

Walden School

Middle School News

THINK SNOW!

December 17, 2007

Points of Interest:

- “Alice in Wonderland” video tapes \$10 funds to Ms. Russell for skiing!
- We are close to having enough points with the Campbell’s Soup labels to get an overhead projector! Please send in any you have.
- We still need parents to accompany 8th graders to Danville for Allied Arts classes these weeks/dates: Jan 2,3,4, and the week of Jan. 7 If you can join them, please call Martha Dubuque
- Winter Vacation begins Friday, the 21st– Peace and Light Ceremony at 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday the 18th-Early Release
- Don’t forget about the **Food Drive Challenge!**

Skiing

Check your calendar. We are looking for chaperones who would like to join us when we hit the slopes at Burke. We will be skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing.

The dates are:

**January 9
January 16,
January 23,
February 6,
February 13.**

Think more snow! Contact us!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Student feedback from the Poetry Slam!

“ I liked how they talked like us, not afraid to use the language that really expressed the message they were trying to get out.” ~ **Dani**

“ The poetry guys were funny, and they talked about funny stuff, but also addressed issues, like having to look good and saving the environment.” ~ **Isaac**

“I liked the poem on his mom, it was very truthful....” ~ **Logan**

“ I liked the Mayhem poets because they talked from our perspective and integrated comedy and drama into their poems.” ~ **Joseph**

“ All three poets put some hip-hop rapping into their poems. They were always making me laugh. It was a fun experience and I would go back again in a heart beat.” ~ **Nick**

“I liked Mason because I got the message from his poems that he was not afraid to show who he really was and that he cares about saving the environment, and so much more.” ~ **Bethany**

“ I particularly liked the poem about the girls and how magazines are so focused on how beautiful or glamorous you have to be to be wanted.” ~ **Eva**

“I liked how they related their poems to reality.” ~ **Chelsea**

“I liked it because it really made me look at life from a different view, I don’t have to be someone I’m not.” ~ **Amanda**

“ They spoke about the truth, and the changes that need to be made in the world, it really is the truth!” ~ **Kayla R.**

“ They would give their poems beats by using the microphone” ~ **Josh**

Thank you to the drivers that made this happen: Jay, Deb, Karen B., Judy, Karen T., Grandpa Richard, Pauline, Julie, Pat, Sally and Josh Keels.

Advisory Corner: On January 8th, 2008 we are so excited to have Ed Gerety visit our school for the second time this year. He is the author of, Combinations the book we are using in Advisory. The presentation is starting at 10:00 and we cordially invite you to experience the powerful message this inspirational speaker will bring to our school. Mark your calendar: 1/08/08 10:00 a.m. Multi-purpose room! We also extend the invitation to grandparents and mentors.

~Social Studies~ ~7th grade~ ~Literacy~

Happy Holidays to all families!

Literacy: Students are working on taking the grammar assessment and fine-tuning their collection of poems. Students are also working hard in their literature circles to make in-depth connections while working in a small team. They will submit a two paragraph response on how their book relates to the American Revolution. Students also have a mini-response due on Johnny Tremain focusing on how his character changed throughout the film.

Social Studies: The American Revolution is well underway and students are prepping for the beginning stages of the war. They will investigate what motivated the early colonists to take a stand and make a decision to fight for the new America. Students will discover why Americans protested the Tea Act and how the British reacted. They will also discover how the colonists defended Bunker Hill.

Coming Soon: NEWS FLASH! - Live video-taped reports on the major battles of the American Revolution!

~Math~ ~7th grade~ ~Science~

Math: Students are TAKING A BREAK from working in their Variables and Patterns books this week. We took a quiz last week on unit 2 and are beginning unit 3 where we focus on writing equations next week. Instead we will be using a statistics project activity I observed in Barre last week. Students will survey each other, analyze the data, and make the graphs. We are wrapping up our work on "T-Shirt Fundraiser" this week.

See your child's planner for specific statistics project each night. Students are having difficulty writing it down and completing the required problems.

~Ms. Russell

Science: We are finishing up our work with "Earth in Space" this week as we take the test on all of our learning and wrap up radiation from the sun studies (hands on lab). The homework includes studying, summarizing and taking notes on selections from our books. The test will be on WEDNESDAY. Talk to your child about what they know about the sun-earth-moon system.

~Ms. Russell

~Social Studies~ ~8th grade homepage~ ~Literacy~

Happy Holidays to all families!

Literacy: The grammar assessment is in full swing and students are showing their skills and knowledge in grammatical ways like never before! Students are compiling their collection of poetry and self-assessing their work. Students are also going to tackle a non-fiction writing prompt related to the Egyptian Geography.

I suggest that students continue to read over the holiday vacation to help strengthen reading skills and to help create a smooth transition back to literacy class in January!

Social Studies: Students are investigating the Egyptian Empire and the rulers that left a major impression on civilization. Students have been paired up to research a significant person/god and will present their findings on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. All groups will self-assess their participation and evaluate their own personal contributions to the project. Power Point shows, a jeopardy game and a fashion show are some examples of student presentations. Parents are welcome to join us for presentations, just let me know!

~Math~ ~8th grade homepage~ ~Science~

Math: Students are continuing working in the Algebra textbook this week. We continue to work on a warm-up and skills to start each class as we prepare for the skills assessment next month. We are working on explaining our mathematical thinking and working on problem solving in both class work and portfolio problems. We are working in chapter 2 this week, which focuses on "The Rules of Algebra". We continue to work on "Garden Beds" portfolio problem this week.

The homework this week will be in the algebra book and will vary based on individual student pacing and where students are starting, check your child's planner. The expectation is that they should work 20-30 minutes a night on their math homework. (Note: Some nights are a little over, and some under. If over 45 minutes is spent in one night, leave the rest for homework club, and let me know!)

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~Ms. Russell