

Team 7-2 March Newsletter



Science - Mrs. Beckler

During the last two weeks we have been working on a mini-unit about cancer. Although cancer is often in the news and affects many people, there are a lot of misconceptions. Students have gained an understanding of the mechanics of how cancers develop. We have also been reading case studies of people who have cancer and using this information to discuss possible risk factors. My hope is that students use this knowledge to promote a better understanding and take steps toward prevention.

The remainder of third quarter will focus on genetics. Students will learn about basic genetics (genes, traits, alleles, etc..) as well as some applications of genetics, such as cloning, screening and genetically modified food. Students in Ms. Butterfield's language arts classes will be researching these applications further as they prepare for a debate on the pros and cons of genetic research. Students will complete other activities to learn how genes create a huge variety of individuals that share many common characteristics.

Language Arts - Ms. Butterfield

Students are continuing to write their autobiographies by creating a chapter about their early years. If you would like to contribute a letter to your child's autobiography, please send it to school or e-mail it me.

In order to integrate with science, students will read *Is Genetic Research A Threat?* by John Meany. To prepare a position statement, students will review the book by focusing on the principles of bioethics that address the conflicts that arise in medical and biological science practice. Once students prepare the articles, debate teams will be formed, and our panel of judges will evaluate the evidence presented.

Students have practiced identifying fragments and complete sentences. We will continue with a parts of speech overview.

Please continue to encourage your child to read outside of language arts class for at least twenty minutes each day.

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Math - Mrs. Waugh

We just finished a unit on functions, linear equations and slope. We followed that by a quick review of order of operations (PEMDAS). We are now doing a unit on integers. We have "walked the number line" and used an activity from the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives on the laptops to learn how to add and subtract integers and will begin multiplying and dividing next.

Following that, our next unit will be on modeling and solving equations using inverse operations. We will use another online activity to reinforce that concept.

We have gotten away from doing problems of the day because of time constraints, but I am trying to incorporate them into the lessons again. Since receiving NECAP results, we have been able to take some of the questions from the test to use as practice questions to review concepts. Since life is full of story problems, I am pleased with how the students are trying to think through these problems.

If students want to practice any of the math activities on Portaportal, they may do that at home by going to the 7-2 portaportal and typing in 7-2 under "guest access." Many of the students still need to practice multiplication facts too. They are being slowed down in math if they don't know them.

Spring is on the way!

Conferences

Conferences will be held on April 13 and April 15. If you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teachers, please call the main office. We encourage your child to attend the conference with you.

Economics for Success

The Cole Family Foundation is going to sponsor a day of Junior Achievement activities for our seventh grade students on March 26. Community business people trained by the Junior Achievement organization will lead "Economics for Success" workshops. The workshops fit nicely with the social studies economics unit and ongoing career awareness in guidance. Parents are urged to look over the brochure enclosed with seventh grade progress reports.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will run the week before April vacation and a few days after April vacation in the library. It will be open during conferences.

Hearts for Haiti

Please see the article about "Hearts for Haiti" in the Parent Teacher Organization newsletter written by Team 7-2 students.

Dates to Remember

March 17- Early Release

April 2- Third Quarter Ends

April 13 - Conferences

April 15- Conferences

April 16- Teacher Workshop Day

April 19-23 - Vacation