20-23. **Students must purchase tickets at this time.** Tickets cannot be sold at the door. Students may not be on social suspension and all school debts must be cleared before tickets can be purchased. Any student, former student, or graduate who is attending the dance as a date must also have cleared their debts.

Also, the Hi-Tri Christmas Shoppe is now open. Many unique and reasonably priced items are available for holiday gift giving, including hand-knitted scarves in a variety of colors. Students and staff are encouraged to visit the shop located in the high school's Library.

## National Honor Society News

The National Honor Society completed a successful fundraiser selling BBQ sandwiches and taco soup at the Mt. Vernon Conference. Members were able to raise enough funds to provide a scholarship to a senior in May as well as contribute to other service projects throughout the year.

Also, the induction ceremony for the newly chosen National Honor Society members will take place on December 10th at 7:00 in the auditorium. All National Honor Society members are asked to be present, and family and friends are welcome to attend.



## Applebees Fund Raiser



Friends and Family– the Project Graduation Committee needs your help! **Eat at Applebees on December 3-4 and December 22-24 and 20% of your bill will be donated to our seniors for project graduation.**

Just simply tear off this portion of the Ram O Gram and give it to your server. Help support a safe, chaperoned and substance abuse-free graduation celebration.

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