

IN THE MIDDLE: Community service a part of the middle school experience

By Gabe Galvan

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Krueger Middle School is one of the only environmental schools in the country. Over the past several years, KMS has been improving the environment for Michigan City by not only organizing school projects, but also projects that benefit the community. Students are often on the front lines of these activities.

Janine Peo, seventh grade social studies teacher at Krueger, is head of the Student Council for 7th and 8th grade. Students of the Student Council participate in many school and community activities.



Last fall, the students participated in many festivities at the International Friendship Gardens during their Thanksgiving celebration. The Student Council and the rest of the school also participated in Pennies for Patients. This fundraiser was to raise as many pennies as possible for donations to children with

Leukemia or Lymphoma. Up and coming events include a community wide clean-up that takes place on April 30th that will help to clean up Michigan City.

Sue Ard, another social studies teacher at Krueger Middle School, is head of the National Junior Honor Society for both 7th and 8th grade students. Their most recent event was called Team Up for Hunger. This canned food drive just concluded on March 17, and with the help of the National Junior Honor Society, Krueger collected 525 cans that will be given to a food pantry in Michigan City.

Students in the Honor Society are required to earn at least 15 hours of community service in and out of school. To help collect these hours, students of the Honor Society including Nicole Barth, Arieanna Woolum, Micah Higginbotham, Jada Majied, Elijah Hudson, Bridget Mark, Braden Tepper and Alexis Reynolds all volunteered in Michigan City's St. Patrick's Day Parade. They marched in the parade with the American Greyhound organization walking

retired greyhounds. The American Greyhound organization helps find homes for unwanted greyhounds. In April, Honor Society members will participate in Clean Up the Beach Day. This event that will help improve the environment of Lake Michigan.

Many local school children have come visit the environmental trails surrounding Krueger over that past several years. Those trails have taken years of hard work to build and maintain. Organizing much of this is Environmental Technology teacher, Brian Schroll. Schroll and his students have spent years constructing and maintaining the many trails around Krueger. They have also built benches and constructed the trail signs. Elementary students from MCAS visit these trails and learn about the environment around Michigan City. KMS students run these learning activities during their visit. At Krueger, teachers encourage learning, as well as service to others.

Gabe Galvan is an eighth grader at Krueger Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column which is produced by MCAS middle school students.