



## 8th Grade Team NEWSLETTER



### Language Arts/Literature

Mrs Addante, Ms. Beaty and Ms. Perna

#### Language Arts:

We have had a full quarter filled with language and writing instruction. We started the year off learning the essential parts of a business letter and had the students introduce themselves to us in that format. The classes then went into the district writing test which lasted over a week. Students either read nonfiction or viewed videos and had to analyze and summarize important details that supported the argumentative topic of whether AMS should have sports. Before, during, and after the district writing test, they worked on their Time Capsules that include personal thoughts about who they are at this moment in their lives. Other units included the recognition of the active and passive voice and the ability to write them. Classes were then taught a paragraph writing strategy called the Tel-Con that they will use throughout the year. In addition, we looked at the importance of transitions in writing and speech. Addante and Perna are completing their rough drafts on their profile informative essay. Eventually, the students will be presenting this through a Google Presentation. Beaty's class is finishing up a mini informative research paper.

#### Literacy:

We started the year looking at the elements of a story and using the elements with a short story called "And Summer is Gone" and *The Giver*. We spent some time analyzing what theme is and the importance of it in literature. Our classes enjoyed the movie experience and comparing/contrasting the book with the movie. We read five classic short stories: "The Monkey's Paw," "The Tell-Tale-Heart," "The Necklace," "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calveras County". All 8th graders enjoyed the live performance at the Elgin theater and the movie, "The Giver". We have looked at nonfiction, and the technique of summarization and finding supporting evidence. Informational texts will be continued to be read throughout the year.

We look forward to all of the new literature and writing we will accomplish during second quarter.

Ms. Ahern

#### Language Arts:

We started the year with an informational text study. Students investigated several informational texts to find their features and purposes. Each student composed two non-fictional texts of their own. They used several different types of texts as well as media to gather information for their writing. Students are at the end of their long and intensive research report based on the topic, The Holocaust. Students will present their information in a 3 minute presentation using visual aids. We learned the ins and out of nouns, pronouns and verbs!

## Literacy:

To go along with our Holocaust research, each student chose a novel that was based during the Holocaust. Students read, Boy in the Striped Pajamas, Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, Milkweed, Sarah's Key and others. They were asked to produce a three-part independent book report. The first part was gathering basic information about the book, author and origin. The second part students were given three choices of how they would like to show they read the book. The last part students had a list of activities that they could choose from and produce based on their reading.



## **Spanish**

### Sra. Rodriguez & Sra. Magallon

8th grade students taking Spanish have been learning how to talk about pastimes, weekend activities and sports. The grammar being taught is the present tense of *ir*, stem-changing verbs *e* to *ie*, *o* to *ue* and *e* to *i*. They have also been learning about verbs with irregular 'yo' forms. The cultural items that are being discussed are popular sports in Latin America and Day of the Dead that is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. All of our lessons are aligned with the learning objectives for foreign language. The objectives are recognizing basic communication within context, identifying grammatical structures and producing and responding to basic communication within context.



## **Social Studies**

### Mr. Hincapie, Ms. Morris & Ms. Perna

Students have been problem solving by illustrating the differences between the North and the South before the Civil War. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have investigated the geography of the northern and southern states affecting both societies. Lively discussions took place about different viewpoints on slavery and abolition. Debates on compromises and avoiding Civil War were explored in class. The roles of President Lincoln and Jefferson Davis's roles in the Civil War were compared and contrasted. In the next quarter, we will continue with the effects of the Civil War in both the north and the south. The students evaluate the successes and failures of the attempt to rebuild the nation after the Civil War during the Reconstruction. Discovery of how President Johnson and the Radical Republicans each addressed the problems. The students will point out the continuing struggle for equality of African Americans from 1877 – 1950.



## Math

Mrs. Beer & Mrs. Mynard

### 8th Grade Math

We are excited to announce the full implementation of the *DIGITS* curriculum and *Chromebook* use in the math classroom. Students have adjusted to the demands of this new curriculum and its digital implementation. First quarter focused on the Common Core Standards of *NUMBER SENSE*, which includes:

- ❖ Classifying a number as rational or irrational.
- ❖ Estimating the value of irrational numbers (ex.  $\sqrt{2}$ ).
- ❖ Converting rational numbers (fractions) into decimals.
- ❖ Converting a decimal expansion that eventually repeats into a rational number (ex.  $0.\overline{3} = \frac{3}{9} = \frac{1}{3}$ ).
- ❖ Compare and order decimals and fractions.
- ❖ Using place value to round decimals to any place.

