

# Walden School Middle School News

**THINK MORE SNOW!**

February 4, 2008

## *Points of Interest:*

- “Alice in Wonderland” videotapes and DVD’s, cost is \$10 funds to Ms. Russell for skiing!

### **Skiing**

**We will be skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing two more times.**

**The next dates are:**

**February 6,  
And a date in March TBA**

**Think more snow!**

- February 12-Early Release
- Taiko Drummer residency coming soon– Mark your calendar for February 15th, a 6:30 show and middle school skiing pizza fundraiser 5:30

Exploravision invention projects and commercials will be set up for all to check out that night!

- February break begins February 25th and runs through Town Meeting Day, March 4th

Come support the budget.

- We are close to having enough points with the Campbell’s Soup labels to get an overhead projector! Please send in any you have.
- Silent reading every night 30 minute minimum– please help encourage your child to read and emphasize the importance of reading. Share your favorite book with your child!

## **INVENTORS HARD AT WORK!**



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

**Language Arts:** Students have recently started the novel, The Outsiders and the Junior Great Books series: The Best of Friends. They will analyze, interpret and evaluate character growth from both texts. Students will compare and contrast character traits using the verbal discussion rubric. **Friendship, Conflict, and Survival** are the three focus themes for this unit. Students will craft a personal essay based on one of these themes to make real life connections to the texts being studied.

**Social Studies:** Students are working to understand the principles of the Constitutional Convention and how that event helped shaped the birth of our nation. Students are knee-deep working on non-fiction writing prompts linked to this unit based on higher-level thinking skills.

Please ask to see your child's homework planner. ~Thank you!

~Math~ ~7th grade~ ~Science~

**Math:** Students are working on their last chapter of their "Variables and Patterns". We are working to finish the book this week and have our end of book celebration. The portfolio problem worked on in groups this week is "Barn Storm".

The homework this week for the algebra group 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.

See your child's planner for specific homework each night.

**Science: HUMAN BODY begins this week.** We are kicking off our study of heredity, digestion and respiration. We will be watching "The Miracle of Life", figuring out our genetic traits and modeling X and Y and X and X combinations. Our family trees will be explored as well as looking ahead to digestion with a food log.

The homework will be written in your child's planner each night. Ask them to see it. Please help them fill in their family tree sheet as completely as possible.

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

**Literacy:** This week students will self-assess their report from the IDU and submit for a final score using the Vermont State Reports rubric. I strongly suggest that you read your child's paper, they are outstanding! We will continue to use the Junior Great Books, Greek/Roman reader to explore myths and essays this week based on Athena, Apollo and Artemis. I will also integrate grammar, spelling and short essay responses related to the JGB readings.

**Social Studies:** Students will craft non-fiction writing responses to show their new knowledge of the geography of Greece. Students will have the option to excel their thinking with differentiated instructional writing challenges. Students have voted and the results are in: our 2nd annual Greek/Roman fashion is coming soon, stay tuned for more details! We are also going to create the Walden Olympics to celebrate the Greeks for their contributions to society!

~Math~ ~8th grade~ ~Science~

**Math:** Students are continuing working in the Algebra textbook this week. We are working to wrap up chapter 2 this week. The portfolio problem "Packaging Chocolate Bars" will be completed in final draft form.

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.

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