

# Team 8-3 Newsletter

March 4, 2010

## Calendar of Events

March 17	Early Release Day
April 2	Third Quarter Ends
April 5	Fourth Quarter Begins
April 13	Student-Involved Conferences 4-7 pm
April 15	Student-Involved Conferences 3-6 pm
April 16	Workshop Day
April 19-23	April Vacation

### **“Promotion, Retention, Acceleration” Reminder**

On August 2, 2007 the MSAD #11 School Committee adopted a new policy regarding promotion, retention and acceleration of students at all grade levels.

It requires students to pass ALL SUBJECTS in order to be promoted to the next grade. It reads as follows: “Students must be passing in Language Arts, Mathematics, and all of the following: Science, Social Studies and Allied Arts such as Music, Art, Physical Education, Media, Health, Career Prep, and/or Guidance.” (Grades for the topics in Allied Arts will be averaged for a final grade).

### **Homework Hotline**

Remember you can always access the daily assignments on the Team 8-3 Homework Website. Go to [msad11.org](http://msad11.org), then GRMS, then Homework, then Team 8-3. It is updated every day!

## Academics

### **Math - Ms. Smith** [asmith@msad11.org](mailto:asmith@msad11.org)

Students have been and will continue to use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems in order to unravel a mystery in Module 3: *The Mystery of Blacktail Canyon*. Students have studied length, area, and volume relationships, and they have solved equations and worked with square roots. They are currently using equations and graphs to make predictions, and learning about slope-intercept and how it applies to a line. They will use scientific notation and indirect measurement to solve problems related to the mystery. By the end of the module, the students will find the “mystery” driver and ultimately the thief by solving problems just like a real life detective.

### **Language Arts - Ms. Jamison** [jjamison@msad11.org](mailto:jjamison@msad11.org)

It’s hard to believe we’re looking to the 4th quarter already. The last part of the year will be busy! We will continue our vocabulary and grammar studies. We’ll also be exploring three major units, starting with poetry in April, which is National Poetry Month. Then we’ll move on to Shakespeare, and wrap up the year with our film studies unit, focusing on the movies of Alfred Hitchcock - always a popular unit and a great way to end the year!

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**Social Studies - Mr. Gray**  
[tgray@msad11.org](mailto:tgray@msad11.org)

The students are within a few weeks of finishing their unit on government. They will soon learn about the first presidencies and the expansion of the United States. They will perform debates surrounding the War of 1812 and analyze Jacksonian democracy. It should be an exciting beginning to Spring!

**Science - Mr. Anderson**  
[randerson@msad11.org](mailto:randerson@msad11.org)

## ***8-3 Science Excitement***

As we come upon the half way point of this 3rd quarter, we recall the adventures in science that exposed our students to the chemistry of our world and look forward to creating reactions and observing the outcomes that are often quite captivating. Crystals, gases, and liquid formations will be just some of the products that students are exposed to.

During the 4th quarter, students embark on a journey to learn "what's hot...and what's not" about HEAT. We will experience the differences between temperature and heat, insulators and conductors, as well as radiation and convection. In the end, students will experience a variety of flame driven experiments and be able to explain what is happening on a molecular level.

Stay tuned for our 4th quarter adventures which will include some gravity defying stunts as we delve into Newton's laws and their connection to the amazing world of physics. During this time we will also be

journeying to the beautiful U.M.O. campus to experience a Physic show, the Planetarium, and a full tour of the campus. Students and adults alike will be amazed at the scientific "magic" that will be a part of our visit. This will also be a wonderful opportunity for students to experience one of Maine's most well-known educational institutions. It may just be the beginning of students' desire to attend college in the future..."Start saving folks" !

## **Academic Tutorial**

In addition to helping students during Study Halls and Silent Reading, Team 8-3 has an Academic Tutorial on Thursday afternoons from 2:10 - 3:40 pm. A late bus is available to bring students home. Students are expected to act appropriately during this time. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to get extra help. We give the students tutorial slips by Wednesday if we would like them to stay. A student who does not receive a slip can still stay if they would like the extra help.

**The teachers and students on Team 8-3 would like to thank Ms. Ketch for doing a wonderful job as a student-teacher these past few weeks and to wish her the best of luck in the future!**

**Think SPRING! It is right around the corner!**