Grades earned for first quarter will reflect the level of understanding for these learning targets.

### Algebra

Students have been working diligently on the second semester of the Algebra Curriculum. The beginning of the year focused on *FUNCTIONS*, which includes:

- ❖ Interpreting linear equations in the form of  $y=mx+b$ .
- ❖ Understanding solutions of linear equations.
- ❖ Knowing the terminology (vocabulary) identifying parts of the Coordinate Plane.
- ❖ Representing functions in several ways; tables, graphs, equations.
- ❖ Finding the intercepts of a linear function.
- ❖ Finding the slope from a linear equation or a graph.
- ❖ Creating a linear equation from a word problem.
- ❖ Creating a linear function given certain information (2 points, point/slope, etc).

Grades earned for first quarter will reflect the level of understanding for these learning targets.



## Science

Ms. Lyons & Ms. Skarbek

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Science! Students began the year by exploring how to support a conclusion with data. This exploration also focused on lab safety skills as well as the scientific method. After this instruction, the students started the FOSS Chemical Interactions Module. This module is an inquiry into the structure and behavior of matter. Students conduct experiments to observe the macroscopic transformations of matter – phase change, and reaction to explain those transformations at the microscopic level. In the process, students learn useful conventions for thinking about and communicating chemical concepts: all common matter on Earth is composed of 90 naturally occurring fundamental substances called elements; each element is represented by a unique, defining particle called an atom; atoms combine to produce all of the unique forms of matter called substances. The students have learned that all common matter on Earth is made of 90 naturally occurring elements. They also understand matter in terms of individual particles in constant motion. To acquire this knowledge, the students have been asked to observe and describe the macroscopic and microscopic properties and behaviors of solutions. We started off by observing the characteristics of reactions and explain that a reaction changes initial substances (reactants) into new, different substances. With all of our labs and classwork, the students have acquired vocabulary associated with chemical interaction concepts such as matter, substance, element, periodic table of the elements, particle, compression, expansion, mixture, dissolving, and chemical reaction. Within our science module, there is built in scientific thinking to plan and conduct investigations, process data, and build scientific explanations by observing, communicating, comparing, organizing, relating, and inferring. Throughout this quarter, our science curriculum has involved not only the objectives listed above but also exercising language, incorporation of social studies, and the introduction of mathematics in the context of science. The grades from this quarter represent the understanding of the objective listed above. It has been a great first quarter with your children. Please contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns with the following contact information.

### **Ms. Lyons' Contact Information**

**Email:** [lyonsc@d62.org](mailto:lyonsc@d62.org)

### **Ms. Skarbek's Contact Information**

**Email:** [skarbeks@d62.org](mailto:skarbeks@d62.org)

**Website:** <http://edmodo.com/>

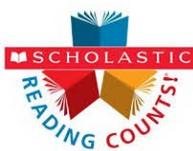
**FOSS Website:** <http://www.fossweb.com>

## Parent App of the Quarter



Parents have the ability to set reasonable time limits that clearly define the times their children are allowed online. On weekends, when children most likely have more time on their hands, time limits can be adjusted to allow more flexibility.

This app allows you to disable the web and texting features on your child's phone during bedtime. It is a great tool that takes away the stress of monitoring your child while you can get some rest!



## The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills kids learn, it is the one you can influence the most.

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

**Book Fair Dates:** November 19<sup>th</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup>

**Shopping Hours:** 7:45am – 3:15pm **in the LMC**

**Special Events:** Come shop during parent-teacher conferences!

November 24<sup>th</sup> - 2pm-9pm

November 25<sup>th</sup> – 7am-12noon

Our book fair is also online! Be sure to visit the Book Fair online at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair) (enter zip code 60016 to find our book fair). Our Online Fair offers thousands of titles that aren't available at our physical book fair and you can **shop online** for an extended time from **November 17<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>**. All online orders will ship to our school and will be delivered to your child before winter break.

We look forward to having you participate in our Fair, and remember, all purchases benefit our school.