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# GATOR TALES



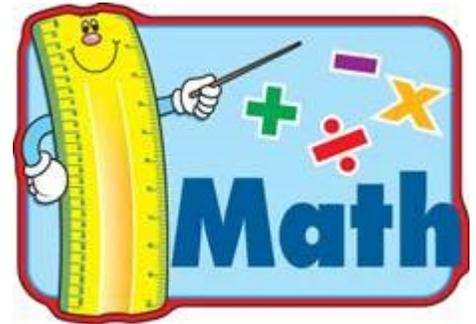
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## DR. CHAUSSEE'S NEWS

### U.S. Now Ranks Near the Bottom Among 35 Industrialized Nations in Math



Every three years 15 year olds around the world take the PISA test, which stands for Program for International Student Assessment. Seven-two nations and regions around the world take this test which began in 1997. Of the 72, 35 are considered industrial nations. Of the 60 nations that took the test in 2012 and 2015, the US ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in reading and 18<sup>th</sup> in science, but 31<sup>st</sup> in math.

Included in the article from the Hechinger Report I read were these comments about how US students do in math:

*Higher performing nations structure their math curriculum differently, teaching fewer topics, but in greater depth. They also teach math topics in a sequential order, Schleicher explained, asking students to master one topic at a time, rather than cycling back to the same concept year after year.*

*Students are often good at answering the first layer of a problem in the United States, but as soon as students have to go deeper and answer the more complex parts of a problem, they have difficulties.*

As most are aware, Millard started a new math curriculum this year to meet the needs of students. Our state math results are not as high as our reading scores, so we changed to meet these needs and to offer a more in-depth approach.

As a parent, an educator, and as an American, these results concern me. What happened to the super power we were that dominated the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Do we value education the way other countries do? You can see the world rankings by googling PISA 2015.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 21

Dance Marathon

Winter break at dismissal

School resumes January 5, 2017

**NO SUCCESS CENTER  
ON DECEMBER 19 &  
20!!!**

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The library is looking for a volunteer on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. If interested, please contact Mrs. Ashford at 402.715.2917 or [pashford@mpsomaha.org](mailto:pashford@mpsomaha.org)

## MILLARD SCHOOL BOARD

Mike Pate, Pat Ricketts, Mike Kennedy,  
Dave Anderson, Paul Meyer,  
Linda Poole

Superintendent

Jim Sutfin



## MRS. GRUBER UPDATE

Mrs. Gruber has been out on medical leave for the past couple of weeks. She is improving every day and we are hopeful for her return in January. Debby Powell has been taking her place and Mrs. Edelstein is currently subbing for Ms. Powell.

## BUZZ BOOKS ARE HERE!

Buzz Books are coming home!!! Hot off the press (and thanks for your patience), check those backpacks for the **paper copy** of the Buzz Books! If you ordered more than one, it will state that on the label and both books will be rubber banded together. Remember too, those who purchased can also view the Buzz Book online at <http://bit.ly/AbbottBuzzBook> and using mobile app (Apple/Android) until July 2017!

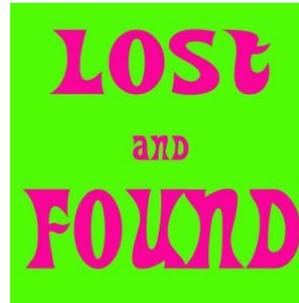


# VOLUNTEER



# LOST AND FOUND

The box is overflowing!!! Please come and check it out!  
I'm sure you will find something your child has lost! It  
will all be donated during the winter break if it is not  
claimed!!



**From the PTO: SAVE THE DATE!!!!**



## **SNOWFLAKE BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, January, 21, 8:00-10:30 a.m. in the gym**

The Grace Abbott tradition is back! Come and join us for delicious pancakes and sausage provided by the Flapjack Guys. Coffee and juice also provided. There will be a Grace Abbott choir performance and the ever popular cake walk!

## AmazonSmile

For those doing holiday shopping online through Amazon, please consider electing Grace Abbott Elementary as your charitable organization and shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by the customers. To shop AmazonSmile and elect Grace Abbott Elementary as your charitable organization, click the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0842232>

Any questions please contact the PTO Cash Rewards chair, Candice Casper, at [candice.m.casper@gmail.com](mailto:candice.m.casper@gmail.com)

## Winter Box Top Competition

Students were sent home with baggies to fill for the Winter Box Tops Competition before Thanksgiving break. The Winter Box Top Competition is running Friday, November 18th through Friday, January 13th. The classrooms that collect the most Box Tops will receive a prize:

1. Write your Student's Name, Teacher's Name and grade on the Baggie
2. Make sure the Box Top has a **visible and valid expiration date**
3. Don't forget to ask your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to collect Box Tops for your student

Class Rankings will be updated in the Gator Tales as well as the Grace Abbott PTO website: [www.graceabbottpto.com](http://www.graceabbottpto.com).

Top ranking as of 12/5/16:

Thomas: 373

Traynor: 305

Powell: 272

Frenche: 257

Georgeses: 169

Gates: 133

Frost: 133

Hardage: 93

Dolezal: 63

Wellensiek: 13

All others have 0.

